

# St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

March 2024 • Volume 35 • Issue 03

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## March Pastoral Devotion – Standing on Faith

*Read: John 8:46-59*

A Challenge for Christians when standing on their faith is facing criticism from non-believers. Christians are sometimes mocked for being so-called “do gooders” or for acting “holier than thou” in front of those who refuse to believe. But, truth be told, non-believers in Christ will never understand what it means for a Christian to take a stand on faith. More often than not, such a stand means contradicting the world and all its empty promises.

Our text finds Jesus in the temple, confronted by a crowd opposed to Him. Some in the crowd would even plot to have Him put to death. Yet, the severity of their actions did not preclude Jesus from speaking the truth of the Gospel. They attempted to discredit Jesus by hurling insults and accusations at Him. Jesus faced harsh scrutiny because they would not believe and did not hear God's voice in the words that Jesus spoke.

Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” Our Lord then used Abraham as an example of faith. Abraham believed God's promise and longed to see the fulfillment of it. Those who criticized Jesus neither listened to God's words, nor did they believe in the Son of God standing before them, because in their view, Abraham was dead. The crowd scoffed since they didn't understand, and they refused to believe what Jesus was saying.

We, however, know it's true. Those who keep God's Word and believe Jesus is Lord and Savior, even though they die, will live forever in God's heavenly kingdom. As a Lenten discipline, strive to remain in God's Word. Read Scripture daily and share the Good News of Jesus Christ, even in the face of ridicule. Remain in the Word, speak the truth, and give God the glory due His name.

## Congo Mission Update

Pastor Stephane Kalonji and I have met several times in the last few months by way of zoom.com to plan for the ministry we will accomplish on our Mission trip to Kinshasa and Mbuji-Mayi in July. The struggles in life for the people of Congo are real and harsh. Addressing hunger as best we can continues to be a priority, as does reuniting mothers with newly born babies with their families. Of course, the chief endeavor is always sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people who so dearly want to grow in faith.

Our teaching seminar this year will address a central concern for a Lutheran Church in Mbuji-Mayi. This particular congregation suffered two tragic losses in just the last few months. First, the wife of their pastor passed away. She was a woman who cared much for the congregation and served as a pillar in the community. Soon afterward, the pastor passed away causing even greater grief among the people.

Pastor Kalonji and I will spend time with the congregation in worship and prayer. We will also be offering them a one day theological look into the Resurrection of the Body. It is our hope that grief will be overcome by the joy of experiencing God's eternal love.

I'm looking forward to this trip as it is filled with opportunities to share the Gospel and God's love with a community that receives very little in the way of fellowship and compassion among the global Lutheran community. Thank you for your ongoing support and for your prayers. God bless you all as we minister to those who are so far away, yet close in spirit.

# From Your Pastor's Heart

*Thus, the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. Genesis 2:1-3*

The world is a busy, noisy place filled with people at work and play. Our culture is one in which we try to fill every moment with the sights and sounds of modern-day life. There is so much to choose from, so much to do, and so little time. The “other” gods of the world demand our precious time causing many to work longer and harder to make enough money to appease them.

The rhythm and pace of worldly living puts us on trial and drives us to unhealthy habits of eating fast food (The defendant will rise), neglecting our families, (Guilty as charged), and not getting the rest needed to rejuvenate our minds, bodies, and spirits. (Bailiff, take him away!)

The world is so busy and distracted that the voices of competition, success, selfishness, pride, and pleasure deafen our ears and fill our hearts and minds with earthly troubles. But as God's people become quiet and still, we hear yet another voice. Listening in faith, we hear that whispering voice that calls out to us. As we listen even closer, we recognize it as the voice of God's Holy Spirit.

If we can only break out of the rhythm of life as set by “other gods” we will soon find that it is the one true God who truly sets the rhythm of life. God blesses his people with all they need. He allows six days for work and gives the seventh for rest, worship, and prayer.

According to Luther's Small Catechism, we are to fear, love, and trust in God, so that we may be rested and refreshed; not only by our taking time away from unnecessary work, but especially by gathering with the people of God to worship, pray, and hear God's Word as it is preached and to receive the Sacrament of the Altar which is the Holy Communion of Christ's precious body and blood.



Remembering the Sabbath begins with God's people gathering as a community. We celebrate the love that God so freely gives to the world. Remembering the Sabbath day means we remember God is the source of our very lives and livelihood. Keeping it holy means we gather with the saints for worship and thanksgiving.

As we consider this commandment, remember to pray for those who are under stress from overwork, sleepless nights, and driven by the urgency of a fallen and broken world. Pray for those who work in this noisy, busy world. Pray for anyone who might feel abandoned, neglected, or lost. Pray for our church family, that we might overcome any differences we have, objections, or grudges and live together in the peace of Christ. And finally, pray that for one day in seven, all may find peace and quiet, so that they may also hear the whispering voice of God calling them to rest, to refresh themselves by drinking from the living water of Christ Jesus, dwelling in his gospel where all may find peace.

As we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, we have the opportunity to renew our commitment to striving toward keeping God's Ten Commandments, especially toward our commitment to keeping the Sabbath Day holy. Let this be our prayer throughout the season.

*Holy God, you give your people one day in seven to rest from work, that we may gather in faith to worship you, to pray and to give you thanks. Strengthen us in faith that we may keep the Sabbath holy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

I hope to see many of you as we continue toward the cross of Good Friday and the Empty tomb of Easter.

God bless you all with His peace and presence,

Pastor David Nuottila

# Council Briefs for February Meeting

## Good Things at Saint Jacob's:

- Temple Talk from Congregational Care reminding the congregation to reach out to Billy McTeer or Lynn Shealy to provide any assistance needed.
- Lutheran Women will pack Mercy Bags on 3rd Sunday in February.
- So wonderful to watch the children participating in worship by playing their instruments while the choir sang. It is always a blessing when our youth participate in worship.

## Special Report from the Property Committee regarding the parking lot – Danny Shealy.

- Danny has plans to meet with contractors to review proposals and costs.
- Danny will provide project scope and costs to council at the March meeting.

## Pastor's Report:

- Pastor is thankful to be back to his normal activities now post-surgery.

## Report of Ministry:

- The Safety Team thanks the Lindler's for donating an AED that is located in the hallway between the narthex and the fellowship hall. An automatic blood pressure cuff was also donated.
- Christian Education is getting excited about VBS and will begin ordering materials and determining a date for VBS.
- The Congregational Care Team had a joint meeting with the Discipleship Team and made plans for Home Communion through July, 2024, and also discussed providing visits/help with various needs of our members.
- Discipleship reports that 18 Mercy Bags and 140 pounds of food were delivered to We Care in January. A reminder that, We Care is also in need of hygiene items. Mercy Bags will be packed following worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.
- Property Team reports that Buddy Bickley had four headstones repaired in the cemetery and that the HVAC equipment is here but the platform must be modified before installation can be completed.

## Old Business:

- Time and Talent sheets have been distributed to Team Leaders and Council Liaisons. Everyone who wrote down that they would help with a ministry need at Saint Jacob's will be contacted. Thank you!

## New Business:

- The Annual Report Book is complete and has been emailed to the congregation with paper copies provided as requested. The congregation voted to approve the Annual Report Book on Sunday February 18th.
- Team Leader Training took place on Monday, February 19th at 6:30 PM.
- Prayer Partners will be signed up for and distributed on Sunday, February 11th. If anyone didn't get a Prayer Partner or would still like to sign up, see Sherrie McTeer.

# 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- dsulli318@yahoo.com  
Sherrie McTeer-mcteer1208@hotmail.com  
Julie Stuck-juliestuck62@gmail.com



## ALTAR FLOWERS FOR MARCH

March 3— Gary & Joan Marco  
March 10— Bobbie Clark  
March 17— Davis & Sandra Brown  
March 24— OPEN  
March 31— Wade & Marie Slice

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## March Birthdays

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02 – Robert Slice  
04 – Gary Marco  
04 – David Kibler  
05 – Blaine McCaslin  
06 – Kristen Nickel  
09 – Angela Barras  
09 – Steve A. Meetze  
11 – Jennifer Stopher  
12 – Mattie Jane Lindler  
12 – Joe Lindler  
13 – Elizabeth Hall  
14 – Scott Sightler  
15 – Derriel Amick  
16 – Jeremy Shealy  
16 – Ashton Lindler  
19 – Johnny Wessinger



22 – Sandra Brown  
22 – Eddie Zeigler  
22 – Margaret Eargle  
26 – Doug Sullivan  
29 – Tim Slice  
30 – Frances Shealy  
30 – Jason Slice  
30 – Blake Turney  
31 – Rachel Lindler



# Music Notes

*Zephaniah 3:14, 17*

*Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
Shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart!*

*The Lord your God is in your midst,  
A mighty one who will save;  
He will rejoice over you with gladness;  
He will quiet you by his love;  
He will exult over you with loud singing.*

I recently came across this verse during bible study and that last sentence immediately caught my attention. I can think of so many wonderful reasons to sing out to the Lord especially as we come out of this Lenten period of reflection on our need for a savior. God is with his us, he has saved us. What a beautiful message that he quiets us by his love, but then He exults over us with loud singing. I've never thought of God singing over us. I know that God loves our song. It appears in scripture so many times. But to think that God is singing over us thrills me. So this Easter morning as we rejoice again and give thanks for the most important gift we have ever been given let us raise our voices in song and sing aloud with the Lord.

Our youngest choristers have begun choir practice on Sunday afternoons preparing to sing on Palm Sunday. Children's choir is from 3-3:30 every Sunday afternoon. We look forward to singing to the Lord Palm Sunday morning and in the future. Children's choir is open to all children under 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

# Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:15 PM in the church office building. If you've been wanting to join us, now is the perfect time as we will begin a new study at our next meeting on March 11th. Mandy Kibler will be leading the study. Contact Susan Shealy if you have any questions: 803.413.4128.

The book we will use for our next study is: *He's Where the Joy is: Getting to Know the God of the Trinity* by Tara-Leigh Cobble.

If you want to find that true JOY and see the many dimensions of the Triune God, join St. Jacobs Women's Bible Study as we take a deep dive into this beautiful Bible study of the doctrine of the Trinity. Through this study we will come to know each other and the capacity of our faith, study God's amazing Word and know God and love Him even more than we thought possible.

From author, Tara: "*If you had to describe God's personality, what would you say? Not what He does, but His demeanor. Not what He's capable of, but what He's like. Here's how King David described God: 'in your presence there is fullness of joy, at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.' (Psalm 16:11) He also said God's presence brings gladness and joy (Psalm 21:6)!*"

God is infinitely joyful!! And because He's so delighted, that's how HE can be delighted in us - by sharing who He is with us. If JOY is your goal, knowing the Triune God will be supremely useful to you. In fact, this is the only path to true JOY!"

He's Where the Joy is!!

Bible Study Book can be purchased online from either:

Lifeway Press: [He's Where the Joy is by Tara Leigh Cobble](#)

Amazon.com: [He's Where the Joy is by Tara Leigh Cobble](#)



## 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.

# UP AND GOING

On a beautiful, Sun Shiny February 9th morning, 21 Members and guests assembled in the fellowship hall for a morning of food, fun and fellowship. The hall was decorated in colors and symbols of Valentine's Day. Each place was marked with Valentine's candy and other goodies. Team Leader, Helen Lindler called the meeting to order. She welcomed all members and guests before the Treasurer's Report was given. All were thanked for their contributions to We Care, Mercy Bags Project and all other projects. Devotions came from God's Little Devotional Book for Women and Entitled "God Never asks about our ability or our Inability --just Our availability. Bible reading Was Isiah 6:8 and ended with prayer and the blessing for our meal. Lunch was a covered dish feast with delicious desserts. Our members and guests are great cooks and the food was very delicious

The program came from the book entitled "One Simple Act" Discovering The power of Generosity by Debbie MaComber. Helen read several excerpts and we discussed. The new Congregational Care Help team was discussed and all were encouraged to use this offer when needed. The program closed with these words from John Wesley... Do all the good you can, By all the Means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the Places you can, At all the Times you can, To all the people you can, As Long as you can.

The highlight of our day was a Valentine Mrs. Miriam Metze brought to Show us. It was the first Valentine that she bought for her husband, Mr. Walter. It Was very special. Still in the original Hallmark box. Approximately 8"x10" in size with a beautiful Valentine colors screen printed white puffy brocade front. Helen Read the timeless verse inside. Oh, what a special item to share with us. Comments and questions were answered by Mrs. Miriam. She Purchased the Valentine in 1956 at the Cost of \$1.00.

March meeting will be held March 14th at 11am in the Fellowship hall. The meal will be an Easter Buffet. Please bring an item to share. After lunch, we will assemble Easter Hospice Bags. See our bulletin board for details.



## MERCY BAGS MINISTRY

Mercy Bags are packed on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Please come to the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship today to help pack Mercy Bags for We Care.



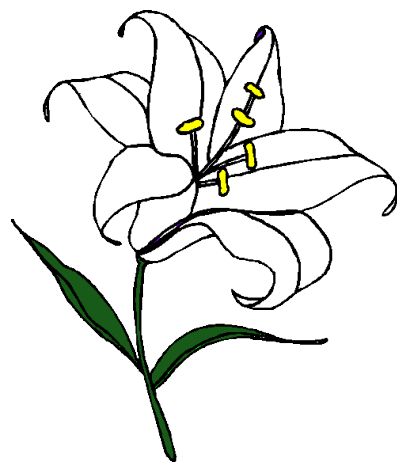
## Worship at Generations

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, March 3rd and March 17th 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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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.





# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MARCH

Mar. 03

Ushers Leon Lindler, Lynn Shealy, Bob Ziemer, Davis Brown  
Lector Angela Nuottila  
Communion Susan Shealy, Sherrie McTeer  
Acolyte Copeland Peoples  
Crucifer Tommy Faulk

Mar. 10

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Sherrie McTeer, Tracy Eargle, David Kibler  
Lector: Gary Marco  
Communion: Carroll Lindler, Nicki Peoples  
Acolyte: Bryleigh Prosser  
Crucifer: AJ Peoples

Mar. 17

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

Mar. 24

Ushers: Leon Lindler, Lynn Shealy, Bob Ziemer, Davis Brown  
Lector: Youth (to be assigned)  
Communion: Isabelle Peoples, Patricia Woodard  
Acolyte: MacKenzie Raines  
Crucifer: Isabelle Peoples

## **MAUDY THURSDAY**

**Mar. 28**

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Sherrie McTeer, Tracy Eargle, David Kibler  
Lector: AJ Peoples  
Communion: Tommy Faulk  
Acolyte: Copeland Peoples  
Crucifer: Angela Nuottila

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

**Mar. 29**

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Arthur Langley, Gerald Lindler, Eddie Eargle  
Lector: NONE  
Communion: NONE  
Acolyte: Copeland Peoples  
Crucifer: NONE

## **EASTER SUNRISE**

**Mar. 31**

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Sherrie McTeer, Tracy Eargle, David Kibler  
Lector: Angela Nuottila  
Communion: Susan Shealy, Sherrie McTeer  
Acolyte: Samantha Monts  
Crucifer: Angela Nuottila

EASTER 10AM

Mar. 31

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Sherrie McTeer, Tracy Eargle, David Kibler

Lector: Susan Shealy

Communion: Kristen Nickel, AJ Peeples

Acolyte: Bryleigh Prosser

Crucifer: Isabelle Peeples

## SAFETY TEAM FOR MARCH

Mar. 03 Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler

Mar. 10 Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley

Mar. 17 Kristen Nickel, Barry Rice, Tina Kibler

Mar. 24 Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler

**Maundy Thursday** (Mar. 28) Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley

**Good Friday** (Mar. 29) Kristen Nickel, Barry Rice, Tina Kibler

**Easter Sunrise** (Mar. 31) Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley

**Easter 10am** (Mar. 31) Kristen Nickel, Barry Rice, Tina Kibler

## GROUND CREW FOR MARCH

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

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK OF February 25, 2024

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual Giving:	\$4,332	\$17,526	\$39,121
Budget Requirement:	\$5,616	\$22,464	\$44,928

## Memorials Received February 4 – February 25, 2024

### GENERAL FUND:

In Memory of Virginia Peebles – By: Tina and David Kibler

### BUILDING FUND:

In Memory of Rothell Derrick and Warren Hammett – By: By: Gerald and Robin Lindler

### MEMORIAL FUND:

In Loving Memory of Vera and Gerald Couturier, Tina’s parents – By: Tina and David Kibler

### MERCY BAGS:

In Memory of Daphne Rushe – By: Miriam Metze

# LUTHERAN WOMEN HOST EASTER EGG HUNT

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. There will be crafts to make and games to play and a light lunch will be served. There will be lots of eggs to hunt so please come and bring your Easter basket. You older kids are welcome to come and help us older ladies hide the eggs (You will be instructed as to where to hide them). Your help will be greatly appreciated. Also, invite a friend/friends to come with you to enjoy the fun.



## LENTEN MEALS

Thanks to Everyone for providing the Lenten Meals.

Lutheran Women	February 21st
Lutheran Men	February 28th
Council	March 6st
Kibler Family	March 13th
Marie and Brandon Slice	March 20th

# WE CARE CENTER

## March Most Needed Items

1. Instant potatoes
2. Corn muffin mix
3. Canned meat
4. Tuna
5. Ramen noodles/soup
6. Collard greens
7. Oatmeal
8. Jam/jelly
9. Canned potatoes
10. Canned tomatoes

Paper products, cleaning supplies and toiletries are **ALWAYS** needed as well!



# THANK YOU!

I would like to thank the members of St. Jacob's for the many calls, cards, visits, food and prayers during my recent illness and recovery. Your kindness and spiritual support during a difficult time was very much appreciated. I am truly blessed to be a member of such a caring congregation.

Love, Erline Clark



## 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
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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
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