

THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Returning to the Lord: A Lenten Journey

"Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." – Joel 2:13

Lent is a season that calls us back. Not just to church, not just to spiritual practices, but back to God's heart. It's not about proving how holy we are or how much we can give up. It's about remembering who we are and who God is.

This year, our Wednesday Lenten services will follow the words of Joel: **Return to the Lord your God.** Each week, we'll reflect on what it means to return—what we're turning from, what we're turning toward, and how God meets us in that turning.

Come join us on Wednesdays in Lent. Here are the themes and the ways we will be thinking about Returning to the Lord:

- **March 12 – Return** (Luke 13:31-35) Sometimes we wander. Sometimes we don't even realize we've wandered. Thank God that we have Jesus who calls us back, who longs to gather us under his wings. God isn't waiting for us to "get it together" - He just wants us to come home.

- **March 19 – Reconciliation** (Luke 13:1-9) Returning to God isn't just a personal thing - it changes how we relate to others. We'll talk about what it means to be reconciled, how God gives us time to grow, and why grace is always bigger than we expect.

- **March 26 – Righteousness** (Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32) The prodigal son didn't expect a party when he came home. But God's righteousness doesn't look like hard and fast rules or checklists to complete. It looks like love. What does it mean to live in that kind of love? What does it mean to let it change us?

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OSLC NEWS & NOTES



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

February 2025

Secretary, Charles Nicholson

- The congregation was very generous in filling and offering to deliver the seven Valentine bags for shut-in members.
- The church is replacing old lighting fixtures with LED lights in the Narthex.
- The proceeds from the "Souper Bowl" soup sale will be split between Cocky's Cupboard (for USC Medical School students) and USC Campus Ministry.
- Sunday School for children will now be held each Sunday.
- Plans are being made for Vacation Bible School in July.
- The "Bible Mobile" will not be using our parking lot for school-time ministry classes this year.

RAZBERRIES

March Razberries will be hosted by the Hanflands, March 8th at Villa Tronco.

YOUNG ADULTS SAVE THE DATES!

March 4, Shrove Tuesday Event

March 30, Young Adult Worship Service

April 12, Easter Eggstravaganza

HELP FOR NC HURRICANE HELENE VICTIMS

The Lydia Circle has chosen to help the people in North Carolina impacted by Hurricane Helene as the 2025 WELCA Project. An estimated 73,000 homes were damaged, entire communities lost access to core services and communication, and roads and bridges were damaged at more than 6,900 sites. Your love offering will go toward items that are needed such as generators, 20# LP tanks (gas grill size), tools and building supplies, kitchen/bath and bedding supplies. Make checks payable to OSLC-WELCA and write WELCA Project on the check memo and/or the envelope. Deadline to receive your love offering is Sunday, March 17.

Pam Hanfland has a direct contact to get our donation directly to needy families. For any questions contact Pam or Marie.

EASTER EGG HUNT SUPPLIES NEEDED

The Cameron Rebekah Circle and young adults will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt at Our Saviour on Saturday, April 12th. We are asking for your help providing plastic eggs and bags of individually wrapped candies to fill the eggs. A basket for these items is in the Narthex. Also, there is a sign up sheet for children planning to attend. A big thanks for all your help and support.

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.

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- **April 2 – Restoration** (*John 12:1-8*) Six days before the Passover, Mary kneels before Jesus and pours out expensive perfume, filling the house with its fragrance. Some call it wasteful, but Jesus calls it beautiful. Restoration isn't always about fixing what's broken - sometimes it's about being fully present. How might God be calling us to that kind of restoration
- **April 9 – (Jesus') Resolution** (*Luke 22:14–23:56*) The Last Supper. The garden. The betrayal. The trial. The cross. Jesus gives everything—His body, His dignity, His very life—out of love. This is the heart of sacrifice, not just in suffering but in self-giving. As we walk with Jesus through these final hours, we remember: this is love, poured out for us.

Lent isn't about earning or giving up anything. It's about stepping into God's vision for us and the love that's already there. It's about returning - again and again - to the one who never leaves us. So, come as you are. Bring your questions, your doubts, your hopes, and your need for grace. Let's return to the Lord together.

+In Christ,
Pastor Joanna Gragg.



LOST JACKET

A tan, mid-length woman's puffer jacket was left at the Christmas party. If found, please return to the Church Office.

MARCH MINISTRIES

FLOWERS

Mar 2 *Need Volunteer

9 Howard & Sandra
Hughes

16 Wayne & Marie
Lybrand

23 Kay Black

30 Herman & Elizabeth
Shealy

GREETERS

Gail Marcum

Gail Marcum

Frank Yonce

Mark & Ann
Satterwhite

Linda Hill

WORSHIP

ASSISTANTS

Mar 2 David Griffith

9 Marie Lybrand

16 Isma Boland

23 Ann Satterwhite

30 Gail Marcum

LECTORS

David Griffith

Wayne Lybrand

Pam Hanfland

Ann Satterwhite

Linda Hill

MARCH

USHERS

Chief Mark Satterwhite
Gail Marcum

APRIL

Wayne Lybrand
Gary Black

ALTAR GUILD

Isma Boland &
Melba Murphy

Isma Boland &
Melba Murphy

OFFERING PICKUP

Gail Marcum

Wayne Lybrand

TELLERS

Linda Griffith &
Linda Hill

Beth Cleland &
Sandra Hughes

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

David Griffith

Steve Nivens

INTERIOR DOORS

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

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.



March 2

**John Wesley (1703-1791) and
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Renewers of the church**

Brothers John and Charles Wesley were ordained clergymen in the Church of England. After a discouraging missionary trip to the colony of Georgia in 1735, they returned home and came under the influence of Moravian pastors. In 1738, both John and Charles felt called to itinerant, evangelizing ministry. They and their followers were dubbed “Methodists,” referring to the rigorous spiritual discipline they promoted. The Wesleys’ movement, like Luther’s effort to reform Catholicism, did not intend to sever ties with the Church of England. It was not long after the Wesleys’ deaths, however, that a formal separation of Methodism and Anglicanism took place. While John Wesley is best known as a founder of Methodism, Charles Wesley’s reputation stems in large part from his accomplishments as a hymn writer. By 1756, he had left the itinerant preacher’s way of life. He penned a multitude of hymns, many of which are staples of congregational worship today. Examples in our ELW include “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (#270) and “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (#365). Several of Charles’ descendants also became notable musicians and composers.

March 12

**Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome
(540-604)**

Gregory the First (to distinguish him from fifteen later popes named Gregory) began his working life as a well-to-do civil official in Rome. He had used his own money to construct seven Benedictine monasteries. In his mid-thirties, he renounced worldly success and entered one of them as a monk. He was appointed to several positions in the church before being elected pope in 590, the first monk to attain such high office. As pope, Gregory sought to be “servant of the servants of God,” in his words. He did much to help people hurt by famine, disease, and war, as well as to reform clergy practices and church liturgy. Gregory also sent missionaries to convert England to Christianity. The term “Gregorian chant” refers to his influence on church music. The ELW contains one hymn text—“Lord God, We Praise You” (#558)—attributed to Gregory the Great.



ELCA PRESS RELEASES

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

- 2/7 ELCA Presiding Bishop Responds to False Allegations
- 2/14 ELCA Presiding Bishop Responds to Executive Orders on Immigration

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

February 2025

WORSHIP—42



OFFICERS

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

2025 Calendar of Events

Visit the SC WELCA website (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.

March (TBA) World Day of Prayer
 March (TBA) Saxe Gotha Conference Spring Meeting.
 April (TBA) OSLC-Newberry College Nursing Scholarship Donations (Cameron Circle)
 April 15 6 PM (Tuesday) Joint Circle Mtg.
 Devotion/Prayer-Lydia
 Refreshments-Cameron/Rebekah
 May 16 - 18, 2025—SCWELCA ISLE OF PALMS RETREAT *Details in March Grapevine.*
 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 Mtg.
 Devotion/Prayer-Rebekah
 Refreshments-Lydia
 December (TBA) Immediately following Worship Service WELCA Executive Mtg. (circle leaders w/unit officers)
 Opening Prayer: Treasurer, Ann Satterwhite

CONGRATULATIONS FRANK YONCE



Frank was selected and awarded the Ruritan Member of the Year for 2024 Pineview Ruritan Club in West Columbia. His name was also presented to the Columbia District Ruritan committee which consists of 12 clubs. This award was given for Frank's outstanding community service. Frank was also selected as 2024 Ruritan of the Year by the Columbia District.

MAKING THE SOUPER BOWL SOUP



THANK YOU

Dear Our Saviour Members,

Thank you so very much for remembering me at special times during the year with a goodie bag. I also enjoy your visits too.

Love in Christ,
Marie Shealy

Dear Church Family,

A very special "thank you" for the Valentine bags you gave to Katie, Greg, and me for Valentine's Day. They were generously filled with cards and all kind of useful items and "yummy" treats. Your hearts touched our hearts and we're very grateful,

God Bless,
Jeanne & Gregg Chapman
and Katie Doble



CONGRATULATIONS BETH CLELAND 2025 EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Mrs. Beth Cleland

The Brookland-Cayce High School Education Foundation is excited to announce the induction of Mrs. Beth Cleland into the Brookland-Cayce High School Educator Hall of Fame. Mrs. Cleland served over 28 years in education, teaching at Brookland-Cayce High School from 1982-1991 and 1994-2014.

She was certified to teach AP Government and Economics and served as a coaching teacher. She was a longtime volleyball coach at Brookland-Cayce, finishing in 2006-2007 as 3A state champion runner-up, and was selected as a Volleyball Coach of the Year. She also coached softball for 4 years. She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, served on the School Improvement Data Team and the SC Department of Educational Instructional Materials Review Panel, and formed a lunchtime grief group for students as a safe place to share their experiences. She and her husband have attended Our Savior Lutheran for the past 41 years, participating in the choir, church council, and tellers.

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.

Rosemary Abercombie
(friend of Elizabeth Shealy)

Gary Black

Greg Chapman

Jeannie Chapman

Katie Doble

The family of David Drafts
(brother of Albert Drafts)

Sierra Dunaway
(friend of Caroline Raszewski)

Carol Green

(mother of Beth Cleland)

Horace Meetze

Anne Moye

Steve Rucker

Marie Shealy

DeLeon & Jane Wallace

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Cindy Moye | 3/02 |
| Caroline Raszewski | 3/03 |
| Ann Satterwhite | 3/06 |
| Susan Smith | 3/06 |
| Anne Moye | 3/16 |
| Katie Doble | 3/17 |
| Adam Fingerlin | 3/17 |
| Claire Fingerlin | 3/17 |
| Evan Dawkins | 3/22 |
| Madison Dawkins | 3/22 |
| DeLeon Wallace, Jr. | 3/23 |
| Jeannie Chapman | 3/27 |
| Beth Cleland | 3/30 |
| Michael Urban | 3/30 |
| Gary Black | 3/31 |

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Christopher & Jennifer Gossett | 3/18 |
| Herman & Elizabeth Shealy | 3/29 |

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 March 24, 9:00 am.**



SOUPER BOWL CREW!



JOIN OUR EGGSTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025
10 - 11:30 AM

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
1500 SUNSET BLVD, WEST COLUMBIA

Have a fun time with us

- Activities will begin in the Fellowship Hall at 10am
- Easter Egg Hunt and activities for children ages 2 - 10
- Games and activities for all other ages
- Light refreshments will be served

TO PREPARE FOR THE CHILDREN
SIGN UP ON THE SHEET IN THE NARTHEX, CALL
803-794-8180 OR EMAIL OSLC1957@SC.RR.COM
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH.
PLEASE INDICATE THE AGES AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN

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 **\$16.00 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, April 6th**

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.