



# Chapel News

February 2024

We at Lutheran Chapel Church are called by God to PROCLAIM Christ as Lord and Savior, to SEEK and to 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.

## THE BIBLE IN A YEAR DISCIPLINE



One can come to every Sunday Service, to little church on Wednesdays, and to study at Sunday School and still not get through the entire Bible. One way to keep such a discipline is the Bible in a Year discipline, which we use from Our Daily Bread and that is reprinted in the weekly bulletin Sunday by Sunday. As Lutheran Christians, we believe, teach and confess that the Word of God is given us here and that the Holy Spirit uses the Word to create faith and grow us in Christ. Claim this gift for yourself regularly in 2025!

From keeping this discipline, I offer some insights from my reading. Name this patriarch. Parental favoritism (Genesis 25:28). Death threats (Genesis 27:42). Marriage to two sisters (Genesis 29:21-30). Wrestling God (Genesis 32:28). Rape of his daughter (Genesis 34:1-4). Incest mess (Genesis 35:22). Giver of the coat of many colors (Genesis 37). Loss of sons – at least he thought so (Genesis 42:36). Famine mess (Genesis 42:1-2). Refugee in Egypt (Genesis 46:1-4). The answer is (hope you have read this far!) – the Patriarch Jacob, renamed by God to be Israel.

Why does the Holy Spirit preserve this story of Israel's family trouble for us? What does it say to you contemplating all these twists and turns? Do you see the tensions that Luther succinctly called "saint and sinner at the same time" here? Maybe one of the big lessons – where is forgiveness in this story (Genesis 49-50)?

I love the quote attributed to Corrie Ten Boom: "Forgiveness is releasing the prisoner and realizing that the prisoner was you."

May our Father in Heaven bless our listening to the Word given us and especially this Bible in a Year discipline.

Pastor Michael Comer

*Pastor Comer*

### Worship Schedule

#### Sundays

8:30 am ~ Fellowship

9:00 am ~ Sunday School/Bible Study

10:00 am ~ Worship in Sanctuary

*Sunday Worship Service is streamed live for those unable to attend in person.*

#### Wednesdays

7:00 pm ~ Chapel

Evening Worship



**FROM THE TREASURER...**

	<b>Actual Nov. 2024</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>2024 Budget YTD</b>	<b>2024 Budget Over/(Under)</b>
<b>Donations</b>	\$ 32,752.96	\$327,702.21	\$346,041.67	\$ (18,339.46)
<b>Distributions</b>	\$ 22,084.43	\$293,253.72	\$345,976.58	\$ (51,256.20)
<b>Net Cash</b>	\$ 11,229.11	\$ 34,448.49		

*If you have any questions, please contact James Hovis, Treasurer or Terry Ratchford, Finance Committee Chair.*

**JANUARY CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

- Approval was received from the council to accept Sudonna McManus Handy into membership.
- The 25-year celebration and recognition of Mrs. Janet McKinney’s Preschool Leadership was discussed. No date has been set yet. The plan is for recognition during the service, a reception after the service, and to invite the preschool parents and children to the service and reception.
- The future use of the sanctuary basement was discussed. Peery provided an update on the repairs and the property committee’s work to date, identifying and resolving the sources of the water leaks during heavy rainfall.
- Incineration of wet records has been completed. New storage shelves and undamaged paper records are now located in the sanctuary basement. The council recommended locking the records room door. Seth recommended consideration of a third-party shred vendor where shred bins are secured (only accessible by the vendor) and contents are shredded periodically. James referenced the IRS’ requirement for a written security plan that LCC should proactively consider that includes actions for handling an information breach.
- The future use of the Robinson endowment was brought up. The Endowment funds were used in the past for Lutheridge camp scholarships and other youth trips. David and Matt expressed an interest in working with the appropriate committee on the topic of engaging more youth in current and future activities.
- The Carbonite computer backup contract renews in January. Deborah obtained pricing information for a bare metal backup option. The cost would be between \$288 to \$559. The council agreed to stay with the data-only backup option.
- The 2025 Church Directory update was discussed including interest in including pictures in the next update. The last picture directory was published in 2019.
- Mark McCauley has served updating the LCC website for many years and has requested to be replaced. Drew Carpenter, Katherine Sanders and Debbie Jean Wankel have volunteered.
- Rob reported that the center arch appears to be sinking near the FLC entrance. This was observed when they salted entrances last Sunday.
- A security incident was reported on the clothing donation’s side porch. Camera surveillance caught an individual pushing bags of clothing through the window screen (damaging the screen) and fleeing to the woods. There have been 2 -3 events within the past year of vandalism or trespassing (individuals sleeping on the side porch). The council discussed potential actions that may prevent property damage and increase safety for church staff and preschool.

# Upcoming EVENTS



## SEASON OF LENT

The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 5th**.

Worship Service will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Pray. Fast. Give. Humble yourself. Follow Jesus Christ. He transforms and saves us. During Lent 2024, a series on Biblical Meditation will be offered for our fellowship.

A Taizé Prayer Service, offering time for meditation together, will be offered each Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.



## SHROVE TUESDAY

The Men of the Church will be sponsoring a pancake supper on **Tuesday, March 4th** at the Family Life Center beginning at 6:00 pm. This supper will be held in conjunction with Shrove Tuesday. Pastor Comer will have a brief presentation explaining the origin of Shrove Tuesday and its meaning. Details to follow.

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



## OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS)

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

**Thursday, February 20th @ 11:00 am**

At Dinos, Bessemer City  
Please contact Susan Lewis  
if you want to carpool.



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

### CIRCLE MEETINGS

***Esther Circle*** will meet on **Monday,**  
**February 3rd @ 10:00 am** in the Fel-  
lowship Hall.

***Rebecca Circle*** will meet **Monday,**  
**February 3rd @ 7:00 pm** at  
Suzie Ward's house  
3015 Colony Ridge Dr.  
Gastonia



The Social Ministry Committee would like to sincerely thank everyone for your many gifts over the last few months. During the Thanksgiving holidays, we as a church family made a real difference in the lives of many families. Your generosity is overwhelming. Because of your generous donations, we were able to provide 127 families with a \$25.00 gift card through the schools. 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.

This year, our church family filled 84 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 also continuing to purchase food items for the Salvation Army food pantry. Families may go to the Center of Hope on Broad Street for food, clothes and assistance with jobs and housing. A member of our church obtained funds of \$250 to be used for food for the Salvation Army. So, in addition to food, we were able to purchase 45 pairs of socks, 24 beanies or toboggans, and 40 blankets to be given to the homeless.

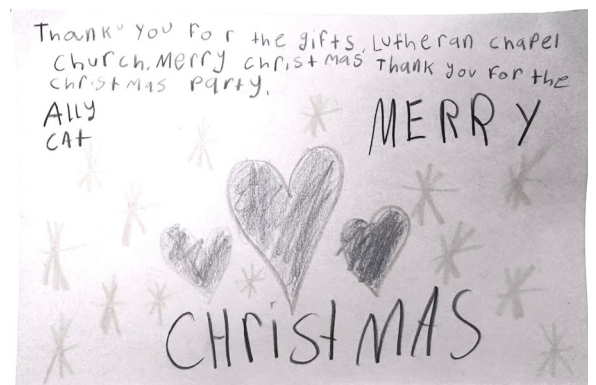
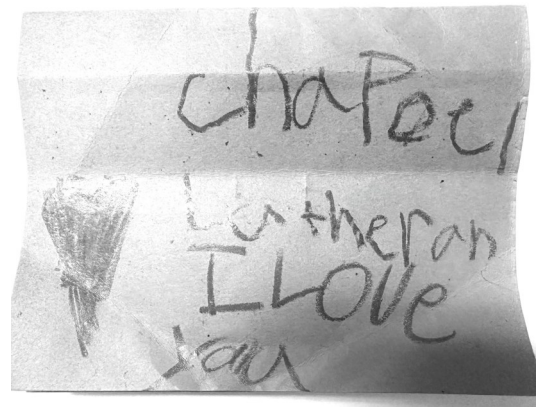
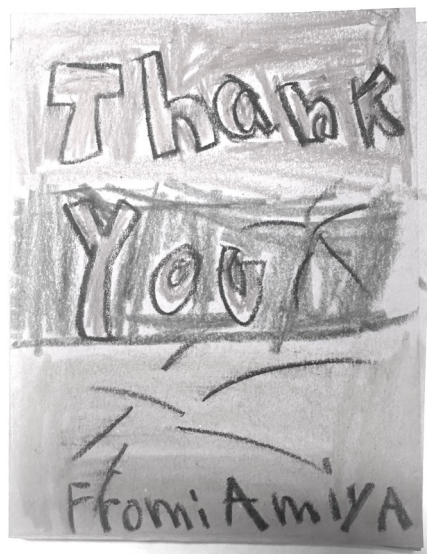
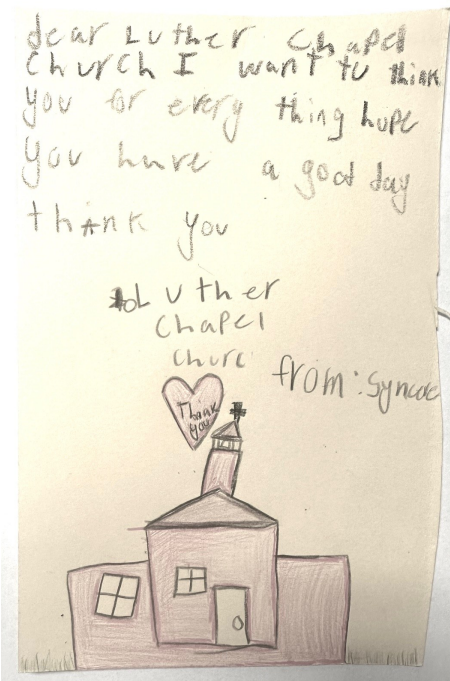
To help our neighbors in need, a donation \$10,345 was given from our congregation to Samaritan's Purse to help families in our North Carolina mountains rebuild their lives after Hurricane Helene. Please continue to pray and support our neighbors.

In addition to our Outreach committee's helping the Bessemer City Boys and Girls Club, a member of our congregation raised \$1,600 from friends and family to provide Christmas for 8 children that were brought to his attention through a member of our church.

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

### Boys and Girls Club Thank you Cards



Thank  
you

I would like to thank everyone for all of your thoughts, prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits. Each one of them mean so much to me. There is so much love within Lutheran Chapel. I am healing but it is a very slow process and I have full intention of getting back to something like I was before my back gave out on me. I hope each of you had a wonderful Holiday season.

*Steve Bell*

**Many cards came in thanking the church for the Thanksgiving Meals provided by LCC. An example..**

Dear Pastor Comer and the Congregation,  
Thank you so very much for the Thanksgiving gift cards your church gave us for our families in need. Their parents are truly grateful because they did not know how they were going to be able to have a meal for their children without that help. We are blessed to have your church in our community and I pray that everyone at LCC has a beautiful Christmas Season!  
Holbrook School Social Worker



## LOVE OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY

The love offering for February will go to the Backpack Weekend Food Program. For the past 13 years Lutheran Chapel Church along with other partners have helped the BWFP provide more than 2 million meals to needy students in Gaston County. Recent studies indicate nearly 31 percent of children in Gaston County live in low income households with nearly 16 percent of children in our county living in households without a reliable source of food to eat. At the present we at Lutheran Chapel are providing food for 10 children at Robinson Elementary and 3 children at Hawks Nest. We supply this food for \$341 per child per school year.

Please consider a gift to the February Love Offering so that we can continue to provide food for these children.

Thank you,

*Outreach Committee*



## CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

Please remember that we will continue to collect food for Crisis Assistance Ministry throughout the year. You may place food in the blue collection box in the hallway near our fellowship hall and in the CAM basket in the narthex of the sanctuary. The Social Ministry team will deliver to CAM when the box is full – so keep us busy! Thank you so much!

*Social Ministry Committee*



# FEBRUARY

## BIRTHDAYS

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



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

## 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





## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Attention Lutheran Chapel Members! Please check the current church directory and make sure all your contact information is correct including: address, home phone and/or mobile phone number and email address. Also note if you would like to opt in or out of the weekly email, phone announcements or newsletter.

Send updates/corrections to [churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org).

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVE!

### February Worship Assistants



	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
<b>Acolyte</b>	Corbin Brown	Luke Hoffman	Elena Hoffman	Hunter Clark
<b>Crucifer</b>	Bram Comer	Maddie Potter	Jordan Hoffman	Christian Mull
<b>Assistant Minister</b>	Norman Overcash	Adam DeLuca	Sylvia Fogel	Adam DeLuca
<b>Lector</b>	Ann Edwards	Maddie Potter	Amy Brown	Kelly Andrews
<b>First Aid/AED/CPR</b>	Mark Thornburg	Ervin Hoffman	Perry Linkous	Gene Weaver
<b>Council Members of the Month: Perry Linkous and Seth Myers</b>				

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

### February Altar Flowers

Cost of flowers is \$55.00.

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



<b>February 2</b>	Given to the Glory of God in honor of Corbin's 13th birthday by Josh and Amy
<b>February 9</b>	Given to the Glory of God In memory of Othell Carpenter given by her children
<b>February 16</b>	Given to the Glory of God by Clayton and Gwen Lewis in thanks of our wonderful church community at Lutheran Chapel Church
<b>February 23</b>	Given to the Glory of God in honor of Elyse Hoffman's Birthday by Debra and Henry

# Thank you from the staff

Tremendous thanks for the monetary gift, Christmas cards, Christmas yummys, and kindness given to me and my family during Christmas 2024. It is an honor to serve as a parish pastor here at Lutheran Chapel.  
Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Michael

Thank you so much for the generous gift and for your love and support since I have started at Lutheran Chapel. I am thankful to be able to worship with you every week and celebrate Christmas with you. I hope you all had a restful holiday season.

Anna

Thank you so much for your very generous gift at Christmastime. I am touched by your kindness. I pray you had a joyous celebration of our Lord's birth and that 2025 may be a year filled with God's abundant love.

Kathie

Thank you Lutheran Chapel! I am very grateful for the gift. It has been a joy to have served here for over 33 years.

James

Thank you so much for your most generous Christmas gift. I so appreciate your thoughtfulness. Your kindness and the support I receive means more than you'll ever know. I appreciate all the years that I have been a part of Lutheran Chapel Preschool and thank you for the opportunity to serve and be a part of so many children's learning experience.

Love in Christ,

Ms. Janet

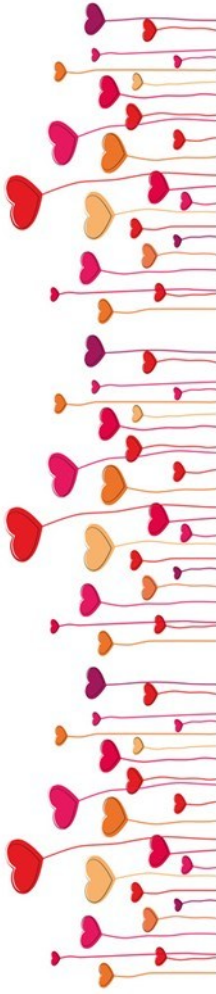


Thank you Lutheran Chapel for the generous Christmas gift. It has been a pleasure getting to know you all. You really have a special family of faith here.

Blessings and health to all you in 2025!

Susan



# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
							
<b>2</b> 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>3</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Esther Circle (FH) 7:00 Rebecca Circle @ Suzie Ward's house	<b>4</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH)	<b>5</b> 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Vespers (S)	<b>6</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>7</b> 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH)	<b>8</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 4-6 Chosen Mission	
<b>9</b> 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Confirmation (FH) 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>10</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>11</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH)	<b>12</b> 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Vespers (S)	<b>13</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>14</b> 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH) 	<b>15</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)	
<b>16</b> 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Council Mtg. (CR) 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>17</b> 8:30 Preschool 	<b>18</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH)	<b>19</b> 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Vespers (S)	<b>20</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L) 11:00 OWLS Dinosaurs, Bessemer City Newsletter Articles Due	<b>21</b> 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH)	<b>22</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 4-6 Chosen Mission	
<b>23</b> 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>24</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>25</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH)	<b>26</b> 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Vespers (S)	<b>27</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>28</b> 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH)		

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

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

Church Office: 704-864-6491  
Preschool: 704-864-5136  
churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org  
lutheranchapelchurch.org  
www.facebook.com/lccgastonia

Michael C. Comer, Pastor

# Chapel News

FEBRUARY 2024

