



# Chapel News

A Publication of Lutheran Chapel Church  
702 N. New Hope Road  
Gastonia, NC 28054  
Pastor Michael C. Comer  
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**DECEMBER 2020**

## Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent is the season in the Christian year where we watch for the coming of Christ who was, who is and who is to come. Consider keeping Night Prayer during the Wednesdays of Advent. Christmas is the season in the Christian year where followers of Christ celebrate the Word becoming flesh, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Consider keeping Christmas Eve and the Twelve days of Christmas. Please find a schedule below for Advent and Christmas. Many of these Services will be streamed on YouTube, Facebook, and the website. Let us worship our Lord Jesus Christ always!

Peace in Christ,  
*Pastor Michael*



### **Wednesday, December 2 ~ 7:30 Night Prayer**

Jeremiah 14:9 *Keeping Watch with the Prophet Jeremiah*

Let us contemplate the life of the Prophet Jeremiah. Let us watch for the Presence of Christ now.

### **Sunday, December 6 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent ~ 8:30 Holy Communion & 10:30 Lessons and Hymns**

Based on the Service of Lessons and Carols, this is an opportunity to praise the LORD with sacred song and to contemplate the lessons of Christmas.

### **Wednesday, December 9 ~ 7:30 Night Prayer**

Romans 8:38-39 *Keeping Watch with the Apostle Paul*

Let us contemplate the life of Paul. Let us find comfort in the promises of Christ Jesus.

### **Sunday, December 13 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent ~ One Service Only**

10:30 Service of the Word & the Congregational Meeting

Ruth 1:1-17 and John 1:6-8, 19-28 *Ruth the Moabite and John the Forerunner*

John prepares the way of the Lord with his message of repentance pointing to the Christ. Just how comfortable are we with repentance in the middle of our culture's Christmas rush?

### **Wednesday, December 16 ~ 7:30 Night Prayer**

1 Peter 5:6-9 *Keeping Watch with the Apostle Peter*

Let us contemplate the life of Peter. Be humble. Resist evil. The Last Day is coming.

### **Sunday, December 20 ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent ~ 8:30 Morning Prayer & 10:30 Holy Communion**

1 Samuel 17:1-51 and Luke 1:26-38 *David vs. Goliath and Mary, Mother of our Lord*

The faith of Mary is an example for all of us from the visitation to the cross to the apostolic mission to share Christ with all. Let it be with us according to God's Word.

*Continued on next page* →

## Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule (cont.)



**Thursday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve ~ 4:00 & 7:00 Festival Service of Holy Communion**

Luke 2:1-20 *Christ for Us*

The Son is born for us! May the Son of God, Jesus Christ, guide and save us now and forever.

**Sunday, December 27 ~ First Sunday of Christmas ~ 8:30 Holy Communion & 10:30 Service of the Word**

2 Samuel 11 and Luke 2:22-40 *David – Saint and Sinner and The Song of Simeon*

The Song of Simeon is a powerful canticle for both the hour of death and the commendation of ourselves to God's Kingdom now and forever.

## Christmas Eve 2020 at Lutheran Chapel

Each year, Christmas Eve is one of our most beloved and most attended services at Lutheran Chapel. With restrictions on seating capacity in our sanctuary, we are planning two identical services, one at 4:00pm and one at 7:00pm to meet the needs of our congregation to provide an in person worship experience. The 7:00pm service will also be streamed online for members who prefer to attend virtually.

More information will be available on how to reserve a spot to attend one (or both!) of the in person services.

Please know we will continue to monitor state and federal guidelines on Covid-19 and will communicate via phone tree, email, and online for any changes to our currently planned Christmas Eve services.



## 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](http://lutheranchapelchurch.org)

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



## Lectors for December

(will also serve as Communion Assistants)

December 6 Cantata

December 13 Tammy Royston

December 20 Sylvia Fogle

December 24 Jason Sanders

December 27 Nancy Witman



## 2021 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

If you'd like to sign up for a special Sunday in 2021, contact Susan Lewis at 704-864-5242.

Cost of flowers is \$55.00.

Please be sure to note your payment is for Altar Flowers.



## In-Person Worship Services

8:30 am ~ Family Life Center

10:30 am ~ Sanctuary  
(limited capacity)



Guidelines for in-person worship can be found on the Worship page of our website, [lutheranchapelchurch.org](http://lutheranchapelchurch.org).



*The Congregational Council would like to welcome **Adrian Thornburg** to the council. Adrian will complete the term of Jimmie Sloop through December 2021. Jimmie and Peggy Sloop recently returned home to Summerville, SC but join us for online worship. Thank you Adrian for your willingness to serve!*

## LUTHERAN CHAPEL COUNCIL MINUTES

NOVEMBER 8, 2020

The Council made decisions and discussed the following:

- A motion was made to welcome Renee Dockery into membership at Lutheran Chapel which passed with unanimous vote.
- A motion was made to have Adrian Thornburg complete the remaining term of Jimmie Sloop on church council through December 2021 which passed with unanimous vote.
- A motion was made to use the remaining Family Life Center funds currently in Youth Ministry Support to fund the new roof which passed with unanimous vote.
- A motion was made to approve the 2021 budget which passed with unanimous vote.
- Reviewed list of 6 members who have agreed to include their names on ballot for new council members for upcoming election.
- Council discussed needed changes to the current process for nominating/electing council members. These changes would call for updates to our constitution and focus on a period of self-nomination and a slate of members coordinated by council eliminating an annual election. Council will continue to discuss in preparation for 2021.
- Discussed Christmas Eve service and possible need for reservations, overflow or second service to accommodate social distancing and all who wish to attend. A meeting was set for the regathering committee to further discuss options and communicate with congregation.
- Revenues year to date are in excess of expenses in the amount of \$19,893.00.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 5:00pm in the chapel.



*Congregational Meeting ~ December 13 at 10:30*

*There will only be one worship service that morning.*

## FROM THE TREASURER...

Lutheran Chapel Income Statement Actual vs Budget for 10 months ended 10/31/2020:

	Actual	2020 Budget	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$ 282,367.70	\$ 306,625.00	\$ (24,257.30)
Disbursements	\$ 262,474.58	\$ 297,659.17	\$ (35,184.59)
Net Cash	\$ 19,893.12	\$ 8,965.83	\$ 10,927.29



### Treasurer Report

Financial results are continuing trend positively. As we begin to celebrate Christmas, we should continue our thanksgiving for our church family which has supported the financial needs of the church during the pandemic. We should also give thanks to our congregation's generosity through gifts to the less fortunate in our community, most recently by the way of Thanksgiving Dinners provided to needy families in our area through the Social Ministry Committee. Also, through your gifts of clothes to the clothes closet, where there were over 200 people served last month at the yard sale organized by the Outreach Committee with the assistance of our youth. GREAT JOB!

If you have any questions, please call Ed Robinson.

## Tithes and Offerings

There are several ways you can send your 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](http://lutheranchapelchurch.org), top right-hand corner "give" which is a link to Easy Tithe

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



## Volunteers Needed!

We need a few good men AND women! With changes to our 10:30 worship service due to COVID-19 our weekly usher opportunities have also changed. We are currently in need of volunteers to serve as our single "inside sanctuary" usher to primarily meet, greet and seat, distribute masks, open/close doors during service and oversee dismissal. If you are interested in serving in this capacity please contact Steve Clark or Ervin Hoffman. Thank you!



## COMING SOON!!!

The Communications Committee is excited to share that a Lutheran Chapel member/password protected option will be available on our church website beginning January 2021. Church directory information will be included first with plans to add additional information from the church yearbook. More information to come in the new year from Mark McCauley who is spearheading this website effort!



## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



The Social Ministry Committee would like to sincerely thank everyone for your many gifts over the last couple months. During the Thanksgiving holidays, we as a church family made a real difference in the lives of many families. Your generosity is overwhelming.

Due the pandemic, we were not able to provide our soup luncheon which is normally our kickoff for the Thanksgiving meal bag ministry. Also, we made the decision to provide Food Lion gift cards to families instead of the meal bags. We felt this was a much safer for our church and the schools we work with. Because of your generous donations, we were able to provide 108 families with a \$25.00 gift card to help purchase grocery items needed for their Thanksgiving meals. A note was placed with each gift card with a Thanksgiving prayer. What a blessing to these families as we all struggle during this time.

We are continuing our collection of food for CAM. Gifts of food can be placed in the plastic crate outside the church office in the covered drive through. Since March, we have delivered 906 bags of food to Crisis Assistance Ministry. They are so grateful to Lutheran Chapel for our continued giving during this pandemic.

Our church family touches many lives through the gifts of ministries from the different committees in our church. Through these gifts, needs are met and hopefully the people know that they are loved and cared for. We pray that we are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors as we share God's love and blessings - whether it be a Thanksgiving meal or a daily meal for families.

***The Social Ministry Committee***

## DECEMBER LOVE OFFERING *Emergency Family Fund*

Our love offering for December will be designated to the Emergency Family Fund at Lutheran Chapel. This fund is used throughout the year for emergency situations when families from within our church family as well as in the community are in need. During the Christmas season we are able to help families by supplying them with food, clothes and gifts. At times we help with a power bill or other emergency need.

In our own hustle and bustle during this wonderful time of year, let's remember to show and tell others about God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ and share our gifts with those in need.

Thank you!

***The Social Ministry Committee***



## Special Love Offering ...

During 2020 our Lutheran Chapel staff members have stepped up to provide as much normalcy as possible for our congregation to worship together, stay connected, give back and return to the church campus. With this in mind, the Congregational Council would like to provide a love offering to all of our staff as a thank you. If you would like to participate in this love offering, please mark "staff gift" on your contribution in the Sunday offering plate, via mail to 702 N. New Hope Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054 or on the church website ([lutheranchapelchurch.org](http://lutheranchapelchurch.org)) Give option. *Deadline to contribute is 12/13 as love offering will be distributed 12/20.* Many thanks for your prayerful consideration in this love offering.





NOTE: If you are not receiving Amy's emails, please contact her at [amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org).

## **SPROUTS**

### **Advent Family Boxes**

All Sprouts families should have received an Advent Family Box from the Christian Ed Committee in November. This Advent Box is to use for family Sunday School, Sprouts virtual Sunday School and Sprouts Youth Group meetings. If your youth is a member of the Sprouts, but did not receive a box, please let Amy or a member of the Christian Ed Committee know.

### **Sprouts Schedule**

- ⇒ Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sprouts via Zoom at 6 pm
- ⇒ Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> - Sprouts virtual Sunday School via Zoom at 9:30 am
- ⇒ Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> - Sprouts via Zoom at 6 pm
- ⇒ Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> - Sprouts virtual Sunday School via Zoom at 9:30 am

## **ROOTS**

### **Roots December Service Project**

On Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm the Roots youth group will be helping the Outreach Committee stuff gift bags for our Angel Tree project. We will meet in the FLC. A Christmas treat will be provided.



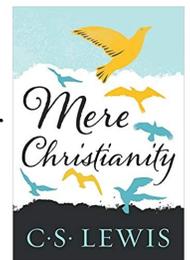
## **Women's Book Club ~ A Study of C. S. Lewis**

### **A Message from one of our Women's Book Club Members:**

"Wow! What a great discussion we had with our last book club book, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*. Who knew a children's book could have such Christian meaning! Our next book, *Mere Christianity*, is also by C.S. Lewis, but is a totally different type of book. It is about understanding the Christian faith in new and powerful ways. What a great way to discuss our faith and hear different ideas in a very comfortable environment. You might rediscover or strengthen your own faith."

- Cathy Robinson

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm (location TBD). If you are interested in attending this book club meeting, please contact Amy at [amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org).



## 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.*



**POINSETTIAS** - If you wish to place a poinsettia in the church for the Christmas season, please fill out the form below and return it along with your payment to the church office by **December 13th**. Make your check payable to Lutheran Chapel. Please be sure to pick up your flower(s) after the Christmas Eve Service.

Number to order: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$14.00 each = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print)

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Placed by:** \_\_\_\_\_

# DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

Wanda Anthony .....	1	Roger Myers.....	13
Bettina Royston.....	3	Olivia Hovis .....	15
Fred Ward .....	4	Henry Gaines.....	16
Ethan Lineberger.....	5	Pete Henderson .....	16
Sloan Robinson, Jr. ....	8	Ryan Thornburg .....	19
Mark McCauley .....	9	Erin Potter .....	24
Gail Brown.....	11	Pat Lindler.....	25
George Cashion.....	11	Josh Baker .....	27
Tonya Dowdy .....	11	Jason Bradley .....	27
Mason Swindler .....	12	Harrison Swindler .....	27
Lynn Evans .....	13	Barbara Peacock.....	31

## ANNIVERSARIES

Gene & Myra Weaver .....	6
Bill & Kay Robinson.....	19
Bob & Lucinda Thornburg.....	20
Ken & Ann Marie Lentz.....	30
Terry & Trish Ratchford.....	30
Chuck & Lisa Burch.....	31



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



## PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH WITH OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

### **Jerry Carpenter**

Elmcroft  
500 Cramer Mountain, D14  
Cramerton, NC 28032

### **Helen Hoffman**

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

### **Betty Klimek**

Park Pointe Village  
3025 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

# December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	2 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Sprouts-Zoom 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Advent Service	3 8:30 Preschool	4	5
<b>6 2nd Sun. Advent</b> 8:30 Early Worship (FLC) 9:00 Zoom SS 9:30 Sprouts Zoom SS 10:30 Cantata 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (PH)	7 8:30 Preschool	8 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	9 8:30 Preschool 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Advent Service	10 8:30 Preschool	11	12 2:00 Roots Service Project with Outreach Committee (FLC)
<b>13 3rd Sun. Advent</b> 9:00 Zoom SS 10:30 Worship and Congregational Mtg 5:00 Council Meeting (C) 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (PH)	14 8:30 Preschool	15 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	16 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Sprouts-Zoom 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Advent Service	17 8:30 Preschool  <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	18	19
<b>20 4th Sun. Advent</b> 8:30 Early Worship (FLC) 9:00 Zoom SS 9:30 Sprouts Zoom SS 10:30 Worship 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (PH)	21	22 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	23 6:15 Handbells	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 4:00 Worship 7:00 Worship 	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 	26
27 8:30 Early Worship (FLC) 9:00 Zoom SS 10:30 Worship 8:00 Faith Group (PH)	28	29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b> 		

**Lutheran Chapel Church**  
**702 N. New Hope Road**  
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# Chapel News

## DECEMBER 2020

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

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Email: [churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org)  
Website: [lutheranchapelchurch.org](http://lutheranchapelchurch.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lccgastonia](http://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.