

The Marker

October 2025

From Pastor Dave

I must leave to others everything I have earned. Ecclesiastes 2:18

You won't take it with you. You won't even desire to do so. Your possessions are for this world but after that they are worthless. We each only have a limited time on this earth, and when it's done, it's done. Everything we have built, everything we have accomplished, everything we have accumulated, even everything we have learned – it's all going to be dust much sooner than we can imagine.

A man who worked the late shift at a factory and walked home just after midnight. One night he took a shortcut through the cemetery. Failing to notice the new grave that had just been dug in the center of his path....., yep, he fell right in. After several unsuccessful attempts to get out, he decided to relax until morning when someone would be around to help him. Then he fell asleep.

The dark night continued peacefully, but then, suddenly another fella, who had overindulged at a local bar stumbled and.....yep, fell into the same grave. Desperate to get out, this intoxicated man started yelling and clawing frantically at the sides. That's when the first man woke up and spoke up through the darkness saying: "It's no use, friend, I've tried. You'll never get out of here." The first man could have just said "Boo!"

Not surprisingly—hearing a voice from the dark grave, the second man jumped out, and almost out of skin, running for his life, never to drink again!

A periodic visit to the local cemetery – especially as October's Halloween approaches – might help us re-evaluate and reprioritize our life. For example, it might encourage us to stop and ask ourselves what are we really living for. Solomon had an aha moment like that: *"All my hard work here on earth... I must leave to others everything I have earned."* (Ecclesiastes 2:18)

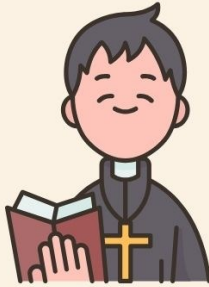


In October you will be invited to be part of **"Count Me In."** This includes giving our Time and Talents. How are you willing to be part of Christ's body here in participating in more than Sunday worship? Also, pray about your Financial Giving. If God asked, could you increase your last financial gift to St. Mark's by 20%? Would you establish monthly recurring gifts through www.saintmarkslutheran.com/give/? A gift of appreciated stock or RMD from an IRA would be appreciated as well (and may result in tax savings for you). Your financial gift/s could be the difference in having a Part or Full Time Faith Formation Director to work with children, youth and adults!

Wealth: You can't take it with you--but you can send it on ahead! Don't just leave an inheritance; leave a legacy that will also be a blessing in Christ's name to bless the lives of those in the church who follow you. Did any of this scare you enough to jump out of the grave? Or out of the rut that you may be in with your giving and sharing?



*We Give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a Trust, O Lord, from Thee.
May we Thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
And gladly, as Thou blestest us, to Thee our First-Fruits give.*



**PASTOR
APPRECIATION
BREAKFAST
POTLUCK**

**OCTOBER
19TH @ 9:30**

menu:
**BREAKFAST CASSEROLE
BACON PLATE
SAUSAGE PLATE
FRUIT PLATE
COFFEE CAKE
MUFFINS**

Prayer Concerns

St. Mark's Members: Linda Clark, Ruth Ann Swart, Lya Wills, Peter Cuocolo, Bill Swart, Bobbie Meadows, Mary Jo Pless, Diana Keck, Barbara Beidler, Carissa Abraham, 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), 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), Clark 'Tiger' LeBrun (cousin of Donna Enroth & Linda Melin), Ian Russell

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.

Condolences: We extend our Christian Sympathy to: the Warren family at the death of their daughter, Alice; the family of Deane Avett at her death (cousin of Cora Lee Pless); the family of June Schodowski who died on Sep 11 (mother of Melissa Happel); the family of. Rev. David Keck, Sr. at the death of his brother George Keck, Sept. 1; Lisa and Jerry Harper at the death of his mother, Sept. 5.



TRUNK OR TREAT

**Saturday,
October 25
5-7pm**

We need volunteers for trunks.
Contact Ellen with questions
704-798-1844



**CONFIRMATION CLASS
meeting for 6th-8th
grade students and
parents will be held in
St Mark's library on
Sunday, October 12,
9:45-10:15 with
Pastor Dave.**



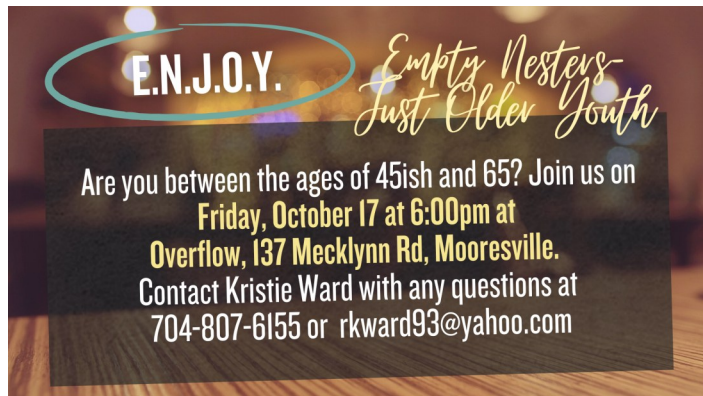
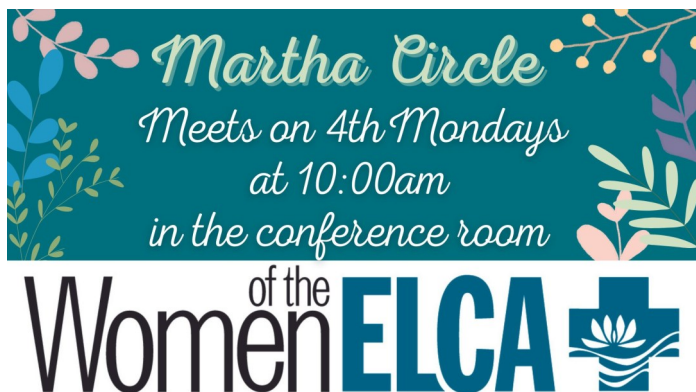
4th-6th Graders
SERVE
1st Sundays
in the FAMILY LIFE CENTER
between Sunday services



**Count
ME
IN!**

**YOUTH
4TH GRADE
AND UP**

**ACOLYTE
TRAINING**
October 5th
@ 9:30 AM
Sanctuary





**WITH MY
ENERGY
SKILLS
AND DONATIONS**

"God chose you as the first fruits"

***Service and Ministry Signups
September and October***

***Financial Commitment Sunday
November 9th***

***Congregational Meeting
November 16th***

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits^[a] to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.
2 Thessalonians 2:13

Bible Study with Pastor Dave

WEDNESDAYS AT 10AM
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM



Homemade Cards by Hands On



Send kind words
to bless others.

**Free in the FLC
and Narthex**



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



BEER & BIBLE



**OCTOBER 9 & 23
@ ON TAP (MAIN ST)**

7PM ON THURSDAYS

Community Missions

Thankful for all who planned, attended, volunteered, presented, and provided food for our special 'God's Work, Our Hands' kickoff lunch on September 7th! We had wonderful attendance with many excited and energized faces, ready to continue the great work that we do here at St. Mark's. The delicious barbeque was prepared by The Owl's Nest at Wilhelm Farm in Salisbury. Also thankful for all who signed up to participate in the events that we have planned!

Saturday, October 18th~ God's Work Our Hands~ Serving Our Church.

Tidying up the buildings and grounds for our fall and winter seasons (David Waggoner will provide details).

Saturday, November 1st~ God's Work, Our Hands~ Serving Our Community.

Two opportunities:

The Christian Mission: 8:30-11:45. Meet at The Christian Mission on Main Street. Children under 18 can volunteer with a parent present. Sign up in the Narthex and use your phone to complete the volunteer waiver.

Habitat ReStore: 10:30-1:30

Wear comfortable clothes and closed toe shoes to both locations.

Angel Tree information will be included in the next Marker. Also, many thanks to Liz McNabb for providing the meal for HealthReach Community Clinic this month!

Please see Jenny Horton or a committee member with questions jennyraehorton@gmail.com 704-577-4733

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 28th @ 6:30pm at St. Mark's Family Life Center.



Community Missions Giving Tree
donations delivered to Bridge of Hearts.



Hands On

CHRISTMAS 2025 We hope to fill 100 Christmas stockings for our friends at Living Waters Lutheran Church. These stockings will be delivered to the children at Living Waters and others in the community. Please consider leaving a yo-yo, slinky, bubbles, small pack of children's underwear, SMALL-stuffed animal, match book car, stickers, SMALL book and anything that you feel a child between 2 & 8 years old would like. Remember these gifts need to fit into a stocking. Please leave your donation in the PEW. We will collect every Sunday in October until Sunday November 9.



Thank you Pam Core for putting together this awesome display of what we do every week at Hands. Thank you Hands On team for making all of these great projects happen. GWOH was amazing. Jenny Horton & community service team worked hard to put together a fantastic kick off for the coming year. Let's continue to serve those in need in our community & beyond.



Birthdays



1 Pless, Chick	12 Hans, Lory	21 Roy, Sharon
1 Ensley, Isabelle	13 Osborne, Phil	22 Stenback, Keith
3 Knox, Oscar	13 Wells, Norah	23 McLean, Kathy Jo
4 Cline, Ellen	13 Altman, Melanie	23 Frankos, Mike
5 Clark, Linda	14 Milholland, Emily	23 Yeates, Bill
6 Farrell, Alice	15 Richardson, Clifford	24 Mattingly, Ashlyn
6 Saleeby, David	16 Shirley, Luke	24 Overcash, Barbara
7 Greenhill, Betty	16 Klos, Dale	24 Melin, Heather
8 Kraft, Jeremy	17 Sursi, Alaina	27 Wagoner, Jan
8 Glauer, Dave	17 Goethals, Ryder	28 Tusing, Katelyn
8 Tyree, Caroline	18 Norris, Gunnar	29 Meadows, Del
9 Buckley, Charles	18 Weymss, Everett	29 Carter, Mike
9 Barringer, Laura	20 Wright, Garron	30 Barringer, B.K.
10 Miller, Kristin	20 McAndrew, Clara	31 Meadows, Aubrey
11 Barteau, Barbara	20 Milholland Jr., Cliff	31 Haacker, Dylan

Anniversaries

3 Larry and Pam Core	33 yrs
7 Mercedes and Stephen Shangle	8 yrs
9 Martin and Paige McCann	32 yrs
10 David and Malinda Little	40 yrs
17 Ashley and Seth Bourke	5 yrs
18 Jonah & Adrien Stoner	5 yrs
21 Lara and Mike Reynolds	25 yrs
23 Patrick Reilly & Kandice Lacci	4 yrs
24 Steve & Carol Paulson	38 yrs
24 Tommy and Cathy Lyons	27 yrs
24 Jeremy and Megan Ferden	16 yrs
25 Whitey and Bobbie Meadows	72 yrs
26 Cliff (Clifton) and Nancy Hucks	40 yrs
27 John and Debbie Lacci	41 yrs
27 Chris and Amy Gilligan	18 yrs