

# St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

January 2023 • Volume 34 • Issue 1

## Pastoral Devotion for December - Faithful and True

### Read Revelation 19:11-16

If you were asked to describe Jesus how would you? What physical attributes could you mention? John takes up the task in the nineteenth chapter of Revelation. I would imagine, however, that our descriptions of Jesus would likely fall seriously short of John's. Who among us could capture the true essence of Christ better than John?

Christians are one week removed from celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord. This celebration lends itself to peaceful images of shepherds, angels and a baby lying in a manger. Yet, the power and purpose of this child is more accurately captured in John's vision of the one sitting atop of a white horse whose name is Faithful and True.

He commands armies of angels. From his mouth comes a sharp two-edged sword which cuts down

evil and rules the nations with a rod of iron. His name? **The Word of the Lord.**

Our Lord Jesus, God's Word made flesh remains faithful and true. Christ is the same yesterday, today and always. He is Lord and Savior. He came to save we who are neither faithful nor true. His mercy is revealed through the truth of his Word and his grace is sufficient in every circumstance.

Turn to the Lord. Call upon his name and receive the free gift of salvation through the one who is Faithful and True, for He is King of kings, and Lord of lords.

*Prayer: Most holy God, keep us in faith, that we would be ever thankful for your mercy and grace. Amen.*

## CALL TO PRAYER

Pastor David is calling all members of St. Jacob's to pray for St. Jacob's spiritual health, vision, and growth. Everyone who is willing to gather for Prayer, or come at a time when you can be alone, is encouraged to do so each Monday afternoon or evening in January. Beginning on January 9th, the Church sanctuary will be open from 12:00PM to 5:30PM.

You may simply enter the nave, take a seat in the pews and lift up your prayers to our God who promises to hear you. As the evangelist writes in the book of James, "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16).



## 2022 MISSION TEAM REPORTS

All mission team and auxiliary leaders (Men, Women, Up & Going) and treasurers are reminded that it is once again time to submit your annual reports for the 2022 Report Book. Please email your reports to the church office by January 15th so Jean will have enough time to include them.

### Church Roster Updates

Also, please make any necessary updates to your contact information so the church directory can be updated and published on time. The directory and Report Books will be published electronically and sent to the congregation by way of email. Anyone desiring a printed copy should contact the church office and one will be made available for you.

# From the Pastor's Heart

So who among our church family has made, or plans to make a New Year's resolution? Resolutions are great if you keep them. But what happens so often is that New Year's resolutions last for about a week before they are broken. By the second week, most resolutions simply amount to wishful thinking. And finally, by the end of the first month, New Year's resolutions in many cases are all but forgotten. Why is it that so many people have such difficulty keeping their resolutions?

The reasons we make New Year's resolutions are varied. There are those who make resolutions in order to live a healthier lifestyle. They resolve to lose weight, exercise more, quit smoking, eat healthier foods, and eat less junk food. You get the idea. Throughout my life I have made and broken more of these resolutions than I could shake a stick at. I have never been any good at keeping this sort of New Year promise to myself.

Other people look past their physical lifestyle and make New Year's resolutions that might help them in their spiritual journey. Through the years, I have also joined others in making such resolutions. Many folks resolve to develop better faith habits; attend worship each week, pray every day, read the Bible, or attend Sunday school. All of these are great resolutions but, just like the ones that pertain to physical lifestyle, resolutions regarding faith require discipline if one is truly going to keep them. Heading into the New Year, congregations are much like people in that they recognize that some changes might be needed in order to remain healthy.

Especially following the previous two years that were greatly impacted by the pandemic, it may be a good time for St. Jacob's to make a congregational resolution. Certainly, we can all look around and notice that we are not the same church we were heading into the pandemic. But by God's grace, we have come through the COVID crisis and have the opportunity to renew our ministry with enthusiasm. So, how can we accomplish this? Well, by following through on a few commitments (I won't call them resolutions) to grow in our relationship with Christ, and with one another.

Commitment #1 – I hope that St. Jacob's would commit to becoming a congregation filled with people who are committed to daily prayer. So many churches

have what they call their "Prayer Warriors." We could do that. We could commit to daily prayer either together as a group, or as individuals and families. In 2023, let's be intentional in praying for our church. I will make sure the church is open each Monday from 12:00PM – 5:30PM, beginning on January 9<sup>th</sup>, for anyone who would like to come in and pray for St. Jacob's. Let's pray in confidence for God's blessing upon us, that we would become a congregation that invites and welcomes others into our midst. And once they are here, incorporate them into our daily life as beloved people of God.

Commitment #2 – I pray that, as a church family, we will experience a greater commitment to weekly worship. If you are reading this article but have not been regularly active in your worship here at St. Jacob's, I invite you to begin developing the healthy habit of worshipping God each week and receiving the life-giving Sacrament of Holy Communion. There truly is no better time than the beginning of a new year to renew or refresh your spiritual life through worship and prayer.

Commitment #3 – And finally, I pray that St. Jacob's would become known to the community as a congregation that enjoys robust and vibrant fellowship with one another. Especially following the pandemic years, seeing the Fellowship Hall filled with people is a joyous blessing. We have begun making some strides towards this commitment, and everyone I have spoken with about it agrees, we need to be a church family in fellowship with one another, enjoying our life together.

These are but a few items that I believe will help us to rekindle the flames of a dynamic faith following two difficult years. Yes, they were difficult, but they were not so difficult that we cannot grow more spiritually and faithfully healthy. Please make these commitments with me, and pray that God will bless us with His assurance as we grow together in faith, hope, and love.

Grace to you and peace,



Pastor David Nuottila

# *Christmas Greetings from Our Bishop* By Bp. Dan Selbo

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*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. Hebrews 1:1-2*

Greetings in the name of our God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — as we look forward to the celebration of our Lord’s birth at Christmas and His glorious and victorious return when the Father will call us all home to be with Him forever!

Thank you for your ministry and for your partnership in the work of the Gospel. It is my deepest and most sincere desire and prayer that this Christmas season will be one in which we offer a strong and encouraging word of hope to a world that is in desperate need of what only our Lord Jesus can give. As you know, there are more personal messages sent during the Christmas season than any other time of the year. More than 2 billion Christmas cards will be sent in North America alone. There is something about Christmas that encourages people to stay in touch with those they love. There’s also a built-in opportunity for us, during the Christmas season, to share the message of what God has done and accomplished for us in Jesus. The Bible says, “In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son” (Hebrews 1:1-2). The message of Christmas is a word spoken directly to us from God. It is also a word that offers and promises stability and hope, when so much of the world is hopeless and unstable. It is mind boggling how fast our world is changing.

Many of our college students are studying for jobs that do not yet exist. Not only that, but they are doing so in a world where there is more information at our fingertips than available less than a generation prior. When I was growing up, it was nothing like it is today. When we needed to know something, we pulled out our encyclopedias and looked it up. Now, you just Google it and there it is. One click on the screen and the information is there. What’s fascinating is that with this advance in technology we also have access to more relationships with more people than was ever possible. It used to be that your friends were those who lived next door or down the street. You went to the same school or the same church and those were your friends. Today, you can have friends on

the other side of the world. You can have relationships with people who live in places you’ve never been and with whom you’ve never met. Do you know what else is fascinating, almost frightening? In this world where there’s more information available and more relationships accessible than ever before, there’s also a growing number of people — individuals in this connected and “friend-filled” society — who are feeling less connected and more de-friended than they have ever been.

Recent studies have shown that for many people there’s more anxiety over losing a phone than there is over losing a friend. For many, their best friend has become their phone. And their phones are the main and the primary connection they have with their best friends. It’s not surprising that some of the same studies have also shown that there’s a longing in our society, like never before, for connections and communities that actually care for each other. In this increasingly more electronically-connected world, there’s a longing for true connections.

On that first Christmas, God was careful and intentional in making the connection He did when He sent His Son into our world. And He was personal in doing it because He was doing it in the person of Jesus Christ. He was connecting with us, so we could connect with Him. He was becoming a person with us, so we could begin to see Him and know Him in a personal way.

As challenging as it is to reach the hearts of people in our society for Jesus, let us not forget that the relationship we have with God, in Christ, is the kind of relationship people are longing to find. God came into our world to make an incarnate and in-person connection with us. It was also the reason, and still is, that God has called us together in the Church. Let us not forget or neglect the importance of gathering together as the Body of Christ.

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# Choir Notes

What was that hymn?

I'm sure there have been weeks when you left church wondering where on earth did that hymn come from, and some weeks we sing everyone's favorites. There is a pattern to the hymns that we sing each week. I would love to pick my favorite hymns each week, but the hymns are chosen based not only on the season of the church year but the lessons for the day. Our opening hymn prepares us for worship. It invokes God, the Holy Spirit, to dwell with us as we gather and hear God's word. It often addresses our need to enter into worship with open hearts and confessing our need for our savior.

The hymn of the day, which we sing just after the sermon, is chosen by the pastor to support the message for the day. All of the lessons and the psalm tie together to support the theme of the day. The prayer of the day just before the children's sermon usually gives an idea of how the lessons all tie together. The hymn of the day does the same. We also sing hymns during communion.

As I stated in a previous article, the church body joins as one when it raises its voice in song with all the saints on earth and with the heavenly hosts gathered around the throne of God. As one we come forward to receive the body and blood of Christ. Although many think of communion as a very personal experience, just as its name suggests, it is a communal act. We gather as the first Christians did, and as Jesus and his disciples in the upper room, and we confess our sins and are fed with the body and blood of Christ. We join our voices in song at communion to join with each other for the feast. These hymns are almost always about Jesus our savior.

Finally, the closing hymn is a hymn of praise. We have been forgiven of our sins, God's word has been opened for us just as Jesus did for his disciples on the road to Emmaus, and we have received the body and blood of Christ. We leave the church praising God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and profess our commitment to go into the world and share his good news.

The hymns we sing each Sunday are chosen very carefully to reflect all the elements I have listed above. I often find it helps to read the hymns without singing to truly get the full message of the words. I encourage you to pay attention to the

words we are singing. What is it that we are saying through our music. We are not simply enhancing our worship with music. We are speaking to God as we lift our voices in song. If you are not familiar with a particular hymn and are having difficulty singing it, read it to yourself as the congregation sings. What are the words saying to you and to God?

Through the centuries we have been blessed with a rich abundance of hymns. There are many like Amazing Grace, that we can sing by heart, but there are also many hymns we are less familiar with that can enrich our worship and our understanding of the Word.

Starting this month we will have a hymn of the month to help us learn some of these less familiar hymns. This hymn will be sung at communion and we will sing this same hymn each week for a month. Please sing along with us and learn the music that God has blessed us with.

In Christ,  
Angela

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who shared their musical gifts and talents with our church family during our Christmas Prelude and worship services on Christmas Eve. Your music truly beautiful and greatly enhanced our worship



### *Bishop's message cont.*

As you proclaim the name of Jesus this Christmas, and as you bear witness to the relationship God has established with us in His Son, do so with boldness and confidence that the Holy Spirit is

working through your proclamation to connect with and draw people to Christ. Do it also with a sincere desire and prayer that God will open new doors for new relationships to be established with those for whom our Lord Jesus was born. Thank you for your faithful witness. Thank you for the work you do and the partnership we share. It continues to be a joy and an honor to serve as your bishop. Know that my prayers are with each of you. Have a blessed and a hope-filled Christmas, [and a joyous New Year] as we celebrate the incarnate relationship that is eternally ours with God in Jesus!

In Christ,  
Bishop Dan Selbo

## 2023 Tithing Envelopes

Tithing envelopes for 2023 will be available to church family members in the Narthex from December 4, 2022 through February 12, 2023.

Please remember to pick yours up 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 by phone or text (803-622-9247) and a set will be assigned to you.

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## January Birthdays

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02 – Carroll T. Lindler  
03 – Jackson Wallace  
04 – Jack Howard Ballentine  
08 – Frances Bowers  
09 – Wendy Rauch  
09 – Brilynn Amick  
12 – Todd Ballentine  
13 – Allen Lindler  
13 – Brian Dietrich  
13 – Brandon Slice  
13 – Samantha Dietrich  
16 – Tori Lambeth  
17 – Lorene Cannon  
17 – Pastor David Nuottila



18 – David Ellisor  
18 – Gage Shealy  
21 – Sherrie McTeer  
21 – Anna Layton  
25 – David McClain  
27 – Letha Sites  
27 – Henry Clark  
27 – Kim Meetze  
27 – Bryson Metze  
28 – Brantley Bise  
29 – Beckett Bise  
30 – Joshua Monts  
31 – Nate Nickel

# Five Lessons We Learned from Deceased Churches

by Thom S. Rainer  
Founder & CEO Lifeway Christian Resources

It has been a decade since we did our original research on churches that have closed their doors. Our findings were published in my book, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*, in 2014. Our work obviously hit a nerve since the book became a number-one bestseller.

Church Answers has continued to talk with church members and leaders whose churches closed or those that were on the precipice of death. While the original information in *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* is still relevant, there is more information we've gleaned since then. We will release that information in a major new resource in January 2023.

For now, let us share with you five updated lessons from churches that closed.

## **1. The churches had no ongoing effort to reach the unchurched in the community to become church.**

That last phrase, "to become church," is key. Many of the churches had good ministries to their communities, but they were not intentional about inviting them and getting them to become a part of the worship and small group gatherings of the church.

## **2. The pandemic increased the pace of decline and, ultimately, death of the churches.**

We've noted this reality on several occasions. The pandemic did not change the trends of churches. They exacerbated them.

## **3. The leaders and members of the churches were in denial.**

These congregations refused to confront their reality. If they did, it was often too late. [They were blinded by the notion creating a future by attempting to live in their past.]

## **4. The churches did not have new members' classes to set expectations.**

Most of the deceased churches did not have a new members' class at all. The few that had such classes only provided information; they did not use the class to set expectations. All of the deceased churches were hurt significantly by decreased attendance patterns of members. Their failure to set expectations was a key reason members attended less frequently.

## **5. The churches kept waiting for the silver bullet.**

The most common silver bullet was a new pastor who would turn things around. The second most common silver bullet was a new youth or children's minister who would do all the work to reach young people. In other words, the members desired to abdicate their ministry responsibilities and pay someone else to do it.

We will unpack more of the issues related to deceased churches in January when we release our new resource.

Sincerely, Thom

*At the beginning of 2020, our Church council began reading the book cited here, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*. A meaningful discussion began to follow, but soon afterward the COVID-19 virus brought an abrupt end to the discussion.*

*Still, our current reality remains one of declining worship attendance on Sundays and Wednesdays, scant participation in Sunday school, and a reduced focus on congregational fellowship. As Thom cited in his article above, COVID had something to do with it, but COVID did not create the issue, it merely sped it up. Looing through the history of St. Jacob's, our congregation has been in noticeable decline for some time.*

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*Continued from pg. 6*

*Our Church Council has recently taken up the conversation on a proposed “NALC Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit” and presented it to the congregation at our annual meeting in December. I believe the Fresh Eyes Summit would be a positive step forward in renewing our commitment to ministry here in our community and within the greater Church. It would be most beneficial and productive to have plenty of congrega-*

*tional participation during the summit. Please ask questions of our congregation leaders concerning this Fresh Eyes Summit and provide your thoughts, especially as you reflect on the information shared here by Thom Rainer.*

*I have ten copies of this book Autopsy of a Deceased Church. If anyone would like one, please ask and I will get it to you.*

*Blessings,  
Pastor David*

## THE NALC FRESH EYES FOR MISSION SUMMIT

Many congregations struggle with decline in attendance and income, transitioning neighborhood and context, lack of coherent and appropriate vision for mission. Time and time again congregational leaders make efforts to re-tool and re-shape the congregation’s life and ministry, only to find resistance to change, lack of commitment and little positive result. One of the challenges to renewal and re-formation is our closeness to our congregation’s history, culture and current practices. As with any family system, we can be so involved that we are blinded to the reality of our situation, unable to see clearly God’s will for new direction and transformation.

In ongoing reflection and conversation, leadership of the North American Lutheran Church have been seeking an integrative approach to congregational assessment, evaluation and renewal. Working together, several member’s of the NALC Executive staff have developed such an approach, appropriately titled, the “Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit.

The goal of the summit is to involve appropriate leadership in the NALC, together with congregational pastor and leaders, praying first, “Lord, let our eyes be opened!” We then trust that the Lord will give participants fresh eyes to receive new insight and understanding, all aimed at new or renewed direction for mission and ministry as the congregation seeks to follow Jesus firmly and faithfully.

On Monday evening, November 21st, several members of St. Jacob’s met with Pastor David Wendel, NALC assistant to the bishop for ministry, to explore the prospects of our congregation participating in the “Fresh eyes for Mission Summit.”

One need only look around to see that St. Jacob’s is not the congregation we once were. In these days of declining church attendance and membership, the Fresh Eyes Summit is designed to help congregations such as ours take a critical look at how their ministry is going and what key factors should be addressed. Congregations engaging in the summit look at the community’s growth and other factors, and weigh their giftedness to determine the capacity each church has for mission and ministry.

Several NALC congregations in the Carolinas (including local congregations such as Holy Trinity in Little Mountain) have participated and come away with renewed energy and excitement about their church’s Ministry.

Please contact Pastr David Nuottila or one of our 2023 Council members for more information.

# Council Briefs for December 2022

## Good Things for November 2022

The Up and Going Thanksgiving dinner and meeting.  
Abundance of good desserts provided for The Hub Thanksgiving meal.  
NALC health kit collection and assembly along with the Chili Cookoff meal  
Good participation to put up Chrismon trees and decorations.

## Council Briefs for December 2022

### Reports

The Council received the Pastor's report. The new Administrative Assistant, Jean Frick started with SJLC on December 1, 2022. The Pastor will be away from the office Jan. 27-28 for the Congo Mission meeting in Rosenberg, TX, and also Jan. 29 - Feb 3 at the Clergy Convocation & Bishop's Ministerium in San Antonio, TX. Elders will lead worship services on Feb. 3, 2023.

Bob Ziemer provided the treasurer's report. The church has spent 79.97% of the 2022 budget. The Estate Gifts and Bus Sale accounts will remain open in 2023. The Council approved using the following funds for the purchase of green paraments and alter clothes: Amazon Smiles, Holiday Giving, Memorial Fund and Facility Rental donations.

All ministry team reports were received by the council. Notes of interest were as follows:

**Staff Support:** The Administrative Assistant position has been filled by Jean Frick effective December 1, 2022. The Youth and Family Minister position remains open. The Staff Support committee will recognize all staff at Christmas with gift cards.

**Christian Education:** Sherrie McTeer will continue to teach both of the children's classes through December 2022. There is a need for assistance beginning in January of 2023. There will be no Sunday School on Christmas Day.

**Congregational Care:** Pound cake donations provided for The Hub Thanksgiving meals were very appreciated. There was enough donated to provide for 400 meals.

**Discipleship:** The continues to be a need for food donations and/or funds to provide meals for We Care. The Up and Going collected and delivered more than 50 pounds of food to We Care in November.

**Property:** no report

**Stewardship:** The Audit team met on Nov. 14, 2022 to review the youth account and all records were accepted as presented. There was a request from the Finance Committee to move this account to general funds; however, the Council approved to keep the Youth Fund Account open so that funds will be available when needed.

**Worship and Music:** The Sanctuary was decorated for Christmas.

### Old Business:

Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit: The Council approved moving forward with planning of the Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit and will discuss further in January.

The Nursery Attendant position was tabled.

Review of the Safe Sanctuary policy was tabled.



## Council Briefs (continued)

### New Business

Council discussed the time of the Christmas Eve Service and the possibility of having an earlier service; however, after a brief discussion, we will continue with the 7:00 p.m. service for Christmas Eve this year.

There was discussion regarding leaving the offering plates at the back of the Sanctuary and discontinue the passing of the plates during Sunday morning service; however, after discussion, it was decided to continue to pass the plates.

The Executive Committee will have a Mutual Ministry meeting with Pastor David on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

### 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Billy McTeer— President-wsmcteer@gmail.com  
Brenda Smith— Sec.-brendaedsmith@gmail.com  
Don Dease — Deaserus@bellsouth.net  
Brandon Slice— Brandons@prtcom.com  
Gloria Ziemer— snoggyfrog@aol.com  
David Kibler— david.kibler@dominionenergy.com  
Tommy Faulk— tfaulk@sc.rr.com  
Susan Shealy— susanshealy18@gmail.com  
Marie Slice— slicem.ms@gmail.com  
Barry Rice— wbarryrice@gmail.com

## ANNOUNCING! 2023 SOUTH CAROLINA MISSION DISTRICT MEN'S RETREAT

All St. Jacob's men are encouraged to participate in the first annual South Carolina Mission District Men's Retreat. The retreat will take place at Camp Longridge in Ridgeway, SC on the weekend of April 14-16. The cost for the weekend is \$125.00 per person and includes meals and lodging. The theme for the retreat is "Becoming Fishers of Men." St. Jacob's and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches in Chapin are the host congregations for the weekend. Registration brochures will be available beginning Sunday, January 1, 2023. More information will follow in the St. Jacob's Newsletter and South Carolina Mission District Facebook page.



*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."*

— Luke 2:10–12 NRSV

*This holy season, let us find true happiness where it may be found—in the good news that Christ became human—that God loves us with all His heart!*

*May your heart be filled with the joy and gladness that is ours in Him.*

*Bishop Dan Selbo and Staff  
North American Lutheran Church*

Pictures from Up and Going's Christmas Dinner *Photos thanks to Ann Lindler*



# St. Jacob's Men Hosted Christmas Dinner

On Sunday, December 4, following worship and our annual congregation meeting, our St. Jacob's Lutheran Men hosted the annual Christmas Dinner. This was the first Christmas Dinner enjoyed by our church family since before the COVID pandemic. It was wonderful seeing the Fellowship Hall filled with smiling people and enjoying a delicious meal together. Thank you to our St. Jacob's Men for this generous gift. Thanks also to Phyllis Bickley for making sure we had pictures to remember the occasion.



# Worship Assistants for January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Communion Assist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
Jan 1	Carroll Lindler Sherrie McTeer Tracy Eargle David Kibler	Brandon Slice	Judy Dease Marie Slice	Jack Wallace
Jan 8	Robert Wessinger Arthur Langley Eddie Eargle Gerald Lindler	A. J. Peeples	Susan Shealy Bob Ziemer	Isabelle Peeples
Jan 15	Bob Ziemer Lynn Shealy Leon Lindler Davis Brown	Susan Shealy	Angela Nuottila Carroll Lindler	Samantha Monts
Jan 22	Robert Wessinger Arthur Langley Eddie Eargle Gerald Lindler	Angela Nuottila	Nicki Peeples Patricia Woodard	Makenzie Raines
Jan 29	Bob Ziemer Lynn Shealy Leon Lindler Davis Brown	Gary Marco	Kristen Nickel A.J. Peeples	Bryliegh Prosser

## ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

January 1—Open  
 January 8—Open  
 January 15—Angela Nuottila  
 January 22—Barbara and Terry Metze  
 January 29—Patricia Woodard

## HOMEBOUND MEMBERS AND RESIDENCE FACILITIES

Michael Lindler 250 Leaning Pines Trail Lexington, SC 29072 Ph: 803-356-4100	Shirley Nuottila 431 East Boundary St. Room 306 Chapin, SC 29036
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Letha Sites 1024 Freshly Mill Rd. Irmo, SC 29063 Ph: 803-345-2300	Mary Lou Haddox 200 Brook Court Chapin, SC 29036 Ph: 803-707-3614
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Stanley & Lucy Slice  
 431 East Boundary St.  
 Room 205  
 Chapin, SC 29036  
 Ph: 803-807-8321

## Worship at Generations

Every other Sunday, Pr. David leads worship for the residents of Generations Assisted Care of Chapin. This ministry has made a great difference in the lives of many folks who are not able to attend worship at their home church. The congregation is invited and certainly encouraged to share this experience with our friends just down the road. Our next worship opportunity will be on Sunday, January 8th at 1:00PM, and again on January 22nd in the lobby at Generations.



# Christmas in Congo

Thanks to donations from St. Jacob's Lutheran Church, and other congregations in North and South Carolina, Congo Mission International received \$1,100 to provide Christmas meals for orphaned children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These meals are to be served to nearly 1,000 children between the dates of December 25th and January 1st. Three local congregations in three different provinces will serve as host congregations for these meals.

Though the need in Congo to feed hungry children is ongoing, these donations came at a time they were desperately needed. There were heavy rains on December 12 and 13 in Kinshasa. These rains caused flooding throughout the city. The flooding claimed more than one hundred human lives and a lot of other casualties including the loss of much of the food supply that usually comes to Kinshasa from Bas-Congo (another region we serve during our mission trips). The Christmas meals will bring much joy to many children and their families.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Congo Mission. Through St. Jacob's hundreds

and hundreds of children are fed hot, nourishing meals that they otherwise would not receive. Below is a snapshot of some of the work St. Jacob's has helped to accomplish in 2022.

**Teaching:** Approximately 1,000 individuals were reached including: Pastors, Women's groups Youth groups, groups of pastors and lay leaders

**Freeing Babies:** 46 babies were freed in three clinics in Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai-Oriental). The babies also received clothes, hats, diapers, blankets, etc.

**Feeding Children:** Approximately 600 children received nourishing meals each week for the four-week duration of the mission trip.

**Bibles:** over 200 Bibles in various languages were distributed to congregations in Kinshasa and Kasai-Oriental.

**Eyeglasses:** More than 200 pairs of eyeglasses were distributed to persons in need.

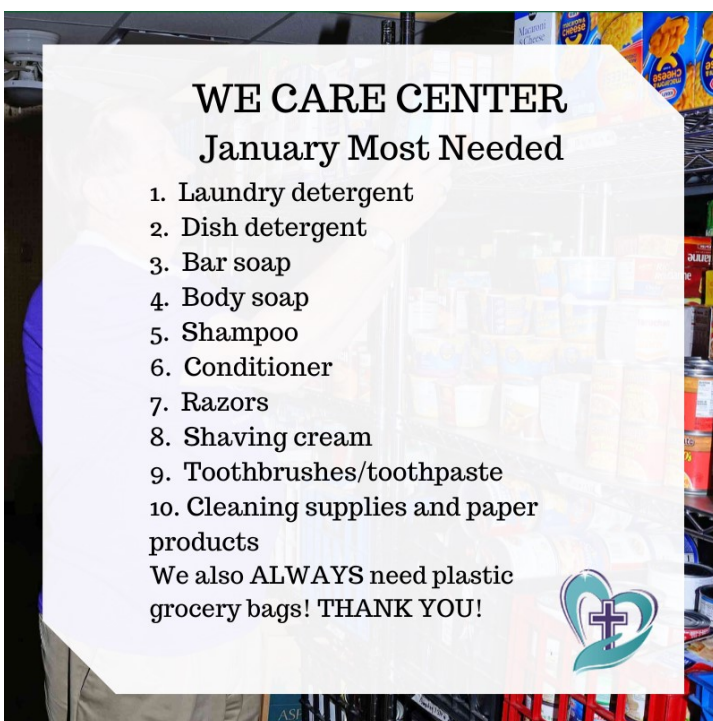
## Community Service

As a service to our neighbors, St. Jacob's offers the use of our Fellowship Hall, and occasionally the church office building to civic groups in our community. Currently we have two groups devoted to the care of those who struggle against affliction.

The Chapin area AA group meets in the Fellowship Hall every week on Monday and Friday at 7:30PM. They are very grateful for the use of St. Jacob's facilities and have been a wonderful addition to our outreach into the community.

The Courage Center meets in our Fellowship Hall each week on Thursday evening at 7:00PM. The Courage Center supports families whose lives have been disrupted by substance misuse or addiction.


Please remember to consult the church calendar when scheduling events held in the Fellowship Hall. We want to be accommodating to our neighbors in needs, just as our Lord is compassionate and accommodating in our need.



**WE CARE CENTER**  
**January Most Needed**

1. Laundry detergent
2. Dish detergent
3. Bar soap
4. Body soap
5. Shampoo
6. Conditioner
7. Razors
8. Shaving cream
9. Toothbrushes/toothpaste
10. Cleaning supplies and paper products

We also ALWAYS need plastic grocery bags! THANK YOU!



# Messages to St. Jacob's

Dear Church family members of St. Jacob's,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas cards and messages sent to me and others here at Generations. They meant so much to all of us here. I pray that you all receive the peace that comes to us from our Savior Jesus Christ this Christmas. And I hope you all have a very blessed and happy New Year.

Love,  
Shirley Nuottila

Dear St. Jacob's Lutheran Church,  
Thank you all for the warm welcome to the Administrative Assistant position of St. Jacob's. May the blessings of Christmas strengthen your hearts and warm your homes with faith, hope, and love.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Jean Frick

M E R R Y  
*Christmas*

Thank you for coming alongside us to share the joy of safe water with our brothers and sisters around the world. May this be a season of hope, peace, and blessing for you and your loved ones.



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Romans 15:13

*Friends at St. Jacob's,  
God bless you all  
for helping bring the  
hope of Christ to the  
hopeless!  
- Jen*

