

THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

The late Peter Gomes, a Baptist minister and theologian, was quoted saying “When I see Christmas lights being strung and Santa Clauses in the store windows, I know that Thanksgiving is not far away.” True, our culture kind of rushes Christmas. Some of you will be putting up your trees this weekend. In Texas, my friend Scott starts playing Christmas music the morning after we attend Wurstfest because he considers Wurstfest the official start of the holidays.

Of course, what gets lost in all the rush is Advent. And so it is my annual appeal to us all to try to make some observation of the season of Advent. I will admit, this task makes me feel sometimes like the fabled Don Quixote flailing his sword at windmills believing they are giant ogres. And I feel a bit hypocritical as well. I certainly won’t miss a Charlie Brown Christmas on TV or turn off the radio when a beloved Christmas carol comes on. But futility and hypocrisy aside, the truth cannot be avoided. We need some Advent time.

Advent reminds us to slow down, but also to prepare. Advent reminds us of the sure and certainty of God’s promises. He kept His first promise to bring salvation into the world in the person of Jesus. And since he kept that one, He will certainly keep His second that Jesus will return.

Advent is the time to ponder the gifts of hope, joy, love and peace. We will not hope perfectly. We will not attain perfect joy. We will not love perfectly. We will not achieve perfect peace. But we can—with a little meditation and a lot of prayer improve. And that will be an honored Advent.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Lance

OSLC NEWS & NOTES



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

November 2022

- Expenses for October exceeded income by \$3330. Council voted to pay \$5000 toward the synodical apportionment and to consider possibly paying more at the December meeting.
- Several council members and the pastor are reviewing the listings in the membership directory to encourage church attendance.
- Trunk or Treat was a success in spite of the rain. Melodie Capole, Beverly Nivens, Elizabeth Shealy, and Gail Marcum worked hard to prepare this treat for the children.
- Sign-up sheets for 2023 teams and ministries are ready in the narthex.
- Bill Aull and David Griffith said they would accept nomination for another term on the council, and Gail Marcum and Mark Satterwhite also said they would accept nomination.
- The proposed budget for 2023, which included no salary increases for church employees, was approved by council and forwarded for congregational approval.

RAZBERRIES

December Razberries will be held Dec 10, 2022 at 6pm at the home of Francis and Rebecca Fingerlin. Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres and beverage of choice. Contact number: 803-203-2218 - Rebecca

SPOOK-TACULAR



The afternoon of Sunday, October 30 was a rainy one but not bad enough to prevent parents, children, and Our Saviour members from attending the "SPOOK-tacular" Trunk or Treat!

This event, planned by Melodie Capole with assistance from Gail Marcum, consisted of games, crafts, and balloon making led by nine young adults. In addition, thirteen cars participated in the car decorating contest with the Hortons receiving the prize for first place! Along with lots of candy, many enjoyed hot dogs—120 were served! Although numerous activities added to the Truck or Treat's success, the highlight was seeing the children's smiling faces!



2023 MINISTRIES SIGN-UP

The sign-up sheets for the teams and the ministries are on the table in the Narthex until December 11th. If you haven't already, please take a moment to sign up for all those you are interested in. Don't forget to check the church directory membership to make sure the information for your family is accurate.

FRIENDSHIP PROJECT FRUIT DELIVERY



Linda Hill, Brenis Aarons (SRAA social worker), and Linda Griffith



Food in Abundance! Thanksgiving Meals for Families at SRAA

DECEMBER MINISTRIES

FLOWERS

Dec 4 *Bill Aull*

11 **Need Volunteer*

18 *Lance & Robin Henderson*

24 *Poinsettias*

25 *Poinsettias*

GREETERS

**Need Volunteer*

**Need Volunteer*

**Need Volunteer*

**Need Volunteer*

**Need Volunteer*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Dec 4 *Melba Murphy*

11 *Marie Lybrand*

18 *Melba Murphy*

24 *Isma Boland*

25 *Virginia Morris*

LECTORS

Wayne Lybrand

Marie Lybrand

Isma Boland

**Need Volunteer*

Virginia Morris

DECEMBER

USHERS

Chief Gary Black

Wayne Lybrand

JANUARY

**Need Volunteer*

Steve Nivens

ALTAR GUILD

Isma Boland & Melba Murphy

Steve & Beverly Nivens

OFFERING PICKUP

David Griffith

Beth Cleland

TELLERS

Linda Griffith & Theresa Garner

Beth Cleland & Melodie Capole

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Bill Aull

Gary Black

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

October 30-November 20

WORSHIP—53

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 4 John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter (c. 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. Our hymnal contains two Easter hymns written by him—"The Day of Resurrection!" (ELW 361) and "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" (ELW 363).

December 6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (died c. 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.

December 13 Lucy, martyr (died c. 304)

Lucy was martyred for her Christian faith in Sicily during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. After Catholic authorities declared Lucy a saint, the similarity of her name to the Latin for "light" led to prayers directed to her for healing by those with eye diseases.



"Friendsgiving" 2022





ANOTHER YEAR IS ALMOST GONE AND A NEW YEAR IS UPON US. As Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, all women of the church are members of the Women's Organization (WELCA). You do not have to actively participate in a circle; however, we ask that all women serve when asked. All women are asked to voice their opinion on the below recommendation proposed by Lydia Circle for the 2023 Hospitality Team as Lydia Circle will be the new coordinators beginning February 1, 2023. Please call, text, or email Linda Griffith on the following recommendations:

1. ___ Agree or ___ not agree with the recommendation to ask all women to contribute \$10 towards the hospitality team for gift cards for members during hospitalization and/or outpatient surgery.
2. ___ Request to remain on the Hospitality Team, ___ request to be removed, or ___ request to be added to the team.

If you have not voiced your opinion as outlined below, please do so by NOVEMBER 30TH (or shortly thereafter).

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL LADIES OF THE CHURCH

SUBJECT: HOSPITALITY TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2023

We are sending this memorandum to all ladies in the church as all women of the church are members of Women of the ELCA and the Hospitality Team is churchwide for men and women. There are currently three groups serving on the Our Saviour's Hospitality Team and we would like to update our list for the 2023 Directory. Your name may or may not appear in the current directory; however, you might like to be added. (Check the website or the Sign-up Sheets for 2023 in the Narthex.) Likewise, your name may be on the list, and you want to be removed. Please respond as indicated at the bottom by November 30.

RECOMMENDATION FROM COMMITTEE

The Lydia Circle is recommending revisions to the Hospitality Teams to make it more efficient and easier for the ladies. We would continue to have two people serve as Hospitality Coordinators. Instead of having three Hospitality Groups, we would have all those who would like to serve listed as Hospitality Team Members.

We would ask each woman in the Church to donate \$10 to a designated WELCA Hospitality Team Fund. When a gift card is needed for a Hospitality Meal, the Hospitality Coordinators will use the funds in the designated Hospitality Account to purchase the gift card. Checks should be made out to OSLC-WELCA and note: hospitality.) If an actual meal is needed, the Hospitality Coordinator will tap people from the Hospitality Team to help. When we have a funeral, several members of the Hospitality Team will be asked to help with food, setup, or cleanup as needed. The coordinators will select members on a rotation basis. Marie Lybrand (803-397-0503) and Ann Satterwhite (803-530-6249) are the Hospitality Team Coordinators for 2023. If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please feel free to contact one or both of them.

To make this change in procedure, we need a vote from you BY NOVEMBER 30. Please call or text Linda Griffith at 803-920-3975 or email lindagriffith2@aol.com to let us know if you agree with this recommendation. Also, let us know if you desire your name removed or added to the Directory Hospitality Team Group Lists. Likewise, if you have concerns, please contact Ann or Marie above.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

ACTION — REBEKAH — Finished duties for committee with the last distribution of Friendship Bags to shut-ins. Elected new officers: Linda Hill, Coordinator/Treasurer; Linda Griffith, Recorder

COMMUNITY — LYDIA — Finished duties for committee and has the Retreat scheduled for March 11, 2023. Expect to hear about those plans and registration information around first of year. Working on revision of Hospitality Team Duties.

GROWTH — CAMERON — Will complete their duties with putting up and removing the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. They have added new duties for 2023 including sending cards to members during illness and bereavement. **REMEMBER — IF THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR SITUATION, THEY CAN'T SEND A CARD.**

GRAPEVINE QUIZ REDUX FROM 2014

(answers on page 7)

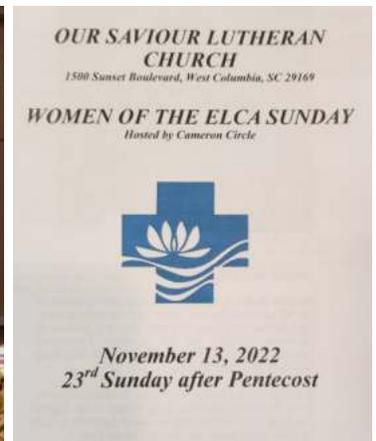
Celebrating Christmas wouldn't be the same without giving gifts. Here are some biblical stories about gift giving.

- In Genesis 32, we read that Jacob sends an enormous gift of livestock to his brother Esau before they meet for the first time in many years. Jacob was trying to appease Esau because he imagined Esau was mad at him for something that transpired back in Genesis 27. What was it?
 - Jacob had run off with Esau's fiance
 - Jacob had refused to work 7 years for Esau
 - Jacob had tricked Esau and their father Isaac out of Esau's birthright
 - Jacob hadn't let Esau join in any reindeer games
- In Judges 14, there is the gross little story where Samson comes to his wedding intending to bring gifts for all the attendants. Instead, he offers to give the attendants the gift only if they can solve a riddle he created after witnessing this disturbing roadside scene. What did Samson see?
 - A beehive made in a lion's carcass
 - The head of a man that still had a hat on it
 - A man set upon by thieves
 - A miniature sleigh and 8 tiny reindeer
- In Mark 6, who gives the head of John the Baptist on a platter to his young dancing step-daughter as a gift?
 - King Herod
 - Pontius Pilate
 - The High Priest Ananias
 - The Grinch
- In John 12, as a gift of love, Mary anoints Jesus' feet with something. What is it?
 - Myrrh
 - Olive Oil
 - Nard or ointment
 - Mistletoe and holly
- In 1 Peter 4, we read that we have all been given gifts which are to be used for _____?
 - The glory of God
 - One another
 - The exaltation of Jesus
 - Stuffing stockings

BONUS Three famous biblical gifts were interpreted to correspond with Christ's role as King of All, his role as priest who stands between humanity and God, and his atoning sacrifice on the cross. What are those three famous biblical gifts?



WOMAN OF THE ELCA SUNDAY



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.

Krissy Boyd (granddaughter of Inez Black)
Greg Chapman
Jeannie Chapman
Linda Crapps
Katie Doble
Don Ford
David Griffith
Dolores Hopkins

Ann Moye
Willette Satterwhite
Marie Shealy (Morningside Ret Ctr., Apt. 131)
Mary Stocker

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Hampton & Nicole Lybrand	12/07
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.



ELCA PRESS RELEASES

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

11/16 ELCA Church Council welcomes new vice president and 18 new members

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, December 19.**

Answers: 1. C. Jacob had tricked Esau and their father Isaac out of Esau's birthright; 2. A. A beehive made in a lion's carcass; 3. A. King Herod; 4. C. Nard or ointment; 5. B. One another; BONUS The gifts of the magi in Matthew 2: Gold--a symbol of royalty; frankincense--a incense used in temple worship; and myrrh--an embalming spice



All are welcome to attend this year's Christmas Party on Monday, December 19, at 6 PM, planned by Lutheran Men in Mission with help from the Elderberries. This year we are inviting everyone to come and bring a friend.

Professor and Chair of the University of South Carolina Department of Political Science and *The Voice of The Carolina Band* — Kirk Randazzo is an accomplished musician with a bachelor's degree in music from USC (in addition to graduate degrees from Carolina and Michigan State University). He recently formed a jazz band — *The Carolina Jazz Experience*. His sound system will provide musical accompaniment to his selection of music as he plays the lead. A 'love' offering will be collected.

Get your ticket today from Charles Nicholson or Linda Hill. Cost is \$25 for a couple or \$15 for a single ticket. Tim's Catering is providing a pot roast dinner with sides and dessert.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Worship and Music Committee would like to request your assistance this year by asking you to lend a poinsettia for our Christmas Services at a cost of \$13.50 (includes tax). Your check should be made payable to the church and marked "POINSETTIA". Please indicate in the space below the information you want printed in the Christmas bulletin. Please place in the offering plate or mail to the church with your check **BEFORE Sunday, December 11.**

I desire to order _____ poinsettia(s).

I desire the following information printed in the bulletin:

Given ___ IN MEMORY OF or ___ IN HONOR OF or ___ OTHER

By _____

Please attach check