



# St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

April 2026 • Volume 37 • Issue 04

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## Pastoral Devotion for April – Encountering the Risen Lord

Read John 20:19-31

Isn't it amazing how quickly Easter Sunday comes and goes? Oh, Easter isn't over, just the hoopla that surrounds Easter Sunday. In too many respects, the world doesn't quite understand Easter. The crowds may be gone, but the story hasn't been fully told. That's the difficulty faced by the church. The crowds have not heard the whole story. It is no wonder there is so much confusion with regards to Easter. But there was also plenty of confusion that first Easter day.

Women went to the tomb and found it empty. The great stone was rolled away but no one saw who did it. Angels gave the message that Jesus had been raised. As night fell, the disciples were afraid. They locked the doors out of fear that those who killed Jesus might also come after them. Just then, Jesus stood among them very much alive.

Perhaps that's the number one problem so many people have at Easter. Perhaps so many come for the celebration but skip the rest of the story because they are afraid that they might really have an encounter with the risen Lord.

That's not such a far-fetched idea. All through his ministry, Jesus said that if any would follow him,

they must first take up their cross. Jesus expected his followers to bear fruit for the kingdom, love God, worship him, and live for the sake of their neighbor. For so many today, doing these means a drastic change in the way life is lived.

Encountering Jesus means living on his terms, not ours. Encountering the risen Lord means we actually have to do something faithful. Meeting Jesus means acknowledging our sin and coming to repentance. It's easy to see why so many do not want to hear the rest of the story. It's easier to simply leave the empty tomb of Easter Sunday and get on with life on Monday. But tombs are meant for the dead, and Jesus is alive.

Jesus left behind what belongs in the tomb, the darkness of sin, death and the devil. The risen Christ brought with him light, life and the peace of God. Ours is to share the entire story so that others may come to believe.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, empower us to do your will, and go where you lead. Amen.*



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## From Your Pastor's Heart

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Hebrews 10:23-25

continued on page 2

As springtime begins to lead people into more and more activities, we can always look forward to increased activities in and around the church. Opportunities for cookouts, VBS, games and even the prospect of youth group gatherings on Sunday afternoons all exist.

As the calendar page flips toward the Easter season and beyond, I am reminiscent of the times when I was much younger and enjoyed many of these activities. As a youth member of my church, I looked forward to spending time with friends and several of the adults of our church family. What truly mattered to me wasn't the number of kids who were there, but that my church took the time to show me that I mattered to them. I was loved by my congregation, and they were happy to see me.

Thankfully, it was my parents, who were active in our congregation, who made it a point to teach me what it means to be a part of the church. It took me years to understand, but in their support of our congregation's youth activities, my parents gave me a gift that has lasted my entire life. The gift is the relationship I have always enjoyed living among God's people. I am thankful that ever since those days long ago, I have always been connected to the church.

I can imagine what some may be thinking. "Easy for you to say, you're a pastor." But I have not always been a pastor. As a worker for a naval shipyard, and later as a service coordinator for a home security company, I had ample opportunities to put off my life as a church member. But the faith God gave me through my Baptism wouldn't let me go. The gift my parents gave me as a child, and later as a teenager, continued to keep me grounded and connected to the church and people who loved me and were happy to see me. It is this gift that Angela and I strived to pass on to our children in hopes that they would always enjoy life among God's faithful people.

In these later years of my life, I have noticed a tragic shift within the fellowship of the church. Life among people of faith seems to have been largely absorbed by life among people of the world. People are not as apt to commit to churchly activities as they once were but are more than ready to participate in worldly events. Fewer adult members of the church seem to reach out to the youth and let them know how happy they are to see them. I tip my hat to those who do and encourage others to follow.

As your pastor, I lament over those instances when time is set aside to welcome the youth of the church, but few, if any, show up. The children need to know they matter. I want the youth to know that the adults of the congregation are happy to see them. Simply put, I want today's youth members to enjoy the same gift I received from my parents when I was their age. But it takes commitment.

In the wake of declining church membership, fewer children are present for worship or other church activities. Now more than ever, it is imperative that families share time together in worship and fellowship as often as possible. Congregations such as ours need to develop ways of welcoming families to enjoy time together away from the world's attempts to steal them away from living as the children of God. Family ministries are a way to grow relationships between the youth and adult members of the church. Younger and older folks doing things together, enjoying time among fellow Christians, and growing the relationships God established among us all is a step forward, but again, it takes commitment.

Again, I can imagine what some are thinking, "Pastor, we have tried that before." If that's the case, I have some questions, "Why did you stop? Was it discouragement, was it that you grew weary, was it inconvenient?" Likely the answer to all these is "yes." But where does that leave us as we strive to pass on the gift of Christian fellowship to our young people?

Rest assured, I'm not suggesting a new program for us to try. I'm simply suggesting to our church family, especially those with children and youth members, that it is so important to share life among the faithful with children and especially teens. The powers of this fallen and broken world are all too ready, willing, and able to snatch them up and lead them away. But we have this gift to share, the gift that will stay with them all their life long. It's the gift of people who know that they matter, and we are happy to see them.



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

March 3, 2026

## Good Things at St. Jacob's for February

- Blanket drive was successful
- The start of the new parking lot

## Pastor's Report:

- Attendance has been higher than in the past for lent services (average 40 in attendance).
- Pastor has been attending Sunday School class in the Fellowship Hall and hopes to rotate through each Sunday School class and teach.
- Pastor recommended combining the Passion service (Maundy Thursday/Good Friday) into evening worship on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Council approved by unanimous vote.

## Treasurer's Report:

- We are behind \$4,000 from two weeks without services.
- Review of new copier contract is complete; new copier has been installed. This should produce savings between \$250-\$300 a month.
  - We are waiting for a check from the new company to pay off the old copier.
- Review of policies for insurance are being completed with potential adjustments coming in early 2026. Insurance has been paid in full for the year, which is why expenditures thus far through March are higher.
- Annual payment for QuickBooks paid in January; \$500 savings when paid annually.
- Annual payment of Servant Keeper paid and is higher than in previous years.
  - Recommend moving \$225 from QuickBooks to Servant Keeper account with savings from QuickBooks annual payment.
- If digital media position is established, will set up payroll for the position.
- Dedicated and restricted funds:
  - Funds for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary have been set up in a restricted fund with a budget of \$15,000.
  - Parking lot account has approximately \$117k in checking account. Working to transfer remaining funds for the project from Thrivent.
  - Hymnal restricted fund has been established and also added to Vanco for the hymnal replacement project.
  - Congo mission trip is slowly coming back to positive balance now that this is separated from the Congo benevolence funds.

## Ministry Team Reports

- Safety
  - Generations agreed to allow use of their club house for CPR training and recertification.
  - With lots of activity on and around church grounds there is need for "roamers" during Sunday School and service.

- o Christian Education
  - Meeting held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Team discussed the need for additional teachers in all classes. Looking for volunteers willing to help one Sunday a month (teaching or roaming).
  - VBS will be Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>; meal starting at 5:45 PM and VBS from 6:30-8:00 PM.
  - Confirmation date will be determined as well as confirmands meeting the requirements. We will not have a First Communion class in 2026 unless there is more interest.
  - Will support youth retreat and summer camp as needed.
  - Plan for Luther League, LCY, Youth celebration for June as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Members of past groups will be invited to attend church service. Hamburger meal will be provided after service on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Prayers for our program and increasing attendance for Sunday School and for volunteers for both Sunday School and VBS.
  - IMPORTANT - Finding VBS leader to help with the purchasing, setting up, daily agenda and decorations.
  
- o Congregational Care
  - Provided bereavement meal for Karen Sutphin family on February 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Assisted in Shrove Tuesday meal preparations.
  - Will assist Discipleship Team with collection of blankets and Anniversary Team with meal for 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
  
- o Discipleship
  - The church donated 215 blankets to the regional disaster warehouse. The final 115 blankets were transported to Kings Mountain on February 28<sup>th</sup> thanks to the LM, LW, and Up & Going.
  - Congregation also donated 12 mercy bags to We Care on February 16<sup>th</sup>.
  
- o Property
  - Retention pond for parking lot is underway with the construction crews clearing land.
  - Looking for recommendations on what to do with the picnic shed.
  
- o Stewardship
  - Pastor will speak with AJ regarding stewardship plans for 2026.
  
- o Worship and Music
  - New hymnals have been approved, and council asks if we should start to advertise.
  - Possibly find a church in need of old hymnals to donate.
  
- o Staff Support
  - Began advertising for the digital media position.
  - There is a volunteer to help pro-bono to create and update the website beginning in March.

**\*\* Next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the church office. \*\***

# Worship Assistants

## April 05 (7 AM)

Lector: Angela Nuottila  
Communion: Susan Shealy and Sherrie McTeer  
Acolyte: MacKenzie Raines  
Crucifer: Angela Nuottila

## April 05 (10 AM)

Ushers: Don Dease, Gerald Lindler,  
John Riser, Arthur Langley  
Lector: AJ Peeples  
Communion: Judy Dease and Marie Slice  
Acolyte: Bryleigh Prosser  
Crucifer: David Kibler

## April 12

Ushers: Helen Lindler, Leon Lindler,  
Eddie Eargle, Lynn Shealy  
Lector: Beth Covalt  
Communion: John Riser and Julie Stuck  
Acolyte: Owen Raines  
Crucifer: Emma Covalt

## April 19

Ushers: Copeland Peeples, James Kibler,  
Bob Ziemer, Sherrie McTeer  
Lector: Susan Shealy  
Communion: Lynn Shealy and Patricia Woodard  
Acolyte: Katharine Corn  
Crucifer: Carolene Amick

## April 26

Ushers: Robert Wessinger, Tracy Eargle,  
David Kibler, Julie Stuck  
Lector: Susan Shealy  
Communion: Isabelle Peeples and AJ Peeples  
Acolyte: Samantha Monts  
Crucifer: Tommy Faulk

# Safety Teams

April 05 — Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley  
April 12 — Barry Rice, Tina Kibler  
April 19 — Jeff Kleckley, Gerald Lindler, David Kibler  
April 26 — Robert Wessinger, June Lindler, Arthur Langley

# Children's Sunday School Assistants

April 05: No Sunday School on Easter  
April 12: Kevin Pharis and Wayne Stuck  
April 19: David and Tina Kibler  
April 26: Nate Nickel and Nicki Peeples

# Nursery Assistants

April 05 (7 AM): Sherrie McTeer  
April 05 (10 AM): Tracy Riser  
April 12: Nicki and Isabelle Peeples  
April 19: Tina Kibler  
April 26: Sherrie McTeer

# Grounds Crew

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 Peeples – (Sec, Stewardship) nickipeeples@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) eddieeargle@icloud.com  
Tina Kibler – (Staff Support) tckibler23@gmail.com  
Brandon Slice – (Worship and Music) brandons@prtcom.com

## Altar Flowers for April

April 05 — Wade and Marie Slice  
April 12 — *Available*  
April 19 — *Available*  
April 26 — *Available*



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## April Birthdays

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02 – Hannah Metze  
03 – Jonathon Lindler  
03 – Chandler Turney  
04 – Janice Ellisor  
05 – Michael Lindler  
06 – Helen R. Lindler  
12 – Alice Rice  
16 – Dan Frick  
16 – Adam Slice  
18 – Rene Griggs  
19 – Bryan Lindler  
19 – Willow Monts  
20 – Jay Alford  
20 – Amanda Bise Duggan



20 – Dagmar Langley  
20 – Tracy Riser  
21 – Kevin Pharis  
22 – Tessa Monts  
23 – Tina Kibler  
23 – Carter Lambeth  
23 – Trey Meetze  
24 – Shep Lindler  
24 – Chloe Meetze  
28 – Jimmy Boland  
30 – Lauren Daniels  
30 – Samantha Knight  
30 – Daniel McDuffie

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# Up and Going

Ten members and guests braved the stormy weather on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM to gather in the Fellowship Hall to make Hospice Easter Bags. Lots of chatter and laughter accompanied the work we did. In about 2 hours, the team had completed 208 beautiful Easter Bags. So pretty with colored grass, packages of crackers, cookies, a stuffed Easter egg, and lots of different candies.

Our work time concluded with all praying together The Lord's Prayer. We quickly put everything in its proper place. We loaded Helen's car with all of the Hospice Easter Bags and off they went for delivery. Helen Lindler, Ann Lindler and Frances Shealy delivered 50 bags to Lutheran Hospice at White Rock and 158 Easter Bags to Prisma Hospice, Colonial Blvd, Columbia. Both groups were so excited to receive the bags and welcomed us warmly. Such a humbling experience. The

group then went to Lizards Thicket for a well-deserved, delicious lunch.



Special thank yous to everyone who contributed edible treats or money to purchase special items for the bags. Extra special thank yous to all who braved the stormy weather to come out and help make the bags. I am so proud of each of you. You are so special and giving of your time and talents.

The April meeting will be held April 16<sup>th</sup> at Hog Heaven Restaurant in Prosperity. We will meet there at 10:45 AM. If you need a ride, please contact Helen Lindler or Ann Lindler.

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



*Aubrey is holding the tag she made for a Hospice Easter Bag.*



# St. Jacob's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year-long Celebration

Our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration continues throughout the year with special events and guest preachers. Last month, it was a joy to welcome Pastor Henry Pawluk as our special guest preacher. For April, we have a special event. April 19<sup>th</sup> will be Decades Day. It will be a day to honor the historic Liturgy and worship of past generations from the foundations of St. Jacob's to the recent decades gone by. Congregation members are encouraged to wear old fashioned clothing, and we will observe the traditions of St. Jacob's earliest days with women sitting on the left (choir side) and men on the right (pulpit side) sides of the aisle. Small children may sit with either fathers or mothers as practical.

During worship, we will use a historic liturgy written by The Reverend Henry Melcior Muhelberg in the mid 1700's. This would be the liturgy used at the founding of our congregation. While Muhlenberg himself was not responsible for the planting of our congregation, he was the German missionary and pastor who brought the Lutheran tradition to the Carolinas.

Muhlenberg was integral to the founding of the first Lutheran church denomination in North America and is considered the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in the United States. He first landed in Charleston, SC in 1742, where he was principal in establishing St. John's Lutheran Church. He then traveled to Savannah, GA before making his way north to Philadelphia, PA. From there the Lutheran Church spread through the newly established American colonies and territories.

Decades Day will be another event making up our year-long celebration as we give thanks to God for our congregation's long history in the service of the Gospel. Please make sure to attend each of these and invite your friends and neighbors to join us. Below is a list of our remaining planned events.

- April 19<sup>th</sup> – Decades Day; worshipers dress from past eras and use a historic liturgy.
- May 17<sup>th</sup> – Guest preacher Rev. Marty Ramey (former interim pastor); congregational dinner following worship.
- June 7<sup>th</sup> – Luther League, LCY, Youth celebration; members of past groups will be invited to attend church service; hamburger meal will be provided after service.
- July 19<sup>th</sup> – Guest preacher Rev. Randy Drafts (former seminarian and field worker); congregational dinner following worship.
- August 16<sup>th</sup> – Guest preacher Rev. David Tholstrup (former SCMD Dean), congregational dinner following worship.
- September 20<sup>th</sup> – Congregational Outreach Event; blankets for residents at Generations.
- October 25<sup>th</sup> – Homecoming and Anniversary Sunday, guest preacher NALC Presiding Bishop Dan Selbo; special catered congregational 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.



## Lutheran Women



On Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Group will be hosting an "Old Timey Luncheon" in honor of our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are asking that you furnish a food item and/or a dessert. Some suggestions include green beans, butter beans, some type of squash, potato salad, liver nips, homemade bread or cornbread. Our group is furnishing fried chicken, pound cake, coconut cake, coconut pies, pecan pies, sweet potato pies and banana pudding with meringue. So, pull out your cookbooks and look for some old Dutch Fork recipes. If you need any suggestions or recipes please call Phyllis Bickley 803-609-5371, Joan Marco 803-240-2054 or Patricia Woodard 803-260-1039.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone. So come and enjoy some delicious food and wonderful fellowship!

## Confirmation Class of 2026

Our current candidates for confirmation in 2026 are working hard to complete the prescribed materials leading up to their affirmation of the Christian faith. During the past year and a half, we have surveyed the books of the Old Testament and New Testament. We have studied the Ten Commandments as well as the Apostle's Creed. Currently, we are engaged in an in-depth study of the Lord's Prayer which will be followed by a study of the Sacraments. Finally, on a date yet to be determined, the class will participate in the Lutheran tradition of Public Examination. This event is meant to demonstrate to the church that they have indeed fully completed the regimen of Catechetical study and are ready to claim the promises God made in their Baptism. More information on Public Examination will be shared as the date and time are added to the church calendar.



*Copeland Peeples and MacKenzie Raines participate in Bible reading drills.*

We can all be proud of these young members of our church family and continue to support them as they travel along the path of life-long faith formation. The current class includes Carolene Amick, Brilynn Amick, Samantha Monts, Copeland Peeples, Bryleigh Prosser, and MacKenzie Raines.

## Welcome Our Newest Member

St. Jacob's welcomes Mr. Earl Bouknight as the newest member of our church family. Earl has been worshipping with us for quite a while and officially joined our congregation on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> by way of transfer from Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church in Chapin. Please be sure to welcome our brother in Christ.



# March Financial and Memorial Information

## Financial Report for March 22, 2026

<u>General Fund Donations</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Mar 16-20 – Vanco Donations	1,125		
Mar 22 – Sunday Donations	1,428		
	2,553	14,396	57,639
Budget Requirement:	5,862	23,448	70,344

## Memorials Received March 1 – 22, 2026

### GENERAL FUND:

In Memory of Doris Kleckley – By: David and Tina Kibler

### BUILDING FUND:

In Memory of Jane Ramsey – By: Claude and JoAnne Lindler

In Memory of Karen Sutphin – Billy and Sherrie McTeer

### MERCY BAGS:

In Memory of Doris Kleckley – By: Robert and June Lindler

## Mercy Bag Donations

St. Jacob’s congregation helps feed needy families and has for several years. Very often, you don’t know how your donation is used.

During March 2026, the St. Jacob’s congregation donated 445 pounds of food to We Care in 24 Mercy Bags, and several bags of items that are not included in the Mercy Bags, as well as fresh eggs. These items are used by We Care on their Mobile Meals ministry where meals are taken to communities where people are not able to get to We Care. The meals St. Jacob’s provides on the first Sunday of each month go to Prosperity and the third Sunday’s bags go to Whitmire. These meals are delivered to these communities on Tuesday afternoon by We Care volunteers. During March 2026, St. Jacob’s helped provide meals for 241 families. Our bags are provided to families of 4 or more.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry.



# CMR Youth Spring Retreat

When: April 17–19, 2026

Who: 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

Where: Garden City Chapel, Murrells Inlet, SC  
316 Dogwood Dr N, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

Cost: \$120 per person

Don't forget to provide your T-shirt size when registering!

Register by: March 4, 2026

Please send all payments to the CMD Treasurer

Carolinas Mission Region, PO Box 6381, Hickory NC 28603.

In the memo line put youth Spring retreat.

Registration is online. Please contact Pastor David or Laurie Shacker for the link.



## Remembering In Our Prayers

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

Paul Lindler, Sr.	Miriam Metze	Linda Smith
Gary Marco	O'Neal Lindler	Ramonia Lindler
	Davis Brown	

### HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Michael Lindler	Alice Morefield	Faye Wessinger
Eddie Epting		Dan Frick

### HOMEBOUND MEMBERS IN RESIDENCE FACILITIES

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	Anita Dye
Andy Wessinger	Charlotte Simmons	Damon Lindler
	Jeremy Lindler	



The Church Office  
will be closed on  
Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.



# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Youth Bible Study 7:00pm (CO)	2	3	4
5 Easter Sunrise 7:00am	6 Church Office Closed	7 Church Council 6:30pm (CO)	8	9	10	11
12 Generations 1:00pm Confirmation Class 3:00pm (CO) Children's Choir 3:00pm (Music Rm) Youth Handbell 4:00pm (Music Rm) Choir 6:00pm	13 Ladies' Bible Study 6:45pm (CO)	14	15 Youth Bible Study 7:00pm (CO)	16 Up & Going 10:45am (Hog Heaven-Prosperity)	17	18
19 Decades Day Confirmation Class 3:00pm (CO) Children's Choir 3:00pm (Music Rm) Youth Handbell 4:00pm (Music Rm) LW 4:00pm (FH) LM 6:00pm (FH) Choir 6:00pm	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Generations 1:00pm Confirmation Class 3:00pm (CO) Children's Choir 3:00pm (Music Rm) Youth Handbell 4:00pm (Music Rm) Choir 6:00pm	27	28	29	30		