



March 2025 *CHAPEL NEWS*

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.



Lent is the time in the Christian year to return to the LORD. Return to focusing on doing God's will first and foremost. Return to regular attendance at the Sunday Service. Return to God's love who first loved us and loves us forever. Please come for Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. The focus is on the Psalms this Lentan season. If possible, study and contemplate the Psalter for yourself before we gather. What is the Word of God saying to you? How then shall you live?

Peace in Christ, Pastor Michael Comer

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Matthew 6 *The Disciplines of Lent*

Pray. Fast. Give alms. Jesus teaches these three spiritual exercises for us. Why? How will we use these gifts/exercises for our walk with Him?

Wednesday, March 12

Psalm 59 *Attempted Murder*

King Saul's men watch David's house in order to kill him. Are you aware of your spiritual enemies who would destroy you?

Wednesday, March 19

Psalm 60 *The Banner of God's Presence and Victory*

King David battles the enemies of God's people. The banner is raised in our hour of battle. Let us flee to the LORD.

Wednesday, March 26

Psalm 61 *Daily Performing My Vows*

Let us remember our vows from the gift of our baptism and our confirmation. How then shall we live day by day?

Wednesday, April 2

Psalm 62 *Waiting Upon the LORD*

Be silent. Wait upon the LORD. He alone is our rock and ultimate salvation!

Wednesday, April 9

Psalm 63 *Thirsting for God*

What does it mean to be thirsty for God? Are my thirsts and desires focused on the vanity of this age or on the eternal One?



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 13

10:00 Holy Communion

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

Maundy Thursday, April 17

7:00 Holy Communion and Foot Washing

*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. Serve one another. Love one another.*

Good Friday, April 18

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, April 20

7:00 Sunrise Service in the Church Cemetery

A full 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!*



MUSIC NOTES

This article came across my desk a few years ago from The Fellowship, an UMC organization which embraces God's artistic gifts to create world-transforming worship. And although, my work does not include photography, it speaks to how we see what is around us. As you read this, ask yourself if you are seeing the whole picture. When we sing a hymn or worship song are we seeing the depth of the text or are we just singing through it? When we sing or chant the psalm or listen to the Word of God are we listening with our whole mind?



Antidote to Blindness

*Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"
(Matthew 9:40, NRSV)*

Watching me repeatedly stop to take photographs while hiking through a national park, a friend remarked, "I want to see your pictures. I want to see what you're seeing."

Taking photographs helps me see better. The camera lens narrows my focus and helps me see details of the world around me – the shadow of a leaf on a boulder; the crab spider at the center of a flower; the moon seemingly cradled in the bare branches of a tree.

It's easy to rush through the woods – or life – blind to what, or who, is around you. The Pharisees in John's Gospel were blind to the miracle of a blind man's healing and the good news it proclaimed. They couldn't see the details in front of them.

It's easy to dismiss folks, such as the uniformly garbed women I visit at a New Jersey prison, as "sinners." The key is to slow down, look closely and see who is really there. Some inmates committed awful deeds, but they are also women of unique talents and stories: mothers, poets, singers, scholars, immigrants. Viewing photographs can help us pause to share those stories and connect with the Divine held in the images and each other.

The incarnate Jesus sees us – all sinners, all God's children – in the unique details of our lives, calling us to see and embrace one another as individuals as well.

Upcoming EVENTS



ASH WEDNESDAY

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.

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. Gluten free pancakes will be available upon request. 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.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



OWLS

(Older Wiser LutheranS)

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

Thursday, March 20th @ 11:00 am

Ginza Buffet

212 S. New Hope Rd, Gastonia

Please contact Susan Lewis

if you want to carpool.



Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Esther Circle will meet on **Monday, March 3rd @ 10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall.

Rebecca Circle will meet **Monday, March 3rd @ 7:00 pm** at
Ann Edward's house
3705 St. Regis Dr.
Gastonia



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.

2025 YEARBOOK

Attention Committee Leaders

You will be receiving an email with your committee report from last year. Please review, edit and return to the church office no later than Thursday, March 14th. Thank you for your cooperation!



Easter Lily Order



If you wish to place a lily in the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday Service, please fill out the form below and return it along with your payment to the church office by **Sunday, March 23**. Make your check payable to Lutheran Chapel and write *Lily Order* on the memo line. Be sure to pick up your flowers after the Easter Sunday Service.

Number to order: _____ @ \$12.00 each = Total \$ _____

(Please print)

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Placed by: _____



LOVE OFFERING FOR MARCH

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 include counseling, court advocacy, and support group meetings for women and children's programs. Each resident receives personalized services through our in-house therapist, case manager and advocates, in an attempt to empower the survivors to take control of their lives and break free from abuse. 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 toward 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 donating to this ministry and help to make a difference.

Thank you,

Social Ministry Committee



**THE CATHY MABRY
CLONINGER CENTER**
A Domestic Violence Shelter



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



Financials

| | Actual Dec. 2024 | Actual YTD | 2024 Budget YTD | 2024 Budget |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Donations | \$ 57,229.67 | \$384,931.88 | \$377,500.00 | \$ 7,431.88 |
| Distributions | \$ 37,322.57 | \$330,576.29 | \$377,429.00 | \$ (45,252.71) |
| Net Cash | \$ 19,907.10 | \$ 54,355.59 | | |
| | Actual Jan. 2025 | Actual YTD | 2024 Budget YTD | 2025 Budget |
| Donations | \$ 27,253.71 | \$ 27,253.71 | \$ 32,375.00 | \$ (5,121.29) |
| Distributions | \$ 26,120.68 | \$ 26,120.68 | \$ 31,796.75 | \$ (5,542.74) |
| Net Cash | \$ 1,133.03 | \$ 1,133.03 | | |

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

Worship Assistants

| | March 2 | March 9 | March 16 | March 23 | March 30 |
|---|-----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Acolyte | Renwick Royston | Cameron Bell | Corbin Brown | Luke Hoffman | Elena Hoffman |
| Crucifer | Will Clark | Bram Comer | Christian Mull | Maddie Potter | Tammy Royston |
| Assistant Minister | Norman Overcash | Adam DeLuca | Sylvia Fogle | Adam DeLuca | Chris Lowe |
| Lector | Todd Carpenter | Drew Carpenter | Marty Lineburger | Janie Peak | Crown Hoffman |
| First Aid/AED/CPR | Matt Hoffman | Steve Clark | Crown Hoffman | Tammy Royston | Debra Hoffman |
| Council Members of the Month: Drew Carpenter and Don Boyette | | | | | |

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

Altar Flowers

Cost of flowers is \$55.00.

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



| | |
|-----------------|---|
| March 2 | Given in honor of Pastor Michael Comer on his Birthday by Ginny Comer |
| March 9 | Given to the Glory of God In honor of Norman and Pam Overcash for their Wedding Anniversary |
| March 16 | In honor of Charles Edward Birthday given by Katherine, Jason and Baker Sanders |
| March 23 | Given to the Glory of God in memory of Bill Anton and John McCutcheon |
| March 30 | In memory of Jerry Fogle given by Sylvia Fogle to the Glory of God |



MARCH

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| John & Margaret Berghello | 9 |
| Norman & Pam Overcash | 10 |



SEND A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

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

Joel Veale
Terrace Ridge
1251 E Hudson Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054

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

Carlton and Barbara Peacock
151 E Dallas Rd
Apt 616
Stanley NC 28164
Gastonia, NC 28054







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



PSALM 118:24

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

March

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| 2 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH) | 3 8:30 Preschool/Pictures 10:00 Esther Circle (FH) 7:00 Rebecca Circle @ Ann Edwards | 4 8:30 Preschool/Pictures 10:00 Clothing Closet 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH) 6:00 Shrove Tuesday (FLC)  | 5 8:30 Preschool/Pictures 7:00 ASH Wednesday  | 6 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L) | 7 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH) | 1 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 4-6 Chosen Mission |
| 9 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) | 10 8:30 Preschool | 11 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH) | 12 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Evening Prayer (S) | 13 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L) | 14 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH) | 15 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 11-4 Brackett Family Reunion (FLC) |
| 16 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) | 17 8:30 Preschool  | 18 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH) | 19 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Evening Prayer (S) | 20 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L) 11:00 OWLS - Ginza Buffet  | 21 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH) | 22 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 4-6 Chosen Mission (C) |
| 23 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH) EASTER LILY Orders Due | 24 8:30 Preschool Newsletter Articles Due | 25 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH) | 26 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Evening Prayer (S) | 27 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L) 5:30 Worship and Music | 28 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH) | 29 |
| 30 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH) | 31 8:30 Preschool | | | | | |

Lutheran Chapel Church
702 N. New Hope Road
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Preschool: 704-864-5136
churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org
lutheranchapelchurch.org
www.facebook.com/lccgastonia

Michael C. Comer, Pastor

MARCH 2025
Chapel News

