From Pastor Dave

Thank you attendees to the January 27 "Round Table Discussions" or "Lunch with Council!" There were one hundred of us who ate and engaged in listening, conversation, brainstorming, and prayerful discernment that day. Thank you to St. Mark's Council and other leaders who helped facilitate and take notes at each of the tables. The conversations focused on two areas: Engagement of people in and through St. Mark's ministries; and Sanctuary area refurbishments and improvements. Within those two areas the conversations were widespread at all the tables, with no table having the exact same discussion as another table. We all have our unique God-celebrating gifts and perspectives, histories and hopes. A synopsis of the conversation results were sent out via email and reprinted on page 8 of this Marker.

This month, the first weekend in March, our Council will gather for a planning session Friday and Saturday. Thank you for your prayers for us! Some of our discussion, I think, will be to follow up on those Round Table discussions, especially the Engagement aspect. I shared the following quote with our council leaders preparing for the planning session. “Christianity did not begin with a confession. It began with an invitation into friendship, into creating a new community, into forming relationships based on love and service.” It is from a book by religion historian and scholar, Diana Butler Bass - Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening. Another quote from the same source: “If we think of belonging only as membership in a club, organization, or church, we miss the point. Belonging is the risk to move beyond the world we know, to venture out on pilgrimage, to accept exile. And it is the risk of being with companions on that journey, God, a spouse, friends, children, mentors, teachers, people who came from the same place we did, people who came from entirely different places, saints and sinners of all sorts, those known to us and those unknown, our secret longings, questions, and fears.”

In the church season of Epiphany, which we leave on March 3, we heard Jesus calling fishermen and others to follow him in a new community; how He formed relationships based on love and service. On March 6, Ash Wednesday, and the following 40 days of Lent, we "venture out on pilgrimage" with Jesus, with his followers from all backgrounds and ways of life; a journey toward the cross and resurrection, a journey of "dying to self" in order to be open to resurrections and new relationships. In John 19 Jesus spoke from the cross saying it was time for some people to form a new relationship: "Woman, behold your son; son, behold your mother." (v. 26-27) They were not from the same family but Jesus invited them to journey together in a new relationship of love and service. Lent is also a time of being challenged by the devil and the Herods of this world, not only tempted in evil, but also in being tempted to not change or not reach out but to stay trapped on crosses or tombs of our own making.

Five new households have become a part of St. Mark's since the beginning of 2019! 40 more faithful individuals did the same in 2018! They come with new ideas and viewpoints. What can we who have been with St. Mark's two or more years, learn from them? How will they change us for the better? How will we be community to and for them? What does God have planned for us all through these new relationships in our ever-changing incorporation* known as St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church? (*in-corpus - "in the body" or embodiment of Christ)

God bless us saints and sinners of all sorts, as we venture out on pilgrimage this March, this Lent, together as community in relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.
**Food Drive**

**Christian Mission**

Sunday, March 3rd will be our monthly food drive for the Christian Mission.

Items needed include:
- Oatmeal, Cereal
- Canned Meat, Stew & Tuna
- Canned Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta, Macaroni & Cheese
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Paper Products; Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Trash Bags
- Hygiene Items, soap, shampoo, deodorant, razors, etc.

Please leave donations in the box in the office hallway. Thank you for your generosity!

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**Lutheran Men in Mission**

LMM will meet at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, March 3rd. All men are invited to a hearty breakfast, fellowship and devotions. We will finish planning the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 5th.

We are also planning An occasional 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening meeting. Please let Don know of any ideas or suggestions you have.

Yours in Christian Discipleship,
Don Mease
measedonald4@gmail.com; 414-491-9344

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**St. Mark’s Council Planning Session, March 1-2**

Our council invites your prayers this weekend as they meet. Dr. Victoria King is the planning session facilitator and council members are: Jeff Shoe (President), Sandie Lown (VP), Lisa Gill (Secretary), Martin McCann, Bill Swart, John Roseman, Amy Elkin, Chris Gilligan, Kathy McLean, Bernie Hadeler, Jimmy Meadows, John Kline, and Pastor Dave.

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**Via de Cristo**

**What is This?**

Have you noticed Via de Cristo on the calendars? Have you wondered what it is or who was doing it? Join us for an information session on Thursday, March 14th in the library at 7:00 p.m.

Via de Cristo means “the Way of Christ”. It is a name used by Lutherans for a movement of personal Christian renewal within the Church. It is a highly structured, well-thought-out method for renewing the faith of individuals, the Congregations from which they come and the environments in which they live and work. The renewal movement is presented as a united effort of laypersons and clergy to aid congregations in the development of Christian leaders.

A Via de Cristo Retreat is an encounter with Christ in which the participant becomes a part of a community abounding in God’s grace. It enhances and strengthens our personal relationships with Christ, and our Christian brothers and sisters and with the Christian community. The Via de Cristo Retreat is coming face to face with Christ.

If you have questions or would like additional information, join us for the information session or contact Sandie Lown, sandielown1@gmail.com; 704-658-7639 or Kathy McLean, kathymclean23@gmail.com; 704-664-4403.
North Carolina Synod of the ELCA: Summer Assembly and Constitution Updates

The NC Synod Assembly will be held in Greensboro May 31 - June 1. If you are interested in attending as a Voting Member from St. Mark's, please contact Pastor Dave or Jeff Shoe.

The NC Synod has a new vision focusing on four main areas: vital congregations, whole and healthy leaders, collaboration, and prophetic voice. To support this vision, some updates the current NC Synod Constitution were needed. The synod council has approved those changes; and they will be voted on during the Synod Assembly this summer. The constitution and a document outlining changes are on the synod website at www.nclutheran.org. They are posted under the "events" tab on the "synod assembly 2019" page under "resolutions."

If you have questions related to the new constitution or proposed changes you may contact Michael DeNise, Director of Finance and Administration at mdenise@nclutheran.org or 704-633-4861.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday is named for the medieval practice of being shriven (being absolved of sins) on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. After being shriven, the people would engage in merrymaking. In France as well as New Orleans the day became known as Mardi Gras (from the French for “Fat Tuesday”). The day is associated with foods such as pancakes and potato doughnuts. When Lent was kept by abstinence from meat and by fasting, certain foods were not allowed even to be kept in the home. It was the custom to use up all the butter, milk, eggs, and fats before Ash Wednesday. The doughnuts that were made were known as Fastnachts, which is German for “eve of the fast.”

Please join us for our annual Pancake Supper Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the FLC.

Upcoming Dates

March 5 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
March 6 Ash Wednesday; worship at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
March 9 Science & Faith
April 5-7 Little LYNcs BYG @ Agape
April 5-7 Jr LYNcs Faith Alive @ Lutheridge
April 18 Maundy Thursday/First Communion
April 21 Easter Sunday
April 28 Outside Worship
June 9 Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation
June 17-21 VBS
July 7-13 Sr LYNcs Mission Trip
July 14-20 Confirmation Camp @ Lutheridge
November 24 Thanksgiving Feast

Archives

Anyone interested in helping with St. Mark's archives? Please contact Sandie Lown at 704-658-7639 or sandielown1@gmail.com. Many items are unmarked and undisplayed. Help is needed with identifying, marking and organizing these items.
Memorials/Honor Gifts
In Honor of
Robbie Pearson
Music Fund
Jody & Nancy Tyree & Family

In Honor of
Priscilla Abraham
Organ Fund
Jody & Nancy Tyree & Family

In Honor of
Linda Clark
Pew Bible
Brenda Motrie

In Memory of
Irene M. Motrie
Pew Bible
Brenda Motrie

Sunday Night Worship Opportunities!!!

Prior to Sunday
PowerPoint Creator – convert Word document into worship PowerPoint
Worship Binder Prep – copy announcements, readings, and prayers and get them ready for Sunday
Worship Arts Team – design visual elements for worship

Before Worship on Sunday
Setup Team – set up altar, chairs, audio/video, and sermon response stations
Coffee/Hospitality Setup – brew coffee and set out snacks
Bulletin Copies – use the copier in the office to make printed bulletins for the worship team
Communion Prep – prepare elements for Holy Communion
Godly Play Setup – set out toys and activities for any children who want to play during worship

During Worship
PowerPoint Operator – follow the bulletin and advance the PowerPoint with a remote
Welcome Wagon/Greeters – greet people at the door and be available to chat
Coffee/Hospitality Hostess or Host – be at the counter in the kitchen to help with coffee and snacks
Readers – take a worship binder and read a prayer, lesson, or responsive reading
Communion Distribution – give out the bread and wine during Communion
Singers – attend rehearsals and sing during worship
Instrumentalists – guitar, bass, percussion, lead instruments welcome!
Godly Play Leader – be in the Godly Play area and help supervise children
Facebook Live Director – log in to St. Mark’s Facebook page and film the sermon
Drama Team – attend rehearsals and offer dramatic readings and scenes

After Worship Cleanup Team – put away chairs, coffee, etc, and make sure the FLC is clean

All are welcome to participate – no experience necessary!
It’s a new service with new opportunities, and we’d love to have many new hands to help on our worship team. Whether you are 8 or 18 or 80, you are welcome to serve with us! Even if you can only serve one or two days a month, we would love to have you on our team. We’ll even teach you how to do whatever job interests you – all you have to do is ask!

For more information or to volunteer, please email Kristin Sakamoto; kristin@saintmarkslutheran.com

Sympathy
We extend our Christian compassion and prayers to Evie Petrie in the death of her daughter, Jacqueline Vanderzanden, on January 29th.

We extend our Christian compassion and prayers to the family of Larry Baker who passed away February 22nd.
Prayer Concerns

We change the prayer list each month with updates and name changes from Pastor Dave and office staff. To be faithful, prayers should be fresh and active, and so we remind you to keep us informed of health situation changes at least every 30 days. Please notify the office of any changes or updates to the prayer list; carolfeiste@aol.com or 704-664-5474.

Please remember all our homebound and nursing home residents; caregivers of those who are ill; those searching for employment; and all who serve in the military: Aaron Whitlow, Drew Jones, Erik Crowder, Brantley Horton, Matthew Barone, Michael Blinn, Charles Blinn and Thomas Blinn.

Members: John Allen (gall stone, son of Lorri Monterose); Gary Rains (cardiac ablation 2-18); John Earnhardt (tests); Liam Tulbert (ear surgery 2-14); Linda Melin (broken shoulder, surgery 1-22); Alice Lee (outpatient eye surgery 3-1); Bev Sarro; Lyle Scruggs.

Friends & Family: Ric Browne (strength & healing, friend of the Monteroses); Mark Morton (stem cell treatment, scleroderma, brother of Greg Morton); Ruth Plyler (aunt of Mark Burzlaff); Frank Montelongo (cancer, cousin of Kathy McLean); Joyce Lyons (pneumonia, friend of Kathy McLean); Jimmy Dagenhart (tests, friends of the McLean’s); Steve Suther (colon surgery, brother of Stan Suther); Ernie Sides (Multiple Myeloma, friend of Suthers); Ron Ivy (dementia, broken leg, biopsy, friend of Suthers); Charleston Knox (terminal illness, 1 year old granddaughter of Kurt & Cathy Quade); Lou Van Der Eems (seizures, memory loss, loss of mobility, brother-in-law of Bernie Hadeler); Jay Verbos (Hospice care, friend of the Elkin’s); Tim King family (Federal shutdown & sudden illness, friends of Lisa Leal-Ontiveros); Joan Von Bergen (temporal arteritis, sister of Susan Altieri); Jon Locklin (preparation for lung transplant, son of Shirley Locklin); Phyllis Monterose (Hospice Care, mother of Tommy Monterose); Sheila Goodman (surgery, friend of Alice Lee); Robin Richert (cancer treatment); Pat McCall (breast cancer, friend of Susan Leone); Sandy Wisecarver (cancer treatment, sister of Judy Aro); David Kruk (bladder cancer, cousin of Linda Melin & Donna Enroth); Travis Schumacher (brain trauma center, friend of the Fletchers); Don Locklin (cancer, son of Shirley Locklin); Stacey Montelongo (cancer treatment, cousin of Kathy McLean); Jodi Heinze (chemo, breast cancer, sister of Jeanette Diekman); Martha Upright (Leukemia, sister-in-law of Betty Greenhill); Wendy Keicher (cancer treatment, sister of Dawn Barone).

March Altar Flowers

3 ** OPEN **
10 ** OPEN **
17 Dan & Kim Markley
24 ** OPEN **
31 ** OPEN **

The flower calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the side hallway. Open dates include:

Providing flowers on the Altar is a great way to remember or honor a loved one or special occasion.

The 2019 flower calendar is now posted in the side hallway. Remember you can share the same week with someone or share flowers two weeks in a row. Sign-up on the flower calendar or call the church office, 704-664-5474.

**Altar Flowers**

Finance Report Update

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January Attendance

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-24</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shepherd of the Week

March

3 Brenda Joyce
10 Kathy McLean
17 Bobbie Meadows
24 Debbie Rice
31 Betsy Roseman
WELCA Circles
February

Ruth Circle
Meets the first Monday of the month, March 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.
Program: Mary Trimberger
Hostess: Phyllis Witherspoon

Grace Connection
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, March 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult I Classroom in the Family Life Center.
Program: Judith Fletcher
Hostess: Liz Whitlow

Martha Circle
Meets the fourth Monday of the month, March 25th at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.
Program: Shirley Locklin
Hostess: Shirley Locklin

www.ncwelca.org
www.womenoftheelca.org
www.boldcafe.org
www.gathermagazine.org

The Gather Magazine includes Bible Studies, articles and a newsletter. All helpful information for your circle programs. Everything you need is available online.

Ladies Lunch Bunch
Date: Wednesday, March 13th
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Place: Eddie’s on Lake Norman, 643 Williamson Road
Donations: Please bring donations of juice boxes/pouches for Food for Days.
Reply to: Brenda Joyce, 704-663-5907 or asuwfu@yahoo.com by Tuesday, March 12th

Saint Mark’s Evangelism Opportunities
+ At the center of the word “Evangelism” is the word “Angel.” Angels are messengers that “share the Good News of God in Christ Jesus through word and deed” (which is also the third of the five baptismal promises we make). That means WE ARE THE ANGELS. Consider how and where you share the “good news” this month – by taking your bulletin with you after worship and sharing it with someone; by inviting that “someone” to St. Mark’s with you for worship or other ministry activity; by sharing Christ’s love with someone in need by your caring deeds.

+ St. Mark’s is blessed with newcomers to worship every week! Not only are we Angels but we are Ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20) everywhere we go. In addition to our Congregation Council, if you are willing to be a St. Mark’s “Ambassador” to help connect with newcomers, please contact Bill Swart (see below).

+ St. Mark’s Mentors walk with new members to help further connect them at St. Mark’s.

Join us for our next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room.

Thank you.
Bill Swart
704-677-2219
porsch4fun@gmail.com

Sunday Soup Suppers
March 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st and April 7th, 5:30 p.m. Join us before worship in the FLC for a soup supper. If you would like to provide soup, crackers or just attend, complete the insert located in the narthex and side hallway and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office.

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
The March Marker - Page 6
Welcome New Members!

Tom & Lory Hans
410-456-3932; tehans@verizon.net

The Hans moved from Reisterstown, MD. They join by letter of transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church. Tom works with American Airlines. He enjoys automobiles and boating. Lory like to go biking, walking and read. They have two adult sons.

Bennie & Jennifer Stevens and sons Jacob & Tyler
129 Willowbrook Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115
704-620-7262
jenbenstevens@gmail.com

Jennifer has been a member since 2004, Bennie and the boys join by Affirmation of Faith. They all like to golf. Bennie plays basketball and enjoys racing. Jennifer enjoys all Michigan State sports! Jacob is 7 and in the first grade. Tyler is 5 and in pre-k.

Ben & Lisa Ontiveros and sons Ruben, Dallas & Chance
217 Cedarcroft Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115
Ben ~ 704-658-7624, bakingben@yahoo.com
Lisa ~ 704-658-8082

The Ontiveros family joins by Affirmation of Faith from Central United Methodist Church. Ben is employed with HYDAC, a hydraulics, electronic control technology company. He enjoys baking and grilling. Lisa likes to cook, bake and read. Dallas is 16 and a Junior at Mooresville High School. He enjoys playing games and sports. Chance is 15 and a Freshman at MHS. He like to play the piano. Ruben is their adult son he enjoys hiking and dog fostering.

Preschool

The halls are beginning to be brightened by the colorful decorations of Spring. The kids are looking forward to the fun outdoor activities.

We are wrapping up our can food collection for the Christian Mission in Mooresville. We collected a little over 300 canned goods for local families. The children are excited to have reached their goal and collect so many cans.

Thank you for continued prayers and support.

Love in Christ
Stephanie Mattingly
Preschool Director

HANDS On
Hands Are Needed for Devoted Service
Meets Tuesdays at 12 noon in the FLC

During the month of March we asking members to donate a new packaged set of men’s, women’s, or children’s underwear and leave it in the pew on Sunday’s in March. A member of Hands will pick up these items up each Sunday. We are calling this Sunday Undies! Sunday Undies will continue every Sunday in March and our plan is to take these items and more to Living Waters Lutheran Church before Easter.

Hands continues to make fleece shawls for Genesis as they prepare for their Senior Prom in May. We have purchased a variety of spring colors for these shawls and are asking for a broach/pin that you may donate to place on the shawl. We are also preparing plastic for making plastic sleeping mats. We have sent these mats in the past to Haiti and Living Waters in Cherokee. We are in need of members who crochet.

A big thank you to LYNC’s and Carissa for placing scarves on lampposts in downtown Mooresville for Valentine’s!

Love One Another,
Shelby Westmoreland 704-662-4630; shelbyw1952@gmail.com
Follow-up from the St. Mark’s January Feedback Session

On Sunday, January 27, the St. Mark’s Council held a Luncheon and Feedback Session to gather thoughts from our membership on issues facing our Church. This session focused on proposed updates to the Sanctuary and programs to improve church vitality and member engagement. We were thrilled to have over 100 members join us to share fellowship and participate in the discussions! Thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered. We sincerely appreciate all the ideas, opinions, and hopes that were shared.

Below you will find a very brief set of highlights from the discussion. Summarizing the hour or so of discussion is not an easy task, so if you are interested in reading more detailed notes, you can download a copy of them from this address: https://goo.gl/trLFrH or request a copy from the Church Office. Please understand that these summaries cannot capture every idea and opinion heard, but they attempt to reflect the most common themes. And please do not think the opportunity to be heard has passed! Please reach out to any staff or Council member if you have thoughts on these topics.

Sanctuary Improvements

There was wide support for basic updates to the Sanctuary, such as replacing carpet, pew pads, and adding railings at the steps leading to the chancel where the lectern, pulpit and Lord’s Table are. Many people also supported a movable lectern to replace the current lectern to give us more flexibility with space at the front of the church. A good number of attendees also supported the more extensive renovation concepts for the Altar area presented during the discussion, which could further improve flexibility and accessibility. Those who did support more extensive improvements preferred that a dedicated capital campaign is developed to finance such a project. Finally, there was mixed feedback on the need for a narthex expansion project. Some felt that a new narthex could provide a more welcoming place for visitors and could promote more fellowship after services, while others felt that such changes would not be worth the expense.

Vitality and Engagement

The attendees felt that the primary challenges to church vitality and member engagement are connected to the overall demographic trends in our church and the significant competition that exists for peoples’ time – particularly families. Many of our long-standing members have dedicated significant amounts of time and energy to the Church and are ready to hand off these responsibilities to new, energetic members, but we haven’t done a good enough job of getting those people integrated into the church and empowering them to take leadership roles. Therefore, reaching out into our growing community to continue to attract new visitors and members, followed by intentional welcoming of these new members into Church activities, should be a priority for the church. We also need to be more creative and thoughtful in how we design and schedule activities to allow families to stay engaged with the church.

Attendees also expressed a strong desire to promote fellowship and social connections within church activities to help improve engagement. People are more likely to be engaged when they can use church activities to fulfill both social and spiritual growth. Leaders need to reach out to people personally and get to know volunteers, and we should also develop more programs focused solely on fellowship, particularly for kids and families.

Many members also felt that engagement could be improved if the church had more focus and better communication with members. Several people felt that we do too much with too few resources and that we could improve engagement by focusing on activities that were more clearly related to our core mission. Members may also be more willing to engage if they felt more informed about what was happening in the church and what decisions were being made – and more importantly, why such decisions were made.
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service names new CEO

When Krish O’Mara Vignarajah and her family arrived in the United States as refugees fleeing civil war in Sri Lanka, the community welcomed them with open arms. Her dad found a job as a schoolteacher in Baltimore, where the family, including the then 9-month-old Vignarajah, settled. The superintendent of schools helped her family find an apartment. The vice principal helped them start a bank account. Churches and temples literally put clothes on their backs, warm coats and other gear to help them adjust to the city’s bitter winters. “It was because this community, we call it now the ‘circle of welcome,’ embraced us not just as strangers, but as neighbors, as friends, as family, that I had the chance to really live the American story,” she said.

Now Vignarajah hopes to extend that same welcome to others as the new President and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Vignarajah, who was policy director for former First Lady Michelle Obama, is the second refugee and the first non-Lutheran to lead the Baltimore-based organization in its 80-year history. She was appointed President and CEO on February 13. She said: “For the past 80 years, LIRS has been the national leader in supporting immigrants and refugees beginning their American journey and I am honored to lead this storied organization at a pivotal moment in our nation’s history,” said Krish. “At a time when too many refugees and asylum-seekers are unsure whether they will be welcome in America, I am committed to ensuring that all immigrants seeking a better life in America are afforded the same opportunities as my families received to pursue their dreams.”

https://www.lirs.org/

Faith Journey

A family was heading on vacation: two little ones were nestled in car seats; the van was packed. As Dad locked the house and Mom secured the garage, an adult neighbor the kids knew walked up and spoke through an open window. “Where are you going?” The kids shrugged. “Well, what road are you taking?” the friend asked with a knowing smile. Of course, they had no idea. “Do you know where you’ll eat today, or where you’ll spend the night?” Blank stares. Then the friend asked, “Who are you traveling with?” The children broke into grins and shouted, “Mommy and Daddy!”

On the journey of faith, we don’t know precisely where we’re headed or how all our needs will be met. But we know who we’re traveling with: our loving God who is fully aware of the twists and turns ahead; the loving Parent who promises to care for us wherever we go.
**Worship, Music, and Arts**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.* ...Psalm 51:10

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**A LENTEN JOURNEY**

The call to Lent and its disciplines* begins on Ash Wednesday (March 6) but is rooted in Jesus’ 40 days of trial in the wilderness (Luke 4). These 40 days speak powerfully to all who find themselves in wildernesses: of emotional or relational brokenness, of spiritual loneliness or self-doubt, of temptations and trials. People who journey in the wilderness must rely on faith and grace to see them through. That’s what Jesus did, and the lessons he learned there informed the rest of his life.

After his baptism, the Holy Spirit led him into the wilderness. And those 40 days of testing solidified his relationship with God. I don’t understand this mystery, but I do know that times of trial in our own lives impact us and our relationship with God. Jesus invites us to be led by the Holy Spirit again this year into these intentional 40 days of active fruit-bearing repentance.

* Ash Wednesday, March 6 Worship at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
* Sunday, March 10 ~ Jesus’ Wilderness Temptation
* Sunday, March 17 ~ Jesus’ Doubles Down on His Mission (also, St. Patrick’s Day)
* Sunday, March 24 ~ Jesus Calls His Followers to an Active Fruit-Bearing Repentance
* Sunday, March 31 ~ Jesus Teaches about God’s Crazy Compassion
* Sunday, April 7 ~ Jesus is Anointed with Expensive Perfume
* Sunday, April 14 ~ Jesus Enters Jerusalem (and Holy Week begins)

* self examination, repentance, fasting, prayer, almsgiving, works of love

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**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP with St. Mark’s, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.**

*Lent 2019: What kind of God do you want?:* One who will leave you alone or one who loves you, fights for you, saves you? The Gospel readings this year during Lent from Luke and John include Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness, his lament over Jerusalem, and his story of the prodigal son.

**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP 6:30 p.m. - Christ on Trial**

In these Lenten services we will listen in each week as court is in session to determine who Christ is. A prosecuting attorney and key witnesses will lead us in discovering evidence that demands a verdict: Who is this Jesus...for you? "Christ on Trial" will be introduced on Ash Wednesday.

**WEDNESDAYS IN LENT**

March 6, Ash Wednesday 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. worship with Imposition of Ashes

Wednesdays at 12:15—12:45 p.m., March 13, 20, and 27 Contemplative worship around the "Lamb of God" in the sanctuary with prayer, Word and Sacrament. 12:15-12:45pm.

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*I URGE THEN, FIRST OF ALL, THAT PETITIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, AND THANKSGIVING BE MADE FOR ALL PEOPLE.* ...1 Timothy 2:1

**Prayer Station ~ Take a Prayer Leave a Prayer**

A Prayer Station will be in the sanctuary throughout Lent to lift up prayers for one another. Strips of fabric and markers will be available to write your name and/or a specific prayer request. If you don't have a specific prayer request please just put your name so you will be included in our prayers.

Loosely tie or hang your fabric strip on the prayer station, and someone will take it and pray for you each day. When you leave a prayer request please take one to pray for someone else. Feel free to leave/take additional prayer requests throughout Lent.
**Jr LYNCs**

Meets Wednesdays, 5:15-7:15 p.m. in FLC

These middle school youth have formed a special bond as we’re becoming Everyday Samaritans who WHEAT others! Curious? Ask our Jr LYNCs to tell you more! This month, we’ll continue learning more and practicing our skills of caring, welcoming, and affirming people in our everyday lives. In addition, we will continue to engage in interactive learning to pursue a deeper understanding of Luther’s Small Catechism at the ARK Gathering on 3/27 (during Jr LYNCs) as well as the third of five baptismal promises at the Confirmation Mentor Lunch on 3/17 in the FLC from 12:15-1:45 p.m.

Families are encouraged to attend Lenten worship together on Sundays @ 6:30 p.m. in the FLC as well as the SCIENCE & FAITH event on March 9th and 10th! See separate announcements for more details.

**Sr LYNCs**

Meets Sundays, 5:00-6:30 p.m. in FLC

March will open with a fun Mardi Gras-esque time together on March 3rd to prepare for the Lenten season. The following weekend, we will gather for the SCIENCE & FAITH event with Dr. Andrew Root on Saturday, March 9th, 2-6 p.m. and Sunday, March 10th @ 11:00 a.m. We will not hold Sr LYNCs on March 10th. The remainder of the month, we will gather briefly from 5:00-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for some ‘us’ time before joining the rest of our faith community for 5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper and 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship via a special drama series together in the FLC. Families are encouraged to attend Lenten worship together on Sundays @ 6:30 p.m. in the FLC as well as the SCIENCE & FAITH event on March 9th and 10th! See separate announcements for more details.

**Diffusion Discourse: Science & Faith**

Join Us Saturday, March 9th, 2:00-6:00 p.m.
St. Mark’s Family Life Center

Dr. Andrew Root, Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, MN, will share his insights into Faith, Science, and the Faith Formation of Young People. A community event for youth, young people, families, and adults of all ages. This presentation will give you a better handle on why and how to respond, preparing you to wrestle with the claims of science for the sake faith formation. REGISTER AND/OR WALK-INS WELCOME! Visit www.diffusiondiscourse.eventbrite.com for more information, and invite your family and friends to join us for the start of some healthy dialogue!

Note: Dr. Root will follow up this event with a visit the very next day, Sunday, March 10th, at First Presbyterian worship services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. There he will preach on ‘How to Instill a Faith that Lasts.’

**First Communion 2019**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
SUNDAY, MARCH 3rd

Registration opened in February for all 3rd, 5th grade students who are ready and would like to take First Communion during Lent! Contact Pastor Dave or Carissa Abraham in the church office to sign up. It’s not too late!

Fed & Forgiven Class Schedule:
During Sunday School @ 9:45 a.m.
March 24th, 31st, April 7th, 14th. Meet in Sanctuary on March 24th. Students will receive First Communion at Maundy Thursday worship on April 18th.
Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Committee will meet Wednesday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

If you would like additional information contact: John Kline at jhkline71@sbcglobal.net or 704-360-4505.

**Food for Days**

Social ministry depends on the caring hearts of our congregation to support FOOD FOR DAYS MINISTRY and other programs that we support. We have heard many stories of how the children depend on this food to get through the weekend.

**COST FOR ONE CHILD FOR SCHOOL YEAR $250.00 OR ANY AMOUNT YOUR HEART DICTATES**

Please keep this ministry in your hearts and minds and pray for these children and the children all over the nation that need assistance.

You may use a pew envelop indicating FOOD FOR DAYS on the envelope and on your check and place in the offering plate.

**Easter Holiday Meals**

As the Lenten and Easter Season approach, please share your joy of the Season and what it means to you by giving a $25.00 Holiday Meal Gift Card.

First we look at the needs of our congregation who may need a gift card. Our secondary goal will be to provide as many in need children (currently 78) at Park View Elementary School with a $25.00 Food Lion Gift Card for their Easter Meal. Contributions in any amount will be a blessing. Make your check out to St. Mark’s and indicate on your check and envelope EASTER HOLIDAY MEALS. The last date for donations is April 7th.

Open the window of your heart and let your light and love shine through. The happiness you share with others will circulate back to you.

Social Ministry

**Ford Drive 4 UR Community**

A Date Will Be Announced Soon!

Test drive a Ford and earn $20.00 for Food for Days!

This is the best fundraiser, since it will take about 20 minutes of your time, no pressure, and you can drive a new vehicle. Ford Motor Company makes the $20.00 donation to Food for Days. Watch the April newsletter and bulletins for additional information.

Social Ministry
To God You Shall Return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return” might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can’t untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don’t have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin’s power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends — one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral — meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we’re always safe in God’s love.
### 8:30 a.m. Worship Service

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<th>March 3</th>
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<td><strong>Usher</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Greeter</strong></td>
<td>Jimmy &amp; Kathy McLean</td>
<td>Woody &amp; Tammy Parker</td>
<td>Gary &amp; Judy Rains</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Marsha Rhyne</td>
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<td>Kathy McLean Lisa Harwell</td>
<td>Audra Nottestad Alaina Sursi Olivia Carlson</td>
<td>Charlie Cline Liam Tulbert</td>
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<td><strong>Nursery Asst.</strong></td>
<td>Ellen McAndrew</td>
<td>Allison Gray</td>
<td>Marsha Rhyne</td>
<td>Mary Allison Horton</td>
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### 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

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<td>Guil Roy Charlie Buckley</td>
<td>David &amp; Jan Wagoner</td>
<td>Brenda Joyce Barbara Erskine</td>
<td>Andy &amp; Betsy Craig</td>
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<td><strong>Acolyte</strong></td>
<td>Nathan McCoy Cailyn Winford</td>
<td>Mara McCann Maggie Koehler</td>
<td>Cailyn Winford Jadyn Johnson</td>
<td>Maggie Koehler Liam Tulbert</td>
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<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Counters</strong></td>
<td>Jeff Shoe, Sandie Lown &amp; Jimmy Meadows</td>
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<td><strong>Council Dev.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Altar Flowers</strong></td>
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**Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019**
Worship 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
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<td>8:30 Worship</td>
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<td>10:00 Ruth Circle</td>
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<td>10:00 Ladies Bible St.</td>
<td>11:00 Prayer Group</td>
<td>12:30 HANDS On</td>
<td>6:00 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper</td>
<td>6:30 Cub Scouts</td>
<td>7:00 Men’s Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00 Grace Connection</td>
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<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>10:00 Bible Study</td>
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<td>12:00 Fellowship Grp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mark’s Lutheran Church</td>
<td>454 Fieldstone Road</td>
<td>Mooresville, NC 28117</td>
<td>Pastor Dave Keck</td>
<td>704-664-5474</td>
<td><a href="http://www.saintmarkslutheran.com">www.saintmarkslutheran.com</a></td>
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St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
454 Fieldstone Road
Mooresville, NC 28115
www.saintmarkslutheran.com

Pastor: Dave Keck

Sunday Schedule
8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Office Phone; ext. 203 ……… 704-664-5474
Office FAX ………………… 704-660-7737
Preschool; ext. 205 ………… 704-664-2009
Stephanie Mattingly
director@saintmarksreformedchurch.com
Church E-Mail……………… office@saintmarksreformedchurch.com
Pastor Dave Keck, ext. 201 …… davekeck@saintmarksreformedchurch.com
Christian Education, ext. 202 carissa@
Carissa Abraham…………… saintmarksreformedchurch.com
Director of Music, ext. 213 robbie@saintmarksreformedchurch.com
Robbie Pearson…………….. kgsakamoto11@gmail.com
Kristin Sakamoto…………….

Office Hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.