



Chapel News

A Publication of Lutheran Chapel Church

702 N. New Hope Road

Gastonia, NC 28054

Pastor Michael C. Comer

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www.lutheranchapelchurch.org

NOVEMBER 2023

From the Pastor...

Lutheran Bible Study

Is there something unique about studying the Bible from a confessional Lutheran viewpoint? Yes. The gift of the plain sense for us. The Law and Gospel action as the Holy Spirit works in Scripture to convict our sins and blesses us through good news of Jesus for us in His Word. The Bible is the cradle revealing Christ – reading the Bible in the “light of Christ.” The opportunity for meditation to be still and receive the unique gift meant for me.

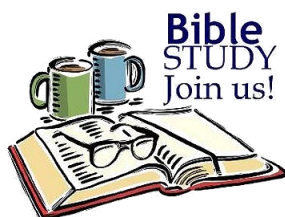
This is different than the Jewish focus on mitzvot/commandments. This is different than the call to submit to Koran (sorry your Bible is distorted – the Islamic teaching of tahrif).

This is different than sister churches – the Roman Catholic magisterium, the Anglican/ Methodist Quadrilateral, the mystics lectio divina, the academics deconstructionist tools of historical criticism, the fundamentalist/literalist declarations, etc. Now, in humility and discernment, we can learn from all these various perspectives. Listen humbly.

Nevertheless, there is a distinctively Lutheran way to study Scripture. Come and see on Thursdays from 11AM to Noon or during Sunday School from 9AM to 9:40AM or so. Here any who can gather will consider the plain sense, the Law/Gospel dialectic, Christ as the key to Scripture, and the opportunity to meditate.

Receive the gift of God's Word as often as possible. Claim the gift for your journey.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Michael



Thursdays—11:00am to 12:00pm

Sundays—9:00am to 9:40am



Worship Assistants ~ NOVEMBER



	November 5 All Saints Sunday	November 12	November 19	November 26 Christ the King
Acolyte	Bryson Lineberger	Elena Hoffman	Hunter Clark	Renwick Royston
Crucifer	Christian Mull	Lillian Robinson	Will Clark	Bram Comer
Assistant Minister	Norman Overcash		Sylvia Fogle	Nancy Witman
Lector	Pam Overcash	Lisa Burch	Norman Overcash	Debra Hoffman
First Aid/ AED/CPR	Peery Linkous	Gene Weaver	Matt Hoffman	Steve Clark

Council Members of the Month: Mark McCauley & Keith Yarborough

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



sharing the gifts we have been given

COMMITMENT SUNDAY ~ NOVEMBER 19TH

Bring your pledge card to Worship if you are able.

NOVEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS

Nov. 5 ~ Given by Sylvia Fogle in memory of Charlie Wilson and Charles & Bleeka Robinson's anniversary.

Nov. 12 ~ Given by Susanne & Henry Gaines in memory of Marianne Barth.

Nov. 19 ~ Given by Pat & Barbara Robinson in honor of the birthdays of Steve, Deborah, Charlene & Pat.

Nov. 26 ~ OPEN



Cost of flowers is \$55.00.
Please be sure to note your payment is for
Altar Flowers.

Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:30 am ~ Fellowship

9:00 am ~ Sunday School/Bible Study

10:00 am ~ Worship in Sanctuary

We will continue to stream the Sunday Worship Service live for those unable to attend in person.

Wednesdays

7:00 pm ~ Chapel

Simple Evening Prayer / Holy Communion



Come Worship with Us

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2023**

Council made decisions and discussed the following:

- Names were suggested for new council members to serve the 2024 - 2027 term. Current council members will reach out to the individuals.
- A financial report was provided and it was noted that although expenses for the month of September exceeded receipts, Lutheran Chapel is still under budget overall for the year.
- A motion unanimously passed to receive Nick and Izzy Veverka and baby Evvy into membership at Lutheran Chapel.
- Discussion was held regarding the Vision progress. What do we do with the data collected? Meetings need to be scheduled with the groups formed in order to move forward. Planned our work now we have to work our plan!
- The Organist Committee has two candidates with interviews scheduled during the last week of October. Among other qualifications, both candidates have experience playing piano in a Lutheran church. It was suggested to increase compensation for the position if necessary.
- The Property Committee reported that a work day is scheduled for November 11. Vinyl siding for the shed will be purchased and put up by a select group. The chimes are still not working. The amplifier has been sent off for repair.
- A small group of church members met with Crown Hoffman to propose re-landscaping the courtyard. Details will be brought to council once worked out.
- The Clothing Closet Giveaways have been successful. The next one is scheduled for November 4.
- An idea for the Christmas Program to be included in the Cantata was discussed.
- Commitment Sunday is scheduled for November 19. Temple talks will be presented leading up to that date.

The next full council meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2023.

FROM THE TREASURER...

Lutheran Chapel Income Statement Actual vs Budget for 3 quarters of the year ending 9/30/2023:

	Actual Sept. 2023	Actual YTD	2023 Budget YTD	2023 Budget Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$ 22,852.24	\$245,417.98	\$276,885.00	\$ (31,467.02)
Distributions	\$ 25,532.69	\$244,374.38	\$ 278,573.25	\$ (30,080.09)
Net Cash	\$ (2,608.45)	\$1,043.30		



**Treasurer
Report**

Although the month of September's expenses exceeded donations by over \$2,600 the year to date has a positive balance of over \$1,000. Donations typically increase during the Fall and Christmas Season; however, we will continue to carefully watch the budget.

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Obenauf, Treasurer or Terry Ratchford, Finance Committee Chair.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS



In keeping with the protocol approved by the LCC congregation regarding Church Council elections, Council is accepting nominations for persons interested in serving a three-year term on the LCC Church Council. This is a self-nominating process. All interested members should contact Crown Hoffman - DrCrownDc@gmail.com, Jason Sanders - Jason.Sanders@cBEYONData.com or Pastor Comer - michael.comer@lutheranchapelchurch.org or 704-787-6439. **Deadline for nominations is November 12.**

At its November 19 meeting, Council will determine the list of persons for the Church membership to consider. Council election is held in December.

CIRCLE NEWS

- ⇒ *Esther Circle* will be meeting on Monday, November 6 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall.
- ⇒ *Rebecca Circle* will meet Monday, November 6 at 7pm in the **Fellowship Hall**. Cathy Robinson will host and Eula Ritchie will provide the program.



ATTENTION OWLS!

(Older Wiser LutheranS)

Join us for our next *OWL-standing* time of fellowship!

Hillbilly's BBQ & Steaks

(305 S. Main St., Lowell)

Thursday, November 16th
11:00am

WORK DAY AT THE CHURCH

Saturday, November 11 ~ 9am—Noon

The Men of the Church are sponsoring a fall work day at the Church on **Saturday November 11th**. Plans are to have coffee, juice, donuts beginning at 8:30. The work will begin at 9AM and run until noon. There are several areas on our campus that need to be spruced up. If you are physically able we would appreciate very much if you will come and help for these 3 hours. We have quite a lot to be accomplished and need as many youth, men, and women that possibly could help. Areas needing help include:

- Picnic shelter and fire pit areas
- Electronic sign area
- Columbarium area
- Trash and small limb removal
- Pruning small limbs in front of Church
- Weed eating in cemetery
- Replacing rotten wood on maintenance building



As you can see, we have quite a bit of areas that need our attention. Our Dirty Collar Workers, though small in numbers, continue to keep our grass mowed and weeds trimmed throughout our campus. Unfortunately there is very little time left for them to work on the other tasks listed above. We sincerely thank you for your consideration in helping for these 3 hours.

Great News...The Soup Luncheon Is Back!

The Social Ministry Committee is excited to invite you to our annual **Soup Luncheon on November 5th following our 10:00 worship service.** We will serve a variety of wonderful soups, sandwiches and of course, delicious desserts. This will also be your opportunity to give thanks for our many blessings. We want to remember those in our community who are less fortunate, by providing them help with their Thanksgiving meal. We are providing families with a \$25.00 Food Lion gift card again this year and serving around 120 families at 14 different Gaston County schools. We began the gift cards during Covid to eliminate contact and found this was a great way to continue to help families in need.

If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please bring your monetary donations with you to the Soup Luncheon. **You may make a cash donation or write a check to Lutheran Chapel – be sure to mark Thanksgiving meals in the memo section. Our committee will purchase the gift cards – we like to purchase the cards that do not allow alcohol or tobacco products to be purchased with the card.**

We place each card in an envelope with a Thanksgiving blessing from our church. The envelopes are delivered to the Social Workers at each school by our Social Ministry team. Last year, we were able to help families at 14 Gaston County schools have a blessed Thanksgiving.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Soup Luncheon for great fellowship and a delicious meal!



FREE Clothing Giveaway!!!



Clothing Giveaway ~ November 4th

The *Outreach Committee* will be hosting an indoor/outdoor Clothing Giveaway on **Saturday, November 4th** and could use your help! Many hands make light work for setting up and breaking down.

We need help with setting up beginning at 8:00 am and breaking down at 1:00 pm. Breakfast biscuits, snacks, water and sodas will be available for all volunteers. Please prayerfully consider helping with this service to our community.

Thank you! Thank you!

Lutheran Chapel has received a donation of a large Nexgrill from Skip and Shirley Bradley. It was used on Tuesday, October 10th for the congregational cookout of hamburgers and hotdogs where we served approximately 97 members and guests. Because of the grill's size we were able to serve the meal in record time. We look forward to using the grill for many functions in the future. Thank you for your generosity!

Praise the LORD!

O give thanks to the
LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Psalm 106:1



Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes

Collection week for Christmas shoeboxes is November 13th – 19th.



Boxes must be returned to the church by Sunday November 19th so that we can deliver them to the drop-off location for Gaston County.

Gift suggestions are:

- School Supplies: pens, pencils, crayons, markers, writing pads, coloring and picture books
- Toys: small cars, balls, dolls stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes
- Hygiene Items: toothbrush, mild bar soap (in plastic bag), comb, brush, washcloth
- Other: t-shirt, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hairclips, toy jewelry, flashlights (with extra batteries), plastic cups or storage containers

Do not include: Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.



We realize that the Christmas season is a busy time and our church family has many commitments during this time. Please know that we are only offering this opportunity because there are families that want to continue this ministry. Please fill a box if you can or choose a different way to help families in need during this time. As always, thank you for your generosity!



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 **November 26th**. Make your check payable to Lutheran Chapel. Please be sure to pick up your flower(s) after the Christmas Eve Service.

Number to order: _____ @ \$15.00 each = Total \$ _____

(Please print)

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Placed by: _____

"To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything." ~Thomas Merton

Advent begins Sunday, December 3...Let us prepare for the birth of Christ.

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays during Advent



December 6, 13 & 20

7pm in the Sanctuary

Our focus will be on Mark 13.



Christmas Cantata &

Youth Program

December 10 - 10:00am

More information to come.



ANGEL TREE

Bessemer City Boys & Girls Club

The Angel Tree for the Bessemer City Boys & Girls Club will be up in the Narthex of the church beginning Sunday, November 5th. Please take an Angel, record the number of the Angel(s) you have taken in the book and return the gifts by Sunday, December 3rd.

If you cannot shop but would like to give a donation, please make your check payable to Lutheran Chapel Church and mark *Boys & Girls Club Angel Tree* in the memo line.

The Outreach Team will be going to the Club in December for a Christmas party that will include the Christmas Story, crafts, cookie decorating, games, Christmas carols and finally a visit from Santa. Let's make this special for the 57 boys and girls at the Bessemer City Boys & Girls Club. Thank you so very much...God's Love Is Free! -The Outreach Team



Ladies Night Celebration

Saturday, December 2 ~ 6:00pm



Plan now to attend the annual Ladies Night banquet that will be held on **Saturday, December 2nd beginning @ 6 PM in the Family Life Center**. Tickets will be available beginning around November 12th and the cost will remain the same as last year at \$18. Tickets can be purchased from Terry Ratchford, Rick Peak, Steve Clark, Charles Edwards or Fred Ward.

Those of you who attended last year had the opportunity to enjoy the music of Adam Rose and many have asked if we could have him return. We were able to but we had to shift our normal 2nd Saturday in December to accommodate his busy schedule.

Rick Peak is planning a wonderful meal for us and Terry Ratchford will be our master of ceremonies - expect laughs and chuckles. Door prizes will be given to the lucky winners. If you would like to donate a door prize it would be most appreciated.

As always, we look forward to a wonderful night together.

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



Music Notes

Years ago, when we were living in a small town in Arkansas, I joined a community choir. As we were preparing for our Spring Concert, we were introduced to a song in a musical form I had not sung before. It was a rather short phrase that was sung repeatedly and at times a solo line was sung over the repeated phrase. When we got into our concert venue, we were placed around the outer walls to sing this piece. I found it deeply touching as it spoke to my heart and soul while we repeated the simple chant-like music.

Several years later, we were invited to an evening service. It also was in a form I was not familiar with – the contemplative prayers and music of Taizé. That is when I learned that the piece we sang at that Spring Concert so many years earlier was a part of a community's music that was reaching out to the world and bringing people together as this community ministered to people looking for ways to serve God. The music is repetitive, largely in Latin, and allows us to rest in God's words while opening our heart, mind and soul to God. Why in Latin, you ask? The community of Taizé (their history can be read below) is an inter-denominational community that serves people from all over the world. What is the one thing that connects all of us verbally as human beings? None of us speak Latin as our every-day language. And in that, they find unity.

This Lent we will be exploring this unique form of contemplative prayer through the music written by the Taizé community. Although Advent is next on the Christian calendar, we want you to have an opportunity to learn and understand in advance about what we will be doing during the Lenten Wednesday evening prayer services. It is our prayer that you will find it uplifting, peaceful and a time of rejuvenation in our Lord.

Taizé History: The Beginning

Everything began in 1940 when, at the age of twenty-five, Brother Roger left Switzerland, the country where he was born, to go and live in France, the country his mother came from. For years he had been ill with tuberculosis, and during that long convalescence he had matured within him the call to create a community.

When the Second World War began, he had the conviction that without wasting time he should come to the assistance of people going through this ordeal, just as his grandmother had done during the First World War. The small village of Taizé, where he settled, was quite close to the demarcation line dividing France in two: it

was well situated for sheltering refugees fleeing the war. Friends from Lyon started giving the address of Taizé to people in need of a place of safety.

In Taizé, thanks to a modest loan, Brother Roger bought a house with outlying buildings that had been uninhabited for years. He asked one of his sisters, Genevieve, to come and help him offer hospitality. Among the refugees they sheltered were Jews. Material resources were limited. There was no running water, so for drinking water they had to go to the village well. Food was simple, mainly soups made from corn flour bought cheaply at the nearby mill. Out of discretion towards those he was sheltering, Brother Roger prayed alone; he often went to sing far from the house, in the woods. So that none of the refugees, Jews or agnostics, would feel ill-at-ease, Genevieve explained to each person that it was better for those who wished to pray to do so alone in their rooms.

Brother Roger's parents, knowing that their son and daughter were in danger, asked a retired French officer who was a friend of the family to watch over them. In the autumn of 1942, he warned them that their activities had been found out and that everyone should leave at once. So until the end of the war, it was in Geneva that Brother Roger lived and it was there that he began a common life with his first brothers. They were able to return to Taizé in 1944.

The First Brothers' Commitment

In 1945, a young lawyer from the region set up an association to take charge of children who had lost their parents in the war. He suggested to the brothers that they welcome a certain number of them in Taizé. A men's community could not receive children. So Brother Roger asked his sister Genevieve to come back to take care of them and become their mother. On Sundays, the brothers also welcomed German prisoners-of-war interned in a camp nearby Taizé.

Gradually other young men came to join the original group, and on Easter Day 1949, there were seven of them who committed themselves together for their whole life in celibacy and to a life together in great simplicity.

In the silence of a long retreat, during the winter of 1952-53, the founder of the community wrote the Rule of Taizé, expressing for his brothers "the essential that makes the common life possible".

The Community Today

Today, the Taizé Community is made up of about hundred brothers, Catholics and from various Protestant backgrounds, coming from around thirty nations. By its very existence, the community is a "parable of community" that wants its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples.

The brothers of the community live solely by their work. They do not accept donations. In the same way, they do not accept personal inheritances for themselves; the community gives them to the very poor.

Certain brothers live in some of the disadvantaged places in the world, to be witnesses of peace there, alongside people who are suffering. These small groups of brothers, in Asia, Africa and South America, share the living conditions of the people around them. They strive to be a presence of love among the very poor, street children, prisoners, the dying, and those who are wounded by broken relationships, or who have been abandoned.

Over the years, young adults have been coming to Taizé in ever greater numbers; they come from every continent to take part in weekly meetings. Sisters of Saint Andrew, an international Catholic community founded seven centuries ago, Polish Ursuline Sisters and Sisters of St Vincent de Paul take on some of the tasks involved in welcoming the young people.

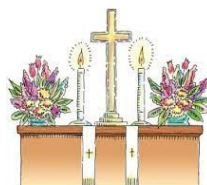
Church leaders also come to Taizé. The community has thus welcomed Pope John Paul II, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, metropolitans and bishops of different Orthodox Churches, four Archbishops of Canterbury, the fourteen Lutheran bishops of Sweden, and countless pastors from all over the world.

From 1962 on, brothers and young people sent by Taizé went back and forth continually to the countries of Eastern Europe, with great discretion, to visit those who were confined within their frontiers.

Brother Roger died on 16 August 2005, at the age of 90.



Daylight Saving
Time Ends
November 5



Altar Flowers

2024 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

If you'd like to sign up for a special
Sunday in 2024, please contact
Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451.

SEND A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

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

november celebratiOns

BIRTHDAYS

Peter Homovich.....	2	Kay Moretz	17
Charlotte Jenkins.....	2	Pat Robinson	18
Katie Potter.....	3	Chrystal Davis	20
Kaitlyn Anthony.....	7	Elizabeth Lagos	20
Ray Jenkins, Jr.....	7	Sandra Martin	21
Renwick Royston	7	Bryson Lineberger	22
Mayada Besancon	8	Drew Carpenter.....	24
Ann Lowe.....	8	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	David Harrill.....	30

annIVERSARIES



Peter & Nancy Homovich.....	10
Fred & Suzie Ward	13
Doug & Marion Rhyne	17
James & Margaret Hovis	22






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



Grateful Thankful Blessed



November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Evening Service (Ch) 	2 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	3 9:00 CBS (FH)	4 9:00 Clothing Giveaway (set-up begins @ 8am) 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
5 <i>All Saints' Sunday</i> 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Soup Luncheon 11:30 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	6 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Esther Circle (FH) 7:00 Rebecca Circle (FH)	7 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 CBS (CR/CH/4 CIRm) <i>Election Day</i>	8 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Evening Service (Ch)	9 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	10 9:00 CBS (FH)	11 8:30 Church Workday 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 
12 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Confirmation (YR) 11:05 Luther Choir 11:35 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	13 8:30 Preschool 6:30 Via de Cristo (FH)	14 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:15 W & M Mtg. (CR) 5:30 CBS (CR/CH/4 CIRm) 7:00 Cantamos Choir (FH)	15 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Evening Service (Ch)	16 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Bible Study (L) 11:00 OWLS @ Hillbilly's BBQ	17 9:00 CBS (FH)	18 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 12:00 Private Event (FH)
19 <i>Commitment Sunday</i> 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Council Mtg. (CR) 11:30 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	20 8:30 Preschool <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	21 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers	22 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Evening Service (Ch)	23 	24	25 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
26 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:05 Luther Choir 11:35 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	27 8:30 Preschool	28 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 CBS (CR/CH/4 CIRm) 7:00 Cantamos Choir (FH)	29 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Evening Service (Ch)	30 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)		

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US postage Paid
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Permit #232



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Michael C. Comer, Pastor

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Preschool: 704-864-5136

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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.