

Merry Christmas  
St. Jacob's

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Addy

\*Amick\*

\*Ballentine\*

\*Bickley\*

\*Barras \* Bise\*

\*Boland \* Bowers\*

\*Brown\*Byars\*

\*Cannon\*Clark\*Corley\*

\*Covalt\*Daniels\*David\*Dease\*

\*Eargle\*Ellisor\*Epting\*

\*Frick\*Fulmer\*Gray\*Griggs\*

\*Haack\*Haddox\*Johnson\*Jones\*Kibler\*

\*Kleckley\*Langley\*Layton\*Lindler\*

\*Mack\*Marco\*Martin\*McCaslin\*

\*McDuffie\*McTeer\*Meetze\*Metze\*Monts\*

\*Mostiler\*Nickel\*Nuottila\*Peeples\*

\*Pharis\*Raines\*Rice\*Richardson\*Riser\*Rushe\*

\*Shealy\*Shields\*Shull\*Sightler\*Sites\*

\*Slice\*Smith\*Stopher\*Stuck\*Sullivan\*Sutphin\*Turner\*

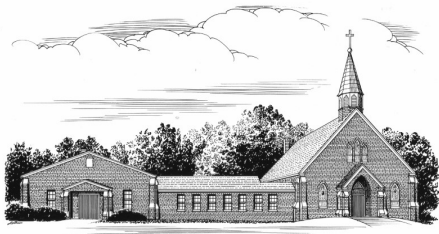
\*Turney\*Walker\*\*Wallace\*\*Wessinger\*

\*Williams\*

\*Woodard\*

\*Zeigler\*

\*Ziemer\*



# St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

December 2023 • Volume 34 • Issue 12

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## December Pastoral Devotion – Let There Be Light

Read Genesis 1:1-3

Have you seen something wonderful today? Have you noticed the beauty of God's creation all around you? The world we live in is filled with beautiful things, trees, lakes, rivers, animals; the list goes on. All of these and everything else is the result of the creating love of God. Sometimes I wonder if we can even imagine the conditions before God said "Let there be..." We humans cannot begin to understand the formlessness and void of creation in the beginning. Yet God said, "Let there be..." And it came to be.

As Christians all over the world begin to observe the Advent of our Lord Jesus, we do so by recalling the history of our salvation through Christ, which begins of course, in the beginning. As we read Holy Scripture, we believe Christ was present in the creation of all there is. The opening verses of the Gospel according to John teach us "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:1-4). The Creation narrative teaches us that apart from God there is no life or light.

Still, even today so many continue to discount God's creating love in the beginning. Many also continue to deny the presence of God in the world or in their lives. Yet, the simple fact remains, without God there is nothing. Without God humans have no purpose. Without the love of God in Christ Jesus, the people of the world walk in the darkness of their sin and their reality is such that they have no hope for salvation.

Jesus is the light of the world; he is the one in whom we find hope. Through Christ, God's Word incarnate, the people of God once again walk in the light of God's mercy. Our lives are not formless, they are not void, rather, they are filled with the purpose of proclaiming the gospel and the vocation of love for our neighbor. Today we find ourselves at the beginning of Advent. We find ourselves as sinners awaiting the celebration of our Savior's entrance into earthly life in order to rescue God's people from sin and death. Today we find ourselves at the beginning, understanding Christ's presence in the beginning of time and the creative nature of God's love.

*Prayer: Thank you God for this beautiful world in which we live. Thank you for each person you have created in your image. Most of all, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is our light and our life. Amen.*



# From Your Pastor's Heart

*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!"*

Mark 1:1-3

With the first Sunday of Advent behind us, the Church has begun a new year in her liturgical cycle. For the past twelve months we have heard the truth regarding Jesus Christ from Matthew's perspective. This year we will primarily dwell in Mark's gospel as he shares with us his account concerning God's saving grace made available through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

On a personal note, the year we read Mark is perhaps my favorite within our lectionary cycle. Mark's gospel is different, he does not begin his account like the other gospel writers; he skips over what we now call the birth narrative of Jesus, and gets straight to the heart of the matter, recalling the words of the prophet Isaiah concerning God's promise of a Savior and Messiah who is Jesus of Nazareth.

I think that at least once every three years, this is an important step in our earthly journey. It allows Christians to avert so much attention from our worldly Christmas activities and busy-ness, and focus our hearts and minds on the Advent of our Lord, his coming at his nativity, yet also his coming again in glory. From the beginning of Mark's first chapter and at the dawn of Advent, we hear the words from the prophet "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!" (Mark 1:3).

This exhortation, whether we hear it from the prophet Isaiah, or from Mark's gospel as quoted by John the Baptist, calls God's people to action. Israel's prophets foretold of his coming. Then for centuries, the people of God waited for the fulfillment of his promise to send a savior, yet God seemed distant and quiet. Then as if from nowhere and following four hundred years of silence, a strange looking fellow wearing camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist prophetically shouted out what we now consider a familiar Advent refrain: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" John called God's people to repent of their sins and ready themselves for the coming of God's Messiah.

Now, two thousand years removed from this scene, we hear these same prophetic words: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!" The question becomes, "How do we do that?" What does it mean for Christians today to make the Lord's paths straight?

Traditionally, congregations begin the liturgical year making preparations for the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. Our most visible preparations include hanging evergreens, setting up Christmas trees, lighting extra candles and singing a fair number of Christmas songs. Yet, listening to John the Baptist as

he cries out in the wilderness, I'm not so sure this is what he is talking about. It seems that in order to prepare the way of the Lord, we are to be about preparing ourselves and actually doing the work of the Lord.

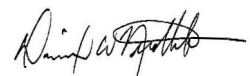
Our world and the non-believers who live in it are separated from God by the great chasm that is sin. No matter how much we try, we cannot escape the consequences of human disobedience without the grace provided by God through our Lord Jesus. Our Advent preparations, therefore, must include repentance, thankfully receiving the forgiveness made possible through Christ, and sharing the good news that is the Gospel of Jesus.

Our response to God's gift of grace calls us to take Christ's commandments seriously, to love God and love our neighbor. We offer our lives in service for the sake of others, exhorting others to prepare themselves to receive their Lord and King. This evangelical mission culminates with inviting others to join us in worship, take their place at God's table of grace, and assist them in making their preparations for receiving the gift of Christ.

I invite you to make this Advent a time of preparation of self. Dwell in God's Word, give thanks for His mercy and grace. Then, as we celebrate with one another, let us all join in worship and praise upon the Nativity of our Lord and the joy of heaven and earth at Christmas.

Grace to you and peace during this time of Advent preparation, and may you and your family have a very blessed Christmas!

Grace and peace,



Pastor David Nuottila



# Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

The following is a schedule of Advent and Christmas worship services at St. Jacob's  
Wednesday, November 29 - Begin midweek vespers "The Clothing of the King"  
Sunday December 3 - The First Sunday of Advent; "Stay Awake"  
Wednesday, December 6 - Joseph and His Coat; "Clothed in Grace"  
Sunday, December 10 - The Second Sunday of Advent; "Prepare the Way"  
Wednesday, December 13 - Jonah; "Clothed in Repentance"  
Sunday, December 17 - The Third Sunday of Advent; "Christmas Cantata"  
Wednesday, December 20 - Prophets and Priests; "The Great Exchange"  
Sunday, December 24 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent; "The Visitation"  
Sunday, December 24 - The Nativity of our Lord with Candlelight Service  
Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day: "Come, Let Us Adore Him"  
Sunday, December 31 - A Service of Lessons and Carols



All Midweek Advent services begin at 6:30 p.m.  
All Sunday morning services begin at 10:00a.m.  
Christmas Eve Candlelight service begins at 5:00p.m.  
Christmas Morning worship begins at 10:00a.m.

Please plan on attending each of these worship events.  
Invite your friends and neighbors to worship with us  
during Advent and Christmas.

## Church Office Closed at Christmas

As is our custom, the church office will be closed beginning on December 24th through January 2nd. Anyone requiring assistance can reach Pastor David on his cell phone (803-604-6227) or by email (revdavidwn@gmail.com).

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## December Birthdays

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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  
10 – Chrissy Slice  
11 – Wayne Stuck  
13 – Ken Smith  
16 – Copeland Peebles  
17 – Heather Slice



18 – Johanne Sullivan  
19 – Matt Bowers  
19 – Ethan Ballentine  
19 – Annie Pharis  
22 – James W. Kibler  
22 – Richard Shealy  
23 – Angela Nuottila  
25 – Carla Lindler  
26 – Lauren Wise  
29 – Ann Lindler  
30 – Emma Sightler  
30 – Ethan McDuffie  
31 – Janice Shealy

# Christmas Morning Worship

We've all seen the signs, billboards and bumper stickers: "Keep Christ in Christmas!" The truth is, without Christ, it simply isn't Christmas. Christians everywhere urge others to remember The "Reason for the Season." But you know, even some churches find it difficult to "Keep Christ in Christmas". Just take a look at the many churches standing idle and empty on Christmas morning.

St. Jacob's offers everyone an opportunity to "Keep Christ in Christmas" beginning December 24 at 5:00P.M. with our annual candlelight service. The

service will certainly be beautiful and inspiring. Then all are encouraged to gather on Christmas morning at 10:00 for an informal family Christmas celebration. Children are welcome to come in their pajamas and are invited to bring a gift they received for Christmas. Each child may share with all of us the joy this gift brings. Adults may "come as you are" and enjoy time for family and fellowship. Plan to attend these wonderful services of worship with your church family. Join us and "Keep Christ in Christmas."

## Life-to-Life Discipleship Experience

The North American Lutheran Church Life to Life Discipleship Team has developed a resource for congregations to engage in life-to-life disciple making. All Christians are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ. To begin this experience at St. Jacob's, an initial informational meeting will be scheduled for January. All who are interested in exploring a deeper faith are encouraged to contact Pastor David to make plans for participating in the Life-to-Life Discipleship Experience.

## FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Jacob's congregation is invited to a free Christmas Concert that my mom and I are doing at St. Andrew's Baptist Church in Irmo on December 10th at 3:00 p.m. Thanks!  
Sarah Masterson





# Choir Notes

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

As we gather this Advent and Christmas season, we will have many opportunities to join our voices with the heavenly host and sing our praises to God. Our choirs have been working hard to prepare music for this festive season. On December 3 our youth will perform Christmas handbell music for the Christmas dinner. Please stay after you finish eating to hear them play. On December 17 our youth and chancel choir with a few guest members will present a Christmas cantata during the worship service. Many members will provide music for our Christmas Eve service which takes place at 5 pm this year.

Christmas caroling will be Sunday, December 17 from 4-6. We will meet at the church and leave promptly at 4. After caroling we will return to the church for hot soup and fellowship. Please contact Angela if you are planning to attend and if you are willing to provide a pot of soup. We need an estimate to be sure we have enough soup for everyone.

## Dates to remember:

December 3: Youth handbells play at Christmas Dinner  
Youth handbells rehearsal 4pm

December 9: Cantata practice at 9:30 am for all readers, cantata members and youth.  
Youth handbells rehearsal after practice. Following practice -Youth lunch and Christmas Party.

December 10: Youth handbells play at Generations at 1:00 pm.

December 17: Christmas Cantata  
Youth handbell rehearsal 3 pm  
Christmas caroling 4-6 pm with soup supper following

December 31: Youth lead worship



# BECAUSE WE CARE



Thank you for helping us let the community know about our needs – we appreciate you!

*Alecia Klauk, Executive Director*  
803-345-3244



## Mid-Week Bible Study

Our Mid-Week Bible Study has resumed with the topic of Scriptural Retirement. Join us as we explore what retirement means for life in the church. The Study is adapted from a Bible study written by Pastor Brad Hales, Director of the NALC Aging Ministries. All are welcome. Mid-week Bible study meets at 9:30 a.m. On Wednesdays in the Church Office.



**Bible**  
Study  
Join Us!

## THANK YOU!

St. Jacob's Church Family!

Thank you for the flower and gift card for the Golden Agers! It was very much appreciated.

Take Care,  
Mary Katherine Eargle

# UP AND GOING

The Lord blessed us with a perfect Fall day for the Up and Going members and guests to enjoy our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. Twenty people excitedly gathered in the Fellowship Hall carrying wonderfully tasty Thanksgiving dishes for our Enjoyment; and Enjoyed we did! The food was delicious. Helen Lindler, Team Leader, gave the devotions from the booklet entitled "God's Little Devotional Book For Women". The Bible Reading was from Psalm 77 and we closed with prayer and the Blessing of Thankfulness for Our meal.

After Lunch, Lynn Shealy spoke to us about the "Mercy Bags" project. He graciously answered our Questions and Informed us about "WE CARE" and the urgent need the "Mercy Bags" provide. Lynn spoke of the needs and benefits of "Mercy Bags". Relating to neighboring communities. There is a big request for helpers to assemble bags and shop for needed items. Please check your schedule and see if you can help out. Let Lynn know if you can help.

Up and Going made a contribution to the "Mercy Bags" Project as our Thanksgiving Project. A Special Thank you to Lynn Shealy for graciously taking the time to inform us of this most worthwhile project.

The December meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec 14th at 11am in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be party foods so bring a favorite for sharing. As our Christmas gift, please bring paper goods, cleaning supplies, and/or Personal hygiene items for WE CARE. A sign up sheet will be posted on our Bulletin board.

Helen O'Neal Linder,

Team Leader





# Council Briefs for November Meeting

## Good Things at St. Jacobs:

- Homecoming Service
- Pastor Andy Eargle named Pastor Emeritus
- Cleaning and organizing the Disaster Response Warehouse (Bus Shed)
- Children did a great job assisting with the Reformation Sunday Service

## Report of Ministry Teams:

- Property Team met with the Terminix representative to discuss a new termite treatment plan. Council approved the new annual maintenance agreement with Terminix.
- Safety Team – Combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have been installed.
- Congregational Care – Provided bereavement meal to Ann Slice's family and AJ Peeple's family.
- Discipleship – St. Jacob's represented at Disaster Response Committee in North Carolina. 12 mercy bags (281 pounds of food) delivered to We Care.

## Old Business:

- St. Jacobs will provide 250 slices of pound cake for Thanksgiving at the HUB.

## New Business:

- Congregation Christmas Meal scheduled for December 3 immediately following the morning service. The Lutheran Men will pay for the meal. Congregation asked to bring a dessert.
- Council voted to have the Christmas Eve Service to begin at 5 PM.



## LUTHERAN MEN

THANK YOU for supporting the Lutheran Men with  
your donation from the Pork Sausage sale.

THE LUTHERAN MEN HOSTING CONGREGATION CHRISTMAS MEAL  
immediately following the worship service on December 3, 2023. Everyone is  
invited and asked to bring a dessert. Please plan on attending as we kick off the  
Holiday Season with wonderful food and good Christian Fellowship.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION for the week of November 26, 2023

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual Giving:	\$4,579	\$19,262	\$242,841
Budget Requirement:	\$5,993	\$23,972	\$287,664

## Memorials Received October 29 – November 26, 2023

### GENERAL FUND – In Memory of...

Virginia Peeples – By: AJ Peeples Family, Donald & Judy Turner and Buddy & Phyllis Bickley  
 Vera Couturier – By: Doug, Johanne & Brian Sullivan

### BUILDING FUND – In Memory of...

Vera Couturier – By: Billy & Sherrie McTeer and Bernie & Faye Hawkins  
 Vera Couturier, Steve Daniels, Ken Mostiler and Robert Wicker – By: Gerald & Robin Lindler

### CEMETERY FUND – In Memory of...

Ken Mostiler – By: Albert & Elvia Lindler

### MEMORIAL FUND – In Memory of...

Virginia Peeples – By: Lane Properties, Margaret Eargle, Miriam Metzger, Barry & Alice Rice,  
 John & Vicki Metzger, Danny & Brenda Shealy and Maxton & Barbara King  
 Bert Slice – By: Loretta Benggio and Peggy Moates

### LUTHERAN MEN – In Memory of...

Ken Mostiler – By: Lynn & Susan Shealy

### LUTHERAN WOMEN – In Memory of...

Virginia Peeples – By: Joe & Eileen Richardson

### UP & GOING- In Memory of...

Bert Slice – By: Terry & Barbara Metzger and Ann Slice  
 Ken Mostiler – By: Terry & Barbara Metzger

### WE CARE – In Memory of...

Pastor Edwards, Virginia Peeples and Bert Slice – By: Lynn & Susan Shealy

## REMEMBERING IN OUR PRAYERS

### ST. JACOB'S MEMBERS SICK/RECOVERING

Janet Lindler    Richard Shealy    Dan Frick  
 Lorene Cannon    Alice Morefield    Tommy Slice  
 Steve Slice    Frances Slice    Erline Clark  
 The family of Ken Mostiler

### HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Letha Sites    Michael Lindler    Shirley Nuottila  
 Stanley and Lucy Slice

### FRIENDS OF ST. JACOB'S

Jessica Mack    George Holland Varn  
 Fr. Glynn Diggins    Jerry and Debbie Faulkenburg

## HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Michael Lindler    Shirley Nuottila  
 250 Leaning Pines Trail    431 East Boundary St.  
 Lexington, SC 29072    Room 306  
 Ph: 803-356-4100    Chapin, SC 29036

Letha Sites    Stanley & Lucy Slice  
 1024 Freshly Mill Rd.    431 East Boundary St.  
 Irmo, SC 29063    Room 205  
 Ph: 803-345-2300    Chapin, SC 29036  
 Ph: 803-807-8321

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR DECEMBER

### December 03

Ushers Leon Lindler, Lynn Shealy, Bob Ziemer, Davis Brown  
Lector Tommy Faulk  
Communion Judy Dease, Marie Slice  
Acolyte Copeland Peeples  
Crucifer AJ Peeples

### December 10

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Arthur Langley, Gerald Lindler, Eddie Eargle  
Lector: AJ Peeples  
Communion: Angela Nuottila, Patricia Woodard  
Acolyte: Mackenzie Raines  
Crucifer: Tommy Faulk

### December 17

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Sherrie McTeer, Tracey Eargle, David Kibler  
Lector: Susan Shealy  
Communion: Kristen Nickel, AJ Peeples  
Acolyte: Bryleigh Prosser  
Crucifer: Angela Nuottila

### December 24

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Arthur Langley, Gerald Lindler, Eddie Eargle  
Lector: Carroll Lindler  
Communion: Susan Shealy, Sherrie McTeer  
Acolyte: Samantha Monts  
Crucifer: Tommy Faulk

### December 31

Ushers Leon Lindler, Lynn Shealy, Bob Ziemer, Davis Brown  
Lector Tommy Faulk  
Communion Nicki Peeples, Isabelle Peeples  
Acolyte MacKenzie Raines  
Crucifer Isabelle Peeples

## SAFETY TEAM FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 03 Kristen Nickel, Barry Rice, Tina Kibler  
Dec. 10 Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler  
Dec. 17 Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley  
Dec. 24 Kristen Nickel, Barry Rice, Tina Kibler  
Dec. 31 Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler

## GROUND CREW FOR DECEMBER

Billy McTeer (Co Chair) Lynn Shealy (Co Chair) Walt Shealy, Danny Shealy,  
Davis Brown, Donald Turner, Jeff Kleckley, Arthur Langley,  
A.J. Peeples, Josh Monts, Jason Wicker, Bryan Metze, David Kibler