



# 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](mailto:churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org)

[www.lutheranchapelchurch.org](http://www.lutheranchapelchurch.org)

## NOVEMBER 2021

### Give Thanks in All Circumstances

Give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Really? Maybe when things are going well and the sun is shining this makes sense. However, when the dark clouds come in this broken world with so much sorrow, hurt, evil, and loss – how can we give thanks? Isn't that impossible?

Consider the sacred song Now Thanks We All Our God by Martin Rinkhart (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, #840). Pastor Rinkhart was the only pastor in the town of Eilenburg during the Thirty Years War. Famine and plague broke out in the city in 1637. He was called upon to bury up to forty to fifty people some days. The eight thousand men, women, and children who died during this one year included the death of his own wife. Yet in the midst of loss beyond comprehension, Pastor Rinkhart bore the cross and followed in the way of Jesus through it all. During these days of sorrow he wrote the great hymn giving thanks: "Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices: who, from our mother's arms, has blest us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today" (verse #1). The beauty of life shared, the precious gift of mother, father, wife, friend, neighbor, and community, the hope of resurrection life in Jesus Christ – Rinkhart still gave thanks probably in the midst of tears.

Consider the Pilgrims from that first Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims came to America to worship God and start afresh in the New World after persecutions in England. Yet the harsh environment and cold proved catastrophic to them. Of the original one hundred and two passengers on the Mayflower, nearly half of their number died due to the harsh winter and sickness. Yet those who survived, those who shared in the harvests that fall and benefited from the counsel and help of the Wampanoag Indians, they gave thanks to God for daily bread, for loved ones and their dead in Christ. This first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621.

Give thanks in all circumstances teaches the Apostle Paul in his own days of trial as he shared the Gospel to the small church in Thessalonika. This transcendent hope in Christ, this awareness of love shared on Earth and looking to the Love that promises all who believe Heaven above, this faith in Christ may make it possible for us to still give thanks like the saints of old. These two events both in the 1600's are part of our Church and our National story testifying to our generations about a hope that may sustain us today in 2021. Even in tears, let us sing, let us pray, let us love and let us give thanks in the Name of Jesus Christ. Happy Thanksgiving 2021!

Peace in Christ,  
**Pastor Michael**



## ***A letter from our Youth & Family Ministries Director...***

Dear Church Family,

As many of you know, Josh and I are expecting our first child in early March and we feel that it is the best decision for our family if I step down from the position of Youth and Family Ministries Director at Lutheran Chapel at the end of November. This was not an easy decision to make, as we are both very passionate about our roles in helping grow the community of our church, but know life as we know it is about to change. As I stated to the congregation on my first day in this position, I have a vested interest in the families of our church and although I will no longer be serving in this capacity, it is still important to both of us that we stay involved and connected. Please know that we have both enjoyed becoming closer to many of you and feel that we have grown closer to Christ in the process. We look forward to continuing our roles as active members of this church.

With love,

***Amy Carpenter***

### **Lectors for November**

*(will also serve as Communion Assistants)*

**November 7** Nancy Witman

**November 14** Teresa Yarborough

**November 21** Ken Obenauf

**November 28** Josh Carpenter



### **ALTAR FLOWERS** **NOVEMBER**

**Nov. 7** ~ Given by Steve Bell in honor of all who served in the military.

**Nov. 14** ~ Given by Rhonda Putnam in honor of Doug & Marion Rhyne's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Nov. 21** ~ Given by Sylvia Fogle with thanksgiving in honor of our church family.

**Nov. 28** ~ Poinsettias

### **2022 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR**

If you'd like to sign up for a special Sunday in 2022, 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.

### **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.



**Come Worship with Us**

### **From the church office...**

The next *Chapel News* will be a **combined** December-January newsletter.



Please think ahead for any information you'd like to include for January. The deadline for submitting articles is November 17.

## VETERANS DAY 2021

Because of Covid-19 we will not be able to do our standard honoring of our veterans within our congregation this year. ***Those of you who are attending our services, please wear your ribbons on November 14.*** We will not be able to have those in attendance stand or come up before the congregation.

Rest assured that we thank all of you for your service to our country. We also like to recognize all of our first responders, police, fire, and EMT's for their service. And with Covid-19 we need to thank all of those in the medical profession for their service during this tough time.

I know that our congregation appreciates each and every one of you for the services you have provided to our country. ~ Steve Bell



## Ladies Night Dinner

The Men of the Church have decided that our scheduled, December 11<sup>th</sup> Ladies Night be moved to February of this coming year. Due to the continued uncertainty with COVID, we felt it was in the best interest for all concerned to not go forward with this in December. We realize this will come as a disappointment to many of you but we are trying to do what is best for our congregation. Hopefully COVID will calm down by February and we can have a nice dinner and entertainment.

Thank you for your understanding.

POSTPONED

## FROM THE TREASURER...

Lutheran Chapel Income Statement Actual vs Budget for 9 months ended 09/30/2021:

	Actual	2021 Budget	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$ 251,395.00	\$ 275,963.00	\$ (24,568.00)
Disbursements	\$ 244,013.00	\$ 270,507.00	\$ (26,494.00)
Net Cash	\$ 7,382.00	\$ 5,456.00	\$ 1,926.00



Treasurer  
Report

Actual cash and contributions increased again for the month of September. This continues to confirm the contributions that historically run through the end of the calendar year are on track.

Spending was a typical month for September as compared to last September. Actual cash increase went up by \$2,000 for September.

If you have any questions, please call Ed Robinson at 704-860-1895.



Grateful Thankful Blessed



## Social Ministry News

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank our wonderful church family for all that you do for our community - whether it be a donation of food or donation to our monthly love offering ministry or a special monetary donation. Your commitment to our community makes a real difference in the lives of our neighbors.

### Thanksgiving Meal Fund

We have been making plans for the fall activities and due to safety measures adopted by our church to protect us from the covid virus, again we will not be able to provide our soup luncheon. Also, to make it safer for schools, social workers and our committee, we would like to provide the Food Lion Gift cards again this Thanksgiving for families in need. Therefore, instead of filling a bag of groceries, please donate money to purchase the Food Lion gift cards. We are working with the social workers at each school to provide us with information as to how many cards we will need. The Social Ministry Committee will purchase the cards and deliver to the schools. The cards make it much easier for us to deliver and also for the staff at each school to deliver to the families. Parents are not allowed in our schools making it difficult to store the food bags and parents to pick up. We would appreciate your help with donations for this ministry. **Please make a note in the memo section of your check for Thanksgiving Meal Fund.**

### CAM

During last year and to date this year, we have collected and delivered a total of 1,322 bags of food for Crisis Assistance Ministry. During this time, they were struggling with providing food for the community because some churches were not bringing food donations. They were very appreciative of your kindness and generosity. We have provided the crate outside the church office for donations especially during last year's initial shutdown. Sadly, during this time, we have had two crates stolen. Therefore, please continue to find those food items on sale and place your donations in the blue Crisis Assistance Food Box outside of Amy's office. We have been so proud to make these deliveries!

### Operation Christmas Child

Lastly, we realize that many people look forward to participating in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. We would like to provide the opportunity for you to continue this tradition with your family. Soon we will be placing Christmas Shoeboxes in the hallway outside Amy's door, in the narthex of the sanctuary and outside the church office for your convenience. **All boxes need to be returned by November 21<sup>st</sup> so that we can deliver to the designated drop site.** If you would like to go ahead and shop for your gift items, please use the information below in selecting your gifts. Specific items are no longer needed per guidelines from Samaritan's Purse.

Again, thank you so much for your love and generosity!

### Items that should NOT be included in your shoebox:

- Used or damaged items
- War-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures
- Chocolate or food, Candy - including gum, candy fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid) – due to customs regulations
- Seeds
- Liquids or lotions – these can spill and get all over the other items
- Medications or vitamins
- Breakable items such as snow-globes or glass containers
- Aerosol cans
- Toothpaste



*Continued on next page* →

### Most recommended items to pack in your Operation Christmas Child shoebox:

- School supplies – chalkboards with chalk, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, scissors, colored pencils, small notebook or pad
- Toys – sports balls (with pump if needed), dolls, stuffed animals, play cars, jump rope, small Lego set, marbles, finger puppets, stuffed animals
- Non-liquid hygiene items – bar soap, toothbrush, washcloths, band-aids, hairbrush (NO toothpaste)
- Clothing accessories – tops, shoes, socks, hair bows, gloves, scarves, hats
- Small musical instrument – harmonica, recorder
- A personal note from your family – if you include your name and address it's possible that the child could write you back!
- Small flashlight with extra batteries
- Small brain games like puzzle books, wooden puzzle games, or etch-a-sketch toys

*Have fun packing your Christmas Shoebox!*

## NOVEMBER LOVE OFFERING

### Crisis Pregnancy Center

Our love offering for November is the Crisis Pregnancy Center. CPC has been in Gaston County since 1986 and has served over 65,000 women, men, and their families. During the 35 years of service, as a result of their ministry, they have seen more than 8,700 babies saved. Their mission is to affirm the value of life by compassionately sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and providing the following services: pregnancy counseling, abstinence education, limited ultrasounds and various other medical services, adolescent parenting programs, abortion education - procedures, risks and alternatives, post abortion counseling to women, men, and families affected by crisis pregnancy situations, with the hope of changing lives. Each year, more than 300 clients accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives – praise be to God!

In addition, the center provides things such as material assistance for babies (diapers, clothing, blankets), material assistance for moms, (pregnancy tests, maternity clothes, necessities for nursing), car seats for infants provided by Speedway Charities and local fire departments, referrals for adoption to Lifeline and other Christian agencies.

We hope you will prayerfully consider supporting this ministry.

Thank you!

***Social Ministry Committee***



## Clothing Closet Giveaway

The *Outreach Committee and Roots Youth Group* will be hosting a Clothing Closet Giveaway on **Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm**. All youth and families that are available to help should arrive at 8am to set up the outdoor event and plan to assist with the clothing giveaway. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for volunteers

**FREE Clothing Giveaway!!!**







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

## **SPROUTS**

- ⇒ **Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Youth Group 6-7pm in Fellowship Hall
- ⇒ **Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>** - Family Bowling Night, 6:00 pm @ Textile Lanes in Belmont (Amy will email details.)



## **ROOTS**

- ⇒ **Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** - Clothing Closet Giveaway, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
- ⇒ **Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>** - Sunday School/Youth Meeting @ 9:30am (Youth Room)
- ⇒ **Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>** - Sunday School/Youth Meeting @ 9:30am (Youth Room)
- ⇒ **Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>** - Sunday School/Youth Meeting @ 9:30am (Youth Room)
- ⇒ **Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>** - Sunday School/Youth Meeting @ 9:30am (Youth Room)

## **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.*





## OWLS

**November 4 ~ 6:00 pm**

Join Amy & Josh for fellowship at the *picnic pavilion* on Thursday, November 4 at 6:00pm. Bring your favorite fast food.

Please let Amy know if you are able to attend by Monday, November 1.



*Praise the LORD!  
O give thanks to the LORD,  
for he is good;  
his love endures forever.  
Psalm 106:1*

## A Time to Give Thanks for Lutheran Chapel

Thanksgiving is my personal favorite national holiday. It is a day filled with delicious, lovely smells that God has graciously bestowed upon us. It is a time for family and reflection. At this time, I want to share my thoughts about the many things for which I am thankful. First of all, I am thankful for good health, a wonderful, loving family, kind, beautiful friends, and especially my church family. Losing touch with my church family during COVID was tough, but it made me realize how special the people in this church truly are. We have a fine, devoted staff that work hard with no complaints. We have a melodious choir who dedicate so much time to give us beautiful music every week. We have committed volunteers who serve unselfishly keeping our grounds beautiful and serving on various committees for the church. We have people who look after our finances and make sure we keep the boat afloat. We are most fortunate to have a kind, good Shepherd in Pastor Michael Comer. These are all important people that make our church what it is.

However, it is the people of the church to whom I am addressing this appeal. We have so much to share with other people less fortunate than we. It is time for us to try to fight the good fight and seek additional membership for our lovely church. Our church has so much to give to the community - from Mother's Morning Out, to Sunday School, to Youth Programs, Senior Programs, and everything in between. The only detail that could make this better would be to have more members to participate. It is time for each and every member to get involved and share the blessings we have to offer with people that do not have a home church, or those that do not feel at home at their current church. If every person at Lutheran Chapel - young and old - could think of one person or family to invite to church this month, we could begin to regrow and strengthen this church family.

You may wonder why I am speaking out about this at this time. I have just been thinking about how fortunate Terry and I were to walk through the doors of the magnificent sanctuary of Lutheran Chapel for the first time and to be greeted so warmly by everyone we met. We have grown so much through our faith because of lessons learned in Sunday School and in Preaching and through the love of the members of this congregation. Our grandchildren, Alex and Olivia, have flourished at Lutheran Chapel. They love the members, and they are validated each and every Sunday that they darken the doors of LCC. For that we are truly thankful.

Please remember this Thanksgiving, as you count your many blessings of family, friends, and the fortune of living in the USA, don't forget to praise God for the incredible church family at Lutheran Chapel and pray for the guidance from Him to invite more members to the flock that can help lead us into the future and to the Promised Land.

Yours In Christ,  
**Trish Ratchford**



# NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

Peter Homovich.....	2	Kay Moretz .....	17
Charlotte Jenkins.....	2	Pat Robinson.....	18
Katie Potter.....	3	B.T. Bradley.....	19
Kaitlyn Anthony.....	7	Chrystal Davis.....	20
Ray Jenkins, Jr.....	7	Sandra Martin .....	21
Mayada Besancon .....	8	Bryson Lineberger .....	22
Ann Lowe.....	8	Drew Carpenter.....	24
Renwick Royston .....	12	David Comer.....	24
Norman Overcash.....	14	Charlotte Carpenter.....	25
Terry Ratchford.....	15	Don Wankel .....	25
Scott Swindler .....	15	Heather Nigbor .....	26
Joy Setzer-Henderson.....	16	Katie Carpenter .....	29
Helen McCarter .....	17		

## ANNIVERSARIES

Fred & Suzie Ward.....	13
Doug & Marion Rhyne.....	17
James & Margaret Hovis.....	22
Bill & Elizabeth Seabrook.....	23

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



## PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

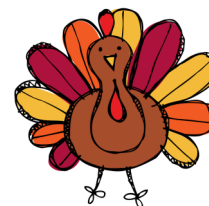
**Helen Hoffman**  
Terrace Ridge  
1251 E. Hudson Blvd., #403  
Gastonia, NC 28054

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

**Dru Huffstickler**  
Morningside  
2755 Union Rd., Apt. 200  
Gastonia, NC 28054



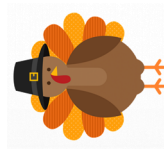
**Betty Klimek**  
Park Pointe Village  
3025 Chesbrough Blvd.  
Rm 510  
Rock Hill, SC 29732

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





# November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>  <b>November 7</b>	<b>1</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>2</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	<b>3</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Sprouts (FH) 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Prayer Team Bible Study	<b>4</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 OWLS	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 Clothing Closet Giveaway
<b>7</b> <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 9:15 Luther Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Crossroads Choir 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>8</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:30 Via de Cristo (FH)	<b>9</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 10:00 4 Seasons Garden Club Mtg. (FH) 7:00 Cantamos Choir (FH)	<b>10</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Prayer Team Bible Study	<b>11</b> <i>Veterans Day</i> 8:30 Preschool 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30 Early Worship 9:15 Luther Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship <i>Veterans Recognition</i> 4:00 Council Meeting 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>15</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Worship & Music Committee Mtg.	<b>16</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 6:30 Handbell Choir	<b>17</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Sprouts Family Night 6:30 Prayer Team Bible Study <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	<b>18</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <i>Commitment Sunday</i> 8:30 Early Worship 9:15 Luther Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Confirmation (FLC) 5:00 Crossroads Choir 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>22</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>23</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 7:00 Cantamos Choir (FH)	<b>24</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:30 Prayer Team Bible Study	<b>25</b> <i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent</i> 8:30 Early Worship 9:15 Luther Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>29</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>30</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday				

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# Chapel News

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