



Chapel News

A Publication of Lutheran Chapel Church

702 N. New Hope Road

Gastonia, NC 28054

Pastor Michael C. Comer

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JUNE 2020

I am thankful for tremendous work done among us these past months of stay at home orders. Many of these efforts just sprang from faithful disciples who saw a need and stepped up to meet it:

For Sue Buetler posting Facebook messages;

For Katherine Carpenter and the prayer team vigil, prayer guide, and being prayer warriors for us;

For Steve and Delana Clark getting the gifts of food to Crisis Assistance Ministry and finding a way to continue to help with the Salvation Army meals;

For Pastor Peter and Nancy Homovich offering devotionals on the names of God;

For Debbie Laws and her team making calls to encourage one another;

For Steve Laws teaching the Word each week with Zoom Sunday School;

For Mark McCauley posting Services and bulletins to the church website and Facebook page;

For our Communication team looking for new ways to reach our congregation and community via streaming, website, Youtube and Facebook;

For Kay Moretz and her team making and giving the gift of face masks;

For Wendy Robinson and Ed Robinson and our Council securing the PPP loan/grant for church, Preschool and operations going forward;

For Craig Thornburg preparing weekly Power Point presentations and leading and updating streaming;

For Lucinda Thornburg planting and maintaining flower beds around the sanctuary;

For Fred Ward and the Electronic Sign team seeing that project through to the installation;

For Amy Carpenter and Jason Sanders and Zoom youth gatherings and daily devotions;

For James Dean completing projects on the church campus during the shutdown including landscaping around the new sign;

For Roger and Jeanette Myers and Lisa Burch and the gift of sacred music each wee;.

For Kim Rundzieher making the churchwide email blasts happen;

I know I have probably left out some on-going efforts. Sorry! Remember God knows and blesses such diligence hallowing His Name. This also does not include so many more among us who are sacrificially caring for family, friends or neighbors and sometimes heroically keeping businesses going. All these efforts glorify our heavenly Father. Let us continue to do the best we can and look forward to the day when we will be able to gather again as His disciples serving the Kingdom at Lutheran Chapel.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Michael

A message from the Executive Committee

Thank you to all who provided responses to the email survey on how likely you would be to return to in-person church services in early June. The executive committee, staff, members of the communications/streaming team and head ushers met Thursday, May 21, 2020 to discuss the results and review guidance from the North Carolina Synod, the ELCA, the state of North Carolina and the CDC in regards to in-person worship services.

Phase two guidance from the North Carolina Synod and the ELCA limits many of our worship activities, such as singing of hymns, reciting the Lord's Prayer and responsive reading to reduce exposure to COVID-19. All are essential components of our worship service.

As a team, we agreed we can continue to provide a service via online streaming with the integral parts of a Lutheran worship service while protecting the safety and health of our members. We also agreed we needed more time and data to feel comfortable about reopening for in-person worship. When we are able to gather together again at Lutheran Chapel, we want the service to be one we know and love, and unfortunately, we cannot offer that at this time.

Our committee will meet again on Thursday, June 4, 2020 in hopes of having clearer insight into reestablishing in-person worship services. Until that time, please join us for online worship via Facebook, our Lutheran Chapel YouTube channel, or directly from our church website (lutheranchapelchurch.org). And please help us spread the word for these multiple viewing options!!

LUTHERAN CHAPEL COUNCIL MINUTES MAY 3, 2020 (via Zoom)

The council made decisions and discussed the following:

- Provided status updated for electronic sign which is ready for installation pending completion of electrical work. Landscaping to follow after installation.
- Discussed continued streaming of worship services via Facebook Live as well as the Lutheran Chapel YouTube channel and directly to church website via a streaming service. Streaming team reviewing possible camera options to improve video quality in sanctuary.
- Reviewed request from Janet McKinney, Preschool/Mother's Morning Out Director, to re-open May 18, 2020. Council agreed to continue to follow country/state guidelines to gauge when the Preschool can re-open.
- Reviewed cancellation or rescheduling of upcoming services or ministry activities:
 - Youth Sunday cancelled for May 17, 2020; virtual graduation milestone recognition will take place
 - Confirmation has been moved to Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020
 - Rankin Lake service scheduled for June 7, 2020 has been cancelled
 - Vacation Bible School has been postponed until a later date.
- Discussed need to meet more frequently to review COVID-19 updates and the effect on re-opening of church and resuming in-person worship.
- A motion unanimously passed to use remaining Scout funds of \$2,400 to pay for siding on current Prayer Hut (former Scout Hut) to repair carpenter bee damage.
- Revenues as compared to expenses year to date through March 31, 2020 reflect a positive balance of \$2622.21.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 14, 2020 from 5:00pm – 6:30pm.

Worship News

Online Streaming Options

As the coronavirus shut down continues, Lutheran Chapel will stream worship services online at 10:30 Sunday mornings. We are pleased to share that Lutheran Chapel now has MULTIPLE options for viewing our services online!

1. Facebook Live
2. Lutheran Chapel YouTube Channel
3. From our website,
lutheranchapelchurch.org

A pdf of the weekly bulletin is available on the church website and Facebook.

Come
Worship
With Us

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 your offering envelope (or a regular envelope) to mail
- ◇ Dropping off in the locked mailbox at the educational building
- ◇ Giving on-line by going to our church website: lutheranchapelchurch.org, top right-hand corner "give" which is a link to Easy Tithe

Any questions or concerns, call our Treasurer, Ed Robinson.



JUNE LOVE OFFERING -

Area Lutheran Group Homes

Our love offerings for the month of June will go towards our area Lutheran Group Homes. The Lutheran Support Group of Gaston provides ongoing support for Faith Farm, Bess Town Road and Mountain Ridge Group Homes. A coalition of Lutheran churches helps with maintenance and upkeep of these homes and works with Lutheran Services Carolinas and other agencies to provide the use of properties owned by LSGG for needs in our community.

Mountain Ridge Group Home is currently operating in Gastonia. It is operated and owned by Lutheran Services Carolinas. It serves adults with developmental disabilities.

Faith Farm in Dallas had been serving as transitional housing for the rehabilitation of women veterans. However, the Veterans Administration made the decision to stop funding this project. Therefore, the facility was closed due to lack of funding. Currently, Mountain Ridge Group Home is utilizing Faith Farm as an extended facility for day activities for their male residents.

The Bess Town Road property is still in the process of being renovated as a home for homeless male veterans. The facility will provide the men a home and enable them to eventually move to a home of their own. There is not a definite date for the opening of this facility, however work is continuing at this property.

Your generous donations are greatly needed and appreciated as the ministry of these homes continue to serve the needs of our community.

Thank you,

The Social Ministry Committee





Roots Youth Mission Trip

The middle school and high school youth "in town" mission trip is still on the calendar for July 13th-17th. I am continuing to monitor guideline updates in regards to ways we can safely give back to our church and community through this mission trip. I will update youth parents via email and text when I have new information.

Roots and Sprouts

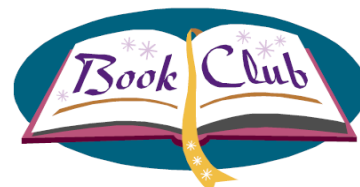
Although we are not meeting on Zoom throughout the summer months, I will still continue to send daily devotionals to youth parents via email. I would also like to continue our Weekly Card Challenge throughout the summer months. Again, look for updates via email.

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.

Women's Book Club

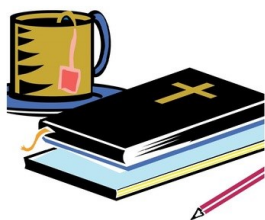
During the month of June we will study the life of Esther through a historical fiction novel, For Such a Time by Kate Breslin, a recount of the story of Esther through a powerful retelling about the Holocaust.



Join us on **Thursday, June 18th** for a discussion of the novel. All women of the church are welcome.

*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 so she can email you the meeting link. Amy can also send you a video tutorial on how to use Zoom if needed.



Women of the Church...

If you would like to receive daily devotionals via email from Amy during the summer months, please contact her at amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org. In these emails, Amy shares a daily devotional from a Charlotte based blog written especially for women. Amy also shares various hymns, recipes and other activities to help spark our creativity during social isolation.

FROM THE TREASURER...

Below are highlights of our income statement for the first 4 months FY 2020. The statement reflects normal giving from our congregational family and does not reflect any outside sources such as the Payroll Protection Loan/Grant Proceeds we received in late April. This Loan/Grant is performing as intended and was used in the month of April. However, the benefit from this program did not impact this statement and payroll was reflected as it normally would be as an expense.

	Actual	2020 Budget	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$ 118,316.65	\$ 122,650.00	\$ (4,333.35)
Disbursements	\$ 108,815.54	\$ 119,063.67	\$ (10,248.13)
Net Cash	\$ 9,501.11	\$ 3,586.33	\$ 5,914.78

The congregation of Lutheran Chapel has always responded to the needs of our church, both financially and through the many talents our members possess. This is a true blessing.

If you have any questions, please call Ed Robinson.



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 / 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.*



HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

It has been a long time since Holy Communion could be offered among us due to the on-going pandemic. Recommendations from our Bishop discouraged "on-line" communion during these days and it may be some time before we can offer an in-person worship service. However, in phase two with the stay at home order ended, it is possible for anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion in their own home to do so. If you or your family are interested in receiving Communion in your home, please contact Pastor Michael at 704-787-6439 to set up an agreeable time for him to visit.



Encouraging our Church Family

As online worship continues from the safety of our homes, the loss of fellowship and sense of community becomes more pronounced. We MISS the smiling faces and enthusiastic greetings from members, friends and family participating in worship and ministry activities on the church campus.



An effort is underway to "bring smiling faces" into our homes through a video compilation submitted from church members. If you are interested in participating, please submit a short video greeting (no more than 5 seconds!) to Craig Thornburg by June 15, 2020 at ctburg@gmail.com. These short video greetings will be combined into one video to share with the church family.



"Finally, brothers, rejoice! Be perfected, be exhorted, be of the same mind, be at peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."

2 Corinthians 13:11



Preschool / Mother's Morning Out Opening for Summer Session

The Preschool /Mother's Morning Out is scheduled to open for the summer session Monday, June 8, 2020. Preschool Director Janet McKinney and the teaching staff are following stringent protocols to adhere to CDC guidelines for re-opening. The Preschool will operate in designated rooms within the educational building separate from areas targeted for use by the congregation upon return to the church campus.

For information on enrollment opportunities please contact Janet McKinney at 704-864-5136.



Heritage Oaks Ministry

The Chapel Class continues to support Heritage Oaks during COVID-19 with the gift of canned drinks and individual snacks. If you feel so inclined to assist with this ministry, please contact Steve Laws or drop off directly at Heritage Oaks.



JUNE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Judy Anton	1
Olivia Bradley	1
Morgan Lilly	2
Braxton Finch.....	3
Margaret Ratchford Berghello	4
David Lewis	4
Michael Ellington.....	5
Colby Robinson.....	7
Crown Hoffman	9
Lisa Bradley	11
Lila Gladden.....	11
Kori Bradley.....	12
Larry Hoover	13
Stephen Rankin	13
Scott Bradley	16
Joseph Hovis	16
Kate Hoffman.....	17
Payton Taylor.....	19
Anna Cleveland.....	22
Ashley Bell.....	27
Sherrie Angstadt.....	29

annIVERSARIES

Derk & Sue Beutler.....	2
Larry & Elona Collins.....	5
Ken & Nancy Witman Obenauf.....	6
Adam & Heather Moretz Elkin.....	8
Tom & Nancy Rankin.....	8
Josh & Amy Brown	12
Anna Cleveland & Terry Purvis	13
Scott & Kori Bradley	14
Roger & Jeanette Myers	14
Matt & Elyse Hoffman	17
Pat & Barbara Robinson	20
Ryan & Rachel Anthony.....	21
Don & Faye Ann Boyette	22
John & Kathy Carpenter	23
Clayton & Gwen Lewis	23
Brent & Chris Clark.....	24
Todd & Emily Carpenter	27

*If we missed your birthday or anniversary,
please let the office know so that we can enter it into the database.*



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

Church Office: 704-864-6491
Preschool: 704-864-5136
Email: churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org
Website: lutheranchapelchurch.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lccgastonia

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.