



# Chapel News

A Publication of Lutheran Chapel Church

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***MAY 2020***

There are a number of different responses to the current coronavirus pandemic.

I have heard the call for national repentance from some parts of the Christian Church. I don't disagree that national repentance is a good thing but really repentance is ***always*** in order. Sometimes there is a pretty obvious causal link – I give in to gluttony and excess then my stomach hurts, etc. but in cases like this, repentance may not be the most helpful category. Disease hits us all period and there is great hubris in claiming to know the exact mind of God.

Another response is essentially functional atheism – pandemics happen and God has nothing to do with the world anymore. Any understanding of Genesis 1 and 2, the Psalms on creation such as 8, 145, etc., or the Creed itself, points to the fact that God is intimately involved with creation sustaining and creating still. Indeed, my next heart beat is the intimate gift of our intimate Father in Heaven! So God is up to something even allowing this to happen but who am I to say exactly what!?

Another response is the image of birth pangs (Romans 8), that like natural disasters and war, this pandemic is the natural consequence of the collateral damage of sin brokenness in the world. God is going to bring something good out of the bad. I may catch the coronavirus and die and not see that particular good on this earth but still I trust good is coming beyond this present evil. This response came from a forum from the Pastors on *Lutheran Hour* if you want to try and locate the discussions from their podcast on 3/29. Essentially, Moses did see the Promised Land from the mountain top, right?

The position I am caught up studying now has to do with lament – how long, O LORD? (Psalm 6:3) Why O LORD? (Psalm 74:1) Why is my soul disquieted with me? (Psalm 42:11, 43:5) Save us O LORD! (Psalm 18:1-3). So, praying these questions and not knowing in the midst of stress and pain and frustration is just where we find ourselves sometimes and even collectively in these days of pandemic shutdown.

Perhaps there are other responses you have heard. Please share prayer concerns, thoughts and any feedback by email, regular mail, call or text. May our LORD give us the strength, the patience, and the wisdom day by day to bring us through difficult times.

Peace in Christ,

***Pastor Michael***

# CONGRATULATIONS 2020 GRADUATES!

Please join us for a virtual Graduation Milestone on Sunday, May 17 during the 10:30am livestream service to pray for, recognize and celebrate our 2020 graduates.

## College Graduates

*Ryan Anderson*

*Amanda Angstadt*

*Hayes Cloninger*

*Ben Hester*

*Margaret Thornburg*

## High School Graduates

*Christine Andrews*

*Andrew Bell*

*Holt Cloninger*

*Baker Sanders*

*Mason Swindler*



We are so proud of their many accomplishments  
and cannot wait to see where the future takes them!

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, "  
plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and  
a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

## ***A special message to the members of Lutheran Chapel Church***

### **Reference: SBA Payroll Protection Plan**

Needless to say, the past 6-8 weeks have presented extraordinary challenges. Who would ever have thought back in December that our lifestyles would change in such a dramatic fashion, not only in our day to day routines, but in our ability to worship in our church home? Pastor Comer, the worship team and the communication volunteers have done a fantastic job in bringing worship into our homes through internet streaming. We are grateful for their dedication to the church and providing us these services.

Most of us are aware of the SBA Payroll Protection Plan for small businesses, passed on a bipartisan basis by Congress. The program rolled out April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our church accounting/bookkeeping team, who has extensive experience working with other churches, shared Lutheran Chapel was eligible for this program and church leadership should consider applying. The Executive Committee unanimously approved submission of the application which was submitted April 7<sup>th</sup> with approval received April 15<sup>th</sup>. Sherrie Angstadt, Congregation President, called a church council meeting on Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> for discussion as to whether to proceed with this SBA Plan. Church Council unanimously approved executing the documents and proceeding with the closing.

Regretfully, with social distancing policies in place, we are currently unable to have a congregational meeting for discussion of this program. Therefore, as elected members of Church Council, it is our role to proceed with this program, with the confidence that we represent the voices of our congregation.

The Payroll Protection Plan grant will provide \$58,752.00 (2.5 months of payroll including MMO/PreSchool) to the church. Assurances have been given that these monies will not have to be paid back if used for payroll/utilities. Council views these funds as an additional revenue stream to offset reduced offerings in the absence of face to face congregational gatherings. In preparation for the slight possibility the grant will have to be paid back, funds for payback will be used out of line items in the approved Budget for 2020, specifically Payroll and Utilities. These line items will not be used during the period of time funding for Payroll and Utilities are being used from the SBA Payroll Protection Plan.

Our church would have been responsible for these financial obligations of the payroll regardless of the grant. The likelihood of the grant denial is remote.

Church Council is seeking to maintain our payroll commitments considering these extraordinarily challenging times. While we cannot gather for a vote, should you have questions, we ask that you contact Ed Robinson, treasurer, or any of the Executive Committee of Church Council: Sherri Angstadt, Beth Swindler, Steve Laws or Katherine Sanders.

Peace in Christ,

**Ed Robinson, Treasurer, and the Executive Committee**

*“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them,  
for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6*

## **Worship News**

### **Wednesday Evening Prayers**

A Simple Form of Evening Prayer will be offered on-line into the fifty days of the Easter season on Wednesdays at 7PM.

### **Sunday Worship**

Sunday Worship Services will be offered on-line on Sundays at 10:30am.

All services offered live via Facebook (Lutheran Chapel Church in Gastonia, NC) with access to services also available through the church website ([www.lutheranchapelchurch.org](http://www.lutheranchapelchurch.org)) and YouTube (Lutheran Chapel).

Come  
*Worship*  
With Us

## **LUTHERAN CHAPEL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

The Executive Committee continues to monitor local, state and federal guidelines as they relate to stay at home orders and social distancing related to COVID-19. As information is released, we will reassess and communicate accordingly to the congregation through phone tree and weekly email blasts.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2020 from 5:00pm – 6:30pm. This is a combined April/May meeting due to Easter and Mother's Day.



## **MAY LOVE OFFERING**

### *Habitat for Humanity of Gaston County*

Our love offering for May will be sent to Habitat for Humanity of Gaston County. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, Christian based ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing. Funds for the construction of homes are obtained through financial contributions from individuals, churches and businesses. The homes are sold to qualified families at no profit and financed with affordable, no-interest mortgages repaid over 20 years. Mortgage money is then recycled back to build more homes for families in need. Habitat is not a give-away program. Habitat relies heavily on volunteers for construction in all homes. The work is a cooperative effort between volunteers and new home buyers who contribute labor to build their homes.

To date, Habitat for Humanity of Gaston County has built or renovated over 100 homes in the county. Please prayerfully consider giving to this ministry so that Habitat will continue to grow and help even more families have the opportunity to become a homeowner.

Thank you,

***The Social Ministry Committee***





## **ATTENTION ROOTS AND SPROUTS PARENTS**

Due to our current situation, all May youth meetings will be held online via Zoom at our normal meeting times. Mrs. Amy will send out the link via email for each meeting. Depending on what device your youth is using, he or she may need to download the Zoom app. Please email any questions to [amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org)

## **YOUTH SUNDAY**

Due to our current situation, the Youth will not be leading worship on Sunday, May 17th. We still hope to recognize our high school and college graduating seniors during the 10:30 worship service.

## **2020 VBS**

Because of our current circumstances and limited information as to when these circumstances will change, the Christian Ed and Family Ministries Committee has decided to postpone VBS to a later date. More information to come.

## **MAY DATES TO REMEMBER**

*\*\*Youth schedule/activities are subject to change contingent on further developments on the Coronavirus.\*\**

### **Sunday, May 3rd**

⇒ Roots Youth Group via Zoom ~ 5-6 pm

### **Wednesday, May 6th**

⇒ Sprouts Youth Group via Zoom @ 6 pm

### **Sunday, May 10th**

⇒ *Happy Mother's Day! NO ROOTS*

### **Sunday, May 17th**

⇒ End of Year Roots Youth Group via Zoom ~ 5-6 pm

### **Wednesday, May 20th**

⇒ End of Year Sprouts Youth Group via Zoom @ 6 pm

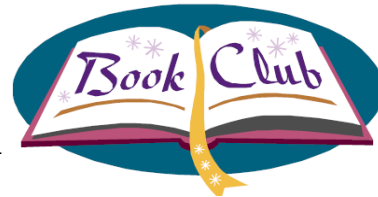
## **Tithes and Offerings**

Some church members have asked how they can send tithes and offerings to church since we are not meeting in person. Options include: utilizing offering envelopes to mail (or a regular envelope) or giving on-line through our church website:

[lutheranchapelchurch.org](http://lutheranchapelchurch.org), top right-hand corner "give" which is a link to Easy Tithe. Any questions or concerns call our Treasurer, Ed Robinson.



## Women's Book Club



In the months of May and June we will study the life of Esther through two novels. The first biblical fiction novel, *Esther: Royal Beauty* by Angela Hunt, tells an enhanced biblical tale of the life of Esther. The second historical fiction novel, *For Such a Time* by Kate Breslin, recounts the story of Esther through a powerful retelling about the Holocaust. All women of the church are welcome. The schedule is below.

- ♦Thursday, May 21st: Discussion of *Esther: Royal Beauty* by Angela Hunt
- ♦Thursday, June 18th: Discussion of *For Such a Time* by Kate Breslin

*Due to our current situation, we will continue to meet **via Zoom** unless otherwise posted.*

Amy will send out the meeting link via email. Depending on what device you plan to use, you may need to download the Zoom app. Please confirm your participation in the women's book club by contacting Amy at [amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org) so she can email you the meeting link. Amy can also send you a video tutorial on how to use Zoom if needed.

## Prayer Ministry Team Mission Statement

We are called by God through prayer and meditation to **SURRENDER** ourselves to God's wondrous Love, Power and Way of Life that we may live in His presence every day; **SEARCH** for guidance through The Living Word; **HUMBLE** ourselves to God's will for our church and the world, and **ASK** for the courage to boldly carry it out; **CONFESS** and **SEEK** forgiveness for our sins; and **GLORIFY** His name through daily praise and worship. The mission of the Prayer Ministry Team of Lutheran Chapel Church is to encourage and provide opportunities for our church and community to strengthen our prayer lives and grow spiritually that we may better seek God's will for our church and the world and glorify His name.

Our goal for this Ministry is that all would experience the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives and fostering a more intimate relationship with God. We have been working since last fall to turn the old Scout Hut into our new Prayer Ministry cottage.

Would you join our Prayer Team in this mission as we work together to experience the power of prayer? The Prayer Team currently includes Katherine Carpenter, Ann Marie Lentz and Gail Brown.

*During this time of separation, please send prayer requests to Katherine Carpenter. Email, text or call anytime (please leave VM if no answer). [katherinecarpenter@yahoo.com](mailto:katherinecarpenter@yahoo.com) / 704-214-2493*

**James 5:16** *Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*



# may ceLeBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

Erin Williamson .....	2
Abigail Hester .....	4
Rebecca Hester.....	4
Clayton Lewis .....	4
Evan Escobedo.....	7
Keith Yarborough.....	9
Josh Carpenter.....	10
Zachary Beam .....	12
Alisha Hester.....	12
Helen Hoffman.....	12
Marty Lineberger .....	13
Jesse Beam.....	15
Andrew Bell.....	17
Betty Klimek.....	19
Bob Thornburg.....	23
Debi Jean Wankel .....	23
Nathan Lilly .....	25
Judy Brandt.....	29

## annIVERSARIES

Michael & Star Finch .....	2
Charles & Christa Heilig, III.....	8
Doug & Heather Nigbor .....	15
Carlton & Barbara Peacock .....	19
Dana & Kenneth Bird .....	22
Jason & Lisa Bradley.....	22
Michael & Ginny Comer .....	22
Ben Bryant & Mark McCauley .....	25
Leon & Kay Moretz .....	27
Blair & Pam Thornburg .....	31



*Mrs. Helen Hoffman, our oldest lady in our fellowship, turns 96 this May 12! Our whole church family has been blessed by Mrs. Helen's love, encouragement, teaching of the Word, and her steadfast presence among us and for us many years. During these days of the stay at home order due to the coronavirus, let us consider showing our love to her by notes and cards. Let us celebrate the gift of life every day but especially on this birthday. Thanks be to God for Mrs. Helen!*

## PLEASE WRITE OR CALL OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

**Betty Barkley**  
1711 Fairfield Drive  
Gastonia, NC 28054

**Jerry Carpenter**  
Elmcroft  
500 Cramer Mountain  
D14  
Cramerton, NC 28032

**Betty Klimek**  
Brookdale  
3050 Chesbrough Blvd.  
Rm 510  
Rock Hill, SC 29732

**Helen McCarter**  
ARP Manor  
2900 Union Road  
Apt. 114  
Gastonia, NC 28054

**Betty Petty**  
811 Ashbrook Park Road  
Dallas, NC 28034





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## MAY 2020

Michael C. Comer, Pastor  
Amy Carpenter, Interim Director of Youth & Family Ministries

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** We at Lutheran Chapel Church are called by God to PROCLAIM Christ as Lord and Savior; to SEEK and INVITE the unchurched into the fellowship of faith; to SERVE God and to NURTURE one another's faith and spiritual growth by being a loving, caring and compassionate community of believers.