

# THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

## June 2025 In This Issue

Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	7
Commemoration Profiles .....	4
OSLC News.....	2
Prayer Requests.....	7
Thank you.....	6
WELCA.....	5



*The Grapevine* is a monthly newsletter published by the staff & members of Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
1500 Sunset Blvd  
West Columbia, SC 29169  
Phone: 803.794.8180  
E-mail: [oslc1957@sc.rr.com](mailto:oslc1957@sc.rr.com)  
Website: [www.oursaviour.net](http://www.oursaviour.net)

Reverend Joanna Gragg, Pastor  
Cell: 864-992-1246  
Primary email:  
[Pastorjoannagragg@gmail.com](mailto:Pastorjoannagragg@gmail.com)  
Church email:  
[oslcpastor@sc.rr.com](mailto:oslcpastor@sc.rr.com)

Brent Holcomb—Organist/ Choirmaster  
Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

*“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*

- Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

Dear Beloved People of Our Saviour,

That verse has been a favorite for generations - sung in songs, written on bookmarks, stitched into needlepoint, whispered in hospital rooms. God's Word shows us the way, giving us light to take the next faithful step.

Recently, a few of you have asked me about a new Bible translation you've heard mentioned - something called the **NRSVue** (The New Revised Standard Version updated edition). So, let's take a few moments together to unpack what this is, why it matters, and what it means for us as a congregation.

### **A Little Background**

The Bible translation most commonly used in ELCA congregations (including ours!) has been the NRSV, the New Revised Standard Version, published in 1989. Before that, many churches used the RSV. The updated edition - the NRSVue - comes after years of careful, faithful work by scholars from the Society of Biblical Literature, in partnership with the National Council of Churches. (And it's not just the ELCA making this change - Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Methodist, and 28 other denominations are in the same boat!)

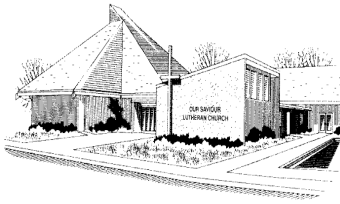
This update points to a truth we know well: we are always learning. Biblical scholars are continually going back to the oldest manuscripts for deeper understanding. The goal of the NRSVue is to reflect the best of what we've learned - through new archaeological findings, improved manuscripts, and ongoing conversations around faithful language.

### **What This Means for Us**

Starting in June 2025, Sundays and Seasons - our go-to resource for the weekly readings and bulletin texts - will switch to using the NRSVue. This change is in keeping with copyright law and reflects the wishes of the National Council of Churches. Many other denominations are making this transition as well. (This is similar to the shift that happened back in 1989 when the NRSV replaced the RSV.)

*continued on page 3* →

## OSLC NEWS & NOTES



### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

May 2025

Secretary, Charles Nicholson

- Vacation Bible School will be held on one day only, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 26. Pastor Nathan Gragg will lead the adult class. A light lunch will be provided.
- We have received a quote from B&L Electric Company for replacement of the pole heads on the 9 parking-lot lights with LED fixtures for \$12,135.00. The congregation will be asked to approve this expenditure for a brighter parking lot at the congregational meeting following the service on June 1.

### RAZBERRIES

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, June 12--note change of day and date! Hosted by the Nivens', stay tuned for details via email.

### HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality Team has been a part of our congregation for many years and plays a very important role in times of need--whether in sickness or death. To assist with the expense of meals, gift cards, etc., contributions in any amount would be appreciated! Checks may be made payable to Our Saviour WELCA and marked for hospitality. All monies should be given to Ann Satterwhite.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of Our Saviour's missions!

## CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING June 1, 2025

The church has asked for bids to upgrade the current lights in our parking lot to accommodate the more efficient and brighter LED lights. The low bid of \$12,135.00 from B & L Electric Company is for removing and disposing of the nine existing pole heads and installing new pole heads with LED fixtures. Because this expenditure exceeds \$10,000.00, it must be approved by a vote of the congregation.

We will have a congregational meeting after the service on Sunday, June 1, 2025, to vote on whether to accept B & L Electric Company's bid. Please be present at this meeting to voice your support.

Sincerely,  
Church Council

### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible study will meet for the month of June, taking a break in July and August.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars! Our exciting **One-Day Vacation Bible School** is just around the corner! Join us for a fun-filled day of Bible stories, games, music, and more—you won't want to miss it!\*\*

### 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.

*continued from page 1*

You may notice some small differences in wording between what's printed in your bulletin and what you see in your pew Bible. That's okay! In fact, I invite you to listen closely, to hear the living Word anew - and bring your questions or observations to the table. These are wonderful starting points for conversation and spiritual curiosity.

### **The Heart of It**

The Word of God is not just ink on a page. It is living and active. The Bible is not a museum relic - it's the cradle that holds the Christ child. Martin Luther once wrote that Scripture is "the swaddling clothes and the manger in which Christ lies." What a tender, holy image.

When we hear the Word read aloud in worship, when we proclaim it from the pulpit, when we carry it home in our hearts - it is alive. Not because of perfect translation or perfect understanding, but because the Holy Spirit moves in and through that Word to bring us life.

Every time we open Scripture, God meets us. That's the power of the proclaimed and heard Word of God. It doesn't just tell us what happened long ago. It tells us what God is doing right now - in your life, in our world, in our shared story of faith.

And that's why both translations of Psalm 119:105 are beautiful. The KJV language - "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet" - has shaped our memories and melodies. And the updated NRSVue version - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" - still carries that same light, in words that may feel closer to how we speak today.

Both are the living Word of God. Both shine with truth. Both lead us home to Christ.

Thanks be to God for the Word that walks with us, step by step.

With joy in the Word,  
Pastor Joanna

## **JUNE MINISTRIES**

	<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>
Jun 1	<i>Gary &amp; Kay Black</i>	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
8	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>	<i>Sylvia Ford</i>
15	<i>Doris Wessinger</i>	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
22	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
29	<i>Linda Hill</i>	<i>Caroline Raszewski</i>

### **WORSHIP**

	<b>ASSISTANTS</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>
Jun 1	<i>Isma Boland</i>	<i>Ruth Nicholson</i>
8	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>	<i>Sylvia Ford</i>
15	<i>Charles Nicholson</i>	<i>Charles Nicholson</i>
22	<i>Marie Lybrand</i>	<i>Marie Lybrand</i>
29	<i>Gail Marcum</i>	<i>Caroline Raszewski</i>

### **JUNE**

#### **USHERS**

<i>Chief</i>	<i>Jim Garner</i>	<i>Jim Garner</i>
	<i>Wayne Lybrand</i>	<i>Gail Marcum</i>

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

<i>Charles &amp; Ruth Nicholson</i>	<i>Wayne &amp; Marie Lybrand</i>
---	--------------------------------------

#### **OFFERING PICKUP**

<i>Jim Garner</i>	<i>Gail Marcum</i>
-------------------	--------------------

#### **TELLERS**

<i>Linda Griffith &amp; Caroline Raszewski</i>	<i>Beth Cleland &amp; Wayne Lybrand</i>
--	---

#### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

<i>Jim Garner</i>	<i>Jim Garner</i>
-------------------	-------------------

### **JULY**

## 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.



**June 1**

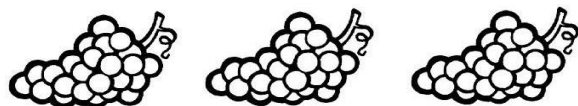
**Justin, martyr at Rome  
(c. 100 - c. 165)**

Born into a pagan family of Samaria, Justin became a devoted student of philosophy. His search for truth resulted in his conversion to Christianity, after which he taught at Ephesus and Rome and wrote treatises in defense of his religion. He and several of his students were denounced in Rome as Christians. When they refused to make a pagan sacrifice, they were beheaded.

**June 3**

**The Martyrs of Uganda  
(died 1886)**

These martyrs were victims of King Mwanga's persecution of Christians. First to die was Joseph Mkasa Balikuddembe, who was beheaded after accusing the king of both loose living and the murder of an Anglican missionary. Later on, thirty-two Catholic and Protestant men and boys, some of them servants of the king, were burned alive together. A missionary witnessed the horrible event, and the Catholic Church declared the victims saints in 1964.



**June 5**

**Boniface, Bishop of Mainz,  
missionary to Germany, martyr  
(680-754)**

Born an Englishman, Boniface is remembered best in Germany, for it is there that most of his life's work took place. As a young priest, Boniface went to Rome to ask the pope's permission to be a missionary to the German people. He spent the rest of his life preaching and setting up church organization there. He died at the hands of pagans during a missionary journey among the Frisians.



## ELCA PRESS RELEASES

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

5/23

Julie E. Schneider-Thomas Elected  
Bishop of the North/West Lower  
Michigan Synod

5/22

Bishop Eaton Issues Statement on  
Fatal Shooting of Two Israeli  
Embassy Staff in Washington, D.C.

5/22

Tracey Breashears Schultz Elected  
Bishop of the ELCA Texas-  
Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

5/19

Shelley Bryan Wee Reelected  
Bishop of the ELCA Northwest  
Washington Synod

5/13

Katrina Foster Elected Bishop of  
the ELCA Metropolitan New York  
Synod

5/16

A Message From Bishop Eaton for  
the Fifth Anniversary of George  
Floyd's Murder

5/08

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Eaton  
on the Election of Pope Leo XIV



## OFFICERS

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

Summer is almost here; or maybe it is here, just not sure with all this change in temperatures lately and the rain! When will the rain go away?

Circles have mostly slowed down for the next few months; however, planning of events — WELCA Sunday (Cameron), Retreat/Bible Study (Lydia), and a Social (Rebekah) — continues. Some other details from the April Joint Meeting are below:

1. Elizabeth Shealy has graciously agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee along with Caroline Raszewski. They are looking for new officers to take over in January 2026, so please, if asked, consider serving.
2. The election for new officers will officially be voted on at the October Joint Meeting scheduled for October 12th.
3. Saxe Gotha Conference is seeking a new Coordinator. Anyone interested should contact Ella Shumpert (803-917-2453 or shumpertella@gmail.com)
4. Lydia Circle requests your help: The Hospitality Team has been a part of our congregation for many years and plays an important role in times of need--whether in sickness or death. To assist with the expense of meals, gift cards, etc., contributions in any amount would be appreciated! Checks may be made payable to Our Saviour WELCA and marked for hospitality. All monies should be given to Ann Satterwhite. Thank you in advance for your continued support of Our Saviour's missions!
5. OSLC still needs two delegates for the WELCA Convention scheduled for August in Aiken. Please let Linda Griffith know if you can attend as the deadline will be coming up soon. (Register and pay online or download the fillable registration form to mail with a check at [www.SCWELCA.com](http://www.SCWELCA.com))

## 2025 Calendar of Events

*Visit the SC WELCA website monthly ([www.scwelca.com](http://www.scwelca.com)) 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.*

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

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER MONTHS.

SCHOOL WILL BE STARTING  
IN EARLY AUGUST AND  
WE’VE ALREADY GOTTEN A  
REQUEST FROM THE  
SALUDA RIVER ACADEMY FOR ARTS  
FOR BOOK BAGS.

If you are out and about and see a good deal, perhaps you might pick one up for our July Elderberries Project.  
Watch for a collection box soon in The Narthex.



# THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

We want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for all the phone calls, food, cards, prayers, and visits. Your act of kindness and generosity is such a blessing to us. May God continue to bless us all.

In Christ's Love,  
Horace & Betty Meetze



Cameron and Rebekah Circle enjoyed a Cinco de Mayo lunch together on May 5



Baptism of Charles Heyward Johnson

## NRSVUE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Do I need to buy a new Bible?

Not at all! Your current Bible is still a faithful witness to God's Word. The changes in the NRSVue are relatively small, and the heart of the gospel remains the same. But if you're curious about the updates, you're welcome to explore them.

### Where can I read the NRSVue online?

You can read the NRSVue for free on websites like Bible Gateway or StudyLight.org, or through Bible apps that have added the updated edition. Just look for "NRSVue" in the list of translations.

### Will we be getting new pew Bibles?

Not at this time. Our current pew Bibles still serve us well. We'll continue using them alongside the new readings in the bulletin. As we move forward, we may revisit this as a congregation.

### What kind of changes should I expect?

Most of the updates are small—things like slightly clearer phrasing, more inclusive language, or footnotes that reflect new scholarship. You might notice different word choices ("sons" becomes "children," for example), but the core message stays the same.

### Why does this kind of update matter?

Because God's Word is for today. And as our understanding grows—through history, archaeology, and study—we do our best to listen more carefully and faithfully. Scripture is always alive, always speaking, always drawing us closer to Christ.

## 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*

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Melba Murphy	6/02
Lucy Hughes	6/09
Steve Rucker	6/10
Sue Drafts	6/16
Ruth Nicholson	6/17

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Gary & Kay Black	6/01
Meredith & Beth Cleland	6/25

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.



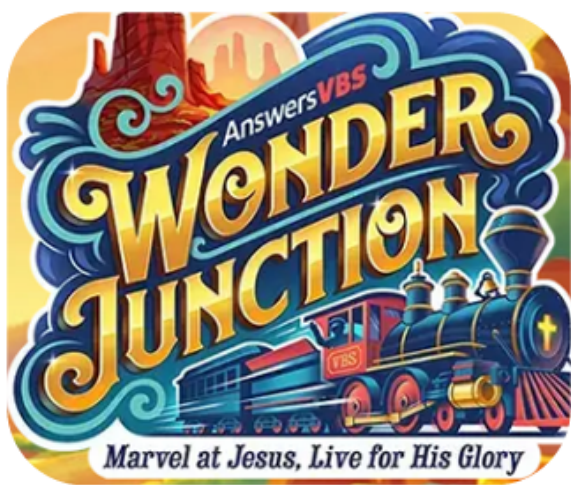
### GRAPEVINE ARTICLES

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 June 23.**

### AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE


*May 2025*


**WORSHIP—53**





Wonder Junction **1 Day-VBS** 2025  
Marvel at Jesus. Live for His Glory.


*Mark your calendars!*

 **Date:** Saturday, July 26, 2025


 **Time:** 9am-2pm

 **Location:** Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
1500 Sunset Blvd, West Columbia SC 29169

 **Ages:** 4-12 years old

 **Theme:** A day full of discovery and delight in  
God's Word!

 Lunch and snacks provided

 **Bring a Friend!**

Sign up on the sheet in the narthex, call  
803-794-8180 or email [oslc1957@sc.rr.com](mailto:oslc1957@sc.rr.com)