

THE MARKER

August 2026

From Pastor Dave

Twelve baskets full

Matthew 14:19-20 Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.

The first Sunday of August we read the fantastic Feeding of the Five Thousand (Matthew 14:13-21).

BROKEN: There is brokenness, enough brokenness in and around us in this world to fill up baskets daily for 12 months of the year.

ABUNDANCE: There is also abundance, enough abundance from the God of abundance (El Shaddai) in and around us for our cups to overflow with blessings, love, grace and more 12 months of the year.

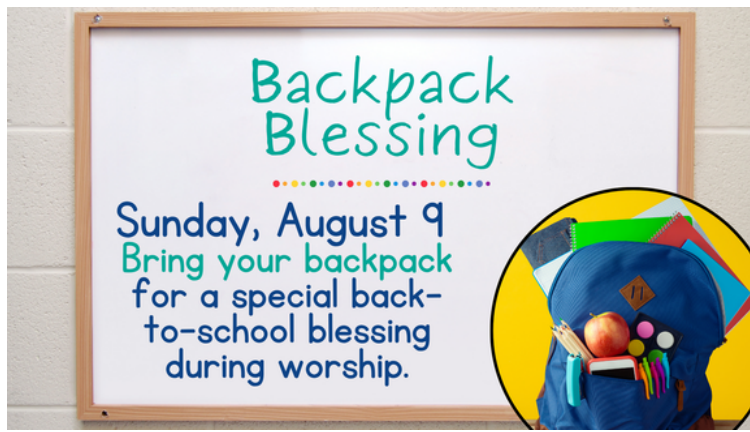
APPRECIATION: Thank you beloved body of Christ at St. Mark's for your abundant sharing and gracious giving throughout 12 months of the year! Thank you for your stewardship, worship, fellowship and discipleship. Thank you for sharing your loaves and fish. Thank you for breaking something away from your time, bank account, or heart and sharing it as a blessing to others.

BLESSED: Jesus took what was offered, "looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves." A boy came up for communion every Sunday with his parents. Each time he stood still with his arms crossed over his chest to receive a blessing from the pastor. When he was older, and after some communion instruction, the boy held out his hands and received communion from the pastor. The following Sunday, the boy had his arms crossed again. The pastor offered him communion but he said he'd rather have the blessing. Most Sundays after that, the boy chose the blessing, but sometimes he received the blessing through communion. Every Sunday you have the option too, to receive Christ's "blessing" through words and/or through "sacrament."

Tuesday, August 4, 6:15pm St. Mark's Community Missions team will meet at Barcelona to continue planning and praying for the blessings of God's Work Our Hands (Sept 12-13). Come join the conversation and break bread or a burger with us! Contact Jenny Horton or Pastor Dave for more information.

Sunday, August 9 St. Mark's will also offer blessings for the Call Committee, and for Back to School students and staff. The following Sunday at 9:15am, Sunday school will "kick off" again. (Note: Worship will continue at 10am through the second Sunday of September – God's Work Our Hands Sunday, 9/13.)

For 12 months of the year, 12 hours of A.M. and 12 hours of P.M. each and every day, and for all your baskets in life, love and faith ... *The Lord bless you, and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)*



Prayer Concerns

St. Mark's Members: Kim DeVerna, Ronnie Wilkins, Teresa Sloop, Linda Castoral, Cindy Ridenhour, Charlie Barone, Cathy Quade, Ruth Wagoner, BK Barringer, Peter Cuocolo, Arden Lown, Garron Wright, Lorri Monterose, Ruth Ann Swart, all who are homebound, all who are caregivers.



St. Mark's Friends & Family: Lekha Banerjee, mysterious illness, friend of Mark Relyea, Anna Gordon (friend of Mike & Betty Carter), Frank Owens (brother of Liz Whitlow), Randy Shoe (brother of Jeff Shoe), Mike Staley (Tracy Staley's dad), Brynda Bechtold, Dave & Annette Simpson, Maria Cuocolo, Andy Rakowsky (friends of Peter Cuocolo), Renee (friend of Cindy Wilkins), Dave (friend of the Greene Family), Colin Goracke (Jack & Melanie Altman's grandson), 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 (wife of Colin Davis), Marty Rink (friend of the Van Horns), 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),

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

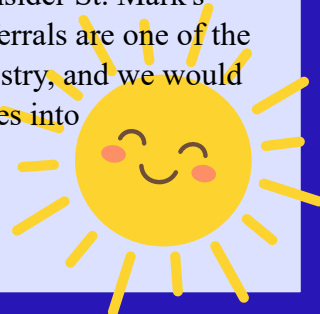
St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool

St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool had a wonderful week of Summer Camp with our **Safari Adventure!** Sixteen children enjoyed an exciting week filled with a safari scavenger hunt, Water Day, tie-dye fun, a dance party, music, games, crafts, and sweet fellowship. It was a joy to watch the children learn, laugh, and make new friendships while creating lasting summer memories. Thank you to everyone who supports our preschool ministry and helps make these special experiences possible.

As we look ahead, we are excited to welcome students back for the new school year beginning **August 10**. We still have a few openings available for the 2026–2027 school year. If you have friends, neighbors, coworkers, or family members looking for a loving, Christ-centered preschool, please encourage them to consider St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool. Your referrals are one of the greatest blessings to our ministry, and we would love to welcome more families into our preschool community!

Love in Christ~

Stephanie Mattingly



Finance & Stewardship Report for 2nd Quarter, 2026

Blessings to all! Please see our 2026 2nd Quarter financial review. In the chart below, column 3 represents the 2nd Quarter Budget, Giving and Expenses. (Total giving to special causes, such as memorials and Food for Days are not reported since they represent giving for causes outside the budget.) Currently, our Q2 Year-to-Date giving exceeds our expenses.

Let's look at how our generosity trends impact our financial view. We are blessed to have several giving units (families) who give most or all their annual commitment gifts in the first quarter of the year. When these gifts are annualized, the new total giving for Q2 is \$279,983.

This still exceeds our expenses through Q2. Electronic continues to grow. Electronic giving is easy and supports consistency in giving even when members are away/miss church services. This is a great mid-year report for 2026!

Thank you for your continued generosity. May the Lord work through us all to fully support our ministries and live into our budget. Thanks be to God!

See the chart below for a visual of our Q2 financial picture. For more information, please feel free to contact Mitch Abraham, Congregation President, Matt Miller, Finance Chair, or Jan Wagoner, Stewardship.

	2026 Q1 YTD	2026 Q2 YTD	2026 Q3 YTD	2026 Q4 YTD Giving
Budgeted	\$ 146,558.00	\$ 293,116.00	\$ 439,674.00	\$ 586,232
Giving (offering)	\$ 152,075.00	\$ 315,920.59		
Expenses	\$ 127,490.00	\$ 258,334.00		
Giving less Expenses	\$ 24,585	\$ 57,587	\$ -	\$ -

Community Ministries

St. Marks was a community partner of the Mooreville Back to School bash held on Saturday, July 18th. Along with sponsorship, be donated over 45 pairs of brand new shoes, along with new water bottles and school supplies. Many thanks to all who contributed items for support many children in need in Mooresville and southern Iredell County!

Saturday morning, September 12th will be our "God's Work, Our Hands" Day of Service. Be on the lookout through the weekly email, bulletin, and sign-ups in the Narthex for ways that you can volunteer, either at church or at organizations such as the Christian Mission, Bridge of Hearts, and Habitat Re-Store. We will meet at church for a light breakfast and prayers before we break away to our various chosen places to serve. Sunday, September 13th, after 10am worship, we will have our "God's Work, Our Hands" barbeque to celebrate our volunteers and promote ways that we can continue to serve. Barbeque and slaw will be provided. Please bring side dishes and desserts!

If you do not have a "God's Work, Our Hands" yellow St. Marks t-shirt and would like to order one, the cost is \$15.00 (+tax). Orders are due Sunday, August 16th. These are not a requirement to participate, just an opportunity to purchase. Jenny will pick up the shirts and have them at church September 6th so that no one needs to pay for shipping. Order online at: <https://htcsportsstore.com/shop/>



God's work. Our hands.



St. Mark's MEAL TRAIN
jump aboard!

Are you interested in joining other St. Mark's members in a new ministry to help provide meals for members during times of illness or recovery?

We are forming a Meal Train volunteer group to provide home-cooked or purchased meals several times a week for members in need. Using the Meal Train app, volunteers can easily sign up for the dates that work best for them. Each meal request will include the number of people being served, any dietary restrictions or preferences, and the requested schedule (for example, twice a week).

When a member needs assistance, they will simply contact the church office with their meal needs. The office will then create the Meal Train and share it only with those who have volunteered to participate.

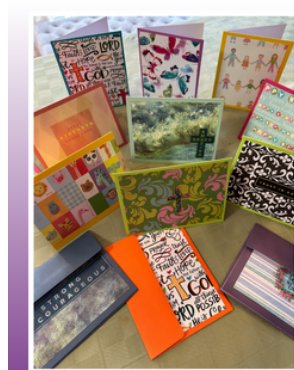
If you would like to be part of this new ministry and bless fellow members with the gift of a meal, please contact the church office or Susan Bostian.

Hands On

**Tuesdays at 12:30pm
in the FLC**

Serving our community and beyond

*Hands will meet Tuesday August 11 in
the FLC at 12:30.
Bring a friend & a smile! Looking
forward to seeing everyone & to begin
serving others.
Love one another!*



Homemade Cards by Hands On



Send kind words
to bless others.

**Free in the FLC
and Narthex**

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



1 Erskine, Barbara	10 Richardson, Wendy	21 Ball, Cyndi
1 Markley, Kim	12 McCann, Mara	22 Stone, Stoney
1 DeVerna, Kimberlie	12 McCann, Martin	23 Keller, Sandy
1 Knodel, Kathy	13 Haacker, Monica	24 Conklin, Dana
2 Johnson, Jady	14 Cline, Jonathan	24 Horton, Jon
3 Anderson, Bob	14 DeVerna, Eastin	25 Cline, Elijah
4 Fritts, Alyssa	16 McLean, Jimmy	26 King, Logan
4 Milholland, David	16 Relyea, Mark	27 Yost, Debra
5 Meadows Jr., Jimmy	17 Locklin, Shirley	27 Fitzgerald, Sarah Grace
5 Core, Alyssa	17 Wells, Daniel	28 Bost, Judy
7 Melton, Mary Allison	17 Greene, Tim	28 Tyree, Nancy
9 Wall, Amy	18 Joyce, Steve	28 Meadows, Jason
10 Miller, Maria	19 Dubay, Emily	30 Mays, Brooklynn
		30 Tautges, Steven



1 Nancy & Jody Tyree 45 yrs
1 Steve & Karen Pettit 45 yrs
2 Douglas & Susan Uzarski 29 yrs
6 Hal & Meg Erskine 32 yrs
7 John & Harriet Kline 55 yrs
10 Brian & Margaret Van Horn 35 yrs
11 David & Suzy Milholland 47 yrs
12 Don & Judy Fletcher 54 yrs
12 Chris & Jessica Grace 25 yrs
14 B. K. & Laura Barringer 71 yrs
14 David & Jan Wagoner 44 yrs
17 Danny & Gail Fields 58 yrs
17 David & Jane Saleeby 52 yrs
18 Jack & Debby Johnson 47 yrs
27 Bill & Ruth Ann Swart 59 yrs