



# Chapel News

## December 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.

I have been working through the old liturgies of the **Common Service Book**. Why? Originally, the study was due to preparing for the historical celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Sanctuary. Yet the study through these liturgies, all taken straight from Holy Scripture, were very helpful for me spiritually in both understanding the deep meanings of the Christian year and in focusing on Christ as the key to all God's Word. This December we begin a new Christian year after St. Andrews' Day on November 30, so please find some fruit from the study. The texts are the Responsory for each season appointed to be sung or said during the daily prayers of Morning and Evening Prayer, after the daily lessons.

**Advent** is the season we look for the coming of Christ, historically as the Messiah foretold and prophetically as the Judge of All on the Last Day. The Advent Responsory:

Behold, the days come, said the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgement and justice in the earth (Jeremiah 23:5).

And this is His Name whereby He shall be called, The LORD our Righteousness

In His days shall Judah be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely (Jeremiah 23:6).

And this is His Name whereby He shall be called, The LORD our Righteousness. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

And this is His Name whereby He shall be called, The LORD our Righteousness.

**Commentary:** We do not make ourselves right. We are made right by the LORD who makes us right – Jesus Christ. In Christ, is the fulfillment of David. Jesus Christ is the true King who is coming and rules even now at the right hand of the Father.

**Christmas** is the season we celebrate the birth of Christ, historically in Bethlehem and spiritually His birth within the hearts of each believer. The Christmas Responsory:

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father. Full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).

Full of grace and truth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Full of grace and truth.

**Commentary:** Jesus, the baby of Bethlehem, is the Word of God, God's very Son, made flesh for us. In Jesus is the fullness of grace and truth now unto forever.

May the Holy Spirit grow us closer to Him as we keep the seasons of Advent and Christmas 2024.

Peace in Christ,

*Pastor Michael Comer*

Pastor Michael 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...

	Actual October 2024	Actual YTD	2024 Budget	2024 Budget Over/(Under)
<b>Donations</b>	\$ 20,644.66	\$294,388.67	\$314,583.33	\$ (20,194.66)
<b>Distributions</b>	\$ 30,021.69	\$271,169.29	\$314,524.17	\$ (42,021.54)
<b>Net Cash</b>	\$ (9,377.03)	\$ 23,219.38		



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

## NOVEMBER CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES

- James Hovis advised that the offerings were behind for the month of October but are still ahead year to date by \$23,219, due to not having to pay a salary for the Youth and Family Ministries position.
- Jenny Williamson advised that the following people have volunteered to serve a three year term on the church council beginning 1/1/2025. They include: David Zibell, Don Boyette, Debi Jean Wankle, and Rob Andrews. Jenny Williamson made a motion that we accept the slate as presented. The motion was approved by full council vote.
- The congregational letter will be mailed out and will include the congregational meeting date, staff gifts collection, and budget from the finance committee. The congregational meeting is scheduled during worship on December 8, 2024. The finance committee will be available on December 1, 2024 to answer any questions regarding the budget.
- The Cantata service and Santa luncheon will be held on December 8th.
- On January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 the new council members will be the inducted.
- Scott Swindler asked for approval to sign a contract for maintenance of the graveyard. The Committee met in October and recommended using the cemetery endowment fund to pay the \$600 monthly charge. The contract will include all maintenance up to the wall. The council gave approval for the contract which will start December 1, 2024.



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars to attend the congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 8th** during the 10:00 am worship service. At this meeting, our objective is to approve the proposed budget for 2025 as well as the nominated slate of new Church Council members.

# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

## ADVENT EVENING SERVICES BEGINNING DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>

Advent is a season in the church calendar dedicated to the hopeful anticipation for the arrival or “advent” of Jesus during the 4 week period leading up to Christmas. We will engage in prayer, meditation and Scripture study that emphasizes *Joy, Hope, Love and Peace*. Join us **Wednesday** evenings on **December 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 @ 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary as we slow down and focus on preparing for Christmas. The focus will be on Psalms.



## CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY

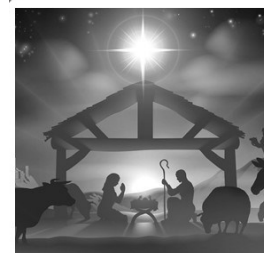
For those who signed up, the Christmas Tea will be held **Saturday, December 7th @ 12:00 pm**. This is a “High Tea”, so hats and classy clothing are welcomed! Prizes will be awarded for the best hat, best outfit and prettiest table!

*Sponsored by the Women of the Church*

## A LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

### A Christmas Cantata

Come join us on **Sunday, December 8th** as we tell the story of God’s dwelling with us through music, Scripture and poetry.



### Santa Lunch



Following worship please join us for a Santa Lunch and Birthday Celebration for Jesus. We will have a yummy lunch, birthday cake and even a special guest. We hope everyone will join the Lutheran Chapel family as we celebrate Jesus’ birth!

## ANGEL TREE

### Bessemer City Boys & Girls Club

The Outreach Committee will be hosting the annual Boys and Girls Club of Bessemer City Christmas party on **Friday, December 13th**. The angel tree in the narthex is now available. Please take angel(s) and sign the sheet. You do not need to buy everything on their list and if you would rather donate funds instead of shopping, please designate club party on your check/giving. Gifts need to be returned by **Sunday, December 8th**, with the angel tag attached to the shopping bag(s). We will do the wrapping.



# LADIES NIGHT OUT

## LADIES NIGHT CELEBRATION

Please plan to attend our Ladies Night Celebration on **Saturday, December 14th**, at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Center. A wonderful meal, as well as excellent entertainment has been planned. Door prizes will be given to the

lucky ladies in attendance. Back by popular demand, Terry Ratchford will MC this annual event. Charles Edwards, Steve Clark, Rick Peak, Terry Ratchford, and Fred Ward will be selling tickets. Cost of the ticket is \$18. Anyone wishing to donate a door prize would be graciously appreciated.

## OWLS

**\*Will not meet in December**

The next event is on

**Thursday, Jan 16 @ 11:00 am**

(Older Wiser LutheranS)



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

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

## CIRCLE NEWS

***Esther Circle will not meet*** in December. The next meeting will be on **Monday, January 6** at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

***Rebecca Circle will not meet*** in December. The next meeting will be on **Monday, January 6** at 6:00 pm.



Wishing you a season filled with God's relentless favor,  
His unending love and perfect peace!

## DECEMBER LOVE OFFERING ~ ARC of Gaston County

The Arc of Gaston County is a non profit organization committed to securing various opportunities for people with Developmental Disabilities. We are able to help them to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work and play throughout Gaston county. We do this through donations and funding the United Way. By hosting several events and fundraisers throughout the year, we are able to fund a summer camp, buy Christmas gifts, provide every day financial needs and other activities that bring joy to the people we serve. Seeing the smiling faces of these individuals is such a blessing.

We hope you will prayerfully consider supporting this ministry.

Thank you!

***Social Ministry Committee***



Here we are heading into December, and what a month it promises to be.

There are many years, I find myself walking through stores in late November and what do you think I hear over the PA system? CHRISTMAS music! It's not even December yet and we are already being blanketed with Christmas music.

Advent is a time of preparation for the special celebration of our Lord's Birth. To mark this 4-week season as separate from the season of

Christmas, we refrain from singing Christmas Carols. Why? Because we are preparing and not yet celebrating, which gives an extra air of excitement when we finally greet the Lord with "O Come, Let Us Adore Him".

Well, that is the plan anyway. Unfortunately, we are surrounded with Christmas Carols all month long. Does that diminish our celebration? Can you imagine the joy we would all celebrate with if we were able to sing these Carols for the first time each year during the celebration of the nativity?

I have no answers to this query. I simply bring up to you that it is far too easy for our minds to become numb when we hear these carols during our hectic busy-ness. Remember the holy story told in these carols. Hear them where you are and allow them to transport you to holy preparation.



### PHOTOS WANTED

With all the December events coming up, it would be great to have some pictures for the newsletter. Please email to [churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.com](mailto:churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.com)



## SAMARITAN'S PURSE DONATION TOTAL

We will be sending a second check to Samaritan's Purse for \$2,615. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation we were able to send a total of **\$10,860** to Samaritan's Purse for their hurricane relief efforts in the North Carolina Mountains. Thank you to all who contributed!

## SAMARITAN'S PURSE DONATION THANK YOU LETTER



Franklin Graham, President

International Headquarters • P.O. Box 3000 • Boone, NC 28607 U.S.A. • (828) 262-1980

October 25, 2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

Hurricane Helene swept through the Southeast causing disastrous flooding, landslides, and power outages. It was one of the deadliest hurricanes to hit the region in history. Our teams are working from six sites to help clean up downed trees, waterlogged debris, and flooded homes. We used helicopters to fly over 350 missions to deliver necessities to people isolated by damaged infrastructure, and we are continuing to truck in supplies now that more roads are passable. Please pray for those who are hurting and for our teams as we bring relief in Jesus' Name.

Your partnership means so much as we work in over 110 nations and look for every opportunity to share the hope that only comes from a relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, **"My peace I give to you. ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"** (John 14:27). May God bless you.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham  
President



## FROM THE MAILBOX...

Friends in Christ,  
Tremendous thanks for the cards, gifts, and gift certificate to Webb's Custom Kitchen this October. It is an honor and joy to serve our Lord Jesus and His people as a parish pastor here at Lutheran Chapel.

*Thank you*

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Michael

Dear WELCA,

Thank you so much for the Thanksgiving gift card. This was a very nice surprise and will be a big help in purchasing all the diet cokes needed for exams. Thank you for thinking of us.

Sincerely,  
Mason and Harry Swindler



### BIRTHDAYS

Wanda Anthony	1	Charles Murdock	15
Bettina Royston	3	Ryan Thornburg	19
Fred Ward	4	Erin Potter	24
Ethan Lineberger	5	Patricia Lindler	25
Sloan Robinson, Jr.	8	Alisa Marlowe	25
Mark McCauley	9	Josh Baker	27
Gail Brown	11	Jason Bradley	27
George Cashion	11	Holt Cloninger	27
Mason Swindler	12	Harrison Swindler	27
Lynn Evans	13	Barbara Peacock	31
Roger Myers	13		
Olivia Hovis	15		

### ANNIVERSARIES

Gene & Myra Weaver	6	Terry & Trish Ratchford	30
Ken & Ann Marie Lentz	10	Chuck & Lisa Burch	31

### 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



# DECEMBER Worship Assistants

	Dec. 1 1st Advent	Dec. 8 2nd Advent	Dec. 15 3rd Advent	Dec. 22 4th Advent	Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	Dec. 29
<b>Acolyte</b>	Hunter Clark	Renwick Royston	Cameron Bell	Corbin Brown	Elena Hoffman	Hunter Clark
<b>Crucifer</b>	Will Clark	Maddie Potter	Corbin Brown	Bram Comer	Jordan Hoffman	Christian Mull
<b>Assistant Minister</b>	Norman Overcash	Chris Lowe	Adam DeLuca	Chris Lowe	Chris Lowe	Sylvia Fogle
<b>Lector</b>	Debra Hoffman	None	Trish Ratchford	Pam Overcash	Jason Sanders	Norman Overcash
<b>First Aid/ AED/CPR</b>	Crown Hoffman	Tammy Royston	Debra Hoffman	Mark Thornburg	Crown Hoffman	Ervin Hoffman
<b>Council Members of the Month:</b> Crown Hoffman and Jason Sanders						

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

## STAFF GIFT



Traditionally we present our dedicated Church Staff with a monetary “thank you” gift during the holiday season. If you feel so inclined to participate, there are several ways you can give your gift: You can drop your gift in the offering plate; you can mail it or drop it by the Church office; or you can hand it to one of the Executive Council members – Jason Sanders, Jenny Williamson, Crown Hoffman, Debra Hoffman, or James Hovis. Please note “Staff Gift” with your contribution. The cut-off for contributions is **Sunday, December 15th** to allow for presentation to staff on Sunday, December 22nd. Thank you for your prayerful consideration as we honor and remember our staff members who work so diligently to serve Christ and our congregation.

## 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS

It’s time to get your 2024 pledges up-to-date! All donations must be turned in by **December 31** to be properly credited to your account for the year.




## 2025 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

If you’d like to sign up for a Sunday in 2025, please contact Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451 or email [sudalewi@gmail.com](mailto:sudalewi@gmail.com).





# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Advent</b> 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>2</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>3</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers	<b>4</b> 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer (S)	<b>5</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>6</b> 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH)	<b>7</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) <b>12:00 Christmas Tea</b>
<b>8</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Advent</b> 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship All Congregation Meeting <b>11:00 Santa Lunch</b> 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>9</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>10</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers	<b>11</b> 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer (S)	<b>12</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>12</b> 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH)	<b>14</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) <b>6:00 Ladies Night (FLC)</b>
<b>15</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent</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>16</b> 8:30 Preschool	<b>17</b> 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Workday 5:30 Chapel Ringers	<b>18</b> 8:30 Preschool 7:00 Advent Evening Prayer (S)	<b>19</b> 8:30 Preschool 11:00 Bible Study (L)	<b>20</b> 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH)	<b>21</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
<b>22</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent</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>23</b>	<b>24</b> Office Closed <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 5:30 I.E. Warmup 6:00 Ringers Warmup 6:30 Choir Warmup 7:00 Holy Communion and Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> Office Closed <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study (FH)	<b>28</b> 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
<b>29</b> 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Office Closed <b>NEW YEARS EVE</b>				

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

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# Chapel News

DECEMBER 2024

Michael C. Comer, Pastor

Church Office: 704-864-6491

Preschool: 704-864-5136

[churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org)

[lutheranchapelchurch.org](http://lutheranchapelchurch.org)

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