

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

July 2023 • Volume 34 • Issue 7

Pastoral Devotion for July - Accepting Truth

As [Jesus] drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Read Luke 18:31-43

Jesus told them plainly; once they reached Jerusalem, he would be turned over to the Gentiles, be beaten and then killed. Yet on the third day, God would raise him from the grave. Even as we know this to be true, the disciples had difficulty accepting Jesus's words. The prophets foretold it; Jesus affirmed it, but the disciples simply couldn't face the truth that all Jesus said would certainly be accomplished.

Sometimes, when presented with the truth, we have difficulty accepting it. An adverse diagnosis, news

of a tragedy, financial woes, or simply owning up to our own failures; each of these can cause us to discount the present reality. Too often, denial leads to disbelief. Even as we know the truth, we are apt to turn a blind eye hoping everything will pass.

As Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man called out to him. Those lining the streets tried to stifle his voice, yet he called out all the more. Though blind, he had vision; he knew Jesus was the Christ, the one promised from God, the one who would redeem Israel, the one who had the power to restore his sight. Facing the truth, he called upon the Son of David, and his sight was restored. The truth remains today, Jesus, the Son of David is the one who has mercy and restores the people of God.

Prayer: O Lord Jesus Christ, restore our sight, so that we may accept the truth of your grace. Amen.

Congo Mission 2023

In July, Pastor David Nuottila will be busy on his mission trip in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Traveling with his mission partner, Pastor Stephane Kalonji, Pastor David will be serving alongside pastors of the Community of Confessional Lutheran Churches of Congo.

Their mission work includes, but is not limited to, leading Christian Education seminars for Pastors, lay leaders, women's groups, men's groups, and young adults.

They will also minister to congregations by helping them feed the many orphaned children in the church's care, provide eyeglasses for people with such need, provide Bibles for those who do not have access to them, and free mothers and their newborn babies from detention in hospitals.

The challenges of doing mission work in Congo are many, and difficult to overcome. Transportation is one of the biggest challenges that will be faced. Many of the towns and villages are miles apart from one another, and the roads are nearly impassable.

This year's mission trip will last about three weeks. Pastor David will return to Chapin on Friday, July 21. Until then, pastoral services will be arranged on an as needed basis. Please call the church if you have such need. After hours you may call Congregation President Billy McTeer to arrange for pastoral care.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Congo Mission to make this trip possible. Thank you also for your many prayers.

From the Pastor's Heart

Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. James 1:22-24

At first thought, when I began writing this installment for the newsletter, I thought it seemed a bit selfish of me. What God placed on my heart was an aspect of ministry that I very much love but seem to have less and less opportunity to engage in. I'm speaking of youth ministry and ministry to children.

Throughout my career as a pastor, I have seen both sides of the coin. In my first call, there were few children, but the church was one with a heart for mission and an outward focus. My second call was much different. There were many children and youth members but the focus of the congregation was more inward than outward. One common factor between the two was that the youth and children enjoyed doing projects for the sake of other people. As pastor and people, we planned outreach mission projects, and the youth of the church naturally gravitated toward the activities along with their pastor, parents, and grandparents. Eventually, many more congregation members joined in and enjoyed the fellowship that went along with activity.

In Charleston, we took field trips to food pantries, gave away sausage biscuits, juice, and coffee to folks who walked by our church on Sunday mornings. We provided a monthly grocery distribution out of our fellowship hall for those who were economically challenged. All the while the children of the church were alongside watching, learning, and doing.

In Salisbury, the children and youth would shop for warm coats, hats, gloves, and backpacks for kids in the elementary and middle schools near our church. They had a lot of fun doing so and learned how to apply Jesus' teaching about loving our neighbors to their every day lives. Certainly, young Christians love getting involved in the mission of the Gospel.

This evening, following the first night of our VBS, I was reminded of the time when I was the leader of the first Carolinas NALC Campfirmation Cluster. Each summer, nine of our congregations would join together in sending their youth to camp with their pastor. Volunteers from the various congregations provided lunches and other kinds of support. We engaged in all the usual camp activities. Campfire, songs, skits,

crafts, hiking, and even cookouts in the national forest. You might think these activities were the highlights for the kids, but you would be mistaken. Each year, we would read the evaluations from the campers in which they said the worship services each day (matins and vespers) were their favorite part of the day. The next favorite camp activity was the service project we did.

Our group had a relationship with a facility for adults with special needs. Each year we would enlist all our youth members and put on a carnival for the clients. We painted bird houses, played musical chairs, had face painting, and all sorts of other games. Oh yes, we also had plenty of music. Singing with the clients was a treat and everyone enjoyed the smiles and laughter.

So why is this on my heart? Well, it's mainly due to the declining numbers of young people we have within our midst, and the few volunteers within our congregation actively engaged in outreach mission. Don't get me wrong, I'm very pleased with the response of our church family when it comes to supplying for the needs of others, and our Mercy Bag ministry is a blessing for many. But when is the last time our congregation rolled up our sleeves and pitched in at a local facility that helps others? When is the last time we scheduled an outing or mission project and brought our youth along to help out? Truly, it has been quite a while since St. Jacob's has engaged in such activities.

Truth be told, young people love getting involved, especially with older members of the congregation. And as they do, they invite their friends. When this happens, the Holy Spirit breathes a fresh breath of life into congregations that are in need of renewing ministries. As I said to one of our young adult members last week, "Please invite your friends to come worship with us, we could use more young people among us." But even if they come, we will need to have something to keep them here. Serving others provides purpose and meaning to their young lives.

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Pastor's Heart continued

Yes, youth ministry is much more than playing games, watching movies and going bowling. It is teaching the youth how to be disciples of Jesus Christ, by doing the work of the Gospel and inviting them to accompany us as we do it. As older members of congregations sometimes grow content with being hearers of the Word only, and not being doers of the Word, the younger generation falls away because the message from the pulpit is not compatible with the life of the those who gather. Jesus came "as one who serves, not as one to be served." (Mark 10:45). The key is for able bodied Christians to actively engage the mission of the Church, inviting children and youth to be a part of the activity.

Yes, being hearers and doers of the Word of God is attractive to young people who want to make sense of the message they hear from church. It's imperative that we give them that chance to become hearers and doers. Those who are hearers only fall away after a time, or at best, become

lethargic in their faith. We are all called by Christ to be servants for the sake of others in need. Our response to Jesus's command makes all the difference.

I am deeply appreciative of the small number of church family members who do regularly volunteer engaging the mission of the church. Thank you also to Lynn and Susan Shealy for taking the youth shopping for Mercy bag items during VBS. That was a wonderful way to get them engaged. Of course, to be even more effective and to become a congregation known as one with a heart for mission, there is plenty of room for more volunteers who would take up their cross and follow our Lord Jesus. Please consider how you might respond to this call to mission.

Grace and peace,



Pastor David Nuottila

July Birthdays

01 – Sandy Ellisor
01 – Leonard Slice
02 – Joan Marco
02 – Elizabeth Shull
03 – Andrew Metze
05 – Justin Bise
05 – Victoria Metze
06 – Virginia Hollingsworth
07 – Denise Eargle
08 – Bobbie Clark
11 – Sharon Slice
11 – Cora Wallace
12 – Kathy Slice
13 – Brooke Wicker
14 – Margaret Kleckley
14 – Tammy Meetze
15 – Julieta Martin
16 – Kati June Byars
16 – Mary Lou Haddox
16 – A. J. Peeples



19 – Rhonda Metze
20 – Sarah McClain
22 – Kaitlyn Slice
23 – Lisa Eargle
23 – Arthur Langley
23 – Lib Morgan
24 – Ramonia Lindler
25 – John Riser
26 – Buddy Bickley
26 – Gerald Lindler
27 – Kendra Monts
28 – Karen Sutphin
29 – Glenn Eargle
29 – Richie Meetze
30 – Garrett Johnson
30 – Ronald Lindler
30 – Mark Slice
31 – Micky Johnson
31 – Carol Slice

FINANCIAL INFORMATION for the week of June 25, 2023

	Weekly	MTD	YTD
Actual Giving	\$3,003	\$16,767	\$129,387
Budget Requirement	\$5,993	\$23,972	\$155,818

MEMORIALS Received May 28 – June 25, 2023

BUILDING FUND:

In Memory of Leon Chastain – By: Gerald and Robin Lindler

In Memory of Steve Meetze – By: Faye M. Haltiwanger

LUTHEREN MEN:

In Memory of Jake Warner – By: Buddy and Phyllis Bickley

In Memory of our brother on his birthday – By: Henry and Erline Clark AND Kenneth and Diane Clark

MEMORIAL FUND:

In Memory of Floriede Lindler – By: Chapin High School Class of 1971

Council Briefs for June Meeting

Good Things at St. Jacobs:

- Isabelle Peeples confirmation and lunch
- Safety Team Certification for operation of safety equipment
- Church office renovation project

Pastor Gary Blobaum will serve as supply pastor on July 9 and 16th while the Pastor is away in the Congo.

Pastor David was elected vice-president of the Carolina Mission Region.

Report of Ministry Teams:

- Safety – Eight (8) members of the congregation completed the Medical Response Training. May 23.
- Congregation Care – Lutheran Men will provide 50 pounds of BBQ for the Homecoming meal on October 15.
- Worship and Music – New paraments received and will be displayed this Sunday.

Old Business:

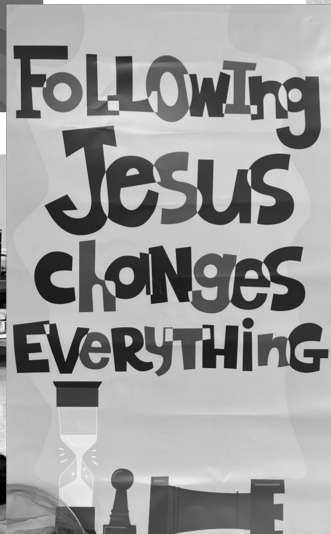
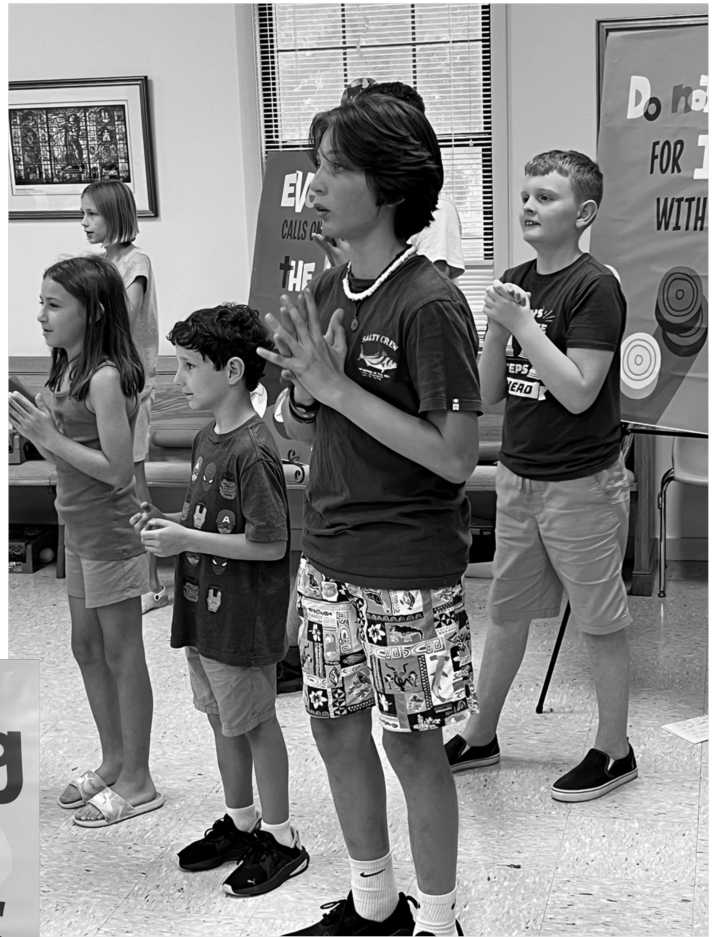
- Church Office Renovations are going well.

New Business:

- Council discussed an opportunity to assist the Disaster Response Team. Council will consider using a portion of our bus shed as a disaster response staging area.

VBS 2023

Our Summer VBS is now complete and we had a great week of fun and learning that following Jesus changes everything. Thank you to all our volunteers and participants.



Because We Care



St. Jacob's Men

On Friday, June 23, our St. Jacob's Men had a very successful Barbecue. Thank you to the several men who came out to assist in preparing everything. Proceeds from the Barbecue will go to the several ministry projects that are sponsored by our Men's group. All men of St. Jacob's are encouraged to become a part of this Men's Ministry and lend your time, talents and, ideas for future ministries. Just speak with President Lynn Shealy or Men's Secretary Billy McTeer for more information on how you might get involved.



REMEMBERING IN OUR PRAYERS

JACOB'S MEMBERS SICK/RECOVERING

Janet Lindler	Richard Shealy	Dan Frick
Lorene Cannon	Ken Mostiler	Tommy Slice
Steve Slice	Miriam Metze	

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Letha Sites	Michael Lindler	Alice Moorfield
Shirley Nuottila	Lucy Slice	Stanley Slice

FRIENDS OF ST. JACOB'S

Pr. Derald Edwards	Jessica Mack	Jean Frick
Fr. Glynn Diggins	Danny Campbell	Bert Slice

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

Worship Assistants for July

July 2

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Sherrie McTeer, Tracey Eargle, David Kibler
Lector: A.J. Peeples
Communion: Kristen Nickel, Patricia Woodard
Acolyte: Copeland Peeples
Crucifer: Isabelle Peeples

July 9

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Arthur Langley, Leon Lindler, Eddie Eargle
Lector: Tina Kibler
Communion: Judy Dease, Marie Slice
Acolyte: Samantha Monts
Crucifer: Angela Nuottila

July 16

Ushers: Leon Lindler, Lynn Shealy, Bob Ziemer, Davis Brown
Lector: Angela Nuottila
Communion: A.J. Peeples, Carroll Lindler
Acolyte: Mackenzie Raines
Crucifer: Tommy Faulk

July 23

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Sherrie McTeer, Tracey Eargle, David Kibler
Lector: Brandon Slice
Communion: Kristen Nickel, Angela Nuottila
Acolyte: Copeland Peeples
Crucifer: A.J. Peeples

July 30

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Arthur Langley, Leon Lindler, Eddie Eargle
Lector: Susan Shealy
Communion: A.J. Peeples, Patricia Woodard
Acolyte: Bryliegh Prosser
Crucifer: Angela Nuottila

SAFTY TEAM FOR JULY

July 2: Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley

July 9: Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler

July 16: Kristen Nickel, Barry Rice, Tina Kibler

July 23: Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley

July 30: Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler