

# ***THE GRAPEVINE***

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

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*See, I am making all things new*

*-Revelation 21:5*

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! It is still Easter—and also spring-quickly -turning-into-summer. The tulips are blooming, the sun is sticking around longer in the evenings, and all around us, resurrection hope is in the air. I bring you a little hope, too, from the mountains of North Carolina, where I recently attended Create in Me at Lutheridge—a continuing education retreat filled with art, worship, music, and deep conversations. One of the highlights was hearing from author and theologian Jacqueline Bussie, who shared powerfully about wounds, scars, healing, and hope.

One takeaway stayed with me: God is not done creating. Not in the world, not in the church, and certainly not in you. I've been carrying that thought alongside a little verse from Revelation that's been echoing in my heart: See, I am making all things new. Not will make, not might make—but am making. Right now. Present tense. Even in the mess. Even in the quiet. Even in us.

Speaking of carrying things, I had actual rocks in my pocket on Palm Sunday. I was ready to give a children's sermon that morning, about how you can tell the whole story of Holy Week—and even the entire Easter season—with just two things: palms and rocks. That particular children's moment didn't end up happening (sometimes the Spirit rewrites the plan!), but the image has stayed with me.

Palms are for praise and hope—like when we shouted “Hosanna!” and sang All Glory, Laud, and Honor. Rocks are for grief and silence—like the stone placed in front of the tomb. But they're also for resurrection—the stone rolled away. Our lives, like our faith, are full of both: joy and resistance, dying and rising. Moments of waving palms, and moments of carrying heavy stones. And through it all, God is making all things new.

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# OSLC NEWS & NOTES



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

April 2025

Secretary, Charles Nicholson

- Council is planning a three-week program this fall which will emphasize stewardship and our commitment to the church's mission. The program will culminate in a "Consecration Sunday."
- Vacation Bible School is being planned for the evenings of July 20 to 23. The theme will be "Wonder Junction: Marvel at Jesus, Live for His Glory" for two age groups, 4-8 years and 9-13 years. An adult class is also being planned.
- We are working to install LED lights for the parking lot.

## RAZBERRIES

May Razberries will be hosted by Sallie & David Hutto at Tavern on 6, 2914 Dreher Shoals Road, Columbia, Join us at 5:30 pm, Saturday, May 17 - Note Date Change

RSVP to Sallie via text or call @ (803) 414-6009 by Monday, May 12

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study will resume next Wednesday, May 7 at 10:30 am in the conference room.

## 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.

## UPDATE ON OUR SAVIOR BLESSING BOX

Our box is being used and not abused. We pray it is serving those of need in our community. We are currently restocking our supplies and your help is greatly appreciated. Items needed are small pop-top cans or plastic containers of beanie weenies, Vienna sausage, Spaghetti O's, apple sauce, peaches, fruit cocktail and peanut butter (small jars). Items may be placed in the designated container in the Cameron Hallway. Thanks for all you do to support our WELCA project.

## SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Our Saviour Lutheran Church will be represented at the Synod Assembly! Pastor Joanna will be participating. If you have questions or interest, please call her cell phone or directly email her at: [Pastorjoannagragg@gmail.com](mailto:Pastorjoannagragg@gmail.com). Registration deadline is May 6, 2025.

South Carolina Synod Assembly facts:

**Who:** Voting members, leaders, and friends of the SC Synod

**What:** 2025 Synod Assembly & 200th Anniversary Celebration

**When:** June 12 at 2:00 PM – June 14 at 1:00 PM

**Where:** Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Charleston Airport Hotel &  
Convention Center  
5055 International Boulevard,  
North Charleston, SC 29418

**More Info:** [www.scsynod.com](http://www.scsynod.com)

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I know that can be hard to believe sometimes. Maybe you're tired. Maybe you're grieving. Maybe you're watching the news and wondering where God even is. But the promise still stands: God is not done with us. God is not done with you. Death does not get the last word. God's love still rolls away stones.

So this May, if you're feeling stuck or searching for signs of hope, keep your eyes open. Look for newness. Notice where life is breaking through, even in small and quiet ways.

And if you're longing for something new—a deeper connection, a place to ask your questions, or just somewhere to breathe—your whole self is welcome here. We're not perfect, but we're showing up, growing together, and being made new in the process.

Grace and peace to you in this blooming season.

With love,  
Pastor Joanna



## MAY MINISTRIES

	<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>
May 4	Seve & Beverly	Gail Marcum
11	Charles & Ruth Nicholson	Gail Marcum
18	Gail Marcum	Caroline Raszewski
25	*Need Volunteer	Gail Marcum

	<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>
May 4	Melba Murphy	Melba Murphy
11	Marie Lybrand	Pam Hanfland
18	Caroline	Caroline Raszewski
25	Bill Aull	Bill Aull

	<b><u>MAY</u></b>	<b><u>JUNE</u></b>
<b>USHERS</b>		
Chief	Gail Marcum	Jim Garner
	*Need Volunteer	Wayne Lybrand

<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	
Isma Boland & Melba Murphy	Charles & Ruth Nicholson

<b>OFFERING PICKUP</b>	
Pam Hanfland	Jim Garner

<b>TELLERS</b>	
Pam Hanfland & Gail Marcum	Linda Griffith & Caroline Raszewski

<b>PROPERTY COMMITTEE</b>	
Steve Nivens	Jim Garner



## 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.



**May 4**

**Monica, mother of Augustine  
(c. 331-387)**

Widowed at age forty, mother of three, Monica especially hoped that the eldest, Augustine, would convert to her beloved Christianity. Augustine's ways were not her ways; he had, for example, fathered a child out of wedlock. It was only after he and Monica traveled to Italy to be with Christian leaders there that Augustine's conversion and baptism took place. Before they could finish the return trip to North Africa, Monica became sick and died. Augustine wrote at length in his *Confessions* about the pious life his mother led and the example she had given for others to follow.

**May 8**

**Julian of Norwich,  
Renewer of the church  
(1342 - c. 1416)**

History has given us few facts concerning Julian's life. She was one of medieval Christianity's female mystics. Her visions of Christ were collected in a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*. Julian was a nun living alone in a room attached to a church in Norwich, England. Her revelations came to her, she said, during an illness. In them, Julian sees Christ as a mother-figure whose love, like the ideal mother's, lasts forever in spite of children's disobedience and the need for parental discipline from time to time. To Julian, love is central to religious experience.

**May 18**

**Erik, King of Sweden,  
Martyr (died 1160)**

Erik IX was Sweden's ruler from 1150 to his death in 1160. Midway through his reign, he launched an expedition to Finland which enabled the Christian church to gain a foothold there. He lost his life during an attack by rebels who were aided by a Danish prince. Known for his genuine goodness, Erik is venerated as the principal patron saint of his country.



## ELCA PRESS RELEASES

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

3/31

Bishop Eaton Issues Video  
Message for Transgender Day of  
Visibility

4/10

ELCA Church Council Takes Action  
for 2025 Churchwide Assembly

4/16

North America-Holy Land Solidarity  
Visit Statement

4/21

Pastoral Message on the Death of  
Pope Francis





#### OFFICERS

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

The Spring Joint Meeting of OSLC-WELCA met in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 27th at 3 PM. Nine members were present.

#### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

**Hospitality Guidelines Review** — Beverly Nivens and Anne Satterwhite. (2023)  
**Nominating Committee** — Caroline Raszewski and one more TBA.  
**2027 Budget Committee** — Kay Black, Linda Hill, and Ann Satterwhite.  
**Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules Review Committee** — Pam Hanfland and Sandra Hughes. (2011)

#### UPDATE FROM CIRCLES

##### (1) Lydia (Action)

*Hospitality* began their duties in February and have already prepared one meal, provided one gift card, and made two memorials.  
*Bible Study/Retreat for 2025* is being planned tentatively for some time in the fall.  
*Service* is now complete as the Hurricane Helene Fund raiser provided \$1,325 to victims in the North Carolina area.

##### (2) Rebekah (Community/Sunshine)

Easter was a huge success with some 20 children in attendance with adults totaling twice that number. It has been suggested that perhaps a bouncy house be provided next year.  
 Sunshine Cards sent total 47 in 2025. The number includes gift bags for Valentine as well as birthdays, get well/thinking of you and sympathy cards.  
 Social/Entertainment will be discussed soon among the members for possibly a late fall date.

*Thank You*

*Rebekah Circle for providing refreshments for our social time together and to*

*Lydia Circle for the Devotion/Prayer time.*

##### (3) Cameron (Growth)

*Women of ELCA Sunday* is being planned for after summer vacations, possibly in early fall.  
*Newberry College Sunday* to support the Nursing Scholarship is also being planned in conjunction with the WELCA Sunday event.  
*Spiritual Gifts for Confirmands/Baptisms* have no plan at present as a supply is on hand.

All are welcome to come to any meeting of the Circles. Dates and times are outlined in the Church Directory or contact the church office.

#### 2025 Calendar of 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.

May 16 - 18, 2025—SCWELCA ISLE OF PALMS RETREAT

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 12, 3-5 pm (Sunday)—Saxe Gotha Conference Fall Meeting. (Emmanuel)

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

December 1—Church Directory Information Deadline. Circle should provide to Pam Hanfland

December (TBA) Immediately following Worship Service WELCA Executive Mtg. (circle leaders w/unit officers)  
 Opening Prayer: Treasurer, Ann Satterwhite



# THANK YOU

Thank you for the many acts of kindness, especially your prayers, shown to me during my hospital stay and after returning home. I feel so blessed to belong to such a loving and caring church family.

Sincerely,  
Steve Nivens

Dear Our Saviour Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for the special gift that was placed in the Memorial & Gift Fund in Alan's memory. We deeply appreciate your kind expression of sympathy and are grateful for your prayers, support and caring thoughts during this difficult time.

With heartfelt thanks,  
The family of Alan Hunter

Our Saviour,

It was so good to connect with y'all in worship. Thank you so much for your generosity and for caring about our community. God is being experienced in deep and life-changing ways here and we are so grateful for incredible ministry partners like y'all. You are a gift to us.

God's Peace,  
Pr. Jesse & the students of  
Gamecock Lutheran



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$500.00 to the Palm & Pin Annual Fund. Because of your kindness, Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat continue to serve as holy spaces where people of all ages can find rest, renewal, and deeper faith amid God's glorious creation.

Thank you!  
Deacon Dallas J. Shealy



On Sunday, March 30, the young adults conducted a very meaningful and inspiring worship service!



## 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*

*Phyllis Calamas*

*Greg Chapman*

*Jeannie Chapman*

*Katie Doble*

*Sierra Dunaway (friend of Caroline Raszewski)*

*Carol Green (mother of Beth Cleland)*

*Don Horton*

*Horace Meetze*

*Anne Moyer*

*Steve Rucker*

*Marie Shealy*

*DeLeon & Jane Wallace*

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

Brent Holcomb	5/04
Patsy Horton	5/05
Steve Nivens	5/08
Doris Wessinger	5/14
Kaitlyn Sawyer	5/18
Finley Lybrand	5/20
Wayne Haltiwanger	5/30

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Wayne & Marie Lybrand	5/03
Albert & Sue Drafts	5/21
Jason & Susan Smith	5/26

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 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

*APRIL 2025*

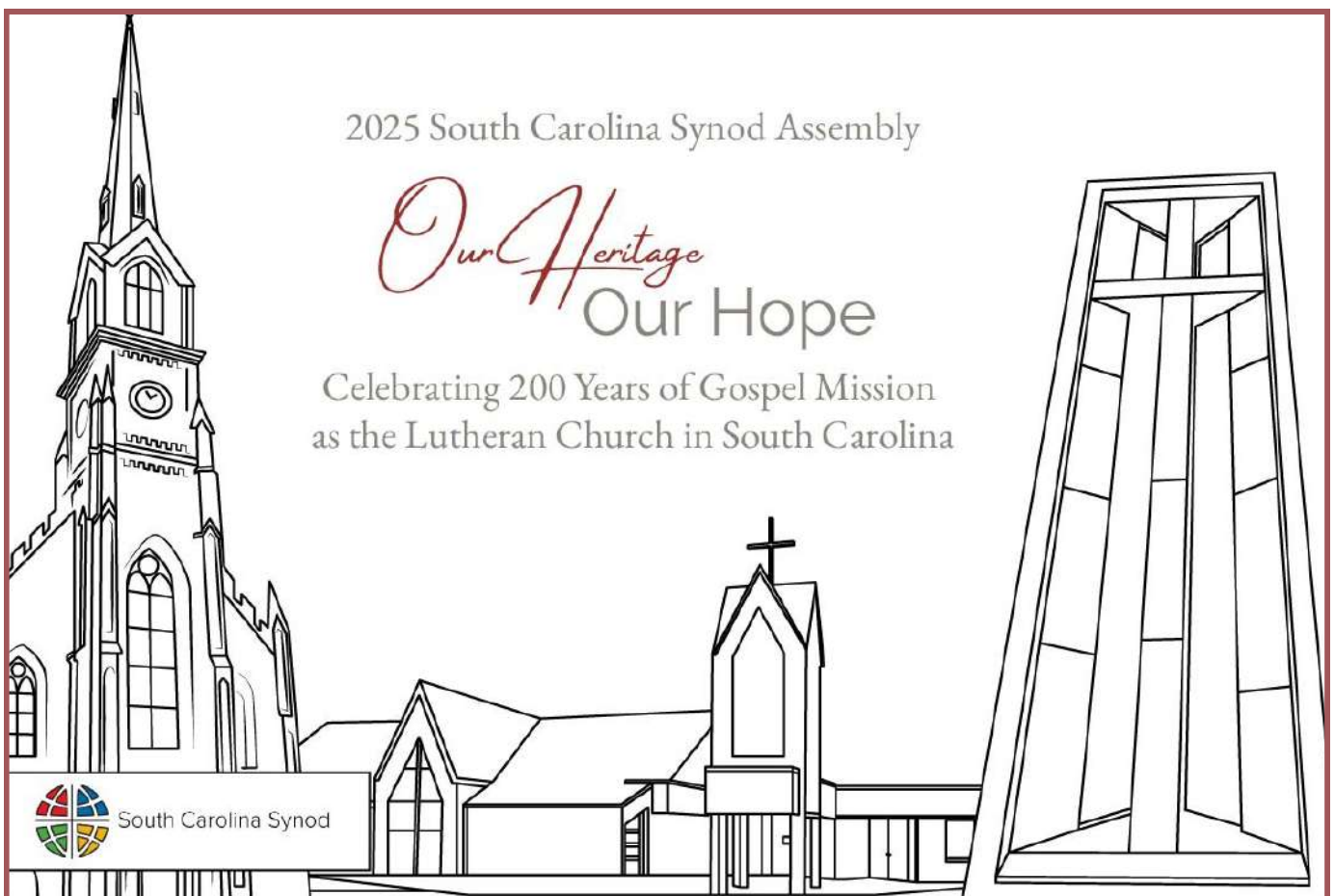
*WORSHIP—47*



### 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 May 26, 9:00 am.**





This year's Synod Assembly holds special meaning as we celebrate **200 years of ministry in South Carolina**. In partnership with the 200th Anniversary Planning Team, we have selected **Psalm 100** as our theme scripture:

*"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

*Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs...*

*For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations."*

This psalm captures the heart of our celebration—God's enduring faithfulness across generations, past, present, and future.

The Assembly is more than business; it's a time of worship, storytelling, learning, and connection. We'll lift up inspiring ministry happening throughout the Synod and reflect on how God continues to work through faithful congregations, leaders, and communities.

A key moment this year will be the **election of a new Synod Vice President**. With Deacon Lexanne Graves' term coming to a close, we now enter a season of **prayerful discernment**. A brief job description has been created to help guide this process. We encourage you to read it and consider whether the Holy Spirit may be calling you—or someone you know—to be nominated.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please keep this election and all who are preparing for Assembly in your prayers.

Thank you for being part of God's faithful work in the South Carolina Synod!