

JACOB'S LADDER

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

Pastoral Devotion for February

Bearing Witness to God's Love

John 10:19-42

There is an old saying that suggests actions speak louder than words. When people say "I love you," the evidence is not in their spoken words, but their acts of kindness. Absent of any display of affection or selfless deeds saying "I love you" is simply an empty exchange of words.

As Jesus lived among God's people, he proclaimed the fullness of God's love. However, it is through his many signs and wonders that our Lord makes the Father's love known in real and visible ways. Foretold by the prophets of long ago, Jesus' teaching and his miraculous works point to him as God's Messiah. Still, the Pharisees and scribes would have none of this.

"How long will you keep us in suspense?" "Why do you not tell us plainly?" Jesus had already given the answer, but they refused to believe, even as they've seen the evidence with their own eyes. Such hardened hearts are not capable of belief because they do not understand love.

Our works contribute nothing towards our salvation. Yet, as believers in Christ Jesus, our works do bear witness to the love God has for his people. Jesus calls us to a life of love for God and neighbor. When one says "I love God" or "I love my neighbor" he can only be believed when his actions match his words. Without such works, saying "I love God and neighbor" is yet one more empty exchange.

Lord Jesus, make our actions toward others match our words of love, that all may come to see your goodness and mercy. Amen.



Pastor Nuottila's sermons are posted on our church website. Please pass this word along to anyone who cannot worship with us on Sundays.

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Birthday's of the Month



02 – Terry Metze	14 – Bryan Bowers, Sr.	23 – Dina Slice
02 – Jaclyn Clark	16 – Abby Sightler	25 – Carl Epting
03 – Claude Lindler	19 – Annemarie Stanton	25 – Julie Shealy
04 – Marie Slice	20 – Elvia Lindler	25 – Collin Meetze
05 – Darriel Maner	21 – Barry Rice	27 – Wade Slice
08 – Retha Russell	21 – Bryan Metze	27 – Laura Rushe
09 – James Richard Lindler	22 – Elizabeth Holmberg	28 – Oneita Lindler
09 – Cheryl Johnson	22 – Virginia Peeples	28 – Jim Griggs
13 – Lauren McTeer	22 – Angie Jones	28 – Kayla Lindler



Worship and Music

So many wonderful things to talk about from the last month! The weeks leading up to Christmas are always rather hectic for a church musician no matter how much advance planning is done; but looking back at everything we did together as a church family in December and early January, I am amazed at the depth of spirituality that came out in every worship service.

A huge thank you: to Angela for all her hard work with the children for the Christmas program; to the youth who read the scriptures for the program; to the parents who brought their children to all the practices and to those who helped with costumes and props. "Come Let Us Adore Him" was a beautiful presentation of the Christmas story made possible by everyone working together.

To Wade, Kathy, David, Evan and John for the instrumental music on Christmas Eve – it adds so much to the service and brings joy to the congregation. To all those who attended the Christmas morning service – what a blessed, holy time that service was; a moment to take a deep breath and reflect on the birth of our Savior.

Many, many thanks to Pastor David and to Pastor James from New Hope for the guidance and support for our combined choirs' Epiphany cantata. I've had so many positive comments from both choir members and parishioners, as well as suggestions for doing similar presentations in the future.

And now, I look forward to what the year 2019 will bring to the music program at St. Jacob's.

Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone the glory!)

Laurie

From the Pastor's Heart *by Pastor David Nuottila*

"To those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:2-3

If you want to know what a person is really passionate about, just listen to them as they speak. It doesn't take very long to figure out what makes them tick; it's that one thing they continue to bring up repeatedly. If there is any doubt as to what makes the apostle Paul tick, all we need to do is read the introduction and opening salutations of his first letter to the Church at Corinth. In particular, notice whose name continues to be lifted up.

Paul was zealous for his faith in Christ and eager to share the good news of God's salvation throughout his known world. Being among God's people and rejoicing in the promise of life in God's kingdom is most certainly what fueled Paul's fire. Throughout his missionary journeys, Paul endured hardship, imprisonment and even shipwrecks, yet nothing seemed to dampen his excitement for telling others about the power of God's love made manifest in Christ's victory over sin and death.

The gospel is a message of God's perfect and unconditional love for his people. The news that sin no longer has the power to condemn those who have faith in Christ Jesus is too good to keep to ourselves. As people redeemed by Christ, we too are possessors of this good news. We have a wonderful gift to share with a world in need of God's saving grace. Being among God's people, in fellowship with the faithful and gathering for worship adds fuel for our fire just as it did for Paul. But once the fire is lit, we cannot sustain it by ourselves.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul teaches the Church that we need to remain steadfast in the hearing of the gospel. We need to share in the supper that is Christ's body and blood and we need to live in faithful fellowship with all who share the gift of God's grace and peace. As a family of faith gathered at St. Jacob's Lutheran church, we must pay attention to the time we spend together as a church family.

Yes, we are busy people with busy lives, but the burden of such a life is one we place upon ourselves. In the lives of Christian people, all too often, time with the church is sacrificed in order to engage in worldly activities. For

instance, when is the last time you heard someone say, "I have to leave the football game early so I can make it to our church's fellowship event"? No, it is usually the church that sees people leaving worship early, or skipping it entirely, in order to keep their habits or participate in worldly functions. Before we know it, personal habits and worldly agendas take precedent and time spent in worship and fellowship begin to fade. As Paul points out, when we live for ourselves, the fire burning within will certainly diminish. Some will fall away.

As we live for ourselves, the fire burning within will certainly diminish. Some will fall away.

Even faithful Christians (especially) need to be on guard. Those who would be seen as examples must be diligent in their faith and practice. If one is faithful 90% of their time, it is the 10% others will see. Christians need to know and understand that no matter what may happen in this world, God's grace and peace given through Christ Jesus cannot be overcome. In those times when we fall short of God's expectation for us, we need to be reminded that our sins are forgiven and as such, God calls us all to be saints together in every time and place, living together in the unity of Christ.

And so, we too gather as did the Church in Paul's time, in the name of Jesus in order to hear the message of the gospel. We too come to confess our sins, receive God's grace, partake in the supper and at the close of the meal, hear the words of God's blessing as they are pronounced over the entire assembly. It cannot be emphasized enough; there is no better place to be than in the presence of God and among his people. With that, I greet you as Paul greets those whom he writes to throughout the ages: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Amen!

Grace and peace,

Pastor David Nuottila

Council Briefs

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church Congregational Council Briefs January 11, 2019 Meeting

The St. Jacob's Church Council met in January for a two day council retreat. Friday January 11th, we met for a potluck supper with spouses and had an informative discussion about who/what the NALC is and does; focusing on the four core values of Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused.

Three good things recognized from 2018 were 1) Stain Glass Window Restoration; 2) The Children's Christmas Program; 3) Attendance at Christmas Eve Service.

Saturday Jan. 12th Council returned for a 6 hour work day that set the tone for the upcoming year. Sherry McTeer was elected Vice-President and A.J. Peeples was elected Recording Secretary. Council discussed their favorite Bible passages and how they can mold us for service. Council assessed Discipleship on a personal and congregational level and began to work on how we can foster a culture of Discipleship in and around our congregation.

Council was asked to set three attainable goals for 2019 and they are 1) Review Ministry Team Organization; 2) Repair Parking Lot and Upgrade Exterior Presence; 3) Increase ministry to our surrounding community.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. (A.J.) Peeples
Secretary, St. Jacob's Council



Congregational Meeting

February 17, 2019

The church will discuss and vote on the Annual Reports, Schedules and the Financials Booklets on Sunday, February 17th.

Please be sure and pick up your copy in the Narthex. This year no names will be placed on the copies so please only take one per family so everyone will get one.

*Report Booklets can be picked up in the Narthex on
February 3, 2019.*

UPCOMING INFORMATION

READ THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR—Yearly Bible reading plans are available in the Narthex. January is a great time to begin such a reading plan, but no matter when you start, reading the Bible all the way through is a wonderful experience. Pick up your Bible reading plan and begin today.

2018 GIVING STATEMENTS—The Giving Statements for 2018 have been prepared and are ready for pickup. Please be sure and pick yours up from the Narthex as you exit the service.

ST JACOB'S YOUTH NEWS—Get set for some fun! On Saturday, February 16, St. Jacob's Youth will head to the mountains of North Carolina to go snow tubing. Sign up information is in the Narthex and also available by email. Please contact Pastor David or the church office to save your place.

WORSHIP BEING LED BY THE YOUTH—St. Jacob's Youth will lead the congregation in worship on Sunday, February 24th at 10:30 a.m. Please be sure to come support our youth members as they lead us in prayer and song.

A MONTH OF PRAYER—At the next convocation of the North American Lutheran Church, clergy and congregational delegates will elect a new bishop. Bishop John Bradosky is set to complete his final term as the leader of our denomination. The NALC will soon be receiving nominations in order to elect his successor. In the coming months, nominations for this office will be made by NALC congregations. St. Jacob's will, therefore, observe a month of prayer asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance, that we might make an informed decision as to whom we would nominate to the office of Bishop.

Prayers for the NALC and the nomination process will be published each day in February on St. Jacob's Facebook page. There will also be a prayer booklet available in the church narthex for those who do not use Facebook or the internet. In March, the congregation will have an opportunity to gather for a meal and discuss nominations. Please continue to watch the weekly worship bulletin for more information.

SPRING YOUTH RETREAT – The Carolinas Mission District Youth will meet for a Spring Retreat at Camp St. Christopher on Seabrook Island from March 15th through March 17th. All St. Jacob's youth members in grades 6-12 are invited. Bring your friends too! Cost for the retreat is \$100.00 per person and includes Saturday, meals, Sunday breakfast, lodging in cabins and a t-shirt. Registration forms are available in the narthex, the church office or from Pastor David.

NEW COMMUNION WARE—In November, the Altar Guild purchased two new pouring chalices and a new wine flagon for use during Holy Communion. We have also received a gift of four new individual cup serving trays with two lids. With these new vessels, St. Jacob's will become better stewards of the communion elements shared during our worship. With these new items will come a couple of small changes in how we serve the wine.

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The chalices that were purchased have a pouring lip and will be used to pour wine during the distribution. After receiving the bread, the communion assistant will pour an individual cup of wine for each person. Many of our communion assistants have been trained and found this to be a simple way to serve. The chalices are also much wider at the brim so communion by way of intinction will be much better as well.

One other change will be the frequency by which we receive communion in individual cups. Several have indicated their preference for individual cups rather than intinction. Beginning in February, we will have wine poured on the odd numbered Sundays of the month, and communion by intinction on the even numbered Sundays.

Thank you to all who have attended communion assistant training. Thank you also the members of our Altar Guild who continually work to ensure the preparation of our worship space and altar each week.

LUTHERAN MEN — The Lutheran Men will meet on February 17th at 6 PM in the fellowship hall. Billy McTeer has the devotions. Cooks for the meeting will be John Riser, Billy McTeer, and A.J. Peeples. Also, be looking for information regarding a sausage sale around Shrove Tuesday. (Information will be provided in upcoming worship folders for the date and how to place your order.)

LUTHERAN WOMEN — The Lutheran Women will meet on February 17th at 4:30 PM in the fellowship hall.

TRASHY TEAM MEETING — The Trashy Team will be meeting Saturday, February 23rd to clean up the St. Jacob's adopted section of the road. All you have to do is show up to be a part of this team. Our Motto: "Many hands make light work." You may even get breakfast.

2019 GROUNDS TEAMS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED — The grass cutting scheduled has changed for 2019. We have set up three groups (Team A, B, C) to be responsible for all the grounds which is the Church, Administrative Office, BBQ Shed, Bus Shed Parking Area, and the Cemetery. Please refer to your worship folder for the team listing to serve each month. Thanks so much for all you do to keep our church area clean.

FELLOWSHIP TEAM NEWS — I have greatly enjoyed serving St. Jacob's by leading the Fellowship Team for the past several years but my school schedule has made it difficult to continue serving in this area. I will still be around and enjoying fellowship with the congregation but I am handing over the leadership to Nate and Kristen Nickel. Please be sure to thank them for volunteering for this position. I look forward to seeing what new ideas they might have for fellowship. Until further notice, the coffee fellowship will stop for the time being. Thanks so much, Christina Metze.

UP AND GOING—Thank you to Up and Going members who brought canned goods for We Care to the January meeting. February's meeting will be Feb 14th at 11AM in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be turkey stew and the trimmings. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for you to choose what you would like to bring for lunch. Ray Seay will have devotions and the program on Gardening. We will make bows for Hospice Bags.



Memorials & Acknowledgements December 23—January 13, 2019



- In memory of Susan Hardin, Greta Sandel and Kelly Lindler Watts to Lutheran Women by Chad and Caroline Lindler
- In memory of Norma Driver, Carl and Polly Shealy, Doug and Alice McTeer and in honor of Harold Driver to Building Fund by Billy, Sherrie, Lauren and Parker McTeer
- To Congo Mission by Holy Trinity Lutheran Men
- A Christmas Gift in honor of Joan and Gary Marco to Worship and Music by Jean Jackson
- In memory of Veterie Slice to Current by Retha Russell
- In memory of Bob Shields to Building Fund by Terry and Barbara Metzke, Eddie and Gail Epting, Billy and Sherrie McTeer
- In honor of Ramonia Lindler and all of our Children and Grandchildren to We Care and Building Fund by Robert and June Lindler
- In memory of Bob Shields to Current by Jim and Vicki Mills, Gerald and Robin Lindler
- In loving memory of our parents and grandparents: David Shealy, Dorothy Shealy, Martha Mae Shealy to the Altar Guild and Cemetery Funds by The Warren and LeAnne Hammet Family
- To Congo Mission by Lutheran Women's Group #4 at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church (Hickory NC)
- In memory of Bob Shields to Lutheran Men by Henry and Erlene Clark, Robert and June Lindler
- In loving memory of Guy Slice to Current by Ann Slice and Family
- In memory of Bob Shields to Lutheran Women by JL and Janet Lindler
- In memory of Bob Shields to Building Fund by Derriel and Lynne Amick and Family
- In memory of Bennie Mitchel and Debra Johnson to Building Fund by Gerald and Robin Lindler
- In memory of Bob Shields to Lutheran Men by Lynn and Susan Shealy
- In memory of Bob Shields to Digital Sign by The Kiblers
- In memory of Bob Shields to Lutheran Women by Elona E. Rhame

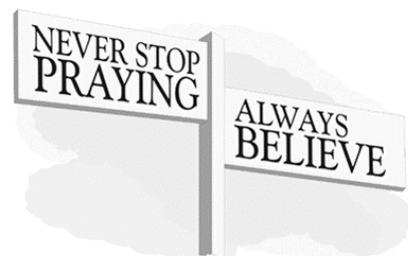
Members that are Shut-in or in Health Care Facilities

Michael Lindler
250 Leaning Pines Trail
Lexington, SC 29072
Ph: 803-356-4100

Pearl Cribb
220 Fox Lake Drive
West Columbia, SC 29170
Ph 803-957-4663

Letha Sites
1024 Freshly Mill Road
Irmo, SC 29063
Ph: 803-345-2300

Janet Lindler
Lexington Extended Care
Room 109B
815 Old Cherokee Road
Lexington, SC 29072
Ph: Doesn't have a phone in the
room



Serving Assistants for February 2019

Ushers-

- Feb 3** Arthur Langley, Carroll Lindler, Davis Brown, Eddie Eargle
- Feb 10** Gerald Lindler, Julie Stuck, Ken Smith, Leon Lindler
- Feb 17** Paul Lindler Robert Wessinger, Robert Ziemer, Sherrie McTeer
- Feb 24** Terry Metze, Walt Shealy, Wayne Stuck, Billy McTeer

Acolyte - February—Jay Alford

Lay Reader- Feb 3, 10—A.J. Peeples
Feb 17, 24—Helen Lindler

Date Communion Assistants

- Feb 3** David Kibler, Nicki Peeples, Tina Kibler
- Feb 10** AJ Peeples, June Lindler, Robert Lindler
- Feb 17** Bob Ziemer, John Wallace, Larry Shull
- Feb 24** Phyllis Bickley, AJ Peeples, Judy Dease

Kitchen Contact Person – Robert Lindler

Lay Communion Teams Homebound – Bob & Gloria Ziemer

Preschool Sunday School— Feb— Crystal Wallace

Elementary Sunday School— Feb— A.J. & Nicki Peeples

Middle & High Sunday School – Feb— Billy McTeer

Nursery -Feb

- Feb 03** Renee Doyle
- Feb 10** Lily Wallace
- Feb 17** Kathleen Pierce
- Feb 24** Caroline Lindler

Flowers-Feb

- Feb 03** Richie & Tammy Meetze
- Feb 10** Bob and Gloria Ziemer**
- Feb 17** Pastor David Nuottila
- Feb 24** Jim & Karla Griggs

Grounds Cutting: Team B—Gerald Lindler, Co-chairman, Robert Lindler, Co-Chairman, Jeremy Lindler, Chad Lindler, Billy Harden, Scott Sightler, Paul Lindler, Sr., Paul Lindler, Jr., Michael Shealy, Richard Shealy, Barry Rice, Tracy Lindler, Albert Lindler



Soup Pot Luncheon

2019 Council Members

Below you will find a listing of your **2019 Council Members**. Please continue to pray for them as they go about doing the business of the church this year.

Danny Shealy—President— shealydr@netscape.com

Sherrie McTeer— Vice President—

mteer1208@hotmail.com

A.J. Peeples—Secretary—AndrewJPeebles@gmail.com

Julie Shealy—julieshealy3@gmail.com

Don Dease—Deaserus@bellsouth.net

Barry Rice—wbarryrice@gmail.com

Frances Slice—No Email Address

David Kibler—jkibler@scana.com

John Riser—johneriser@gmail.com

Carroll Lindler—clindler3@sc.rr.com

Up and Going



The January Up and Going Meeting was our annual "Soup Pot Lunch". Eighteen members and guests gathered at 11AM on Thursday, Jan 10th to cook and enjoy a pot of soup. Each person brought something for the soup pot or sandwiches, combread, crackers, pimento cheese or a dessert. Once the beef and vegetable soup was ready, the business was conducted with the Treasurer's report given. Frances Slice gave the devotions; topic was new year, new beginning. We then enjoyed our soup lunch after which Bob Ziemer quizzed us with several games on new testament trivia. He sent us home amazed with what we knew or thought that we knew. Thank you to all who brought canned goods for We Care. Good food, good fun and good fellowship. What a wonderful way to start the New Year and spend a cold, windy day.

The February Meeting will be held on Feb 14th at 11AM in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be Turkey Stew and trimmings. Ray Seay will have devotions and a program on Gardening. We will be making bows for our Hospice Bags.

REMINDERS:

Worship Folder Information due by 2 PM each Tuesday.

Newsletter Information is due on the 15th of each month.

FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 3 PM Children's Choir (S) 4 PM Youth (High School SS Class)	4	5	6 7 PM Choir (FH)	7 6:30 PM Bells (FH)	8	9
10 3 PM Children's Choir (S)	11	12	13 7 PM Choir (FH)	14 Valentine's Day 11 AM Up & Going Turkey Stew (FH) 6:30 PM Bells (S)	15	16 Youth Snow Tubbing Trip
17 Bells Playing Congregational Meeting 3 PM Children's Choir (S) 4 PM Youth (High School SS Room) 4:30 PM LW (FH) 6 PM LM (FH)	18 Presidents' Day Church Office Closed Pastor Away	19	20	21	22	23 7:45 AM Trashy Club (FH)
NALC Ministerial Conference in Orlando, Florida 						
24 Youth Leading the Service 3 PM Children's Choir (S)	25	26	27 7 PM Choir (FH)	28 6:30 PM Bells (FH)		

ST. JACOB'S FACILITIES CALENDAR DEFINITIONS (FH) Fellowship Hall; (O) Office; (S) Sanctuary; (K) Kitchen; (AR) Activity Room; (MR) Music Room; (PR) Purple Room; (OR) Orange Room; (LR) Lesson Room

ST. JACOBS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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CHAPIN, SC 29036

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stjacobschurch@hotmail.com
www.st-jacobs.org
Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday 9AM-2PM
Sunday School: 9:15AM
Worship Time: 10:30AM

February 2019 Issue

JACOB'S LADDER

Ministry Teams for Spiritual Life
Staff Support Ministries
Support of Ministry Teams
Ministry Teams for Parish Life
Ministry Teams for Witness
Short Term Ministries

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED!

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Chapin, SC
Permit #47

Urgent Request for We Care

The Lutheran Women are collecting grits and jelly for We Care. We Care provides food to families in and around our community that are in need.

They have completely run out of their supply.

Bring your donations to the fellowship hall and the Lutheran Women will deliver your items to We Care.



Thanks in advance for your support!