



**June 2020**

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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  
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**Grace to you and Peace in the Name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!**

The late Phyllis Tickle was a Christian author and lecturer who came out with a book early in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a powerful thesis. Her thesis was that every 500 years or so, the Christian Church undergoes a profound change. Her thesis included that generally this change involved what was authoritative in church. She based this in history. For example, after the age of the apostles ended, the church had little to rely upon to be authoritative. This was around the 4th and 5th century and what became authoritative were the councils of bishops. And so events like the Council of Chalcedon and the Council of Nicaea became authoritative when it came to decided issues like “what is the Trinity?” or “what does it mean that Jesus is fully human and fully divine?” Fast forward 500 years, the Great Schism occurs. This is when the Eastern Orthodox church and the Western Latin (Roman Catholic) church split over the authority of the bishop of Rome—i.e. the Pope. That lasts about 500 years and then Luther and the Reformers place doubts in the authority of the Pope and stake the authority of the church in Scripture over the Pope. Of course, we are 500+ years from Luther’s Reformation and Tickle predicted another authority rising. I’m not going to argue for or against her thesis regarding the new authority, but I do agree that there is a sea change affecting the life of the church.



*cont'd on page 2-->*

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Let's consider not a small issue—the global, ongoing, COVID-19 pandemic. Consider what happened in 4 short months. In four short months, an entire globe stopped corporate worship around the world. This wasn't just for Christians. It happened for Jews, Muslims, Mormons, all of them. Suddenly. From X mph to nothing in 4 short months. But a funny thing happened on the way to the pandemic. The church didn't really stop. For the Christians, there was some realization of the real demand this sad, broken little world has for the Good News of Jesus Christ. And the church (or rather 10's of thousands of congregations) denied the opportunity to gather together embraced technology to get out the message. iPhones, social media, text messages, YouTube videos suddenly became the most effective ways to evangelize.

So what's the point? My thesis is that

A) Tickle was correct—after 500 years of post Luther Reformation church, the church is making major changes that we cannot easily predict.

And

B) the church—moreover, at the congregational level, there is an emerging embrace of technology in aiding the church's mission.

Is that worrisome? Sure, change always is. But keep in mind, technology generally has provided change in the way the church does its mission and is often rejected. Pipe Organs? Too ostentatious! Microphones? We need a new pastor with a stronger voice! New hymns? We should be singing the psalms only!

So what's the solution? One thing is to realize if you have been doing church one way for 70 years, that's not really true. Your worship service has changed

wildly over those 70 years and you didn't even notice. But let's say like you're really going to address that? Then imagine the rural congregation that has worshipped much the same for 70 years. They once worshipped 120, and now they worship 28. Are they being the church? It's debatable.

I'll be the first to tell you that embracing technology in new ways isn't easy for me, either. But I do know that our sad broken little world does need the Gospel, and so we want to be as ahead of the curve as we can be. Let me know what you think.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Lance +



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS MAY 2020

- Recommended moving forward with Worship Services to begin outside on June 21. Reassessment of the Pandemic situation will be evaluated after the June 28<sup>th</sup> service.
- An abbreviated Worship Service is being coordinated with the Worship Team and instructions on how to congregate on the church property will be sent out via Evine, Calling Post, and mailed through the Grapevine.
- Communion will be available via drive-by and for those congregating in chairs. Pastor will be the only person dipping the wafer and passing onto communicant. Sanitary precautions will be taken.
- Social distancing will be a primary concern and masks are highly recommended.

## 2020 OFFICERS W/CONTACT INFORMATION

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## 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** -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 10 a.m. at the church  
**Lydia** -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6 p.m. at member homes  
**Rebekah** -- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 10 a.m. at the church

## UPDATES ON EVENTS 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  
WELCA Sunday, scheduled for May, has been  
POSTPONED (Date TBA)

## SUMMER CIRCLE MEETINGS

The Circles will not meet during the summer months of June, July, and August. Meetings will start up again in September.

## 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 July)

\***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 College Women's League Sunday** 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.

\***OSLC-WELCA Sunday** was previously scheduled for May but was postponed. The date will be determined later.

\***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 to July 7th. Anyone wishing to attend should let me know as soon as possible so we can complete the appropriate forms to submit as soon as possible.

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.



**June 7**  
**Seattle, chief of the**  
**Duwamish Confederacy**  
**(ca. 1790-1866)**

Seattle was chief of the Suquamish tribe in the northwestern US and also the leader of a confederacy of tribes. He chose the way of peace rather than war and was respected by his people and whites alike. He embraced Catholicism in the 1830's. Modern environmentalists draw inspiration from prayers he composed, many of which emphasize the direct role that humans play in the well-being of the entire earth. The city of Seattle was named in his honor, against his wishes.

The following three bishops of the early Christian church are called the Cappadocian Fathers after the region (now in central Turkey), where they served.

**June 14**  
**Basil the Great,**  
**Bishop of Caesarea (ca. 330-379)**

Basil was born at Caesarea to devout Christian parents. After completing his education in Constantinople and Athens, he decided to become a monk, living as a hermit and traveling on preaching missions. In 364 his bishop convinced Basil to become ordained, and he was soon busy defending the doctrine of Christ's divinity against the Arian heresy espoused by the emperor, Valens. Basil is remembered for his writings in defense of doctrine and for his code of monastic life.

**June 14**  
**Gregory of Nazianzus,**  
**Bishop of Constantinople (329-ca. 389)**

Gregory of Nazianzus was a close associate of Basil and another defender of orthodox Christianity against the heresies of the time. He studied in Alexandria and Athens before becoming a monk. For a while he assisted his father, who was bishop of Nazianzus and who

insisted that he become an ordained priest. In 379 Gregory moved to Constantinople and became famous for his powerful doctrinal pronouncements on the nature of Christ and the Trinity. He was nicknamed "the Theologian" and made bishop there, but he was not happy in public life. Gregory resigned his position to return to a life of contemplation near Nazianzus.

**June 14**  
**Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa**  
**(ca. 330-ca. 385)**

Gregory was a younger brother of Basil the Great. He left his job as a teacher of rhetoric to enter a monastery founded by Basil. In 371 he was elected bishop of Nyssa, where he had difficult opposition from Arian heretics. Like his brother and Gregory of Nazianzus, this Gregory became an ardent defender of orthodox doctrine concerning the nature of Christ and the Trinity. His writings on theological subjects are voluminous, and he has been called the father of mysticism. Gregory of Nyssa was a deep thinker whose influence extends to the present day, especially in the Orthodox Church.

**June 14**  
**Macrina, teacher**  
**(ca. 330-379)**

Born in Caesarea in Cappadocia, Macrina became a wife at age twelve after an arranged marriage. Her husband lived only a short time, however. After the death of Macrina's father, her brother Basil took Macrina and their mother to a family estate in Pontus. The whole household there was dedicated to God, and others joined to form a Christian community with them. Macrina became its leader after her mother died. She is remembered as a teacher because of her role in training her younger brothers, who are now known as Saint Basil, Saint Gregory of Nyssa (see above for their biographies), and Peter of Sebastea. Writings by Gregory preserve details of Macrina's life.

**June 21**  
**Onesimos Nesib, translator,**  
**evangelist (1855-1931)**

Born in the Galla homeland of Ethiopia, Onesimos Nesib was captured by slave traders and taken to Eritrea. He was bought and freed by Swedish missionaries who then educated and baptized him. Nesib became an evangelist, translated the Bible into his native Galla, and returned to his homeland to preach the gospel. He died on his way to preach at what is now Mekane Yesus Church in Nekemte. On Nesib's tombstone are the words of Jeremiah 22:29, "O land, land, land, hear the word of the Lord!"

*cont'd on page 5—>*

**June 28**  
**Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons**  
**(ca. 130-ca. 202)**

Despite his stature as an important second-century theologian, Irenaeus's personal biography is a virtual blank. He was probably born in Smyrna and educated in Rome. Later, he was appointed bishop at Lyons in Gaul (now France). Irenaeus opposed Gnosticism's emphasis on closely-held knowledge, affirming instead that the truth handed down from the Apostles is for all people in a church that is catholic in its scope and not defined by national boundaries.

**GRAPEVINE QUIZ**  
*(Answers on page 10)*

In China, it's the year of the rat, not the snake. But here in South Carolina, it IS the that the copperheads come out. Be careful around the woodpile and take this quiz about snakes in the Bible.

1. According to Genesis 2, the serpent was able to trick Eve into eating the forbidden fruit because the snake was the most \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Clever  
b. Evil  
c. Handsome  
d. Snake-like
2. In Exodus 7, Moses and Aaron have a show-down with Pharaoh where Aaron's staff turns into a snake. Then these members of Pharaoh's court perform the same trick. Who are they?  
a. Pharaoh's generals  
b. Pharaoh's priests  
c. Pharaoh's magicians  
d. Joe Exotic

3. In Numbers 22, the LORD sends venomous snakes into the camps of the Israelites because they won't stop complaining about the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Heat  
b. Food  
c. Insects  
d. Options on cable TV
4. In Matthew 7, Jesus says—when trying to explain how the Father answers prayer—  
"which of you who has a child who asks for a \_\_\_\_\_ gives a snake?"  
a. Fish  
b. Loaf of Bread  
c. Baby Sister  
d. New PS4
5. In Acts 28, Paul is shipwrecked on an island still known today. He gets bit by a snake, but not harmed. What is the name of the island?  
a. Crete  
b. Sicily  
c. Malta  
d. Fantasy Island

**BONUS:** Some charismatics dance with venomous snakes without fear of being bit. Is this practice biblical?



**ELCA PRESS RELEASES**

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

- 5/13 ELCA presiding bishop issues pastoral message on COVID-19 racism and white supremacy
- 5/18 Statement on Illinois anti-Semitic messages



# THANK YOU

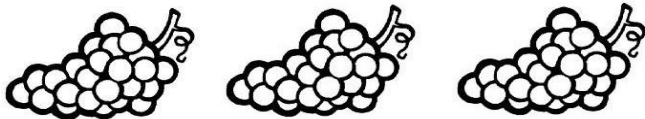
Wow! What a season! Among my mother's passing, this pandemic, the absence of corporate worship, and my injury, I can't imagine a more difficult time. However, I am not fearful, overwhelmed or despondent. And I am certain it is all because the outpouring of support and love I have received from your notes, calls, and prayers. Thank you all so much for your faithfulness and generosity during these difficult times.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Lance

Dear OSLC-WELCA,

Thank you for the Lizard's Thicket gift certificates! We haven't used them yet, but I am predicting a delicious breakfast in our future soon!

Thank you,  
The Hendersons



## RAZBERRIES

Due to Pastor Lance's condition and the uncertainty of social distancing in June, the Hendersons will not host Razberries in June 2020.

We appreciate your understanding.

With love,  
Robin & Lance

## LUTHERAN MEN

Lutheran Men in Mission will not meet in June and July.

On Tuesday, August 18th we will honor our ladies (dutch treat) at Shealys' BBQ in Leesville. We will meet at 12 noon at the restaurant.

Wishing each of you're a safe summer.

Thanks  
Barney,  
President of LMM

## GOD'S HELPING HANDS

God's helping hands is in need of all food items, especially canned items and cereal. Please place items in the collection box in the Cameron Hallway.

## 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.

*Carson Ayres*  
*(great nephew of Elizabeth Shealy)*  
*Inez Black*  
*Greg Chapman*  
*Jeannie Chapman*  
*Linda Crapps*  
*Don Ford*  
*Ian Greene*  
*(friend of Herman & Elizabeth Shealy)*

*Dolores Hopkins*  
*Merna Long*  
*Anne Moyer*  
*Willette Satterwhite*  
*Marie Shealy*  
*(Morningside Ret Ctr., Apt. 131)*  
*Mary Stocker*  
*Jane Wallace*  
*Heyward Wessinger*

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Melba Murphy	6/02
Lucy Hughes	6/09
Steve Rucker	6/10
Sue Drafts	6/16
Susan Bush	6/17
Ruth Nicholson	6/17
Gerry Wiedemann	6/17
Barney Keitt	6/19
Bill Hill	6/29

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Gary & Kay Black	6/01
Heyward & Doris Wessinger	6/03
Meredith & Beth Cleland	6/25

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 on or before Monday June 22.



ANSWERS: 1, a. Clever; 2, c. Pharaoh's magicians; 3, b. Food; 4, a. Fish; 5, c. Malta BONUS: Kinda, yes. Read Mark 16

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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## **IMPORTANT! WORSHIP RETURNS JUNE 21**

On May 26, OSLC Council met and agreed to restart worship on Sunday, June 21. They have tasked the Worship Team to plan an appropriate and safe worship service. Keep the worship team in your prayers as they have SIGNIFICANT and multiple things to consider. An official guide to serious considerations will be presented before the 21<sup>st</sup>, but keep in mind just some of the things that must be considered.

- We remain in the midst of a viral pandemic that has no vaccine and an uncertain cure.
- The bulk of our congregation falls into the defined "high-risk" category.
- Singing without precautions may be as dangerous as coughing.
- The most dangerous place for people to gather is an enclosed room with recirculated air.

Weather and heat can provide different challenges week to week.

That's just a few of the considerations. Needless to say, any thoughts of just gathering in the sanctuary to worship as we have done forever will not be the reality. Already some tough decisions have been made:

- Choir will be on hiatus for at least the next few months.
- PPE and social distancing will be part of the new protocols.
- While music will not be eliminated from the service entirely, it will be lessened.
- We will find a safe way to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

You can see it's a lot to consider. Our worship will be different, but one thing is certain. We are one people baptized in the Triune name, we share one faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we gather to worship one name—the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When you think of that, as long as those things remain—and they do—our worship can look very very different than how it has looked before.