

THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Brent Holcomb—Organist/ Choirmaster
Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

“From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”
John 1:16 (NRSVue)

Dear Church Family,
September feels like one of those “full table” months at Our Saviour. There are so many ways we are blessed and we are sharing God’s blessings. Let’s name a few of those blessings as we step into this fall season together.

Our partnership with St. Katherine’s Academy is off to a smooth start. Each week, Monday through Thursday, our education wing is alive with children’s voices and learning. It’s a gift to see our space used in this way, and it reminds me that even sharing classrooms can be an act of faithfulness—opening our doors so that God’s work of teaching and growth continues.

We are preparing for Brent Holcomb’s retirement celebration on Sunday, September 14. After fifty years of music ministry, Brent has given so much to the worship life of this congregation. On that day, we will give thanks during worship with a special rite of blessing for Brent’s music and then we’ll gather in the fellowship hall after worship for a lunch reception.

I’ll be a part of the Incarnational Preaching Project (September 15-18), an intensive preaching workshop. It will stretch and deepen my own practice of proclaiming God’s Word, and I look forward to coming back with ways we as a congregation can keep listening and talking about God’s Word in fresh ways together.

Looking ahead, a team will be starting to plan Consecration Sunday in November—you’ll hear more about that soon! We’ll also continue with community lunches and Bible study gatherings through October and November, all ways of being fed and nurtured together.

As John reminds us, *“From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”* This fall is one of those times where we can see that truth clearly—God’s fullness overflowing in our worship, in our learning, in our serving, and in the joy of being together as church.

With joy,
Pastor Joanna

OSLC NEWS & NOTES



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS August 2025

- The Congregational Council has agreed to allow St. Katherine's Academy, a private school associated with nearby Holy Apostles Orthodox Church, to use some of our Sunday School rooms four days a week. Sixteen students and 10 teachers (parents of the students) will take part. The school had been using rooms at the Lutheran Seminary, which has now moved to Hickory.
- Members of the council will attend a Synod-wide stewardship event: "Generous Stewardship: God's Story, Our Story" to be held from 10AM to 2 PM on Saturday, September 6, at Zion Lutheran Church.
- Following Brent's retirement after September 14, Lucinda Shields will serve as organist three Sundays each month and Tammy Lorick will play the piano (Clavinova) at the remaining services. This arrangement will last through December while we look for a permanent replacement.

RAZBERRIES

September Razberries will be held on the 18th at Iron Hill Brewery and Restaurant at 6:00. Please note the date change.

Please RSVP to Gail Marcum 803 397 9272 or Sylvia Ford 803 960 4294.

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!



LMM August Gathering at
Shealy's in Leesville

GOD'S HELPING HANDS

God's Helping Hands current needs are: fruit cups, Vienna sausages, noodles, cream of mushroom, cream of chicken, and cream of potato soups, jello, cooking oil (no olive oil), crackers, cookies, canned tomatoes, canned beans, and Macaroni & Cheese. Please place donations in the designated container in the Cameron Hallway.



ELCA PRESS RELEASES

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

- 7/30 Yehiel Curry Elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCA
- 8/01 Lucille "CeCee" Mills Elected Secretary of the ELCA
- 8/12 Augsburg Fortress Publishers Announces Leadership Transition
- 8/14 Bishop Eaton Sends Letter to President Trump and Congress Addressing Situation in Gaza

WELCA 2025 Calendar of Events

- 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

SEPTEMBER MINISTRIES

| | FLOWERS | GREETERS |
|-------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sep 7 | <i>Albert & Sue Drafts</i> | <i>Doris Wessinger</i> |
| 14 | <i>OSLC</i> | <i>*Need Volunteer</i> |
| 21 | <i>*Need Volunteer</i> | <i>Sandra Hughes</i> |
| 28 | <i>Isma Boland</i> | <i>Linda Hill</i> |

| | WORSHIP ASSISTANTS | LECTORS |
|-------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sep 7 | <i>*Need Volunteer</i> | <i>*Need Volunteer</i> |
| 14 | <i>Gail Marcum</i> | <i>Wayne Lybrand</i> |
| 21 | <i>Isma Boland</i> | <i>Marie Lybrand</i> |
| 28 | <i>Gail Marcum</i> | <i>Linda Hill</i> |

| | <u>SEPTEMBER</u> | <u>OCTOBER</u> |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| USHERS | | |
| Chief | <i>Jim Garner</i> | <i>Isma Boland</i> |
| | <i>Bill Aull</i> | <i>Jim Garner</i> |
| ALTAR GUILD | | |
| | <i>Isma Boland & Melba Murphy</i> | <i>Gail Marcum & Marie Lybrand</i> |
| OFFERING PICKUP | | |
| | <i>Jim Garner</i> | <i>Pam Hanfland</i> |
| TELLERS | | |
| | <i>Sylvia Ford & Sandra Hughes</i> | <i>Pam Hanfland & Gail Marcum</i> |
| PROPERTY COMMITTEE | | |
| | <i>Jim Garner</i> | <i>Jim Garner</i> |

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

August 2025

WORSHIP—42

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.



September 2

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig
Bishop, renewer of the church
(1783-1872)

Nikolai Grundtvig, a nineteenth-century Danish theologian, had strong views about returning the church to Lutheran orthodoxy, centering on the Apostles' Creed and the sacraments. He was also an authority on Norse and Anglo-Saxon sagas and wrote poetry, including a Danish version of *Beowulf*. Lutherans know Grundtvig as the author of hymn texts such as "O Day Full of Grace" and "Built on a Rock."

September 17

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen
(1098-1179)

Born into a noble family in what is now Germany, Hildegard was presented to God as a tithe by her parents. She entered a convent and succeeded her teacher as its abbess. Hildegard had had visions even as a child, and in adulthood she compiled them into books, feeling that God intended this. In addition to her mysticism, Hildegard was famous for the poems and hymns she composed and her knowledge of natural history and medicine. She also advised popes and secular rulers. Even though she lived her entire adult life as a nun, Hildegard influenced the wider world of the Middle Ages and still speaks through her writings today. The words of hymn #399 ("O Holy Spirit, Root of Life") in the ELW are based on one of her compositions.

September 30

Jerome, translator, teacher
(c. 347- 420)

Jerome was a priest and scholar of the early church. After his baptism in Rome at age nineteen, he traveled widely on pilgrimages and continued to study, learning Hebrew as one of his endeavors. After admission to the priesthood, he received a papal commission to translate the Bible into Latin. Jerome's translation, known as the Vulgate, served as the standard Latin version for fifteen centuries after its completion.



Pictures from
the WELCA
2025
Convention



HIGHLIGHTS OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2025 CONVENTION

August 15-16, 2025 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Aiken SC

Theme: Renew --- Refresh --- Remember

Scripture: Romans 12:2

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect."

The meeting began at 12:30 PM on Friday with welcomes, announcements, devotions, prayer, and the processional of Church banners. There were 73 Church Unit Voting Members, 3 Officers, 8 Board Members, 23 Visitors, 2 Young Women Guests and 11 First Timer Guests for a total of 120. Marie Lybrand and Beverly Nivens were delegates from Our Saviour and Sallie Hutto represented St. Philips in Newberry as their delegate.

There were numerous speakers during the two days including: Pastor Rebecca Wicker, Convention Chaplain; Summer Memorial Lutheran in Newberry; Deacon Kimberly Heindl, Assistant to the Bishop of SC Synod; Gwen Edwards, Churchwide Representative from Nebraska; Keynote Speakers Dr. Cathy Milejczak, Coordinator of Tanzania ELCT; Rev. Lisa Isenhower, Coordinator of Colombia ELCC and, Risse Snelgrove, SC Women of the ELCA President.. Also represented were Newberry College LTSS, Retreat Centers, Disaster Relief, Family Services, Lutheran Homes and Lutheran Men in Mission. Thrivent Financial was also a great supporter and hosted a social reception prior to dinner on Friday night.

The following were elected as Officers and Board Members:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| President | Christie Gardner---St. Luke, Prosperity SC |
| Vice-President | Cindy McManus---Bethlehem, Irmo SC |
| Treasurer | Karen Grim---St. Luke's, Summerville SC |
| Secretary | Shari Donley---Cross and Crown, Florence, SC |
| Board Members | Carolyn Watt---St. Matthias, Easley SC |
| | Sallie Folk---St. Luke, Florence SC |
| | Linda Roland---Reformation, Lancaster SC |
| | Amanda Cruse---St. Peters, Batesburg SC |

Triennial Delegates: Beverly Harrison, Ella Shumpert, Linda Roland, Risse Snelgrove.

The following financial reports and budgets were approved (copies available upon request):

| | |
|---|-------------|
| SC WELCA cash available as of 1/31/2025 | \$ 8,257.30 |
| Current Budget 2/2025-1/2026 | \$55,500.00 |
| Proposed Budget 2/2026-1/2027 | \$52,950.00 |

Report of Offerings:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Joy Offering | \$ 1,275.98 |
| Convention Offering | \$ 2,215.00 |
| Lighthouse for Life | \$ 2,787.00+61 items |
| Newberry Scholarship Fund | \$ 1,970.00 |
| Fabric Kits for Lutheran World Relief | \$ 1,902.60+455 Kits |

The convention flew by with lots of business, voting, and activities to include in the shortened two days. If you have questions or concerns, please go to the SC Women of the ELCA website. At the time of this writing, the final results of the convention have not been posted but should be within a couple weeks. The Board worked very hard to make 2025 a successful convention and they did a great job. Many thanks to St. Paul's of Aiken for hosting. The 2026 Convention will be held in Newberry at Redeemer Lutheran. Beverly, Sallie, and I enjoyed the speakers, fellowship, and sharing of ideas from other statewide church women. "Renew, Refresh, and Remember" as we move forward in our mission here at Our Saviour.

Marie Lybrand
Beverly Nivens
Sallie Hutto

THANK YOU

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to dear friends and family who shared in the BCHS Education Foundation Gala, and the sponsors of the "Our Saviour" and "Friends of Beth Cleland" tables. All of you, in person, spirit, through spoken words or notes, created forever memories. We are blessed to be members of our church, schools and community.

With deep gratitude,
Beth Cleland

Thank you so much for your kindness and thoughtfulness during this difficult time. The meal you provided was so delicious. It was sincerely appreciated by all.

The Phyllis Calamas Family



Please welcome our new 2025 - 2026 SC WELCA Board!

Shari Donley (Secretary), Sarah Cheeseman, *Amanda Cruse, *Linda Roland, Sallie Folk, *Karen Grimm (Treasurer: Feb 1, '26 - Jan 31, '28), Cristina Guillermo, Cindy McManus (Vice President), *Carolyn Watt, Lisa Petty, Brianna Harris, Christie Gardner (President). * New members



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
Anne Moye
Steve Rucker
Marie Shealy
DeLeon & Jane Wallace*

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Horace Meetze | 9/16 |
| Elizabeth Johnson | 9/25 |
| Avery Lybrand | 9/26 |

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| DeLeon & Jane Wallace | 9/09 |
|-----------------------|------|

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 September 22.**

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