



St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

January 2026 • Volume 37 • Issue 01

Pastoral Devotion for January – Bearing Witness to Love

Read John 10:19-42

There is an old saying that suggests actions speak louder than words. When people say “I love you,” the evidence is not in their spoken words, but their acts of kindness. Absent of any display of affection or selfless deeds saying to someone “I love you” is simply an empty exchange of words.

As Jesus lived among God’s people, he proclaimed the fullness of God’s love. However, it is through his many signs and wonders that our Lord makes the Father’s love known in real and visible ways. Foretold by the prophets of long ago, Jesus’s teaching and his miraculous works point to him as God’s Messiah. Still, the Pharisees and scribes would have none of this.

“How long will you keep us in suspense?” “Why do you not tell us plainly?” Jesus had already given the answer, but they refused to believe, even as they’ve

seen the evidence with their own eyes. Such hardened hearts are not capable of belief because they do not understand love.

Our works and good deeds contribute nothing towards our salvation. Yet, as believers in Christ Jesus, our works do bear witness to the love God has for his people. Jesus calls us to a life of love for God and neighbor. When one says “I love God” or “I love my neighbor,” he can only be believed when his actions match his words. Without such works, saying “I love God and neighbor” is yet one more empty exchange.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, make our actions towards others match our words of love, that all may come to see your goodness and mercy. Amen.



One Year Bible Reading Plan

Pastor David has put together an updated One Year Bible Reading Plan for members of St. Jacob’s, friends and family. This reading plan begins on January 1st and has listed scripture readings for each day of 2026. Dedicating only about fifteen minutes a day, you will read the entire Bible in one year. It is suggested that those participating in the plan find a regular time each day (each morning is best) and with pencil, pen, or highlighter in hand to identify passages for later study.



Congratulations Newly Elected Council Members

On December 7th, St. Jacob’s elected five new members to our church council. We give thanks to God as He continues to raise up leaders for His church. Our newly elected council members are Tracy Riser (2026 Vice President), Nicki Peoples (Secretary), Tina Kibler, Marlene Gray, and Eddie Eargle. We also wish to thank those council members whose terms of service are completed. These members are A.J. Peoples (President), Sherrie McTeer (Secretary), Julie Stuck, Kevin Pharis, and Doug Sullivan. Thank you all for serving our congregation.



From Your Pastor's Heart

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

One of the greatest joys of being a pastor is watching the young people of the congregation grow to become faithful disciples of Christ. The Greek word for disciple is "mathetes," (pronounced ma-thay-tays). It means that one who is a disciple is a learner, a student of the master. The disciple follows the teacher and submits to the teacher's ways, following the teacher's example. This leads to a transformation in the way the disciple's life is lived. We call this transformation living a life of "discipleship."

When we think of disciples as students, we imagine them to be people who attend lectures or read books. But disciples, as in the context of the Bible, were required to interact with and imitate a real living person, their teacher. A disciple would literally follow someone in hopes of eventually becoming what they are. This is the calling of Christians throughout our shared history within the Church. So, how does one know if they are living the life of discipleship?

Such a life is distinguished by several indicators. We call these the "Marks of Discipleship." The first is to be someone who is regularly dwelling in God's Word. Reading the Bible is essential for living as a disciple of Jesus. Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). Truly, the only way to learn from Christ is to dwell in his Word.

The next mark of discipleship is to have an active and dynamic prayer life. Simply put, disciples pray. In his teaching about prayer, Jesus commands his followers to pray. As Jesus gives his teaching on prayer in Matthew 6:5-13, he says, "When you pray." Jesus expects his disciples to pray. Through prayer faith is reaffirmed, confidence in God's Word is built, and we become more aligned with God's will.

It should go without saying that disciples also enjoy learning more about God's truth. So, we can say, disciples willingly learn from the Lord. Disciples study with other disciples in fellowship with one

another. Learning and fellowship are strong indicators of one who lives a life of discipleship. Disciples not only learn, but they do so eagerly and joyfully.

Disciples also worship and participate regularly in the Sacraments. Disciples come to the Lord's table, welcomed as a sinner redeemed by Christ himself. They savor each opportunity in which they may receive the body and blood of Christ for the sake of their forgiveness and as nourishment for their faith.

And finally, disciples serve Christ by serving and evangelizing their neighbor. Engaging the mission of the Gospel means meeting the physical needs of our neighbor while also meeting their spiritual needs. Mission work is defined by these two traits. To live the life of discipleship means presenting yourself as a living sacrifice for the sake of others. All the while sharing with them the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

I mentioned earlier it is a pastor's joy to witness the younger members of the Church growing into the life of discipleship. That is because, as they learn from their pastor and their Sunday school teachers, they learn from Christ himself. Those who remain in the fellowship of their peers will grow to become faithful disciples of Jesus simply through regular learning, worship, and fellowship among God's people. We have witnessed that here at St. Jacob's. Just take a look at the young people who are climbing into leadership roles within our worship services. They are the ones who regularly live and learn among the faithful. We can all be thankful for each one of them as they grow in faith. Let us prayerfully guide them and may we also learn from them how to become greater disciples of our Lord Jesus.



Grace to you and peace,

Handwritten signature of Pastor David Nuottila in blue ink.

Pastor David Nuottila

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Briefs

December 9, 2025

Good Things at St. Jacob's for November

- Providing pound cakes for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner and for helping package
- Great turnout to decorate and put up Chrismon Trees
- Providing Christmas to all the children on the Angel Tree
- Sausage sales and making
- Sherrie and David leading worship services

Pastor's Report

- Pastor highlighted activities for the month and significant upcoming dates. Also, reminded us of the Wreath Laying for Veterans at the cemetery on Saturday, December 13th at 1:30 PM. We have 65 veterans.
 - Two more congregations applying to NALC – Macedonia and St. Paul's Columbia.
 - St. Peter Chapin is voting on their call for a Pastor on Sunday, December 14th.
 - Pastor will supply at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 28th.
 - John Riser will be replacing Carroll Lindler as an Elder.

Ministry Teams

Staff Support: Susan Shealy

- Staff will sign employee agreements for 2026 with the updated salaries.
- Many thanks to Kevin for communicating the needs and interests of our staff with Council.

Christian Education: Sherrie McTeer

- Christian education opportunities continue for everyone with Sunday School and various bible studies.
- Split the Sunday School Class into two classes – 5th grade and under and 6th grade and up. Looking for volunteers to teach on a regular basis.
- Waiting on book of 2026 VBS themes for us to select for next year.

Congregational Care: Billy McTeer

- Provided 300 slices of pound cake to the Community Thanksgiving Luncheon. Many thanks to our bakers and for those that stayed for our annual cake cutting and packaging after Thanksgiving Eve service.
- Served bereavement meal for family of Stanley Slice.
- Assisted with setting up and decorating Fellowship Hall for our December 7th Christmas Luncheon after service.

Discipleship: Lynn Shealy

- Angel Tree – Gifts for 40 children which included clothes, toys, and wish list items.
- Mercy Bag Donations:
 - Twenty-five mercy bags were delivered to We Care in November.

Property: Gerald Lindler / Danny Shealy

- Contract for HVAC and Ice Machine to perform bi-annual service maintenance on our HVAC units and Ice Machine is being coordinated with Wilson Refrigeration and Air.

Council Meeting Briefs Continued

Worship and Music: Marie Slice / Julie Stuck

- Chrismon Trees and Advent Wreaths were put up.
- Poinsettias have been ordered.
- Request to purchase a piece of Lexan to cover the altar to protect the fair linen and to provide a flat surface was received and approved by Council vote.
- Poinsettias will be placed in sanctuary. New Fair Linen will be placed on altar.

Team Leaders for 2026:

- Christian Education – Sherrie McTeer
 - Lynn Shealy volunteered to help recruit teachers. We would still like a team to work on VBS for 2026.
- Congregational Care – Billy McTeer
- Discipleship – Don Dease
- Finance – Judy Dease
- Property – Gerald Lindler and Danny Shealy
- Safety – Robert Wessinger
- Staff Support – Susan Shealy
- Stewardship – AJ Peeples
- Worship and Music – Julie Stuck

Council Officers for 2026:

- Vice President – Tracy Riser
- Secretary – Nicki Peeples

Council Ministry Team Assignments for 2026:

- * Contact Team Leader for monthly report prior to Council Meeting and provide updates/approvals back to Team Leader
 - Christian Education – Marlene Gray
 - Congregational Care – Ann Lindler
 - Discipleship – Judy Dease
 - Property – Adrian Meetze
 - Safety – Eddie Eargle
 - Staff Support – Tina Kibler
 - Stewardship – Nicki Peeples
 - Worship and Music – Brandon Slice

** Next scheduled meeting is **Saturday, January 10th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** in the church office. **

We are looking for nursery helpers – please contact Sherrie or Laurie.

Worship Assistants for January

January 04

Ushers: Tracy Eargle, Helen Lindler, James Kibler, Arthur Langley
Lector: Angela Nuottila
Communion: Marie Slice and Susan Shealy
Acolyte: Samantha Monts
Crucifer: Copeland Peeples

January 11

Ushers: Don Dease, Leon Lindler, Eddie Eargle, Lynn Shealy
Lector: Beth Covalt
Communion: Tommy Faulk and Sherrie McTeer
Acolyte: Owen Raines
Crucifer: Emma Covalt

January 18

Ushers: Gerald Lindler, Tracy Eargle, Sherrie McTeer, Bob Ziemer
Lector: AJ Peeples
Communion: Judy Dease and David Kibler
Acolyte: Katharine Corn
Crucifer: David Kibler

January 25

Ushers: Tracy Eargle, Helen Lindler, James Kibler, Arthur Langley
Lector: Susan Shealy
Communion: Isabelle Peeples and Patricia Woodard
Acolyte: Bryleigh Prosser
Crucifer: Carolene Amick

Safety Teams for January

January 04 — Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler
January 11 — Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley
January 18 — Barry Rice, Tina Kibler
January 25 — Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler

Grounds Crew for January

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

2026 Church Council Members



Lynn Shealy – (Pres) lynnshealy55@gmail.com
Tracy Riser – (VP) shadyparadise2@me.com
Nicki Peebles – (Sec, Stewardship) nickipeebles@gmail.com
Marlene Gray – (Christian Education) m.s.gray.1951@gmail.com
Ann Lindler – (Congregational Care) annlindler96@gmail.com
Judy Dease – (Discipleship) deasejudy@bellsouth.net
Adrian Meetze – (Property) meetzeadrian@gmail.com
Eddie Eargle – (Safety) eeargle21@yahoo.com
Tina Kibler – (Staff Support) tckibler23@gmail.com
Brandon Slice – (Worship and Music) brandons@prtcom.com

Altar Flowers for January

January 04 — *Available*
January 11 — Jim Kibler
January 18 — *Available*
January 25 — *Available*



January Birthdays

02 – Carroll T. Lindler
03 – Jackson Wallace
04 – Jack Howard Ballentine
08 – Frances Bowers
09 – Brilyn Amick
09 – Wendy Rauch
12 – Todd Ballentine
13 – Samantha Dietrich
13 – Brian Dietrich
13 – Allen Lindler
13 – Brandon Slice
16 – Tori Lambeth
17 – David Nuottila



18 – David Ellisor
18 – Gage Shealy
21 – Anna Layton
21 – Sherrie McTeer
25 – David McClain
27 – Henry Clark
27 – Aubrey Lindler
27 – Kim Meetze
27 – Bryson Metze
28 – Brantley Bise
29 – Abigail Duggan
30 – Joshua Monts
31 – Nate Nickel

Up and Going

On a bright and beautiful morning, 18 members and guests gathered in the festively decorated Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM to celebrate Christmas at the December Up and Going meeting. A bountifully set table provided by attendees awaited our enjoyment. And, enjoy we did. The food was delicious. Thank you to all for providing such a wonderful meal with desserts. Gerald Lindler gave the meal blessing. Helen Lindler thanked everyone for attending and a short business session was held. Gary Marco gave the Treasurer's Report. Prayers for the sick...Pastor Eargle, Leon Lindler and Ramonia Lindler and praises for O'Neal and Damon Lindler and Mrs. Miriam that their health has improved.

Gary Marco read from "The Message" the precious story of Jesus' conception and birth events. We then sang songs telling this story in song with Joan Marco, pianist, and Tommy Faulk on guitar. These beloved Christmas songs were enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Joan, Gary and Tommy.

Helen Lindler, Team Leader, gave the devotions from *Our Daily Bread* entitled "Grace Now," reminding us that it makes no difference how busy or irritated we become, we should always be filled with God's love. God's love is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered (1 Corinthians 13:5).

Helen reported seeing the most beautiful rainbow that appeared to be right over St. Jacob's Church on the afternoon of Stanley Slice's visitation. We discussed God's promise of the rainbow and God's speaking to us through the rainbow; the how and why they appear.

Our Christmas gift of food and other items for We Care totaled 96 pounds. Oliver Gospel Mission was thrilled to receive our gifts last month. I am so proud of each of you. You have given so generously to these projects.

January is our annual Soup Pot Lunch and Bingo. Please sign up and list your contribution to the soup pot or a dessert or sandwiches, crackers or cornbread. Please bring items early or previously cooked. We will begin cooking soup at 10:00 AM. Don't forget to bring repurposed Bingo items. We will play as long as the prizes last. We wish each of you a blessed New Year.

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



St. Jacob's 250th Year-long Celebration

The year 2026 has come and with it, St. Jacob's will celebrate our 250th anniversary of ministry of the Gospel within this community. The team appointed by the church council last year has worked faithfully to plan for the year's activities, including welcoming several guest preachers who have played a significant role within our church family. The schedule of events during this year of celebration is listed below.

- January 18th – Guest preacher Rev. Dawn Rister; (SCMD Dean) congregation dinner following worship.
- February 15th – Congregation Outreach Event to support NALC Disaster Response.
- March 15th – Guest preacher Rev. Henry Pawluk; congregation dinner following worship.
- April 19th – Decades Day; worshippers dress from past eras and use a historic liturgy from our collective past.
- May 17th – Guest preacher Rev. Marty Ramey; congregation dinner following worship.
- June – Vacation Bible School
- July 19th – Guest preacher Rev. Randy Drafts; congregation dinner following worship.
- August 16th – Congregation Outreach Event; blankets for residents at Generations.
- September 20th – Guest preacher Rev. David Tholstrup (former SCMD Dean), congregation dinner following worship.
- October 25th – Homecoming and Anniversary Sunday, guest preacher NALC Presiding Bishop Dan Selbo; special catered congregation dinner following worship.
- November TBD – Golden Agers Recognition and celebration.

We give thanks to God for the long history of our congregation, and especially for the life and witness of so many who have been a part of our proclamation and now take their rest in Christ. Thanks be to God for the life we share together.

It's time to update the Church Roster

All members are asked to provide updated contact information for the church roster. We especially need to know if you no longer have a landline and if your cell number, email or mailing addresses have changed in 2025. You can provide the information to the church office or directly to the Membership Secretary, Robin Lindler – robinlindler54@gmail.com or text: 803-622-9247. Our Ministry Teams, Auxiliary Groups and members of the congregation use the information from the roster to ensure everyone is made aware of important happenings at St. Jacob's. **Thank you** for taking the time to help keep our church roster and membership records accurate and up to date.

Tithing Envelopes for 2026

The 2026 Tithing Envelopes and 2025 Giving Statements will be available at the church until January 25, 2026. Please make plans to pick up your envelopes and statement and those for any other family member, friend or neighbor who may be unable to get to the church. Following the January 25th service, the remaining statements will be mailed, and the envelopes will be removed. You will need to contact Robin Lindler (robinlindler54@gmail.com or text 803-622-9247) or the church office to schedule a time to pick up your envelopes.

Financial and Memorial Information

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Dec 15-19 – Online Giving	725		
Dec 21 – Sunday Donations	<u>2,592</u>		
	\$3,317	\$13,863	\$264,811
Budget Requirement:	\$6,186	\$18,558	\$315,486

Memorials Received November 30 – December 21, 2025

GENERAL FUND

- ♦ In Memory of Stanley Slice – By: Eddie and Gail Epting; Gerald and Robin Lindler; Doug, Johanne and Brian Sullivan; Buddy and Phyllis Bickley; AND Henry and Erline Clark
- ♦ In Memory of John Pat and Mable Lindler AND Boyd and Lola Farr – By: Henry and Erline Clark
- ♦ In Memory of Randy Morefield, John Pat and Mable Lindler AND Boyd and Lola Farr
By: Alice Morefield, Lora, Scott, Landon and Peyton Whittle

BUILDING FUND

- ♦ In Memory of Joe Stroud, Sr. – By: Billy and Sherrie McTeer
- ♦ In Memory of Carroll Lester – By: Gerald and Robin Lindler
- ♦ In Memory of Stanley Slice – By: Claude and JoAnne Lindler; Billy, Sherrie, Lauren, Parker, Anne Lee, Jennings and Evans McTeer; AND Don and Judy Dease

LUTHERAN MEN

- ♦ In Memory of Stanley Slice – By: Albert and Elvia Lindler; Paul and Paulette Lindler; Earline Shealy; Bob Hilliard; Vicki Wheatley/Jerry Derrick; Miriam Metze; Terry and Barbara Metze; Lynn and Susan Shealy; Francis and Mary Joyce Shealy; Carl and Bonnie Derrick; AND Patricia Woodard
- ♦ In Memory of Stanley Slice and Joe Stroud, Sr. – By: Robert and June Lindler
- ♦ In Memory of John Pat Lindler; Boyd and Lola Farr and In Honor of our Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren – By: Leon and Helen Lindler

LUTHERAN WOMEN

- ♦ In Memory of Henson and Myrtis Roof and In Honor of our Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren – By: Leon and Helen Lindler
- ♦ In Honor of Ramonia Lindler – By: Robert and June Lindler

Youth Bible Study

The Youth Bible Study will meet at Davis and Sandra Brown's home on Wednesday, January 7th at 7:00 PM to tour Christmas decorations and have a pizza party. Come enjoy the fellowship, food and decorations. Families are welcome! Please let Susan Shealy (cell#803-413-4128) know how many will be attending.



Lutheran Men Country Sausage Sale



The Lutheran Men will be making Country Sausage on Monday, February 16th. If you would like to purchase BULK sausage for \$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 8th. The sausage can be picked up between 3:00 and 6:00 PM on Monday, February 16th in the Fellowship Hall.

Midweek Bible Study

Midweek Bible Study meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM in the church office conference room. We are currently studying the Gospel According to John. This study is a traditional chapter and verse study where we will read and learn more of the message John has to teach all who hear his Gospel and come to believe that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the true Son of God. We will read and compare John's writing with that of the other Gospel writers. We will also explore the connections between John's Gospel and the Old Testament. Everyone is invited to join us as they are able.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of MLK Day.

Chapin We Care

Top Ten Needs for January

1. Oatmeal
2. Jelly
3. Pancake Mix & Syrup
4. Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
5. Canned Potatoes
6. Grits
7. Canned Fruit Cocktail
8. Canned Pears
9. Ramen Noodles
10. Canned Tomatoes

We can always use non-food items such as paper products, dish/laundry detergents, cleaning supplies, shave cream, etc.

We are in need of plastic grocery bags for the beginning of the new year. They can be dropped off in our 24-hr donation bin.



Thank you!

St. Jacob's Church Family,

I want to thank all those that helped with the laying of the wreaths on our veterans' graves for the Wreaths Across America ceremony on Saturday, December 13th. With your help, it was a big success.

Buddy Bickley,
Cemetery Chairman

St. Jacob's Traveling Choir and members of the youth group,

Thank you for the lovely visit last Sunday, December 14, 2025. Bearing goodies and good will, your singing brought joy into our living room. We enjoyed it so much!

Dan and Lauren Frick

Dear St. Jacob's Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the Christmas gift. I am so grateful for all your kindness. No one misses an opportunity to tell me how great of a job I am doing and those are such welcomed compliments. I can't imagine working for a better group of people. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

*With gratitude,
Laurie Shackler*

Remembering In Our Prayers

ST. JACOB'S MEMBERS SICK/RECOVERING

Paul Lindler, Sr.	Miriam Metze	Linda Smith
Gary Marco	O'Neal Lindler	Ramonia Lindler
Robert Wessinger	Leon Lindler	

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Michael Lindler	Alice Morefield	Faye Wessinger
Eddie Epting		Dan Frick

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS IN RESIDENCE FACILITES

Generations of Chapin: Shirley Nuottila, Lucy Slice, Ramonia Lindler, Janet Lindler

Fairforest Grove Senior Living: Frances Slice

Harbison Shores Assisted Living and Memory Care: Joe Richardson

FRIENDS OF ST. JACOB'S

Jessica Mack	Zachary Slice	Chris Turner
Andy Wessinger	Charlotte Simmons	Jim Marco
Damon Lindler	Alan Marco	



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Church Office Closed Courage 7:00pm (CO)	2 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	3
4 Generations 1:00pm Confirmation Classes 3:00pm (CO) Children's Choir 3:00pm (Music Rm) Youth Handbell 4:00pm (Music Rm) AA Mtg 7:30pm (CO)	5 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	6 Adult Study Group 6:30pm (CO)	7 Midweek Bible Study 9:30am (CO) Choir 6:00pm Youth Bible Study & Pizza Party 7:00pm (Davis & Sandra Brown's home)	8 Up & Going 11:00am (FH) Courage 7:00pm (CO)	9 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	10 Church Council 9:00am-3:00pm (CO)
11 Confirmation Classes 3:00pm (CO) Children's Choir 3:00pm (Music Rm) Youth Handbell 4:00pm (Music Rm) AA Mtg 7:30pm (CO)	12 Ladies' Bible Study 6:45pm (CO) AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	13	14 Midweek Bible Study 9:30am (CO) Choir 6:00pm	15 Courage 7:00pm (CO)	16 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	17
18 Guest Preacher Rev. Rister/Congregation Dinner after service Generations 1:00pm Confirmation Classes 3:00pm (CO) Children's Choir 3:00pm (Music Rm) Youth Handbell 4:00pm (Music Rm) AA Mtg 7:30pm (CO)	19 Church Office Closed AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	20 Adult Study Group 6:30pm (CO)	21 Midweek Bible Study 9:30am (CO) Choir 6:00pm Youth Bible Study 7:00pm (CO)	22 Courage 7:00pm (CO)	23 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	24
25 Confirmation Classes 3:00pm (CO) Children's Choir 3:00pm (Music Rm) Youth Handbell 4:00pm (Music Rm) AA Mtg 7:30pm (CO)	26 AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	27	28 Midweek Bible Study 9:30am (CO) Choir 6:00pm	29 Courage 7:00pm (CO)	30 Regional AA Mtg 7:30pm (FH)	31