

# ***THE GRAPEVINE***

***THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH***

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Brent Holcomb—Organist/ Choirmaster  
Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

*I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.*

*-Isaiah 43:19*

As the calendar turns to January, we are reminded of the beauty of new beginnings. The new year offers us a chance to reflect on where we have been and to look forward to where God is leading us. For me, this January is especially meaningful as I begin my ministry with you at Our Saviour Lutheran Church.

I am grateful for the warm welcome and am eager to get to know each of you better in the days and months ahead. There is so much to learn about your stories, your hopes, and the ways you see God at work in this place. I am excited to walk alongside you as we seek to follow Christ together.

As your new pastor, I come with a heart full of anticipation and humility. I believe that ministry is not something done by one person but something we share together as the body of Christ. Each of you brings unique gifts and perspectives that will shape our journey. I hope to listen well, to learn from your wisdom, and to join you in imagining how God is calling us to live out our faith in the year ahead.

The month of January leads us into the season of Epiphany, a time when we reflect on the ways God's light is revealed to the world. Just as the Magi followed the star to Jesus, we too are invited to follow God's guiding light. My prayer is that together we will be attentive to where the Spirit is leading us, open to new possibilities, and bold in sharing God's love with one another and with the world.

So, as we begin this new year and this new chapter of ministry together, I invite you to reflect on a question: What might God be calling us to here in this unique place and time? Let us be curious, courageous, and faithful as we seek to answer that question together. I am so grateful to be here with you and look forward to all that God has in store for us.

With joy and hope,  
Pastor Joanna Gragg

# OSLC NEWS & NOTES



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

December 2024

Secretary, Charles Nicholson

- Pastor Joanna Gragg's installation service with following reception will take place on Sunday, January 19, at 2 pm. Council members and church officers for 2025 will also be installed that day.
- The drainage work under the sanctuary and installation of de-humidifiers to the air conditioner have been completed. Wind-damaged sections of the outdoor sign have been replaced.
- Members of the Congregational Council for 2025 are Beth Cleland, Rebecca Fingerlin, Jim Garner, Wayne Lybrand, Gail Marcum, Charles Nicholson, Steve Nivens, and Mark Satterwhite.
- Officers for 2025 are Rebecca Fingerlin, President; Mark Satterwhite, Vice President; Meredith Cleland, Treasurer; and Charles Nicholson, Secretary.
- Team leaders will be Jim Garner and Steve Nivens for Property, Mark Satterwhite and Steve Nivens for Fellowship, Charles Nicholson for Worship, Wayne Lybrand for Stewardship, Gail Marcum for the Education and Service and Charitable Works Teams, Beth Cleland for Memorials and Gifts, and Melanie Capole for Young Adult Ministry.



## Rock Around the Crock; a Razberries Slow Cooker!

Razberries will meet  
January 11, 6:30 pm at

The Hanflands, for a "crock-pot-luck" buffet evening of slow cooker/crockpot comfort food delights! Additional details forthcoming.

## FAREWELL BREAKFAST FOR PASTOR CHRISTINE



## AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December 2024

WORSHIP—47



# CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024



## Upcoming Dates

- January 5: Pastor Joanna Gragg's first Sunday - 10:30am worship
- January 19: Installation of Church of Council and Church Officers- 10:30am worship
- January 19: Installation of Pastor Gragg - 2pm  
Reception immediately following

## JANUARY MINISTRIES

### FLOWERS

Jan 5 *Linda Hill*

12 *Dan & Pam Hanfland*

19 *Charles & Ruth  
Nicholson*

26 *Gail Marcum*

### GREETERS

*\*Need Volunteer*

*Steve & Beverly  
Nivens*

*Theresa Garner*

*Doris Wessinger*

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Jan 5 *Rebecca Fingerlin*

12 *Beverly Nivens*

19 *Marie Lybrand*

26 *Caroline Raszewski*

### LECTORS

*Rebecca Fingerlin*

*Pam Hanfland*

*Marie Lybrand*

*Caroline Raszewski*

### JANUARY

#### USHERS

*Chief Steve Nivens*

*Isma Boland*

### FEBRUARY

*Steve Nivens*

*Wayne Lybrand*

#### ALTAR GUILD

*Isma Boland &  
Melba Murphy*

*Steve & Beverly  
Nivens*

#### OFFERING PICKUP

*Beth Cleland*

*Steve Nivens*

#### TELLERS

*Linda Griffith &  
Melba Murphy*

*Beth Cleland &  
Sandra Hughes*

#### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

*Steve Nivens*

*Bill Aull*



## 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 19 Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, Martyr (died 1156)**

English by birth, Henry became Bishop of Uppsala, Sweden, in 1152. Soon after that, he traveled with the Swedish king to Finland on a mission trip. Henry, or Henrik, as he was called in Scandinavia, stayed on to develop the church. He was killed by a Finnish farmer who had been disciplined by the church. Henry's burial place became a destination for pilgrimages, and he is considered Finland's national saint.

### **January 26 Timothy, Titus, and Silas (First Century AD), missionaries**

All three are commemorated for their association with St. Paul's ministry. Timothy traveled with Paul on his second missionary journey and was given charge of the mission at Thessalonica and Corinth. He became the first Bishop of Ephesus and was martyred. Titus accompanied Paul to Jerusalem and later preached in Corinth, Crete, and Dalmatia. Eusebius' writings designate Titus as first Bishop of Crete. Silas went with Paul on his first visit to Macedonia and Corinth. He was known for preaching with great conviction.

### **January 27**

### **Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe (First Century AD), witnesses to the faith**

Acts 16:11-40 recounts Lydia's story. She came from Thyatira in Asia Minor and was perhaps Jewish rather than Gentile. She was a seller of purple-dyed goods, a business that required considerable capital. Paul baptized Lydia and her household and spent time at her home with his traveling companions. Dorcas (or Tabitha), a Christian in Joppa, was known for her works of charity and her skill as a seamstress. Peter brought her back from death (see Acts 9:36-42). Phoebe was perhaps a widow, since she traveled freely and may have delivered Paul's letter to the church in Rome. She was a helper to the Christian community in Cenchreae, near Corinth, where she looked after many people (see Romans 16:1).



## **ELCA PRESS RELEASES**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

12/18 Presiding Bishop Eaton Issues  
Pastoral Message on Syria



## OFFICERS

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

Circles are reminded that Linda Griffith has placed 4 pieces of fabric per circle (2 kits) for the Fabric Kit Project for Convention next August in the storage area of the very last classroom in the Cameron Building. All the circles have to do is purchase the thread for the two kits as indicated in the Lutheran World Relief Fabric Kits handout given each Circle during Joint Meeting last month. Please be sure to read all the instructions as suggested thread type and packing are outlined. A donation might be recommended to help with postage and handling.

**All circles have completed their duties for their respective committees this year; therefore, committees for 2025 are as follow:**

**Community-Rebekah** It is the work of this committee to encourage and aid members of the Women of the ELCA in ministering the love of Christ in our Church and the community. This committee will be responsible for the Easter Egg Hunt and a Social event.

**Action-Lydia** It shall be the duty of this committee to aid and carry out the work of Christian Service in the life of our congregation. It should provide opportunities for fellowship and service of deeds that show our love of Christ and to one another. The committee will be responsible for planning and implementing the Bible Study/Retreat, coordinating the Hospitality Committee Groups, and a Service Project.

**Growth/Sunshine-Cameron** This circle will keep the same committee as in the past. This committee encompasses the education function of Women of the ELCA, focusing special attention on the total mission of the Church and the spiritual growth of every individual member. It specifically coordinates the Women of the ELCA Sunday, Nursery monitors, Children's Activity Bags, sending Sunshine Cards, orders Spiritual Gifts for confirmands and baptisms and the coordination and decoration of the Christmas Tree in the Fellowship Hall.

## 2025 Calendar Events

*Visit the SC WELCA website ([www.scwelca.com](http://www.scwelca.com)) monthly as important information regarding retreat speakers, new payment options for events, The Ripple, Bible Study ideas, and updated convention information is posted on a regular basis. It also has a new look with a helpful menu for you to search for specific information.*

February 28 - March 1, 2025—SCWELCA  
 CAMP KINARD RETREAT  
 Pegi Roberts will be back as the guest speaker. Details forthcoming.

March (TBA) Saxe Gotha Conference  
 Spring Meeting.

April 15 6 pm (Tuesday) Joint Circle  
 Meeting  
 Devotion/Prayer-Lydia  
 Refreshments-Cameron/  
 Rebekah

May 16 - 18, 2025—SCWELCA ISLE OF  
 PALMS RETREAT Details  
 coming soon!

August 15-16, 2020—SCWELCA  
 CONVENTION  
 St. Paul Lutheran Church, 961  
 Trail Ridge Road, Aiken, SC  
 29803. *Renew, Refresh,  
 Remember* is the theme this  
 year.

September (TBA) Saxe Gotha Conference  
 Fall Meeting.

October 12 3-5 PM (Sunday) Joint Circle  
 Meeting  
 Devotion/Prayer-Rebekah  
 Refreshments-Lydia

# THANK YOU

Dear OSLC family,

I would like to thank you for the very generous Christmas Gift you gave me. It is wonderful to be thought of. The chickens will eat well this year!

Extremely well as it turns out! The breakfast was wonderfully tasty and fun. Never did I expect to receive a bag of fancy chicken feed! Should make great eggs, so we will eat well this year. Thank you for that fun present and for the gift in the card.

It has been a pleasure to serve at OSLC. Thank you for all your prayers and support. You all worked very hard these past months. The Holy Spirit has been active. Looking forward to a great 2025 and beyond for OSLC.

In peace,  
Pr. Christine

Dear OSLC,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your constant love and support throughout the year. I'm so grateful for the generous love offering and, even more, for the way each of you has poured into my life with kindness and care. You've truly been a blessing to me, and I'm so thankful to be part of this community. I can't wait to see what the new year brings for all of us. Sending love and gratitude to each of you!

Blessings,  
Melodie

My thanks to our congregation for the generous gift and the many Christmas cards which I received. Thank you for being faithful during our time of transition, and I look forward to a new beginning with you in 2025.

Brent Holcomb

Dear OSLC members,

I am overwhelmed by, and grateful for, your generous and thoughtful Christmas gift. Thank you!

I especially want to thank you for your patience with me during these last two months as I have been in recovery mode from knee replacement surgery. Your kind words, understanding, and encouragement have been much appreciated!

Mary Havens

Dear OSLC LMM and OSLC WELCA:

Thank you so much for allowing Michael and I to perform for the Christmas Party this year. It was a wonderful event. The food was delicious and it was a great experience for us as well. The outpouring of kindness and being back where we once used to attend felt so welcoming. It was great for Michael and I to share our talent with you all by performing our love of Christmas music. The generous love offering was very much appreciated. The love shown to us was overwhelming, again it was a pleasure for me to entertain for you all. May God bless you all and I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Phil, Sonya, and Michael Urban

## 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*

*Sierra Dunaway and her premature newborn baby, "Ruby" (friend of Caroline Raszewski)  
Anne Moyer  
Steve Rucker  
Marie Shealy  
DeLeon & Jane Wallace*

### 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.



### 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, January 27, 9:00 am.**

### GOD'S HELPING HANDS

God's Helping Hands current needs are: Jiffy mix, spaghetti sauce, regular cooking oil, juice, crackers, cookies, flour, sugar, jello, pudding, dry milk, mixed vegetables and ramen noodles. Please place donations in the designated container in the Cameron Hallway.



