

THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

Our Bishop and Synod Staff put out a letter that well overlapping a lot of the concerns I was intending to address in this month's newsletter article. Rather than re-invent the wheel, I've opted to share the letter with you. I have made some edits.

Peace in Christ
Pastor Lance

April 27, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the SC Synod,

A few of you have asked for our recommendations related to opening churches and sanctuaries again for in-person worship. We resonate with the desire everyone has to get back to some semblance of "normal," however we feel it is important to acknowledge that what we can expect to experience is going to be "a new normal," and we should each move with great caution for the good of the whole society. We are listening closely to health officials as well as to our Governor's recommendations, and we fully expect the effects of COVID-19 to be with us for the next year. It seems that the future depends not only on how the virus behaves, but also on how we all respond to it. So the movement forward means careful discernment of the reports and the signs. All that being said, we also recognize that there is no one right path for every congregation, and our recommendations are simply that, recommendations. Along with health for everyone, we pray for the spirit of discernment, wisdom and patience. For your Synod Staff we are simply listening and waiting to make a good decision about when we can return to work in the office. We expect that we won't be able to be there until Mid-May at the earliest but more than likely later, and when we do return we will not be welcoming anyone to meet at the office until much later in the summer.

cont'd on page 2—>

OSLC NEWS & NOTES



RAZBERRIES

Due to the quarantine, May Razberries has been cancelled. Stay tuned for future details.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS March 2020

- Recommended Congregational Meeting be rescheduled once the COVID-19 Pandemic settles down and the economy receives a boost. All proposed projects on hold.
- Accepted the Treasurer's Report with a strong balance going forward as information.
- Accepted the Pastor's recommendation to hold the Easter Worship Service the first Sunday the churches are allowed to congregate.
- Accepted Pastor's recommendation that all communication with the congregation will be via the eVine and Calling Post regarding the church activities. All church activities have been suspended indefinitely.



(cont'd from page 1)

We believe that rather than everyone returning at once to a big Easter celebration, which many of us pictured early in this situation, we think that returning to the sanctuary will come in phases.

Until there is clear evidence and word that the virus curve has been flattened for at least 2 weeks we think it is best that you continue to offer worship, bible studies, small groups, and meetings online.

After that time, you may consider having a few staff helping to record worship in the sanctuary – keeping a safe distance, of course. Keep office functions to a minimum and have any staff members in the office wearing facemasks. Weddings and funerals should be kept to only 10 in attendance, primarily immediate family.

As you begin to think about next steps we want to lift up some things we think you should pay significant attention to. These are the minimum of things to be considered by you, your staff members and Council team. There are certainly a number more, but here is a starting list of items to consider:

1. How will the spaces you meet in, including the sanctuary be cleaned, disinfected and prepared to receive people?
2. How will those areas be cleaned between one group using them and the next?
3. How will you manage offering? Passing the plate where everyone can touch it, is not wise. What other options are available to you?
4. How will you distribute Holy Communion? Careful attention to the details of this will be very important.
5. How will you pass the peace? Arrangements so you don't touch each other is best.

cont'd on page 3—>

6. How will you suggest seating so that people have space between families?
7. Discourage the greeting line following any worship service.
8. Has your insurance company weighed in? What are the benchmarks they are recommending?
9. If someone contracts COVID19 after worshipping with you, how will you notify your congregation?
10. And in general, how will you communicate your plan for safety & best practice with your members, and visitors?

You each remain deep in our prayers for health and safety, as do your congregations. We are immensely proud of all the efforts you are making to share the good news in creative and life-giving ways, and we know that what you are doing takes a lot of extra work and energy. Thank you for your faithful ministry, and for your partnership with us in the SC Synod – ELCA. We are preparing to meet with SC Synod Rostered Leaders by Zoom. Please look for an invitation to participate from your Conference Dean. We look forward to talking with you on Zoom.

As always, we welcome your phone calls, emails and any opportunities to assist or serve alongside you. We look forward to seeing many of you online, and we can't wait for the day when we can all gather together again.

In Christ,
Bishop Herman Yoos,
Pastor Ginny Aebischer,
Pastor Rick Carter

YOUR GIVING IS SAFE!

We had some issues with a couple of checks stolen out our mailbox back in November. Worry no more. Property Team Leader Jim Garner installed this great locking mailbox. Thanks, Jim!

Please remember, your giving is still needed. Despite the curious times, this congregation is still doing ministry. So drop it off or mail it in, it will be secure and used.

SUNDAY, MAY 10...

IS MOTHERS' DAY!

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER

God's Helping Hands is looking for a member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church to serve on its board. It is a two year commitment. The board meets monthly to advise and consent on GHH's ministry.



2020 OFFICERS W/CONTACT INFORMATION

President -- Sandra Hughes, 796-9016,
smhughes@sc.rr.com

Vice President/Advisor -- Linda Griffith,
359-1278, lindagriffith2@aol.com

Secretary -- Caroline Raszewski, 490-1471,
razcaroline@gmail.com

Treasurer -- Ann Satterwhite, 254-9934,
asatterwhite@earthlink.net

CIRCLES AND MEETING TIMES

Any woman of the church who is not currently participating in a circle is invited to join the fellowship at one of the following meeting days/times:

- Cameron – 2nd Monday, 10 a.m. at the church
- Lydia – 2nd Monday, 6 p.m. at member homes
- Rebekah – 1st Monday, 10 a.m. at the church

UPDATES ON APRIL DATES THAT WERE POSTPONED

(see more information on these dates below)

Sunday, April 5 – Joint Circle Meeting –
POSTPONED (Date TBA)

Saturday, April 18 – OSLC-WELCA Retreat –
POSTPONED (Tentative New
Date August 22)

Sunday, April 26 – OSLC-Newberry College
Women's League Sunday
Cameron Circle) – POSTPONED

MAY CIRCLE MEETINGS

Cameron and Rebekah Circles will not meet during the month of May

Rebekah Circle will meet through Zoom at their regularly scheduled day/time

UPDATE ON DATES/EVENTS:

Due to the uncertainty of all things related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and for the safety of all, several events for April were postponed to later dates.

The Joint Circle Meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 5, was postponed for a later date to be determined. We will let the Circles know as soon as that date is set (maybe in June)

The OSLC-WELCA Retreat scheduled for Saturday, April 18, is tentatively being postponed and rescheduled for Saturday, August 22. If you have purchased a ticket and cannot attend that date, your check will either be returned to you (if it has not yet been deposited) or refunded (if your check already has been deposited); you are asked to return your ticket to either Linda Griffith or Linda Hill. If you plan to attend the Retreat on Saturday, August 22, and do not wish to receive your check/refund, please let us know and your ticket will remain valid for August 22. Tickets will continue to be sold until the end of July/first of August (exact date TBD).

The status of the OSLC-Newberry was also postponed and may be rescheduled. Again, information will be provided as soon as a determination is made about whether it will be held at a later date.

The SC-WELCA Synodical Convention that was scheduled for June 12-13 at St. Philips/Newberry (2461 St. Philips Church Road, Newberry, SC 29108), has been rescheduled for a one-day event (instead of two day) on Saturday, August 8. The theme will remain "Just Love" based on 1 Corinthians 16:14 – "Let all that you do be done in love." The registration deadlines have also been postponed but that information has not yet been provided to us. Anyone wishing to attend should let me know as soon as possible so we can complete the appropriate forms to submit as soon as we know the deadlines. More information is to be sent to us sometime in May.

Our prayers are with everyone during this time of anxiety and uneasiness in our community, state, and world. Please be safe and take heed of all the information being provided. We look forward to worshipping together again soon.

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.



May 18

**Erik, King of Sweden, martyr
(died 1160)**

Erik IX was Sweden's ruler from 1150 to his death in 1160. Midway through his reign, he launched an expedition to Finland which enabled the Christian church to gain a foothold there. He lost his life during an attack by rebels who were aided by a Danish prince. Known for his genuine goodness, Erik is venerated as the principal patron saint of his country.

May 24

**Nicolaus Copernicus, scientist
(1473-1543)**

Copernicus is best known for his once-controversial claim that Earth revolves around the Sun, not vice versa. He began life as a Polish merchant's son and soon proved to be a voracious learner of many disciplines, including theology. A truly gifted scholar, Copernicus was also humble and compassionate toward others.

May 24

**Leonhard Euler, scientist
(1707-1783)**

Son of a Swiss Calvinist pastor, Leonhard Euler studied to follow his father's vocation. However, he became so fond of geometry that he and his

teacher, Johann Bernoulli, convinced the father to let Leonhard change his major. Euler went on to excel in pure mathematics, publishing 866 books and articles, and like Copernicus, making important contributions to astronomy and other fields.



THANK YOU

Dear Pastor Henderson,

Thank you for welcoming our family and our CC community with open arms this spring. We are deeply grateful to be part of Our Saviour's footprint in the community,

Kindly,
Katherine

Our family misses our Queen, Hazel! A loving wife and mother—she is now in a better place, I know!

Thanks to the OSLC family and Lance that expressed love and prayers so lovely. We'll all miss her.

Love,
Byron Henderson

GRAPEVINE QUIZ

(Answers on page 7)

Remember this one? “April showers bring May Flowers, what do May flowers bring? PILGRIMS!” Travel is this month’s theme.

1. In Genesis 4, Cain withdrew from the Lord and went in which direction?
 - A. East of Eden
 - B. West of Eden
 - C. South of Eden
 - D. To California with John Steinbeck
2. In Genesis 12, Abram & Sarai to the land where God wants him to go, but has to leave for Egypt soon. Why?
 - A. The Lord told him to
 - B. There was a famine in the land
 - C. To make a peace treaty with Pharaoh
 - D. Sarai was pregnant and wanted falafel
3. In Luke 10’s Parable of the Good Samaritan, where is the traveler headed?
 - A. Jerusalem
 - B. Bethel
 - C. Jericho
 - D. Disneyland
4. In Acts 17, Paul speaks a place called the Areopagus. What city is it in?
 - A. Rome
 - B. Colossae
 - C. Athens
 - D. Philadelphia
5. In Acts 28, Paul’s ship wrecks off the Island of Malta. He is headed to Rome. Why?
 - A. To stand trial
 - B. Meet the Christians in Rome
 - C. To plead for the safety of Christians in the empire
 - D. He had been told of a great restaurant

BONUS Many people take a pilgrimage to this French town where a girl named Bernadette claimed to have visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. What is the name of this town?



ELCA PRESS RELEASES



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

- 3/27 Response to COVID-19 from ELCA presiding bishop
- 3/31 Women's History Month statement
- 4/14 ELCA Church Council approves special COVID-19 fundraising appeal
- 4/17 Urgent resources needed for East Jerusalem hospitals facing spread of coronavirus
- 4/17 ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission cancels volunteer placement for 2020-2021

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.

Anne Ballinger
(cousin of Ruth Nicholson)
Inez Black
Greg Chapman
Jeannie Chapman
Margaret Chapman
(sister of DeLeon Wallace)
Linda Crapps
Don Ford
Ian Greene
(friend of Herman & Elizabeth Shealy)
Gretchen Greiner
(cousin of Ruth Nicholson)
Gail Hickman & her husband, Art
(friends of Elizabeth Shealy)
Dolores Hopkins

James Hudson
(friend of Chris & Beth Boland)
Merna Long
Anne Moyer
Willette Satterwhite
Marise Shumpert
(friend of Howard & Sandra Hughes)
Marie Shealy
(Morningside Ret Ctr., Apt. 131)
Mary Stocker
Jerry Turnipseed
(friend of Steve Rucker)
Jane Wallace
Heyward Wessinger

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Brent Holcomb	5/04
Patsy Horton	5/05
Steve Nivens	5/08
Doris Wessinger	5/14
Kaitlyn Sawyer	5/18
Betty Monts	5/21
Wayne Haltiwanger	5/30
Isaac Havens	5/31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

David & Sallie Hutto	5/02
Wayne & Marie Lybrand	5/03
Stephen & Susan Bush	5/06
Albert & Sue Drafts	5/21

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 by Monday, May 25.



ANSWERS: 1, A. East of Eden; 2, B. There was a famine in the land; 3, Jericho; 4, C. Athens; 5, A. To stand trial; BONUS: Lourdes, France

X

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*living in the light
of our Saviour*

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Daily Prayer with Pastor Lance

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST COLUMBIA, SC

THE WORD IS BEING PREACHED!

Are you listening? Go to www.oursaviour.net to find links to the OSLC's YouTube page where Daily Prayer with Pastor Lance is available and links to Pastor Lance's weblog where you can find links to Sunday music and preaching. Or, just follow us on Facebook.