

# THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Brent Holcomb—Organist/ Choirmaster  
Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

Dear siblings in Christ,

As we move through the heart of summer, I've been reflecting on the rhythm of our worship life; especially those quiet, familiar moments that can slip by unnoticed. One of those is the Passing of the Peace. Some Sundays, I wonder if we rush right past one of the most radical moments in worship.

We're halfway through the service. We've heard the good news of forgiveness, listened to the word of God proclaimed... and right after we kneel and say amen to the prayers, we hear:

*"The peace of Christ be with you always."*

*And all respond: "And also with you."*

Then what happens?

Since the pandemic, many of us have found new ways to share the peace: a nod, a wave, a peace sign held up with two fingers (my personal favorite for a while). These are meaningful gestures. And yet, I'd like to offer a gentle invitation:

## **Let's begin shaking hands again.**

Of course, it's always caring and faithful to refrain from touch if you're feeling sick or if shaking hands isn't safe for your health. But for those who feel comfortable, I believe this simple gesture makes a real, visceral difference in our life together as a liturgical people.

It's one more way we embody our connection to each other — not just in words, but in our very bodies — as the body of Christ. There is something powerful about feeling that connection through both the spoken peace and the physical handshake.

The Passing of the Peace has always been grounded in God's transformational work through God's people. In the early Christian church, the Peace was a sacred and serious act. Before communion, believers would pause to offer forgiveness — not only to God, but to one another. It was a way of saying:

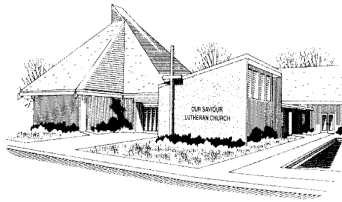
Before we come to this table, we come clean.

Before we receive the body of Christ, we remember we are the body of Christ; and sometimes, we hurt each other. So: Peace. Not just politeness. Peace as reconciliation.

*continued on page 3*



## OSLC NEWS & NOTES



### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

June 2025

Secretary, Charles Nicholson

- Pastor Gragg is planning to take part in a national preaching cohort sponsored by Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. The project will last a year and will begin with a 4-day retreat at the college in September and continue with on-line and local in-person meetings. The project is intended to help pastors in their preaching to connect more authentically to their own human experience and that of their community.
- The Fellowship Team is planning meals to follow the services on the remaining 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of 2025, beginning with a "Lincoln Lunch" on June 29.
- Dominion Energy has repaired the light at the far end of the church's property.
- If you have business at the church at odd hours, watch out for other people who may be on the property
- We will need to elect at least three new members to the Church Council in November. Please think about serving the church in this way.

### RAZBERRIES

The Lybrands will be hosting Razberries at The Green Olive at 6:00 PM on **Thursday**, July 10. The Green Olive is located at 922 Main Street at the back of the State House. Parking is available on the street or you may use the parking lot to the right of the building. It is locally owned and specializes in Mediterranean cuisine. Please RSVP to Marie at 803-397-0503 by July 8<sup>th</sup>.

## SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



**Attention all members and friends of Our Saviour** —The Elderberries have been contacted by the staff at Saluda River Academy for Arts with regard to collecting much needed supplies for children returning to school in early August. They are in need of book bags as well as school supplies. Clothing items such as shorts and lightweight pants in all children's sizes. Gently used are also acceptable. Anything is appreciated. A box will be in the Narthex for the collection beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. Likewise, if you'd like to make a donation, please note it on your check or cash in an envelope. For more information contact Linda Griffith.

### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible study will be taking a break in July. We will resume in 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!\*\*

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It is meant to be a gift and a sign of grace, intended to move us toward each other and God. When we pass the peace, we are practicing the kind of world God dreams of, one where grace takes root in our relationships. We are training our hearts to move from conflict toward healing. We are saying whatever burdens us and gets in the way (i.e. differing opinions, doubts, worries, judgements or grudges) doesn't have the last word. Christ does. The Peace is short, but it's no small thing.

So this month, I invite you to make it a moment to contemplate. Not a longer moment, but more meaningful. Let it be a moment where you let go of something, open up to someone, or simply remember: peace doesn't come from us having it all figured out. Peace comes from Christ. And it is already yours.

See you Sunday!  
+Pastor Joanna

A few prayerful discussion questions:

- When has someone offered you peace, and you truly needed it?
- What might change if you thought of the Peace as part of worship, not just a pause in the service?
- Is there someone you need to share Christ's peace with, even outside the sanctuary?

## 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.

## JULY MINISTRIES

	FLOWERS	GREETERS
Jul 6	*Need Volunteer	Gail Marcum

13	*Need Volunteer	Gail Marcum
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20	Frank Yonce	Gail Marcum
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27	Linda Hill	Gail Marcum
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### WORSHIP

	ASSISTANTS	LECTORS
Jul 6	Gail Marcum	Wayne Lybrand

13	Marie Lybrand	Pam Hanfland
----	---------------	--------------

20	*Need Volunteer	*Need Volunteer
----	-----------------	-----------------

27	Rebecca Fingerlin	Rebecca Fingerlin
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### JULY

#### USHERS

Chief Jim Garner

Gail Marcum

### AUGUST

\*Need Volunteer

Wayne Lybrand

#### ALTAR GUILD

Wayne & Marie  
Lybrand

Charles & Ruth  
Nicholson

#### OFFERING PICKUP

Gail Marcum

Wayne Lybrand

#### TELLERS

Beth Cleland &  
Wayne Lybrand

Sylvia Ford &  
Linda Griffith

#### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Jim Garner

Bill Aull

## AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

June 2025

WORSHIP—41



## 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.



**July 1**

**John Mason Neale, Hymn translator  
(1818-1866)**

While he was a student of classics at Cambridge University in his native England, John Neale participated in a movement for church renewal. Although he joined the priesthood, his poor health kept him from serving as a parish rector. He worked instead as warden of Sackville College. Neale's legacy to Christian worship consists of many hymn translations, most from ancient Greek and Latin sources. Fourteen of them appear in our ELW, including "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"; "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"; and "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation."

**July 1**

**Catherine Winkworth, Hymn translator  
(1827-1878)**

English-speaking congregations are indebted to Catherine Winkworth for her translations of German hymns. Her work has made a wealth of hymn texts available. Nineteen appear in our ELW, including the much-loved "Now Thank We All Our God"; "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"; and "O Living Bread From Heaven." Miss Winkworth spent most of her life in her native England, where she was an advocate for women's rights.

**July 6**

**Jan Hus, Martyr  
(c. 1372-1415)**

Jan Hus began life in a Bohemian peasant family. After studying theology in Prague, he became a Catholic priest. Influenced by the writings of English reformer John Wycliffe, Hus began speaking against abuses in the church of his day, including

the selling of indulgences, much as Martin Luther would do a century later. Hus was forbidden to preach and then excommunicated for insubordination toward the Catholic hierarchy. At the Council of Constance, he was found guilty of heresy. On July 6, 1415, Hus was burned at the stake. His followers, called the Czech Brethren, formed the nucleus of the Moravian Church.



## 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
- 6/3 Laurie Larson Caesar Reelected Bishop of the ELCA Oregon Synod
- 6/4 Regina Hassanally Reelected Bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Minnesota Synod
- 6/4 Emily Hartner Elected Bishop of the ELCA North Carolina Synod
- 6/5 Bishop Eaton Statement on Travel Ban
- 6/5 Bishop Eaton Responds to Travel Ban
- 6/9 Kevin Strickland Reelected Bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod
- 6/9 William Tesch Reelected Bishop of the ELCA Northwestern Minnesota Synod
- 6/9 Yehiel Curry Reelected Bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod
- 6/10 Constanze Hagmaier Reelected Bishop of the ELCA South Dakota Synod
- 6/10 Benjamin Quanbeck Elected Bishop of the ELCA Montana Synod
- 6/10 Bishop Eaton Statement on Gaza Hospital Attack
- 6/11 Christa M. Compton Elected Bishop of the ELCA New Jersey Synod
- 6/12 Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt Reelected Bishop of the ELCA Southern Ohio Synod
- 6/13 Philip Hirsch Elected Bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan D.C. Synod
- 6/16 Donna Simon Elected Bishop of the ELCA Central States Synod
- 6/16 Stephen Herr Elected Bishop of the ELCA Lower Susquehanna Synod
- 6/17 Melissa Stoller Elected Bishop of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
- 6/23 Keith Marshall Elected Bishop of the Southwestern Washington Synod
- 6/24 Scott Dalen Elected Bishop of the Western Iowa Synod
- 6/25 Kristen Papson Elected Bishop of the ELCA Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod

#### OFFICERS

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

Not much going on with everyone scheduling vacations and family time. Circles are finalizing plans for the fall so read about the Lydia Circle's *Chari-TEA* to raise funds to support the Lutheran Retreat centers. Rebekah and Cameron Circles will publicize information about their 'social' event in early fall. Delegates to the SCWELCA Convention will be Marie Lybrand and Beverly Nivens.

The September Grapevine will include a recap of their attendance to our convention. Thank you Marie and Beverly.

#### “BLESSING BOX” NEEDS

Our box is being used and not abused. We pray it is serving those of need in our community as it is being used more frequently. We are again 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.



#### 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



St. Paul, Aiken, August 15-16, 2025

## 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*

*Danny Boland*

*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*

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

Meredith Cleland	7/14
Bill Aull	7/17
Tori Smith	7/17
Elizabeth Shealy	7/19
Jim Garner	7/20
Sallie Hutto	7/20
Frank Yonce	7/22
Rebecca Fingerlin	7/31

### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

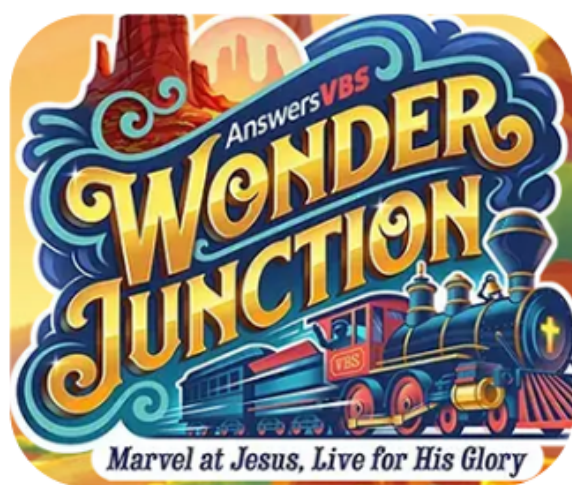
Dan & Pam Hanfland 7/31

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 July 28.**








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)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Sunday, September 21, 2025 for the OSLC-WELCA Chari-TEA. Please see the flyer below and contact Beverly Nivens or Pam Hanfland if you need any additional information. The Chari-TEA is limited to 50 participants so please register as soon as possible, but no later than September 15. Hope to see you there!

## 2025 OSLC-WELCA Chari-TEA



**Sunday, September 21, 2025**

**Registration 2:30pm**

**Program 3:00-5:00 pm**

**Hosted by the Lydia Circle**

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

**1500 Sunset Blvd (Hwy 378), West Columbia, SC 29169**



You are invited to join your sisters in Christ for mid-afternoon tea, scrumptious goodies, exciting conversation, and an inspiring message.

**A FUN-draiser for the South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers**  
**Led by Rev. Mary M. Finklea | "Fill My Cup: Behold"**

What does this old-fashioned biblical word say to us in our fast-paced culture? We will slow down, stop, see, notice, and appreciate what surrounds us. Everyone goes home with a beautiful tea cup and a heart full of joy, friendship, and fellowship.

Invite a friend!    Tea Hats Optional

Registration begins at 2:30 pm, Program at 3:00 pm  
mid-afternoon tea included

**A minimum suggested donation of \$25 per person**  
should be given to

Ann Satterwhite, 800 Albion Road, Columbia, SC 29205  
803-530-6249

Limited to 50 participants

Deadline to register is September 15

Registration Fees transferable, NOT refundable after September 15



Cut on the Line and attach form below with your Check  
payable to OSLC-WELCA and note for 2025 WELCA Chari-TEA

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

Diet restrictions: If you have any allergies, please indicate here:

\_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian