

THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Grapevine is a monthly newsletter published by the staff & members of Our Saviour Lutheran Church
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Lucinda Shields—Interim Organist
Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

Dear friends in Christ,

October always feels like a season of turning. We turn the calendar page, we notice the days getting shorter, and we turn our thoughts toward the fall routines that shape us. We often find a little more time indoors. In the life of the church, this is the season when we turn our focus to stewardship.

A steward is a caretaker. Stewardship means taking care of what God has given us. When we talk about stewardship in the church, we are remembering that all of life belongs to God. The air we breathe, the bodies we live in, the people we love, the money in our bank accounts, the time on our calendars, none of it is ours to cling to. It is entrusted to us for a season, to care for, to share, and to use for God's purposes. Stewardship is really the practice of living as faithful caretakers of God's abundance.

Luther put it beautifully when he explained the First Article of the Creed. God "daily and abundantly provides all that I need from day to day." And then he added, "For all this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey." In other words, all of life, our time, our abilities, our resources, can be a way of saying thank you to God. That is stewardship in plain language.

This fall, we will be reflecting together on God's generosity and how it shapes our lives. In November, we will hear a few temple talks, stories from members of our congregation about their own experiences of generosity. These faith stories help all of us see how God's abundance shows up in everyday life.

On Sunday, November 16, we will share a meal together for Consecration Sunday. Mark your calendars. It will be a time to celebrate God's gifts and dedicate our giving for the year ahead.

One of the things I brought home from the Incarnational Preaching Project I attended in California last month is this: preaching is not just what happens from the pulpit. Preaching

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OSLC NEWS & NOTES



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS September 2025

- Things are going well with St. Katherine's Academy's use of our facilities.
- A line item will be added to the annual budget for "Young Adult and Youth Ministry Fund," with balances shown in monthly treasurer's reports.
- Necessary repairs to the wallpaper throughout the church have been completed.
- The annual congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, November 16. At least two more people are needed to run for a seat on the church council.
- There will be temple talks regarding stewardship at Sunday services in November culminating in a Consecration Sunday on November 16.

RAZBERRIES-OKTOBERFEST

The Lybrand's will be hosting Razberries at our home on Friday, October 17 at 6:00 pm. We will be celebrating Oktoberfest with German Brats and sides and, as always, great Razberries Fellowship. Bring your favorite German beverage and a hearty appetite. Let Marie know if you can bring an appetizer or dessert. Please RSVP by October 13. We are looking to seeing everyone!

Marie: 803-397-0503
Wayne: 803-791-1835

SAVE THE DATE Monday, December 15, 2025

LMM AND WELCA CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
More details to follow.

A NOTE OF INTRODUCTION FROM LUCINDA SHIELDS, OUR INTERIM ORGANIST

I feel blessed to be able to join the congregation at Our Savior LC to lead music worship and hear the lovely singing I enjoyed on my visit in August. Brent's wonderful and faithful service to your congregation for many years will be a great loss to you. I am able to help for a time thanks to past experience serving numerous churches in the Columbia area with music transitions and giving organists time away, the longest runs being interim organist at Spring Valley Presbyterian (2 years), Eastminster Presbyterian (8 months), and several years at St. Joseph's Catholic Church as their choir accompanist and sub organist. I also served Ebenezer Lutheran as an interim organist and currently sub regularly at First Baptist Church. I have played many operas at Columbia College as well as other theatre productions and have served as the accompanist for Sandlapper Singers, She Sings!, and the Hammond School Select Ensemble, a group I accompanied on 7 European concert tours. All of this occurred as weekend, night and early morning projects while I worked for 36 years as a financial advisor, with the privilege of learning people's stories and helping with decisions. I now am a CFP Board Emeritus© member, and enjoy my other loves of family and gardening. My degrees are in English Literature and Piano performance (BA, William and Mary, MM, Eastman School of Music). I look forward to learning from you.

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.

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takes on flesh in the way we live together. Stewardship is part of that. It is a living sermon we all preach with our calendars, our choices, our priorities, and our generosity.

With October comes Reformation Sunday too. We always have reasons to remember we are set free by God's grace, not by our works or by how much we give. That freedom makes generosity joyful. Because we no longer live in fear or in scarcity, we are free to live open handed lives of gratitude, service, and care for our neighbors. Luther wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." That is Reformation stewardship in a nutshell. Freed by grace, we are freed to give ourselves away in love.

So here is a thought for October:

Where have you noticed God's generosity lately?

How might your own giving of time, energy, or money become part of God's larger story of generosity?

What sermon is your life preaching right now?

Stewardship is not just a season. It is a way of life. But fall gives us the perfect time to pause and reflect, to notice the abundance around us, and to give thanks for the God who provides all we need, and more.

With gratitude,
Pastor Joanna

SAVE THE DATE
November 16, 2025

Consecration Sunday Lunch in the fellowship hall following worship

OCTOBER MINISTRIES

FLOWERS

Oct 5 Gail Marcum

12 *Need Volunteer

19 *Need Volunteer

26 Steve & Beverly

GREETERS

*Need Volunteer

Frank Yonce

*Need Volunteer

*Need Volunteer

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Oct 5 Bill Aull

12 *Need Volunteer

19 Marie Lybrand

26 Gail Marcum

LECTORS

Bill Aull

Pam Hanfland

Marie Lybrand

David Gragg

OCTOBER

USHERS

Chief Isma Boland

Jim Garner

Jim Garner

Wayne Lybrand

ALTAR GUILD

Gail Marcum &
Marie Lybrand

*Need Volunteer

OFFERING PICKUP

Pam Hanfland

Jim Garner

TELLERS

Pam Hanfland &
Gail Marcum

Beth Cleland &
Caroline Raszewski

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Jim Garner

Jim Garner

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

September 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.



This month we remember three seventeenth-century German hymnwriters, all of whom are commemorated on October 26. They lived during harsh times of war and plague.

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

This pastor, poet, and composer studied theology at Erfurt and Wittenberg and served several congregations with distinction. It was during his time in Unna that the plague killed thirteen hundred of his parishioners. Nicolai wrote a book of meditations for his grieving flock. As an appendix to this volume, he penned “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” (ELW 436) and “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!” (ELW 308), writing both texts and melodies of the hymns. These two chorales are among the most highly regarded and widely sung in Christendom. Their tunes have inspired other authors to write texts for them, extending Nicolai’s contributions even further.

Johann Heermann (1585-1647)

This Lutheran pastor and hymnwriter was born in Silesia and showed an aptitude for poetry early in life. After completing his studies, Heermann served the church at Koeben from 1611 to 1638, the year that tuberculosis forced him to retire from the ministry. His hymns were frequently intended for family devotions and reflect attitudes of personal prayer and a need for spiritual comfort. Of the three hymns by Heermann in the ELW (349, 675, 806), the first, “Ah, Holy Jesus,” is perhaps the best example of the heartfelt poetry he wrote

about human sin and Jesus’ sacrifice. Johann Heermann has been called the greatest Protestant hymnwriter between Martin Luther and Paul Gerhardt.

Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676)

Often called the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, Gerhardt served the church in several positions, losing one post because of theological disagreements with state authorities friendly to Calvinism. Before he regained employment, he was very poor. In addition, his wife and four of his children died. The Thirty Years’ War ravaged the world Gerhardt knew, but in the face of all these hardships, he maintained a steadfast trust in God. He took comfort from the wonders of God’s creation and from the psalms and used his poetic gift to glorify God. Eight of Paul Gerhardt’s 148 hymns appear in our ELW. Of these, “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (ELW 351) is perhaps the most familiar.

ELCA PRESS RELEASES



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

- 9/11 A Message from Bishop Eaton on Political Violence
- 9/11 ELCA Statement on Supreme Court Ruling That Allows Racial Profiling in Immigration Enforcement



On Sunday, September 14th, we celebrated Brent Holcomb's 50th year of music ministry at Our Saviour. We are grateful to Brent for his faithful leadership and his servant heart. Our worship and congregational life have been blessed by the gifts Brent has shared among us for so many years.



THANK YOU

THANK YOU!
What words can I write?
Thank everyone for such a
great day in celebration of
my retirement on
September 14. The dinner,
gifts, tributes, and
remembrances are so heart-
-warming. I am truly
blessed to have such a
wonderful church family.
Brent Holcomb

OFFICERS

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

First, thank you to Marie Lybrand and Beverly Nivens for going to the **SCWELCA Convention** to represent Our Saviour along with Sallie Hutto. Their recount of all the Convention business, finances, sewing kit collection, and worship were outlined in last month's Grapevine.

Lydia's Retreat was a **Chari-TEA** which had 24 attendees and raised money for the Lutheran Retreat Centers. Pastor Mary Finklea was phenomenal in her presentation, her food selection, and, of course, the teas we all had the opportunity to sample. She gave us an overview of the planned Chapel at Camp Kinard overlooking the beautiful lake on the property. She talked about the wonderful property at our Coastal Retreat Center just across from the Atlantic Ocean.

The **Saxe Gotha Conference** meeting was also held on the same day as our Tea and Linda Griffith shared the following Nominations Report in writing since she was unable to attend. Kristie Marshall (Recording Secretary-Transfiguration) and Betty Enlow (Financial Secretary/Treasurer-St. David) agreed to serve another two-year term and were re-elected. Because Linda was unable to secure a person to run for Conference Coordinator, Ella Shumpert (Emmanuel), agreed to serve at least another year and help train her replacement the following year. Conference Elections are held every other year in odd years with terms of two years. She reminded all to be very mindful of scheduling events during the year. Our conference schedule is set for the 3rd Sunday in March and September with the hostess coming from one of eleven congregations in alphabetical order. Our Saviour is scheduled for Spring 2027. (Congregational leaders received the schedule along with nominations earlier this month.)

We don't want to forget **OSLC's WELCA Joint Meeting** next month so make plans to attend. Elections will be held for new leadership.



Cameron and Rebekah Circles are working with the Lutheran Men to have a Christmas Dinner with entertainment as part of their **Social Plans for WELCA**. Plans have not been finalized as of this writing; however, the date is Monday, December 15. **SAVE THE DATE!** Watch for details in the Bulletin and November Grapevine.

The Blessing Box is being used and we are grateful for your donations and support. If you drive by and see the box empty, please call Linda Griffith or Linda Hill so we can run by the church to refill it. If you would like to help us to keep it replenished, the Blessing Box Pantry is located in the kitchen in the cabinet beside the sink next to the back door. On another note, the Elderberries continue to serve as our congregational contact to support the **Saluda River for the Arts** school just behind the church. Our Saviour donated some 15 bookbags, 48 pairs of girls/boys shorts/pants, and 60 pairs of boys/girls underwear.

2025 Calendar of Events

Visit the SC WELCA website (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.

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

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

December 15-Joint Circle Social Event with LMM.

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



Thank You, Pastor Mary Finklea

On September 21, our congregation hosted a joyful Charitea event. We give thanks for Pastor Mary Finklea, Community and Congregation Engagement Coordinator for the South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers (SCLRC), who shared her stories and enthusiasm for the ministries of Camp Kinard and the Coastal Retreat Center. These places of renewal and hospitality are gifts for all of us in the South Carolina Synod. And just so you can get a "TASTE" of the day, here are a few of the conversation starters that sparked laughter and storytelling around the tables:

- Talk about a time when you were in hot water.
- Do you prefer hot tea or iced?
- Tea is small but rapidly influences the water around it. Talk about a time when you have seen something tiny do something powerful. Tea can be enjoyed alone or with others. With whom would you like to share a cup of tea?

These conversation starters reminded us how food and fellowship can open space for deeper connection. Pastor Mary also reminded us that one of the most important ways we can support SCLRC is through prayer. In addition, we can help by:

- Volunteering: Trail maintenance, spring cleaning, or offering your skills
- Coming: Booking retreats, events, or personal get-aways
- Sharing: Spreading the word in your community and on social media
- Giving: Direct donations, adopting a room, or honoring a loved one with a gift
- Inviting: Encouraging others to visit and learn about these ministries
- Designating: Naming a liaison in our congregation to stay connected

Let us give thanks for Pastor Mary and the ministry of SCLRC, and let us continue to ask together: "How can we help?"

Learn more at www.sclrc.com



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
Elizabeth Shealy
Marie Shealy
Debbie Chapman Tidmarsh (daughter of Jeannie Chapman)
DeLeon & Jane Wallace*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Melissa Vagts	10/01
Rhett Chapman	10/02
Francis Fingerlin	10/04
Pam Hanfland	10/15
Charles Nicholson	10/20
Chris Boland	10/22
Sylvia Ford	10/22
Beverly Nivens	10/27
Marie Lybrand	10/29

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Parker & Elizabeth Johnson	10/26
Mark & Ann Satterwhite	10/29

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 October 27.**



**Blessing of students, teachers,
and those who work in education**