



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

FEBRUARY 2024

From the Pastor...

The richness of God's Word ought to determine our prayer not the poverty of our heart (Dietrich Bonhoeffer). Daily prayers, Holy Communion for millennia the Christian Church have used these Scriptures morning and evening, Sunday by Sunday. It might be important for our walk with Christ? Contemplate the gift of the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)!

Who was Zechariah? Why did he sing this song? Zechariah was a priest, married to Elizabeth, and he had the honor to serve burning incense at the Temple of Jerusalem. Then the Angel Gabriel, the promise of a son to these elders, and the predicament of being struck mute that very day. How did he communicate with Elizabeth during these days of her pregnancy and anticipation? Nevertheless, at the birth of John the Baptist, Zechariah filled with the Holy Spirit praised the Lord with this song.

So what? What does this mean for us? Consider a few thoughts.

Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people (Luke 1:68). The Lord of heaven and earth, of Abraham and Sarah, this One comes to redeem His people. Redeem from what? Free from Roman rule? No. Much deeper actually – free from sin, death, and devil a spiritual freedom that leads to forever.

You, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways (Luke 1:76). Zechariah recognizes the "spirit of Elijah" (Luke 1:17) the divine purpose for this baby John that God has given to him and his wife. John the Baptist will prepare the way as Isaiah prophesied so long ago and God's will shall be done then to now.

Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:78-79). Each sunrise is a gift and a reminder that Christ the Dayspring is the Light of the World (John 9:5) shining anew. In a world full of stress and mess, Christ's way of peace is offered new each morning for us to have hope and continue our journey in faith and His love.

Let us sing praise morning by morning to our Lord with His Word given in this Song of Zechariah!

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Michael



Worship Assistants ~ FEBRUARY



	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Acolyte	Corbin Brown	Luke Hoffman	Jordan Hoffman	Bryson Lineberger
Crucifer	Will Clark	Lillian Robinson	Bram Comer	Olivia Berghello
Lector	Jeanette Myers	Todd Carpenter	Janie Peak	Pam Overcash
Assistant Minister	Norman Overcash	Nancy Witman	Adam DeLuca	Nancy Witman
First Aid/AED/CPR	Mark Thornburg	Ervin Hoffman	Peery Linkous	Debra Hoffman

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

ALTAR FLOWERS FEBRUARY

Feb. 4 ~ Given by Josh & Amy Brown in honor of Corbin's birthday.

Feb. 11 ~ Given by the Outreach Committee.

Feb. 18 ~ Given by the children of Othell Carpenter in her memory.

Feb. 25 ~ Given by Bob & Jenny Williamson in honor of their anniversary.



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

2024 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

If you'd like to donate altar flowers in 2024 the following Sundays are still available: April 7 and July 7.
Please call or text Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451 to sign up.



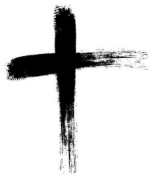
Thank you to all for serving as Lector for our morning worship service. We appreciate your talent for reading and your willingness to serve.

If there is anyone who is interested in being a Lector, please contact Lisa Burch 704-675-2294 by text or email at 19lburch60@gmail.com.

Again, thank you.

The Worship & Music Committee





ASH WEDNESDAY ~ February 14
7:00 pm Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

*All go to the same place; all
come from dust, and to dust
all return. -Ecclesiastes 3:20*

Lent 2024

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. This is also St. Valentine's Day but this is how Lent falls this year! Maybe the themes of godly love and godly discipline do have some connections? Come and see!

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 *Disciplines*

Pray. Fast. Give. Humble yourself. Follow Jesus Christ. He transforms and saves us.

LORD willing, during Lent 2024, a series on Biblical Meditation will be offered for our fellowship.

A Taize Prayer Service, offering time for meditation together, will be offered each Wednesday at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. The Scriptures for your contemplation are below:

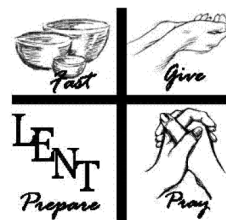
February 21 - Psalm 46:10 – Be still and know that I AM

February 28 - Psalm 1:2 – Meditate on the Gift of Torah (*extra nos*)

March 6 - Psalm 4 – Meditation and Pondering on our Beds

March 13 - Psalm 119:164 – Meditation A to Z

March 20 - Psalm 104 – Meditation on the Good Creation



You are Invited!

Love Your Neighbor Sunday

February 11, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Lutheran Chapel Church

702 N. New Hope Road

Gastonia, NC 28054

Reception in Fellowship Hall following worship.

**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.

H A P P Y
Valentine's Day



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Attention Lutheran Chapel Members! Please check the current church directory and make sure all your contact information is correct - address, home phone and/or mobile phone number and email address.

Send updates/corrections to churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org.



CIRCLE NEWS

- ⇒ *Esther Circle* will be meeting on Monday, February 5 at 10:00 in the **Fellowship Hall**.
- ⇒ *Rebecca Circle* will gather at the **home of Janie Peak** on Monday, February 5 at 7pm.



ATTENTION OWLS!

(Older Wiser LutheranS)

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

Big Dave's Family Seafood

(123 Commercial Dr., Forest City)

Thursday, February 15th

11:00am

Be at the church by 10:00 if you'd like to ride in the church van.

Dear Lutheran Chapel Members and Friends,

The Courtyard Beautification Committee wishes to thank you for the opportunity to work together to restore, repair, and sustain the gardens the forefathers of our church envisioned years ago. It is our hope that work can begin soon. We ask you to prayerfully consider being a part of helping this dream become a vital part of our church life. Any questions you may have can be directed to any member of the Beautification Committee. Your contributions should be made payable to Lutheran Chapel with Courtyard Beautification in the memo line.

Trusting in faith, when God puts a dream in our hearts, He will help us see it through. *God looked at everything He created and it was very good.* (Genesis 1:31)

Sylvia Fogle
Courtyard Beautification Committee Member



FROM THE TREASURER...

Lutheran Chapel Income Statement Actual vs Budget for 12 months of the year ending 12/31/2023:

	Actual December 2023	Actual YTD	2023 Budget YTD	2023 Budget Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$ 60,187.83	\$361,982.14	\$369,182.00	\$ (7,199.86)
Distributions	\$ 33,747.09	\$324,539.60	\$ 371,431.00	\$ (46,891.40)
Net Cash	\$ 26,440.74	\$37,442.54		



**Treasurer
Report**

With the month of December donations exceeding expenses by over \$26,000, the year to date has a positive balance of over \$37,000. Although total year's donations were \$7,000 below budget, the actual expenses were almost \$47,000 below budget.

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



We love because he first loved us. ~1 John 4:19

Music Notes



In December, I shared with you some information about a community of believers who have created a place of contemplative prayer and exploration in Christ's will for our lives. Next month, we are going to start using some of their music as we walk through the season of Lent.

The music is contemplative in nature which means that in form, it helps us to set aside the things that are busying up our mind and heart in order to rest in the Trinity of our God. This happens through simple music and the word of God.

The following was written by Brother Roger:

From the depths of the human condition a secret aspiration rises up. Caught in the anonymous rhythms of schedules and timetables, men and women of today are implicitly thirsting for an essential reality, for an inner life.

Nothing is more conducive to a communion with the living God than a meditative common prayer with, as its high point, singing that never ends and that continues in the silence of one's heart when one is alone again. When the mystery of God becomes tangible through the simple beauty of symbols, when it is not smothered by too many words, then prayer with others, far from exuding monotony and boredom, awakens us to heaven's joy on earth.

For many Christians down through the ages, a few words repeated endlessly have been a road to contemplation. When these words are sung, then perhaps they have even more of an impact on the whole personality, penetrating its very depths.

. . . Prayer is a serene force at work within human beings, stirring them up, changing their hearts, never allowing them to close their eyes . . . From it we draw the energy . . . to transform the human condition and to make the earth a place fit to live in.

Prayer for Each Day; GIA Publications, Inc. © 1998, 1997 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé.

FEBRUARY LOVE OFFERING **With Friends, Inc. - Youth Crisis Shelter**

February's love offering will be sent to With Friends Inc. – Youth Crisis Shelter serving our community since 1990. With Friends is a not-for-profit, comprehensive, community-based youth serving organization. A team of trained staff is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist youth and their families. The shelter provides 24-hour emergency shelter for up to 21 days for 9 youth – male and female – ages 10-17. Transitional living program provides supportive service to 8 young men – 16-21 years of age for up to 24 months. Their mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of young people who are homeless, in crisis or at risk. With Friends also provides counseling, outreach services, skill building, spiritual enrichment, recreation, follow-up and referral services – all working to promote family involvement and working to reunite and strengthen families.

The shelter has proven to be effective in preventing youth from ever entering the foster care system and juvenile justice system. Free services are available for youth in Gaston County as well as surrounding counties. Thanks to caring contributions, the shelter is able to provide services to many youths each year. Their dedicated and committed staff needs our help to continue to serve our troubled youth. We appreciate your help and donations to this organization.

Thank you,

Social Ministry Committee

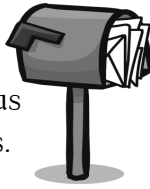


FROM THE MAILBOX...

Dear Lutheran Chapel,

Thank you all so much for the generous monetary gift I received for Christmas. I appreciate your thoughtfulness, the support and kindness I receive not just during the holiday season but throughout the year. I appreciate it more than you know.

Janet McKinney



Thank you

To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

From the Brookside staff, we would like to thank you for the gift card donations during the holiday season. Our families were so grateful for the blessings. We couldn't have asked for a better partnership.

Many blessings to your church!

Rosiland Wilson, School Social Worker

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

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Corbin Brown.....	1	David Mull	11
Wendy Robinson.....	1	Frances Ford.....	13
Rachel Anthony.....	2	James Hovis.....	13
Brinkley Finch.....	2	Alexander Goedl.....	15
Jeff Stokes	5	Wes Beam.....	17
Jessica Thornburg.....	5	Elyse Hoffman.....	22
Jason Lineberger	8	Lynda Ellington.....	23
Mary Scott Robinson.....	9	Vickie Beam	24
Kay Robinson.....	10	Katherine Heilig	26
Ron Behringer	11	Henry Hoffman.....	28

anniversaries





Drew & Katie Carpenter.....	12
Ray, Jr. & Charlotte Jenkins.....	13
Robert & Kelly Andrews	17
Bob & Jenny Williamson	27
Wes & Vickie Beam	29



Let's Celebrate!

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

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	2 9:00 CBS (FH) 	3 9:30 Hungry Peeps (Ch)
4 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	5 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Esther Circle (FH) 6:00 Rebecca Circle @ Janie Peak's home	6 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet 5:30 CBS (CR/CH/4 CIRm)	7 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Evening Service (Ch)	8 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	9 9:00 CBS (FH)	10 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
11 <i>Love Your Neighbor Sunday</i> 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Reception (FH) 11:05 Luther Choir 11:35 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	12 8:30 Preschool	13 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet 5:30 CBS (CR/CH/4 CIRm)	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Worship Service (S) 	15 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Bible Study (L) 11:00 OWLS @ Big Dave's Family Seafood	16	17 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
18 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Confirmation (YR) 11:30 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	19 8:30 Preschool <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	20 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet 5:30 CBS (CR/CH/4 CIRm)	21 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Taize Prayer Svc. (S)	22 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	23 9:00 CBS (FH)	24 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
25 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:05 Luther Choir 11:35 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	26 8:30 Preschool	27 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet 5:30 CBS (CR/CH/4 CIRm)	28 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Taize Prayer Svc. (S)	29 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L) 		

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Chapel News

FEBRUARY 2024

Michael C. Comer, Pastor

Church Office: 704-864-6491

Preschool: 704-864-5136

churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org

lutheranchapelchurch.org

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.