



Chapel News

A Publication of Lutheran Chapel Church

702 N. New Hope Road

Gastonia, NC 28054

Pastor Michael C. Comer

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MARCH 2024

On Contemplating the Passion of our Lord – Lent 2024

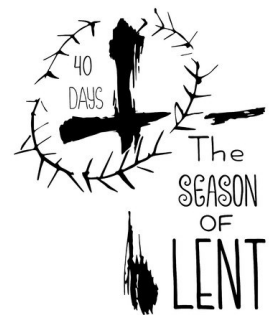
Betrayal. Lies. Injustice. Cruelty. Suffering. Death. These are all constituent parts of contemplating the Passion of our Lord Jesus. They were part of the human condition then. They are part of our human condition now.

How many evils do human beings made in God's own image do to other human beings made in God's own image? It is justified, right? How often do we self-justify and self-rationalize why evils are to be done? "And this is the judgement: the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness" (John 3:19). God help us.

Thanks be to God that He does and the way of the Cross of Jesus points us to that sacrificial love which is the ultimate hope for our broken human race.

Lent is the season of the Christian year that lifts up the forty days of temptation and trial that Jesus endured for us (Matthew 4, Luke 4, and Hebrews 4). It is a time to return to the LORD, to humble ourselves, and by God's grace, to grow in our faith.

Let us take up the gift and spiritual exercise of biblical meditation. It is hard and yet a profound gift for all of us who follow Christ to contemplate His suffering and His journey to the Cross for us.



Peace in Christ,

Pastor Michael

- During Lent, a **Taize Prayer Service**, offering time for meditation together, will be offered **each Wednesday at 7:00** in the Chapel.
- The Scriptures for your contemplation are below:
 - 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



Worship Assistants ~ MARCH



	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24 Palm Sunday	March 31 Easter
Acolyte	Corbin Brown	Luke Hoffman	Bryson Lineberger	Elena Hoffman	Hunter Clark
Crucifer	Will Clark	Ethan Lineberger	Bram Comer	Maddie Potter	Christian Mull
Lector	Beth Swindler	Amy Brown	Lisa Burch	Josh Carpenter	Jason Sanders
Assistant Minister	Sylvia Fogle	Chris Lowe	Adam DeLuca	Norman Overcash	Sylvia Fogle
Banner Bearer				Olivia Berghello	Will Clark
Bible Bearer				Luke Hoffman	Bram Comer
Torch Bearers				Jordan Hoffman Mason Swindler	Noah Comer Mason Swindler
First Aid/ AED/CPR	Gene Weaver	Matt Hoffman	Steve Clark	Crown Hoffman	Tammy Royston

Council Members of the Month: Dan Lineberger & Jenny Williamson

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

MARCH ALTAR FLOWERS

Mar. 3 ~ Given by the Comer family in honor of Pastor Michael's birthday.

Mar. 10 ~ Given by Lisa Burch.

Mar. 17 ~ Given by Judy Anton in memory of Bill Anton and John McCutcheon.

Mar. 24 ~ Palm Sunday

Mar. 31 ~ Given by Sylvia Fogle & Cathy Robinson.



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

Taize Prayer Service



Come Worship with Us

Seder Meal

Maundy Thursday, March 28 ~ 6:00pm

Family Life Center



Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: About midnight I will go out through Egypt. Every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne to the firstborn of the female slave who is behind the hand mill, and the firstborn of the livestock. Then there will be a loud cry throughout the whole land of Egypt, such as has never been or will ever be again. But not a dog shall growl at any of the Israelites—not at the people, not at animals—so that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:Tell the whole congregation of Israelthey are to take a lamb for each family... without blemish....they shall eat it roasted over the fire....This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord.

These lines from Exodus briefly describe the Passover of God from the last plague issued to Egypt. Passover is the most holy of Jewish holidays and commemorations, and is exactly what Jesus and the disciples were doing in that upper room the night before the crucifixion.

Passover is more than a festival. It is an elaborate teaching experience intended to call people to their identity as the People of God. It is a way to confess faith in God who has acted in history for our benefit out of his boundless love.

Since the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD Jews celebrate the Passover in their homes with a Passover Seder. Seder is the Hebrew word for “order” or “procedure” because of the fixed order of the service.

On Thursday, April 14, also known as Maundy Thursday, from the Latin word “mandatum” meaning mandate or commandment, our Lutheran Chapel family will have a Christian Seder Meal at 6:00 in the Family Life Center We offer this service every other year on Maundy Thursday. The meal should not be considered a full evening meal as such but there will be plenty of food to eat. It is a meal which involves all 5 senses. The Seder is one of the most beautiful and meaningful services that we offer. It joins our Lutheran Chapel family with a 3000 year old community of faith, and is a very good way to prepare for the observance of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter.

One of Jesus’ last earthly acts was the celebration of the Passover. Gathering His disciples in a small room in Jerusalem, He led them in a Passover Seder, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” (Luke 22:15)

The Worship and Music Committee is putting together plans for our Seder Meal on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00PM in the Family Life Center. We need to get an approximate number to plan accordingly. Please indicate below if you plan to attend and how many will be in your group and return to the church office by **March 24**. Or you may simply call/email the church office with your information at 704-864-6491 or churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurh.org.

Looking forward to seeing you at this meaningful service.

Name _____ # Attending _____

Holy Week 2024

Palm Sunday, March 24

10:00 Holy Communion

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark



Maundy Thursday, March 28

6:00 Seder Meal in the Family Life Center

*We remember the Passover of our spiritual mothers and fathers in the faith.
We keep the Holy Communion in obedience of the sacrificial love of our Lord Jesus.
Remember. Anticipate.*

Good Friday, March 29

Noon - Stations of the Cross in the Chapel

7:00 Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

*The death of our Lord Jesus for us and all creation is remembered this day. Why is it called good?
Here is revealed the love to the end to save all who believe by the Cross of Christ.*



Easter Sunday, March 31

7:00 Sunrise Service in the Church Cemetery

A simple fellowship breakfast to follow in Family Life Center

10:00 Festival Service of Holy Communion

*The resurrection of our Lord Jesus, the firstborn of the dead, the faithful witness,
the true ruler of all, the Alpha and Omega, is celebrated this Day of days.
Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!*



FIRST COMMUNION

WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 23, 2024

10:00 ~ 11:30

A First Communion workshop will be offered for children of our fellowship on Saturday, March 23 from 10:00 to 11:30. This will provide a Bible study on the meanings of Holy Communion and prepare each child to receive this gift for the first time at the Palm Sunday Service, March 24.

Please call the church office 704-864-6491 or call/text Pastor Michael at 704-787-6439 to sign up or with any questions.

Farewell Reception for Kim Rundzieher

Kim has faithfully served the congregation of Lutheran Chapel as our Administrative Assistant for the past five years.

Please plan to attend a *Farewell Reception* for Kim on Sunday, March 17 immediately following worship to honor

and thank her for serving God and His people at Lutheran Chapel.



**Farewell
Celebration**

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.

LUTHERAN CHAPEL
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES
January 21, 2024

Council made decisions and discussed the following:

- The new council took vows.
- A financial report was presented and overall Lutheran Chapel is in excellent financial shape. As of December 31, 2023, revenue as compared to expenses reflect a positive balance of over \$37,000. A portion of this revenue is earmarked for the Courtyard Beautification project. Memorial Fund money that has been untouched for years will be used towards the courtyard project.
- Jenny Williamson volunteered to be 2024 Vice President and was unanimously approved by council.
- Council representatives were assigned/renewed for church committees.
- Kim Rundzieher submitted a letter of intent to retire as of March 28. The search for a replacement is underway.
- Discussion was held regarding security. Do we need more security for events outside of Sunday morning services or do we utilize our own security team given the training is sufficient. A reactionary class can be provided for further training.
- Parsonage heat system needs a new motherboard or may need to be replaced. The Property Committee is watching it for now while obtaining bids for repair/replacement.

The next full council meeting, including new council members, is scheduled for March 17, 2024.

FROM THE TREASURER...

Lutheran Chapel Income Statement Actual vs Budget for 1st month of the year ending 01/31/24:

	Actual January 2024	Actual YTD	2024 Budget YTD	2024 Budget Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$ 22,302.44	\$ 22,302.44	\$31,458.33	\$ (9,155.89)
Distributions	\$ 31,659.65	\$ 31,659.65	\$ 30,911.00	\$ 748.65
Net Cash	\$ (9,357.21)	\$ (9,357.21)		



**Treasurer
Report**

With the first month of the year expenses exceeded donations by over \$9,000. This is typical for the first month of the year. We will be keeping a close eye on the budget as we go into the new year.

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



SAVE THE DATE!

A celebration marking the **100th anniversary** of the church building is planned for June 9, 2024. More details will be provided closer to the event, but please add this important milestone to your calendar.



CIRCLE NEWS

- ⇒ *Esther Circle* will be meeting on Monday, March 4 at 10:00 in the **Fellowship Hall**.
- ⇒ *Rebecca Circle* will gather at the **home of Susan Cooper-Cox** on Monday, March 4 at 7pm. Cathy Robinson will provide the program.



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, March 14th

11:00am

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

The *COURTYARD BEAUTIFICATION* Committee is extremely excited about our congregation's financial support for the restoring, repairing and sustaining of the gardens of our church. Be sure to check out the poster in the Narthex of the church to get an idea of how beautiful the garden is going to be.

Donations can be made to Lutheran Chapel Church with Courtyard Beautification Project in the memo line.



2024 YEARBOOK

Attention Committee Leaders: It's time to get the 2024 Yearbook in order. Please send an updated committee report and membership list to the church office as soon as possible (churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org). The goal is to have it completed and ready for distribution by the end of March.

Thank you for your cooperation!

WOODEN BOWLS NEEDED!



Do you have a wooden bowl(s) that can be borrowed for the Seder Meal? If so, please mark your name on the bottom and drop off in the kitchen prior to Holy Week. They will be washed and ready for return following the Seder Meal on March 28. Thank you!

From the church office...

The next *Chapel News* will be a **combined** April-May newsletter.

Please think ahead for any information you'd like to include for May. The deadline for submitting articles is March 18.



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.



Music Notes

I Bind Unto Myself Today (Saint Patrick's Breastplate)

This hymn or poem is adapted from a work attributed to Saint Patrick who was a missionary to Ireland in the fifth century. He is known as the Apostle of Ireland.

The lyrics below were adapted by Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895). She was born in Ireland. Not only was she a poet and hymnwriter, she also cared for the poor and opened a school for the deaf.

As with many hymns, there are different versions with different verses. It can be found in the ELW on page 450 and only includes 4 verses as well as the "Christ be with Me" stanza.

This poem or lyric is in iambic pentameter with four feet per line (de-um, de-um, de-um, de-dum). Often at the end of the last line there is an extra unstressed beat (de-dum-de).

I do not think a summary of I Bind Unto Myself Today (Saint Patrick's Breastplate) would do it justice. I do, however recommend you look it up – in the hymnal or online. Note the scope of subjects brought up and how they all fit together with each other, Christ's work, and the Trinity in our Christian life. It can also be helpful to see what the focus of the poem is about and what each stanza is about. The focus of the poem is taking on God and his good for Christian life and work, even battle. There are eight stanzas. The first and the last focus on the Trinity. In between these bookends, the stanzas cover the work of Christ, God's creation, the power of God, two stanzas increasing an emphasis as to the threats to be resisted, and an interlude of sorts about Christ. Again, it concludes with the Trinity; this time in more detail. The best way to understand a poem is to read it and reread it with enjoyment.

Includes notes "By Paul / March 17, 2022", Mission Valley Community Chapel

MARCH LOVE OFFERING

The Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center ~ A Domestic Violence Shelter

Our love offering for March will be sent to The Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center/A Domestic Violence Shelter. The Shelter operates under the direction of the Gaston County Department of Health and Human Resources and has been in operation since April 1982. The Home serves as a temporary shelter for clients to work on goals to establish new housing, jobs, daycare, etc. while providing a safe, emergency residence where victims can live in times of crisis. Other services provided include counseling, court advocacy, and support group meetings for women and a children's programs. When the families leave, the staff wants them to be strong, hopeful for the future and know that there is always someone only a phone call away if help is needed.

Domestic violence statistics continue to rise; therefore it is so important for each of us to take a stand against this deadly and violent problem affecting many innocent women and children. In the United States, a woman is assaulted every nine seconds. We can all play a role in stopping violence and creating a safe environment for people to live and work.

Also, the Shelter is now part of Gaston County's Hope United Survivor Network Family, as well as Gaston County's Family Justice Center and The Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center. Hope United serves survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse and human trafficking. Survivors can access many different legal services on site such as court orders and counseling. Working together, these ministries can help survivors begin their journey towards safety, healing, and hope.

The Shelter depends on donations from private citizens, public and private organizations, local industries, and religious groups throughout the county. Please prayerfully consider giving a donation to this ministry and help to make a difference.

Social Ministry Committee



THE CATHY MABRY
CLONINGER CENTER
A Domestic Violence Shelter



SEND A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

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

*For as the earth brings forth its
shoots and as a garden causes
what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause
righteousness and praise to
spring up before all the nations.*



~Isaiah 61:11



MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Johnny Carpenter.....	1	Braylon Beam.....	12
Gene Weaver	1	Don Boyette	14
Leon Moretz	2	Joel Boyette.....	15
Nancy Witman.....	2	Timothy Davis.....	18
Michael Comer	3	Jeanette Myers.....	18
Charles Heilig, III.....	3	Charles Edwards.....	21
Sean Rankin.....	4	Landon Goedl.....	21
Jenny Williamson.....	6	Debra Hoffman.....	21
K.J. Bird	9	Scott Robinson	26
Drew Carpenter	10	Katherine Carpenter	27
Walt Carpenter	11	Lee Ann Lindler	28
Scott Shealy.....	11	Tammy Royston.....	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Jon & Margaret Berghello.....	9
Norman & Pam Overcash.....	10



Let's Celebrate!

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

Dear Lutheran Chapel Church,

Thank you for donating Food Lion gift cards to Woodhill Elementary School's needy families for the holidays. Your support meant the world to us! Without it, we would not be able to have the impact we do on our community and world.




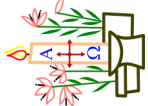

Thank you,
School Social Worker

FROM THE MAILBOX...



Daylight Saving
Time Begins
March 10

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00 CBS (FH)	2 9:30 Hungry Peeps (Ch)
3 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	4 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Esther Circle (FH) 7:00 Rebecca Circle @ Susan Cooper-Cox home	5 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 CBS (CR/CH/4 CIRm)	6 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Taize Prayer Svc. (Ch)	7 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	8 9:00 CBS (FH)	9 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:05 Luther Choir 11:35 Chancel Choir 12:50 Instrument Reh. 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	11 8:30 Preschool	12 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 CBS (CR/CH/4 CIRm)	13 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Taize Prayer Svc. (Ch)	14 8:30 Preschool 11:00 OWLS @ Big Dave's Family Seafood	15 9:00 CBS (FH)	16 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 12:00 Private Event (FH)
17 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Farewell Reception 11:00 Confirmation (YR) 11:00 Council Mtg. (CR) 11:30 Chancel Choir 12:50 Instrument Reh. 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	18 8:30 Preschool Newsletter Articles Due	19 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 CBS (CR/CH/4 CIRm) 	20 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers 7:00 Taize Prayer Svc. (Ch)	21 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	22 9:00 CBS (FH)	23 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 10:00 1 st Communion Workshop
24 Palm Sunday 8:30 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:05 Luther Choir 11:35 Chancel Choir 12:50 Instrument Reh. 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	25 8:30 Preschool	26 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 CBS (CR/CH/4 CIRm)	27 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers	28 Maundy Thursday 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Seder Meal (FLC)	29 Good Friday 12:00 Stations of the Cross (Ch) 7:00 Tenebrae Service(S) 	30 Holy Saturday 
31 Easter Sunday 7:00 Sunrise Service 8:00 Breakfast (FLC) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 8:00 Faith Group (FH)						

Lutheran Chapel Church
702 N. New Hope Road
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MARCH 2024

Michael C. Comer, Pastor

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Preschool: 704-864-5136

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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.