

# The Marker

## September 2025

From Pastor Dave

### September Winners, Stewards, & Generous Common Discoverers

I received the following on August 21.

Dear Partners in God's Abundance,

**Congratulations!** Your congregation/ministry site is one of 120 ELCA organizations which will be receiving a \$1000 grant for the Feast of Abundance Program. This grant was made possible by a generous donation from the Stewardship of Life Institute; co-sponsors are Kindling Faith at United Lutheran Seminary and the ELCA Churchwide Office.

Here's some details you'll want to know:

- + A four-part Bible study on generosity is attached (based on Chris Anderson's wonderful book, "Infectious Generosity").
- + Your grant check should arrive no later than August 30th.
- + You have between September 7 and Christmas to host your event.
- + We ask that you send pictures of your event and a brief paragraph describing it that we can share on our social media.
- + Your event can be held anywhere in the vicinity of your ministry site. Be creative and work to benefit your community as best you can.

Again, **congratulations!** I pray your ministry is blessed with God's abundance!

It feels nice to "win" something! Yet, Jesus says in Luke 12:48 (which we heard in worship on Sunday, August 17) *"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."*

Some of St. Mark's Stewardship, Evangelism, and Council team members are visioning this Feast of Abundance. If you have some ideas or would like to be a part of this you may contact me or Bonnie Klos, Susan Bostian, Jan Wagoner, Mitch Abraham. I would like to see an event not just be for St. Mark's but expand outward toward our neighbors.

I'm reminded of Generosity stories throughout Luke's gospel account which we continue to read from in 2025 – Mary shares her womb with God; a Prodigal Father throws a feast for a lost, now found, son!; Jesus forgives and heals and feeds so many!; don't forget a merciful Samaritan; a Parable of the Great Dinner; a community celebration because a lost coin is found!; rich Zacchaeus gives abundantly to the poor!; a widow gives two small copper coins; **bread is broken, wine is poured, and there is a sacrificially generous "new covenant in my blood."**

There is also a story in Acts 10 of Peter (Jewish Christ-believer) and Cornelius (a "devout" Roman military officer). Both men make generous sacrifices in order to get to know each other and God better. There is "GUESTABILITY" – in that they were "guests" of each other, which led to "common discoveries." Peter is converted first, he's changed. Then, only after his conversion, is he able to share the gospel and convert Cornelius's family through baptism into Christ. But how they got there was through a **vision, invitation, conversation (like a Feast of Abundance)**, leading to "Being with you is showing me there's something beyond us both, toward which we're each heading. Let's make our way there together." They became God's companions (bread sharers) through the Holy Spirit – guests, co-discoverers, en route to something ever more amazing!



## Online Directory

Our Online Directory not only gives you access to St. Mark's member directory, but also:

- your giving records
- volunteer schedules
- group information
- event registration
- and more!

*If you have not set-up your access and would like to, or if you need any help, please contact*  
[amanda@saintmarkslutheran.com](mailto:amanda@saintmarkslutheran.com)

## Homemade Cards by Hands On



Send kind words to bless others.

**Free in the FLC and Narthex**

## Prayer Concerns

*St. Mark's Members:* Ruth Ann Swart, Lya Wills, Peter Cuocolo, Chick Pless, Bill Swart, Bobbie Meadows, Mary Jo Pless, Diana Keck, Barbara Beidler, all who are homebound, all who are caregivers.

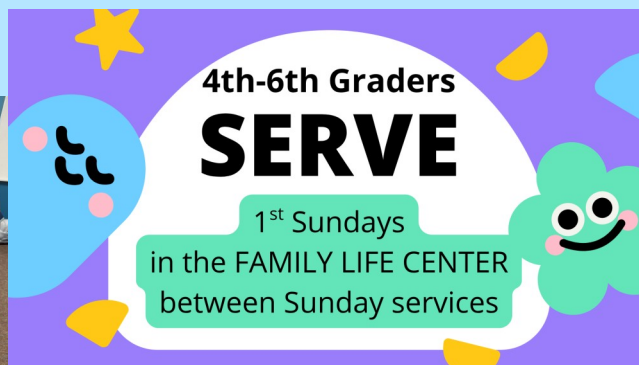
*St. Mark's Friends & Family:* Brynda Bechtold, Dave & Annette Simpson (friends of Peter Cuocolo), Renee (friend of Cindy Wilkins), Dave (friend of the Greene Family), Colin Goracke (Jack & Melanie Altman's grandson), Cindy Munsey Hall (friend of Peter Cuocolo), Glen Bannister (Sharon Roy's brother-in-law), 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), Deane Avett (Cora Lee Pless' cousin), Corrie Marsh (friend of Cora Lee Pless), 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), Tori (friend of Liz McNabb), Carl Smith (relative of Tyree family), 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), Margaret Hudson (friend of Cora Lee Pless)

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

*Condolence:* We extend our Christian Sympathy to Nina Keck at the death of her sister Ann







Thank you to the  
**SERVE** group from  
making the  
backpack tags for  
the back to school  
blessing!



## Food for Days

Use the coupon to let FFD know if you will support an in-need child this school year.



### 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!**

A background image of a bowling lane with bowling balls and pins. The text is overlaid on the image.

# VICTORY LANES BOWLING PARTY

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**  
**3:00 — 5:30PM**

## FOOD FOR DAYS FUNDRAISER

**FOLLOW THE QR  
CODE TO REGISTER**

A square QR code located in the bottom right corner of the poster.



## Charitable Giving

Charitable giving is about making an impact, but it can also be a smart part of your financial planning. Whether you're preparing for year-end giving, updating your estate plans, or simply want your donation dollars to go further, there are a number of strategies that can help.

Here are just a few ways to give wisely and potentially save on taxes:

- **Donate your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD):** If you're 70½ or older, giving directly from your IRA can help you avoid taxes on your required distribution.
- **Use donation bunching:** By concentrating multiple years' worth of giving into one tax year, you may be able to surpass the standard deduction and increase your itemized deductions.
- **Give from your tax refund:** Treat your refund as a chance to support a cause you believe in. Many donors find it's a meaningful way to use an unexpected return.
- **Include charitable gifts in your estate plan:** You can leave a lasting legacy by naming a charity in your will, or as a beneficiary of your retirement accounts or life insurance policy.



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

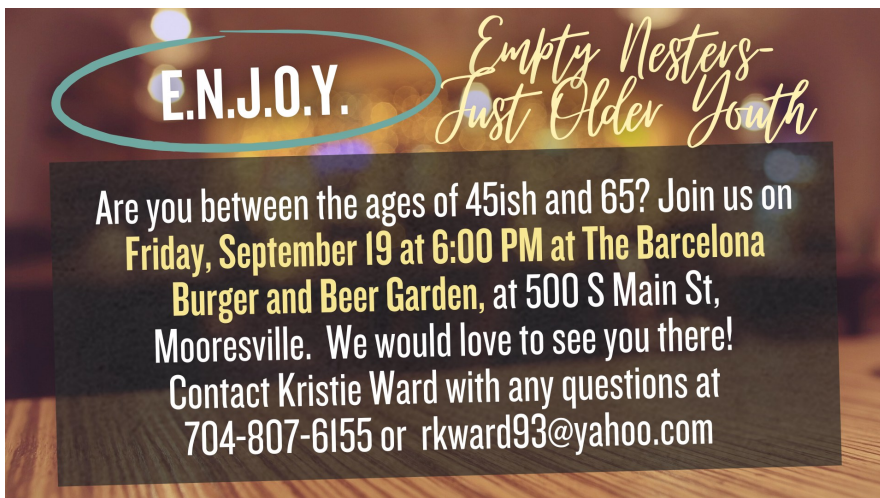
Women of the ELCA

Welca will visit the nursing home in Salisbury to celebrate residents birthdays on Tuesday September 9th. Hands On provided walker bags and handmade birthday cards.



Help us celebrate  
Holy Cross Day!

We invite you to bring your favorite crosses to church to be displayed in the sanctuary on Holy Cross Day (9/14). They can be free-standing or hung, big or small, made of canvas, wood, metal, yarn, clay, or any other material. Please label your crosses clearly with your name and bring them to the choir loft between Sunday, 9/7 and Wednesday, 9/10. Contact Caroline Tyree with any questions.



**E.N.J.O.Y.** *Empty Nesters-  
Just Older Youth*

Are you between the ages of 45ish and 65? Join us on  
**Friday, September 19 at 6:00 PM at The Barcelona  
Burger and Beer Garden**, at 500 S Main St,  
Mooresville. We would love to see you there!  
Contact Kristie Ward with any questions at  
704-807-6155 or rkward93@yahoo.com



## First Time at Lutheridge – Grands Camp Adventure!

I finally got to take my grandsons, Elijah and Noah (both 11), to Lutheridge for Grands Camp—and what a blast we had! From singing and skits to games, delicious food, and thoughtful Adult Bible study, every moment was filled with joy. The counselors were fantastic, and Grandma got to make some unforgettable memories with her boys.

One of the most thrilling moments? We saw bears—yes, several—up close! And Pastor Dave Sr., Liz, and Alice, you'll be happy to know we sang the Lutheridge song at vespers. It was such a special moment.

We also witnessed the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. I was told that the view used to be completely hidden by trees, but now the mountains are visible due to so many downed trees. The cleanup is still ongoing. If you've contributed to the Lutheridge Birthday campaign—thank you. And if not, it's never too late to support this beautiful place.

Grands Camp was a gift. I just want everyone to know how special it is.  
-Susan Bostian



WED, SEP 10  
11:30AM  
*Ladies Lunch Bunch*  
BRICKHOUSE TAVERN  
209 DELBURG STREET  
DAVIDSON, NC 28036  
RSVP BY MONDAY, SEP 8  
SUSANALTIERINC@GMAIL.COM  
704-929-5648

LUTHERAN  
MEN IN MISSION

MONTHLY BREAKFAST  
FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH  
7:30AM  
IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER  
COME FOR BREAKFAST,  
FELLOWSHIP, DEVOTIONS,  
AND A BUSINESS MEETING.

ALL MEN WELCOME-  
CHURCH MEMBERS  
AND GUESTS



## Hands On

Hands will be starting a few new projects this year.

We are excited to serve a light breakfast to the students at Mooresville High & Mooresville Middle this year. These students arrive at 6:30 every Thursday morning to attend Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

We plan to share this opportunity with the Community Service team.

Several churches also serve this school club.

We have a request from Hospice to send more Prayer Pockets if possible.

We can & we will. Jim Chelgren & Stan Suther are making our mini crosses. Nancy Tyree, Barb Glauer, Cindy Wilkins, Malinda Little & Annette Relyea are making the pockets.

We are sending homemade birthday cards & walker caddies with St Mark's WELCA group to Trinity Oaks. They are celebrating with a group of residents.

Currently, we need to make as many knitted hats, blankets & scarves as we can. We have many organizations where they are needed.

We are also in need of WHITE sheets to continue making bandages.

Samaritan's Purse has offered to take our bandages. They have invited anyone to come and tour their new facility in North Wilksboro.

Soon, we will be sharing about Christmas stockings & the Christmas store at Living Waters Lutheran in Cherokee NC.

Hands On meets on Tuesdays @ 12:30 in the FLC. Come when you can & leave when you need to. No skills needed. shelbyw1952@gmail.com

Love one another!

Hands On Team

Thank you Team!



**Hands On**  
**Tuesdays at 12:30pm**  
**in the FLC**  
 Serving our community and beyond

**Bible Study with Pastor Dave**  
 Resuming September 3  
**WEDNESDAYS AT 10AM**  
**IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM**  
 September study: Bible Villains

**BEER & BIBLE**  
 SEPTEMBER 11 & 25  
 @ ON TAP (MAIN ST)  
 7PM ON THURSDAYS

**3RD THURSDAYS** (except July & Aug)  
**NOON IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER**  
**FELLOWSHIP GROUP**  
 COVERED DISH LUNCH & A PROGRAM  
 OPEN TO ALL SENIOR (55+) MEMBERS

## COMMUNITY MISSIONS IN ACTION

The Community Missions Committee is hard at work planning for the upcoming year. We will kick off by hosting a barbeque for "God's Work, Our Hands" on September 7th after church. We will have one service at 10:00, so please plan to stay. Instead of one day dedicated to serving the community, we will have events throughout the year that members can choose from, which will be highlighted during the service. Beginning August 17, look for our "Giving Tree" in the Narthex and choose a "Helping Hand" or two. Please bring the items to the event on September 7th. As always, please continue to support Food For Days (the backpack program) and Feed NC. We have enjoyed planning along with Shelby Westmoreland and Hands On!



On July 21st, several members volunteered with LSC's New America's Program Welcome House in Salisbury. We cleaned out the garage and removed all debris (old windows, doors, etc.) so that the families will have a safe place to store bikes and other belongings. We also provided a meal for the volunteers with HealthReach Community Clinic on July 24th (thanks to Susan Haire and Susan Suther). Our next date to serve is Tuesday, August 26th.

### **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 10:00 service**



# Count me in with my energy, skills and donations!!

*"God chose you as the first fruits"-- 2 Thessalonians 2:13*

A "Count Me In!" approach to stewardship means actively participating and using God-given abilities to contribute to the well-being of the community. It suggests a willingness to engage, to get involved and use your talents received through God's grace to benefit those around you.

The 2026 Stewardship commitments will begin on September 7th at the God's Work Our Hand's BBQ. Service and Ministry forms will be available on the tables to either recommit or sign up as a new worship servant. For those who cannot attend the BBQ, there will be a link in weekly emails and paper copies in the narthex during the coming weeks.

There will be information about some of the outreach ministries that we currently support and may want to support in the future. It's an opportunity to show an interest in one of these community outreaches and for the leaders to help get you involved.



## Stewardship/Finance Campaign Count Me In! Dates to Know

9/17: Committee chairs submit to Finance budget needs for 2026

9/23: Finance committee meeting to prepare proposed budget

10/3: Proposed budget submitted to Council for review

10/5: **Count Me In!** stewardship/finance campaign in full swing

## Birthdays



1 Meadows, Whitey	17 Upshaw, Mitsi
3 Mills, Karen	18 West, Cindy
3 Fletcher, Don	20 Bleier, Matthew
3 Cline, Macie	20 Wagoner, Ruth
3 Mays, Jaxon	20 Wright, Kaeden
3 Breault, Amelia	20 Mattingly, Stephanie
4 Pettit, Henry	21 Quade, Cathy
4 Leonard, Art	22 McNabb, Jim
6 Leal-Ontiveros, Lisa	22 Keck, Nina
8 Little, Malinda	22 Wulf, Marc
8 Leone, Danny	23 Uzarski, Douglas
8 Shirley, Allen	24 Pless, Mary Jo
9 McNabb, Liz	24 Wills, Lya
10 Shields, Kaitie	25 Mays, Tonya
11 Westmoreland, Wayne	25 Kraft, Allison
11 Joy, Sullivan	26 Mills, Ed
12 Ward, Rob	27 Davis Jr., Colin
13 Kraft, Jackson	28 Keck, Rachel
13 Hansen, Al	28 Leatherman Jr., Raymond
13 Relyea, Annette	29 Elkin, Katie
14 Sursi, Michael	29 Breault, Edith
14 Scoggins Jr., Troy	29 Frankos, Everly
16 Van Horn, Brian	30 Rodriguez, Jennifer
16 Horiszny, Sharon	30 Stanbery, Beth
16 Morgan, Dian	

## Anniversaries

1 Greg and Jenny Hans	13 yrs
7 Chris and Laurie Isetts	40 yrs
8 Ed and Gail Walther	63 yrs
11 Paul and Juanita Houck	33 yrs
12 Garron Wright & Sarah Baxter-Wright	12 yrs
13 Wes and Donna Enroth	39 yrs
15 Thomas and Margaret Gooden	13 yrs
21 Bill and Michelle Corbett	34 yrs
22 Mark and Annette Relyea	41 yrs
23 Jacob and Alex Mays	8 yrs
28 Dan and Emily Dubay	11 yrs
29 Art and Leslie Leonard	46 yrs
29 Jeff and Debra Rinehardt	36 yrs