



# St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

December 2024 • Volume 35 • Issue 12

## Pastoral Devotion for December – The Prince of Peace

Read Isaiah 9:2-7

It is difficult to imagine living in a world of peace. From the time Adam and Eve took a bite from the forbidden fruit, the world has been anything but peaceful. The struggle of human disobedience brought with it conflict between families, communities and nations. Everywhere we turn we see the result of sin and the powers that defy God. The only cure for this sickness is God's divine mercy and grace. When the kingdom of God is fully revealed to believers, only then will we understand what it means to live in a world of peace. This does not mean, however, that God's people cannot receive His peace while living in a fallen and broken world.

Long before the birth of Christ, the prophets of God announced the coming of the Messiah who would rule God's kingdom with power and might, bringing justice and righteousness to those who believe. The prophet Isaiah says his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. When he comes in his fullness and glory, his kingdom will have no end. Yet, even as the people of God await the forever coming of their king, God entered our earthly realm born as a human child unto Mary and

Joseph. This Prince of Peace would first take upon himself human flesh, live among his people and offer his life as sacrifice to atone for the sin of the world.

Throughout our history, the Church has longed for the peace of God's kingdom to be revealed in all its glory. Until such time when Jesus comes again, the Church has the assurance of God's mercy and grace. We live with the peace of knowing that through Christ our sins are forgiven. As followers of our Lord and Savior, we strive to share the good news of the gospel with all whom we meet. We hear Jesus' command to love one another, to feed the hungry, care for the sick, bring shelter to the poor and welcome the stranger into our midst. As we do these things, we ask our Father in heaven to continually strengthen us in faith and give us the will to do them, so that all people might one day live in the peace of Christ.



*O Prince of Peace, come to your people and fill our hearts with gladness. Bring your peace to our world forever. Amen.*

## Into Liturgy, part 4

In this installment of our look into the liturgy of the church, we make the shift to the main purpose of Divine Service, that is to receive God's good gifts for his people.

### The Word

The initial act of God in service to his people is to share his saving Word with his people. Through the carefully selected readings of the church's lectionary, the voice of our Good Shepherd comes to us through the reading and preaching of the Scriptures. The Lord speaks to his people through his Law and Gospel, calling sinners to repentance

and assuring believers of God's mercy and grace through Christ alone.

### The Creed

The Lutheran Church confesses her faith using the three ecumenical creeds (statements of faith). With these three creeds, (Apostles', Nicene, Athanasian) fellow believers confess the truth of the Triune nature of God, and the truth of God's creating, redeeming, and sanctifying love. This is the confession made throughout the generations of the one, holy catholic (universal) and apostolic church.

# From Your Pastor's Heart

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. Isaiah 9:2*

Amazingly, there are a number of little things that go unnoticed until you can see them with new eyes. Small things, insignificant things. They surround us and cast off a beauty all their own. Until very recently, I have missed so many of these, but thanks be to God, I have been afforded “new eyes” with which to see. Not that I couldn’t see before, but that I simply didn’t notice the wonder of such insignificance.

As we begin the season of Advent, we do so with the opportunity to notice the insignificance of some of God’s smallest blessings, things we most often don’t think about, things we take for granted. The reminders of God’s sovereignty and majesty are all around us. They declare the glory of the One True God who chooses to save his people from sin, death, and the power of the devil. All it takes to see these simplistic icons of grace is to look with new vision, theological vision, having an awareness of God’s presence.

During my first night home following surgery, I was lying back in my recliner trying to fall asleep, but there was a brilliant light shining that just would not let my attention go. It was a small light, insignificant, as I said earlier. It was the little green LED power indicator on my laptop charger lighting up the room. In this instance, I saw this little light in a completely new way. The fact that it was shining meant there was power available. Even as I was weakened after a lengthy surgical procedure, the power of God’s love was lighting up the room.

Lying in that recliner, I could feel something that I had taken for granted for a long, long time. I could feel each beat of my surgically repaired heart. It is much stronger than I remember it ever being. The continued rhythmic thump, thump, thump, played a new song over and over again in thankful praise to our heavenly Father who has the power to save his people.

In Advent, we once again have the opportunity to look with “theological eyes” and see the wonder of God’s mercy and grace made manifest for all believers. It comes to us in a most insignificant way, through most humble means; a baby born into the poverty of a fallen and broken world. A Savior

born into a world in need of saving.

Like that little LED that lit up my room, this Babe of Bethlehem casts a light into the world that commands attention. People who walk in the darkness of this world, seemingly blind to the insignificance of this one child, would one day be gathered into his brilliance simply by seeing him with new eyes. Witnessing his compassion, his teaching, and his love for all that God created, for it was all created through him.

As we complete one more liturgical year exploring the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus, and prepare to embark on the journey once more, I would invite you to take notice of the humble means through which God gets your attention reminding you of his ever-present love. These “icons of grace” as I have called them are all around us. I invite you to enter into a deeper, closer, more intimate relationship with our Lord and God. His is a beauty and wonder that draws us into the brilliance of the light that shines through even the darkest moments of our lives.

This Advent, take time to slow down, pray, and notice the presence of Christ walking alongside as he fills your life with the blessing of his power and love. See the icons of God’s grace with new eyes and enter into the wonder and mystery of the God who takes upon himself human flesh and dwells with his people. He came to save us. He continues to come to love us. His power and glory are made manifest even in the most insignificant ways. He is there for us to notice with every heartbeat and breath we take. To God be the glory forever and ever.

Grace to you and peace,



Pastor David Nuottila



# St. Jacob's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Briefs - November 5, 2024

## **Good Things at St. Jacob's for October**

- Homecoming Service and Lunch
- Recognition of Golden Agers
- Fall Festival
- Disaster Response: Donations and Volunteers

## **Pastor's Report**

- Pastor had bypass surgery Thursday, November 8th.
- There will be no Wednesday services for the remainder of 2024 with the exception of the Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 27th.
- Pastor plans to lead worship on Sunday, December 1st.

## **Ministry Teams**

### **Staff Support:** Susan Shealy

- Susan Shealy, Larry Shull and Bob Ziemer attended a meeting called HR Bootcamp. This was very informative and covered topics such as: Employee Manual/Child Safety/Facilities Use Agreement.

### **Safety:** Robert Wessinger / Kevin Pharis

- The Safety Team will meet in November to review safety rules and procedures.
- Emergency phone numbers and the church address will be posted in the narthex.

### **Christian Education:** Sherrie McTeer

- Women's Bible Study meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM.
- Men's Bible Study meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM.
- The Youth Bible Study will now meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

### **Congregational Care:** Billy McTeer / David Kibler

- Assisted with Disaster Relief deliveries to NC.
- Homecoming and Golden Agers Sunday, October 6th:
  - Gifts for 39 Golden Agers.
  - Provided meal for Homecoming.
- Will provide 300 slices of pound cake for the Hub for Thanksgiving.

### **Discipleship:** Lynn Shealy / Julie Stuck

- A trailer load of food and supplies was delivered on October 11th to Glenwood Baptist Church in Marion, NC. Food, clothes, sleeping bags, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies were included.
- Delivered 13 Mercy Bags to We Care and 220 pounds of other cleaning supplies.

### **Property:** Barry Rice

- Replacing two exit doors: one in the kitchen hallway and one in the fellowship hall.

### **Stewardship:** Doug Sullivan

- Brandon Slice has agreed to work with Doug Sullivan on updating the St. Jacob's website.

### **Worship and Music:** Marie Slice

- Meeting with the Worship and Music committee to order purple paraments.

## Council Meeting Briefs

### Old Business

- Parking Lot Update: Barry Rice  
Danny Shealy has to get a certified engineered and bonded drawing for Lexington County. He should have this within a few weeks.
- Church Sanctuary: Susan Shealy / Julie Stuck  
Initial plans are being made to determine flooring, wall color, and upholstery fabrics.
- 2025 Budget accepted.

### New Business

- December Congregational Meeting:
  - Approve 2025 Budget.
  - Elect Council Members.



# Music Notes

December 15th we will go Christmas caroling and take the joy of Christmas to all our members who are unable to attend worship. We will have a soup lunch in the parish hall immediately following worship and then go caroling. Mark your calendars and plan to join us. Contact Susan Shealy or Angela Nuottila to let them know that you will attend and if you are able to provide a pot of soup or a pan of cornbread.



# Up and Going

The 2nd Thursday in November, November 14th, was the scheduled day for the Up and Going Thanksgiving Lunch and Meeting. The day was windy and rainy but as soon as the group gathered in the Fellowship Hall, the smiles and laughter turned the atmosphere to happy and sunny. Twenty-four guests and members attended. Helen Lindler, Team Leader, welcomed everyone. The treasurer's report was given by Gary Marco. Helen gave the devotions. The Bible reading was Ephesians 6:18 – never stop praying, especially for others. The devotions encouraged us to pray and to call others by name in prayer. The next reading was an article from *Irmo-Chapin Life* magazine entitled "Mighty Big Footsteps" by David Clark. Mr. Clark wrote about the events as Hurricane Helene hit in Cochran, Ga. His article included references to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" song which Helen read. She concluded with prayer and our blessing for our meal.

Bobbie Clark gave us a wonderful presentation of her recent trip to Italy, with pictures and postcards for us to enjoy. Thank you, Bobbie, for sharing your good times with us. We all enjoyed hearing about your trip.

Time now for lunch. Extra tables were brought in to hold all of the food. We enjoyed the traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with turkey, dressing, gravy, lots of veggies, salads and desserts. Everything

was SO good. We enjoyed our time together so very much. Our Thanksgiving Giving Project was socks and underwear for The Oliver Gospel Mission. Our members gave 103 pairs of socks and 51 underwear items. I am so proud of each of you and your willingness to give. Thank you!

The December meeting will be Thursday, December 12th, at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is asked to bring party foods for lunch and one or more days' food for the Mercy Bags Project. Please put each day's food in a bag with contents marked on the bag. The list is posted on the bulletin board. Tommy Faulk will lead us in a Christmas song fest. January is soup pot and BINGO meeting. Start gathering your prizes now.



Helen O'Neal Lindler  
Team Leader for  
Up and Going



# Christmas Worship Services

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 24th at 5:00 PM with our annual candlelight service. The service will certainly be beautiful and inspiring. Then all are encouraged to "come as you are" on Christmas morning at 10:00 AM 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. Plan to attend these wonderful services of worship with your church family. Join us and "Keep Christ in Christmas."



## Lutheran Men

The Lutheran Men will be sponsoring a Christmas Meal on Sunday, December 8th immediately following our service of worship. Every one is invited to attend, dinner will be provided. Please invite your family and friends to celebrate with us.



## Tithing Envelopes

Tithing envelopes for 2025 will be available in the Narthex from December 1, 2024 – January 26, 2025. Please pick up yours and any other family member, friend or neighbor who may be unable to get to the church. If you don't see a box for you or your family, please contact Robin Lindler (robinlindler54@gmail.com or text 803-622-9247) and a set will be assigned.

JOIN US FOR A RETIREMENT  
DROP-IN HONORING

*Pastor David Tholstrup*

FOR 25 YEARS OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TO  
ST. PETER AND 40 YEARS AS AN ORDAINED PASTOR

December 29, 2024  
2 - 4 pm  
St. Peter Lutheran Church  
900 Dreher Island Rd, Chapin, SC 29036

The NALC Carolinas Mission Region invites you for our annual

Youth Retreat  
at the Beach  
"Legacy"

March 14-16, 2025  
Garden City Chapel and Retreat  
Murrells Inlet, SC  
6th- 12th graders

Cost is \$120 per person. Send at least 1 adult leader (over age 25) for every 5 students. College age students are invited to apply to serve as leaders-in-training. Register in January. Contact Melanie Corn, mcorn@stplchapin.com, for more information!

# Worship Assistants for December

## December 01

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Leon Lindler, Arthur Langley, Eddie Eargle  
Lector: AJ Peeples  
Communion: Susan Shealy and David Kibler  
Acolyte: MacKenzie Raines  
Crucifer: AJ Peeples

## December 08

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Gerald Lindler, Lynn Shealy, Bob Ziemer  
Lector: Carroll Lindler  
Communion: Kristen Nickel and AJ Peeples  
Acolyte: Samantha Monts  
Crucifer: David Kibler

## December 15

Ushers: Tracy Eargle, Helen Lindler, David Kibler, James Kibler  
Lector: Tommy Faulk  
Communion: Carroll Lindler and Nicki Peeples  
Acolyte: Copeland Peeples  
Crucifer: Emma Covalt

## December 22

Ushers: Davis Brown, Robert Wessinger, Sherrie McTeer, Arthur Langley  
Lector: To be determined (Lessons and Carols)  
Communion: Judy Dease and Marie Slice  
Acolyte: Bryleigh Prosser  
Crucifer: Tommy Faulk

## Christmas Eve

Ushers: Gerald Lindler, Davis Brown, Bob Ziemer, Sherrie McTeer  
Lector: Susan Shealy  
Communion: Kristen Nickel and David Kibler  
Acolyte: Copeland Peeples  
Crucifer: AJ Peeples

## December 29

Ushers: Leon Lindler, Carroll Lindler, Eddie Eargle, Lynn Shealy  
Lector: Youth  
Communion: Isabelle Peeples and Patricia Woodard  
Acolyte: Owen Raines  
Crucifer: Isabelle Peeples

## Safety Teams for December

December 01 — Kristen Nickel, Barry Rice, Tina Kibler  
December 08 — Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler  
December 15 — Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley  
December 22 — Kristen Nickel, Barry Rice, Tina Kibler  
Christmas Eve — Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler  
December 29 — Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley

## Grounds Crew for December

Billy McTeer (co-chair), Lynn Shealy (co-chair), Walt Shealy, Danny Shealy, Davis Brown, Donald Turner, Jeff Kleckley, Arthur Langley, AJ Peeples, Josh Monts, Jason Wicker, Bryan Metz, David Kibler, Adrian Meetze

## 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 December

December 01 — Erline and Henry Clark  
December 08 — Kevin, Mandy, Tina and David Kibler  
December 15 — Marie and Wade Slice  
December 22 — Pastor David  
December 29 — Davis and Sandra Brown



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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 Peeples  
17 – Heather Slice  
18 – Johanne Sullivan



19 – Ethan Ballentine  
19 – Matt Boers  
19 – Annie Pharis  
22 – James W. Kibler  
23 – Angela Nuottila  
25 – Carla Lindler  
26 – Lauren Wise  
27 – Roanne Robinton  
29 – Ann Lindler  
30 – Ethan McDuffie  
30 – Emma Sightler  
31 – Janice Shealy



# Financial Information

## Reporting for November 24, 2024

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Weekly Receipts	\$2,684	\$22,758	\$248,814
Budget Requirement	\$5,616	\$22,464	\$269,568

## Memorials Received November 03 – November 24, 2024

### BUILDING FUND

In Memory of Barbara Ingram – By: Michael and Ann Corley AND Miriam Metze

In Memory of Helen Kiker – By: Gerald and Robin Lindler

In Memory of Bert Riser – By: Lynn and Susan Shealy

### CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of Bert Riser – By: Billy and Sherrie McTeer

### LUTHERAN MEN / LUTHERAN WOMEN / YOUTH GROUP / CONGO

In Honor of the Lutheran Men, Lutheran Women, Youth Group and Paster's Congo Trip  
By: The Eargle Family for use of Fellowship Hall

Thank you

Dear St. Jacob's Church Family,  
I would like to thank the church family  
for the Golden Agers gift.

Also, thank you for all of the prayers,  
visits and cards. I feel very blessed to  
have such a caring church family.

Sincerely,  
Miriam Metze

Welcome Ellison Mae born  
on November 14th to Rene  
Griggs. Congratulations to  
Rene, big sister, Bryleigh,  
and Grandma, Karla Griggs.  
We can't wait to meet you  
Ellison Mae!





# *Merry Christmas*

*GOoD Works*

*Invites you to join us for a  
Live Nativity and Christmas Drop-In  
with refreshments, children's crafts, and music*

*Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>*

*5:30pm-7pm*

*115 Birchtrace Ct, Chapin, South Carolina*

*(Off of St. Peters Church Rd, next to GOoD Works building)*







# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Congregational Meeting - Following Service  Confirmation Classes 3:00pm (CO)  Youth Handbell 4:00pm (Music Rm)	2 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	3 Church Council 6:45pm (CO)	4 Choir 6:00pm Youth Bible Study 7:00pm (CO)	5 Courage 7:00pm (CO)	6 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	7
8 LM Christmas Meal - Following Service (FH) Generations 1:00pm Confirmation Classes 3:00pm (CO) Youth Handbell 4:00pm (Music Rm) Youth Christmas Party 5:00pm (FH)	9 Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm (CO)  AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	10	11 Choir 6:00pm	12 Up & Going 11:00am (FH)  Courage 7:00pm (CO)	13 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	14
15 Soup Luncheon/ Christmas Caroling - Following Service (FH)	16 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	17	18 Choir 6:00pm Youth Bible Study 7:00pm (CO)	19 Courage 7:00pm (CO)	20 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	21
22 Generations 1:00pm Confirmation Classes 3:00pm (CO) Youth Handbell 4:00pm (Music Rm)	23 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	24 Candlelight Service 5:00pm	25 Christmas Celebration 10:00am	26 Courage 7:00pm (CO)	27 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	28
29 Youth Led Service	30 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	31 Executive Team 6:45pm (CO)				