

THE MARKER

November 2026

From Pastor Dave

Great Thanksgiving

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
First Thessalonians 5:18

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." First Corinthians 11:23-24

ThankyouThankyouThankYouThankYOUTHANKS!

It's easy to move through our days on autopilot, our minds consumed by to-do lists, worries, and the constant hum of what comes next. In the rush, we can forget to pause and simply be thankful.

Gratitude is often reserved for the big moments—after receiving a gift, a good diagnosis, or a major milestone. But God invites us into a more consistent, more transformative practice of thankfulness, even in the face of being betrayed.

The command to "*give thanks in all circumstances*" doesn't mean we must be thankful for every circumstance. We are not expected to be grateful for hardship, loss, or pain. Instead, it is a call to find things to be thankful for in every circumstance. It is an act of spiritual defiance against despair, a conscious choice to shift our focus from our problems to our Provider. This practice changes our perspective. It opens our eyes to the countless small graces that fill our days, which we might otherwise overlook.

The hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God" was written by Lutheran pastor Martin Rinkart during the Thirty Years War in Germany, in the early 1600s. Eilenburg, Saxony was a walled city, so it became a haven for refugees seeking safety from the war. But soon, the city became too crowded and food was in short supply. A famine hit and a terrible plague and Eilenburg became a giant morgue. In one year alone, Pastor Rinkart conducted funerals for 4,000 people (sometimes 50 a day!), including his own wife's funeral. The war dragged on; the suffering continued. And Rinkart continued to serve and to write devotional prayers and hymns, including "Now, Thank" which was sung at meals.

*Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom the world rejoices
... and keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm, in this world and the next.*

Pastor Rinkart was able to keep his mind on God's love when the world was filled with hate. He kept his mind on God's promises of heaven when the earth was a living hell.

What or Who are you thankful for today, in this very moment?

Thankful for you! And thanks be to God!

"For All the Saints who from their labors rest, who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia!

All Saints Day, November 1, celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day we remember the faithful who have died during the past year including St. Mark's members **Saint Gwen Sink** (March 24) and **Saint Ron Wenzel** (May 13), along with many more beloved family members and saints of all times and places.

"Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine, we feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia!"
(ELW Hymn 422)

Bridge Anyone?
St Mark's Bridge Club is looking players to fill in as substitutes. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Erskine at (917) 975-3019.



Prayer Concerns

St. Mark's Members: Jennifer Hayes, Alice Lee, Bill Horiszny, Suzy Milholland, Camille Jones, Linda Clark, Kim DeVerna, Ronnie Wilkins, Teresa Sloop, 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: Kelley, Nora, TJ, Kenney (children of Tommy Monterose), Blair Haire (daughter-in-law Susan Haire), Sharon Hill, Darlene Abraham (Aunt of Mitch Abraham), Taylor Stukes, Jr. (friend of Linda Melin), Angie Selig, Jimmy Brumble (friend of David Saleeby), Barb LePre, Tony Irwin (neighbors of Janet Smeltz), Cory Sides (friend of Stan and Susan Suther), Olivette Holmes (mother-in-law of Courtney Abraham Holmes), Johnnie Shue (friends of Virginia & Charlie Buckley), Charlie Corbin (Ed & Gail Walther's son-in-law), 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, 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), Emma (15- Hodgkins Lymphoma), Harriett Hepler (Barbara Overcash's sister), Tori (friend of Liz McNabb), 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 Reverend Joe Glymph at the death of his mother on October 15. The family of Mike McAndrew at the death of his uncle Joe McAndrew.

Congratulations and God's blessings to: First time great-grandparents David and Diana Keck at the birth of Callan Patterson on October 27. God's blessings Callan and all his family!





Fall Fun at St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool!



There has been so much happening at St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool, and we have been having the BEST time celebrating all things fall! Our classrooms have been filled with pumpkins, colorful leaves, fall crafts, music, stories, and plenty of opportunities for our little ones to learn and play together.

One of our favorite fall traditions was our Halloween Parade! The children had so much fun dressing up in their favorite costumes and showing them off to their friends and teachers. From princesses and superheroes to animals and all kinds of creative costumes, our preschool was full of smiles and excitement!

We have also been enjoying all the wonderful things that make fall special. Our students have been exploring pumpkins, talking about the changing seasons, creating fun fall artwork, enjoying seasonal activities, and making special memories with their classmates and teachers. 🍁❤️

And we aren't finished yet! We are excited for our upcoming field trip to Rescue Ranch! The children will have the opportunity to explore, learn about animals, and enjoy a fun day outside of the classroom. We are looking forward to making more special memories together while learning about God's wonderful creation. Fall is such a special time at St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool. We are thankful for our amazing students, wonderful teachers, and families who make our preschool community so special. We can't wait to see what the rest of the season brings! 🍁🎃❤️

Happy Fall from all of us at St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool!

Mark your calendars!

Budget Question & Answer

Sunday, Nov 1 at 9:45 am in the FLC.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Nov 8 at 9:30 am in the Nave (pews area).

Thank you for your generosity!
Stewardship commitments as of 10/22/2026:



Time and Talent: 100 people
engaging in 300 opportunities.

Financial Pledges: 91 households
have committed \$456,904.

We welcome more generosity. Please
share your commitments for 2027!

Finance & Stewardship Report for 3rd Quarter, 2026

The chart below represents our 3rd Quarter financial review. Column 3 represents the 3rd Quarter Budget, Giving and Expenses for the general budget. Currently, our Q3 Year-to-Date giving exceeds our expenses. Electronic giving through both Tithely and Vanco continues to grow. Electronic giving is easy and supports consistency in giving even when members are away/miss church services.

This is a great 3rd Quarter 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!

For more information, please feel free to contact Mitch Abraham, Congregation President, Matt Miller, Finance Chair, or Jan Wagoner, Stewardship.

St. Mark's Giving Profile to Budget 2026

	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	\$ 440,878.60	
Expenses	\$ 127,490.00	\$ 258,334.00	\$ 384,972.23	
Giving less Expenses	\$ 24,585	\$ 57,587	\$ 55,906	\$ -



LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

ANNUAL MEAT & GREET Fellowship

+

All men of the church are invited to an evening of great food, fellowship, and to honor our new lifetime members!

Sunday, November 8 • 6:00 PM • FLC

 **A donation of \$30 is requested.**  **RSVP online or on sign-up sheets around campus.**



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

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

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

NOVEMBER 19

PROGRAM:
THANKSGIVING TRIVIA
PRIZES COULD BE INVOLVED!!!



BEER & BIBLE

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



**WED, NOVEMBER 11
11:30AM**

Ladies Lunch Bunch

THE OLIVE GARDEN ITALIAN RESTAURANT
AT 438 TALBERT ROAD IN
MOORESVILLE, NC 28117

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

November donations for Food for Days Back Pack Ministry: Fruit & Applesauce Cups.



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, November 20 at 6:00pm at Overflow 137**
Mecklynn Rd, Mooresville, NC 28117.
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

Hands On

Fleece blankets were sent to the Mooresville Fire Dept, fleece ear warmers & knitted hats are being sent to our local schools,

We continue to make prayer pockets, bandages & blankets.

Recently we have enjoyed making Christmas items.

These Christmas items will go in Living Waters Lutheran Church. They will be in a Christmas store. Families can visit the store & shop at no charge. Currently ladies are busy making handmade Christmas stockings. These stockings will be filled with donations & also be in the Christmas store.

We are blessed!

Love one another!

Hands On Team



Mooresville Fireman receiving
fleece blankets.

Fabric covered
Christmas
ornaments.



Fleece ear
warmers made
from leftover
fleece pieces.



Homemade Cards by Hands On



Send kind words
to bless others.

Free in the FLC
and Narthex

Hands On

Tuesdays at 12:30pm
in the FLC

Serving our community and beyond

Youth News

LYO Assembly- The LYO Assembly is for 6-12 grade youth and will be at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro on February 26-28, 2027. Join youth from all across NC to come together for a weekend of community, faith building, and praise! And don't forget — if you have any young adults in your congregation, they can register to attend LYO through our Young Adult Volunteer program! Registration for the LYO Assembly and the YA program open Monday, November 2. Contact Jessica Fitzgerald if you have a youth interested in attending this event.

ELCA Youth Gathering (Minneapolis, MN): June 28th – July 2nd, 2027. This is for current 8th–12th graders. We have adults who are willing to chaperone but have not heard from any youth who would want to attend this. Please let me know if you are interested.

Youth Lead: We are still searching for the perfect fit to lead our youth program full time. If you know of anyone who would be a good match for this position, please direct them our way!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DECEMBER 6th
St. Mark's Christmas Play!
 • For Kids Grades K-12
 • Join us as we tell the story of the Nativity through acting and singing during worship on Dec 6th!

PRACTICES: Sundays: Nov 1, 8, 15 & 22
 • Time: 5:00 - 7:00 PM (Starts with dinner!)
 • Kids will have a few short, rhyming lines to learn.

RSVP / VOLUNTEER: To participate or help as an adult volunteer, email Caroline Tyree at carolinetree.lizy@yahoo.com



GLOW TAG
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10th at 5:30 PM

A night of glow-in-the-dark tag and other movement games!
 Youth of all ages are invited!
 We will separate into older & younger groups for the games.
 Pizza will be provided! RSVPs are encouraged but not required.
 Contact Amy Wall to RSVP



Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Trunk or Treat. We gave candy and prizes to over 302 children! We had 21 adult and 7 youth volunteers help with decorating, grilling, hosting a trunk, leading games, and with clean up. Our community loves our Trunk or Treat event and I am so thankful that we had so many people attend this year. Thank you so much for helping with Trunk or Treat.





Community Ministries

The **Angel Tree** will be up the week of November 15th in the narthex. Please choose an angel (or more) to shop for and fulfill the wishes of a child in need. Most of our angel families this year are from Park View Elementary School in Mooresville. All wrapped gifts will be due Sunday, December 6th (please attach the tag to the gift). This deadline is firm because all gifts will be sorted and delivered to the school during that week. Please see Jenny Horton or a member of Community Ministries if you have questions.



Community Thank yous!



God's work. Our hands.

Feed NC

Patty Schmid stopped by the office before her Martha circle meeting and gave me a donation receipt from the feedNC organization and asked me to share with you that St Mark's donated 55 pounds of canned or packaged food on September 19th!

Bridge of Hearts

We truly appreciate all that you and your church do to support Bridge of Hearts! Thank you so much for all of your recent donations! You guys really do donate the nicest gifts. 😊 Thank you so much for all the wonderful donations today! (and a few days ago!) The snacks and gifts couldn't have come at a more perfect time! 😊 They were desperately needed. We appreciate you and your sweet church members.

HealthReach

I wanted to reach out and extend my sincere thanks to you and everyone from St. Mark's Lutheran Church who volunteered at HealthReach on September 12th.

I've had the opportunity to see the results of your group's hard work, and the clinic looks absolutely amazing! The outdoor areas look refreshed, and the difference is night and day. The group's willingness to spend their Day of Service helping our clinic is incredible and so greatly appreciated.

Please share our gratitude with everyone who participated. We're blessed to have faith partners like St. Mark's who consistently support our mission and help us maintain a welcoming environment for the patients and families we serve. Acts of service like this not only improve our facility but also remind us how fortunate we are to be surrounded by such a caring community!

Thank you again to the group for the generosity, hard work, and continued partnership with HealthReach!

Kindness Closet

Jenny, my sincerest apologies for not following up sooner, it has been a crazy week. I wanted to share that kits we received from you and your group went to the Christian Mission! Anne and I are so thankful to you and your group for the amazing effort of purchasing and packing the products. We still have some leftover products that we plan on donating to other members in our community as the need arises. We appreciate the support tremendously. Please let me know if I can assist with anything in the future. Thank you again!



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 Kent, Jon	17 Martin, Howard
1 Jones, Brianna	17 Schmid, Mike
1 Cline, Finley	17 Finger, Dave
2 Melin, Linda	17 Upshaw, Thomas
2 Meadows, Chad	18 West, Meadow
3 Little, David	20 Faulkes, Candace
3 Fletcher, Judy	20 Johnson, Tamara
4 Lown, Sandie	21 West, Dylan
5 Haacker, Liam	22 Barteau, Curtis
5 Kerhoulas, Anne	23 Walther, Gail
6 Gido, Susie	24 Keck Sr., David
9 Grebe, Raelynn	25 Haire, Susan
11 Self, Elizabeth	25 Jones, Darren
12 Shoe, Jeff	26 Betancourt, Amelia
13 Wulf, Eleanor	26 Tusing II, Tommy
13 Weymss, Emerson	26 Fitzgerald, Jessica
13 Cline, Charlie	26 Wills, Bob
14 Lee, Alice	26 Meadows, Andrew
15 Hans, Ava	27 Sloop, Teresa
16 Castoral, Linda	28 Wagoner, David
16 Shangle, Mercedes	29 Grebe, Justin



2 Jimmy and Kathy Jo McLean	41 yrs
3 Cindy and Ronnie Wilkins	47 yrs
6 Al and Sally Hansen	27 yrs
7 Jim and Sandie Lown	34 yrs
14 Bobby and Karen Bost	34 yrs
14 Josh and Holly Frankos	6 yrs
15 Robert Wills and Lya Saam	67 yrs
22 Jeff and Susan Cole	46 yrs
23 Tom and Lorri Monterose	30 yrs
29 Justin and Heather Grebe	18 yrs