



April 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.

On Easter 2025

The solemnities of Holy Week and call to Hallelujah (Psalm 118) celebrating the risen Lord Jesus during the great fifty days of Easter is upon us.

Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday

10:00 Holy Communion

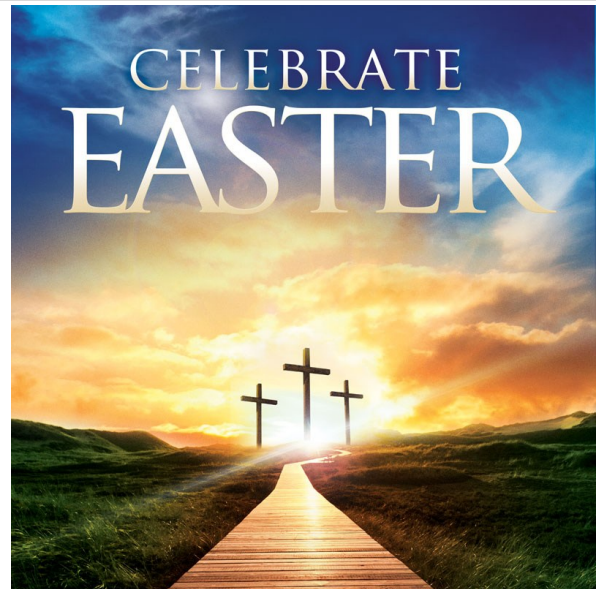
The Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke
Jesus dies on the cross for us. Why? He is innocent. We are not.

Maundy Thursday, April 17

From Passover to Last Supper, We Remember!

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 to the sacrificial love of our Lord Jesus. Remember. Serve one another. Love one another.



Good Friday, April 18 – The Death of Jesus For Us

Noon – Stations of the Cross in the Memorial 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.

The Resurrection of our Lord – Easter Sunday, April 17

Sunrise Service 7AM in the Church Cemetery with a full fellowship breakfast to follow in the Family Life Center.

10:00 Festival Service of Holy Communion

Life beyond death, a new creation beyond the tears, the risen Jesus Christ is the hope of our race and the joy for all who trust Him.

Then into the Fifty days of Easter please mark Holy Humor Sunday, April 24 (share a joke please!). Little church on Wednesdays will focus on **The Chosen** beginning on Wednesday, April 30 – Evening Suffrages will be prayed at 7:00 then an episode of **The Chosen** watched together at 7:15 or so with discussion and fellowship.

Let us worship our risen Jesus Christ together this day and every day, now and forever.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Michael Comer

Pastor Michael Comer

Church **BUSINESS**



FROM THE TREASURER...

	Actual Feb 2025	Actual YTD	2025 Budget YTD	2025 Budget Over/(Under)
Donations	\$ 21,531.42	\$ 48,785.13	\$ 64,750.00	\$ (15,964.87)
Distributions	\$ 25,658.66	\$ 51,779.34	\$ 63,593.50	\$ (11,547.49)
Net Cash	\$ (4,127.24)	\$ (2,994.21)		

**Please note that the Church went somewhat deep into the red for February. While the Church is in good shape financially, we can not afford to have this happen often.

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

COUNCIL MINUTES

Financial Report

James Hovis advised that for February 2025 we were \$4000 in the deficit. However, we currently are about \$3000 in the red taking since we were below budget in January. If we go three months in a row in the red, the finance committee will address the congregation.

Pastor's Report

- A memorial gift of \$750 was received from Gary Phillips, the brother of Dillard Phillips, who served leading the Faith Group for decades. The council advised that the donation would be placed in the general fund. A portion of it will go to provide a meal at one of their meetings in memory of Dillard.
- Transfer of membership – Dr. Stephen and Debbie Laws have joined First United Methodist Church, Gastonia and Susanne Sowerby has joined City Church.
- Question was asked as to what happens to the grave sites when a person moves their membership?

Old Business

- Church Year Book – Susan has made contact with the chairs of each committee for updates and a post has been placed in the newsletter to the congregation to let the office know of any changes in their contact information. Susan hope to get the book ready in April.
- Organ Search Committee – Currently there is no activity.

New Business

- Terry Ratchford has taken a temporary leave of absence as finance Chair and Sunday offerings. Ervin Hoffman, Co-Chair will handle in Terry's absence.
- Things are all set up and ready to go with the stock donation to McMahan Financial.
- Music Department – There was a meeting with parents to discuss the music program for our youth. There has been no consistency in youth attendance. Matt Hoffman suggested that we make it more about learning music instead of "performing" in the church. This allows them to understand how to read and follow the music. They can use the instruments we currently have such as the xylophones, hand chimes, etc. and possibly have music, a meal, and then open the gym for play.

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- Rob Andrews discussed how the Young Life Program works. It reaches out to the youth where they are instead of the youth reaching out to the church.
- Seth advised that his wife Hannah is planning an Easter egg hunt for April 13 at 1:30 pm. They are looking for donations of candy. The daycare kids and their families will be invited.
- Life in Christ Lutheran Mission, formerly the Chosen group has asked that we continue to allow them to use our church to have two events per month. They will contribute \$150 per event to our church. They may move their service from Saturday to Sunday from 2 to 3 pm in the Chapel, followed by bible study from 3 to 4 pm in the fellowship hall. This is being referred to the facilities committee for consideration. Seth suggested that we invite the group to our events and church.

Committee Updates by Council Liaison

- Property Committee – Rob Andrews advised that they are putting together a mowing team. They are also planning a cleanup date. They currently need approval to put a new roof on the parsonage. The property committee will obtain a quote and submit it to the council for approval.
- Evangelism – Don Boyette advised that several members have agreed to check the porch to see if there is anything there that can be stolen.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVE!

April Worship Assistants

	April 6	April 13	Easter - April 20	April 27
Assistant Minister	Norman Overcash	Chris Lowe	Sylvia Fogle	Adam DeLuca
Acolyte	Hunter Clark	Renwick Royston	Cameron Bell	Corbin Brown
Lector	Adriane Thornburg	Jenny Williamson	Jason Sanders	Josh Carpenter
Crucifer	Will Clark	Christian Mull	Maddie Potter	Bram Comer
First Aid/AED/CPR	Mark Thornburg	Ervin Hoffman	Perry Linkous	Gene Weaver
Council Members of the Month: David Zibell and Rob Andrews				

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

April Altar Flowers

Cost of flowers is \$55.00.

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



April 6	Given by Steve and Susan Jackson for their 57th Wedding Anniversary
April 13	Palms
April 20	Given to the Glory of the Risen in memory of Mary Brown Robinson, Ed Robinson and Jerry Fogle by Cathy Robinson and Sylvia Fogle
April 27	To the Glory of God in memory of Gloria Lineberger by Dan Lineberger

MUSIC NOTES



As Christians around the world celebrate the joy of our Risen Lord, many are participating in *The Hallelujah Chorus* from George Frederic Handel's *Messiah*. "But that is a Christmas song" you say. Yes, you are correct. And No, you are not correct. George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* was originally an Easter offering. It burst onto the stage of Musick Hall in Dublin on April 13, 1742. The audience swelled to a record 700, as ladies had heeded pleas by management to wear dresses "without Hoops" in order to make "Room for more company."

Like many of the great composers, Handel was a child prodigy. He began composing operas at a young age and by his twenties he was the best paid composer on earth with people fighting for seats whenever he performed. However, fame is fleeting and Handel's music soon became old-fashioned. No matter what Handel tried, his compositions failed. Bankruptcy and depression followed. Handel had a stroke and developed a palsy that crippled his fingers. It seemed that Handel's career was over. Frederick the Great wrote that "Handel's great days are over, his inspiration is exhausted." Yet the very situations that seemed to destroy Handel changed him and gave his compositions more depth and feeling.

The Inspiration for the Oratorio

Handel's friend and patron Charles Jennens sent him a libretto created from a collection of Bible texts about the life of Christ. The words "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people" from Isaiah 40 inspired Handel. Handel agreed to write the music. He thought it would take a year to complete. However, when a charitable organization from Dublin gave Handel a generous commission to compose a piece for a benefit, he got busy.

On August 22, 1741, Handel started composing music for the texts that Jennens had sent him. Handel was inspired. When he finished less than a month later he had written one of his most famous and successful compositions ever, *The Messiah*.

The men and women in attendance that opening night in April sat mesmerized from the moment the tenor followed the mournful string overture with his piercing opening line: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God." Soloists alternated with wave upon wave of chorus, until, near the midway point, a famous contralto intoned: "He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

Now, of course, *Messiah* is a fixture of the Christmas season. Woe to the concert hall in the United States or Britain that fails to schedule the piece around the holiday. For many amateur choirs, the work is the heart of their repertoire and the high point of the year. Many communities schedule *Messiah* sing-alongs which often consist of only the first of the oratorio's three parts, with the Hallelujah Chorus (originally concluding the second part) replacing *His Yoke is Easy* in the first part. The three parts consist of:

Part I: The Annunciation

- Scene 1: The prophecy of [Salvation](#)
- Scene 2: The prophecy of the coming of the Messiah
- Scene 3: Portents to the world at large
- Scene 4: Prophecy of the [Virgin Birth](#)
- Scene 5: The appearance of the Angel to the shepherds
- Scene 6: Christ's miracles

Part II: The Passion

- Scene 1: The sacrifice, the scourging and agony on the cross
- Scene 2: His death, His passing through [Hell](#), and His [Resurrection](#)
- Scene 3: His [Ascension](#)
- Scene 4: [God](#) discloses His identity in [Heaven](#)
- Scene 5: The beginning of evangelism
- Scene 6: The world and its rulers reject the Gospel
- Scene 7: God's triumph

Part III: The Aftermath

- Scene 1: The promise of redemption from [Adam](#)'s fall
- Scene 2: [Judgment Day](#)
- Scene 3: The victory over death and sin
- Scene 4: The glorification of Christ



Much of the libretto comes from the Old Testament. The first section draws heavily from the book of Isaiah, which prophesies the coming of the Messiah. There are few quotations from the Gospels; these are at the end of the first and the beginning of the second sections. They comprise the Angel going to the shepherds in Luke, "Come unto Him" and "His Yoke is Easy" from Matthew, and "Behold the Lamb of God" from John.

Upcoming EVENTS

OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS)

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

**Wednesday, April 16 @ 11:00
am, at Shrimp Boat in Gastonia.**



Women of the **ELCA** 

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Esther Circle will meet on **Monday, April 7**
@ 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Rebecca Circle will meet **Monday, April 7**
@ 7:00 pm at
Hosted by Jenny Williamson
Fellowship Hall



JOIN OUR

EASTER EGG HUNT

**SUNDAY APRIL 13TH
1:30P TO 3:30PM**

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL CHURCH
702 N NEW HOPE RD,
GASTONIA**

Easter Egg Hunt
starts at 2:00PM!
Prizes for best Easter hat, coloring
contest, food, and more!

CAM FOOD DRIVE

During the month of April, our church family will participate in our major food collection for Crisis Assistance Ministry. Crisis Assistance Ministry would not be possible without the financial gifts, food donations and volunteer hours that our congregation and other churches provide. Our participation helps ensure that CAM has an adequate food supply and enough money to meet the requests for assistance that they receive each month. Also, CAM provides utility, rent or mortgage and prescription assistance.

Food donations can be brought to church during the month of April or anytime that is convenient for you. Bags can be placed in the blue CAM food box located in the back hallway of our Sunday

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School classrooms. Also, food can be placed in the assigned basket in the Narthex. Of course, we collect food year-round for CAM, with April being our assigned month to emphasize the importance of our food donations. **Please check to make sure the use by date has not expired on your donations.** The Social Ministry Committee will deliver the food to Crisis Assistance. We are always proud of the generosity of our church family, and we know that we can count on all of you to make our food drive a successful one.

Current needs are:

- Canned Meats
- Canned Soups & Crackers
- Canned Fruit
- Rice
- Spaghetti Sauce & Noodles
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Grits & Oatmeal
- Cereal
- Canned Vegetables
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Personal Care Items



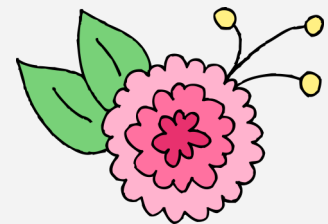
BIRTHDAYS

Meredith Andrews	2	Isabella Mull	20
Hunter Clark	3	Kathy Finch	21
Robert Andrews	4	Vicki Stokes	21
Amanda Angstadt	4	Mark Thornburg	21
Ben Bryant	5	Pam Thornburg	21
Chris Clark	5	Madison Potter	23
Seth Myers	9	Adrian Thornburg	23
Suzie Ward	9	Ariel Burgoon	24
Hunter Angstadt	10	Heather Moretz Elkin	24
Flay Anthony	10	Eula Ritchie	24
Craig Behringer	10	Adam DeLuca	25
Pauline Bradley	10	Rhonda Putnam	26
Zoe Bradley	11	Kelly Stokes	26
Weslee Davis	11	Dana Bird	28
Betty Little	11	Logan Moore	28
Cathy Robinson	12	Beth Swindler	29

ANNIVERSARIES

Jake Rhyne	13	Chris & Ann Lowe	8
Dan Lineberger	14	Erin & Katie Potter	10
Elliott Anthony	16	John & Kathie Riebe	16
Nancy Rankin	16	Crown & Kate Hoffman	22
Gwen Lewis	18	Steve & Susan Jackson	27
Nancy Homovich	20	Scott & Wendy Robinson	30

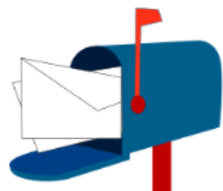
**SEND A NOTE OF
ENCOURAGEMENT
TO OUR HOMEBOUND
MEMBERS**



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

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



From the MAIL BOX



HOLY ANGELS
Loving, living and learning for the differently able.®

February 27, 2025

Lutheran Chapel Church
Michael Comer
702 North New Hope Road
Gastonia, NC 28054-7479

Dear Lutheran Chapel Church,

On behalf of the residents, participants, families and staff I thank you so much for your most generous gift of \$210.00. We are ever so thankful for your faithful support and your commitment to ensure that those we serve have the highest quality of life. You continue to bless us!

February is the month that reminds us to pause and take time to honor those we love. At Holy Angels we have so much love to celebrate! We are blessed to serve 81 very special children and adults who bring joy to our lives every day. We have an excellent staff of approximately 350 dedicated employees who provide the best care and unconditional love and we are eternally grateful for their compassionate hearts and dedication to our mission. We love our volunteers who help us in many different capacities – giving of their talents and time unselfishly. We also cherish our families and guardians who have allowed us the privilege of serving their loved ones.

We are most grateful for our donors, like YOU, and the generous gifts you have entrusted us with. We are thankful for your prayers which lift us up in the work we do daily. We are indeed surrounded by lots of love!

Thank you for sharing your love with us!

Sincerely yours,

Pamela R. Glass
Pamela R. Glass
Vice President of Development

*I thank you for your
loving support!*

I extend our deepest gratitude to you for your incredible generosity and support. Your donation of \$255.00 received on 02/24/2025 allows us to provide housing and care for people living with HIV or AIDS.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day serves as a crucial moment to highlight the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on the African American community. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), African Americans account for a significant percentage of individuals living with HIV in the United States. This observance is a poignant reminder of the importance of education, testing, and access to care to address and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS within the African American population.

Furthermore, HIV Criminalization Awareness Day on February 28th sheds light on the legal aspects surrounding HIV/AIDS. This day encourages us to reflect on the discriminatory laws and policies that criminalize individuals living with HIV, often perpetuating stigma and hindering efforts to prevent and manage the condition. By advocating for reform and education, we strive to create a more inclusive and compassionate society that supports those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Thanks to generous donors like you, we are empowered to address the significance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7th and HIV Criminalization Awareness Day on February 28th within our community. Through our PALM and Positive Connections Programs, we also focus on minoritized communities aiming to raise awareness about HIV and provide essential support to those in need. Your contributions make it possible for us to implement these vital initiatives, fostering education, breaking down stigma, and positively impacting the lives of individuals living with HIV/AIDS in our community.

With gratitude, Peyton Madlock

FRANKLIN GRAHAM
P.O. Box 3000, BOONE, NC 28607

February 14, 2025

Dear Reverend Comer,

Thank you for the gift sent to Samaritan's Purse for U.S. Disaster Relief from Lutheran Chapel Church. We are deeply grateful for your partnership.

Recently I was in California with our teams who are responding in the aftermath of the terrible wildfires there. The destruction is hard to fathom—mile after mile of homes burned to the ground. Our staff and volunteers are coming alongside families to sift through the ashes of what once were their homes to try to find meaningful belongings that survived and to share God's love with them during this very difficult time.

Samaritan's Purse is continuing to help victims of Hurricane Helene, and we have begun the long process of rebuilding houses and replacing mobile homes for hundreds of families in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. Our disaster relief personnel are also working in several hard-hit counties in this area to meet immediate needs including emergency shelter, replacing vehicles that were ruined by the floods, and more. We are fixing driveway bridges and culverts for residents to restore access to their homes, and we are providing grants to help churches repair and rebuild. We have been working in Georgia since the storm as well, and have helped over 1,700 families there.

Please pray with us for those who have lost so much and our teams as we work in Jesus' Name. May God bless you.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham
Franklin Graham

FG/hr



LOVE OFFERING FOR APRIL

The April Love Offering is the Lutheran Services Carolinas. It is a faith-based health and human resources organization serving children, families and seniors in the Carolinas. Thousands of people annually are helped through the following services.

- Adoption - regular and special needs
- Adult Residential Services
- Child and Youth Residential Services
- Disaster preparedness and response
- Family and individual counseling
- Foster care - family, therapeutic and medically fragile
- Homelessness prevention
- Refugee and resettlement and immigration
- Veteran's services



LSC serves in **Gaston County** through foster care, services to people with developmental disabilities, its partnership in Senior TLC program and Dallas High School Apartments.

Lutheran Services is the co-managing director of the Dallas High School Apartments which provides affordable housing for those 62 and older or 55 and older if disabled.

LSC is a founding partner of the Senior TLC Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) which serves Gaston, Cleveland, and Lincoln counties. PACE is a Medicare program and Medicaid option for North Carolinians who need skilled nursing but wish to stay in their own home.

Mountain Ridge group home in Gastonia provides a safe home for six adults with developmental disabilities.

Lutheran Services Carolinas works in partnership with congregations, governmental agencies, and other human service providers to promote healing and wholeness for the Carolinas' most vulnerable people.

Please consider contributing a love offering to support Lutheran Services Carolinas so that they may continue their ministry and strengthen their outreach to people in need. Thank you!

Social Ministry Committee

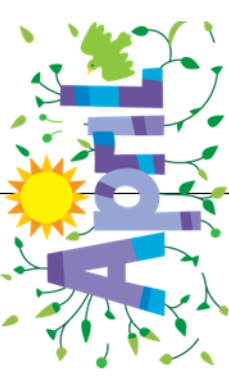




CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

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



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p>  <p>8:30 Preschool/Pictures 10:00 Clothing Closet 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30 Preschool/Pictures 11:00 Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 Men's Community Bible Study (FH)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 4-6 Chosen Mission © 9-12 Clothing Closet Giveaway</p>		
<p>6</p> <p>8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 Preschool 10:00 Esther Circle (FH) 7:00 Rebecca Circle (FH)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 Preschool 7:00 Evening Prayer (S)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 1.1-4 Brackett Family Reunion (FLC)</p>
<p>13 PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Confirmation (FH) 11:00 Council Mtg. (CR) 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH) Easter Egg Hunt 1:30-3:30</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 Preschool</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 Preschool 11:00 OWLS - Shrimp Boat</p>	<p>17 MAUNDY THURS</p> <p>8:30 Preschool Lunch (FL) 11:00 Bible Study (L)</p> 	<p>18 GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH) 12:00 Stations of the Cross 7:00 Tenebrae Service (S)</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 4-6 Chosen Mission (C)</p>
<p>20 EASTER SUNDAY</p> <p>7:00 Sunrise Service (Cemetery) 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Festival Service 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 Preschool Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers (FH)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 Preschool 7:00 Evening Prayer (S)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L) 5:30 Worship and Music</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH)</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 Preschool</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>			

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

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Gastonia, NC
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Preschool: 704-864-5136
churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org
lutheranchapelchurch.org
www.facebook.com/lccgastonia

Michael C. Comer, Pastor

CHAPEL NEWS
April 2025

