



# March 2026 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.

## TEMPTATION



Somewhere, someone wrote about temptation throughout our life cycle. In our **youth**, we are tempted with our impulses and lust of the body. In our **adulthood**, we are often tempted by our pride, our status, and the perceived prestige of acquiring more things. In our **elder** days, we are tempted with what King Solomon cries – Vanity! Have I wasted my life? Did I miss the point of life? Weariness and weakness of body, I have no more strength. We know about the reality of these temptations. Do not be surprised or unaware. So, what do we do when the enemy of our souls

attacks us throughout the life cycle?

Turn to our Lord Jesus. Never forget Jesus' victory over temptation and the tempter (Matthew 4). Trusting His Father in heaven, Jesus prevailed over satanic attack using Scripture. I will fall. I will fail. You will fall. You will fail. Yet Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God, stands forever (Hebrews 4:14-16). When the craving, the thought, the vanity comes in the hour of trial, turn to Him. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Remember you are His baptized child, a sheep of His own flock. Depend on His love and promise for you that He will not leave you alone – I AM with you always to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

Onward Christian soldiers, someone sang – spiritual warfare is to be expected. May the Holy Spirit focus us on our Father in Heaven as we follow the Son day by day

Peace in Christ,

*Pastor Michael*

Pastor Michael

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE



#### Sundays

8:30 am ~ Fellowship & Coffee

9:00 am ~ Sunday School

9:00 am ~ Bible Study

10:00 am ~ Worship

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

#### Wednesdays

7:00 ~ Vespers Evening Prayer

# Church BUSINESS



## FROM THE TREASURER

|                      | Actual Jan. 2026 | Actual YTD | 2026 Budget YTD | 2026 Budget Over/(Under) |
|----------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Donations</b>     | 21,957.44        | 21,957.44  | 31,000.00       | (9,042.56)               |
| <b>Distributions</b> | 23,765.06        | 23,765.06  | 30,942.33       | (7,177.27)               |
| <b>Net Cash</b>      | (1,807.62)       | (1,807.62) |                 |                          |

*If you have any questions, please contact the treasurer, Jason Sanders*

## LUTHERAN CHAPEL'S JANUARY COUNCIL MINUTES

- The estimate for the Labor, Service, and Materials for the installation of the upgraded security fencing is \$7,167.
- Katherine Sanders is now part of the finance committee.
- Rob reviewed the duties of the council members. One of the duties is to sit in on confirmation with the pastor each month.
- A Schedule has been put together for people to count the offering money each week.
- The council will move forward with a search committee to hire an Activities Director.
- The church basement is currently used for storage. Several ideas for the use of the basement have been brought to the council. The property committee feels that the water issue has been 90% resolved. The ok was given to the Property Committee to finish the basement with an open concept, leaving a locked room for office storage and a choir robe room.
- Pastor's Report and approvals:
  - ◆ Tyler Fleming has asked to become a member.
  - ◆ Angie Bradshaw has requested the gift of baptism.
  - ◆ Permission was requested for the baptism of Gabriella Dawkins (Great, Great grandbaby of Pauline Bradley) at LCC.
  - ◆ Chuck and Bridget Niemeyer have asked to join LCC.
- Pastor gave the book, The Christmas Promise, to preschoolers at Christmas.
- Rob Andrews is creating a church calendar.
- Council Retreat – This is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 12:00 PM. Breakfast and lunch will be served.
- The council voted to continue holding meetings on the third Sunday of the month, with the full council meeting every other month until September and Executive team meeting on the other months.

## 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 and corrections to [churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org).*

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

*Palm Sunday, March 29*

**10:00 AM - Holy Communion**

*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew*

*Maundy Thursday, April 2*

**6:00 PM - 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. Serve one another. Love one another.*

*Good Friday, April 3*

**12:00 PM - Stations of the Cross** in the Chapel

**7:00 PM - 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 5*

**7:00 AM - Sunrise Service** at the Church Cemetery

*Breakfast to follow*

**10:00 AM - 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!*

## **LENT VESPERS EVENING PRAYER**

*March 4 @ 7:00 PM*

**Psalm 100** *"Make a Joyful Noise"*

The gift of Praise is for us.

*Wednesday, March 11 @ 7:00 PM*

**Psalm 101** *"When Shall I Attain the Way That is Blameless?"*

The Holy spirit is working on and in us.

*Wednesday, March 18 @ 7:00 PM*

**Psalm 102** *"The Afflicted One"*

Give your hurt to God. We are not alone in suffering.

*Wednesday, March 25 @ 7:00 PM*

**Psalm 103** *"Bless the Lord. O My Soul!"*

Consider Mary, Mother of our Lord, and the message given.

# Upcoming EVENTS



## OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS)

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

**Wednesday, March 18 at 11:00 am**  
***Bellacino's***

1709 Neal Hawkins Rd, Gastonia



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

## CIRCLE MEETINGS

***Esther Circle*** will meet on  
**Monday, March 2 at 10:00 am** in the  
Fellowship Hall.

***Rebecca Circle*** will meet on  
**Monday, March 2 at 6:00 pm**  
In the Fellowship Hall.

Join Us for a

# Easter Egg Hunt!

Fun for the Whole Family!



**Saturday, March 28th | 1 PM - 3 PM**

**Lutheran Chapel Church**  
**702 N. New Hope Rd, Gastonia**

Activities, Prizes, Snacks & More!

# MUSIC News



Today, I looked closely at Psalm 71, verse 23: “My lips will sing with joy when I play to you, and so will my soul, which you have redeemed.” (NRSV) The Good News Bible says it this way: I will shout for joy as I play for you; with my whole being I will sing because you have saved me.

As I read these two versions of this verse, I am struck by what the psalmist is saying. In response to the incredible action of being saved or redeemed, we experience such joy that we sing and shout with Our Whole Being. Singing, it seems here, is the final response to experiencing complete joy.

I can understand that, and not only because I happen to like singing. I have learned that singing goes beyond just the simple act done because you like to. Singing is a fabulous exercise and covers the Physical – breathing, posture and moving in time with the music; Cognitive – memory of words and notes and constant monitoring of our own sound and adjusting it to those around us; Emotional – practicing the skill of staying in ‘the present’, being part of a group (which is wonderful) and learning to accept the new ‘us’; Joyful – smiling till your face aches and being a part of something so uplifting.

Let’s now look at Ephesians:

*“...Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” – Ephesians 5:19-20*

This is put much more succinctly by a pastor I once worked with, who said, as far back as the second book of the Bible (Exodus), we find songs of praise. The New Testament encourages us to sing to the Lord! The book of Revelation describes angels and humans who spend their time singing God’s praises, too. And of course you know that we spend a lot of our time in Sunday worship singing.

Sometimes it can be more challenging to involve our hearts in worship. Words are great, but a song touches a different part of us. There’s something about music – and I think God designed it this way – that makes it easier to *feel* something. A church member once reminded me of the power of singing in our devotional time – the time I set aside each day to spend with God. Singing can connect us with God in a powerful way. In fact, sometimes I’m so bogged down with things to do, worries, tiredness, and concerns that I find it difficult to pray. What can you do when you don’t feel like you can pray? Sing! Well, sometimes I sing. Other times, I let someone else do the singing and listen to Christian music. Usually, that lifts me up enough that I can talk to God.

Sometimes people tell me that they’re bad singers and so they just listen when they come to worship. I think we all miss out on something when people do that. The Psalms talk about making a “joyful noise” to God. What matters isn’t the quality of our singing but what’s in our hearts. I once helped lead the music at a community service, and I was surprised to see how many were just listening. Sure, there’s a time for that, but I would prefer to see/hear more of us making a “joyful noise.” Give it a try. Nobody will hear you! You can also sing to God in the car or in the shower, or out on a walk when nobody’s listening.

Just in case you think I’m making too big a deal about this, you might want to see what the Bible has to say on the subject. There are just a few places in the Bible that talk about singing to God. (And I didn’t even include angels, animals, or inanimate objects singing ) Look them up and join in the song!

*Romans 15:9, 1 Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, James 5:13, Zechariah 2:10, Zephaniah 3:14, Jeremiah 20:13, Isaiah 42:10, Isaiah 12:6, Exodus 15:1 & 21, Judges 5:3, 1 Chronicles 16:9 & 23, Psalms 5, 7, 9, 13, 18, 21, 27, 30, 33, 47, 51, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65-68, 71, 75, 81, 89, 92, 95, 96, 98, 101, 104, 105, 108, 119, 135, 138, 144, 145-147, 149.*

This Month's Recipient: The Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center



### LOVE OFFERING FOR MARCH

The love offering for March will go to the Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center which provides temporary, emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence who are in imminent danger. The Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center is a safe residence and resource center for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Each resident that comes to the shelter receives personalized services through our in-house therapist, case managers, and advocates in an attempt to empower 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. 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 make a difference.

Thank you,

*Outreach Committee*



THE CATHY MABRY  
CLONINGER CENTER  
*A Domestic Violence Shelter*



## 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 15**. 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 ordering: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$13.00 each = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please print)*

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Placed by:** \_\_\_\_\_

# March



## Celebrating *OUR MEMBERS*



### Birthdays

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Johnny Carpenter    | 1  |
| Gene Weaver         | 1  |
| Leon Moretz         | 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     | 2 |



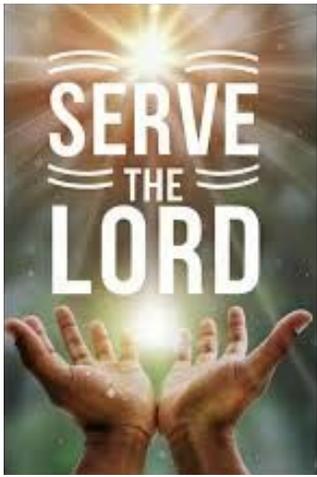
### SEND A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS



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

**Barbara & Carlton Peacock**  
151 E Dallas Hwy  
Apt. 616  
Stanley, NC 28164

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



# Serving the CHURCH



It is through service that we can truly express our love for God,  
for His creation and for one another.



## MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

|  | March 1         | March 8         | March 15       | March 22       | March 29        |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Assistant Minister</b>                                    | Adam DeLuca     | Norman Overcash | Chris Lowe     | Jeanette Myers | Sylvia Fogle    |
| <b>Acolyte</b>   | Renwick Royston | Luke Hoffman    | Elena Hoffman  | Cameron Bell   | Renwick Royston |
| <b>Lector</b>  | Ann Edwards     | Bram Comer      | Alex Berghello | Sylvia Fogle   | Ginny Comer     |
| <b>Crucifer</b>  | Corbin Brown    | Will Clark      | Jordan Hoffman | Maddie Potter  | Hunter Clark    |
| <b>First Aid/AED/CPR</b>                                     | Gene Weaver     | Matt Hoffman    | Steve Clark    | Crown Hoffman  | Ervin Hoffman   |
| <b>Council Members of the Month:</b> Don Boyette & Zac Lentz |                 |                 |                |                |                 |

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

## MARCH ALTAR FLOWERS

Cost of flowers is **\$58.50**.

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



|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>March 1</b>  | Given in honor of Pastor Michael Comer for his Birthday by his family.                            |
| <b>March 8</b>  | Given in memory of Ervin and Helen Hoffman, given by Ervin, Nancy, David, Susan, Henry and Debra. |
| <b>March 15</b> | In honor of Charles Edwards Birthday given by Katherine, Jason and Baker Sanders.                 |
| <b>March 22</b> | In memory of Bill Anton and John McCutcheon given by Judy Anton.                                  |
| <b>March 29</b> | In memory of Jerry Fogle given by Sylvia Fogle to the Glory of God.                               |

# March

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                    | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>1</b><br>8:30 Fellowship (FH)<br>9:00 Sunday School/Bible Study<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:30 Chancel Choir (S)<br>8:00 Faith Group (FH)  | <b>2</b><br>8:30 Preschool<br>10:00 Esther Circle (FH)<br>6:00 Rebecca Circle (FH)<br> | <b>3</b><br>8:30 Preschool<br>10:00 Clothing Closet Workday<br>5:30 Chapel Ringers (S)<br>6:00 Pickup Basketball (G)                                 | <b>4</b><br>8:30 Preschool<br>7:00 Vespers Lent (C)  | <b>5</b><br>8:30 Preschool  | <b>6</b><br>Office Closed<br>9:00 Men's Community Bible Study  | <b>7</b><br>9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)  |
| <b>8</b><br>8:30 Fellowship (FH)<br>9:00 Sunday School/Bible Study<br>10:00 Worship (S)<br>11:00 Confirmation (Y)<br>11:30 Chancel Choir (S)<br>4-6 Life in Christ (FH,C)<br>8:00 Faith Group (FH) | <b>9</b><br>8:30 Preschool  | <b>10</b><br>8:30 Preschool<br>10:00 Clothing Closet Workday<br>5:30 Chapel Ringers (S)<br>6:00 Worship & Music (C)<br>6:00 Brotherhood Dinner (FLC) | <b>11</b><br>8:30 Preschool<br>7:00 Vespers Lent (C)   | <b>12</b><br>8:30 Preschool | <b>13</b><br>Office Closed<br>9:00 Men's Community Bible Study | <b>14</b><br>9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)   |
| <b>15</b><br>8:30 Fellowship (FH)<br>9:00 Sunday School/Bible Study<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Full Council<br>11:30 Chancel Choir (S)<br>8:00 Faith Group (FH)<br>Lily Orders Due                  | <b>16</b><br>8:30 Preschool<br>April Newsletter Articles Due  | <b>17 ST PATRICK'S DAY</b><br>8:30 Preschool<br>10:00 Clothing Closet Workday<br>5:30 Chapel Ringers (S)<br>6:00 Pickup Basketball (G)               | <b>18</b><br>8:30 Preschool<br>7:00 Vespers Lent (C)<br>11:00 OWLS<br>Bellacino's  | <b>19</b><br>8:30 Preschool | <b>20</b><br>Office Closed<br>9:00 Men's Community Bible Study | <b>21</b><br>9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)   |
| <b>22</b><br>8:30 Fellowship (FH)<br>9:00 Sunday School/Bible Study<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:30 Chancel Choir (S)<br>4-6 Life in Christ (FH,C)<br>8:00 Faith Group (FH)                              | <b>23</b><br>8:30 Preschool   | <b>24</b><br>8:30 Preschool<br>10:00 Clothing Closet Workday<br>5:30 Chapel Ringers (S)<br>6:00 Pickup Basketball (G)                                | <b>25</b><br>8:30 Preschool<br>7:00 Vespers Lent (C)   | <b>26</b><br>8:30 Preschool | <b>27</b><br>Office Closed<br>9:00 Men's Community Bible Study | <b>28</b><br>9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)<br>1:00 Easter Egg Hunt<br>4:30 Wedding |
| <b>29 PALM SUNDAY</b><br>8:30 Fellowship (FH)<br>9:00 Sunday School/Bible Study<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Table Talk<br>11:30 Chancel Choir (S)<br>8:00 Faith Group (FH)                           | <b>30</b><br>8:30 Preschool   | <b>31</b><br>8:30 Preschool<br>10:00 Clothing Closet Workday<br>5:30 Chapel Ringers (S)<br>6:00 Pickup Basketball (G)                                |    |                             |  |   |

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

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

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www.facebook.com/lccgastonia

Michael C. Comer, Pastor



***CHAPEL NEWS***  
***March, 2026***

