

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

JACOB'S LADDER

November 2020

Volume 31, Issue 11



PASTORAL DEVOTION FOR NOVEMBER

SPIRITUAL REVITALIZATION

Read John 2:13-22, Hebrews 3:1-11

Everyone has at least one bad habit, one particular vice that keeps us from getting the proper amount of rest, nutrition, or exercise. Left unchecked, such habits can lead us along a path of poor health, sickness, even death. We know better, but we just can't stop. So many people struggle with the desire to rid themselves of bad habits and promote healthier living. Such lifestyle changes are difficult. It takes strength and determination to adhere to them.

The same can be said for the healthiness of our faith. As worldly powers pull and tug at God's people, healthy habits of faith often succumb to unhealthy bad habits. Time for reading Holy Scripture is often replaced by work or play. Gathering with the faithful for worship often becomes less appealing than a social gathering with friends. Soon, many Christians grow weak in their faith. It becomes increasingly difficult to articulate what their faith means to them, and how important it is that Jesus endured the tragedy of the cross for their sake.

The author of Hebrews calls Christians to spiritual revitalization. He encourages us to consider all that God has done and continues to do through Christ our Lord. John reminds us that even the temple needed cleansing. We may not need to turn over tables, but certainly there is room in each life for re-commitment to faithful living. Through faith in Christ Jesus, worship and prayer, it can be so.

Help us, O Lord, to overcome that which hinders our faith, that we might seek you always. Amen.



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BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER

01 – Crystal Wallace	15 – Rachel Nuottila
02 – Robert Wessinger	16 – Jacob Meetze
03 – Aaron Dietrich	19 – Floriede Lindler
03 – Madelyn Coker	19 – Kathy Epting
05 – Ruby Slice	19 – Cody Meetze
06 – Bryleigh Prosser	21 – Janet Lindler
07 – Faye Wessinger	21 – Sandra Dietrich
07 – Eddie Epting	21 – Karlee Smith
07 – Robin Lindler	23 – Amanda Lindler
08 – Chuck Barras	24 – Tommy Slice, Sr.
08 – Travis Eargle	24 – Levi Doyle
09 – Chuck Shobert	25 – Cassidy Lindler
10 – Karoline Zeigler	26 – Jonathan Layton
11 – Isabella Gerity	26 – Luke Lindler
13 – Billy McTeer	28 – Bill Nuottila
14 – David Stopher	29 – Doris Meetze
	30 – Brian Sullivan



YOUTH DIRECTOR & FAMILY MINISTRIES

I want to write about something that has become extremely relevant in my life over the past couple of months. I love sharing what I'm learning and walking through in hopes that it can give you some insight to my life and maybe even find similarities to what you are learning. I want to talk about "cancel culture." If you don't know what this is, it is the idea that someone can be "cancelled" by others based on something they said or have done. This can be something based on morals, politics, social actions, even economics - really anything. Usually it looks like the extremity of cutting someone off because they don't hold the same value or opinion as you do. People can spend their entire lives doing good but can get cancelled over one small thing they have said. *Matthew Chapter 18* answers the question of 'how many times should we forgive?' and Jesus says '70 x 7'. Our responsibility is to extend forgiveness, restore, and believe the best. We release the demand for justice to God and forgive as Christ forgives us. We don't have to accept or endorse; we are called to love.

We as believers need to be careful of cancelling things in culture that we need to contextualize. We cannot write off culture as a whole, but the idea that there are things in this world that cannot be redeemable for the sake of the Gospel.

We need to prioritize faithfulness to God regardless of circumstance. Whether it be a pandemic, an election, or even an argument with a friend. We can shift our idea from ultimate abolition to 'life is too short for me to spend my time hyped up on what is going on here.' This is what I would call a redeeming culture, being able to use the world around us to point to the Gospel rather than writing off every idea that we don't immediately agree with. Don't let this world have you thinking that the 'cut off game' is better than the power of reconciliation. Of course, there are always exceptions. In this case, anything that violates God's Word should be "cancelled" but we can advocate in a way that is lawful, peaceful, and courageous. We can ask ourselves how can trends, controversies, assumptions, intentions, actions, etc. be used to bring God glory?

A great example is in *1 Corinthians 9:19-23*. Paul lets you know right away that he is no longer under any obligation and ownership to the enemy or of any human beings. Therefore, his commitment to people is not based on anyone's preferential desire of him to be a specific way. Paul is saying that he is not driven by the self-interest of others or to please man/culture. He even goes as far as using language that the Corinthians would understand by calling himself a slave in order to be faithful to the one thing that cannot be cancelled the truth of the Gospel and our calling as Christians in this world. Understanding that there is a difference between reaching people and trying to please them. The Gospel will always offend for the right reasons, never the wrong ones. We must learn to be wise missionaries to the world and utilize culture rather than writing it off. This means being in the world but not of the world. God would never cancel or give up on a relationship with His people.

Our thinking must be fueled, formed, and anchored on God's word rather than what a society starved for controversy says we should be upset about. We should take every thought captive and conform it to the truth letting God be the filter of how we think not social media, not Hollywood, not the news. Asking ourselves 'What is the Biblical response?' or even 'Am I wrong in this situation?' (and learning to normalize it.) What are you living for? The approval of God or of the world around you?

Grace & Peace,
Rachel

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

For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Matthew 25:14-15

The parable of the talents is one that we have heard many times. It comes to us towards the end of the church year and often serves as a text concerning our stewardship. Believe it or not, the parable of the talents is not about money. To think so is to miss the point of this passage. This parable is given by our Lord as he teaches us about preparing for his coming again. Yet, as it is in so many churches, we read this parable and immediately focus upon the talents rather than the servants to whom they have been entrusted.

Two of the servants quickly go to work using the talents they have been allotted to produce even more talents. The third servant does not. He is afraid of the master and so he buries the talent he has been provided and sits idle while awaiting the master's return. Upon the master's return, the two who have used these talents for their intended purpose are rewarded and enter into the master's joy while the idle servant is stripped of his talent and sent away.

Jesus teaches us that as we await his coming again, we are to continue to carry on the mission he handed to the apostles so long ago. We do not know when he will return, but we do know that he has entrusted much into the hands of his people. As stewards of what God has entrusted to us, the mission is not to focus on growing the wealth of the church; it is to continue the mission and work God has given his people to do until Christ comes again.

Have you ever wondered why churches with the least amount of money seem to do the most in the way of mission and ministry? Attend a mission region or church-wide convocation and you will

see what I mean. Among the many presentations given one will notice these efforts of small congregations that are busily and cheerfully engaged in the mission of the Gospel. It is because their focus is not on the money, but on the servants doing the work of the Master.

St. Jacob's is not unlike any other congregation. God has called people with various gifts and talents to this place in order that we too would be engaged in his mission. With the many gifts and talents shared among us, we too are called to worship, learn, build up the faith of one another as we also minister to the needy within our community and world. God also expects that we would be busy in the growing of his church, that is the body of Christ on earth, by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. That seems like a long list of things to do, one that would require many talents. The good news is that God has provided everything we need.

Rather than explain the rest of the parable, I would simply encourage you to discern the talents God has placed within your grasp. I also invite you to ponder how you can use these, along with the gifts of others within our church family to bear fruit for God's kingdom. It is stewardship time. We have all been provided with time and talent sheets. Look them over. See where you might become engaged in the mission of the church. God has entrusted every member of St. Jacob's with gifts and talents. How shall we use them? If you are uncertain, please contact me and I will pray with you. Together we can share the Master's joy as we share his goodness and mercy with others.

Grace to you and peace,



Pastor David Nuottila

COUNCIL BRIEFS FOR OCTOBER

St. Jacob's Church Council met for its regular meeting on October 6th

Good Things at St. Jacob's for September:

- Attendance is steadily improving
- New A/V System is installed
- Internet enhancement for Sanctuary is complete
- Church's Finances and Giving are in great shape
- New Ministry Team Roll Out

Important Notes and Dates:

- Building Team has submitted final plans to Council for parking lot expansion
- Be on lookout for info in reference to Annual Congregational Meeting
- Time and Talent Sheets are being circulated; please fill one out and return
- Pastor on Vacation - Oct. 8th-22th
- October 25th – Reformation Sunday
- October 31st – Trunk or Treat in Bus Parking Lot
- Nov 1st In person Sunday School starts again
- Please check Facebook page and/or Website for updates to church activities and functions

Next regularly scheduled Council meeting is November 3rd at 6:30 PM

2020 COUNCIL TEAM MEMBERS

Sherrie McTeer— *President* —
mcteer1208@hotmail.com

Chris Doyle— *Vice President* —
cmdoyle75@gmail.com

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

David Kibler —
james.kibler@dominionenergy.com

John Riser — johneriser@gmail.com
Carroll Lindler, Jr. — clindler3@sc.rr.com

Kayla Pharis— kaylarepting@gmail.com

Larry Shull—larryshull@att.net

Lynn Shealy— lynnshealy55@gmail.com

Judy Dease— deasejudy@bellsouth.net

MEMORIALS SEPT 27 - OCTOBER 18

Building Fund

- In memory of Veterie Slice—By: Retha Russell

Lutheran Men

- In memory of Chevis Ballentine and Glenn Addy —By: Robert and June Lindler

Lutheran Women

- In memory of Jamie Lindler and Glenn Addy —By: Ramonia Lindler
- In memory of Jamie Lynn Lindler and Andrew Bunnell—By: Robert and June Lindler

Cemetery

- In memory of Litang and Sergio Rimando, Sr.—By: Mitchell Martin

THE LUTHERAN WOMEN

There will be a meeting on November 15th at 4:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall with social distancing. Please bring an item or items for We Care. Looking forward to seeing each of you again.

IN PERSON AND ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

In person Sunday School will begin on Sunday, November 1st. We will begin with two classes. The first class will be for children up to middle school. The class will be taught by Rachel Shelton and Sherrie McTeer and will meet in the Sunday School wing downstairs. The second class will be for Adults and high school students. This class will be led by Pastor David and will meet in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the format through December 31st. In person Sunday School will begin at 9:40 AM each week.

For those who are not yet returning to in person worship or Sunday School, the online lessons will continue on our St. Jacob's Facebook page. These lessons are posted at 8:00 AM on Sunday morning. The current list of lessons focuses on several familiar Bible stories of the Old Testament. Please enjoy these and other St. Jacob's online offerings such as Bible studies and devotions as you are able.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

Bible study continues to be held each Wednesday morning at 9:30 AM on Zoom.com. We are continuing our study of the book of James. There are no special materials that you must purchase. All you need is a computer and access to the internet to join in the conversation. Weekly study guides are emailed to the congregation on Tuesday afternoon. Even if you have not provided an email address our study's such that you can join in and participate in the conversation. Why not make Bible study a part of your week? If you have any questions, please contact Pastor David or Rachel Shelton.

LITURGICAL WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

November is a month of remembrance, celebration, and transition. From the first day of the month until the final Sunday, we offer our thanks and praise to God for his saving grace that comes through his Son Jesus Christ. The celebrations of November complete the liturgical cycle of one year and lead us into the next. Please join us as you are able, either in person or online each Sunday as we observe these three significant dates.

ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints Day is a time of remembrance and a time of thanksgiving. We remember all who have entered the Church Triumphant and now rest peacefully in Christ. We also give thanks for all the saints within the Church Militant who strive to share the Gospel of Christ and extend the ministry of the church throughout the world. Join us on All Saints Day, November 1st for worship. As is customary, we will have a prayer for our church family members who passed away since our All Saints celebration last year. All Saints Day is November 1st and traditionally observed on the first Sunday in November.

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

The earliest Christians identified Jesus with the predicted Messiah of the Jews. The Hebrew word "Messiah," and the Greek word "Christ," both mean "anointed one." They refer to the expected king whom God promised would deliver his people from

all earthly powers. Holy Scripture reveals Jesus of Nazareth to be this long-awaited Messiah. Unlike the Messiah most Jews expected, Jesus came to free all people, Jew and Gentile, and he did not come to free them from the Babylonians, Assyrians, or Romans, but from sin and death. Thus, the King of the Jews, and of all people, does not rule over a kingdom of this world. Christ the King Sunday is the final Sunday of the Christian Church year and focuses on the return of Christ at the end of the age. This year, Christ the King Sunday is celebrated on November 22nd.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the new liturgical year for the Christian Church. The word "advent" literally means "coming." Coming on the heels of Christ the King Sunday, Advent is the season when Christians prepare for the coming of our King Jesus Christ. There is actually a two-fold meaning of this coming. When the Church celebrates Advent, we look toward Jesus' second coming by remembering his first coming to earth. We ponder again the great mystery of the incarnation when our Lord humbled himself, taking on our humanity, and entered our time and space to free us from sin. All the while, we recall in the Creed that our Lord will come again to judge the living and the dead and that we must be ready to greet him. This year, the First Sunday of Advent is November 29th.

UNVEILED: SHINING LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

We all wear veils. Veils we put on to hide ourselves. Veils we allow others to put on us to cover. Veils to separate us. Jesus' death tore the veil in two and granted us access to God the Father, welcoming us behind the veil. We are released and welcomed into a life of worship. Our response is to shine and share that light with others.

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ as we gather virtually to support missionaries serving in their homes and neighborhoods, in their congregations, and internationally. This conference will provide encouragement, tools and training, inspiration, and connection to missionaries to be unashamed of the Gospel burning in our hearts, unleashed by the power of the Holy Spirit from the veils that darken our sight, unrestricted to be the aroma of Christ, and

UNVEILED to be and to make disciples to shine light in the darkness.

Pastor David invites all church family members to join him November 4th-6th for this virtual conference for mission and ministry. The cost for the three-day event is \$20. The web address for more information or to register is <https://bit.ly/GCS-Unveiled>.

LETTER TO ST. JACOB'S FROM SISTERCARE DATED OCTOBER 15, 2020

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your generous contribution of \$250 to Sistercare in support of our work.

This thoughtful gift will help Sistercare address the needs of survivors of interpersonal violence and their children who seek shelter and services to escape the abuse in their lives. Your continued support places us in a better position to counteract the effect of domestic violence on survivors' lives and break the cycle of family violence.

We greatly appreciate your continuing support of Sistercare and your concern for families and individuals who receive our services.

Sincerely,

Nancy Barton
Executive Director

LETTER TO ST. JACOB'S FROM WE CARE CENTER OCTOBER 15, 2020

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250! We are incredibly thankful for the community support that makes our work possible, and you are such an important part of that capacity!

So many of us look forward to the calendar change this month. October is a welcome relief to hot temperatures, and we look forward to cooler days and before long holidays that beg to celebrate one after another. Fall reminds us of change, the

moving from one season to another. For so many of us, fall is a joyful time of year as we celebrate that change.

For families struggling to feed their families, little changes from one season to the next. Month by month pass with needs hand to mouth, and our clients do the best they can to care for their families. As fall comes, winter is not far behind and is often anticipated with trepidation as the brief respite of fall temperatures will soon dip into the cold of winter. Holidays, translate to gifts, special food and other expenses. Fall is a relief to some, but for others, the burdens remain.

As our clients anticipate these changing needs as the seasons shift, so is We Care! Client applications and needs for sponsors for thanksgiving and Christmas are well under way, and this year, we know that more financial pressure from the pandemic will bring more families to us for assistance. Last year, we provided full Thanksgiving meals to nearly 300 families and Christmas gifts to 500 children! We are ready to provide all that is needed this year. We are also working hard to make sure that food supplies are ready for the fall. We will do everything we can to see that our clients' needs are met, spring summer, winter, and fall!

Thank you for making that attention to their needs possible through your support. We Care is incredibly blessed by such a caring community that makes our outreach possible!

Sincerely,
Alecia Klauk, Executive Director

LETTER TO ST. JACOB'S FROM GOODWORKS DATED OCTOBER 22, 2020

To St. Jacob's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$250 to GoodWorks. Your support helps us to continue to reach those in need in our community.

God Bless You!

In His Service,
Mary H.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION WEEK OF OCTOBER 18, 2020

Weekly Giving: \$10,970

Budget Requirements: \$ 5,634

MTD Actual Giving: \$19,469

MTD Budget Requirements: \$ 16,902

YTD Actual Giving: \$ 224,074.65

YTD Budget Requirements: \$ 236,628

REPORTING FROM WALT SHEALY FOR SEPTEMBER

September 2020 Giving: \$23,622.99

Month To Date Budget Requirements: \$22,536.00

Year To Date Giving: \$204,605.65

Year To Date Budget Requirements: \$219,726.00

SERVING ASSISTANTS FOR NOVEMBER

Date	Time	Usher	Lay Reader	Communion	Acolyte
1-Nov	8:30	Lynn Shealy	Carroll Lindler	Melissa Lindler	***
	10:30	Leon Lindler	Gary Marco	Angela Nuottila	Isabelle Peeples
8-Nov	8:30	Lynn Shealy	Susan Shealy	Sherry McTeer	***
	10:30	Chris Doyle	Bob Ziemer	A.J. Peeples	Copland Peeples
15-Nov	8:30	Billy McTeer	Rachel Shelton	Carroll Lindler	***
	10:30	Don Dease	Helen Lindler	Judy Dease	Audrey Doyle
22-Nov	8:30	Billy McTeer	Carroll Lindler	Melissa Lindler	***
	10:30	Chris Doyle	Gary Marco	A.J. Peeples	Isabelle Peeples
29-Nov	8:30	Lynn Shealy	Susan Shealy	Sherrie McTeer	***
	10:30	Don Dease	Angela Nuottila	Judy Dease	Copeland Peeples

GROUNDS TEAM FOR NOVEMBER

Co-Chairs—Gerald Lindler and Robert Lindler

Jeremy Lindler, Chad Lindler, Billy Harden, Scott Sightler, Paul Lindler, Sr., Paul Lindler, Jr., Michael Shealy, Richard Shealy, Barry Rice, Tracy Lindler, Albert Lindler

MEMBERS SHUT-IN OR IN FACILITIES

Michael, Dewey, Letha, and Minnie Lee. We are not publicizing last names or addresses due to regulations. Please use your directory to find that information; or if you are missing your copy, you may contact Sherry in the church office.



Members and Friends of St. Jacob's

The 2020 Christmas Season is coming and we would like to honor Pastor and Mrs. Nuottila with a monetary gift from the congregation.

If you would like to contribute, you may either put your gifts in the offering plate or mail your checks to:

Sherrie McTeer
1208 Dan Comalander Road
Chapin, SC 29036

Please be sure to mark your donation "Pastor's Gift" and make all checks payable to:

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church
The deadline for contributions is Sunday, December 13th.

JACOB'S LADDER—OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE 10

MEET THE ST. JACOB'S TEAM

Introducing our new Organist, Sarah Masterson! We are so glad to have her with us and are truly blessed each week by her wonderful talents.

What first got you into playing music? My mom is a piano teacher, so I've been playing as long as I can remember.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received? That it's okay to make mistakes, as long as you learn from them.

Who is your role model? My parents!

What was your favorite thing to do as a child? Read!

What is your favorite Bible verse? Philippians 4:13



THANKSGIVING GIVING

Soon we will reach the day of our traditional Thanksgiving Eve worship service. With the HUB no longer supplying a meal, they have asked congregations to support We Care of Chapin. A simple way to do this is for everyone to make a donation of non-perishable food items for a Thanksgiving Eve offering. During worship, everyone will be invited to bring their donation to the chancel and place it on the floor near the altar. We will ask God's blessing on the foods collected. It's a great way to give thanks to God and to minister to the needy in our community.

BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH

***FOR THE LORD IS A GREAT GOD, AND A GREAT KING ABOVE ALL GODS.
PSALM 95:3***

(803) 345-2309

ChurchOffice@st-jacobs.org

www.st-jacobs.org

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday—9 AM-2 PM

Worship Time: Sundays—8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

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