



Chapel News

A Publication of Lutheran Chapel Church

702 N. New Hope Road

Gastonia, NC 28054

Pastor Michael C. Comer

Office: (704) 864-6491

churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org

www.lutheranchapelchurch.org

JANUARY 2021

Principal Feasts and Fasts of our Lord Jesus Christ 2021

C.S. Lewis writes bluntly in **Mere Christianity** about the scandal of Jesus and who He is: "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic...or else He would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this Man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse" (pg. 56). So, who do you say Jesus is? Is He a madman and devil? Or is He the Lord and Savior of all who believe?

The decline in church attendance began far before the onset of the covid-19 pandemic. It is a phenomena throughout the Christian Church and is also among us at Lutheran Chapel. Will adapting to all contemporary Christian music change the decline? Will changing the church name change it? Will using this new program or that new program change things? The list of worldly responses goes on. **Let our eyes be on the Lord Jesus and not on the vanities of this age.** Let us seek His Word, His guidance and pray for His work to renew His Christian churches.

Whoever comes is whoever comes, male or female, young or old, this ethnicity or that ethnicity, there is only ONE GOD and He gave His all for you and me so let us **invite everyone** to worship Him day by day, Sunday by Sunday, now and ultimately forever. Remember - **one with GOD is a majority** (Evangelist Billy Graham). Below is the schedule for the principal feasts and fasts of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many of these will have both in-person worship and on-line worship, some will only be on-line postings and are in italics. Consider keeping each feast and fast along with each Sunday, always a little celebration of our resurrection hope, as possible. Let us be steadfast in faith and worship the LORD as His people. May our LORD bless us as we turn anew to His Son, Jesus Christ, in 2021.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Michael

The Name and Circumcision of Jesus – Friday, January 1

This festival marks the naming and circumcising of Jesus, the Name above all names. The A.D. marking of time, anno domini, in the year of our Lord, recognizes Jesus is Lord of all (Luke 2:15-21, Philippians 2).

The Epiphany of our Lord – Sunday, January 3

This festival marks the coming of the wise men, representative of the nations, to worship the Christ Child, King, Priest, and Sacrifice for us (Matthew 2:1-12).

The Baptism of our Lord – Sunday, January 10

This festival marks the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. Here the Holy Trinity is manifest and Christ's example to fulfill all righteousness is given us (Mark 1:4-11).

Confession of Peter – Monday, January 18 (begin week of prayer for Christian unity)

This day celebrates the confession of Peter that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival marks the week of prayer for Christian unity (Matthew 16:13-20).

Continued on next page ➡

Conversion of Paul – Monday, January 25 (end week of prayer for Christian unity)

The conversion of Paul is found at Acts 9:1-22 and Galatians 1:11-16. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, went on to write much of the New Testament. This observance closes the prayers for Christian unity.

The Presentation of our Lord and Purification of Mary – Tuesday, February 2

The presentation of Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem by His parents is celebrated on this day. Traditionally this was the day for a candlelight Service to bless all the candles to be used in the church for the coming year (Luke 2:22-40).

The Transfiguration of our Lord – Sunday, February 14

Jesus is transformed, transfigured revealing His glory on the mountain talking with Moses the Lawgiver and Elijah the Prophet about the journey to the cross to save us (Mark 9:2-9).

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, February 17

This is the beginning of the forty day fast of Lent preparing the Christian churches for Easter. Jesus teaches us about the disciplines and gifts of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer (Matthew 6:1-21).

The Annunciation of our Lord – Thursday, March 25

This festival celebrates the angelic announcement to Mary of the coming birth of the Christ Child. The date is determined by Christmas so it is nine months before the festival of our Lord's birth (Luke 1:26-38).

Palm Sunday – Sunday, March 28

The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is celebrated this day along with the Passion narrative from Mark 14:1-15:47.

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 1 (Seder Meal observance)

Jesus gives the commandment to love and the example of sacrificial love as He washes the feet of His disciples (John 13:1-17, 31-35).

Good Friday – Friday, April 2

This day marks the death of Jesus on the cross for us. It is a fast day to humble ourselves and remember the sacrificial love of Christ for the world (John 18:1-19:42).

Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 3

The service of fading darkness and growing light is a time to renew baptismal vows and mark the story of salvation, throughout the Old Testament to the eternal Gospel of Jesus Christ (John 20:1-18).

The Resurrection of our Lord - Easter Sunrise Service and Festival Holy Communion – Sunday, April 4

This is the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, from the grave to the empty tomb to the resurrection of Jesus, this is the ultimate good news for the world (Mark 16:1-8).

The Ascension of our Lord – Sunday, May 16

On the 40th day after the resurrection, Jesus ascends to the right hand of God the Father and promises the coming Holy Spirit. He opens the way to Heaven for all believers (Luke 24:44-53).

The Day of Pentecost – Sunday, May 23

On the 50th day after the resurrection, the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles in Jerusalem. This is the birthday of the Christian Church (John 20:19-23).

The Holy Trinity – Sunday, May 30

God the Father sent Jesus His Son, so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, whoever believes in Him will not perish but may have eternal life. This is the celebration of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (John 3:1-17).

The Visitation – Monday, May 31

The feast of the Visitation lifts up Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-47). Mary's song, the *Magnificat*, is one of the great hymns of the Church and is appointed for singing every Vespers.

The Nativity of John the Baptist – Thursday, June 24

John the Baptist is highly revered as the forerunner of the Christ and the last of the Old Testament prophetic line. The celebration of his birth is one of the earliest festivals in the church (Luke 1-2).

Continued on next page →

Holy Cross Day – Tuesday, September 14

Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. This is a celebration of our Lord's ultimate victory (John 3:13-17).

Michael and All Angels Day – Wednesday, September 29

Angels, spiritual beings who do the will of the LORD, are mentioned throughout Scripture as watching over us (Matthew 18:10), praying for us (Zechariah 1:12-13), rejoicing over repentant sinners (Luke 15:10), and protecting us (Exodus 14:19-20, Isaiah 37:36-38). The Archangel Michael (Daniel 12:1, Jude 9, Revelation 12: - 12) is a warrior of Jesus Christ (Luke 10:17-20).

All Saints Sunday – Sunday, November 7 (shifted from 11/1)

All who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord, forgiven sinners and blessed saints simultaneously, look to the promise and joy of Heaven. Here the Christian church remembers our dead in Christ (John 11:32-44).

Christ the King – Sunday, November 21

This is the last festival of the Christian year and celebrates that Jesus Christ is the King of kings, and Lord of lords and will come again to put all things right on the Last Day (John 18:33-37).

Lectors for January

(will also serve as Communion Assistants)

January 3 Debra Hoffman

January 10 Johnny Carpenter

January 17 Josh Carpenter

January 24 Trish Ratchford

January 31 Crown Hoffman



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.



ALTAR FLOWERS **JANUARY**

Jan. 3 ~ Chrismon Trees.

Jan. 10 ~ Given by Henry & Debra Hoffman in thanks for the blessings of family.

Jan. 17 ~ Given by Donald & Faye Ann Boyette in honor of their grandchildren.

Jan. 24 ~ Given by Sylvia Fogle in honor of Myra and Becky's birthday.

Jan. 31 ~ Given in memory of Othell Carpenter by her family.



2021 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

The following dates are still available in the new year:

February 28

May 30

April 11

June 6

April 18

June 27

If you'd like to sign up for a Sunday, please 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.



HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME



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.

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!



Ushers 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!

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, 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 *A Study of C. S. Lewis*



For the January session of our Women's Book Club, we will be reading *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 21st at 6 pm in the Chapel. If you are interested in attending this book club meeting, contact Amy at amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May he grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your plans. ~Psalm 20:4



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

SPROUTS

Sprouts Schedule

- ⇒ Wednesday, January 6th - Sprouts via Zoom at 6 pm
- ⇒ Sunday, January 10th - Sprouts virtual Sunday School via Zoom at 9:30 am
- ⇒ Wednesday, January 20th - Sprouts via Zoom at 6 pm
- ⇒ Sunday, January 24th - Sprouts virtual Sunday School via Zoom at 9:30 am

ROOTS

Roots January Service Project

On Saturday, January 23rd at from 10am-12pm Roots youth group will be having a work day at the church. Lunch will be provided.

Our Sprouts had a great time building their gingerbread houses last month and taking Baby Jesus with them through the Advent season.



JANUARY LOVE OFFERING

Cancer Services of Gaston County

Our Love Offerings for the month of January will be given to Cancer Services of Gaston County. This agency has an active presence in our community. Cancer Services provides education about cancer prevention and detection, assists cancer patients and funds cancer research. The mission of Cancer Services is to serve the community by actively promoting healthy lifestyles and to provide support and services needed by people living with cancer. They provide cancer patients with limited financial and medication assistance and medical equipment is loaned free of charge. Also, they provide nutritional supplements, wigs, diapers, bed pads, etc. to cancer patients. Educational programs and free cancer screening clinics are provided to promote public awareness of cancer. Contributions are also made to cancer research to find a cure for this disease.

Everyone is personally affected by cancer at some time in their life. By supporting agencies such as Cancer Services, you are helping people who are suffering with this disease. Your donation can help make a difference in their battle against cancer.

Thank you,

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...

Friends at Lutheran Chapel,

Thank you for all the ways you make this world a brighter one. We really appreciate our Thanksgiving treat! ~The Ferrell Family

Thank you to the fellowship at Lutheran Chapel for the many kind cards and gifts both financial and culinary during the celebrations of Christmas 2020. I am thankful to serve Christ and His mission in this place and look forward to new opportunities in 2021.

Peace in Christ,

Michael Comer, Pastor



Lutheran Chapel Church,

Thank you so much for the gift cards you donated to our families at Chapel Grove Elementary School. Your thoughtful and generous gifts enabled us to help families during the Thanksgiving holiday that we normally would not have been able to help. We appreciate your willingness to help and your kind giving hearts more than you will ever know. We hope each of you had a great Thanksgiving!

~Chapel Grove Elementary

Dear Lutheran Chapel Church,

Thank you for always supporting us! Thank you for making our families' Thanksgiving special. Thank you for all of the gift cards! Wish you could've seen their faces light up!

~Julie-Ann from Gardner Park Elementary

Dear Lutheran chapel Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Brookside Elementary. Because of your donation of several Food Lion Gift cards, we were able provide food to many of our families in need during this Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you for making the world a better place!

~Brookside Elementary

Thank you for your commitment to **House of Mercy** in 2020. Your generosity provided hope, healing and a home for people living with HIV in this unprecedented year. This holiday season we are grateful for you.

Church Family,

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. It was very sweet of you all to think of me during this holiday season. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas!

Love,

Amy Carpenter

Dear Lutheran Chapel,

Thank you so much for the generous monetary gift as well as the other gifts received this Christmas season. I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to serve as your Administrative Assistant and even more grateful for the warmth, kindness and encouragement you all have shown me throughout the year. I wish you all a Happy New Year filled with peace and good health.

~Kim Rundzieher

Thanks

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Christian Mull	1	Ken Obenauf.....	16
Nathaniel White	2	Bill Robinson.....	17
Marion Rhyne	3	Tim Henderson	18
Robert Wonyetye	4	David Myers	24
Anna Escobedo.....	5	Christine Andrews	25
Myra Weaver.....	10	Barry Martin	25
Teresa Yarborough.....	10	Darby Shaw Nigbor.....	29
Matthew Carpenter.....	13	Kirk Nigbor	29
Luke Hoffman	13	Ann Edwards	30
Megan Landers.....	13	Catherine McArver.....	30
Miles Carpenter.....	14	Todd Carpenter.....	31
Mike Tamberella	15		



ANNIVERSARIES

Peter & Nancy Homovich	10
Leon & Susan Cooper-Cox.....	19

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

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3 8:30 Early Worship (FLC) 9:00 Zoom SS 10:30 Worship 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (PH)	4	5 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	6 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Sprouts-Zoom 6:15 Handbells	7 8:30 Preschool	8	9
10 8:30 Early Worship (FLC) 9:00 Zoom SS 9:30 Sprouts Zoom SS 10:30 Worship 5:00 Council Mtg (C) 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (PH)	11 8:30 Preschool	12 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	13 8:30 Preschool 6:15 Handbells	14 8:30 Preschool	15	16
17 8:30 Early Worship (FLC) 9:00 Zoom SS 10:30 Worship 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (PH)	18 8:30 Preschool	19 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	20 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Sprouts-Zoom 6:15 Handbells	21 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Book Club (C) <i>Newsletter Articles Due!</i>	22	23 10:00 Roots Service Project @ Church
24 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)	25 8:30 Preschool	26 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	27 8:30 Preschool 6:15 Handbells	28 8:30 Preschool	29	30
31 8:30 Early Worship (FLC) 9:00 Zoom SS 10:30 Worship 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (PH)						

Lutheran Chapel Church
702 N. New Hope Road
Gastonia, NC 28054

Non Profit Organization
US postage Paid
Gastonia, NC
Permit #232



Chapel News

JANUARY 2021

Michael C. Comer, Pastor
Amy Carpenter, 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.