

THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Blessed New Year To You All!

Thank you all so much for your wonderful Christmas gift. I am quite overwhelmed by your generosity. The chickens will eat well this winter!

You probably noticed that beginning in Advent we changed some parts of the liturgy to reflect the season. We will continue this practice throughout the Sundays after the Epiphany. With Lent, we will return to the order for confession and forgiveness from ELW. This was not done by accident. Nor was it done to drive everyone crazy. It can be comforting to stick with what is familiar. It can also be good to broaden our experience and try something new. Hopefully this mixture of old and new will lead to meaningful worship experiences.

With the new year, you will be seeing more activity in the search for a pastor. Council has been busy already behind the scenes, but there is more for the entire congregation to do. Stay tuned!

May you enjoy a peace filled 2024,
Pr. Christine

OSLC NEWS & NOTES



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Secretary, Charles Nicholson
December 2023

- The new AC unit for the Sanctuary has been installed, and the parking lot has been sealed and repainted using funds from the Building Maintenance and Property Improvement Fund, as approved by the congregation.
- Easter will be early this coming year, and Ash Wednesday will fall on Valentine's Day! The pastor will be using a new service from *Sundays and Seasons* from Advent until Lent.
- It has been recommended that the 6-year-old computer in the secretary's office be replaced with one that has additional RAM and new hard drive. Council will investigate prices and models.
-
- Congregational officers for 2024 are Rebecca Fingerlin, President; Mark Satterwhite, Vice President; Meredith Cleland, Treasurer, and Charles Nicholson, Secretary.
- Regarding the call process, the Congregational Sustainability Assessment has been sent to the bishop. We will next request the congregational survey, which the congregation will be asked to complete sometime in early 2024.

GOD'S HELPING HANDS

God's Helping hands current needs are for any and all food items. Remember 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.

RAZBERRIES

The January Razberries will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 6:30 PM at Dan and Pam Hanfland's home. Additional details of the evening will follow as we draw closer to the event date.





Don, Patsy, and Linda setting up the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall along with lots of other helpers! Thanks to everyone!

JANUARY MINISTRIES

FLOWERS

Jan 7 Charles Ruth
Nicholson

14 Dan & Pam
Hanfland

21 Albert & Sue Drafts

28 *Need Volunteer

GREETERS

Jim & Theresa
Garner

Doris Wessinger

Gary & Kay Black

Steve & Beverly
Nivens

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Jan 7 David Griffith

14 Ann Satterwhite

21 Beverly Nivens

28 Gail Marcum

LECTORS

David Griffith

Pam Hanfland

Steve Nivens

Beverly Nivens

JANUARY

USHERS

Chief Jim Garner

Steve Nivens

FEBRUARY

Jim Garner

Steve Nivens

ALTAR GUILD

Steve & Beverly
Nivens

Steve & Beverly
Nivens

OFFERING PICKUP

Beth Cleland

David Griffith

TELLERS

Beth Cleland &
Melba Murphy

Beth Cleland &
Linda Hill

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Steve Nivens

Steve Nivens

INTERIOR DOORS

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

THANK YOU



I want to thank everyone for the cards, visits, and calls after my surgery! Also the gift card from WELCA is great and I will use it now that I can get out and about. I am so glad that I belong to such a caring and loving church family!!

Love Isma



Dear OSLC Members,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. You are all so kind and thoughtful! I hope all of you have a happy and healthy 2024!

Mary Havens



Thank you to all the choirs and musicians who enhanced our Christmas Eve worship with their beautiful music!

OFFICERS

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

Thank you all for all that you do to keep our WELCA active. We had another very successful year and that is only because of each one of you. As we go into the new year, remember our loved ones who are no longer here to volunteer. The *Calendar of Events* for the year is outlined below. Hope all of you will attend our joint meetings in April and October.

Not listed in the calendar are the meeting dates and times for the Circles:

- **Cameron** meets with **Rebekah** in the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen on the first Monday of the month at 10:30 AM.
- **Lydia** continues to meet in member homes the second Monday at 6 PM.

Please check the directory for more specific information and contact one of the leaders if you're interested in attending a meeting.



WANTED!

ALL WOMEN'S OPINIONS NEEDED

Whether you are familiar with the Women of the ELCA or not (*ESPECIALLY NOT*), please go to the website (<https://www.SCWELCA.com/survey>) and give us 5 minutes to know why you do or do not participate in that organization. Help us to learn what Lutheran women need and want so we can help them grow in faith, support one another, and engage in ministry and action. Our survey is short and will only take a couple of minutes. **We need to hear from YOU!** Please share this link with other members of your congregation, especially if they are not involved in your WELCA unit. Your church does not have a WELCA unit? All the more reason to take this survey. We are here to serve you! Help us, help you! Thank you.

YOUR SCWELCA BOARD

2024 Calendar Events

- January 14 (Sunday) Installation of Council, LMM & WELCA Officers
- January 18 6 PM (Thursday)– WELCA Executive Meeting (Circle leaders w/unit officers)
Opening Prayer: Linda Griffith
- February 16-17 (Friday-Saturday) Spring WELCA Retreat at Camp Kinard (www.scwelca.com)
- March 3 12 Noon World Day of Prayer at Emmanuel/West Columbia
- March 17 3 PM (Sunday) Spring Saxe Gotha Conference Mtg at St. Stephen/Lex
- April 14 OSLC-Newberry College Nursing Scholarship Donations (Cameron Circle)
- April 16 6 PM (Tuesday) Joint OSLC-WELCA Meeting
Devotional/Prayer: Rebekah
Refreshments: Lydia
- May 17-19 (Friday-Sunday) SCWELCA Isle of Palms Lutheran Retreat Center Bible Study (www.scwelca.org)
- June 21-22 (Friday/Saturday) SC Women of the ELCA Convention at St. Luke/Summerville “Just Love” (www.scwelca.org)
- September 15 3 PM Fall Saxe Gotha Conference Meeting at Transfiguration/West Columbia (www.scwelca.org)
- October 13 3-5 PM (Sunday)- Joint OSLC WELCA Meeting (Officer nominations/election)
Devotional/Prayer - Cameron
Refreshments – Rebekah
- December 8 Immediately following Worship Service/WELCA Executive Meeting (circle leaders w/unit officers)
Opening Prayer: Ann Satterwhite



**2024 SC WELCA Convention
Friday & Saturday**

**June 21 & 22, 2024
St. Luke Lutheran Church**

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.



January 2 **Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe** **Renewer of the church** **(1808-1872)**

Johann Loehe's life and work proved important to Lutheranism in both his native Germany and foreign lands. Though he never attained a post in any German city, remaining all his working life in a village church, Loehe founded a deaconess house and an organization for helping the needy in Germany plus a foreign missions society to spread the Gospel abroad. The latter resulted in pastors being sent to North America, Brazil, and Australia. The Missouri Synod and the Iowa Synod in North America have their roots in Loehe's endeavors.

January 21 **Agnes, martyr** **(291- c. 304)**

Few facts about Agnes' life can be confirmed. Tradition has it that she was born into a noble Roman family whose members were Christians. During the reign of Emperor Diocletian, it is said, Agnes refused an offer of marriage from a Roman official, knowing full well that she might endanger herself by doing so. At the age of thirteen, Agnes was put to death by Roman authorities. She is considered the patron saint of young women.

January 28 **Thomas Aquinas, teacher** **(1224-1274)**

Born into a noble family, Thomas received his early education from Benedictine monks. At the University of Naples, however, he became convinced that he should join the Dominicans, an order of mendicant friars. His family was so opposed to this that they held him prisoner for fifteen months before relenting. Thomas' studies led him to become a philosopher and theologian who believed that Christian revelation and human knowledge come from the same divine source and are therefore not in conflict with each other. Within his short lifetime, Aquinas accomplished much as a teacher and a writer of theological works. In addition, he wrote hymns, one of which is ELW #476 ("Thee We Adore, O Savior"). The church canonized Aquinas in 1323.



ELCA PRESS RELEASES

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

- 11/29 North American Church Leaders Call for Peace in Holy Land in Advent Prayer Resources
- 12/13 The ELCA starts the new year with a newly formed Vision team
- 12/14 Academy Museum of Motion Pictures features ELCA film *A Time for Burning*

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.

Jim Boland (father of Dan & Chris Boland)
Greg Chapman
Jeannie Chapman
Katie Doble
Don Ford
Jack Hopkins

Anne Moye
Steve Rucker
Willette Satterwhite
Marie Shealy (National Health Care)
DeLeon & Jane Wallace
Mary Withrow

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Beth Boland	1/02
Mark Satterwhite	1/05
Linda Griffith	1/10
Isma Boland	1/12
Albert Drafts	1/22
Alivia Havens	1/25
Greg Chapman	1/29

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Charles & Ruth Nicholson 1/04

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.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

December 3-December 24

WORSHIP—42

A MESSAGE FROM VIRGINIA MORRIS

Linda Griffith recently spoke with Virginia Morris and she wants to express her sincere thanks to all the members at OSLC for their Christmas cards and many kindnesses shown her over the years. She recently sold her home near the church and is now living in Columbia in an apartment complex next to Good Sheppard Lutheran. For obvious reasons, she no longer has her membership here at OSLC; however, she wishes to stay in contact with her many friends here. Her new address is: 4615 Forest Drive, Apt 318, Columbia, SC 29206 and she has the same phone number (803-665-9585) and email (morrisvmorris@aol.com).



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, January 22.**

