

# St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

APRIL 2023 • Volume 34 • Issue 4

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## Pastoral Devotion for April - Receive the Lord

**Read Luke 22:14-23**

In the hours before Jesus was lifted up upon the cross, he gathered his closest friends around the table and poured out the Spirit of God's love. In the meal they shared, Christ made himself truly available to them, filling them with the hope of God's kingdom.

The disciples could not yet understand, but Christ's assurance was there; "This is my body which is given for you." On the eve of Christ's victory over sin and the grave, finally, reconciliation between God and man was at hand.

Today, we live as God's redeemed people; through Christ, sin no longer has power over us. Nowhere is this made more visible than as we share the meal of our faith. The same assurance, the same spirit of love, the same Lord Jesus is present with us

as he was present with the twelve.

As we approach God's table of grace, we bring only that which we can truly call our own. With extended hands, the nakedness and shame of our sin is laid to bear at the foot of Christ's cross. Yet, our Lord welcomes us to the feast. Our sin stained hands are extended – seeking refreshment, fulfillment, forgiveness. And like the disciples, we receive our Lord as we hear the words of Christ, "This is my body given for you."

*Prayer: Thank you Lord, for this bread and this cup, through which you fill us with your grace. Amen.*

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## JOIN US FOR THE CELEBRATION OF EASTER

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday  
April 9 - 10:00AM

Maundy Thursday  
April 6 - 7:00PM

Good Friday  
April 7 - 7:00PM

### EASTER AT ST. JACOB'S

Sunrise Service  
April 9 - 7:00AM

Easter Breakfast  
Following Sunrise service

Resurrection Festival Service  
April 9 - 10:00AM

## From the Pastor's Heart

*[Peter and the other disciple] were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. John 20:4*

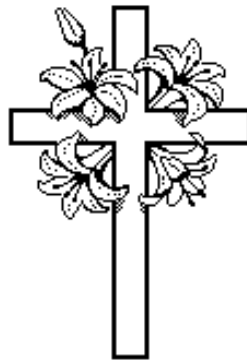
Recently while looking through some old Bible study material, I stumbled upon a video that made me pause for a while. It is a video of a skit portrayed by two men called "The Skit Guys." In the video, they are enacting the events of the first Easter morning. Peter and John (The Skit Guys) are told by some women that they have seen Jesus. In response, they run to the empty tomb. John runs much swifter and much more sure footed than Peter. Their faces display the anticipation and even perhaps a bit of fear concerning what they might find. John reaches the tomb first, but he won't look inside or enter. Then Peter arrives, huffing and puffing, but he enters the tomb without stopping to think. As I replay this video in my mind, this is the point where I have to hit the pause button.

I wonder to myself, upon hearing the reports of the women saying they have seen Jesus very much alive, would I be bold enough to charge into Christ's tomb? Even as I knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that Jesus was beaten, whipped and crucified, would I have the where with all to enter the tomb where they laid his body only to find it empty? Thinking about that for a while, I finally decided that, yes I would. Having walked with Jesus for three years as a disciple, having witnessed his many miracles, and having come to believe Jesus is who he says he is; I would have to enter the tomb.

I suppose the question I have for you, my church family, is much the same that I faced when watching this video. If someone came to you early in the morning, excited and out of breath, and told you that they had seen Jesus and he is very much alive, you would run to the tomb in order to see for yourself? Would this amazing news of Christ's resurrection stir your emotions so deep that you would simply have to witness the event with your own eyes? I suspect that it would. I suspect that given such extraordinary news, you too would run to the tomb of Jesus in wondrous expectation. We would likely do this because of the same reason Peter and John did; we are his disciples and we love him.

Through the reading of Holy Scripture, worship and prayer, we are witnesses to the many amazing miracles of Jesus. We are students of his teaching and

recipients of his grace. Following Jesus throughout his mission and ministry, we too have come to know Jesus as Messiah and Lord, through whom we have forgiveness of sin and the hope of eternal life. Throughout the past twelve months, since Easter of last year, I pray that in my preaching and teaching, you have heard the gospel of Christ and the reports that Jesus is indeed alive!



Even as we have traveled the Lenten Road once more, even as we are about to once again mark the event of Christ's Passion, and come to the realization that yes, Jesus did give up his life for our sake. Soon, the sun will rise on yet another Easter morning. Yes, we know beyond the shadow of a doubt that Jesus died and was buried, but still the reports of his resurrection persist. Jesus is alive! We have seen him! How sweet this news is to the ears of the people of God.

At the conclusion of the video, Peter finally emerges from the tomb to meet John who is still standing outside. Peter, holding the burial garments of Christ in his hands, can only look at John with a stare of complete amazement. As the two disciples take in the meaning of what they have witnessed, all they can do is laugh through their tears of joy. Jesus is alive. He is risen! It happened just as he said it would.

People of God, as Easter Sunday is upon us, I invite you to run to the empty tomb and see for yourself. Come hear the good news of Jesus' resurrection once more. If you have not been in worship for a while, what a great time to come! I invite you to run to the tomb, charge right in and behold the glory of God in the resurrection of our Lord. It happened just the way Jesus said it would. I invite you to be a part of the Easter story and to be a part of the celebration among your church family. Come hear the good news of Christ Jesus. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

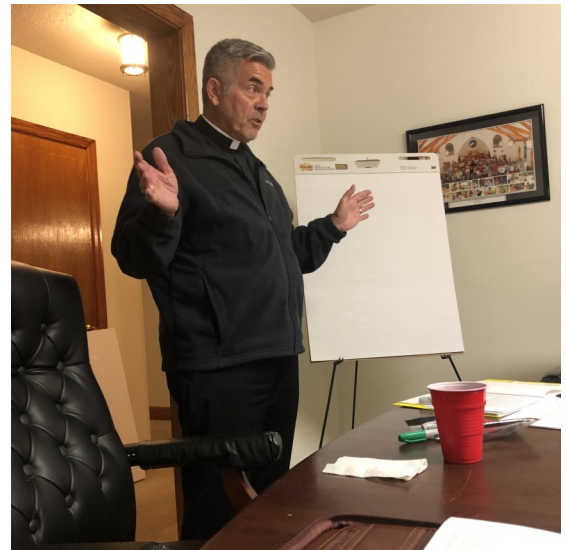
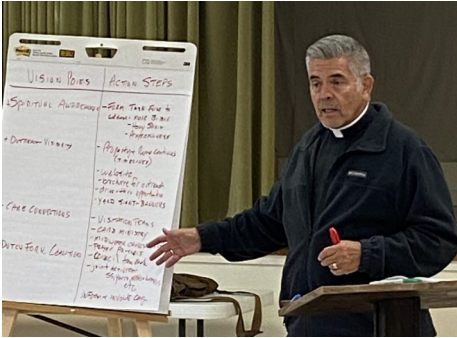
Grace to you and peace,,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David Nuottila". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor David Nuottila

# Looking With Fresh Eyes

Our Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit with Pastor David Wendel was a great success. Everyone who attended seemed to enjoy discussing our current reality and prayerfully discerning a vision for our future here at St. Jacob's. We came up with four vision points that will be shared with the congregation as soon as time allows. In order that we do not lose momentum, Susan Shealy and Sherrie McTeer were chosen to serve as "Trail Bosses" to keep us on the pathway toward renewal of our mission. Thank you to everyone who participated and thank you to Pastor Wendel for his visit and leadership through the summit. Below are a few pics of our time together.



# Countdown to Congo

It won't be long before my annual mission trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo will commence. On July 2nd, following worship, I will fly to Houston to meet up with my mission partner, Pastor Stéphane Kalonji and we will depart for Africa the next day. Our itinerary for travel will take us from Houston to Newark, NJ, then to Brussels, Belgium, Luanda, Angola, and then finally to Kinshasa, DRC.

Once on the ground in Kinshasa we will visit with the bishop of the Congolese Lutheran Church before taking another flight to Mbuji Mayi in the central part of Congo. This will be new territory for me as I have never traveled this far into the Congo. It is the province where I would have served last year had I been able to make the trip. Still, God is smiling upon Stéphane and I and allowing us to serve together as we planned one year ago.

Even as this will be a new place, the ministry we will share is along the same lines as before. Our chief endeavor will be to lead worship with the Lutherans in Mbuji Mayi and provide continuing education for the pastors of the region. We will also lead Christian education seminars for the women, men, and young adults.

Other staples of our mission will also take place such as feeding orphaned children, providing pastoral care and Bibles for those in such need, and freeing mothers and their new born babies from the local hospitals and clinics. Of course, none of this can happen without the blessing from God that comes to us through the support of congregations such as St. Jacob's.

For five years, you have been faithful supporters of the Congo Mission and we are certainly grateful for the opportunity to share this ministry with you. As we travel to the Congo, your love and prayers go with us. The people of Congo are always joyful and thankful for their Christian brothers and sisters of St. Jacob's in Chapin and St. Paul's in Rosenberg, TX in that you share so much with them. You share more than simply your gifts and your prayers. You share your pastors as well, in love for so many children of God, people whom you likely will never meet.

God bless you as you continue to support the Congo Mission. As a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church, this is a very important part of the ministry that defines us as a mission driven church. I thank God for the opportunity to share this work with you. While I am away, Pastor Gary Blobaum will be our supply Pastor on Sundays and Pastor David Tholstrup will provide any needed pastoral care. Thank you all, especially for your prayers as Pastor Kalonji and I serve in Christ's name. To God be the glory!

In Christ,  
Pastor David

# The Easter Cross

The Easter Cross will be placed standing outside of the Narthex.

We encourage everyone to bring some cut flowers to place on the cross on Easter



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## April Birthdays

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02 – Hannah Metze  
03 – Jonathon Lindler  
03 – Chandler Turney  
04 – Janice Ellisor  
05 – Michael Lindler  
05 – Ken Mostiler  
06 – Helen R. Lindler  
08 – Chad Lindler  
10 – Elizabeth Lindler  
12 – Alice Rice  
16 – Dan Frick  
16 – Adam Slice  
18 – Rene Griggs  
19 – Bryan Lindler  
20 – Jay Alford  
20 – Amanda Bise Duggan  
20 – Dagmar Langley  
20 – Tracy Riser



21 – Rich Mueller  
21 – Kevin Pharis  
22 – Tessa Monts  
23 – Tina Kibler  
23 – Carter Lambeth  
23 – Trey Meetze  
24 – Shep Lindler  
24 – Chloe Meetze  
28 – Jimmy Boland  
30 – Lauren Daniels  
30 – Samantha Knight  
30 – Daniel McDuffie

# Worship Assistants for April

## **April 2**

Ushers: Bob Ziemer, Arthur Langley, Eddie Eargle, Gerald Lindler  
Lector: A.J. Peeples  
Communion: Susan Shealy, Angela Nuottila  
Acolyte: Jack Wallace  
Crucifer: Tommy Faulk

## **April 6 (Maundy Thursday)**

Ushers: Leon Lindler, Lynn Shealy  
Lector: A.J. Peeples  
Communion: Carroll Lindler  
Acolyte: Copeland Peeples  
Crucifer: Isabelle Peeples

## **April 9 (Sunrise)**

Ushers: Leon Lindler, Bob Ziemer, Robert Wessinger, Arthur Langley  
Lector: Angela Nuottila  
Communion: Angela Nuottila, Susan Shealy  
Acolyte: Copeland Peeples  
Crucifer: A,J, Peeples

## **April 9 (10:00AM)**

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Sherrie McTeer, Eddie Eargle, David Kibler  
Lector: Gary Marco  
Communion: Judy Dease, Marie Slice  
Acolyte: MaKenzie Raines  
Crucifer: Angela Nuottila

## **April 16**

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Arthur Langley, Leon Lindler, Gerald Lindler  
Lector: Carroll Lindler  
Communion: Nicki Peeples, A.J. Peeples  
Acolyte: Samantha Monts  
Crucifer: Isabelle Peeples

## **April 23**

Ushers: Bob Ziemer, Lynn Shealy, Leon Lindler, Tracy Eargle  
Lector: Brandon  
Communion: Kristen Nickel, Patricia Wooderd  
Acolyte: Copeland Peeples  
Crucifer: A. J. Peeples

## **April 30**

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Sherrie McTeer, Eddie Eargle, David Kibler  
Lector: Susan Shealy  
Communion: Angela Nuottila, Judy Dease  
Acolyte: Bryliegh Prosser  
Crucifer: Tommy Faulk

## *St. Jacob's Youth have a Real "Moo"ving Time*

In March, Lynn and Susan Shealy invited the Youth members of St. Jacob's to visit with their newly born calves. Feeding the herd and getting to know these beautiful animals was a highlight of their time together. We may even have a few future cattle farmers in our midst. A great time was had by all and we look forward to another fun "pastoral" visit.



## **Council Briefs for March Meeting**

Good Things at St. Jacobs:

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Copeland Peeples Solo
- Lutheran Men Sausage Sale

Treasurer's Report: Because of the volatile stock market, Council approved a Finance Committee recommendation to move the Sites Endowment Fund into a money market account for the short term. Council also approved moving the remaining funds in the Thrivent Account to a money market account.

Report of Ministry Teams:

- Safety Team is preparing medical emergency guidelines.
- Christian Education – Multi-Generational Sunday School Class has been discontinued.
- Property Team – A tankless water heater is being installed in the church office. A floor joist is also being repaired in the church office.

Old Business:

- Plans continue for the Fresh Eyes Mission Summit.
- Improvements to church property: Council discussed several items regarding improvements to church property. This includes improvements to the church office, Sanctuary, and parking lot. A plan to renovate the church office is complete. Plans for the Sanctuary and parking lot are continuing. Council voted to approve the plans for the church office. This plan will be presented to the congregation in the near future.

New Business:

- Council voted to add a monthly calendar to the newsletter.

## **St. Jacob's Lutheran Women**

On Saturday, April 1 from 10:00-12:30, we will be sponsoring our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt for children ages infants to 12 years of age. Please bring your baskets or lots of eggs to hunt, crafts, and a light lunch will be served. You are also asked to bring a friend (s). Come and enjoy the fun.

On Saturday April 22, we will be sponsoring a Mother-Daughter/Friend Brunch at 11:00. The theme this year is "3 BLESSINGS OF LIFE". Our guest speaker will be Mr. Glen Ward, Professional, Humorist, and Inspirational Speaker and prizes. Tickets go on sale beginning today, March 26 in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$10.00 for ages 4 and up and children 3 and under are free.



# UP And GOING

The March 9th meeting of the Up and Going was held in the Fellowship Hall at 11 am. Devotions with prayer was given by Team Leader, Helen Lindler. Devotions were on The Purim Holiday from the book of Esther, also a reading, Be Open to Giving and Receiving Grace, with verses from Ephesians.

A covered dish meal was enjoyed by all. Members gathered at the work tables to assemble Hospice Easter Bags for area Hospice patients. We might be older but not slower workers.

In about one hour, our 14 members and guests assembled 100 Easter bags consisting of a pretty cello bag with a layer of Easter grass, then filled with wrapped candies, nuts, cookies, etc. then tied with a beautiful multi-colored ribbons and bows holding a hand written Easter Blessing.

They were so pretty. Gary and Joan Marco will deliver the bags to the appropriate distribution facilities for delivery by hospice workers before Easter. Thank you all for a job well done.

The April Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13th at 10am (NOTE TIME CHANGE) in the Fellowship Hall. We will have an hour chair yoga

class for our information and enjoyment. Lunch will follow. Please bring a salad, side item or dessert for sharing. Please plan to attend and

enjoy this class. Dress is comfortable pants and shirts so you will be comfortable.

## Worship at Generations

Worship services at Generations Assisted Care of Chapin have made a great difference in the lives of many folks who are not able to attend worship at their home church. St. Jacob's members are invited and certainly encouraged to share this experience with our friends just down the road. Our next worship opportunities will be on Sunday, March 5th and March 19th at 1:00PM. Join us in the lobby at Generations.



## 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

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

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

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION as of the week of March 26, 2023

Actual Giving		Budget Requirement
2,972	Weekly	5,993
19,865	MTD	23,972
67,343	YTD	77,909

### MEMORIALS given February 26 – March 26, 2023

#### **GENERAL FUND:**

In Memory of J. P. Watson – By: Gerald and Robin Lindler

In Memory of Warren Shealy and Mrs. Floriede Lindler – By: Derriel and Lynne Amick

#### **BUILDING FUND:**

In Memory of Steve R. Meetze – By: Wayne and Geraldine M. Koon

#### **LUTHERAN MEN:**

In Memory of O’Neal Lindler – By: Mr. and Mrs. Jonas L. Lindler

In memory of Henson and Myrtis Roof – By: Leon and Helen Lindler

#### **LUTHERAN WOMEN:**

In Memory of Floriede Lindler – By: Mr. and Mrs. Jonas L. Lindler

In Memory of our Church Family Members who have passed this year and Friends who are no longer with us – By: Burly Joe and Eileen Richardson

#### **MEMORIAL FUND:**

In Loving Memory of Floriede Lindler – By: Ralph and Betty Ringer, Alvin and Melanie Ringer AND Rudy and Susie Gardner