

THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Lent comes early this year. Seems like we just put away the last Christmas decoration and we are already talking about ashes. Ash Wednesday is February 14th and we will celebrate with a service of communion with the imposition of ashes.

Why? As the ELCA explains; The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence. Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

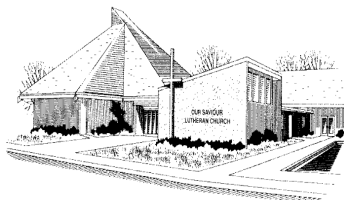
- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium. "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 284).
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.*

That is a lot to ask of last year's palms, burnt into ashes. And yet, we do. And we gather to begin a season of faith and contemplation—not to beat ourselves up, but to become closer to God and live more fully in God's ways.

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OSLC NEWS & NOTES



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Secretary, Charles Nicholson

January 2024

- Council approved a request by the Rebecca and Cameron Circles to build, set up, and maintain a "Blessing Box" on church property in which small, pop-top cans of food could be placed for the homeless and hungry.
- Council is still working to form a security team and choose a security camera system for the church.
- The church has a number of old and heavy tables that are no longer needed. Council is considering ways to get rid of them by sale or donation.
- Youth Ministry is planning to prepare soup for sale on "Souper Bowl Sunday," February 11, and would like the profits to be given to the USC Medical School food bank.
- There will be a service in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 11, at which time the congregation will fill out the congregational survey that is required as the next step in our search for a new pastor.

VALENTINE BAGS FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Valentine bags will be put out for the shut in's. They will be placed on a table in the narthex with a sign up sheet. A card is fine and if you would like to put some valentine candy in also I'm sure they would appreciate it.

The bags will stay out till February 11th and thank you for all your generosity in filling the Christmas bags. If you have any questions you may contact Gail Marcum.



IT'S COMING...

The Souper Bowl of Caring returns Sunday, February 11, 2024, immediately after worship service in the kitchen! Pay only \$5 per pint, \$10 per quart. This year 100% of the proceeds will be going to Cocky's Cupboard, which provides emergency food and toiletry items to support the USC School of Medicine students. Your choice among three soups (to be determined). Sorry, absolutely NO pre-sales.

SAVE THE DATE EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

The annual OSLC Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 30, 2024 at 10:00 am starting in the Fellowship Hall. More details will be forthcoming but mark your calendars and watch for details in the March Grapevine and upcoming Bulletins.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Join us as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday, in true Mardi Gras fashion, on February, 13th at 6:00 pm. Come and enjoy French toast and grits' casserole.

All ages are welcome! There will be a sign-up sheet located in the narthex. If you are unable to come in and sign up, please contact the church office so we can update the attendance list no later than Thursday, Feb 8th at 1pm.

Price of Admission: a food item for God's Helping Hands, and a fun spirit!

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One part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy is the "Invitation to Lent." I offer that invitation to you now:

Friends in Christ, today with the whole Church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent – self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

In peace,
Pr. Christine



RAZBERRIES

The February Razberries will meet on Friday February the 9th at Travinia's Restaurant at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP by February 5th to Gail Marcum (803 397-9272)

FEBRUARY MINISTRIES

FLOWERS

Feb 4 *Need Volunteer

11 Gail Marcum

A.Wed 14 *

18 *Need Volunteer

25 Caroline Raszewski

GREETERS

Sylvia Ford

Horace & Betty
Meetze

Caroline Raszewski

*Need Volunteer

Steve & Beverly
Nivens

WORSHIP

ASSISTANTS

Feb 4 Marie Lybrand

11 Charles Nicholson

A.Wed.14 Caroline Raszewski

18 Gail Marcum

25 Beverly Nivens

LECTORS

Marie Lybrand

Charles Nicholson

*Need Volunteer

Beverly Nivens

Steve Nivens

FEBRUARY

USHERS

Chief Jim Garner

Steve Nivens

*Need Volunteer

Gail Marcum

ALTAR GUILD

Steve & Beverly
Nivens

Charles & Ruth
Nicholson

OFFERING PICKUP

David Griffith

Linda Griffith

TELLERS

Beth Cleland &
Linda Hill

Linda Griffith &
Caroline Raszewski

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Steve Nivens

Bill Aull

INTERIOR DOORS

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

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY SURVEY

Dear Church Family,

Sunday, February 11, we will continue our work in preparing for the Call Process. Part of that work is to complete the Congregational Vitality Survey. The Survey will be used to help our Council in preparing the Ministry Site Profile. The Ministry Site Profile shares with rostered ministers that are discerning Call, information about OSLC.

Who may take the survey? Answer: Adults, youth and children (Normally 5-6 graders); all those who participate at our church. It is important to answer honestly! The survey is anonymous.

We will have all that you need on Sunday, February 11, for you to participate. Our worship service will be modified and the survey will take approximately 12-15 minutes. After everyone completes the survey, we will bless them and send them on their way to be reviewed and await the return of our survey data.

If you are unable to attend on Feb 11, please let a council member know and we will get a survey to you. Thank you in advance for your willingness to participate as we continue our journey in calling our next pastor.

Sincerely,
Members of Church Council

TUESDAYS AT NOON LENTEN SERVICES

During the season of Lent, we will be gathering for weekly services on Tuesdays at 12:00. These services will include scripture, prayer, music, and silence. Everyone is invited to take a break from hectic days and join in a time of casual, meaningful worship.

THANK YOU

Dear Our Saviour Members,

Thank you so much for the Christmas goodie bag. I appreciate you thinking of me and keeping me in your prayers. Have a healthy and blessed new year.

Love,
Marie Shealy

Dear Friends,

As I looked through the bright Christmas bag of treats and cards, I had the joy of remembering wonderful times! Each card had a different verse, but all showed the love and care you share for each other. Many things have changed over the years; it is difficult to keep up. In all our chaos the foundation of OSLC has remained—a church family of loving, caring people.

God's Blessings,
Sandy Cook Graham

Dear "Church Family",

Your kindness and love certainly was a great and very welcome surprise during Christmas. The "goodie bag" was filled with wonderful items! We have truly enjoyed all of them.

You all are still very dear to our hearts. Please continue to keep us in your prayers and we welcome your visits!

Happy New Year!

With kindness and love,
Barney & Loleta

OFFICERS

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

Well our year is off and I somehow missed the Executive Session for the leaders and officers last month. Since we all seem to be pretty much 'on the same page' I feel that the April meeting is the one that is very important and is open to all women of the church. So please mark that date as a must to attend.

DID YOU GO ON LINE AND COMPLETE THIS SURVEY? The SC WELCA Board really needs input from ALL women — not just those who attend circle meetings.

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

Circle Reports:

Cameron and **Rebekah** Circle members are hard at work finalizing plans for our Bible Study Retreat. Watch for more details in the bulletin and Grapevine. Also, our members have voted on establishing a "blessing box" on our church property for our service project this year. Council has approved it and we are searching for someone to build it for us. This box will contain pop top cans of food for those who need it. The location on our property is yet to be determined, and when established, details will follow as to how you can help support it. Rebekah will begin their Hospitality duties on February 1st.

Lydia Circle is studying "*The Love Stories of the Bible Speak*" written by Shannon Bream. It is part of a series written by Shannon and draws lessons from the good, the bad, and the ugly of Biblical romances, friendships and families. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 30. More details will be shared in the March *Grapevine* and the Bulletins. We are discussing an idea for Entertainment for 2024 to be held in the Fall. Circle members were reminded to contribute \$10 each to the Hospitality Fund for 2024

2024 CALENDAR EVENTS

February 16-17 (Friday-Saturday) Spring WELCA Retreat at Camp Kinard (www.scwelca.com)
March 1 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

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.



February 18

**Martin Luther, renewer of the church
(1483-1546)**

Founder of the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther formulated a new understanding of humanity's relationship with God. He recognized Jesus as the only mediator between mankind and God; he identified grace as the key element in forgiveness and salvation; and for him, word and sacrament were the key components of worship. Luther's translation of the Bible from churchly Latin into everyday German was a tremendous gift to Christianity and culture in Germany. His catechisms, tracts, letters, sermons, and hymns remain powerful sources of education and inspiration for Christians around the world today.

February 23

**Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr
(c. 69-156)**

Polycarp, long-lived Christian bishop of western Asia Minor, was a link between the world of the Apostles and the second-century church. It is said that he knew John, the author of Revelation, and we know that Irenaeus and Ignatius, pillars of second-century Christendom, were acquainted with him. At age eighty-six, Polycarp was arrested and ordered to renounce his faith or be killed. Unwilling to do the former, he was burned at the stake.

February 25

**Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess
(1850-1921)**

Born on Christmas Day, 1850, in Norway, Elizabeth Fedde trained to be a deaconess. At age thirty-two, she was called to New York to minister to the poor and to Norwegian seamen. Her first accomplishment there was the establishment of the Norwegian Relief Society. Shortly thereafter, she opened the Deaconess House in Brooklyn and the Deaconess House and Hospital of the Lutheran Free Church in Minneapolis. She returned to Norway in 1895 and died there on February 25, 1921.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE DURING LENT



Feb 14: **Ash Wednesday** Worship at 5:30 pm

Feb 20, 27; March 5, 2, & 19: **Lenten Services**
at 12:00 noon

March 24: **Palm Sunday**—with Palm
Procession at 10:30 am

March 28: **Maundy Thursday**—Holy
Communion and Stripping of the Altar at
5:30 pm

March 29: **Good Friday**—Worship at 5:30 pm

March 31: **Easter Sunday**
10:00: Flowering of the Cross
10:30: Holy Communion

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 (Lexington Extended Care)
Anne Moya*

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jack Hopkins	2/08
Ashley Meetze	2/13
Betty Meetze	2/13
Karen Dawkins	2/14
Willette Satterwhite	2/17
Bryson Raszewski	2/20
Don Horton	2/27

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 31-January 21

WORSHIP—37



ELCA PRESS RELEASES

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

1/17 Khader El-Yateem appointed Executive
Director for ELCA Service and Justice

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, February 19.**



Jack Hopkin's current address:

Lexington Extended Care
815 Old Cherokee Road
610A Azalea Circle
Lexington, SC 29072

He would love to receive cards from the congregation.



Installation of 2024 Officers



EASTER LILIES

The *Worship and Music Committee* would like to request your assistance this year by asking you to lend a lily for our Easter Service at a cost of **\$15.00 each (includes tax)**. Your check should be made payable to the church and marked for *EASTER LILY*. Please indicate in the space below the information you desire printed in the Easter bulletin. **Please place in offering plate or mail to the church with your check ON OR BEFORE SUNDAY, March 10th.**

I desire the Worship and Music Committee to order _____ lily(ies).

I desire the following information printed in the bulletin:

Given _____ IN MEMORY OF or _____ IN HONOR OF or _____ OTHER

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

By _____

Please attach check.