

# The Marker

## *August 2025*

From Pastor Dave

## The Eighth Month and More

August – the last month of summer; the first month of school.

August – declared to be a month in honor of Caesar Augustus, and just before Jesus was born. If they had only waited a few more years the calendar naming committee could have called the 8<sup>th</sup> month “Jesus” or just “Jes” leaving off the “us” like August does.

The 8<sup>th</sup> month – a month of declaring victory in war for armies of Augustus’ day; for harvesting summer crops; for preparing 9<sup>th</sup> month celebrations and thanksgivings!

The number 8 – the day Jewish baby boys, including Jesus, are circumcised and named (Luke 2); the number of Noah’s family that would help God re-populate humanity; the 8<sup>th</sup> day (7 days in a week plus the next) that always starts a new week as the new 1<sup>st</sup> day, the day of the Resurrection; and thus we baptize new Christians often using the 8-sided font – a new day, a new life, from death to life, from old to new!

### **August with St. Mark’s:**

+ 8:30am and 10:30am Worship times return (livestreaming during 10:30am)

+ 9:30am Faith Formation / Sunday school options include:

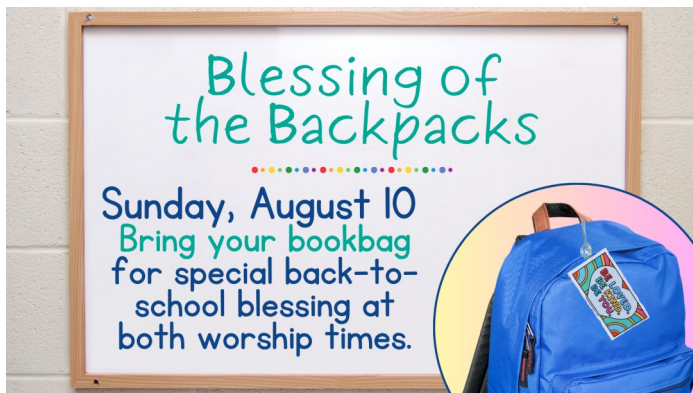
**Sunday, August 3** All Ages Conversation in the FLC with Jessica Fitzgerald about Faith Formation; Classy Leftovers in the FLC; and Re4mers in the Conference Room with Pastor Dave (4 Sundays with 8 Protestant reformers). August

**Monday, August 4, Amanda’s last day in the church office as full-time Communications and Administrative Coordinator.** Amanda will continue to work remotely, part-time, handling communications pieces of St. Mark’s ministries. Thank you, Amanda, for your good and faithful service with St. Mark’s these last two plus years! God bless you always!

### **August 10 Blessing of Backpacks / Bookbags and Students and Staff**

God bless all our schools and school districts, children, youth, teens, students, teachers, and staff this new school year. May sound learning, new discovery, safety, mutual respect, joy, and nourishment for body, mind, soul and spirit occur in classrooms, labs, outdoors, and homes. And prayer too. We know prayer happens a lot for our children’s well-being, and often by young people themselves, like just before or after a test. Like when the 5<sup>th</sup> grader went home after a quiz praying “Dear God, let it be Tokyo and Charlotte.” (in answers to capitals of France and North Carolina) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> grader needed prayer when the paper asked “What is the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the year?” And the student wrote: “a w f u l i s t.”

Here’s another 8<sup>th</sup> – from the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans, 38-39 *“I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*



## 4<sup>TH</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

**ARE INVITED TO**

**S**eek God's Truth

**E**xpress God's Love

**R**espect All People

**V**olunteer with Joy

**E**xalt His Name

**Interest Meeting**  
**Sunday August 3 @ 9:45am**  
**FLC**

**See Michael Fitzgerald**  
**if you have questions or**  
**would like to help.**

## YOUTHQUAKE

3rd-5th Graders

**October 4, 2026**

at St. John's, Salisbury

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NC SYNOD YOUTHQUAKE FOR FELLOWSHIP, LEARNING, SERVICE, AND WORSHIP.**

**MORE DETAILS TO COME! CONTACT PASTOR DAVE OR JESSICA FITZGERALD FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**LIVESTREAM AND/OR MONITOR OPERATION**

Recruiting Dedicated Volunteers for the Tech Team

Head to the Balcony during any Sunday Service to shadow the operation. Call Susan Bostian or Alison Joy with questions.

## Prayer Concerns

Victims of floods (especially most recently in Texas), wildfires, and hurricanes, and for all who help provide rescue and resources in recovery efforts and ministries.

*St. Mark's Members:* Ruth Ann Swart, Lya Wills, Sylvia Johnson, Ron Boardman, Peter Cuocolo, Teresa Sloop, Susan Haire, Chick Pless, Bill Swart, Bobbie Meadows, all who are homebound, all who are caregivers.

*St. Mark's Friends & Family:* 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), Glen Bannister (Sharon Roy's brother-in-law), Betty Lowe, Jocelyn Bracken (leukemia), Sue Wilson (Michelle Corbett's mother), Bleier family, Kristi (friend of Nancy Tyree), Sandra Davis, Rick Barger (friend of Kathy Jo McLean), Zebulon Hounslea (friend/student of Judy Fletcher), Maria Cuocolo, Ronnie & kids, Emma (15- Hodgkins Lymphoma), Keith LaPrelle (nephew of Karen Pettit), David Moregas (friend of the Kecks), Harriett Hepler (Barbara Overcash's sister), Dean Avett (Cora Lee Pless' cousin), Corrie Marsh (friend of Cora Lee Pless), Flo Murat (friend of Nina Keck), James Nicholson (friend of Peter Cuocolo), Steve Belton (brother of Malinda Little), Lisa Castinado (friend of Mark Relyea), Rhodes Karriker (nephew of Pastor Dave), Timmy Lopez (nephew of Mark & Annette Relyea), Ann Cunningham (sister of Nina Keck)

*St Mark's Military Members:* Tommy Upshaw, Erik Crowder, and Janet Smeltz's grandson- Dalton Leik, Andrew Boman.

*Condolence:* Our Christian Sympathy goes out to Kristie Ward on the passing of her mom, Gloria Essig, on July 19.

On July 27, we welcomed into the body of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Lucas Daniel Shangle, born October 27, 2024, son of Mercedes and Stephen Shangle and brother of Jaxon, Parker, and Todd. Godparents are his cousins, Jayden Johnson and Tyler Johnson.

**Congratulations and God's blessings to Kayde Speight at the birth of Everliegh Nicole Peneger on July 3. Proud grandparents are Adrien and Jonah Stoner.**





## Report for 2nd Quarter, 2025

*"No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.*

*Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?"*

(ELW 763. Text and Music by Robert Lowry – Irish immigrant's son, became a Baptist preacher and hymnwriter in PA and NY, including "Shall We Gather at the River")

Dear St. Mark's Rock-clingers, singers and givers,

We sang the hymn listed above this past Sunday, July 20. I learned this song, prior to it being in a Lutheran hymnal, while at Camp Lutheridge in the 1980's from a guitar playing pastor. It holds special meaning to me. Then about 2005, after singing it as the last hymn in church one Sunday, Chris walked out with tears in his eyes. He said he learned this hymn in his Baptist church where he grew up and he played it on his fiddle. The tears – because his dear departed mother had him, her only child, play *"how can I keep from singing?"* on his fiddle at her funeral.

Earlier this year you and I helped provide some financial gifts and pledges to Camp Lutheridge. **Thank you!**

Throughout this year you and I have given offerings of money and music and food and love – for God and neighbor including to St. Mark's General Fund and to World Hunger, Disaster Relief, Food for Days, Hands On, Memorials and more! **Thank you!**

Through June 30, St. Mark's Total Giving (and other income via interest, etc) was \$284,916.45, against the ½ year Budget of \$287,500. Expenses through June were \$270,008.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**However, please note 1):** the \$14,900 surplus of giving above expenses includes A) some early year large donations which are not necessarily recurring in the last 6 months of the year; AND B) unrealized expenses thus far in 2025.

**Please note 2):** that in **June, EXPENSES EXCEEDED GIVING by \$10,750!** That is obviously not sustainable!

Two Sundays ago, a generous steward showed me their offering envelope (*please don't do feel like you need to do that!*). They told me they were giving a stock donation, partly to St. Mark's and partly to Camp Lutheridge!

**Their gift and example is a great model for us all!**

God bless you all!

Pastor Dave

*"Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.*

*Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?"*



**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS.**  
2025-26 Kickoff Barbeque for congregation



Barbeque, slaw and rolls will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert.  
*Celebrating and encouraging all of our volunteers. Highlighting opportunities for the upcoming year.*



Sunday,  
September 7  
after 10:30 service



**Woodworker Needed for Project**

Need Base for 2 Bookcases  
Currently located in Library

Let us know if you can help!



## Food for Days

Are you thinking about doing some volunteer work this fall? Here are two opportunities.

**Food for Days:** Thursday mornings 8:00 until 9:15. We pack a food bag for the children in need in Mooresville and Statesville schools. Due to the number of churches, you would only need to commit to about every 4 weeks. To get on schedule please contact Marilyn Boardman text 219-363-7256 or marilynb203@gmail.com

**FeedNC:** There are at least 12 different positions that a volunteer can choose from that might meet your interest. You can volunteer individually or get a team together. Just check their website feedNC.org



### ITEM OF THE MONTH

January: Chewy Granola Bars  
February: Pudding Cups  
March: Juice boxes/pouches  
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

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.

**Thank you for your generous support!**

**Martha Circle**  
Meets on 4th Mondays  
at 10:00am  
in the conference room

Women of the **ELCA**

WELCA will have an important start-up meeting on August 25 to plan and make items for a birthday party in Salisbury at the senior home.

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is in need of bud vases that are used to deliver flowers to St. Mark's shut ins. If you have one or two you can donate just drop off at church office or working sacristy.



## CALLING ALL MUSICIANS & SINGERS

Rehearsals begin and Joyful music and fellowship abound! Come join us to make a joyful noise!

~Handbell rehearsal~

Wednesday, August 13th 6:00 p.m.

~Choir rehearsal~

Wednesday, August 13th 7:00 p.m.

~Instrumental rehearsals~

Sunday, August 17th 11:45 a.m.

## Funeral Committee

We are looking for a few more team members for our 5 teams. We like to have 10 members per team. With 5 teams no one receives a call frequently. Our menus are very simple so not a lot of time is required. Even working members are able to serve. This service is a very compassionate service for our grieving families. Please call Marilyn Boardman 704-663-7156 or E-mail marilynb203@gmail.com.





## Time away – Renewed & Refreshed

My day started early today as I stepped outside for my morning walk. A warm, breezy, and humid morning. One of those days you could almost taste and feel the salt air. That may be an exaggeration! Anticipation is probably a better word, with plans to actually be walking the beach tomorrow at sunrise. My thoughts are filled with getting out the door and hitting the road later this morning.

It's been a beautiful and gut-wrenching week. Special times shared with family, friends, and new friends. Special phone calls and texts, some happy and others sad. All shared with honesty, vulnerability, laughter and love with grace both given and received. Missed deadlines and grace received. Too many loose ends being left behind before heading out in a few hours, extending grace to myself. Taking my laptop because some loose ends will need attention while I'm gone and my tablet doesn't play well with my excel worksheet.

During my walk this morning my thoughts went to Scripture and how often we're told to leave things behind and come follow Me. To not look back. To sell everything and give to the poor. To forget about the past. To be present now. To step into renewal and newness of life. To let go and let God!

Vacations are a gift from God. A time given for us to let go of the obligations, stress, and to-do lists of our every-day life. A time to be present with abandon. Time to enjoy and fully take in the sights, sounds, aromas, music and tempo of a different place and pace of life. To be renewed and refreshed. To enjoy early morning beach walks without keeping one eye on the time. Building castles in the sand with grandkids and the four-year-old in ourselves. Delighting in the laughter...giggles...and awe of fun times and new experiences for everyone. To discover God in the middle of it all.

*Perhaps the biggest gift God gives in all this is that when we come back from our vacation, we've been changed...renewed and refreshed. We pick up those loose ends differently.* Time away gives us the ability to see and hear with fresh eyes and ears. A new and refreshed perspective.

*When we let go, and let God...God can and will do amazing things!*

Submitted by Kathy Jo McLean

# August



## Birthdays

1 Erskine, Barbara	12 McCann, Mara	23 Keller, Sandy
1 Markley, Kim	12 McCann, Martin	24 Conklin, Dana
1 DeVerna, Kimberlie	13 Haacker, Monica	24 Horton, Jon
2 Johnson, Jady	14 Cline, Jonathan	25 Cline, Elijah
3 Anderson, Bob	14 DeVerna, Eastin	26 Stewart, Bill
4 Fritts, Alyssa	16 McLean, Jimmy	26 King, Logan
4 Stevens Jr., Bennie	16 Relyea, Mark	27 Yost, Debra
4 Milholland, David	17 Locklin, Shirley	27 Fitzgerald, Sarah Grace
5 Meadows Jr., Jimmy	17 Wells, Daniel	28 Bost, Judy
5 Core, Alyssa	17 Greene, Tim	28 Tyree, Nancy
7 Melton, Mary Allison	18 Joyce, Steve	28 Meadows, Jason
9 Wall, Amy	19 Dubay, Emily	30 Mays, Brooklynn
10 Miller, Maria	22 Stone, Stoney	30 Tautges, Steven
10 Richardson, Wendy	22 Knodel, Kathy	



## Anniversaries

1 Bill and Cathy Stewart	55 yrs
1 Nancy and Jody Tyree	44 yrs
1 Steve & Karen Pettit	44 yrs
2 Douglas and Susan Uzarski	28 yrs
6 Hal and Meg Erskine	31 yrs
7 John and Harriet Kline	54 yrs
10 Brian and Margaret Van Horn	34 yrs
11 David and Suzy Milholland	46 yrs
12 Don and Judy Fletcher	53 yrs
12 Chris and Jessica Grace	24 yrs
14 B. K. and Laura Barringer	70 yrs
14 David and Jan Wagoner	43 yrs
17 Danny and Gail Fields	57 yrs
17 David & Jane Saleeby	51 yrs
18 Jack and Debby Johnson	46 yrs
27 Bill and Ruth Ann Swart	58 yrs