

# St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

July 2025 • Volume 36 • Issue 07

## Pastoral Devotion for July – Touched by Christ

Read Mark 10:1-16

Even in the first century divorce was legal. All that was required was a husband's letter indicating his wife's dismissal. Today's legalities are much more substantial. It may be legal, but in the eyes of God, divorce is yet further evidence of our need for a savior. Surprisingly, this passage of scripture is not about divorce. The Pharisees' only reason for bringing it up was another attempt to trap Jesus. Once again, their attempts failed. It is here where the text takes an unexpected turn.

As the disciples were seeking explanation concerning divorce, people began bringing children to Jesus so that he might touch them. Throughout Mark's gospel, being touched by Jesus meant being healed. In the confrontation with the Pharisees centered on divorce, we see humanity's brokenness and need for restoration. The children represent the weak and vulnerable; they serve as representatives for all who seek God's healing, restoration, and forgiveness.

The people of God are the children welcomed into the presence of Christ. We come to Jesus to be healed, to be made whole and to be set free from the consequences of our disobedience. Jesus says, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them." Bring those who face the hardship of sin, sickness, and divorce. In their brokenness, I will forgive them, bless them, and give them life.

Even in difficult circumstances such as divorce, our Lord Jesus has the power to forgive and restore those who seek his grace. Through Christ, there is hope for renewal. There is hope for healing. And there is abundant love that is poured out upon the children of God, a love so true that it will overcome any and all brokenness of our human condition.

*Prayer: As we come into your presence, O Lord, bless and heal us with the power of your love. Amen.*

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## The Vocation of Marriage Sunday

On June 13, 1525, Martin Luther married Katharina von Bora, establishing a profound example of Christian marriage as a sacred vocation. Their partnership embodied mutual respect, faithful companionship, hospitality, and spiritual ministry. Luther emphasized marriage as a reflection of Christ's relationship with His Church, calling couples to mutual love and support, grounded in God's sustaining grace. As we commemorate the 500th anniversary of Martin and Katie Luther's marriage, the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) renews its commitment to strengthening the vocation of marriage and supporting families in their journey of discipleship and honoring marriage as a spiritual vocation shaped by grace, while prayerfully supporting those experiencing separation or divorce.



This year, the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's marriage to Katharina von Bora was commemorated on June 13, 2025. Their marriage was an event that helped reform not only the Church, but the Christian household itself. Martin and Katie's marriage became a living witness to faith, companionship, and the daily practice of grace.

To mark this historic anniversary, our congregation will join the NALC in observing a Vocation of Marriage Sunday during this Season after Pentecost. The NALC is inviting every congregation to take part in planning a special Sunday to honor the vocation of marriage, affirm the dignity of all Christian households, and strengthen the Church's witness to covenantal love. St. Jacob's is planning a unique Sunday

continued on next page

# The Vocation of Marriage Sunday

continued from page 1

service for July 6th, with special liturgical materials, Scripture reflections, prayers, and even a rite for affirming marriage vows during worship. Support and strengthening of Christian families is

central to living in faith together. Therefore, whether you are young or old, married or unmarried, widowed or divorced, this Sunday is for you.

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## From Your Pastor's Heart

*Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62*

The verse I've chosen for this month's reflection is one that has been often misinterpreted to mean people should not reminisce over the past, but always look to the future with faith. While the sentiment is true, we should always be looking in faith toward our gaining the kingdom of God. But it goes without saying that often our memories bring with them feelings of love, warmth, and peace through the lasting visions of those whom we love, or have loved in the past.

As your pastor, I often find myself steeped in memories of those whom I have had the pleasure of knowing, and also the joy of being included in so many milestone moments for celebration. Along with those are the moments when faith plays a profound role in the lives of people whose hearts are broken or perhaps filled with great joy. Given the collection of memories God has blessed me to make through my years of pastoral ministry, it has taken quite some time to write my column this month. Even as my hand has been "to the plow," I've been looking back and remembering the joys and sorrows I've shared with so many.

It might seem strange to hear a pastor say, but I thank God for Facebook, Instagram, and other forms of electronic media. It is through these instruments that I have been able to remain connected to so many of the people I love and continue to enjoy the pastoral relationship once shared in person but now shared through social media. I enjoy seeing the photographs of children I had the pleasure to baptize as they have grown over the years. Some have recently graduated high school and will be off to college later this year.

Several of the "little ones" from previous congregations have now taken their place among the workforce. Youth whom I have confirmed in the Carolinas now live in places such as Alaska, North

Dakota, and California. Two have become registered nurses. One has become a doctor, and yet another is now an award winning TV news investigative reporter. I love it when these "kids" drop me a quick note, tag me in a photo, or send an instant message just to say "hi." I've even had the pleasure and honor of having former youth group members ask me to preside at their wedding. It is such a joy to see "our children" grow in faith and to see their life unfold.

All of this makes me wonder what the youth of St. Jacob's will be up to in about ten years or so. The children I've been blessed to baptize will be preparing for confirmation. The ones confirmed will be preparing for life after college or will have begun their careers. And our middle school and high school youth might even be enjoying moments and making memories with their spouses and children. Who knows what blessings from God await us all as we continue to grow in faithfulness and in our relationship together.

So as we reflect on our verse for this month, don't take it to say you should not look back on fond memories. God provides us with recollection so we can relive the moments of joy they bring. Memories play a central role in preparing us for those milestone moments we will experience in the future, but memories are not that which we are to look to for promise in our lives yet to come.

Using Jesus's metaphor, in plowing a field, a farmer keeps the rows straight by focusing on an immovable object in front and in the distance. If the farmer started to plow and kept looking back, he would never make straight rows and do a good job plowing. In following Jesus, he is to be the immovable object of our focus. Never take your eyes off Him. Our memories bring us pleasure, but

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# From Your Pastor's Heart

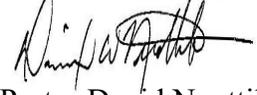
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they are in the past. No plowman ever plowed a straight furrow looking back over his shoulder.

Plowmen also do something else of great importance: they hold on. A plowman who lets go is no plowman at all. Jesus teaches us to hold on to him. Grasp hold of him through faith and know that through the love of God, a life of blessing awaits. This life may not be of this world but will last for all eternity in the kingdom of heaven.

Watching our children grow, living through the emotional moments of life together as pastor and people. Enjoying all the splendid blessings God pours out upon us all. This is what is on your pastor's heart this summer.

Grace to you and peace,



Pastor David Nuottila

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## St. Jacob's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Briefs June 3, 2025

### **Parking Lot Update** (Provided by Danny Shealy)

- The following permits have been submitted and fees paid.
  - Applicant Certification Application
  - Storm Water Maintenance Agreement
  - DHEC's Notice of Intent for Property Disturbance
  - DOT Encroachment Permit
- Still have the Landscape and Zoning Permit to complete.
- We will have to build a 1-acre retention pond. Looking at a Sediment Reduction Structure but may be able to reduce the retention pond to one-half acre.
- Talked with the contractor and he is still interested. Will require new pricing with the pond and retention drain structure.

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

- New members
- New baby
- Pastor teaching the kids Sunday School
- Carnations for all the mothers at church and at Generations

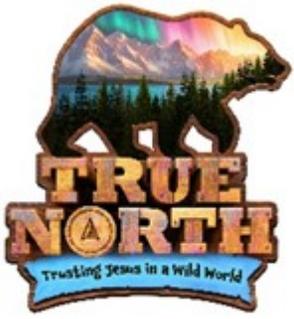
### **Pastor's Report**

- Pastor will be on vacation June 4th-12th for daughter's wedding.
- Special offering on Sunday, June 15th for the Congo – Ice Bucket Challenge.
- Special service tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 22nd – NALC Vocation of Marriage Sunday.
- June 29th – pulpit swap between St. Jacob's and Christiana in Salisbury.
- Pastor also shared an amendment that will be presented at Convocation in Pittsburg. He will schedule an information sharing meeting with the congregation to discuss the amendment and determine the church's vote.

### **Congregation Meeting**

- Sanctuary renovations – presented and approved by congregation.
- Ratify the amendment for two delegates to attend convocation. Amendment approved.

Next scheduled meeting is July 1, 2025 at 6:45 PM in the church office.



VBS 2025! Thank you for being part of a great week of VBS. We were reminded that when we are wandering, when we are alone, when we are powerless, when we need hope, and when we need a helper...we can always trust Jesus!

Thank you to all of our volunteers. Many thanks to Sandra, Davis, Gerald and Billy for preparing our meals. Thank you to Karla and Renee for crafts, Angela and Emma for Music, John, Tracy, Katelyn, Isabelle, and JT for games, and Julie Z, Donna, Raine, Judy, Patricia, Julie S, Lynn, and Kendra for shepherding our kids to each of the rotations and Pastor, Susan and David for sharing your time and lessons with the youth and adults. Thanks to all our participants too! You made VBS fun!





# Sanctuary Renovation Update for July



You may have noticed already, but the pew refurbishing and the new pew cushions installation is complete! This is the first phase of the renovation and was completed the last week of June. If you were at worship on Sunday, June 29th, you have already had an opportunity to see the new blue color and try out the comfortable cushions!

We know you are wondering why some pews were left untouched. The simple answer is that these pews will be removed when the carpet is installed. It will look a bit odd for a brief time, but the pews will eventually be arranged in a way that allows for additional wheelchair seating toward the front and back of the sanctuary.

The next phase will involve carpentry work beginning in the narthex. This work will likely begin mid-August. We will keep you updated as the project progresses!

## Midweek Bible Study Returns



Our Midweek Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, July 2nd beginning at 9:30 AM in the church office conference room. Our topic for study will be Recognizing Jesus in the Old Testament. This seven week study is for anyone who desires to learn more of how the Son of God is revealed to us through the books of the Old Testament. There are no special materials required. Just bring along your Bible and a desire to have a healthy and faithful conversation centered on the revelation of Jesus through the writings of Moses, the Psalms and prophets.

## Lutheran Women

The Lutheran Women will not meet in July. August 10th will be the annual outing at Zorba's at 4:00 PM. The third Sunday meetings will resume on September 21st at 4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women of St. Jacob's are welcome and encouraged to join us for fellowship.



## Adult Confirmation

Our Adult Confirmation study meets in the church office conference room on selected Tuesdays beginning at 6:30 PM. All who are interested in learning more about Lutheran theology, teaching, and worship are welcome to attend, regardless of if you grew up in the Lutheran Church or another denomination. We will examine elements of Luther's Large Catechism, the Book of Concord and the traditions of Lutheran preaching and worship. No special materials are needed. Many life-long Lutherans wonder why we do certain liturgies or traditions or have questions regarding the liturgies or traditions. Participants will enjoy learning more and having their questions answered. Please let Pastor David know if you would like to participate.



# Up and Going

Twenty-four members and guests gathered in the Fellowship Hall on June 12th at 11:00 AM to enjoy a very special lunch. Lunch was a fish fry cooked onsite by Gerald Lindler, assisted by Ann Lindler and Leon Lindler. The fish were caught out of Ann's pond by Ann and prepared by Ann. She put the magic touch on them. Other sides and desserts were provided by other members. Our meal was simply delicious. You can't beat a good fish fry! Special thanks to Ann, Gerald, and Leon.

After lunch, we gathered for devotions by Helen Lindler, Team Leader. She chose the Bible reading from Matthew 4, verses 18 and 19. Devotional reading was from Max Lucado's *Experiencing the Heart of Jesus*, week 20: "Freedom from Shame." Peter is changed by Jesus from a fisherman into a fisher of men.

Business was conducted. Gary Marco gave the Treasurer's report. Cards were signed for Betty Ann Shealy's 94th birthday; sympathy cards for Bryan Lindler, Janet Lindler, Ann Lindler and Elizabeth Summer; and a get-well card to Miriam Metze.

After some fish stories, we closed with goodbyes and good wishes. The July meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10th at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The theme will be 4th of July picnic so please dress patriotically and bring picnic lunch items to share.



Helen (O'Neal) Lindler  
Team Leader for  
Up and Going



*Fishers  
of Men*



## **Worship Assistants for July**

### July 06

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Gerald Lindler, James Kibler, Don Dease  
Lector: Tina Kibler  
Communion: Judy Dease and Marie Slice  
Acolyte: Samantha Monts  
Crucifer: Tommy Faulk

### July 13

Ushers: Tracy Eargle, Helen Lindler, Arthur Langley, Eddie Eargle  
Lector: Tommy Faulk  
Communion: Carroll Lindler and David Kibler  
Acolyte: Owen Raines  
Crucifer: Copeland Peeples

### July 20

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Leon Lindler, Lynn Shealy, Bob Ziemer  
Lector: Beth Covalt  
Communion: Susan Shealy and Sherrie McTeer  
Acolyte: Bryleigh Prosser  
Crucifer: Emma Covalt

### July 27

Ushers: Carroll Lindler, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler, James Kibler  
Lector: AJ Peeples  
Communion: Judy Dease and Marie Slice  
Acolyte: Samantha Monts  
Crucifer: Angela Nuottila

## **Safety Teams for July**

July 06 — Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley  
July 13 — Barry Rice, Tina Kibler  
July 20 — Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler  
July 27 — Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley

## **Grounds Crew for July**

Don Dease (co-chair) and John Riser (co-chair), Tracy Eargle, Wayne Stuck, Robert Wessinger, Nate Nickel, Kevin Pharis, Ken Smith, Eddie Eargle, John Wallace, Dixon Wallace, Chuck Shobert, Tommy Faulk

# 2025 Church Council Members

AJ Peeples - (Pres) AndrewJPeebles@gmail.com  
Lynn Shealy - (VP) lynnshealy55@gmail.com  
Sherrie McTeer - (Sec, Christian Education) mcteer1208@hotmail.com  
Judy Dease - (Discipleship) deasejudy@bellsouth.net  
Ann Lindler - (Congregational Care) annlindler96@gmail.com  
Adrian Meetze - (Property) meetzeadrian@gmail.com  
Brandon Slice - (Safety) brandons@prtcom.com  
Kevin Pharis - (Staff Support) kaylarepting@gmail.com  
Julie Stuck - (Worship and Music) juliestuck62@gmail.com  
Doug Sullivan - (Stewardship) dsulli318@yahoo.com



## Altar Flowers for July

July 06 — *Available*  
July 13 — *Available*  
July 20 — Kevin and Kayla Pharis  
July 27 — Albert and Elvia Lindler



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## July Birthdays

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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 – Hunter Metze  
25 – John Riser  
26 – Buddy Bickley  
26 – Gerald Lindler  
27 – Kendra Raines  
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 and Memorial Information

## Report for June 29, 2025

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Weekly Receipts	\$3,742	\$20,419	\$139,520
Budget Requirement	\$6,186	\$30,930	\$160,836

## Memorials Received June 1 – June 22, 2025

### GENERAL FUND in Memory of ....

- Our brother Dewey Clark's Birthday – By: Henry and Erline Clark & Kenneth and Dianne Clark
- Carroll L. Frick, Jr. – By: Henry and Erline Clark
- James Carroll Lindler and N. Ray Sites – By: Gerald and Robin Lindler
- Henry O. Clark and John Pat Lindler – By: Henry and Erline Clark

### GENERAL FUND: in Honor of ....

- Isabelle's 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday – By: AJ, Nicki and Copeland Peoples

### BUILDING FUND in Memory of ....

- J.L. Lindler – By: Don and Judy Dease; Billy and Sherrie McTeer; Patricia Woodard

### MEMORIAL FUND in Memory of ...

- J.L. Lindler – By: Claude and JoAnne Lindler; Paul and Paulette Lindler; Calvin F. Lindler; Wade H. Spradley; Margaret W. Eargle

### LUTHERAN MEN in Memory of ...

- Mitchell Martin for his 71<sup>st</sup> Birthday – By: Doug, Johanne and Brian Sullivan

### UP & GOING in Memory of ...

- J.L. Lindler – By: Elizabeth Summer and Family



The Church Office will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Thursday, July 3rd.



*All birthdays are good  
but this one is GREAT –  
so let's get together and celebrate*

## **Ramonia Lindler's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday !**

*The congregation is invited  
to join us on  
Sunday, July 20, 2025  
Drop-In 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
St. Jacob's Fellowship Hall*

*No Gifts Please !*

## **Remembering In Our Prayers**

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

Dan Frick      Lorene Cannon      Eddie Epting  
Gary Marco      Paul Lindler, Sr.      Miriam Metze

### HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Michael Lindler      Alice Morefield

### HOMEBOUND MEMBERS IN RESIDENCE FACILITES

Generations of Chapin: Shirley Nuottila, Stanley & Lucy Slice,  
Ramonia Lindler, Janet Lindler  
Fairforest Grove Senior Living: Frances Slice

### FRIENDS OF ST. JACOB'S

Jessica Mack      Zachary Slice      Chad Westhart  
Charlotte Simmons      Yvette Glenn      Landon Whittle  
Chris Turner      Terry Carpenter      Craig Lindler  
James Williams      Pat Redmond      Billy Gallman  
Waylon Brown      Andy Wessinger



# July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Church Council 6:45pm (CO)	2 Midweek Bible Study 9:30am (CO) Youth Bible Study 7:30pm (CO)	3 Church Office Closed Courage 7:00pm (CO)	4 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	5
6 Generations 1:00pm AA Mtg 7:30pm (CO)	7 Men's Bible Study 6:30pm (CO) AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	8 Adult Confirmation 6:30pm (CO)	9 Midweek Bible Study 9:30am (CO)	10 Up & Going 11:00am (FH) Courage 7:00pm (CO)	11 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	12
13 AA Mtg 7:30pm (CO)	14 Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm (CO) AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	15	16 Midweek Bible Study 9:30am (CO) Youth Bible Study 7:30pm (CO)	17 Courage 7:00pm (CO)	18 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	19
20 Generations 1:00pm Ramonía's Birthday Party 3:00-5:00pm (FH) AA Mtg 7:30pm (CO)	21 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	22 Adult Confirmation 6:30pm (CO)	23 Midweek Bible Study 9:30am (CO)	24 Courage 7:00pm (CO)	25 Regional AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	26
27 AA Mtg 7:30pm (CO)	28 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	29	30 Midweek Bible Study 9:30am (CO)	31 Courage 7:00pm (CO)		