



June 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 THE DENOMINATIONS OF THE ONE, HOLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH



With all the press about the election of Pope Leo XIV, it seems like a good time to consider the sad mess of the Christian denominations and the one, holy Christian Church. Which of the Christian churches is correct? Which denomination is right?

The Roman Catholic Church is the largest in numbers, with over a billion members. All Saints Catholic, Lake Wylie, Queen of the Apostles, Belmont, and St. Michael's Catholic, and Gastonia, are arguably the biggest churches in our area. Yet, the Roman Catholic teachings like the infallibility of the Pope (**Catechism of the Catholic Church**, pg. 235-236), Purgatory (**Catechism of the Catholic Church**, pg. 268-269), and indulgences (**Catechism of the Catholic Church**, pg. 370-372) are troubling. I respect them as fellow followers of our Lord Jesus, but I can't go along with such unbiblical teachings.

The Eastern Orthodox churches are probably the oldest and have the most ties to the ancient Church. Yet, the infallibility of the Ecumenical Synod (re: *Encyclical of the Ecumenical Patriarchate*, 1895), or the Patriarch of Kiev and the Patriarch of Moscow's excommunication of each other (re: Russian and Ukrainian-

*Continued on next page* →

### 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

Evening Suffrages and The Chosen

an War, 2022)? I respect them as fellow followers of our Lord Jesus, but I can't go along with such unbiblical teachings.

So, to the Protestant Christians!

The Baptist churches are the largest denomination in the United States. Yet they believe that you are saved by choosing Jesus (rather than salvation by grace alone – I am saved by Jesus choosing me), and multiple baptisms from church to church (remember Ephesians 4:5 – **one baptism**)? I respect them as fellow followers of our Lord Jesus, but I can't go along with such beliefs.

The Nondenominational churches are the fastest growing in urban America. Some of these sister churches include City Church, Venture, and, one of my favorite names, Relevant Church. Yet, most of these are Baptist churches without the name. This raises the question: Does history beyond one's life matter? Shouldn't the Christian know the history of the Christian churches, generation by generation, rather than pretend history doesn't exist? I respect them as followers of Jesus, but I can't go along with such beliefs.

Presbyterian? Anglican? Church of God? Methodist? Pentecostal? There are so many Protestants that it is hard to learn about us all. I respect them as followers of Jesus, but from the error around Christ's Real Presence among us (**Institutes of Christian Religion**, John Calvin) to bishops as necessity (**Book of Common Prayer**, *The Thirty Nine Articles of Religion*) to thinking a Christian may be perfected in this life (**Christian Perfection**, John Wesley) to the necessity of speaking in tongues (Assemblies of God [www.ag.org](http://www.ag.org)). But, I can't go along with such beliefs.

Here I stand, a Lutheran Christian. Not because we are always right. We are **not**, and have a long history of mess and even of being wrong. A few examples range from the failure to unify Protestants, to prideful Lutheran orthodoxy, to personalized pietism, to our mess teaching "cheap grace" (**The Cost of Discipleship**, Dietrich Bonhoeffer). Yet, we know we are messed up and do not teach otherwise. **I am a Lutheran Christian because our confession admits the mess, where so many sister churches don't admit the mess.** Strange reason? Maybe. Yet, the Truth sets one free (John 8:32)! The reformation of the Christian Church according to the Word of God is not a finished event, but is still unfolding.

Sadly, our Lutheran churches are split over many things now – generally over ethical issues and our understanding of who can be ordained. While I am not happy at all about all these splits, I find myself here as an Evangelical Lutheran and intend to continue to serve here. Why? As an Evangelical Lutheran, we emphasize Christian freedom on ethical issues and believe that followers of Jesus, in good conscience, may agree to disagree on a whole bunch of issues from alcohol, divorce, gambling, same sex marriage, use of force/war, etc. and still serve together following our Lord Jesus. While I wish everyone thought like me, I accept that we are not all on the same page.

As Evangelical Lutherans, we also believe that the Holy Spirit may call women to teach and preach God's Word. Just ask St. Mary Magdalene, right (Luke 24:8-12, John 20:18)? As an Evangelical Lutheran, we also believe that Holy Communion is for any baptized Christian who comes to receive this gift of the Real Presence of Christ. The risen Christ commands us to give Word and Sacrament – I want to be obedient to Him and not leave anyone who comes to Him out (Mark 10:13-15).

Finally, I want the best for the whole Christian Church and respect all who call on the Name of Jesus, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox, as connected in Christ's prayer for unity (John 17). I believe we are on the same team, ultimately, even in our present mess. Here I serve and invite all who choose to serve together for the continued reform of the holy Christian Church according to the Word of God, and for the ongoing mission of spreading the good news of Jesus that we are saved by grace alone, by faith alone, by Christ alone now and forever.

Peace in Christ,

  
Pastor Michael



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

- ♦ Christine Andrews, Arizona State University - MS in Forensic Psychology
- ♦ Andrew Bell, Cleveland Community College - AAS in Radiology
- ♦ Jon Alex Berghello, Jr., Lenoir Rhyne University - BA in History, *cum laude*  
Attending Graduate School at University of North Carolina, Greensboro, in the fall
- ♦ Margaret Olivia Berghello, Ashbrook High School  
Attending Appalachian State University in the fall
- ♦ Monica Goedl, University of North Carolina, Ashville - BS in Health Science and Wellness,  
*magna cum laude*  
Attending Post Bachelorette program at University of North Carolina, Charlotte, in the fall
- ♦ Sarah Emily Jamison, University of South Carolina - BS in Biology with a Minor in  
Psychology, *magna cum laude*  
Attending East Carolina Dental school in the fall
- ♦ Tessie Morrison, College of Charleston - BS in Anthropology, *cum laude*
- ♦ Katherine Baker Sanders, Geroge Washington University - BA in International Affairs and  
Economics with a Minor in French, *summa cum laude*
- ♦ Mason Swindler, University of North Carolina, Charlotte - BS in Civil Engineering
- ♦ Ryan Thornburg, Montreat College - BS in Exercise Science, *magna cum laude*  
Attending University of North Carolina, Charlotte, in the fall for Masters in Kinesiology

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you  
and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*



## COUNCIL MINUTES

- The April financials report shows contributions are under budget by \$22k. Jenny will stay in touch with James to see if he thinks it is time for a temple talk.
- Pastor reported that Lutheridge is now out of debt.
- Jenny thanked Seth and Hannah Myers for their efforts coordinating the Easter egg hunt. The attendance was disappointing, bringing on a discussion about growing the youth attendance at the church. Some suggestions were:
  1. "Bring a friend to church" events in 2025.
  2. That we not rush to clean up after an event and allow time for socializing.
  3. Contacting someone from another church that has a successful youth program to learn how they handle it.
  4. Plan a "Go to the Baseball Game" event for our church.
  5. Offering Mothers Morning Out/Preschool scholarships for families that join Lutheran Chapel membership. The resources are available and the cost for four days a week is \$250 a month.
  6. Have the gym open for basketball.
- Susan Hibschi (Administrative Assistant) needs to be notified of committee and other events happening early enough to get them in the newsletter and bulletins.
- The Exec council has discussed a change to the Sunday Schedule by adding back an 8:30 early service and moving Sunday School/Bible Study to 9:30 am followed by regular service at 10:30 am.
- Debra Hoffman has been reviewing membership and attendance, which is required by the bylaws. She will be updating lists and reviewing members who have not attended services in the past two years.
- Matt Hoffman gave an overview on the streaming service. Katherine Sanders and Matt suggested that we pull in college age members who are home for summer to help do the streaming.
- The van will be detailed due to moisture and possible mold issues.
- Jenny Williamson reviewed new committee appointments.
  - David Lewis will replace Susan on the Memorial Committee.
  - Community Foundation - Nancy Whitman will be replaced by Dan Lineberger.
  - Christian Education Committee - Wanda Anthony has stepped down.Replacements are being considered at this time.
- Music and Worship – Discussed whether there should be a stipend for the organist to play at funerals.
- Jenny reported that the property cleanup workday went well and thanked the committee.



## This Month's Recipient:

### LUTHERAN SUPPORT GROUP OF GASTON COUNTY

The love offerings for the month of **June** are for the Lutheran Support Group of Gaston which provides ongoing support for Faith Farm, Bess Town Road property (now known as Camp Centurion) and Mountain Ridge Group Homes. A coalition of Lutheran Churches helps with maintenance and upkeep of these homes and works with Lutheran Services Carolinas and other agencies to provide the use of these properties owned by LSGG for needs in our community.

Mountain Ridge Group Home is still providing help to residents in Gastonia. It is operated by Lutheran Services Carolinas. It is a Medicaid and Medicare certified 6 bed Care Facility for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities and other related conditions. The program provides 24/hour care and rehabilitation to support residents.

Faith Farm in Dallas is currently being used by Lutheran Services Carolinas and Mountain Ridge Group Home as an extended facility for daily activities for their residents.

The Bess Town Road property has been renovated as a home for homeless male veterans. The facility is currently providing **4** veterans a home and hopefully enabling them to eventually move to a home of their own. Over the last year, **12** veterans were provided housing and assistance. This property is now known as Camp Centurion. The Lutheran Support group has been working with Camp Centurion to use the Bess Town Road property. Camp Centurion is a non-profit agency whose mission is to provide local veterans who are experiencing a difficult transition from military to civilian life, with the essential secure environment, services and support they need to be able to finally "come home", regardless of the length of time since discharge.

Your generous donations are greatly needed and appreciated as the ministry of these homes continue to serve the needs of our community.

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*

# Upcoming EVENTS



## OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS)

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



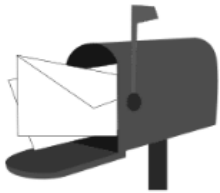
Thursday, June 19 at 11:00 am,  
Sake Express, Gastonia



## CLOTHING CLOSET GIVEAWAY

Saturday, June 21 from 9 am -12 pm.

The clothing closet is in great need of men's spring and summer clothing and shoes. Do you have some clothes that you don't like or that don't fit anymore? Please consider going through your closet and sharing!



## From the MAIL BOX



The family of

*Carolyn Robinson Lineberger*

deeply appreciates and gratefully  
acknowledges your love, support, and kind  
expression of sympathy

*We want to thank you  
for all the help you  
provided for the setup,  
serving and cleanup at our  
mother's luncheon. We felt  
the service and luncheon  
went smoothly due to  
all the people that stepped  
up to help us during this  
time. Thank you so much!*

*Sondly,  
Beth, Ruth, Lois + Anne*



to the members of

Lutheran Chapel Evangelical Church

of the North Carolina Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
in grateful appreciation for giving

\$6,185.00

for Mission Support beyond the congregation  
for synod and churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

*Tim Smith*

Bishop, North Carolina Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Elizabeth C. Eaton*

Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

 North Carolina Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

 Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

*In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works and  
give glory to your Father in heaven.*

MATTHEW 5:16

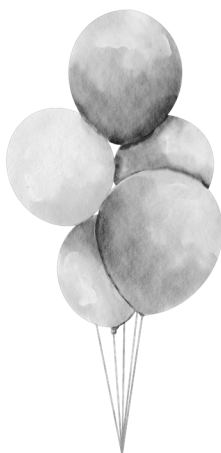


## BIRTHDAYS

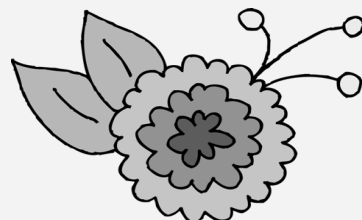
Judy Anton	1
Olivia Bradley	1
Kathie Riebe	1
Braxton Finch	3
Margaret Berghello	4
David Lewis	4
Colby Robinson	7
Crown Hoffman	9
Lisa Bradley	11
Lila Gladden	11
Larry Hoover	13
Stephen Rankin	13
Steve Ritchie	14
Scott Bradley	16
Joseph Hovis	16
Kate Hoffman	17
Payton Taylor	19
Ashley Bell-Finley	27
Sherrie Angstadt	29

## ANNIVERSARIES

Adam & Heather Elkin	8
Josh & Amy Brown	12
Roger & Jeanette Myers	14
Matt & Elyse Hoffman	17
Pat & Barbara Robinson	20
Ryan & Rachel Anthony	21
Jonathan & Kathy Carpenter	23
Clayton & Gwen Lewis	23
Brent & Chris Clark	24
Todd & Emily Carpenter	27



## 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.*

# Serving the *CHURCH*



*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,  
serve one another with whatever gifts each of you has received.*

Peter 4:10-11



## June Worship Assistants

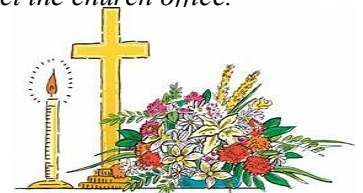
	June 1 Rankin Lake	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
<b>Assistant Minister</b>		Norman Overcash	Sylvia Fogle	Adam DeLuca	Chris Lowe
<b>Acolyte</b>		Corbin Brown	Luke Hoffman	Elena Hoffman	Hunter Clark
<b>Lector</b>	Debi Jean Wankel	Kelly Andrews	Ginny Comer	Norman Overcash	Trish Ratchford
<b>Crucifer</b>		Jordan Hoffman	Will Clark	Bram Comer	Maddie Potter
<b>First Aid/AED/CPR</b>		Debra Hoffman	Mark Thornburg	Ervin Hoffman	Perry Linkous
<b>Council Members of the Month: Jenny Williamson and Debi Jean Wankel</b>					

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

## June Altar Flowers

Cost of flowers is \$55.00.

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



<b>June 1</b>	Rankin Lake
<b>June 8</b>	In celebration of Crown and Kate's Birthdays and Matt and Elyse's Anniversary given by Debra and Henry Hoffman
<b>June 15</b>	Fathers Day
<b>June 22</b>	In loving memory of Faye Anne Boyette and in honor our family, given by Don Boyette
<b>June 29</b>	In honor of James and Margaret's 28th Wedding Anniversary given by James and Margaret Hovis





# 2025 Summer Recital Series

Recitals begin at 4:00 pm unless otherwise noted - Free Admission.

A freewill offering will be accepted at each recital to support the Stigall Scholarship Fund, which helps offset private organ instruction tuition for organ students in grades 6 –12.

Please refer to our website for the most up-to date schedule. [www.charlotteago.org](http://www.charlotteago.org)

<b>June 1</b>	<b>Jerrick Cavagnaro</b> Winner 2024 AGO National Improvisation Competition <b>Bach Akadamie Charlotte Series</b> <a href="https://tickets.bachcharlotte.com/jerrick-cavagnaro">https://tickets.bachcharlotte.com/jerrick-cavagnaro</a>	<b>St. John's Baptist Church</b> 300 Hawthorne Ln, Charlotte
<b>June 8</b>	<b>Zach Bowyer</b> An Unsurpassed Alleluia: A Festival of Hymns Choirs, Bells & Instrumentalists	<b>South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church</b> 8601 Bryant Farms Rd, Charlotte
<b>June 15</b>	<b>Matthew Manwarren</b>	<b>Byrnes Auditorium</b> Winthrop University 1703 Memorial Cir, Rock Hill, SC
<b>June 22</b>	<b>David Wilcox</b> with Lenora Leggatt, violin (CSO) and Oksana McCarthy, cello (CSO)	<b>Myers Park Baptist Church</b> 1900 Queens Rd, Charlotte
<b>June 29</b>	<b>Nathaniel Corner</b> Stigall Scholar, 2025 UNCC graduate, Student of Dr. Jacquelyn Yost. Fall 2025 Indiana University to study with Dr. Janette Fishell	<b>First United Methodist Church</b> 501 N Tryon St, Charlotte
<b>July 6</b>	<b>Stigall Scholars</b>	<b>Cathedral of St. Patrick</b> 1621 Dilworth Rd E, Charlotte
<b>July 13</b>	<b>Kevin Estes</b> Bach, Guilman and Estes: "Suite for Timpani and Organ" (World-Premier) with Jacob Lipham, principal timpanist (CSO)	<b>Friendship Missionary Baptist Church</b> 3400 Beatties Ford Rd, Charlotte
<b>July 20</b>	<b>Matthew Noonan</b> Bach 275th Anniversary (d. 1750)	<b>Selwyn Ave Presbyterian Church</b> 2929 Selwyn Ave, Charlotte
<b>July 27</b>	<b>Don Kaufhold</b>	<b>First Presbyterian Church</b> 700 North Main Street, Lancaster, SC
<b>August 3</b>	<b>Greg Reynolds/Organ &amp; Bells</b>	<b>Neely's Creek ARP</b> 974 Neelys Creek Rd, Rock Hill, SC
<b>August 10</b>	<b>Kevin Haney/Kathie Riebe</b>	<b>St. John's Baptist Church</b> 300 Hawthorne Ln, Charlotte
<b>August 17</b>	<b>Lester Ackerman</b> with Alex Wilborn & Jon Kaplan, Trumpets (CSO)	<b>St. Mark's Lutheran Church</b> 1001 Queens Rd, Charlotte
<b>August 24</b>	<b>Evan Currie</b>	<b>Friendship Missionary Baptist Church</b> 3400 Beatties Ford Rd, Charlotte



### **Relevance: Gift of Confession and Forgiveness**

Our Lord Jesus began His ministry with the call: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news (Mark 1:15). Consider the Scriptures and Catechism below.

### **What is confession and forgiveness?**

Confession consists of two parts. One is that we confess our sins. The other is that we receive the absolution, that is forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself (**Small Catechism** 4:16).

### **Where is this in the Bible?**

Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any they are retained (John 20:23). If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9).

### **What exactly is sin?**

Sin is to *miss the mark* for which God created us. Sin is a wrong thought, word, or deed that is against the will of our Father in Heaven. All have sinned (Romans 3:23). Here reflect on your place in life in light of the Ten Commandments (**Small Catechism** 4:20).

### **How often should we confess our sin?**

Daily! As we pray the Lord's Prayer daily, the petition "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" (Matthew 6:12, Luke 11:4) is a little confession and forgiveness. When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said "Repent" He called for the entire life of believers to be one of penitence (**95 Theses**, #1, Martin Luther). Two other ways to practice confession and forgiveness are corporate and private.

### ***The Corporate Confession and Forgiveness at the Service***



Before God one is to acknowledge the guilt for all sins, even those of which we are not aware, as we do in the Lord's Prayer (**Small Catechism** 4:18). This corporate sin recognizes the truth of our broken human condition and that we cannot save ourselves. By grace alone, by faith alone, by Christ alone is our hope and ultimate salvation!

### ***The Private Confession as Needed***

However, before the pastor we are to confess only those sins of which we have knowledge and which **trouble** us (**Small Catechism** 4:18). If one regularly confesses sins before God at corporate confession, private prayer, and before receiving Holy Communion yet still has trouble, then private confession may be a blessing to affirm and encourage one in Christ's forgiveness of all sins.

**Dear Father, I come to You and pray that You will forgive me for this reason:  
not because I can make satisfaction or deserve anything by my works,  
but because You have promised and have set this seal on it,  
making it as certain as if I had received absolution  
pronounced by You Yourself  
(Large Catechism, 3:97).**

# June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Rankin Lake Service Lunch 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	<b>4</b> 7:00 Evening Suffrages, Chosen (C)	<b>5</b> 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
<b>8 PENTECOST</b> 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship/ Confirmation 11:00 Council Mtg. (CR) 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 4-6 Life in Christ (C) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers (S)	<b>11</b> 7:00 Evening Suffrages, Chosen (C)	<b>12</b> 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
<b>15 FATHER'S DAY</b> 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship/Graduates Announced 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH) 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers (S)	<b>18</b> 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Evening Suffrages, Chosen (C)	<b>19</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L) Newsletter Articles Due 11:00 OWLS - Sake Express 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 9-12 Clothing Closet Giveaway
<b>22</b> 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 4-6 Life in Christ (C) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday	<b>25</b> 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Evening Suffrages, Chosen (C)	<b>26</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
<b>29</b> 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>30</b>					

**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***  
***June 2025***

