



# 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)

**MAY 2023**

## *From the Pastor...*

Our church consultant, the Rev. Dr. Keith Copeland, has served with us now for two gatherings. Results to share are below.

The first was in January called the Identity Café and he led the gathering to consider these basic questions – who is Lutheran Chapel? Why does Lutheran Chapel exist? The gathering, with prayer and discernment, answered in this way. Lutheran Chapel is Christ centered and identified as traditional, loving, family, and musical. Lutheran Chapel exists to worship together, serve God, bring others to Christ, and nurture spiritual growth. He gave to us the question for regular use – who are you? We are children of God (1 John 3:2). Then he challenged us, “Act like it.”

The second was in April called the Verb Café and he led the gathering to discern the verb God wants for us going forward. The prompt goes like this – the mission of Lutheran Chapel is to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s \_\_\_\_\_. So, the gathering talked together about finding the verb. The verbs shared: nurture, propagate, love, witness, share, support, exemplify, provide, and serve. Each Sunday at the Service we spend time with confession and self-examination individually. This exercise really was a corporate self-examination time, right? So, the result of the BBQ lunch, conversation, and corporate discernment: the mission of Lutheran Chapel is to share God’s love. The question he gives us for regular use – what is the mission of Lutheran Chapel? The mission of Lutheran Chapel is to share God’s love. Then the challenge, “How are you doing with this?”

What is next? Dr. Copeland will meet with the Congregational Council in May and match specific on-going actions and ministries with this declared identity and mission. LORD willing, this will lead to reorganization, renewal, and reform among us going forward.

Why go to a car mechanic, a doctor, a therapist, an attorney, or in this case, a consultant, if you are not going to act on their advice, right? So, moving forward these reminders will be used in weekly worship. They will shape actions of our church leadership. They will serve as markers for navigating the days ahead. May all these efforts be to the glory of our Father in Heaven and according to His will for His mission at Lutheran Chapel.

Peace in Christ,  
**Pastor Michael**



## MAY Worship Assistants



	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28 Pentecost
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jordan Hoffman	Bryson Lineberger	Elena Hoffman	Hunter Clark
<b>Crucifer</b>	Christian Mull	Harry Swindler	Lillian Robinson	Will Clark
<b>Assistant Minister</b>	Sylvia Fogle	Pam Overcash	Norman Overcash	Nancy Witman
<b>Lector</b>	Pam Overcash	Alex Berghello	Olivia Berghello	Norman Overcash
<b>First Aid/AED/CPR</b>	Gene Weaver	Matt Hoffman	Steve Clark	Crown Hoffman

**Council Members of the Month:** Jason Sanders and Keith Yarborough

*\*\* If you have a conflict on your scheduled Sunday, please find a replacement and contact the church office. \*\**

### ALTAR FLOWERS ~ MAY

**May 7** ~ Given by Dan Jenkins in memory of Bill Anton.

**May 14** ~ Given by Ervin, Nancy, David, Susan, Henry & Debra in memory of Ervin & Helen Hoffman.

**May 21** ~ Given by Roger & Jeanette Myers

**May 28** ~ Given by Steve Bell in memory of Ma Bell.



Cost of flowers is \$55.00.

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

### WORSHIP AT RANKIN LAKE

**June 4, 2023 ~ 10:00**

All are invited to join us for the *Rankin Lake Worship Service* on Sunday, **June 4 at 10:00**.

A catered meal from Grandma Hoyt will be provided. Please bring chairs and anything needed to enjoy time together at the park.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Saturday, June 10, 2023**

A one-day whirlwind VBS!

*More information to come.*



*"As a mother comforts  
her child,  
so I will comfort you."*

*-Isaiah 66:13*

# Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA

## CIRCLE NEWS

### April Meetings

- ⇒ **Esther Circle** will be meeting on Monday, May 1 at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall.
- ⇒ **Rebecca Circle** will meet at the home of **Elizabeth Seabrook** (3348 Randolph Park Circle, Gastonia - follow the road to the back of the house) on Monday, May 1 at 7pm. Elizabeth will provide the program as well.



### OWLS

(Older Wiser LutheranS)

We hope you'll join us for our next *OWL-standing* time of fellowship!

**Strawberry Hill**  
(Chesnee, SC)

**Wednesday, May 17**

**11:00am**

*Steve Clark will be driving the church van. Be at the church at 9:15am if you plan to ride in the van.*

### Congregational Cookout

**May 9 ~ 6:00 pm**

Please plan now to attend a cookout on Tuesday evening, May 9th @ 6:00PM in the picnic shelter. The Men of the Church are sponsoring and paying for this event and we hope to have a good turnout.

There will be hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, chips, drinks, and all the trimming. If you desire, bring a lawn chair, and come to have a good meal, relaxation, and conversation with our church family. Hope to see you there.



### GIFTS FOR HERITAGE OAKS

Items that are always needed:

- ◆ Bathing wipes
- ◆ Body wash
- ◆ Baby Powder
- ◆ Fluoride Toothpaste
- ◆ Mouth rinse
- ◆ Rash care cream
- ◆ Soft drinks (Ginger Ale, etc.)

Items can be placed in the box outside of the church office.

*Give as God leads you!*

### FROM THE TREASURER...

Lutheran Chapel Income Statement Actual vs Budget for 3 months ended 3/31/2023:

	Actual	2023 Budget	Over/(Under)
<b>Receipts</b>	\$ 28,060.83	\$30,765.00	\$ (2,704.17)
<b>Distributions</b>	\$ 23,063.80	\$ 30,952.50	\$ (7,755.37)
<b>Net Cash</b>	\$ 4,997.03	\$ (187.50)	\$ 5,051.20



**Treasurer  
Report**

As expected, revenues rose during the Easter season, and we are showing a net increase for the month of March, making up the negative finances of the first two months of the year. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Obenauf, Treasurer or Terry Ratchford, Finance Committee Chair.

## LUTHERAN CHAPEL COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH 26, 2023

Council made decisions and discussed the following:

- ♦ In 2022 there was an average weekly attendance of 125 people at Sunday worship, in-person and online. Little church averaged 9 in attendance.
- ♦ Motion was made and approved to nominate Ken Obenauf and Katherine Sanders to the Endowment Committee.
- ♦ A search committee for a new organist was formed. A new job description is being prepared and an Indeed account was created in order to post the job online.
- ♦ Motion was made and approved for Council to provide catered lunch for Verb Café.
- ♦ A list of rules will be posted in the Youth Hut. Youth will have first priority for usage. A microwave and refrigerator will be donated when kitchen is redone which is the next project. There was discussion of installing a state park style grill in the Youth Hut area. Cost is approximately \$700.
- ♦ A Christian Ed Chairperson is needed.
- ♦ There was discussion suggesting that Lutheran Chapel should have several activities that include both children and parents before moving forward to hire a Family Ministries Director.
- ♦ There's concern that the doors of the church are not being properly secured before leaving the premises.

The next full council meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2023.

## MAY LOVE OFFERING

### Habitat for Humanity of Gaston County

Our love offering for May will be sent to Habitat for Humanity of Gaston County. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit Christian based ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing. Funds for the construction of homes are obtained through financial contributions from individuals, churches and businesses. The homes are sold to qualified families at no profit and financed with affordable, no-interest mortgages repaid over 20 years. Mortgage money is then recycled back to build more homes for families in need. Habitat is not a give-away program. Habitat relies heavily on volunteers for construction in all homes. The work is a cooperative effort between volunteers and new home buyers who contribute labor to build their homes.

To date, Habitat for Humanity of Gaston has built more than 126 homes in Gaston County with plans to build a neighborhood of 28 homes in North Belmont on donated land. Habitat for Humanity also has a home repair program.

Through the Habitat International program, Habitat Gaston donates a 10% tithe to assist in Honduras. Over 600 homes have been renovated and 51 homes have been built for the poverty-stricken people of Honduras.

Please prayerfully consider giving to this ministry so that Habitat will continue to grow and help even more families so they will have the opportunity to become a homeowner.

Thank you,

***Social Ministry Committee***





## GRADUATION RECOGNITION

If there are any high school or college graduates that would like to be recognized in the *June newsletter*, please contact Kim in the Church Office by **Friday, May 19**. Thank you!

## LCC Preschool News

- ◇ Preschool Graduation will be held in the Family Life Center on May 27 at 10:00am.
- ◇ The last day of the Spring Session is June 1.
- ◇ Preschool will be closed from June 2 - June 19.
- ◇ The Summer Session will run from June 20 - August 10 on a three day schedule (Tues-Wed-Thurs).
- ◇ The Fall Session will begin August 28.



## Music Notes

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done,  
the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,  
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:  
let shout of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped,  
he rises glorious from the dead:  
all glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

He closed the yawning gates of hell,  
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;  
let hymns of praise his triumphs tell! Alleluia!

Lord! by the stripes which wounded thee,  
from death's dread sting thy servants free,  
that we may live and sing to thee. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Note the pattern of this hymn: negative undone, positive done, our response. In each triad we see first the forces of evil that tried to conquer Christ but were beaten. Then we see a more positive expression of what has occurred. Christ has won, He rises, He opens heaven and frees slaves. Finally, we respond with songs and shouts of joy: Alleluia!

The richness of the text is matched by the majesty of the music, written by the sixteenth-century composer Giovanni de Palestrina. He was a devout Roman Catholic who created many wonderful sacred works still used in churches and secular settings. This tune was adapted from a "Gloria Patri" (Song of God's Praise) in one of his choral works. It first appeared with Francis Pott's translation of this Latin text in 1861.

The bible describes the work of Christ in many different ways, and Christian writers through the ages have elaborated on all these ideas. God exercised His power on our behalf when He raised Christ from the dead. Death has no ultimate power over us because we are risen with Christ. Alleluia!

*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:55-57, KJV)*

Taken from The One Year Book of Hymns, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

**Kathie Riebe**

music@lutheranchapelchurch.org





## SEND A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

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

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

**Betty Little**  
Covenant Village  
1351 Robinwood Rd.  
Apt. A-205  
Gastonia, NC 28054

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

**Betty Petty**  
Peak Resources  
7615 Dallas Cherryville Hwy.  
Room 709  
Cherryville, NC 28021

**Bob Thornburg**  
Peak Resources  
7615 Dallas Cherryville Hwy.  
Room 107  
Cherryville, NC 28021

## MAY CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

Erin Williamson.....2  
Abigail Hester.....4  
Rebecca Hester-Salazar.....4  
Clayton Lewis.....4  
Evan Escobedo.....7  
Keith Yarborough.....9  
Josh Carpenter.....10  
Zachary Beam.....12  
Alisha Pierri.....12  
Marty Lineberger.....13  
Jesse Beam.....15  
Andrew Bell.....17  
Betty Klimek.....19  
Bob Thornburg.....23  
Debi Jean Wankel.....23

### ANNIVERSARIES

Michael & Star Finch.....2  
Charles & Christa Heilig, III.....8  
Doug & Heather Nigbor.....15  
Carlton & Barbara Peacock.....19  
Jason & Lisa Bradley.....22  
Michael & Ginny Comer.....22  
Ben Bryant & Mark McCauley.....25  
Leon & Kay Moretz.....27  
Blair & Pam Thornburg.....31



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

## May Birthdays at Heritage Oaks



Birthday wishes can be mailed to:




Heritage Oaks  
916 S. Marietta Street  
Gastonia, NC 28054

Nathaniel.....1  
Dorothea.....24

*We were recently informed that last names are  
not permissible due to the HIPAA Privacy Rule.*



# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>1</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Esther Circle (FH) 7:00 Rebecca Circle @ Seabrook Home	<b>2</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 7:00 Cantamos Choir (FH)	<b>3</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Evening Service (Ch)	<b>4</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)	
<b>7</b> 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Confirmation 11:15 Children's Choir 11:30 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 5:15 Worship & Music Comm. Mtg. (CR) 6:00 Congregational Cookout (P)	<b>10</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Evening Service (Ch)	<b>11</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L) 5:00 Private Event (FLC)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
<b>14</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>15</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>16</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 7:00 Cantamos Choir (FH)	<b>17</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 OWLS @ Strawberry Hill, Chesnee, SC 6:00 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Evening Service (Ch) <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	<b>18</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
<b>21</b> 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir 4:00 Council Mtg. (CR) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>22</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>23</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	<b>24</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Evening Service (Ch)	<b>25</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 10:00 Preschool Graduation (FLC) 
<b>28</b> <i>Pentecost Sunday Confirmation</i> 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:45 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>29</b>  <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>30</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	<b>31</b> 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Evening Service (Ch)			

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

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



# Chapel News

## MAY 2023

Michael C. Comer, Pastor

Church Office: 704-864-6491

Preschool: 704-864-5136

[churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org)

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

[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.