

THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Stir up your power and come, O Christ!
Stir up our hearts...
Stir up the wills of your faithful people...
Stir up your power and come, O Christ!

The opening lines of our prayers during Advent raise a characteristic of Advent we often do not think about. We are not only waiting for the sweet babe in the manger, we believe that the coming of the Christ makes a difference in our lives. Christ comes as a vulnerable baby and in power and stirs things up—our hearts, our wills—us. May you be open to the stirring of Christ, especially during this time of waiting and anticipation.

One of my favorite lines of all time comes from Dr. Suess, after the Whos welcome Christmas Day with singing and the Grinch realizes that he didn't stop Christmas by taking all the presents and decorations:

And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow, Stood puzzling and puzzling: "How could it be so? "It came without ribbons! It came without tags! "It came without packages, boxes or bags!" And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. "Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!"

May your Christmas celebration and season mean a little bit more this year. And if you can't make as many pies as you used to or have as many gatherings to attend or presents to give, that's OK. Christmas will come, our hearts will be stirred, and we will know love again.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent and a good season of Christmas.

In peace,
Pr. Christine

OSLC NEWS & NOTES



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Secretary, Charles Nicholson
November 2023

- Preparations for Mary Stocker's funeral revealed the need for an updated manual for funerals, listing duties and responsibilities, during this interim period.
- Work will be done to repair the sanctuary sound system and the ice machine.
- The church still needs a security team.
- Trunk 'n Treat was a success with 40-50 children attending, but next year the church may have a Fall Fest instead, since there are so many Trunk 'n Treat activities elsewhere.
- Pastor Christine recommended that the adult Sunday School class use a series of Advent lessons beginning in December.

2024 CHURCH DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY TEAMS

The sign-up sheets for the teams and the ministries are on the table in the Narthex until December 17th. 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.

GOD'S HELPING HANDS

God's Helping Hands current needs are for juice, canned fruit, crackers, dry milk, evaporated milk, flour, and sugar. They are especially asking for food items in "lift-top" (pop-top) cans to give to the homeless. Please place donations in the designated box in the Cameron Hallway.

OSLC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year WELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission are working together to prepare the congregation's annual Christmas party Monday, December 11, at 6 PM. Tim's Catering will provide a delicious holiday meal, and we have invited back Kirk Randazzo, "The Voice of the Carolina Band," to entertain us with a variety of favorite Christmas music. Besides being an accomplished musician with his own jazz band, Dr. Randazzo is the chair of USC's Department of Political Science! A love offering will be collected for his performance.

The cost this year will be \$15 for a single ticket and \$30 for a couple. Please see Gary Black or Charles Nicholson to buy your tickets by Sunday, December 3, so that we can give a number to the caterer.

Please remember that although the event is sponsored by LMM and WELCA, all members and friends of the congregation are invited. Please join us!

OSLC CHRISTMAS POST OFFICE

The Our Saviour Post Office is open for business from Sunday December 3 to Sunday December 24. Bring your Christmas cards for members of Our Savior and place the cards in the appropriate boxes in the narthex. Please include the first and last name of the recipient on the envelope. No stamp required!

RAZBERRIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: Saturday, December 9
Time: 6:30 pm
Where: 109 Royal Creek Dr. Lex. SC 29072

Please bring an appetizer to share and your drink. Elderberries and other party-loving people are invited as well. Regrets/ replies to razcaroline@gmail.com.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The adult class has been watching the TV series "The Chosen," showing episodes from Jesus' earthly ministry and focusing on the people close to him whose lives were changed forever.

Beginning in December we will take a break from this series to have four lessons based on Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Light of the World - A Beginner's Guide to Advent*. Dr. Levine is a professor of New Testament and Jewish studies at Vanderbilt University. She examines the biblical texts surrounding the story of Jesus' birth, the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi to open a conversation about connections between the Gospel stories and the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of her Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt.

SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

December 3	First Sunday in Advent
December 4	Setting up Sanctuary Christmas trees
December 9	9:30 am: Decorating trees and Sanctuary
December 24	10:30 am: Worship service for 4 th Sunday in Advent 5:00 pm: Christmas Eve worship service

INTERIOR DOORS

Please keep all interior doors closed when not in use. These are fire doors.

DECEMBER MINISTRIES

FLOWERS

Dec 3	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
10	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
17	<i>Poinsettia</i>
24	<i>David & Linda Griffith</i>
Dec.24 Eve	<i>David & Linda Griffith</i>
31	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>

GREETERS

<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
<i>*Need Volunteer</i>

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Dec 3	<i>Bill Aull</i>
10	<i>Ann Satterwhite</i>
17	<i>Gail Marcum</i>
24	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
Dec. 24 Eve	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
31	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>

LECTORS

<i>Bill Aull</i>
<i>Linda Hill</i>
<i>Ann Satterwhite</i>
<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
<i>*Need Volunteer</i>

DECEMBER

USHERS

<i>Chief *Need Volunteer</i>	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
<i>*Need Volunteer</i>	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>

JANUARY

ALTAR GUILD

<i>*Need Volunteers</i>	<i>*Need Volunteers</i>
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OFFERING PICKUP

<i>Linda Griffith</i>	<i>Beth Cleland</i>
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TELLERS

<i>Linda Griffith & Linda Hill</i>	<i>Beth Cleland & Melba Murphy</i>
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PROPERTY COMMITTEE

<i>Steve Nivens</i>	<i>Steve Nivens</i>
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PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

As you may have noticed, there has been a lot of activity around our church in the last few months. Following is a list of projects completed or ongoing for the Property Committee:

1. Renewed copier contract with Pollock for new copier
2. Rekeyed all church locks
3. Worked with city of West Columbia on cleaning up our water lines and flushing them to remove discolored water
4. Had ice machine serviced twice due to mud in water lines
5. Had all fire extinguishers serviced and inspected
6. Replacing emergency lights in sanctuary
7. Replaced large electrical breaker for heating and air
8. Replaced sanctuary heating and air along with getting a contract for servicing all the church's heating and air units
9. Cleaned out three storage rooms
10. Checking on phone system modifications
11. Checking on sanctuary sound system
12. Replaced first aid kit in hallway
13. Replaced batteries in heart defibrillator
14. Had tea and coffee machines serviced
15. Replacing lights on cross outside at front door
16. Working on getting bids for installing security cameras throughout the church
17. Arranged for Dominion Energy to repair the exterior lights for the parking lot
18. Had pot hole repaired in the parking lot
19. Having the parking lot sealed and restriped



THANK YOU

Dear Church Family & Pastor Christine,

Thank you so much for all that you did for us this year. The prayers, calls, cards, flowers, etc. are all appreciated. To those who bought food—individually and collectively from the church—thank you. It was delicious.

My family has always been there for me, especially after breaking my arm and then suffering a massive heart attack, followed by a heart procedure. I am continuing to heal. Our Lord is faithful to all of us.

Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas,
Jeannie Chapman and Family



Pictures from WELCA Sunday

OFFICERS FOR 2024

President—Linda Griffith (Rebekah)
 Vice President—Isma Boland (Cameron)
 Treasurer—Ann Satterwhite (Lydia)
 Secretary—Caroline Raszewski (Lydia)

*As mentioned last month, circles will be taking on their respective **committee assignments** in January with the exception of the **Hospitality Coordinators**. Linda Hill and Patsy Horton will lead this group and their duties begin February 1st. A big thank you to Marie Lybrand and Ann Satterwhite (Lydia) for their coordination this past year.*

Circle leaders for 2024 have been elected as follows:

Rebekah Circle (Action) Linda Hill, Leader and Linda Griffith, Recorder.
Lydia Circle (Community) Marie Lybrand, Leader and Beverly Nivens, Recorder
Cameron Circle (Growth) Isma Boland, Leader

Thank you to all the ladies who participated in **WELCA Sunday** in November chaired by Cameron Circle. If you were not present, Pastor Christine Parham preached about the prophetess Deborah who led Israel to victory over the Canaanites. A special thank you to Wayne Lybrand for taking the photographs and to Pam Hanfland for posting them on our website and Facebook. Some appear in this publication. An Honorary Life Membership certificate and pin were presented to Pastor Parham for her support to Our Saviour’s Women of the ELCA. Proceeds go to the SC WELCA Scholarship Fund at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary/LRU. Also, in her honor she made a donation to the Service Project by WELCA for 2024.

A **called meeting** was held on Sunday, November 19th to approve the 2024 OSLC-WELCA Budget. Treasurer Ann Satterwhite made the presentation with explanation of several increases and the budget was accepted as presented. Thank you Ann, Linda Hill, and Kay Black for your input on the committee.

Remaining 2023 Events

December 3 (Sunday) After Worship
 WELCA Executive Meeting to clear up any unfinished business (circle leaders w/unit officers
 Prayer—Ann Satterwhite

2024 Calendar Events

February 16-17—Spring WELCA Retreat at Camp Kinard (www.scwelca.com)
 March 17—3 PM at St. Stephen/Lexington Spring Conference Meeting (www.scwelca.com)
 May 17-19—Isle of Palms Retreat (SCWELCA Board member, Pat George, will be the speaker. www.scwelca.com)
 June 21-22—Annual SCWELCA Convention at St. Luke/Summerville. *“Just Love”* (www.scwelca.com) Is there a young woman who would like to go and have her expenses paid? Let us know.



Pin presented to Pastor Parham during WELCA Sunday

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 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 14
John of the Cross,
Renewer of the church
(1542-1591)

John was born into a poor family with roots in nobility. He joined a Carmelite monastery and became a priest in 1567. Because he favored stricter adherence to the rules of the order, John urged reform similar to that being undertaken with the women of the order by Teresa of Avila. His superiors had him imprisoned, but he escaped. John is remembered as a founder of the reformed Carmelites and also as a poet and Christian mystic.

December 20

Katharina von Bora Luther
Renewer of the church
(1499-1552)

"My lord Katie," as Martin Luther fondly called his wife, came from a family of Saxon nobles who had fallen on hard times. After her mother died, Katharina, just five years old, was sent to a cloister. She took her vows as a nun in 1515. Eight years later, however, she sought release from convent life. Her sympathy lay with the reform movement of Martin Luther, and she appealed for his help in order to flee the convent. With the help of a merchant friend of Luther's, Katharina and at least eight other nuns were smuggled out and taken to Wittenberg. After a few years of working in various households there, Katharina became the wife of Martin Luther. A local official and friend of Luther's gave them a former monastery, the Black Cloister, for their home. Within its walls and on its grounds, and on a farm they later purchased, Katharina managed the household, the garden and orchard, the farm animals, a home brewery, and whenever needed, an onsite hospital. She frequently had to feed and house the many visitors who sought out her husband. Katharina gave birth to six children during her lifetime, and she and Martin also raised four orphans. After Martin died in 1546, Katharina suffered poverty, dislocation resulting from several wars, and wartime destruction of most of the Black Cloister property. Her death occurred after a cart accident when she was moving yet again, this time to avoid the Black Plague. Katharina's legacy includes the example she helped to set for clergy marriage and Christian family life and her strong influence on Martin Luther's ideas regarding those.

ELCA PRESS RELEASES



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

- 10/26 A Statement from Bishop Eaton on the Conflict in the Holy Land
- 11/09 Announcement
- 11/15 ELCA Church Council appoints the Rev. Michael Burk as Presiding Bishop *Pro Tempore*
- 11/17 North American and Holy Land Heads of Churches Meet in Solidarity, Prayer

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.

*Greg Chapman
Jeannie Chapman
Katie Doble
Don Ford
Jack Hopkins
Pat Kaskey (friend of Inez Black)
Anne Moyer
Steve Rucker
Willette Satterwhite
Marie Shealy (National Health Care)
DeLeon & Jane Wallace
Mary Withrow*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Hampton & Nicole Lybrand	12/07
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 by **Tuesday, December 27.**



AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

October 29-November 26

WORSHIP—42



OSLC provides meal for a family of six for Thanksgiving. The Youth Sunday School decorated bags for the food.



Installation of our new air conditioning unit.



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 \$14.00 (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 10.**



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 print legibly)