

THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2019

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The Grapevine is a monthly newsletter published by the staff & members of

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The Rev. Lance Henderson—Pastor
Brent Holcomb—Organist/Choirmaster
Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

**Grace to you and peace from
God our Father
and our Lord Jesus Christ!**

I don't imagine that many of you spend much time looking at my official portrait. Frankly, it would be kind of creepy if you did. But I'd like to point out that my stole in the photo is blue—the color of Advent. That was an intentional choice. Advent may be my favorite Christmas season. There are lots of reasons for that.



First, the primary virtue of Advent is hope. I recently read a dreadful article about how can we have Advent when “the world is on fire”.

I'm not trying to sugarcoat things, I realize the world is not perfect today, but, despite our problems, there has never been a better time to be a human being than today. Nevertheless, this world is not what it is going to be when it becomes, as the Nicene Creed says, “the life of the world to come.” That is a statement bursting with hope. “The life of the world to come” is something that will transcend reality as we know it in every dimension. For me, I can imagine a life with less sin, less evil, less corruption, but it is very difficult to imagine a world with no sin, no evil, no corruption. But that is the hope of Advent.

Secondly, I love Advent hymns. They are all over the place! I love the bouncy joyful of *People, Look East* and the poetic refrain that “Love the Guest/Rose/Star/Lord” is on the way. I love the minor key of “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” that brings hope to a burdened and oppressed people. I love knowing that

cont'd on page 3—>

OSLC NEWS & NOTES



OSLC POST OFFICE

The Our Saviour Lutheran Church Post Office is back for 2019! Recycled cards (thanks to you!) will be available for each household. With over 50 families/individuals participating last year, each family may initially select 1 set of 8 recycled cards. Additional recycled cards will be available after all households have had an opportunity to receive one set. Instructions for preparing recycled cards for delivery are forthcoming.

Thank you for participating....and Merry Christmas!

2020 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please take a moment to sign up for the 2020 ministries you would like to serve. Don't forget to check the church directory membership to make sure the information for your family is accurate. Contact Pam Hanfland if you have a picture that you would like to use or would like us to have a new photo taken. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact Pam Hanfland.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Our Community Lunch program has started up again. Our next lunch will be served on Wednesday, December 18 at noon. Please join us and bring friends and neighbors.

OPPORTUNITY TO HELP A NEEDY FAMILY AT CHRISTMAS

It has been brought to our attention through our contact at Saluda River Academy for the Arts that they have a family who is definitely in need. This family consists of a single mom and three girls (ages 8, 15 and 16). Their requests are for clothes, an alarm clock, queen bed sheets, pillows, and pots and pans.

This is an opportunity to help a needy family in our own neighborhood. If you would like to contribute money toward the purchase of some of these items, please make your check payable to OSLC and write **For SRAA Christmas** on the memo line and place it in the offering plate. Drop off at the school is December 12, so we only have a few weeks to receive your donations and shop for these items.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Hill.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Once again, OSLC is hosting a Longest Night Service on Saturday, December 21 at 4:00pm. With all the merriment of the holidays, people bearing burdens can feel guilty about their grief. A Longest Night service is a time to come together for Prayer, Holy Communion, and Healing. We invite all to come to this service or more importantly invite someone you may know who would benefit from this service. This is a co-operative worship service of Faith, Mt. Hermon, Mt. Tabor and Our Saviour Lutheran Churches.

when we sing *Savior of the Nations*,
Come we are singing words that the
church has sung for 1700 years!

But what I like most about Advent is that
it calls us to be different than the rest of
the world. Sure, I like seeing Christmas
trees sparkling, and house ablaze with
twinkling little lights. I sing along with
Bing Crosby or Michael Buble. I like
Christmas parties and dinners. And
while all that is part of the holiday season,
I also know that Advent is calling me to be
a little different than the secular world.

Advent used to be much more like Lent—
somber and penitential. But that has
changed over the years. Yet Advent
remains a season to be, at the very least,
more contemplative than the rest of the
dizzy, hyped-up America at Christmas
time. So like Lent, Advent is a time of
year to increase our prayer, increase our
giving, and make certain that we attend
church.

Advent calls us to do what we can to not
be so distracted by getting the right gifts,
planning the perfect menu, or being on
edge about visiting family that we forget
what we are preparing to celebrate that,
in Jesus Christ, God dwells in His
creation. He is Emmanuel—God with us.

Blessings to you this Advent season and
Merry Christmas.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Lance



DECEMBER MINISTRIES

FLOWERS

Dec 1 **Need Volunteer*

8 **Need Volunteer*

15 *DeLeon & Jane
Wallace*

22 *Pastor Lance & Robin
Henderson*

29 *Frank & Linda Yonce*

GREETERS

*Wayne & Marie
Lybrand*

Jim & Theresa Garner

Robin Henderson

Barney & Loleta Keitt

**Need Volunteer*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Dec 1 *Isma Boland*

8 *Gail Marcum*

15 *Marie Lybrand*

22 *Loleta Keitt*

29 **Need Volunteer*

LAY READERS

Wayne Lybrand

Melba Murphy

Ben Lemons

Loleta Keitt

**Need Volunteer*

DECEMBER

S.S. SUPERINTENDENT

Isma Boland

NURSERY MONITOR

Elizabeth Shealy

USHERS

Chief Jim Garner

Wayne Lybrand

**Need Volunteer*

Barney Keitt

Kay Black

Mark Satterwhite

DeLeon Wallace

**Need Volunteer*

ALTAR GUILD

*Linda Griffith &
Isma Boland*

*Beverly Nivens &
Kelly Heid*

ACOLYTE

Isma Boland

OFFERING PICKUP

Isma Boland

Meredith Cleland

TELLERS

*Beth Cleland &
Linda Hill*

*Beth Cleland &
Barney Keitt*

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Jim Garner

Bill Hill

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

*Ann Satterwhite, Council Secretary
November 2019*

- *Classical Conversations* (CC), a homeschool community, will begin using our educational wing in January, 2020. They have classes from January - April on Wednesdays only from 8:15 AM-3:30 PM. On Community Lunch days they will use their classrooms for "bring your own" lunch or enjoy an outside lunch on a nice day.
- The kitchen sink and counters will be refurbished in December using designated funds from Memorial and Gifts.
- Joint Advent services with Mt. Tabor, Faith, and OSLC will be held on Wednesdays--December 4, 11, 18. Pastors will rotate.
- Voting Items for the Congregational Meeting--November 17, 2019
 - *2020 Budget
 - *Council Nominees: Charles Nicholson, Beth Cleland, Rebecca Fingerlin, Isma Boland
 - * Paving of parking lot: Expenditure from the BMPI Fund of \$34,000 with a capital campaign in 2020 to replenish our maintenance funds as much as possible.
 - * Playground: \$6,500 for a complete rebuild of the playground and equipment from the BMPI fund. In its current condition, the playground is dangerous, unusable, and a liability.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

- The four nominees for the 2020-2021 Council term were unanimously approved: Charles Nicholson, Beth Cleland, Rebecca Fingerlin, Isma Boland.

(cont. next column)

- The 2020 Budget was approved including the separation of the Operations Budget and the BMPI budget.
- The playground rebuild was approved by a paper ballot vote in the amount of \$6,570 from the BMPI fund.
- The motion from Council to approve a complete rebuilding of the parking lot and approve a capital campaign for 2020 to replace as much of that money as possible into the BMPI fund was tabled. Additional quotes, and more information, is being researched. The congregation thanked Jim Gardner, Property Chair, for his diligence and patience on both of these projects. More information will be forthcoming.

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, April 18, 2020

OSLC-WELCA One-Day Retreat will be held at Our Saviour in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church and guests are welcome. More details to follow.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

From November 3-November 24

Sunday School—23

Sunday Worship—64

2019 Officers w/contact info:

President Linda Griffith
(lindagriffith2@aol.com) 920-3975
Vice President/Advisor Pam Hanfland
(phanfland@gmail.com) 348-2820
Treasurer Ann Satterwhite
(annsatterwhite2@gmail.com) 530-6249
Secretary Kelly Heid
(kheid@sc.rr.com) 312-2706

2020 Officers w/contact info:

President—Sandra Hughes
(smhughes@sc.rr.com) 796-9016
Vice President/Advisor—Linda Griffith
(lindagriffith2@aol.com) 920-3975
Treasurer—Ann Satterwhite
(annsatterwhite2@gmail.com) 530-6249
Secretary—Caroline Raszewski
(razcaroline@gmail.com) 490-1471

All the circles are winding down for the holidays and getting plans for the new year. WELCA is still accepting donations for the Greg's Groceries Project so if you have not made a donation, please do so on or before Sunday, December 15 as we'd like to close out the project for this year. Here's the information from last month's Grapevine if you were not in church on Sunday, November 17th to hear our speaker:

GREG'S GROCERIES PROJECT

Organized after the death of her husband, Greg Alia from the Forest Acres Police Department, by Kassie Alia Ray in his memory, the project is part of Serve & Connect (Kassie is founder and CEO) and is a flagship initiative within their Compassionate Acts Program in cooperation with Harvest Hope Food Bank to provide food and other items to the needy statewide. Several local law enforcement agencies currently distribute these groceries through their Community Action Teams — Columbia PD, Swansea PD, Lexington PD, Lexington County Sheriff Dept, and Orangeburg PDs. For more information, contact members of Lydia Circle. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO OSLC-WELCA** as we'd like to present one check to the organization before Christmas.



Rebekah Circle is hosting the 2020 OSLC-WELCA RETREAT! Hope you will join us. Tickets are on sale now. Get them from Linda Hill or Linda Griffith. Deadline for registration is March 15. Help us get a count so we can finalize plans. **INVITE ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!** We are sure this is one event you won't want to miss. Our own The Reverend Mary Havens will 'jumpstart' us at 10 AM with inspiration followed by lunch and our afternoon featured speaker, Cherie Nettles! The 2020 One Day Retreat "Each One Can Reach One" promises to be one fulfilling, fun, and full of surprises. So make plans now to join us on Saturday, April 18th. The cost is \$25 per person including lunch. Contact a circle member for a flyer to share with your friends.

2019 OSLC-WELCA Calendar:

- December 1 11:45 AM Executive Board Meeting immediately following Worship Service (Circle Leaders with Unit Officers)
*Opening Prayer: Isma Boland
- December 2 10:00 AM Cameron needs help decorating the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall
- December 14 Rebekah Circle invites all ladies of the church to Ugly Sweater brunch. Bring an ornament to swap. Sign up sheet on WELCA Bulletin Board in Cameron Hall

CIRCLES MEET:

Cameron – 2nd Monday at 10 AM at the Church
Lydia – 2nd Monday at 6 PM at member home
Rebekah – 1st Monday at 10 AM at Church



Presentation of a \$300 check from WELCA's Project Fund to Mr. Laird of Serve & Connect on November 17th is Caroline Raszewski. Linda Griffith presented Mr. Laird with the information from the Thrivent Action Team Award of a \$250 gift card.

COMMEMORATION PROFILES

Ruth Nicholson

The Lutheran Church, as part of its worship, celebrates the lives of notable Christians of the past. Our hymnal provides a calendar (pp. 15–17) for us to follow which recognizes these individuals on the anniversary of their deaths.



December 3
Francis Xavier
Missionary to Asia
(1506-1552)

Francis Xavier has been called the Apostle of the Indies and Japan. He was born into a prosperous Spanish-Basque family and studied in Paris. In 1534 Xavier, Ignatius Loyola, and five others took vows of poverty and chastity, dedicating themselves to preaching to non-Christian peoples. These men formed the nucleus of the new Jesuit order. After his ordination, Xavier traveled to India and preached there and in Ceylon (now called Sri Lanka) for seven years. In 1549 he went to Japan to set up missions. He fell ill and died before he could enter mainland China on yet another missionary journey. In all his evangelizing endeavors, Xavier's attention to local languages and customs contributed to his success in making converts, as did his efforts to train native clergy.

December 4
John of Damascus,
theologian and hymnwriter
(ca. 675-749)

John was a Syrian Christian whose father worked for the Muslim bureaucracy. In about 715, John began studying at a monastery near Jerusalem. He was ordained a priest and lived there for the

rest of his life. When Byzantine Emperor Leo III sought to ban religious images, calling them idols, John became a leading advocate for them. He argued that Christ had taken bodily form, the Eucharist depended on concrete elements, and icons were useful in the Christian education of illiterate people. In addition to many influential theological treatises, John of Damascus contributed to Christian hymnody. The ELW contains two Easter hymns (#361, #363) written by him.

December 6
Nicholas, Bishop of Myra
(died ca. 342)

Although St. Nicholas is one of the most celebrated saints, few facts of his life are known beyond his service as a Christian bishop in southwestern Asia Minor. Legend has it that he saved several unjustly convicted persons from death and rescued a number of sailors from perishing. His association with gift-giving (as Saint Nick, Father Christmas, Père Noel, etc.) is said to originate in the story of his generosity toward three daughters of a poor man. In order to save the destitute girls from lives of prostitution, he tossed bags of gold through the window of their home to provide dowries for decent marriages. Patron saint of sailors, children, and the state of Russia, Nicholas has been honored, as well, by having innumerable churches named after him.



GRAPEVINE QUIZ

(Answers on page 10)

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum! We're sure many of you will be putting up your Christmas Trees soon, so let's look at some trees of the Bible!

1. Genesis 2 highlights two trees in the Garden of Eden. One is the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. What is the other?

- A. The Tree of Life
- B. The Mother of All Trees
- C. The Tree of Unity
- D. One of those Bradford Pears that looked great 3 days a year and was always breaking limbs.

2. In Judges 4, this judge sits under a palm to hand out decisions. Who was it?

- A. Joshua
- B. Deborah
- C. Samson
- D. Judge Judy

3. In 2 Samuel 18, this rebelling son of David gets his head caught in a oak tree. David's general uses the opportunity to kill him. Who is it?

- A. Solomon
- B. Absalom
- C. Uriah
- D. Seriously?

4. We all know the diminutive Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree to get a look at Jesus in Luke 18. Do you remember Zacchaeus' job?

- A. Lawyer
- B. Scribe
- C. Tax Collector
- D. Pro basketball player

5. A hungry Jesus in Matthew 21 passes by a fig tree with no figs on it. What happens next?

- A. It bears figs immediately at his command.
- B. Jesus curses it and it withers immediately.
- C. Jesus commands his disciples to chop it down and throw it in the fire.
- D. Jesus settles on some Fig Newtons instead.

BONUS: Using greenery to decorate homes for special times of the year is as old as humankind. So we can't say that he invented the Christmas tree, but legend has it that Martin Luther himself was the first to do this to a Christmas tree. What is it?



ELCA PRESS RELEASES



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

10/29 Pastoral message addresses Hong Kong protests

11/04 Kathy Freeman Summers appointed president and CEO, ELCA Foundation, and executive director, Mission Advancement

11/13 ELCA Church Council welcomes 23 new members

11/19 Presiding bishop statement on Israeli civilian settlements

THANK YOU

Thanks to each of you that donated money to purchase supplies for the Christmas Child shoeboxes, to those of you who donated items and to all who gave "loose offerings" to help defray the shipping cost. WOW, what an awesome job!

What a wonderful turnout we had to pack 100 boxes. 24 individuals showed up for the "P.P.P" (Pizza Packing Party) on Sunday afternoon, November 17th.

Our reward, in addition to having fun, and wondering what the children faces will look like when they open their box, is a full heart knowing what we have accomplished for His Service. It was also fun just being with our church family.

The USC students that are faithfully attending our church showed up for the fun! When you see this "bunch" on Sunday mornings, please introduce yourself and welcome them to our congregation! You'll recognize "the bunch."

A "shout out" to DeLeon and Barney for loading and carrying the boxes to Westside Baptist Church for processing on Monday in the rain. Westside Baptist knows who and where OSLC is! Friends Forever!

Thanks Pastor Lance for making the pizza run.

Loleta Keitt

Dear Pastor Lance,

What a surprise! Thank you so much for bringing me lunch the other day. You brightened my day, because seldom has someone brought me lunch.

You have been so thoughtful and kind throughout my illness. Your prayers and visits have meant so much to me.

God Bless You,
Dolores Hopkins

To the Our Saviour Lutheran Church Community,

Thank you for hosting the Community Lunch on October 30th. I enjoyed the meal and the company. Please let me know when I may be of service to your church.

Sincerely,
Jessica Stalken



MORE OSLC NEWS & NOTES



DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE AND FELLOWSHIP HALL

DATE: Monday, December 2
TIME: 10:00 am

Cameron Circle is in charge of enlisting men and women to help decorate the Christmas tree and Fellowship Hall. We will decorate on Monday, December 2 at 10:00 am. Please let Isma (760-6645) or Linda G. (920-3975) know if you are able to help that morning. Thanks in advance.

LUTHERAN MEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

DATE: Monday, December 16

Tickets are now being sold by Gary Black and Bill Aull. The cost is \$25 for a couple, \$15 for an individual.

LUTHERAN MEN 2020 OFFICERS

At the October meeting, the following officers were elected for 2020.

President: Barney Keitt
Vice President: Charles Nicholson
Sec. Treasurer: Bill Aull

GOD'S HELPING HANDS

God's Helping Hands needs are for crackers, cookies, spaghetti sauce, green peas, and canned meat. Please place items in the box in the Cameron Hallway.

KITCHEN REMODEL

The kitchen remodel is scheduled for December 9th through the 13th.

ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pastor Lance will be leading Sunday School in Advent. He will be presenting the same program he gave the adult VBS class this summer at the Joint VBS held at Mt. Tabor. This program looks at the biblical stories and related artwork of Christ's incarnation—the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity and the Adoration of the Magi. Join us at 9:15 on the first four Sundays in December.

FIFTH SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us December 30 at 10:30. in the fellowship hall for Lessons & Carols. We will get to sing all the Christmas hymns we missed. (Except for one that Pastor likes, but nobody knew how to sing)



PRAYER REQUESTS

Those listed below have special prayers needs at this time. We keep the entire congregation in our prayers at all times, but sometimes special prayers are needed. If your name is on the list or you have added someone's name and they no longer need to be on the list, please contact the church secretary so the name can be removed.

Inez Black
Greg Chapman
Jeannie Chapman
Margaret Chapman
(sister of DeLeon Wallace)
Hazel Henderson
Dolores Hopkins
James Hudson
(friend of Chris & Beth Boland)
Merna Long
(sister-in-law of Jane Wallace)

Anne Moye
Pastor John Satterwhite
Marie Shealy
(Morningside Ret Ctr., Apt. 131)
Mary Stocker
Jerry Turnipseed
(friend of Steve Rucker)
Jane Wallace

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jennifer Gossett	12/03
Lisa Sawyer	12/07
Wane Lybrand	12/08
Kay Black	12/16
Sonya Urban	12/29
Linda Hill	12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Matt & Mackenzie Erb	12/12
Lance & Robin Henderson	12/19
Francis & Rebecca Fingerlin	12/28

Please Note: if there are any errors or omissions in birthdays or anniversaries, notify the church office. We want to make sure our records are correct.



GRAPEVINE ARTICLES

If you have articles, reports and/or pictures that you or your group would like printed in the next Grapevine, please send them to the Church Office **before December 20.**

ANSWERS: 1, A. The Tree of Life; 2, B. Deborah; 3, B. Absalom; 4, C. Tax Collector; 5, B. Jesus curses it and it withers immediately; BONUS: Add lit candles to the tree

NOVEMBER PICTURES



Community Lunch at OSLC



Thanksgiving "Souper" at Transfiguration Lutheran Church



Bonnie and Gary from Hope Lutheran Church from Vance, SC are very appreciative for the knee cushions. They picked up the kneelers on Wednesday, Nov 20 and are excited to put them to use.



Our "Operation Christmas Child" Shoebox Packers!

X

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
1500 Sunset Blvd.
West Columbia, SC 29169

Address Service Requested



*living in the light
of our Saviour*

X

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ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

featuring Holden Evening Prayer

Joint Services of Faith, Mt. Tabor,
and Our Saviour Lutheran Churches

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18

5:15 Dinner

6:00 Worship

Our theme is "Healing & Community"

