

The Marker

March 2026

From Pastor Dave

Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas and Lenten Almsgiving Projects

A wise man was sitting by the side of the road one day when a thief came along and demanded the wise man's valuables. The wise man never said a word. He just took off his watch and gave it to the thief; then he pulled out his wallet and handed it over; then he pulled out a small old worn used Bible and gave it away too. Then the wise man spoke: Go, with my blessing.

The next day the thief came back down the road, found the wise man and gave back everything. Forget this stuff, I want whatever it is that made it possible for you to give these things to me in the first place. The wise man handed the thief the Bible again, then stretched out his arms, pulled the thief close to his heart and spoke softly: the love of Jesus is in my heart.... and now is in yours.

During March in Lent, or Lent in March, we are invited to the disciplines of Lent including repentance, almsgiving, fasting, prayer, works of love. We will be collecting items for Easter baskets to give to Living Waters Lutheran Church in Cherokee.

And we will have special guests on Sundays including Emily Dubay with Lutheran Services Carolinas on March 29 (and we are blessed that Emily and Dan, Will and Brooks are members of St. Mark's); and NC Synod Bishop Emily Hartner (March 22 with Potluck Breakfast); and on Sunday, March 1, The Rev. Ruth Ann Sipe, Co-Director of Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas.

Pastor Ruth Ann shared this [list of items for children's comfort kits](#) if your group would like to assemble some to donate... they should be able to purchase these items from the dollar store.

Assemble these items in a plastic shoe box:
(please no food or additional items!)

- Bubble stuff
- Hand sanitizer
- Package of crayons or colored pencils
- A blank notebook
- A stress ball or fidget toy
- A small stuffed animal
- Playdough



WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25

**5:30 PM POTLUCK SUPPER
6:30-7:00 PM WORSHIP IN THE FLC**

*EACH WEEK'S WORSHIP TIME WILL FOCUS ON
EZEKIEL 37:1-14 "CONNECTED FOR NEW LIFE!"*

Prayer Concerns

St. Mark's Members: Lorri Monterose, Bob Anderson, Mike Carter, Ruth Ann Swart, Peter Cuocolo, all who are homebound, all who are caregivers.



St. Mark's Friends & Family: Scott Walker (friend of the Van Horns), Rev. Ray Sipe, Bri Yarbrough (friend of Nancy Tyree), Randy Shoe (brother of Jeff Shoe), Maureena (sister of Karen Pettit), Lisa Santapaola (friend of the Pettits), Mike Staley (Tracy Staley's dad), Wendy Phillips (friend of Nina Keck), Sandy Monterose (Tommy's sister), Luz Ortiz (friend of Peter Cuocolo), Brynda Bechtold, Dave & Annette Simpson (friends of Peter Cuocolo), Renee (friend of Cindy Wilkins), Dave (friend of the Greene Family), Colin Goracke (Jack & Melanie Altman's grandson), Cindy Munsey Hall (friend of Peter Cuocolo), Sue Wilson (Michelle Corbett's mother), Sandra Davis, Zebulon Hounslea (friend/student of Judy Fletcher), Maria Cuocolo, Emma (15- Hodgkins Lymphoma), David Moregas (friend of the Kecks), Harriett Hepler (Barbara Overcash's sister), Tori (friend of Liz McNabb), Anne Monterosso (fiancé of Colin Davis), Marty Rink (friend of the Van Horns), Carol Masters (friend of Liz Whitlow), Pastor David Gerber (Diana Cosme Avery's stepfather), Clark 'Tiger' LeBrun (cousin of Donna Enroth & Linda Melin), Ian Russell, Kim Dobbins (friend of Terry Seyllar), Andy Rakowsky (friend of Peter Cuocolo)

St Mark's Military Members: Tommy Upshaw, Erik Crowder, and Janet Smeltz's grandson- Dalton Leik, Andrew Boman, BK & Laura Barringer's great-grandson- Christopher Barringer.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Game Night

**Saturday,
March 21**

5-7pm in the FLC

Potluck: snacks, appetizers & desserts
Bring: games & puzzles to share

4TH - 6TH GRADERS

**JOIN OTHERS WITH
A GOAL TO...**

S *eek God's Truth*

E *xpress God's Love*

R *espect All People*

V *olunteer with Joy*

E *xalt His Name*

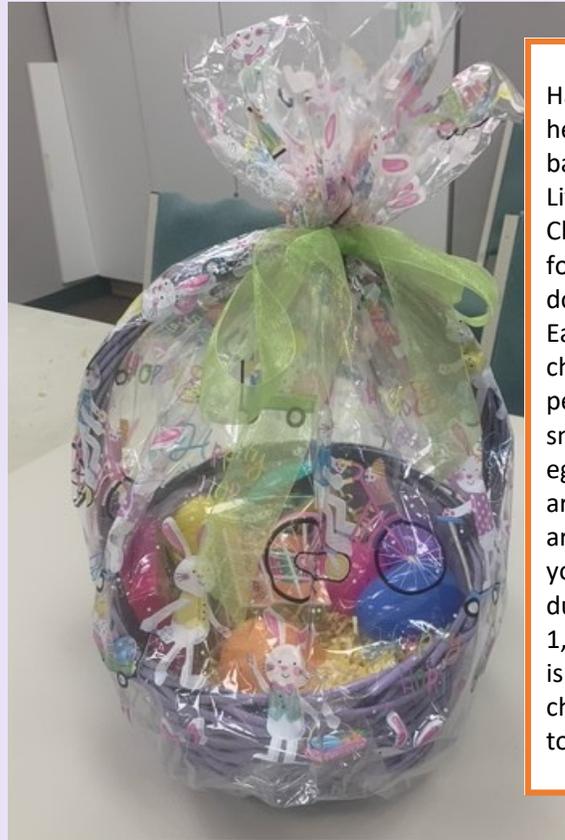
**Meets the 1st Sunday of
Each Month during the
Connect hour
between services**

**See Michael Fitzgerald
if you have questions.**

Hands On



Pillows, hand made pillowcases, blankets & items from our heart tree were delivered to Bridge of Hearts . Children in our community will receive these items.



Hands will be asking for help in sending Easter baskets to children at Living Waters Lutheran Church. We are asking for baskets, bubbles, play dough, silly putty, SMALL Easter or Christian children's books, colored pencils, crayons, stuffed small animal, colored eggs and candy. These are only suggestions. We are asking that you leave your donation in the pew during Sundays in March 1,8,15, & 22. St. Mark's is a loving and caring church that spreads love to others.

WED, MARCH 11
11:30AM
Ladies Lunch Bunch
MCALISTER'S DELI RESTAURANT
601 RIVER HIGHWAY, MOORESVILLE, 28117
RSVP BY MONDAY, MARCH 9
SUSANALTIERINC@GMAIL.COM
704-929-5648

METAMORPHOSIS
Tuesday, March 10
7pm in the FLC
Topic: 2026 - Cybersecurity

E.N.J.O.Y. *Empty Nesters
Just Older Youth*
Are you between the ages of 45ish and 65? Join us on
Friday, March 20 at 6:00pm at Boondoggler's Brewing
Company, 239 Singleton Rd, Mooresville.
Contact Kristie Ward with any questions at 704-807-
6155 or rkward93@yahoo.com

BEER & BIBLE
@ ON TAP (MAIN ST)
7:00 PM
2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS



White Cotton Sheets
are needed for the Hands On
rolled bandages project. Used
or new donations are
appreciated and can be left
with Priscilla Abraham on
Sunday mornings.

————— Food for Days —————

ITEM OF THE MONTH
January: Chewy Granola Bars
February: Pudding Cups
March: Chicken noodle soup(10.5oz)
April: Beans & Franks-8 oz
May: Ravioli (flip top cans)
June: Oatmeal, variety pack
July: Crackers (variety pack))
August: Ramen Noodles
September: Pop Tarts
October: Lg. Chef Boyardee
Nov: Fruit & Applesauce Cups
December: Vienna Sausages

FFD Backpack Ministry's needs are becoming greater every week. FFD are now feeding 416 in need children and the number keeps going up.

Please, please keep this ministry in your hearts and prayers by supporting a child.

Please indicate FFD on your donation or use the form to the right. ANY AMOUNT WILL BE A BLESSING. Thanks so much



Please check the option that works best for you:

I am interested in sponsoring a child in 2025-26 that needs backpack meals:
 Any donation will be a blessing
 \$ _____

Sponsor a child for the school year @ \$250.00
 \$ _____ (can be paid monthly)

Sponsor a child for one month @ \$25.00
 \$ _____

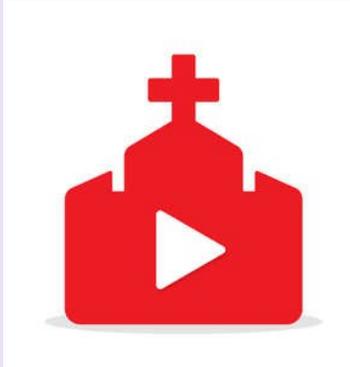
I am interested in volunteering to pack food bags
If you are interested in volunteering, please add your name and the best way to contact you:

Name _____

Phone or email _____

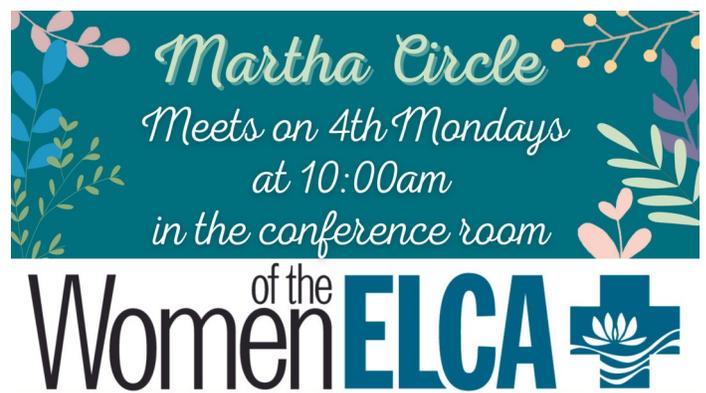
Please return to the office by dropping in the offering plate, leaving it in our secure mailbox or by mail.

Livestream Update

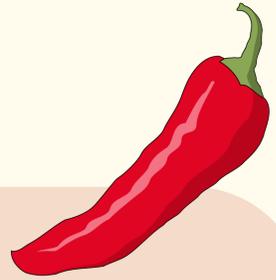


We continue to experience occasional internet service issues on some Sundays that may cause glitches in our livestream. The Tech Team is aware of the problem and is actively working to identify the cause and find a solution. If you experience viewing difficulties, please continue to send us messages so we can track when issues occur.

Livestream audio settings remain unchanged. The Pastor and speakers at the lectern will sound louder because they speak directly into microphones. The choir can be heard but will typically be softer. Congregational singing may be difficult to hear, as the microphones that capture the congregation are located in the balcony behind them. Fuller attendance and well-known hymns make congregational sound more noticeable.



St. Mark's Annual Chili Cook-Off 2026: Recipes from a few of the award winners



Shirley's Sweet Potato Chili

Ingredients:

1 lb sweet Italian Sausage
1 lb ground turkey
1 medium onion, chopped
4 cloves garlic, chopped
2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
2 can garbanzo beans, drained
28 oz can of diced tomatoes
1 cup tomato sauce
2 cups water
2 tablespoons chili powder
2 teaspoons smoked paprika
2 teaspoons sea salt

Instructions:

Brown sausage and turkey, remove from pan with slotted spoon and set aside
Sauté onion in drippings until soft and add garlic
Return meat to pot
Add sweet potatoes, meat, beans, tomatoes, sauce, water, Chili powder, paprika, salt
Cook for 2 hours stirring occasionally
Adjust seasonings to taste
Garnish with parsley
NOTE: Can mix type of beans



Doug's No Bean Chili

Ingredients:

2 lb ground beef
2 med yellow onions (diced)
1 large green pepper (diced)
1 large stock of celery (diced)
1 jalapeño pepper (finely chopped)
1/2 cup flour (heaping)
1 - 28oz can petite diced tomatoes
4 - 8oz cans tomato sauce
2 cups tomato juice
1 tablespoon chili powder
2 teaspoon salt

Instructions:

Cook meat, onion and Jalapeño pepper. Do not drain.
Add 1/2 cup flour (heaping)
Add 4 cans tomato sauce
Add 1 can petite diced tomatoes
Add 2 cups tomato juice
Add 1 tablespoon chili powder
Bring to boil, simmer 2 hrs.
Add green Pepper and celery
Cook 30 more minutes

Ellen's Chili Dip

Ingredients:

2 blocks of cream cheese, softened
1 small can of diced jalapenos, drained
1 block of shredded pepper jack cheese
1 can of chili (thick not runny)
1 block of shredded cheddar cheese
Green onions, chopped for topping
Diced seeded jalapenos for topping

Instructions:

Mix cream cheese, diced jalapenos, shredded pepper jack cheese with a mixer
Press cheese mixture in bottom of greased Casserole dish
Add layer of chili
Top with shredded cheddar cheese
And toppings of onion and jalapenos
Bake at 350 for about 30 minutes, until bubbling
Serve with chips



Stewardship/Financial Update :

COUNT ME IN!

Many thanks for your generosity in 2025! The Lord blessed us with a strong year in ministry, stewardship, and financial stability. Thanks be to God!

Please see the table with comments and explanation below.

St. Mark's Giving Profile to Budget				
2026				
	2025 Q1 YTD	2025 Q2 YTD	2025 Q3 YTD	2025 Q4 YTD Giving
Budgeted	\$ 143,750.00	\$ 287,500.00	\$ 431,250.00	\$ 575,000
Giving (offering)	\$ 120,614.75	\$ 269,454.60	\$ 397,152.00	\$ 598,633
Expenses	\$ 135,413.14	\$ 270,008.47	\$ 389,178.00	\$ 514,485
Giving less Expenses	\$ (14,798)	\$ (554)	\$ 7,974	\$ 84,148

The financials above represent contributions from congregational members and visitors in 2025. 2026 was a blessed year with member giving of \$598,485. Expenses were below budget making our year prosperous. We had 207 member givers and 63 non-member (unnamed) givers. We had additional revenue of \$20,488 from bank interest and FLC/Church Rental income. (This additional revenue is not included in the table above.)

Another thing to celebrate is how the congregation responded to our **COUNT ME In!** stewardship campaign. “Intentional giving” pledges for 2026 were the best in years. Look at this snapshot:

- Pledges in 2023 for year 2024 = \$268,025
- Pledge in 2024, for year 2025 = \$289,440
- Pledges in 2025, for year 2026= \$435,405!**

Many thanks to all who submitted their “intention to give” to support St. Mark’s ministries! It is heartwarming to know we have more and more members who are prayerfully planning their gifts to St. Mark’s in both intentional giving and volunteering.

Another positive to note, our approved budget for 2026 is \$586K. We should have a promising year. Let’s look forward to engaging in St. Mark’s as we live into our full ministries (and budgeted) plan. If we raised \$598,633 in 2025, together we will do it in 2026!

Blessings to all!

Stewardship/Finance teams

Journey and Adventure thru Lent

Give yourself to the adventure of today. These were the opening words in my devotional reading in *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young, on Valentines Day. Her meditation theme was to walk boldly along our life's path, to let go of fear, and to have confidence because God's presence is with us always and into eternity.

I've thought about these words a lot, and have added the word *fully*. What does it mean to give myself or ourselves fully to the adventure of today? First thought is presence...to be present in the moment without distractions. How often do we find ourselves becoming distracted as we reach for our phone while sharing time with other people? Another thought is being uncomfortable...to do what we don't want to do. We often find ourselves in situations that challenge us and pull us outside our comfort zones. Do we face these challenges and do our best, even if we're scared? Or do we resist and miss both the adventure and the blessing? One more thought is time...do we have time for spontaneity and the unexpected? How often have our days been so scheduled that we're rushing from one thing to the next and miss spontaneous moments with others?

My thoughts have also turned to our journey thru Lent. Many of us will give up something for Lent, maybe chocolate or some other treat, an activity, or social media. What would it look like to give yourself fully to the Lenten journey and adventure? To be aware of the moments we experience during this season. To listen with our hearts, not just our ears. To enjoy the light drizzle of raindrops falling on our face, instead of just getting wet. To devote additional time in prayer and meditation. Time to both hear and listen to His answers. To ask God for answered prayer to difficult questions...those questions that scare us because the answer may scare us more... and then respond to His answers and direction...not our desires.

Our Lenten journey will be full of hills, valleys, twists, turns, and narrow paths along with wide open spaces and beautiful skies. Let's all give ourselves fully to the journey and adventure of Lent, knowing that God loves us more than we can ever imagine!

Submitted by Kathy Jo McLean



1 Lyons, Cathy	16 Bost, Karen
1 Meadows, Bobbie	17 Corbett Jr., Bill
2 Bostian, Susan	18 Enroth, Carlye
2 Little, Deborah	18 Hatch, Cole
4 Bailey, Violet	18 Parker III, Woody
7 Walther, Ed	19 Swart, Ruth Ann
7 Houck, Paul	20 Milholland, Suzy
9 Cuocolo, Peter	21 Fitzgerald, Sean
11 King, Gavin	21 Huddleston, Ginger
11 Anderson, Jolee	23 Ferden, Jeremy
12 Hans, Jenny	25 Kerhoulas, Tom
12 Reinhart, Marilyn	25 Corbett, Michelle
12 Shangle, Parker	25 Truesdell, Lilian
14 Stanbery, Devon	27 Miller, Anaelise
15 Gooden, Wesley	27 Barone, Andrew
15 Core, Pam	30 Proefrock, Paige
	31 Tautges, Allie



28 Terry and Patt Seyller	45 yrs
17 Dan and Kim Markley	42 yrs
24 Jeremy and Allison Kraft	25 yrs
27 Andy and Bonnie Goethals	20 yrs
29 Alison and Jeff Joy	18 yrs
14 Gary and Candace Faulkes	11 yrs
10 Raymond and Sharon Leatherman	8 yrs
24 Brandon and Kelly Self	6 yrs