



Chapel News

A Publication of Lutheran Chapel Church

702 N. New Hope Road

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JULY 2020

Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate (Prophet Amos 5:15)

I hate what has happened with this on-going coronavirus pandemic. Over 118,000 deaths as of this writing and our societal failure in so many communities to protect our elders in nursing and assisted living centers. I hate what those who have endured sickness have had to go through. I hate all the lost jobs – 20,000,000 as of this writing and all the income and investments harmed due to this mess. I hate how it has hurt our schools and sports and traditional rites of passage from spring break, graduations, and now summer camps. I hate how designations of essential and unessential have hurt hard working folks. All work done to God's glory, from the beautiful garden to the well-made bed, from the corporate contract to the service to help another in need, has tremendous worth and dignity. I hate that we have not been able to gather for in-person worship and hope the Sunday, June 28 date can be kept for those able to come.

I hate the horror of what was done to Mr. George Floyd and his family and for the horror done in demonstrations and riots since then. It seems people of good will protest and seek reforms in policing to make things just for all. Yet after the initial protest seemed to end, mean people under the darkness of night have destroyed and looted businesses, threatened innocent neighbors and attacked law enforcement. I hate the horror of what was done to retired Police Captain David Dorn and his family in St. Louis when he stood up against lawlessness there. It takes organization and forethought to do such meanness from bricks carefully placed, water bottles that happen to be frozen, the toppling or destruction of statues, and finally for such things to then happen internationally in cities in Europe and Australia.

Add your lament here. Add the thing or situation you hate here. It is a strange tension we are called to keep hating evil and loving good in this broken world. The right way is to do justice – so whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 6:12) – a maxim that needs to be taught and practiced again and again these sad days. May God have mercy, change hard hearts, guide our nation in meaningful reform and bring better days this summertime.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Michael



Guidelines for In-Person Worship

The Gathering

- Main exterior entrance doors** will be utilized and will be kept open during the service. Handicap entrance available on an as needed basis.
- Hand sanitizer** will be available in the narthex of the Sanctuary Sunday by Sunday.
- Covid-19 warnings** will be posted from the Center for Disease Control throughout the church campus.
- Registry of attendance** will be kept of all who gather with contact information for the purpose of contact tracing if someone infected unknowingly attends worship.
- Printed bulletins** will be distributed to pews (hymnals removed).
- Social distancing** seating will be marked on pews.
- Ushers** will assist with seating/dismissal.
- Acolyte and Crucifer** volunteer duties will not take place at this time.
- Facemasks** are required per state mandate. A group of volunteers made/distributed masks to members. If you are still in need of one, please contact the Pastor or the church office. Masks will also be on-hand for visitors.
- Restrooms** will be designated ONE PERSON at a time, with the exception of parents with children and disabled persons requiring assistance. Disinfectant spray will be available.
- Disinfectant spray and paper towels** will be available at the end of each pew. Please use this to wipe down pew seats, seat backs and kneelers.
- Balcony** closed for use by streaming team only.

On Singing the Service and Sacred Song

- Subdued singing** of the Service and sacred song is encouraged as singing has been shown to lead to the spread of COVID-19. Subdued singing includes use of the mask with singing while seated.

The Sharing of the Peace

- Sharing of the peace** will be **verbal** going forward between the presider and the gathered congregation.

The Offering

- Tithes and offerings** will be received in **the offering plates located in the Narthex** by our ushers at the end of the Service.

Administration of the Sacrament

- The distribution of Holy Communion and an individual blessing for dismissal will be at the end of the Service.** Receiving lines will not be held.
- Presiding and assisting ministers handling communion will **publicly sanitize their hands** and wear **surgical gloves** to administer communion.
- The congregation will be asked to have their hands open so that the bread can be **dropped** into their hands.
- Waste baskets will be placed at the foot of both sides and at the bottom of the steps for disciples to discard their communion cups, thus keeping contamination out of the trays.
- Exit the church immediately after receiving Holy Communion maintaining social distancing protocols.

Lectors for July (will also serve as Communion Assistants as needed)

July 5 Josh Carpenter

July 12 Baker Sanders

July 19 Beth Swindler

July 26 Janie Peak

Online Streaming Options

Lutheran Chapel will continue to stream the 10:30 worship service online and has multiple options for viewing:

- ⇒ *Facebook Live*
- ⇒ *Lutheran Chapel YouTube Channel*
- ⇒ *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 the church. 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.



LUTHERAN CHAPEL COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 14, 2020

The council made decisions and discussed the following:

- Discussed in-person worship plans scheduled to resume Sunday, June 28th following federal/state/Synod guidelines. Detailed letter of guidelines to attend sent to members. Online streaming will continue via church website, YouTube, Facebook.
- Reviewed other ministry opportunity return schedules:
 - Clothing closet - re-opening postponed until later date.
 - Sunday school – in-person postponed until later date. Zoom session with Steve Laws will continue.
 - Youth work days – rescheduled to non-Preschool/MMO days in July.
 - Reviewed Preschool/MMO re-opening from Monday, June 8th following federal/state guidelines and in designated areas of church campus. Average attendance 38 students during first week.
- Agreed to donate funds paid to Lutheridge for cancelled summer camps rather than requesting refund.
- Reviewed two quotes from Greenville Media LLC to purchase/install cameras in sanctuary to support/improve streaming of services. Customized quote forthcoming based on discussions as well as review of potential funding sources.
- Discussed distribution of church yearbook/directory. Council agreed to pursue password protected option for this information on the church website. A limited number of hard copies will be available.
- Discussed estimates to replace thermostats with web-based version
- Work continues on church bell in sanctuary.
- Revenues as compared to expenses year to date through May 31, 2020 reflect a positive balance of \$22,054.00.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 9th at 5:00pm.



Youth Workdays

The middle and high school youth workdays are scheduled for **Friday, July 10th and Saturday, July 11th from 9am-2pm** with a snack breakfast and picnic lunch. Youth parents, if you have not already done so, please contact Amy at amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org by Monday, July 6th to let her know that your youth is able to participate.

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

The Christian Ed and Family Ministries Committee has decided to cancel VBS this year but look forward to continuing it next summer.

HOLY COMMUNION

AT HOME

It has been a long time since Holy Communion could be offered among us due to the on-going pandemic. It is now 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.



FROM THE TREASURER...

Lutheran Chapel Income Statement Actual vs Budget for 5 months ended 5/31/2020:

	Actual	2020 Budget	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$ 153,370.09	\$ 153,312.50	\$ 57.59
Disbursements	\$ 131,316.05	\$ 148,829.58	\$ (17,513.53)
Net Cash	\$ 22,054.04	\$ 4,482.92	\$ 17,571.12

Tithes and Offerings have been very good over the first 5 months of 2020. Actual receipts exceeded Budgeted receipts year-to-date through 5/31/2020. It is anticipated receipts will be lower during the summer months, as this has been typical over the years.

On the disbursement side of the income statement, budgeted spending is down. This is the product of the lack of activities at the church. Of course this was caused by the social distancing required by the various governmental health agencies and the suspension of in person Sunday School, regular Church Services, and all related activities at our church.

The church has a positive cash position of \$22,054.04 as of 5/31/2020 and is in an excellent financial position to travel through the next 7 months of the year. Our leadership will proceed cautiously through these months ahead.

If you have any questions, please call Ed Robinson.



**Treasurer
Report**

JULY LOVE OFFERING -

Family Promise of Gaston County

Our Love Offering for the month of July is Family Promise of Gaston County. The mission of the Family Promise is to provide compassionate, loving support of meals, shelter and counseling services through a community-based network to the homeless families of Gaston county. The support fosters and promotes growth for a successful transition to independence.

The organization currently works with several churches in our community to provide temporary housing for homeless families. Also, clothing and personal items are provided to these families.

Volunteers use their skills, knowledge, and compassion to help our homeless neighbors find employment, reconnect with society, and restore their dignity.

The ministry was previously known as the National Interfaith Hospitality Network but changed their name to Family Promise, to reflect their broad range of programs and vision of ending family homelessness. The name refers to the promise, in the sense of commitment, which communities make to families in need. But it also refers to the promise, the potential, inherent in every family.

Thank you for your support of this ministry.

The Social Ministry Committee



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.

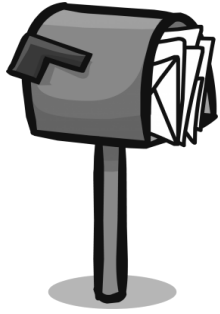
Our goal for this Ministry is that all would experience the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives and fostering a more intimate relationship with God. We have been working since last fall to turn the old Scout Hut into our new Prayer Ministry cottage.

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.*





FROM THE MAILBOX...

Dear Lutheran Chapel Family,

Thank you for the graduation gifts. I will always remember the memories and Christian teaching.

Love,

Christine Andrews

Dear Lutheran Chapel,

CAM is very grateful to the Lutheran Chapel congregation for the food collected and delivered in April and May to help us feed our neighbors in need. Given current events, we have more requests than normal, and know that the need will only grow. We appreciate the efforts of the many people and groups in your congregation that it takes to accomplish this.

Thanks for all that Lutheran Chapel does to make our ministry possible. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you to assist those in need in our community.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wheeler

Executive Director

Dear Lutheran Chapel Family,

Thank you so much for the kind words you shared in the cards and gift card. I will definitely use! Thank you, Amy for delivering it all. I love the yard sign! Everything is very much appreciated. It all made a very unusual circumstance much nicer!

God Bless you all,

Ryan Anderson, Class of 2020

Thank you for the ways that you invested in our work together Mission Support in 2019. Together we are cultivating and celebrating vital congregations; identifying, equipping, and nurturing whole and healthy leaders; embracing and engaging in collaboration; and proclaiming the resurrection with a prophetic voice. There is value in the ministry we do together, our partnership makes a difference.

As a former pastor of Lutheran Chapel, I am delighted to see that the congregation is supporting ELCA churchwide and Synod ministries in such a significant way.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Michael W. Frye

NC Synod Council

Dear Church Family,

Words seem inadequate to express my appreciation for all of the cards, phone calls and expressions of support following my recent heart attack. It certainly is wonderful being a part of such a loving, caring church family.

Trusting in God's Mercy,

Dru Huffstickler

JULY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Betty Petty	1
Christa Heilig	5
Maria Mull	7
Austin Bradley	8
Elena Hoffman	8
Tom Rankin.....	10
Brent Clark	11
Delana Clark.....	14
Sylvia Fogle	15
Ken Lentz	15
Will Clark.....	21
Monica Goedl.....	21
Ray Martin	23
Andy Watson.....	23
Amy Carpenter	24
Allison Robinson.....	24
Ed Robinson	25
Susan Lewis	26
Shirley Carpenter	27
Wally Rhyne.....	27
Jane Thornburg.....	28
Steve Clark	29
Sara Carpenter	30
Lillian Robinson.....	30
BB Bell.....	31

anniversaries

Rahat & Erindira Rameez	14
Ervin & Nancy Hoffman.....	21
Diego & Sarah Weaver Costa.....	22
Tim & Joy Setzer Henderson.....	24
Jerry & Shirley Carpenter	29



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

Helen Hoffman
Terrace Ridge
1251 E. Hudson Blvd., #403
Gastonia, NC 28054

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.