

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

February 2024 • Volume 35 • Issue 02

Pastoral Devotion for February – Who Will Deliver Me?

Read Romans 7:7-25

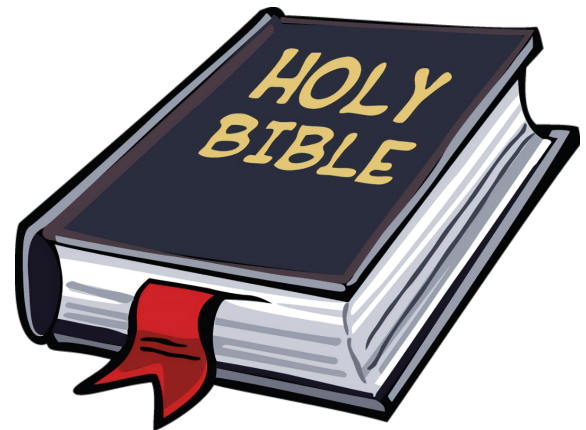
Everyone has bad habits. Those things we do sub-consciously and don't realize it until it's done. Then there are those bad habits that, as we strive to refrain from doing them, the temptation becomes too great, and we surrender. We all suffer from such inclinations. Everyone falls into the pit of their own personal bad habits because we are all sinners in need of redemption.

In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul puts it plainly for everyone to see. Because of sin, we continue to fall short of God's expectation for us. We want to follow God's commandments, but our sinful flesh is weak and so the evil deeds we do not want to do are all too often the exact thing we do. The desires of our flesh wage war against our desire to please God. So often is the case, the flesh wins, wretched people that we are.

Paul also makes it clear that, even as we are captive to sin, we have a champion. Christ has put sin to death once and for all.

Because Christ prevailed over sin, death, and the power of the devil, those who repent and turn to God for forgiveness will be saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.

Prayer: O God, give me strength to withstand temptation, forgive my sin, and keep me in your grace. Amen.



Lenten Bible Reading Challenge

During the season of Lent (this year from February 14 – March 30) the challenge for our congregation is to read the four Gospels in this season of penitence and reflection. Daily Scripture reading is one of the hallmarks of discipleship. Developing such discipline is what the season of Lent is all about – moving away from worldly endeavors and striving for the kingdom of God. Within the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) there are 89 chapters. Through the season of Lent (minus Sundays) there are 40 days in which to read. Each Sunday during the challenge is a day in which you may take a break from your devotional reading to attend worship.

Taking up this challenge, you will read the entire narrative of Jesus' ministry and victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil. Plan to take up this challenge and develop a healthy habit of Scripture reading that will carry you throughout your days. Copies of the reading plan are available in the church narthex.

From Your Pastor's Heart

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

As we once again prepare to enter the season of Lent, I wish to focus upon our Christian calling to be disciples, evangelists, and ambassadors for the kingdom of God. It always hits me at this time of year, how a few people who claim to be Christians fail to worship in God's house and participate in the life of Christ's Church, especially during Lent.

Lent isn't like Advent; there is no gradual build up to receiving gifts and singing beloved carols. In Advent, even Santa and his reindeer yield to the warm and inviting vision of a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, while his joyful mother and father look on. In Lent, there are no pretty, cute and cuddly reminders in super markets and malls that alert us to the holy day that is approaching. The bunny isn't as accommodating as Santa when it comes to making room. Yet, as much as Advent prepares us for the wonder of Christmas, Lent is to prepare us even more for the joy of Easter.

As disciples, Lent is the time when we are to look deeply into our life of faith, recognize our struggle against sin, and strive to grow stronger in our relationship with Christ our Lord. By now, you have all heard me say a hundred times, we are to worship weekly, come frequently to the Lord's Supper, read scripture daily, pray without ceasing, give alms, live among God's people and tell others of the goodness of God. This is the vocation of everyone who claims Jesus to be Lord and Savior of all.

Lent is also a time when, as evangelists, we are to use our gifts and talents to tell others about the goodness of God's mercy. So many people in the community that surrounds Union Lutheran Church have not heard the gospel spoken to them on a personal level. Yes, I'm sure most have heard the name of Jesus, but how many have a relationship with him? How many unchurched people know that the God who created them wants to save them from their sin? How many others, who have lapsed in their faith, really understand that Christ desires for

them to cherish the benefits of their baptism, that they may have a personal relationship with the one who freely extends his grace? As evangelists, our calling is to tell them and help them grow in faith.

Finally, Lent is a time when, as ambassadors of God's kingdom, we are to not only represent Christ in the world, but we are also to re-present Christ to the world. Our lives are visible to believers and un-believers alike. They see us as we go about our daily routine and take notice of how we extend the love of God to others. Ambassadors are held to high standards, lest they misrepresent the one who calls them. When we fail or fall short of those marks of discipleship (worship, scripture, prayer, communion, etc.) the world takes notice.

Lent is our time to get into the healthy habits of faith, not simply for our sake, but for the sake of the world around us. The best and simplest place to begin such an endeavor is to invite those church family members who have been missing out on congregational life. We all know someone who is a member of our congregation but they have not been regular in their worship attendance. As one such member is missing from the Sunday assembly, the fellowship of the whole family is lacking. How wonderful would it be if we were able to rekindle the faith of one who would be willing to re-establish the relationship of Christian love with their church family? My prayer is that, as a church family, we recognize the necessity and benefit of Lent. My prayer is for those who worship regularly is to invite others to come hear the gospel. My prayer for those who do not worship as often as they should, will hear the still small voice of God calling them into his presence. Brothers and sisters in Christ, pray with me, beginning today and always, that as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we may grow in faith and love, and that our Lenten walk leads us to overflowing joy at the sight of the empty tomb of Easter.

Grace and Peace,

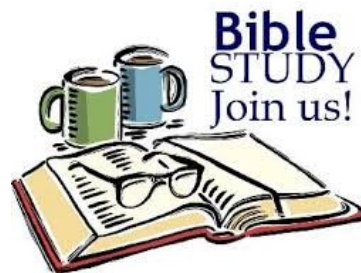


Pastor David Nuottila



And a Little Child Shall Lead Them

In a desire to help the children of St. Jacob's grow in their faith and discipleship, our choir director, Angela Nuottila has equipped the youth handbell choir members to lead worship services here at St. Jacob's. Our older youth members have also been a part of this ongoing act of discipleship. Each month with a fifth Sunday, our youth will be leading our services of worship. This is not to be confused with having a "Youth Sunday", but it is a means to incorporate our younger church family members in the weekly worship of St. Jacob's. Growing such faithful leaders for the church helps to ensure our youth remain engaged and connected to their faith throughout their lives. Please support these young Christians by attending and participating in weekly worship.



Midweek Bible Study

Our Midweek Bible study is back in full swing with a study of Psalms. Each week we are taking a close look at a selected Psalm so the topic is new every time. The purpose of our study is threefold:

- To know God through the world he created, through his Word, and through our experiences with him.
- To gain assurance that God will sustain us throughout our life.
- To help us hear God's message every time we read Scripture. It is possible to read without hearing. Through this study, we want to learn to listen for God speaking very personally to us as we read the Psalms.

Please plan to attend and study the Psalms with members of your church family. There are no special materials required and there is always room for more at the table. Midweek Bible study meets each Wednesday morning at 9:30 in the church office conference room.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will take place on Tuesday evening February 13th at 6:30 PM. Come to the church and join the members of your church family as we enjoy a wonderful meal of pancakes, eggs, sausage and more, all prepared by our Lutheran Men.



Lenten Midweek Series

Our Lenten vesper services this year will feature a series of monologues entitled “Thus It Is Written.” These monologues will be delivered in the persons of three of the Gospel writers.

On Ash Wednesday, we listen to Mark telling about what he wrote in his gospel about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Then in week two of Lent Mark speaks to the crucifixion of our Lord. In Weeks 3 and 4, Luke it will be Luke who tells us about the last days of Jesus’ life and ministry. And in weeks 5 and 6, we will hear from John.

Join us each Wednesday evening during Lent for this worshipful experience as we make our annual trek toward the cross of Good Friday and finally to the empty tomb of Easter.

Ash Wednesday and the Beginning of Lent



As always, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday as we pray David’s words of Psalm 51.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit (Psalm 51:10-12).

David’s prayer is our prayer too. Only through Christ are we saved. Even as we are reminded of our mortality, through God’s grace, mercy and love, Christ extends the promise of God’s kingdom to all who believe.



Our Ash Wednesday service will begin at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, February 14th

OFFICE CLOSED

A Reminder that the church office will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents Day. Anyone requiring Pastoral assistance should contact Pastor David on his cell phone.

The Congregational Care and Discipleship Teams are here for you!

Our Congregational Care and Discipleship Team are committed to help and assist our members with any needs that they may have. As Jesus shared in Matthew 25:40, “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me”. As disciples and members of the Congregational Care and Discipleship Teams, we are here to serve, to assist, and to care for one another. Have you had these thoughts?

- I wish I had someone to call to pick up and deliver my medication today.
- It would be great to have someone to drive me/us to my/our doctor appointment or to another appointment.
- I need an errand run, who can I call?
- I wish I had someone to talk to.
- I would love to have someone from the church visit me.

You can call the church office at 803-345-2309, Billy McTeer at 803-309-2448, or Lynn Shealy at 803-513-5818! Our church ministry teams are here for you! If you have any special requests/needs, please do not hesitate to ask. We all need help at some time in our lives. We are a phone call or text away. Let us help! Let us serve!

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

Thus It Is Written

Our Wednesday Evening Lenten Vespers will feature monologues delivered in first-person presentations from Gospel writers, Mark, Luke, and John. Hear from them why they wrote about our Lord Jesus Christ, his passion and crucifixion.

These services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th and continue through the Wednesdays during Lent preceding Holy Week. Below is the schedule for our Lenten worship. All services begin at 6:30 PM.

February 14th, Service 1 – Thy Will be Done
(The Gospel according to Mark)

February 21st, service 2 – Truly The Son of God
(The Gospel according to Mark)

February 28th, service 3 – I Have Prayed for You
(The Gospel according to Luke)

March 6th, service 4 – Father, Forgive Them
(The Gospel according to Luke)

March 13th, service 5 – I Am He (The Gospel according to John)

March 20th, service 6 – Behold, Your King (The Gospel according to John)

Please join us as we hear these reflections and consider all Christ has freely done for those who believe that he is indeed the Son of God and Savior of the world.



2024 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tommy Faulk- (Pres) tfaulk@sc.rr.com
AJ Peeples-(VP) AndrewJPeebles@gmail.com
Susan Shealy - (Sec) susanshealy18@gmail.com
David Kibler - david.kibler@dominionenergy.com
Barry Rice - wbarryrice@gmail.com
Marie Slice - slicem.ms@gmail.com
Kevin Pharis-kaylarepting@gmail.com
Doug Sullivan- jrmart53@gmail.com
Sherri McTeer-mcteer1208@hotmail.com



CONGREGATION MEETING

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

February 4—Don and Judy Dease
February 11—Gloria and Bob Ziemer
February 18—Open
February 25—Open



Our Annual Spring Congregation meeting will be held prior to worship on Sunday, February 18th, 2024. The purpose of the meeting is to receive and approve the 2023 Annual Report Book. Report books will be sent to the congregation electronically (email). Any one who desires to have a hard copy for the report book should contact the church office to make arrangements for one to be provided.

February Birthdays

02 – Terry Metze
02 – Jaclyn Clark
03 – Claude Lindler
04 – Marie Slice
05 – Darriel Maner
08 – Retha Russell
09 – James Richard Lindler
09 – Cheryl Johnson
13 – Lauren McTeer
14 – Bryan Bowers, Sr.
16 – Abby Sightler
19 – Annemarie Stanton
20 – Elvia Lindler
21 – Barry Rice
21 – Bryan Metze
22 – Angie Jones
23 – Dina Slice
25 – Julie Shealy

25 – Collin Meetze
27 – Wade Slice
27 – Laura Rushe
28 – Jim Griggs
28 – Kayla Lindler





Music Notes

Psalm 92:2-4 Let Us Sing to the Lord For His Steadfast Love

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
²to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
³to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
⁴For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

February brings us Valentines Day and Ash Wednesday all on the same day. How fitting that we should come together to remember that God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to die for us. Though Lent is a time of remembering our sinfulness and need for a savior, it is also a time to thank God for his steadfast love in prayer and in song.

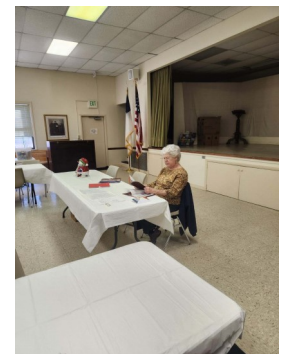
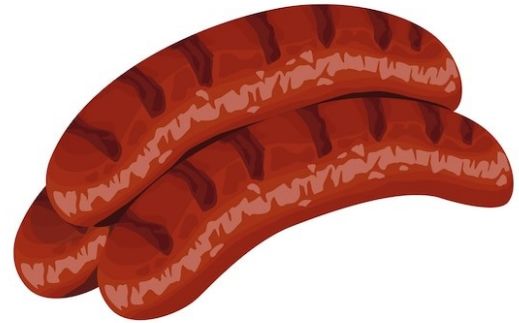
During Lent, we will begin a new psalmody that includes an antiphon. Antiphons are a rich part of traditional sacred music in liturgical churches and are used in many Lutheran congregations. Antiphons are short passages of scripture sung at various places in the service. During the psalm, the antiphon is a verse from the psalm of the day sung as a refrain. To introduce the antiphon for the day, the choir will sing the antiphon once and then the congregation will repeat the antiphon. The cantor and congregation will then sing the psalm responsively including the antiphon at designated places throughout the psalm. It will be a little different, but I think we will all catch on quickly. The psalm helps tie the message of all the readings for the day together. I hope this use of antiphons will enrich our worship and our understanding of the message for each Sunday.

LUTHERAN MEN

The Lutheran Men's group will meet Sunday February 18th at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

LM BULK PORK SAUSAGE

The Lutheran Men will be making Country Sausage on Monday, February 12, 2024. If you would like to purchase BULK sausage at \$5.00 per pound, please place your order in advance. See a member of the LM or contact Gerald Lindler (cell #803-622-9257) on or before Sunday, February 4th. The sausage can be picked up between 3:00 and 6:00 pm on Monday, February 12th in the Fellowship Hall.



News from UP AND GOING– Photos by Ann Lindler

Up and Going's January meeting was held on Thursday, January 11th with 21 members and guests present.

We had a short business meeting. Helen L. Lindler gave the devotions from the book "God's Little Devotional Book for Women" on turning kindness into love. This was a very thought provoking devotion and ended by using John 3:16-17 for prayer.

BINGO was played until all had won several times. This is always one of our most fun activities. The Soup Pot had simmered and was enjoyed by all. Delicious Soup, sandwiches, cornbread and various desserts were enjoyed by all.

February meeting will be held on the 2nd Thursday, February 8th at 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall. Lunch will be a covered dish meal.

Helen O'Neal Linder,
Team Leader

LUTHERAN WOMEN MERCY BAGS MINISTRY

The Lutheran Women will be packing Mercy Bags during their meeting this month that will be held on Sunday, February 18th at 4:00 PM. Please leave any food items purchased in the Fellowship Hall for them to use when packing the Mercy Bags for We Care.

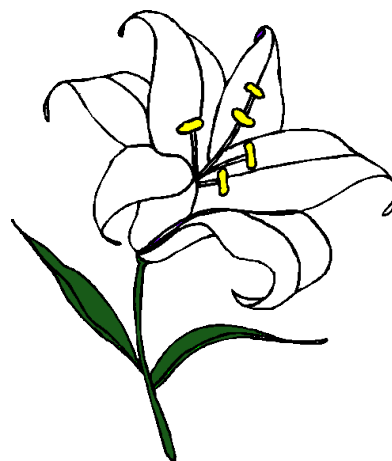


Worship at Generations

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 opportunities will be on Sunday, February 4th and February 18th at 1:00 PM. Join us in the lobby at Generations.

EASTER LILIES

Worship and Music will once again be accepting orders for Easter Lilies to be placed in the church for our Easter Services in honor and/or memory of loved ones. The cost for each plant is \$15.00 and orders must be placed on or before Sunday, March 10th. If you're interested in purchasing an Easter Lily, please pick up an order form on the Narthex bulletin board. The completed form and payment should be turned in to Marie Slice on or before the deadline date. The form is also provided in this Newsletter.



WE CARE CENTER February Most Needed Items

1. Syrup
 2. Corn muffin mix
 3. Cereal
 4. Oatmeal
 5. Instant potatoes
 6. Canned potatoes/yams
 7. Ramen noodles
 8. Canned tomatoes
 9. Boxed pasta
 10. Cookies and snacks
- Paper products, cleaning supplies and toiletries are ALWAYS needed as well!



WE CARE CENTER Non-Food Most Needed

1. Laundry detergent
2. Dish soap
3. Bar soap
4. Shampoo/conditioner
5. Deodorant
6. Razors/shaving cream
7. Toothpaste/toothbrushes
8. Hand soap
9. Toilet paper
10. Paper towels



Dear St. Jacob's Lutheran Church
Thank you for your donation of 3,651 pounds of food in 2023.

Your continued support allows us to follow the lead set forth in Proverbs 22:9, "A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. Thank you again!
God Bless you,
Alicia Klauk, Executive Director

MERCY BAGS FOR WE CARE

MERCY BAGS are packed on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Please come to the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship to help pack bags.



Friends,

I am sending you the February Needs List, along with an additional option for you as you share this information with the community. We are actually in need of non-food items more than food at the moment! We need items like toiletries, cleaning supplies and paper products; all of these items cannot be purchased with food stamps so there is no help for families for these essential needs. If I may, I would encourage you to share the non-food list for February, perhaps tying it to LOVE IN ACTION during Valentine's month – just a thought! Thank you so much for your help!

Blessings,

Alicia Klauk, Executive Director

803-345-3244



Dear Pastor David and the St. Jacob's Lutheran Church family,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and the new year is off to a great start for your congregation in Chapin.

I'm writing to say **thank you** for your latest gift and for your ongoing generosity towards this mission, helping make stories like **Mussa's** a reality! His story is below.

Please reach out – call, text or email – if you have questions or would like updates on our plans to serve more people in need in 2024 than the 1.9 million we reached in 2023.

Thank you again for you've done to change the world for Christ a life at a time!

Mussa's Story

In **Igamba, Tanzania**, many children like Mussa, age 12, waited in long lines to gather water. Most people in the community collected water from a single handpump which drew directly from a lake where animals waded, and people bathed and washed their clothes. Fertilizers and chemicals also drained into the lake from nearby farmland. This water was contaminated, and people in the community became sick, including Mussa.

“My friends [and I] had stomach issues because of the water,” said Mussa. “When I am sick, I can't fetch water or play soccer.”

Like many other children, Mussa was often too ill to attend school or play.

The people of Igamba prayed for a solution to their stomach illnesses.

When the community learned of a Water Mission safe water project planned for Igamba, they were overjoyed. Many, including Mussa, could see how this would transform their lives.

“I will be happy, and the whole community will be happy because Igamba's major problem will be solved,” said Mussa.

Through God's provision and the support of friends like you, nearly **4,000 people** in Igamba now have access to safe water. Water from a drilled well is treated, pumped to a storage tank using solar power, and made available at tap stands throughout the community.

Mussa told our staff that he wants to work for Water Mission in the future, training people about using safe water. We look forward to him one day serving on our Tanzania staff!



Ken Garber

Partnerships Manager

office: 843.405.8862

mobile: 301.606.6746



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 4

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Arthur Langley, Gerald Lindler, Eddie Eargle
Lector: AJ Peeples
Communion: Carroll Lindler, Nicki Peeples
Acolyte: Copeland Peeples
Crucifer: Tommy Faulk

Feb. 11

Ushers Leon Lindler, Lynn Shealy, Bob Ziemer, Davis Brown
Lector Susan Shealy
Communion Judy Dease, Marie Slice
Acolyte Bryleigh Prosser
Crucifer AJ Peeples

Feb. 18

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Sherrie McTeer, Tracey Eargle, David Kibler
Lector: Carroll Lindler
Communion: Isabelle Peeples, Patricia Woodard
Acolyte: Samantha Monts
Crucifer: Angela Nuottila

Feb. 25

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Arthur Langley, Gerald Lindler, Eddie Eargle
Lector: Brandon Slice
Communion: Kristen Nickel, AJ Peeples
Acolyte: Mackenzie Raines
Crucifer: Isabelle Peeples

SAFETY TEAM FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 4 Kristen Nickel, Barry Rice, Tina Kibler
Feb. 11 Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler
Feb. 18 Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley
Feb. 25 Kristen Nickel, Barry Rice, Tina Kibler

GROUNDS CREW FOR FEBRUARY

Gerald Lindler (Co Chair) and Robert Lindler (Co-Chair), Jeremy Lindler, Chad Lindler, Billy Hardin, Paul Lindler Sr., Paul Lindler Jr., Michael Shealy, Michael Corley, Barry Rice, Tracy Eargle, Albert Lindler, Claude Michael Lindler

THANK YOU!

Thank you for the calls, cards and many acts of kindness during the recent illnesses of me and my family.

Sincerely,

Helen (O'Neal) Lindler



REMEMBERING IN OUR PRAYERS

ST. JACOB'S MEMBERS SICK/RECOVERING

Janet Lindler Richard Shealy Dan Frick
Lorene Cannon Alice Morefield
Frances Slice Shirley Nuottila

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Letha Sites Michael Lindler Shirley Nuottila
Stanley and Lucy Slice

FRIENDS OF ST. JACOB'S

Jessica Mack Charlotte Simmons Jeff Britton

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

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

Stanley & Lucy Slice

431 East Boundary St.
Room 205

Chapin, SC 29036

Ph: 803-807-8321

FINANCIAL INFORMATION for the week of January 28, 2024

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual Giving:	\$4,663	\$21,595	\$21,595
Budget Requirement:	\$5,616	\$22,464	\$22,464

Memorials Received December 24, 2023 – January 28, 2024

BUILDING FUND:

In Memory of Gerald Couturier and Daphne Rushe – By: Billy and Sherrie McTeer

In Memory of Sandra Metts – By: Gerald and Robin Lindler

CONGO:

In Memory of James Nuottila – By: Doug, Johanne and Brian Sullivan

LUTHERAN WOMEN:

In Memory of Virginia Peeples – By: Barry and Alice Rice

MEMORIAL FUND:

In Memory of Steve Meetze – By: Faye Haltiwanger

MERCY BAGS:

In Memory of Daphne Rushe, Randy Ewell and James Nuottila – By: Robert and June Lindler

UP & GOING:

In Memory of James C Lindler and Kelly Watts – By: Ramonia Lindler

TITHING ENVELOPES FOR 2024

Tithing envelopes for 2024 will be available in the Narthex until February 11, 2024. Please make plans to pick up your envelopes and those for any other family member, friend or neighbor who may be unable to get to the church. Following the February 11th service, the envelopes will be removed from the Narthex and you will need to contact the church office or Robin Lindler (robinlindler54@gmail.com or text 803-622-9247) to schedule a time to pick up your envelopes.

GIVING STATEMENTS FOR 2024

Giving Statements for 2024 are available in the Narthex. Please make sure you pick up your statement and those of other family members unable to get to the church.