

THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Brent Holcomb—Organist/ Choirmaster
Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

August! It has been a hot summer for certain. The days still stretch long, and we're soaking up the sunshine—like fruit on the vine, storing up for whatever winter may bring. I'm grateful for the gifts of summer.

What a holy season to be alive!

Just the other day, I watched children laugh and run through the fountains at Saluda Shoals Water Park—splashing, arms outstretched, joy with every spray of water. It reminded me how grace shows up in movement and play, in delight and in rest. Church life, too, is living in daily yet holy in-between.

Vacation Bible Saturday at the end of July was a joyful day—full of crafts, music, laughter, and (of course) good snacks.

In August, our **Wednesday morning adult Bible study** continues at 10:30 a.m. These gatherings are a gift in the ways we lift our faith and one another up.

And we are preparing for the season ahead. On **Sunday, September 7**, we'll bless students and educators as a new school year begins. We'll also kick off another year of **Sunday School**, forming faith among us through learning, music, and community.

But before we rush ahead—maybe take a breath, right here. Let August be what it is: a deep pause, a slow unfolding. Maybe it's grace in the sound of cicadas. Or peace in the laughter of children. Or a quiet reminder, whispered in worship or prayer, that you are not alone.

Let August ripen something in you—not something to *do*, but something to *receive*.

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Joanna

And here's a blessing for wherever you are:

May God meet you in the stillness and in the stirrings.
May the long light of August warm your spirit.
May grace find you in laughter, rest, and prayer—
and may you walk gently into what's next,
with peace in your heart and hope at your side.

OSLC NEWS & NOTES



SAVE THE DATE: RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR BRENT HOLCOMB SEPTEMBER 14

After 50 years of faithful service as our Choirmaster and Organist, Brent Holcomb will retire this fall. Please join us in celebrating his remarkable ministry at a special **retirement reception on Sunday, September 14, immediately following worship.**

This is our opportunity to honor Brent's decades of music leadership, his deep care for the choir and congregation, and the ways he has enriched our worship life for half a century. There will be food, fellowship, and a time to offer our thanks and blessings as he steps into this next chapter.

Mark your calendars—we hope to see you there!

RAZBERRIES

Razberries will gather at Cafe Strudel, 300 State Street, West Columbia, on **FRIDAY, AUGUST 8th** (note change in day/date) at 6 p.m. Parking is available in their rear parking lot and along both sides of State Street as well as in the parking lot **BEHIND** Old Mill Antique Mall (entering off of Augusta Street). Please RSVP by noon on Wednesday, August 6, to Sandra and Howard Hughes at 803-622-6191.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



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 1st. 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 resume in August at 10:30 am in the conference room.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Lutheran Men will have our annual lunch at Shealy's in Leesville at **noon** on Tuesday August 19. All members and friends of OSLC are invited to join us. Please let Charles (803-791-4306) or another LMM member know if you would like a ride.

HURRICANE HELENE ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Thank You to everyone that gave a love offering for the people in North Carolina impacted by Hurricane Helene. Your contributions enabled us to send \$1,325.00 to help purchase three generators and some needed supplies.

Our Saviour is always generous and compassionate to others in need and our NC neighbors were devastated. Thank you again for your much appreciated support.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Back-to-School Blessings Begin August 3!

Join us during worship on **Sunday, August 3** for the **Blessing of the Backpacks—Part One!** All children and youth heading back to school will be invited forward for the children's message which will include a surprise gift to start the year off right.

Part Two of the Blessing of the Backpacks will take place on **Sunday, September 7**, when we'll include **students, teachers, and all educators** in a special time of prayer and blessing.

Don't miss these meaningful moments as we send our students and educators into the school year surrounded by love and prayer!

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

July 2025

WORSHIP—40

AUGUST MINISTRIES

FLOWERS

Aug 3	<i>Don & Patsy Horton</i>	<i>Theresa Garner</i>
10	<i>Howard & Sandra Hughes</i>	<i>Horace & Betty Meetze</i>
17	<i>Sylvia Ford</i>	<i>Sylvia Ford</i>
24	<i>Dan & Pam Hanfland</i>	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
31	<i>Jim & Theresa Garner</i>	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>

GREETERS

WORSHIP

ASSISTANTS

Aug 3	<i>Gail Marcum</i>	<i>Marie Lybrand</i>
10	<i>Gail Marcum</i>	<i>Ruth Nicholson</i>
17	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>	<i>Sylvia Ford</i>
24	<i>Marie Lybrand</i>	<i>Melba Murphy</i>
31	<i>Isma Boland</i>	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>

LECTORS

AUGUST

USHERS

*Chief *Need Volunteer*
Wayne Lybrand

Jim Garner
Bill Aull

ALTAR GUILD

Charles & Ruth Nicholson

Isma Boland & Melba Murphy

OFFERING PICKUP

Wayne Lybrand

Jim Garner

TELLERS

Sylvia Ford & Linda Griffith

Sylvia Ford & Sandra Hughes

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Bill Aull

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.



August 10 Lawrence, deacon, martyr (died 258)

Lawrence was one of seven deacons serving Rome's congregation during a time of persecution. When Lawrence refused to surrender the church's valuables, the emperor arrested him and ordered him executed, along with the pope. Before his death, Lawrence is said to have converted the jailer and his family to Christianity.

August 28 Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (364-430)

Born in North Africa, educated in Carthage, Augustine taught rhetoric and lived a less than pious life until Bishop Ambrose of Milan converted him and baptized him in 387. By 396, Augustine was not only a priest but also a bishop. The monastic order he founded has drawn many, including Martin Luther, to its precepts. Augustine's writings bear witness to his stature as one of Western Christianity's greatest theologians.

August 28 Moses the Black, monk, martyr (c. 330 - c. 400)

An Ethiopian of rough character and great physical strength, Moses went from leading a gang of thieves to joining a community of monks in the desert at Skete. No one knows how his conversion took place. Moses was so changed, though, that before long he was ordained a priest. This impressed many of his fellow Ethiopians. Moses' life ended tragically when Berber tribesmen raided the monastery where he lived and worked.



ELCA PRESS RELEASES

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

- 7/3 Bishop Eaton's Statement on OBBBA's Passage
- 7/14 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly meets under the theme "For the Life of the World"
- 7/18 Bishop Eaton Statement on the Attack on Holy Family Church in Gaza
- 7/21 Paul Sterling Appointed COO of Portico Benefit Services
- 7/23 Bishop Eaton Issues Video Message About IRS Ruling
- 7/27 2025 ELCA Assembly—Day One





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) 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



Pictures from our Vacation
Bible Saturday.

Thank you to all who attended
and made the day great!

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.

*Gary Black
Greg Chapman
Jeannie Chapman
Katie Doble
David Griffith
Anne Moyer
Steve Rucker
Marie Shealy
DeLeon & Jane Wallace*

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jane Wallace	8/09
Herman Sheay, Jr.	8/17
Gail Marcum	8/18
Elizabeth Urban	8/21
David Griffith	8/23
Marie Shealy	8/23
Loleta Keitt	8/28
Wendy Manos	8/29
Dolores Hopkins	8/31

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Theresa Garner	8/04
Steve & Beverly Nivens	8/05
Don & Patsy Horton	8/08
David & Linda Griffith	8/11
Howard & Sandra Hughes	8/13

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 August 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.



OSLC WELCA WOMEN: The Lydia Circle is hosting this event and we're really hoping you will attend and invite your family/friends to join you. The Chari-Tea is in lieu of our traditional "Retreat". Not only will it be fun, inspiring, and offer scrumptious teas and goodies, but will also benefit the Lutheran Retreat Centers. Please see the flyer below. We look forward to seeing you there! 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.

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