



# 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 2021/JANUARY 2022

From the Pastor...

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law (Torah – teaching of the LORD), happy is he (Proverbs 29:18 King James Version). Part of keeping the teaching of God is **the biblical mission** given from the very beginning. These Scriptures should guide the mission at Lutheran Chapel in 2022 that all of us and all our community may trust in our Lord Jesus.

They devoted themselves to **the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers** (Acts 2:42). And whatever you do, in word or deed, **do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him (Colossians 3:17). For the Son of Man came...to **serve** (Mark 10:45). **Go** therefore into the main streets and invite everyone... **Go** into all nations and make disciples of all (Matthew 28:19, 22:1-14). With these teachings in mind consider the following structural changes based on the biblical mission:

- ⇒ **Apostles' teaching:** Let us focus on restoring a weekly Sunday gathering to get most all of us together offering a **9:00 Discipleship & Fellowship and 10:00 Service** in the Sanctuary. Since the pandemic getting all of us together has been a challenge! The hope here is to get as many as possible to study God's Word, to worship, to fellowship and connect together anew. Prayers will always be streamed but getting together is important.
- ⇒ **Fellowship:** Let us focus on fostering small groups for encouragement in Christ and fun together. In addition to the weekly gathering for Discipleship & Fellowship, let our Sprouts (elementary age) and Roots (youth through High School) meet for regular service and fun events. Let us encourage our Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELCA) Circles, Brotherhood, and OWLS to **resume meetings and plan outings** in 2022.
- ⇒ **Breaking of bread:** Recognizing not everyone will be able to gather Sunday and that a weekly Holy Communion is important, opportunities to offer **"little church" in the Memorial Chapel** will be explored. For those unable to attend regularly any Service, **home Communion will be offered to all by appointment with the Pastor** (not just for those of us shut-in) to keep all who want to be connected to the church connected.
- ⇒ **Prayers:** Let us focus on the practice of daily prayer to grow closer to Christ and to intercede for one another. Our Prayer team is a key mission on the way to growing as an **intentionally praying church**.

*Continued on next page* ➡

I may experiment with offering daily prayer offices at **morning**, **noon**, and **evening** sometime during the week when I pray anyway and have it open for whoever may choose to come.

- ⇒ **Do everything in the Name of our Lord Jesus:** Each one of us is called to serve Christ's kingdom. Our care of **family**, our daily **work**, our service at **church** and in the wider **community** is to be done to the glory of God. This holy vocation is one that we share as the priesthood of all believers and can't be emphasized enough.
- ⇒ **Serve:** Lutheran Chapel excels at service in Christ's Name to help our neighbor. From the Clothes Closet, the weekly backpack food program to help schools, the on-going collection of food for Crisis Assistance Ministry, the monthly love offerings to support local charities, the Dirty Collar Workers/Property team caring for the church campus, to the auxiliary ministries that meet here such as the Alcoholics Anonymous group, the Lutheran Chapel Preschool and hosting of other community and church groups – many are served and many serve to God's glory here. To make these on-going ministries more visible and to **intentionally connect more volunteers to these efforts** is a worthy goal.
- ⇒ **Go! Invite:** The focus on reaching our entire community for Christ requires **constant invitations** to all. Use of the **electronic church sign** to invite all going up and down New Hope Road to events here, **intentional Services designated to invite friends**, relatives, associates, and neighbors, and **designating events to invite the community** will be important.

In our generation, we are called and equipped in Christ to minister, to adapt, to plan, and to seek His will (Matthew 6:10) to the best of our understanding. Let us trust Christ and work together to His glory in 2022.

Peace in Christ,  
**Pastor Michael**



## ADVENT EVENING SERVICES

**Wednesdays in December**  
**7:00pm in the Sanctuary**

Are any of you dreading the next number of weeks as Christmas gets closer and closer? How much to spend on gifts? Who to buy for and what to buy?

Which parties/events to attend? How to be safe and accepting of each other? This doesn't leave much time to dwell on the "reason for the season".

All of us need some balance during the holidays. Part of our balance at Lutheran Chapel is remembering whose we are, and why we exist. We exist to worship the one who gives us life—that beautiful baby in the manger.

A wonderful opportunity to worship will be the Wednesday evenings in December; December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This will be a time of worship, prayer, and celebration as we slow down and focus on preparing for Christmas.

Would you and your family worship with us at the Wednesday night Advent Services? We promise there won't be any commercials, it won't cost anything, and you won't gain any weight. We do promise that you will be blessed as we get ready for the birthday of Jesus.





# Worship Assistants

*\*Lectors will also serve as Communion Assistants*



<u>Lector</u>		<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lector</u>		<u>Acolyte</u>
<b>Dec. 5</b>	Johnny Carpenter	Elena Hoffman	<b>Jan. 2</b>	Alex Berghello	Luke Hoffman
<b>Dec. 12</b>	Cantata	Corbin Brown	<b>Jan. 9</b>	Amy Brown	Renwick Royston
<b>Dec. 19</b>	Janie Peak	Bryson Lineberger	<b>Jan. 16</b>	Katherine Sanders	Bryson Lineberger
<b>Dec. 24</b>	Jason Sanders	Hunter Clark	<b>Jan. 23</b>	Beth Swindler	Elena Hoffman
<b>Dec. 26</b>	Jeanette Myers	Jordan Hoffman	<b>Jan. 30</b>	Olivia Berghello	Corbin Brown

## ALTAR FLOWERS JANUARY

**Jan. 2** ~ Chrismon Trees

**Jan. 9** ~ Given by Keith & Teresa Yarborough in honor of their grandchildren.

**Jan. 16** ~ Given by Sylvia Fogle in honor of Myra & Becky's birthday.

**Jan. 23** ~ Given in memory of Othell Carpenter by her family.

**Jan. 30** ~ Given by David & Susan Lewis in honor of Evan, Anna, Jordan, Corbin, Luke, & Elana.

## 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*

## 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.



*Congregational Meeting*  
*December 5 at 10:30*

## LUTHERAN CHAPEL COUNCIL MINUTES

NOVEMBER 14, 2021

The Council made decisions and discussed the following at the Nov. 14 meeting:

- Council unanimously approved the 2022 budget, which will be presented to the church membership on Dec. 5.
- Council was informed that GSM had installed the new HVAC system for the kitchen.
- Council approved Tammy Royston, Crown Hoffman, Adrian Thornburg and Dan Lineberger as new council members on a three-year term, beginning in 2022. The new members will be up for affirmation before the church on Dec. 5.
- Council discussed and unanimously approved piloting a 10:00am worship service starting on Jan. 2 and running through June 26. At its May meeting, council will decide if the 10:00am service will continue. Meeting at 10:00am means Sunday school will begin at 9:00am going forward, and there will be no 8:30am service during the pilot period.
- Council approved a new time sheet protocol for James Dean and Kim Rundzieher, effective Dec. 1.
- Council approved a request from the Worship & Music Committee to have wind instruments play on Christmas Eve, as well a choir processional that night (masks required for choir members during the processional).
- Council approved returning communion to the front of the church but in an intinction format, effective in January.
- With Amy Carpenter's resignation effective Nov. 30, council decided it best to ask parents with planning youth activities until there is enough participation from youth/parents to warrant paying a part- or full-time position.

A congregational meeting will be held Dec. 5. Council's next full meeting will be held in January.

### FROM THE TREASURER...

Lutheran Chapel Income Statement Actual vs Budget for 10 months ended 10/31/2021:

	Actual	2021 Budget	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$ 277,111.00	\$ 306,625.00	\$ (29,514.00)
Disbursements	\$ 270,743.00	\$ 300,563.00	\$ (29,820.00)
Net Cash	\$ 6,368.00	\$ 6,062.00	\$ 306.00



Actual cash and contributions were typical; however, expenses did exceed revenues received for the month of October. November and December are typically very good revenue months. Anticipate this trend to continue as in past years. Expenses through year-end should be light and our year-end cash should remain in a positive position.

We do have one major expenditure to be paid in the month of November. We have had to replace an A/C unit in the kitchen. The cost of the unit was \$7,900.00. This will be paid from the Maintenance Fund in November. The new unit has been installed and we are awaiting final invoice.

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



## An Invitation from Christian Ed

The members of the Christian Ed Committee would like to invite any congregation member who is interested to consider joining this committee.

Christian Ed is responsible for choosing the youth Sunday school curriculum, planning VBS and hosting church-wide events throughout the year. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Michael at [michael.comer@lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:michael.comer@lutheranchapelchurch.org)

2022

## Dates to Remember

Seder Meal ~ April 14

Rankin Lake Worship ~ June 12



## LOVE OFFERINGS

### DECEMBER ~ *Family Promise*

Our Love Offering for the month of December 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.

### JANUARY ~ *Cancer Services*

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 for your support of both these ministries!

***Social Ministry Committee***



## 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 to Covid restrictions in our schools and church, we decided again to provide Food Lion gift cards to families instead of the meal bags. We felt this was much safer for our church and the schools we work with. Because of your generous donations, we were able to provide 140 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. Please read the note below from a social worker at one of the schools we work in partnership with to help families in need. This is just one example of gratitude!

*I hope you know just how special your congregation is to our school. We are so grateful for your kindness and please know that your heart for the Lord is showing our community just how special God is and how much he cares for them. This may be the only time they are shown grace during such a tough season and we cannot say thank you enough.*

**Allie Rowe**

**Brookside Elementary**

Also, our church family filled 40 Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes. The gift of each shoebox is an opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with children in desperate situations around the world. The gifts you pack into each box bring smiles to children; while also sharing the opportunity through children's literature about God's greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ.

We are continuing our collection of food for CAM. Gifts of food can be placed in the CAM blue collection box outside of Amy's office. Crisis Assistance Ministry is very grateful to Lutheran Chapel for our continued giving of food 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, a daily meal for families or a Christmas shoebox for a child.

**Social Ministry Committee**

### FROM THE MAILBOX...

To the Women of WELCA and Lutheran Chapel.,  
Thank you for the Walmart gift card. I will use it  
when I go to Walmart. The Lord has blessed me  
with kind and generous people I know and love.

~Alex Berghello

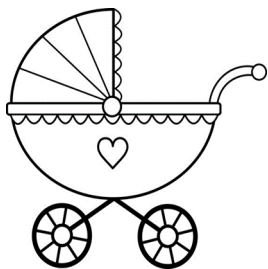


Dear Women of the Church,  
Thank you so much for the Walmart  
gift card! It will definitely be of great  
use to me and I'm grateful to have  
such caring people behind me.

Thanks,

Mason Swindler





Please join us for a baby shower honoring  
Amy Burch Carpenter  
Sunday, January 23, 2022  
in the Family Life Center immediately following  
the 10:00am worship service

Proud parents Amy and Josh Carpenter are expecting a little boy,  
Walter "Walt" Monroe Carpenter in March.

They are registered at Amazon.

Proud grandparents are Lisa and Chuck Burch and Kathy and Johnny Carpenter.

Proud great grandmother is Sarah Carpenter.

### ***You're Invited!***

The congregation of Lutheran Chapel is cordially invited to attend a reception in the Family Life Center immediately following the 10:00 Service on **January 2, 2022** to celebrate the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Terry and Trish Ratchford.

Please drop in for some delicious treats and to share in their celebration of love and commitment. No gifts please ~ your presence will be their present.



### **PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS**



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

**Betty Petty**  
811 Ashbrook Park Road  
Dallas, NC 28034  
  
**Helen McCarter**  
ARP Manor  
2900 Union Road, Apt. 114  
Gastonia, NC 28054

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



## 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.*



**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

# BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

## DECEMBER

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

## JANUARY

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

# anniversary CELEBRATIONS

## DECEMBER

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
Sid & Leigh Woody.....	31

## JANUARY





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






**Let's Celebrate!**

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

# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Handbell Choir 7:00 Advent Service	<b>2</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent</i> 8:30 Early Worship 9:15 Luther Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Congregational Mtg. 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>6</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>7</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	<b>8</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Handbell Choir 7:00 Advent Service	<b>9</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</i> 8:30 Early Worship 9:15 Luther Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Cantata 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>13</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>14</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	<b>15</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Handbell Choir 7:00 Advent Service	<b>16</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</i> 8:30 Early Worship 9:15 Luther Choir 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Confirmation (FLC) 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>20</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>21</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	<b>22</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Handbell Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7:00 Candlelight Service 	<b>25</b> <i>Merry Christmas</i> 
<b>26</b> 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>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i> 	

# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr	Sat
						<b>1</b> 
<b>2</b> 9:00 Luther Choir 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Anniversary Reception (FLC) 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 Luther Choir 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Crossroads 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>10</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:30 Via de Cristo	<b>11</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 10:00 Four Seasons Garden Club (FH)	<b>12</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Handbell Choir	<b>13</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 Luther Choir 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Confirmation (FLC) 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>17</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>18</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	<b>19</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Handbell Choir  <i>Newsletter Articles Due!</i>	<b>20</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 Luther Choir 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Baby Shower (FLC) 5:00 Crossroads 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>24</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>25</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	<b>26</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Handbell Choir	<b>27</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 Luther Choir 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>31</b> 8:30 Preschool					

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DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

Michael C. Comer, Pastor

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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.