

THE MARKER

October 2026

From Pastor Dave

Jesus said "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. Matthew 21:33

A vineyard calls for great responsibility, from the highest level of leadership to those charged with the daily care of the vines. Everyone has a role. Similarly, we all have responsibility for the care of our planet...and for our surroundings of water, land, plants, pets, houses, neighbors of all ages, and our church.

Sunday, October 4, we will hear another Jesus Parable about a vineyard, the 3rd vineyard parable in as many Sundays! We also will have an opportunity to Give our **Honey – rhymes with Money** – and Commitments for 2027 financially and functionally. One definition of a parable is "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning."

May our honey, money, time, talents, stories, lives and faith also have heavenly meaning, as we pray and participate in "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Bee the Church. Together We Make the Honey. Let's BEE a Hive of Hope. Bee a Blessing! Bee-lieve. Beelong. Blezzz. Every Gift Matters. We are Buzzing with Sweetness & Purpose!

C.S. Lewis was asked to speak on the subject of Christian stewardship. He began: "On the whole, **God's love for us is a much safer subject to think about than our love for Him.**" I feel the same way. Sometimes it is much easier, and safer, just to skirt the whole subject of asking "How much do you love Jesus and/or St. Mark's? How much of your money, time, heart, mind, hands, and help can you give?"

But the other side of that coin.... A person told the pastor, "I'm fed up with church and Christianity. All I ever hear is '**Give, Give, Give!**'" To which the pastor said, "Well, can you think of a better definition of Christianity than that?"

Think John 3:16. Or.... the parable: *The landowner sent his son to the vineyard workers, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Matthew 21:37-39*

Stewardship is the way we define our faith and make it personal.

Personal - in our relationship to God;
Personal in our relationships with our vineyard, those around us, and our church as we help, serve, sing, listen, fellowship, pray, and give our offerings and financial gifts to the glory of God. Personal as we give thanks and give to the future even as we help fund and support the **Faith Formation Ministry Director** that God has planned for St. Mark's and for our children and families.

Thank you and God bless you co-workers in the vineyard in the name of the Son, Jesus Christ!





The Sweet Life of Stewardship

Together We Make the Honey

"We are God's fellow workers." — 1 Corinthians 3:9

Over the last month, we have watched our congregation act like busy bees, moving with purpose. We introduced you to Bella the Bee and her friends. Just as Bella realized she could be a blessing; we want everyone at St. Mark's to fully understand that we are all blessings too.

We are like bees in many ways. In September and throughout the year, bees gather nectar and our members share love in song. Some bees work to build the honeycomb, while our members serve through God's Work Our Hands. Some bees and people care for others. Some bees protect the hive while volunteers at St. Mark's work to keep our campus refreshed, safe and clean. Like bees, we each have a different talent. We all work together toward the same goal. No single bee creates the hive. No single congregational member can do it all. Together, we create something beautiful.

God has entrusted each of us with unique gifts—our time, talents, prayers, encouragement, and resources. When we share those gifts, the whole church flourishes, just like a healthy hive. In the same way, every member of St. Mark's has a place, every gift has value, and every act of service helps our church grow stronger.

We are grateful for your intentionality in stewardship. Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign will conclude on Celebration Sunday, October 4th when we will build our own St. Mark's Hive. If you have not already engaged with active commitments, we invite you to prayerfully consider now your commitments of time, talent and treasures. Please submit your pledge to share your gifts, both time & talents, as well as your financial pledge commitment for 2027 on or before October 4th.

At the end of Celebration Sunday, we will rejoice in our filled St. Mark's Hive, a beautiful reminder that every prayer matters, every volunteer matters, every gift matters, and every member matters.

We hope you have enjoyed this playful stewardship campaign. Bella has been an inspiration for all ages. She shares that no matter our age or season of life, God has given each of us something meaningful to share. Together, we make the honey.



Prayer Concerns

St. Mark's Members: Betsy Roseman, Camille Jones, Linda Clark, Kim DeVerna, Ronnie Wilkins, Teresa

Sloop, Linda Castoral, Charlie Barone, Ruth Wagoner, BK Barringer, Peter Cuocolo, Garron Wright, Lorri Monterose, Ruth Ann Swart, Lisa Shields, all who are homebound, all who are caregivers.

St. Mark's Friends & Family: Angela Hoke, Taylor Stukes, Jr. (friend of Linda Melin), Angie Selig, Jimmy Brumble (friend of David Saleeby), Barb LePre, Marty Roots, Tony Irwin (neighbors of Janet Smeltz), Cory Sides (friend of Stan and Susan Suther), Olivette Holme (mother-in-law of Courtney Abraham Holmes), Johnnie Shue (friends of Virginia

& Charlie Buckley), Charlie Corbin (Ed & Gail Walther's son-in-law), Johny and Sue Taylor (friends of Dawn Barone), 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, Andy Rakowsky, Ryder Krupczyn, Michael and Cathy Carpenter (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), 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

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.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to: the family of Deborah Little at the death of her brother Thomas A Turner who passed away on September 21st.

To my St Mark's Family, I graciously thank you all for the thoughts, prayers, letters and cards wishing me a successful surgery and recovery. Currently, my heart transplant has been a success. No problems or issues and have few restrictions. I will continue to recover and hope to see you all soon. The Power of Prayer is real and ask you keep me in your prayers as this is a life long journey. God Bless Charlie Barone





Growing, Learning & Making Memories Together

School is off to a wonderful start at St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool! Our classrooms are filled with excitement as our students settle into new routines, make friends, and begin a new year of learning and growing together.

One of the highlights of our first weeks of school was a very special visit from our local firefighters and their firetruck! The children were so excited to see the truck up close, meet the firefighters, and learn more about fire safety. It was a fun and memorable experience for everyone!

We are also so excited about the improvements to our playground! Our children are enjoying fresh mulch and new sand, giving them even more opportunities for outdoor exploration, imaginative play, and fun. A very special thank-you to Pedulla Excavating for donating their time and helping with the installation of our new mulch and sand. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and for helping make our playground an even more wonderful place for our preschoolers!

As we begin this school year, our teachers are focused on helping each child feel welcomed, loved, and comfortable in their classroom. Through play, hands-on activities, friendship, and learning, our students are discovering new things every day.

We are so thankful for the continued love and support of our St. Mark's Lutheran Church family. Your prayers, encouragement, and support allow our preschool to continue providing a nurturing and joyful environment for children in our community.

Love in Christ~
Stephanie Mattingly
Director





Hands On

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

Serving our community and beyond



Homemade Cards by Hands On

Send kind words
to bless others.

**Free in the FLC
and Narthex**



Christmas Stocking Drive

St. Mark's Elves

Please leave your gift
in a pew

THROUGH OCTOBER

Santa suggests:
yo-yos,
Rubik's cubes,
Slinky,
Matchbox cars,
small books,
small stuffed animals,
hair bows,
play dough,
sidewalk chalk,
nail polish,
bubbles,
bracelets,
and anything that
a child would like.



3RD THURSDAYS (except July & Aug)
12PM IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

COVERED DISH LUNCH & A PROGRAM
OPEN TO ALL SENIOR (55+) MEMBERS

OCTOBER 15

Topic: **OCTOBER STARTS
THE SEASON TO THINK
ABOUT YOUR SECONDARY
INSURANCE.**



BEER & BIBLE

@ ON TAP (MAIN ST)

7:00 PM
2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS



**WED, OCTOBER 14
11:30AM**

Ladies Lunch Bunch

I BAMBINI ITALIAN RESTAURANT
2785 CHARLOTTE HIGHWAY, #9
MOORESVILLE, NC 28117

RSVP BY MONDAY, OCT 9
SUSANALTIERINC@GMAIL.COM
704-929-5648

Donations for
October to Food for
Days Back Pack
Ministry are Large
Chef Boyardee.



E.N.J.O.Y.

*Empty Nesters-
Just Older Youth*

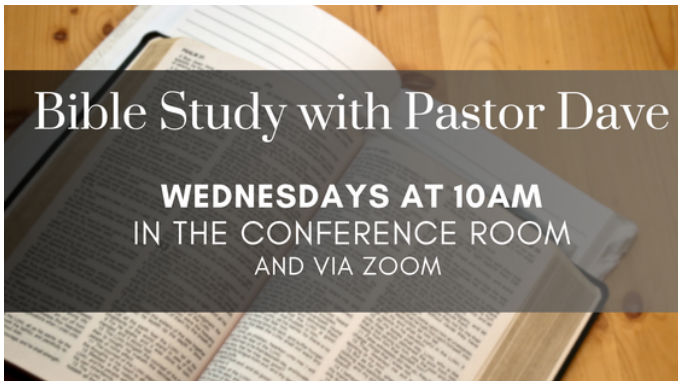
Are you between the ages of 45ish and 65? Meet up
with us on **Friday, October 16 at 6:00pm at Bottles
and Taps, 106 Wagner St, Troutman.**
Contact Kristie Ward with any questions
at 704-807-6155 or rkward93@yahoo.com



Martha Circle

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

Women of the ELCA



Bible Study with Pastor Dave

WEDNESDAYS AT 10AM
**IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM
AND VIA ZOOM**

Community Ministries

Community Ministries has been busy leading the congregation with helping others in our church and community. Our "God's Work, Our Hands" event held Saturday, September 12th was a great success. This year was the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's GWOH initiative. Thanks to all who donated items, organized, packed bags, served, and volunteered! The organizations that received blessings from St. Mark's were The Christian Mission, Habitat ReStore of Mooresville, The Kindness Closet, Bridge of Hearts, HealthReach Community Clinic, and the yard of one of our members. We also enjoyed our annual fall barbeque the following day to celebrate those who volunteer and make things happen in our church and beyond!

Our next project will be the Angel Tree, collecting Christmas gifts for children in our community. The tree will be displayed in the Narthex in early November.



See the GWOH slideshow on our website and facebook page.



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



3 Larry and Pam Core	34 yrs
7 Mercedes and Stephen Shangle	9 yrs
9 Martin and Paige McCann	33 yrs
10 David and Malinda Little	41 yrs
18 Jonah & Adrien Stoner	6 yrs
21 Lara and Mike Reynolds	26 yrs
24 Steve & Carol Paulson	39 yrs
24 Tommy and Cathy Lyons	28 yrs
24 Jeremy and Megan Ferden	17 yrs
25 Whitey and Bobbie Meadows	73 yrs
26 Cliff (Clifton) and Nancy Hucks	41 yrs
27 John and Debbie Lacci	42 yrs
27 Chris and Amy Gilligan	19 yrs
31 Roger and Cynthia Ball	39 yrs