



St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

DECEMBER
Newsletter

Volume 32, Issue 12

PASTORAL DEVOTION FOR DECEMBER

I Am with You

Read: Genesis 28:10-22

Jacob, having tricked his father Isaac into blessing him over and above his brother Esau, is now on the run. He is in fear for his life as his brother has vowed to kill him for what he had done. Alone and afraid, Jacob travels through the wilderness. He is not seeking an encounter with God, nor is he searching for some deeply religious explanation of his life. Jacob is between places, the place of his father which is his home, and the place to which he is traveling where he hopes to find a new life. Yet, through a dream, God makes his presence known and the gospel, the good news of God's deliverance comes to Jacob. "Behold, I am with you!"

Jacob's vision of a ladder reaching from earth into heaven teaches us that the world is not a place absent of God's presence. Rather, there is intersection between the realm of earthly life and God's kingdom. Angels, messengers of God, travel to and from bringing tidings of good news and God's divine protection to those who live within the family of faith. God's children are not alone; there is someone who walks with us, powerful enough to take on our troubles and wash away our shame. Because God loved the world so much, we have a Savior who says, "Behold, I am with you!"

How often do we wander in the wilderness? When are those instances when we search for God, yet He seems distant? These are the times to become quiet and still, to open our hearts and minds to the presence of our Lord Jesus. For the words of his promise are sure, "Behold, I am with you."

Holy God, guide us by your Holy Spirit and guard us with your angels. Help us to see always, your power and presence in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



The Church Office will be closed from Thursday, December 23rd through Friday, December 31st, celebrating the birth of our Savior. Hope you all enjoy a wonderful time with family and you all remain healthy and well. Blessings!

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

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

I can't say why, but this year, more than most, the celebration of Christmas seems just a little bit nearer to me. Perhaps it is because that the past two Christmas celebrations have been somewhat curtailed by the pandemic. Maybe it is because the year 2021 presented a few challenges to my faith. Or perhaps it is due to a cloudy outlook into the future that many people envision because of uncertain times. Regardless, this year I find myself in earnest reflection of the Christmas narrative and the miracle surrounding the birth of our Lord Jesus.

Think of it, a young woman – a girl actually – pure and innocent, a virgin, suddenly finding herself “with child” by the power of the Holy Spirit. Dear Mary, whom the church would later recognize as “theotokos” or “the God-bearer” she would face so many challenges at a tender young age that most women would likely shy away from. Mary most likely faced harsh ridicule from those who knew her best. “How could you become pregnant outside of marriage?” How could you bring shame upon your family...upon Joseph with such behavior?” No, in these instances, young Mary was alone in her predicament. How could she convince people the child within her was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit? Truly, how could she convince Joseph? Only because God sent the angel Gabriel to Joseph in a dream did he become privy to God's plan to send his Son into the World through such humble means.

As servants of the Lord, Mary and Joseph submitted to the will and desire of our Holy and Mighty God. Perhaps because of their humbleness and willingness God found reason to choose them to be the instruments of his good will toward mankind.

Think of Joseph. He was a man who worked with his hands. Scripture tells us that he was a faithful and just man, one who took into consideration his

love and concern for others. Joseph is a good example for today's men to follow. When presented with challenges in relationships with others, we can look to Joseph, doing well to handle them quietly, faithfully, compassionately. When called to serve according to God's will, even when the situation is difficult, we can see in Joseph a willing spirit and an eager obedience to follow.

And think of Mary, the things she had to experience for herself. There was no midwife to help her deliver and care for her child. No warm water in which to bathe the child. No light, no warmth, only a cold manger for a bed and rags in which to wrap the babe in so he wouldn't shiver. Who showed this poor girl what to do in such circumstances? Who was there to guide her, encourage her? No one but God, and Mary placed her complete faith and trust in him.



I believe that such reflection upon the birth of our Lord serves us well as we look to God's unfailing love for his people. Christmas is a time when we can take a long look at our faith and life. What sweeter picture can there be other than a young mother's glance beaming down upon her first child even as he was born into such a harsh environment? Loving eyes looking upon a helpless child, dependent upon his mother for everything.

It is the same picture of love we see as we consider our heavenly Father's glance beaming down upon his precious children whom he saved from sin and death through the miracle of this baby born of Mary. We sinful human beings are brought into a right relationship through the child conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. This truly is the greatest gift of all. God's loving eyes looking upon his people who are helpless and powerless against the powers that would defy God's goodness, mercy, and grace.

As we sojourn into the approaching Advent and Christmas seasons, I would pray that we all could do so in quiet reflection upon the images of Christ's nativity. Take in the picture of the holy

family. Make them a part of who we are as God's people gathered here. May we all share the love, peace, and miracle of the Nativity of our Lord.

Grace to you and peace,



Pastor David Nuottila

COUNCIL BRIEFS

Good Things @ St. Jacob's for October:

- The G.I.F.T. Class had good attendance.
- Caroling on Homecoming went well and was very well received.

Council Briefs:

- We need at least TWO additional candidates for Council for year 2022. Please prayerfully consider offering your talents in service to our Lord and to St. Jacob's.
- Worship and Music Team needs volunteers to help with putting up the Chrismon Trees on November 27th.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 5th.
- The Discipleship Team is preparing for a new benevolence program in the Chapin Community through WE CARE called "Mercy Buckets" to help feed those who need help.
- Pastor has chosen several people from our church family to be "Elders" who will be trained in the communion liturgy; when pastor is away and no supply pastor is available these Elders will preside over the service of Word and Sacrament.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

St. Jacob's annual congregational meeting will be held at the conclusion of our service of worship on Sunday, December 5th. The agenda for the meeting includes an election of Council members and adoption of the 2022 annual budget. A list of eligible voting members is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Per the St. Jacob's constitution, active voting members are those who have a record of at least 12 instances of worship and Holy Communion within the previous liturgical year (December 1st, 2020 – November 30th, 2021).

ADVENT VESPERS

The theme for our Advent Vespers will be "A Christmas Journey" featuring four dramatic readings presented by St. Jacob's church family members. This set of monologues highlights the inner thoughts of four characters deeply involved in the divine drama of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus. Below is our schedule for mid-week Advent services.

December 1st – Joseph: The Stepfather

December 8th – Mary: The Favored One

December 15th – John: The Preparer

December 22nd – The Innkeeper

Advent Vespers will begin at 7:00 PM each Wednesday during the season. We will also receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion at each service. Please plan to attend each week as we anticipate the celebration of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE — THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Our Christmas Eve Service of Worship will be held on Friday, December 24th beginning at 7:00 PM. Come offer your hearts, minds, and voices as we worship the newborn King! Join us and invite your friends and neighbors for our traditional candlelight service as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP

Years ago, I was confronted by a church member concerning Worship on Christmas Day. That particular year, Christmas was on Sunday and this certain church member wanted to know if we would be having worship that morning. Of course, we did have worship. After all, Sunday is the Lord's Day regardless of any other celebration we might want to observe. That instance set in motion a practice that I have observed every year since. As a pastor, it breaks my heart that the vast majority of churches remain closed on Christmas morning, one of the holiest days of the year. I have made it my tradition to offer a worship service every year on Christmas morning for those who would desire to come celebrate Christmas with worship and Holy Communion. This year

will be no different. Worship with holy communion will be Christmas morning at 10:00 AM. All are invited to keep Christ in Christmas and worship at St. Jacob's during this simple Christmas morning service. It is a "come as you are" opportunity to gather with your church family. Over the years, I have witnessed children in pajamas, adults in relaxed and casual dress, all coming to sing the praises of a God who would provide the most precious gift of all, the birth of a Savior who is Christ the Lord. Everyone is most certainly welcome. Come make a joyful noise and share in the blessing of Christmas with your church family.

TITHING ENVELOPES

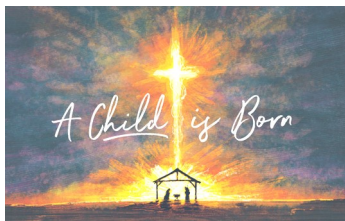
Tithing envelopes for 2022 will be available in the Narthex from December 5th, 2021 through February 13th, 2022. Please pick up yours and any other family member, friend or neighbor who may be unable to get to the church. If you don't see a box for you or your family, please contact Robin Lindler (robinlindler54@gmail.com or 803-622-9247) and a set will be assigned.

ROSTER CHANGES

If you have any changes to your phone number or address, now is the time to provide that information. Contact Robin Lindler (robinlindler54@gmail.com) or Sherry in the church office so your information will be correct in the 2022 Roster.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All are invited to join this small group for Women's Bible study. We meet each Tuesday morning at 9:00 AM, usually in the home of one of our members'. In January, we will begin our study using the book, *Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply* by Deb Burma. Copies are available. Contact Susan Shealy at 803-413-4128 or susanshealy18@gmail.com if you would like additional information or to get a copy of the book and join us! We would love to have you!



MEMORIALS — NOVEMBER 21, 2021

BUILDING FUND

- In memory of Minnie Lee Shealy—By: Ramonia Lindler from October 10th
- In memory of Mrs. Lou and Mr. Julian Addy—By: Miriam Metze
- In memory of Lou Addy—By: Billy and Sherrie McTeer
- In memory of Lou Addy and Minnie Lee Shealy – By: Ramonia Lindler

GENERAL FUND

- In memory of Lou Addy—By: Doug, Johanne, and Brian Sullivan
- In memory of Fae Swittenburg – By: Gerald and Robin Lindler
- In memory of Lou Addy – By: Richard and Earline Shealy

LUTHERAN MEN

- In memory of Ronnie Farr—By: Leon and Helen Lindler

LUTHERAN WOMEN

- In memory of Lou Addy—By: Joe and Eileen Richardson
- In memory of Minnie Lee Shealy – By: Henry and Erline Clark

MEMORIAL FUND

- In memory of Ronnie Farr – By: Henry and Erline Clark
- In memory of Lou Addy – By: Carl and Bonnie Derrick

WE CARE

- In memory of Dr. John Ferguson—By: Robert and June Lindler from October 10th
- In memory of Lou Addy and Dr. John Ferguson – By: Robert and June Lindler

MID-WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

The congregation is invited and encouraged to attend our mid-week Advent services beginning on Wednesday, December 1st, at 7:00 PM. Our theme this year is "A Christmas Journey." Congregation members will present dramatic readings telling the story of the Holy Family's trip to Bethlehem in anticipation of Christ's birth. Characters include,

Joseph, Mary, John the Baptist, and the Innkeeper. Join us as we await the celebration of Christmas and the birth of our Lord and Savior.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Our Advent Bible study will be titled "A Reunion of Grace" and will take a peek into the family history of our Lord. We will see how God chose to save humanity from sin, not through strength, but through humility and weakness. We will look at the lives of four ancestors of Jesus whose scars from human life are important factors for us to know about so that we can become more reliable witnesses to God's amazing grace. Advent Bible study begins on Wednesday, December 1st, starting at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall and is open to anyone who would like to participate.

ATTENTION Team Leaders **REPORTS FOR REPORT** **BOOKLETS**

Team leaders, if you have a report to submit for the report booklets, send them to Sherry as soon as possible. If you don't have a report, just send her a note saying no report this year. Many teams have not met this year and don't have anything to report, but she would like to include any that is available.

REACHING OUT WITH WORSHIP

Beginning on Sunday, December 5th, Pastor David will be leading a brief worship service in the lobby at Generations. This service will take place at 1:30 PM every other Sunday. Several St. Jacob's church family members reside at Generations and it will be good to share a time of Word and Sacrament with them and the rest of the residents. Several have remarked about how much they enjoyed our singing for them in October and are looking forward to Sunday worship. Volunteers to assist in singing familiar hymns and distributing communion would be appreciated. If you would like to help out, please contact Pastor David.

LUTHERAN WOMEN MEETING

All Lutheran Women are requested to attend a brief meeting on Sunday, December 5th at 4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

PROPERTY BROTHERS

The Home and Garden channel may hold rights to the show "The Property Brothers" but St. Jacob's has its own version when it comes to DIY (do it yourself) repairs. Thanks to Gerald and Robert Lindler for their quick response in repairing a broken water line that was causing our church well to run continually. They also discovered there was no cutoff valve between the office building and church, so they installed one. Now if there is a water problem at the church, it can be isolated without turning the water off in the office. The two did a great job and we are so very thankful for their lending their talents in times of need. Thank you Gerald and Robert!



LUTHERAN MEN MEETING

All Lutheran Men are requested to attend a brief meeting on Sunday, December 12th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You

Church Family,
I would like to thank you so much for all the thoughts, prayers, calls, cards and love that you showed me following my recent surgery and as I continue to heal. What a blessing each and everyone of you are. Please continue to pray.

In His love,
Erline Clark

Dear Friends,
I would like to thank the entire congregation for all the prayers and other acts of kindness shown to me during my recent illness and recovery. The love shown to me (and Linda) was greatly appreciated. You all mean so much to us.

Thanks again for EVERYTHING!!!
GOD BLESS YOU ALL,
John Smith

Thank you so much for all your help and assistance with setting up the Chrismon trees for the Advent season. We really appreciate you coming out to support our church.

Blessing,
Marie Slice



Dear Pastor Nuottila and Members of St. Jacob's,
Thank you so much for the gift to the seminary. It is greatly appreciated. Also, it was great to be with you.

Blessings,
Reverend Riesen



November 5, 2021

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church
844 Columbia Avenue
Chapin, SC 29036

Dear Friends,

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

Your thoughtful gift helps Sistercare address the needs of survivors of intimate personal violence and their children who seek shelter and services to escape the abuse in their lives. Your 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 are grateful for your continued support of Sistercare and your concern for families and individuals who receive our services.

Warm Regards,

Ann Kita
Executive Director
ab

P.O. Box 1029
Columbia, SC 29202

OFFICE | (803) 926.0505
CRISIS LINE | (803) 765.9428
FAX | (803) 794.0098

SISTERCARE.ORG

WE CARE CENTER
December Most Needed

1. Jam/jelly
2. Canned corn
3. Spaghetti sauce
4. Canned salmon
5. Chili beans
6. Ramen noodles and soup
7. Pancake mix/syrup
8. Corn muffin mix
9. Spam
10. Oatmeal

We also ALWAYS need laundry detergent, paper products and personal toiletries. THANK YOU!



"For whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." — John 4:14

November 16, 2021

Pastor David Nuottila
St. Jacob's Lutheran Church
844 Columbia Ave
Chapin, SC 29036-9308

Dear Pastor Nuottila:

Your gift to Water Mission is making a transformative difference in the lives of people who lack access to safe water. Together, we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we serve those in need.

Thanks to the love and generosity of your congregation, we are providing innovative, sustainable safe water solutions in communities worldwide. Access to safe water frees women from making dangerous journeys to collect contaminated water. It frees children from the waterborne illnesses that too often hold them back from their educations and bright futures. Your support also makes it possible to share the hope of Jesus, the true Living Water, with entire communities through the life-changing, physical gift of safe water.

Water Mission's vision is that all people would have safe water and an opportunity to experience God's love. Your generosity is helping to make this vision a reality.

For your prayers, financial support, and all that you are making possible, thank you!

Blessings,

George C. Greene IV, PE
Chief Executive Office and President

P.S. We've prepared many resources to help engage your congregation in the fight against the global water crisis. Please visit watermission.org/get-involved.

Gift Information

Gift Date: 11/12/2021
Gift Amount: \$250.00
Designation: Where Most Needed

Water Missions International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your generous donation. If this donation has been designated for a specific project or purpose, Water Missions International will make a good-faith effort to fulfill that request. In the event that more funds are donated than can be used by a specific need, or if that need changes, Water Missions International will use the funds in a way that most closely aligns with the donor's intent and the mission of the organization. Please retain this letter as your receipt for tax purposes.

1150 Molly Greene Way, Bldg. 1605 • N. Charleston, SC 29405 • 843.769.7395 • watermission.org



I would like to take a few minutes and say how blessed I am to work for such a caring, giving, and loving congregation. You've always made me feel at home here. I appreciate each and everyone of you. I am so glad that I was chosen to serve you and work for Christ along side of you.

Praying you all have a blessed Christmas!

Love in Christ,
Sherry Floyd



CHOIR NOTES

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King.

We will soon be singing these words once again, and this year we have so much to be joyful about.

As I write this, I am thinking of all I need to do to prepare for my family coming for Thanksgiving. It is the first time since the pandemic started that I will be gathering with all my children to celebrate the holidays. I am indeed filled with joy. As a church family, we will gather on Christmas eve to celebrate the birth of our Lord without having to sit apart from each other and we will be able to sing boldly our praises to God. So please join us for caroling, for our children's program, and on Christmas eve to thank and praise God for all his blessings, most especially the gift of his son.

Let every heart, prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!

Dates to remember:

December 5th
Children's choir rehearsal 4:00-5:00 PM.
Christmas program rehearsal 5:00-5:30 PM.

December 12th
Children's choir rehearsal at 3:00 PM.
Christmas caroling at 4:00 PM.

December 18th
Christmas program rehearsal 9:00 AM.

December 19th
Children's choir rehearsal 4:00-5:00 PM.
Children's Christmas program 6:00 PM.

NOVEMBER 21, 2021

BAPTISM OF TESSA NAOMI MONTS



PARENTS: Taylor and Joshua Monts

SISTER: Harper Monts

GRANDPARENTS: Davis and Sandra Brown

FINANCIAL INFORMATION WEEK OF NOVEMBER 21, 2021

Weekly Giving: \$6,295.80

Budget Requirements: \$5,726

MTD Actual Giving: \$17,620.74

MTD Budget Requirements: \$17,178

YTD Actual Giving: \$230,758.49

YTD Budget Requirements: \$269,122

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

05-Dec - Bob and Gloria Ziemer

12-Dec - Pastor David

19-Dec - Wade and Marie Slice

26-Dec - Open

GROUNDS TEAM FOR DECEMBER

Co-Chairs—Billy McTeer, Lynn Shealy

Walt Shealy, Danny Shealy, Davis Brown, Donald Turner, Jeff Kleckley, Arthur Langley, A.J. Peeples, Josh Monts, Jason Wicker, Bryan Metze, David Kibler

SERVING ASSISTANTS FOR DECEMBER

Date	Usher	Lay Reader	Communion	Acolyte	Crucifer
05-Dec	Chris Doyle Helen Lindler	Bryleigh Prosser	Marie Slice Larry Shull	Isabelle Peeples	***
12-Dec	Lynn Shealy Billy McTeer	Angela Nuottila	Carroll Lindler Nate Nickel	Copeland Peeples	***
19-Dec	Davis Brown Tracy Eargle	Helen Lindler	A.J. Peeples Dixon Wallace	Jackson Wallace	***
26-Dec	Leon Lindler Bob Ziemer	Susan Shealy	Angela Nuottila Judy Dease	Audrey Doyle	***

2021 COUNCIL TEAM MEMBERS

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

Kayla Pharis – kaylarepting@gmail.com

Lynn Shealy – lynnshealy55@gmail.com

Helen L. Lindler – Helen.Lindler@aol.com

Brandon Slice – Brandons@prtcom.com

Michael Corley—*Vice President* —
mcorley0814@icloud.com

Larry Shull – larryshull@att.net

Judy Dease – deasejudy@bellsouth.net

Nate Nickel – nnickel12@gmail.com

Johanne Sullivan – jrmart53@gmail.com

ST. JACOB'S NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE 12

BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER

03 – Brandon Lindler
 04 – Olivia Lambeth
 06 – Donald Turner
 07 – Tracy Eargle
 07 – Carroll E. Lindler, Jr.
 07 – Ashley Slice
 08 – Ed Walker
 09 – Lisa Amick
 09 – Rhea Matthews
 09 – Joshua Mack
 10 – Chrissy Slice
 11 – Wayne Stuck
 13 – Ken Smith
 16 – Copeland Peoples
 17 – Heather Slice
 18 – Johanne Sullivan
 19 – Randy Rushe
 19 – Matt Bowers
 19 – Ethan Ballentine
 19 – Annie Pharis
 22 – Richard Shealy
 23 – Angela Nuottila
 25 – Carla Lindler
 26 – Lauren Wise
 29 – Ann Lindler
 29 – Chris Doyle
 30 – Emma Sightler
 30 – Ethan McDuffie

31 – Denise Mack
 31 – Janice Shealy



MEMBERS SHUT-IN OR IN FACILITIES

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

Stanley & Lucy Slice
 431 East Boundary St.
 Room 205
 Chapin, SC 29036
 Ph: 803-807-8321

Dewey Clark
 159 Chapin Road
 Chapin, SC 29036
 Ph: 803-345-3365

William & Shirley Nuottila
 431 East Boundary St.
 Room 105
 Chapin, SC 29036

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

Jim Haack
 431 East Boundary St.
 Room 306
 Chapin, SC 29036
 Ph: 803-360-4661



BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH

*He shall be their peace.
 Micah 5:15*

(803) 345-2309

ChurchOffice@st-jacobs.org

www.st-jacobs.org

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

Worship Time: Sundays—10 AM

Sunday School—9 AM

Wednesday Service—7 PM

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

844 Columbia Avenue

Chapin, SC 29036