

The Marker

January 2026

From Pastor Dave

Happy New Year 2026

The “happy” there is part prayer and part positive wish for you and for us all!

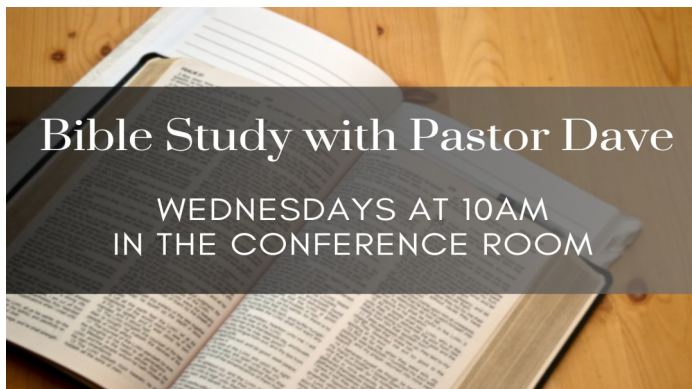
With the new year comes “New Year’s Resolutions” or goals, hopes, do better plans for our physical, mental, emotional, ecological, economical, vocational and vacation-al well-being. Add spiritual to that!

I was speaking with someone today about that – they said they felt like they needed more balance in their life, especially the spiritual component. So they told me they were resolving and committing to be more intentional about church attending, volunteering and Bible reading.

Whatever your resolutions, plans, hopes, commitments for 2026 look like, remember God’s commitment and covenant to and with you, “Emmanuel” (God with us, always). Several Bible verses remind us of God’s presence, even just reading the Word does. And, of course, Jesus’ final words in Matthew’s gospel account:

Jesus said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’ Matthew 28:18-20.





Prayer Concerns

St. Mark's Members:

Mary Trimmerger,
Lorri Monterose, Bob
Anderson, Mike Carter, Ruth
Ann Swart, Peter Cuocolo, all
who are homebound, all who are
caregivers.

*The altar flowers were given on
Sunday, December 7, by Linda
Clark in memory of her daughter
and to the glory, praise, and
thanksgiving of God for his many
blessings. We regret that this
special notice was not published in
the 10:30am bulletin that Sunday.*



St. Mark's Friends & Family: We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of the Greg Biffle family, Mike Staley (Tracy Staley's dad), David Whitlow (son of Liz W), Wendy Phillips (friend of Nina Keck), Sandy Monterose (Tommy's sister), Luz Ortiz (friend of Peter Cuocolo), Adam Mann (son-in-law of Saleebys), Wes and Judy Koch (friends of the Hokes), 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, Sue Wilson (Michelle Corbett's mother), Bleier family, 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), James Nicholson (friend of Peter Cuocolo), Steve Belton (brother of Malinda Little), 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



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.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Josh and Holly Frankos and all their family at the birth of Colt Henry Frankos on December 18!

Condolence: We extend our Christian Sympathy to: the family of Barbara Barteau at the death of her mother, Joan, on November 25, 2025; the family and friends of those lost in the accident with Greg Biffle.

ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23RD AT 6:00 PM

PRIZES AWARDED FOR
BEST OVERALL CHILI
MOST CREATIVE CHILI
PEOPLE'S CHOICE CHILI

BRING A CHILI TO ENTER THE COMPETITION OR
SIMPLY COME ENJOY A BOWL OF CHILI AND VOTE

BEER &
BIBLE



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

Wednesday Evenings
Dinner and Devotions

5:30 - 6:45 PM
IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

FOOD + FELLOWSHIP + FAITH + FUN

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!



Count me in with my energy, skills and donations!!
“God chose you as the first fruits”-- 2 Thessalonians 2:13

Thank you for engaging with us in our “Count Me In!” stewardship campaign. Thank you for your generosity in making pledges for your annual giving in 2026. As of today, we have had 79 families/giving units to submit a “financial intention to give” card totaling \$406,000 (69% of the 2026 approved budget).

Thank you for understanding that since God chose you (us) as the first fruits, we should be cheerful in sharing these gifts in service back to God through St. Mark’s.

Thanks be to God!

With gratitude,

Stewardship and Finance committees

LUTHERAN MEN'S MISSION

MONTHLY BREAKFAST

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
7:30AM
IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

**ALL MEN WELCOME-
CHURCH MEMBERS
AND GUESTS**

**COME FOR BREAKFAST,
FELLOWSHIP, DEVOTIONS,
AND A BUSINESS MEETING.**

Martha Circle

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

Women of the ELCA

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

Are you between the ages of 45ish and 65? Meet up with us on **Friday, January 16 at 6:00pm at Florence Wine and Beer Garden, 518 S Church Street, Mooresville.** Contact Kristie Ward with any questions at 704-807-6155 or rkward93@yahoo.com

WED, JAN 14
11:30AM

Ladies Lunch Bunch

JEFFREY'S STEAK HOUSE
117 TRADE COURT, MOORESVILLE, 28115.

RSVP BY MONDAY, JAN 12
SUSANALTIERINC@GMAIL.COM
704-929-5648

Hands On

Thank you, congregation, Pastor Keck, and many others for your support & prayers for the Hands On ministry. We finished the year with many blessings. In December we delivered quilts to Feed NC, knitted hats & scarves to Christian Mission, prayer pockets to Hospice & Fellowship of Christian Athletes at MHS & MMS, made Noteworthy cards available to our congregation, and Christmas stockings to children at our Christmas Eve service. Blessings for a Christ filled 2026!
Love One Another!
Hands On Team



Prayer pockets.

Stockings for children on Christmas Eve!



Food for Days

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



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

Wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year

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:

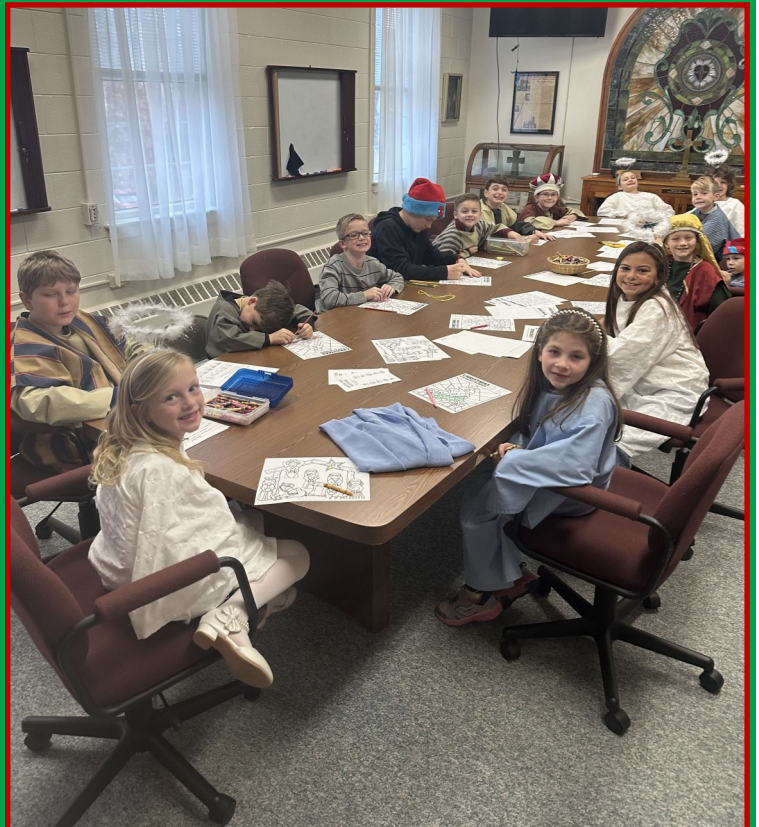
Name

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!

Christmas Pageant 2025





K-12 YOUTH

Jan. 25 @ NOON

RSVP JESSICA

828-514-9248

(CALL OR TEXT)



ROCK CLIMBING AT
CLIFFHANGERS

4TH - 6TH GRADERS

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

Seek God's Truth
Express God's Love
Respect All People
Volunteer with Joy
Exalt His Name

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

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

Mid-Winter

It was one of the first really cold days we've had this year when I stepped out into an eerily beautiful day. I don't remember the temperature, but it was cold. The sky was gray, the sun just cresting the horizon, the rolling terrace of the field beside our house covered in a thick white frost that looked and felt like a light snowfall. Our first real frost of the season. My first thought stepping out the door was the hymn *In the Bleak Midwinter*. As I began my walk I took a few pictures, soaked in the morning beauty, and thought about that Christmas hymn. Maybe meditation is a better word...the music has a quiet, reflective and introspective tune, while the words bring feelings of comfort, peace, hope and love. I'm writing this a few days before the Winter Solstice, the day with more darkness than light, the shortest day and longest night of the year, and a few days before Christmas. You will get the Marker about 10 days later, a few days after Christmas and the beginning of winter. Why are we singing about Christmas being in mid-winter when winter has just begun? Why is this hymn so captivating? And why has it held my attention these past few weeks?

Winter brings a quiet stillness that calms our souls, the world turns and brings more light. A little more daylight every day for the next six months. At first, it's so small we don't even notice...and then suddenly we do. After the Christmas celebrations are finished, we settle into a quieter routine. We clean out and clear out the old to make room for the new. We're called to a time of rest, renewal, and introspection. A time to just be...be present and open. January brings hope, optimism, and possibilities. A longing for a better year. Maybe the bleak mid-winter is not about being the mid-point in winter but that Christ came into the middle of our winter. Amid all the busyness, celebrations, and quietness to bring His true light to the world and our souls. Maybe it's a time we are more open and receptive to His calling. Calling us individually and as a community.

The hymn *In the Bleak Midwinter* begins....*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan* and ends....*yet, what I can I give him – give my heart.* Give Him my heart, my heart in love. Also give my heart in service, compassion, welcome, generosity, forgiveness, acceptance, time, talents, treasures, friendship, fellowship, growth, leadership, listening, and so much more.

As we settle into January, the New Year, and the bleak mid-winter, let's all set aside some time to listen to the still small voice of baby Jesus. To hear and reflect where and how we're being called. Called to step in, step out, or step aside. Called to let go of things or to step outside our comfort zones. To answer the call to let our light shine and to love as we have been loved.

Submitted by Kathy Jo McLean



Birthdays



1 Seyller, Terry	8 Tidwell, Travis	18 Horton, Charley
1 Fitzgerald, Michael	8 Monterose Sr., Tom	19 Saleeby-Mize, Ashlee
2 Oehler, Raelyn	9 Norris, J.R.	20 Nelson, Lynn
4 Lyons, Brantley	11 Wall, Austin	22 Martin, Robert
4 Hinz, Janine	11 Hillman, Mark	22 Ontiveros, Chance
4 Van Horn, Margaret	12 Johnson, Jack	23 McAndrew, Ellen
5 Monterose, Lorri	12 Martz, Carol	24 West, Viki
5 Ferden, Blake	12 Sink, Gwen	25 Greene, Karen
5 Frankos, Maverick	13 Miller, Lorraine	26 Rogers, Charles
6 Roseman, Betsy	13 Mays, Watson	26 Stevens, Jacob
6 Miller, Alan	15 Shirley, Kate	28 LaMark, Max
7 Tyree, Catherine	15 Stoner, Lillian	29 Altieri, Susan
7 Tidwell, Keegan	16 Knox, Holden	29 Pless, Cora Lee
7 Hoke, Sondra	17 Self, Kelly	31 Upshaw, Jonathan
7 Wilkins, Cindy	17 Happel, Paul	31 Pettit, Steve
7 Johnson, Jovey	18 King, Victoria	31 Johnson, Jerick

Anniversaries

3 Stephen and Jennifer Hays	yrs 56
4 Daniel and Amanda Wells	yrs 6
6 Mark and Jessica Hillman	yrs 19
12 Frederick and Linda Folkerts	yrs 18
20 Wayne and Shelby Westmoreland	yrs 53
30 Bob and Jolee Anderson	yrs 56