

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

September 2025 • Volume 36 • Issue 09

Pastoral Devotion for September – Idols Are Nothing

Read Mark 3:22-35, Isaiah 44:9-20

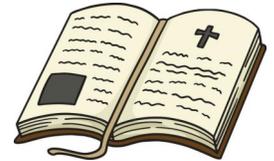
How foolish we are; how misguided are our thoughts. Too often, superstitions and charms get in the way of faith. Who remembers carrying a lucky rabbit's foot as a child? Who recalls possessing a four leafed clover? How many times have you turned the horseshoe upright so the luck does not run out? These are but a few examples of humanity's struggle with false gods. Harmless superstitions? Tell that to the person purchasing lotto tickets with his last few dollars; his lucky number is due. Thankfully, Jesus shows us the truth.

When Jesus showed the scribes and Pharisees the power of God's love, they claimed he was out of his mind. No one had ever taught the things Jesus taught or performed such miracles. Surely, they thought, he is possessed by Beelzebul. Only

because of the hardness of their hearts could they not see Jesus truly was their long awaited Messiah, the Son of God. The same is true today.

Science attempts to explain the wonders of the universe; philosophy the powers of reason. People even rely on lucky charms, solicit good vibes and fall for superstitions in hopes of prevailing against the world. Each attempt falls short, for only through Christ can we prevail against the powers that defy God. Through faith, we know Jesus is Lord. Only Christ has the power to save.

Prayer: *Inspire us O Lord, give us the faith to cling to the truth of your Word. Amen*



Summary Report on the NALC Convocation

The Clergy and lay delegates of the North American Lutheran Church met for the annual NALC Lutheran Week from August 4th – August 8th in Pittsburgh, PA. With this convocation, the NALC celebrated its fifteenth anniversary. The North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) celebrated its tenth anniversary and welcomed their new President, the Rev. Dr. Jukka Kääriäinen. Dr. Kääriäinen and his family come to us from Helsinki, Finland.

Elections were held for positions on the NALC Executive Council (2 clergy, 2 lay). Four pastors were also elected to the NALC Court of Adjudication, and one pastor was elected to the NALS Board of Regents.

Delegates approved several updates to the NALC Constitution to strengthen governance:

- Establish Bylaws—Delegates approved the

establishment of formal bylaws for the NALC, adjusting various sections of the Constitution that better serve the Church as bylaws.

- Establish Article and Bylaws for NALS—Delegates approved to adopt an article and bylaws for the North American Lutheran Seminary.
- Establish Article and Bylaws Regarding Financial and Legal Matters—Delegates approved an article and bylaws clarifying financial and legal procedures for the NALC.

Finally, the 2026 NALC and NALS operating budgets were approved without amendment.

We extend our gratitude to Lynn Shealy for serving as St. Jacob's lay delegate to the convocation.

From Your Pastor's Heart

Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16

Over the years, among the greatest joys I have found in being a pastor is watching the children of the church grow in their faith. From the moment of their Baptism, it is a tremendous blessing for congregations to make children a part of our life together. As I write this monthly message, our congregation is at the onset of a new year of Sunday school where we hope to welcome children of all ages (yes, even adults). I am also preparing the coming year's lesson plans for our confirmands as they journey closer to the day when they will claim God's promises as their own.

According to the vows we make in Baptism, we acknowledge that we are to never cease learning more about our loving God. Sunday school, confirmation instruction, and Bible studies all exist for one purpose; to help the children of God grow in faith and trust in our Lord and Savior. It is a gift and joy to share this ministry with our families, and especially our children as they grow and one day begin families of their own.

In order for this to happen, families need to grow in faith together. They need to gather in God's house of prayer, hear his Gospel, and receive nourishment for their faith sharing in the sacraments. Yet, in so many congregations today, families do not attend worship on Sunday, let alone Sunday school. Even fewer adults attend regular Christian learning opportunities such as Bible studies. Yet, it is our Lord who compels people to come to him.

Jesus was quite clear in his rebuke of those who tried to keep children away. His words carry weight and authority like those of no one else. "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Imagine the sight, a kingdom filled with the laughter and wide eyes of children (and adults) as they flock to the one who embodies the love of God, promising to keep them near to him forever. If we only follow Jesus's instructions and bring the children, we can see this reality unfold right before our eyes.

The truth be told, children love to be among their church family. When the children of the church are present, they find themselves in the midst of a community that shares equal joy and wonder in the presence of Christ the Lord. Maybe that's because, as we welcome the children into our midst and shower them with love and attention, God takes delight and showers us with the blessing of the children's love, energy, and excitement. Soon, even the most stodgy of adults can feel their heart melt with joy as they are welcomed in Christ as little

children in the lap of their heavenly Father.

If you have ever been a part of a congregation without children, you will know just how quiet life in the church can be. If you are a parent but don't weekly attend worship or Sunday school you are missing out on one of the most rewarding joys of being a Christian. As children of God, we are to be ever thankful for all of God's blessings, especially our life together. We can be filled with the joy of knowing that, just as Christ welcomed the children and blessed them, our heavenly Father also welcomes and blesses us. Sadly, we adults sometimes forget this.

We can learn so many lessons from the children of the church; all we need to do is watch them and let them be children. First, we can learn what it truly means to have a child-like faith. To believe and fully trust God in all situations. When circumstances in life cause us fear or anxiety, we can curl up in the lap of our Father, seeking his peace and comfort just as a child seeks the same from a loving parent or grandparent. When we feel that we are lacking something or find that we have a particular need, we can ask God with assurance of a small child when he or she receives that which would bring fulfillment.

As I said at the onset, it brings me great joy to see the children each week in worship. Each one brings tremendous gifts to our church family just by their presence among us. Watching the many children that I had the privilege to baptize grow and take their place in the community always brings to mind God's blessings and promises that we find in his peace, power, and presence.

Parents, please continue to bring your children to church. Grandparents, bring your adult children and grandchildren. Share their lives with those whom God has called and gathered here at St. Jacob's. Let them all come to Christ, do not hinder them. They serve as living, breathing reminders to all of us of the joy we experience in the presence of Christ our Lord. They also help us continue in a child-like faith as we await the great and glorious day when our Lord comes to take us to where he is, the place he has prepared for all the children of God.



Grace to you and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Nuottila".

Pastor David Nuottila

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Briefs

August 5, 2025

Good Things at St. Jacob's for July

- Ms. Ramonia's 90th birthday
- Comfortable pew cushions
- Received more flood buckets and had lots of volunteers to unload

Ministry Teams

Staff Support: Susan Shealy

- Recognized Laurie Shacker on her birthday, July 26th.
- Bryan Metze reported that he has repeatedly cleaned up the centipedes that enter the basement each summer. He wants the congregation to know that he is aware of their presence and that he cleans, but they come right back. This will end by September - they are seeking water and cool temperatures inside the building.
- Planning for annual staff reviews in August.

Safety: Robert Wessinger

- Fire extinguishers have been checked and are good through 2025.
- Will check first aid and medical equipment for expired dates.

Christian Education: Sherrie McTeer

- Will plan for Promotion Sunday in September with breakfast. Date to be determined with Pastor.

Congregational Care: Billy McTeer

- The team provided a meal for the family of Lorene Cannon.

Discipleship: Lynn Shealy

- Mercy Bag Donations:
 - July 7th – 17 bags weighing 286 pounds.
 - July 21st – 7 bags weighing 129 pounds.
 - Also delivered some paper products and other pantry items.
- Disaster Shed:
 - Received shipments of supplies from Lexington and Mayor Memorial in Newberry.
 - Inventory
 - * 389 Storm Buckets
 - * 482 Hygiene Kits
 - * 91 Elementary School Kits
 - * 24 Kitchen Kits
 - * 112 Bibles

Property: Gerald Lindler / Danny Shealy

- Mike Outlaw installed 4 Hunter outdoor rated 52" ceiling fans and 2 LD 4' light fixtures in the bus/disaster shed.
- Parking lot permits/application forms have been received by Lexington County and are in the review stages.
- Sanctuary Renovations
 - Beadboard being installed and working on ceilings in Narthex and Sacristy. Update choir loft to be one level.

New Business:

- Time for 2026 budget requests, which will be due in September.

Next scheduled meeting is September 2, 2025 at 6:45 PM in the church office.

Worship Assistants for September

September 07

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Leon Lindler, Arthur Langley, Eddie Eargle
Lector: Tina Kibler
Communion: Susan Shealy and Patricia Woodard
Acolyte: Owen Raines
Crucifer: David Kibler

September 14

Ushers: Don Dease, Gerald Lindler, Lynn Shealy, Bob Ziemer
Lector: Tommy Faulk
Communion: Judy Dease and AJ Peeples
Acolyte: Bryleigh Prosser
Crucifer: Copeland Peeples

September 21

Ushers: Tracy Eargle, Helen Lindler, Sherrie McTeer, David Kibler
Lector: Beth Covalt
Communion: Isabelle Peeples and Sherrie McTeer
Acolyte: MacKenzie Raines
Crucifer: Tommy Faulk

September 28

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Leon Lindler, James Kibler, Arthur Langley
Lector: AJ Peeples
Communion: Susan Shealy and Marie Slice
Acolyte: Samantha Monts
Crucifer: AJ Peeples

Safety Teams for September

September 07 — Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley
September 14 — Barry Rice, Tina Kibler
September 21 — Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler
September 28 — Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley

Grounds Crew for September

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 Metze, David Kibler, Adrian Meetze

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 September

September 07 — *Available*
September 14 — Julie and Wayne Stuck
September 21 — *Available*
September 28 — *Available*



September Birthdays

01 – Stephanie McDuffie
01 – Nicki Peeples
03 – Phyllis Bickley
03 – Susan S. Shealy
04 – Caleb Meetze
05 – Lia Clark
05 – Evan Riser
06 – Les Sutphin
07 – Gracie Moore
09 – Erline Clark
09 – Jason Jones
10 – Melissa Lindler
11 – Rachel Boland
11 – Barbara Metze
12 – Easton Amick
12 – Taylor Monts



13 – Jeff Kleckley
13 – Julie Stuck
14 – Parker Turney
15 – Lynne Amick
18 – Kayleigh Eargle
19 – Dawn Lindler
19 – Frances Slice
20 – Judy Turner
22 – Jill Lindler
22 – Walt Shealy
22 – Renee Shields
23 – Earline Shealy
23 – Danny Shealy
23 – Melissa Wicker
25 – Kayla Pharis
28 – Lily Wallace

Celebrating Everyone's Birthday!

Happy Birthday to you!

Yes You!

St. Jacob's is having a birthday party following worship on Sunday, September 7th!

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for lunch, games, fellowship, fun, and of course...birthday cake!



We will sit by birthday month! Come join us as we celebrate everyone's birthdays.

Please sign up by Sunday, August 31st. There will be an insert in the worship bulletin on August 31st to sign up or contact Sherrie McTeer 803-309-2448.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 1st.

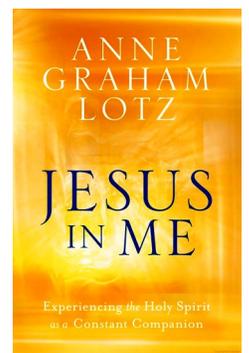


Women's Bible Study

What benefits do you receive from attending the Women's Bible Study? "Spending time with my sisters in Christ studying God's word, sharing experiences, and prayer warriors."

"Women getting together to deepen our understanding of God's word." If you would like to share in this experience please join us!

The Women's Bible Study will resume in September and all women are welcome! The Women's Bible Study meets in the church office on the second Monday of each month from 6:45-8:00 PM, with our next meeting taking place on September 8th. Our study will focus on *Jesus in Me: Experiencing the Holy Spirit as a Constant Companion* by Anne Graham Lotz. Questions? Contact Susan Shealy 803-413-4128.



Midweek Bible Study Resumes



Our Midweek Bible Study will resume regular Wednesday morning sessions on September 10th at 9:30 AM in the church office conference room. Anyone who would like to attend is welcome. Please invite your friends, family members, or neighbors to come with you.

Up and Going



The September Up and Going meeting will be the annual Apple Run on Thursday, September 11th. Please be at the church ready to depart at 8:30 AM. A sign up sheet will be on our bulletin board. Lunch will be at Harry's BBQ and Miss Piggy's Ice Cream Parlor.

Lutheran Women

The Lutheran Women 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.



Lutheran Men Sunday/ Lutheran Women Fundraiser

The Lutheran Women will have a spaghetti meal fundraiser on Sunday, September 28th following the worship service led by the Lutheran Men. The meal will be salad, spaghetti, bread and dessert and may be eaten in or taken to go.

Adult plates will be \$10 and child plates will be \$5. The funds raised will go to Andy Wessinger to help with medical expenses.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the worship folder on September 14th and September 21st, or you can call Sandra Brown at (803) 530-1133. Please let us know if you plan to join us no later than September 21st.



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. 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. No special materials are needed. Please let Pastor David know if you would like to participate.



Financial and Memorial Information

Report for August 24, 2025

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Weekly Receipts	\$3,035	\$15,691	\$178,235
Budget Requirement	\$6,186	\$24,744	\$210,324

Memorials Received August 3 – August 24, 2025

BUILDING FUND in Memory of

- Lorene Cannon – By: Brian and Sandra Dietrich; Danny and Brenda Shealy

CEMETERY FUND in Memory of

- Lorene Cannon – By: Don and Judy Dease

MEMORIAL FUND in Memory of ...

- Lorene Cannon – By: Dunn Mtn. Hunt Club Group; Mary Jane Phipps;
David and Tina Kibler; Frances Shealy
- J. L. Lindler – By: Edgar and Catherine Lindler

UP & GOING in Memory of ...

- Lorene Cannon – By: Joe and Eileen Richardson

WE CARE in Memory of ...

- Lorene Cannon – By: David and Tina Kibler

July 2025

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

Dear Friends of St. Jacob’s Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Sola Publishing, thank you for your gift of \$250.00.

You have blessed our hearts with your support of our ministry to provide solid, biblical resources for use in preaching and teaching God’s Word. Because of your gifts, we are able to keep the cost of our materials low for those churches struggling to keep their ministries viable.

We are deeply thankful for your gracious gift.

Yours in Christ,

Steven King

Pastor Steve King, Managing Editor

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Sanctuary Renovation Update

By now you have noticed a few changes occurring in the narthex and sanctuary! You may not have noticed, but a new ceiling and lighting have been installed in the areas on each side of the chancel, too!

During the month of September, renovation activities will begin in the chancel area. We will be installing new doors in the narthex and around the chancel.

Some good news: we have determined that our existing light fixtures don't have to be replaced! New lamps and lenses will be added which should provide appropriate lighting in the sanctuary. The lights will be updated and painting in the narthex and sanctuary will begin during the month of September.

We appreciate everyone's patience during this time!



To my church family,

I want to thank everyone for all the get-well wishes thru cards, phone calls, visits and for all the delicious food brought to us and especially for all the prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. Buddy and I are so grateful to be a part of this St. Jacob's family. God bless each of you. As I continue to recover, I ask that you continue to pray for the both of us.

Phyllis Bickley ☩

Remembering In Our Prayers

ST. JACOB'S MEMBERS SICK/RECOVERING

Dan Frick	Eddie Epting	Gary Marco
Paul Lindler, Sr.	Miriam Metze	O'Neal Lindler
Phyllis Bickley	Glenn Shealy	Faye Wessinger
	Linda Smith	

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	Chris Turner
Andy Wessinger		Charlotte Simmons



September 2025



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

