

THE GRAPEVINE



The Newsletter of Our Saviour Lutheran Church February 2026

In This Issue

Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	7
Commemoration Profiles	4
OSLC News.....	2,3
Prayer Requests.....	7
WELCA.....	5,6



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
Website: www.oursaviour.net

Reverend Joanna Gragg, Pastor
Cell: 864-992-1246
Primary email:
Pastorjoannagragg@gmail.com
Church email:
oslc1957@sc.rr.com
Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

Pastor's Ponderings: Listening for the Spirit Among Us

As we move into February, our life together as a faith community is being shaped by listening. We know that good conversations require both speaking and listening, yet so often we are busy forming our next response before we have truly heard one another. This season invites us into a different way of paying attention—a kind of holy listening that trusts the Spirit is already at work among us, calling and inviting us into what comes next.

The Sundays after Epiphany are giving way to Lent. The days are slowly lengthening with light, and before long it will be spring. Epiphany is all about revelation - of God made known. Lent invites us to slow down and stay with what we have noticed and allow it to shape us. This year, our focus will be on Holy Conversations. Like last year, our Wednesday noon prayer service will ground us in prayer, discussion, silence, and attention to God's Word.

Each Wednesday at noon, we will gather around one guiding question. The service will center on the gospel reading for the week. Each story brings us into a different conversation with Jesus. We begin in the wilderness, listening for the voices that shape our sense of power and identity. We move into the nighttime questions of Nicodemus, where trust is invited even when understanding seems incomplete. At the well with the Samaritan woman, we hear about living water and new community. With the man born blind, we listen for how faith grows through the courage to speak. At the tomb with Martha and Mary, grief and hope are held together in the promise of resurrection.

(continued on page 2)

As Holy Week approaches, we listen.

This posture of listening is shaping more than our worship life. It is shaping how we live together as a congregation. In the year ahead, we will continue to name and nurture the ministries that give life to us and to our neighbors. As teams begin planning for gatherings like Mardi Gras, the Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, and the Fall Festival, we do so with gratitude for the energy these ministries bring and with care for how they form us. These are places where relationships grow, where our presence in the community becomes visible, and where the gospel takes shape.

This season also invites us to pause and ask faithful questions: Who are we right now? What is God already doing among us? How are we being called to respond? In our work in congregational council, we are being encouraged to listen more deeply - to notice what gives life, attend what is ready to grow, and name honestly what we see needs to be pruned.

When we listen well, we are freed to focus our energy on what is truly formative and life-giving.

Thank you for the care, commitment, and faithfulness every single one of you bring to this community. I am grateful to serve alongside you, and I am excited for what God is already up to among us as we listen for the Spirit together.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Joanna

HOLY CONVERSATIONS WITH JESUS; WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

This Lent, join us on Wednesdays at noon for a simple prayer service centered on the gospel readings of the season. Each week, we will listen to Scripture, pray, and think about a single guiding question together.

These times of gathering are designed to be a grounding, prayerful exercise that offers space to slow down and listen and trust the Spirit at work among us.

Beginning on February 25, these Lenten Conversations will meet in the Chapel at noon on Wednesdays. On Community Lunch Wednesdays, we will meet in the chapel after lunch, around 12:35 pm.



LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- + **February 17**, 6pm: Shrove Tuesday pancake supper
- + **February 18**, 5pm: Ash Wednesday: Communion service with imposition of ashes. There will be no 7:30am service.
- + **February 25**, following community lunch: Weekday Lenten service in Chapel.
- + **March 4**, noon: Weekday Lenten service in Chapel.
- + **March 11**, noon: Weekday Lenten service in Chapel.
- + **March 18**, noon: Weekday Lenten service in Chapel.
- + **March 25**, following community lunch: Weekday Lenten service in Chapel.
- + **March 29**, Palm Sunday. Procession with palms prior to service.
- + **April 2**, 5pm: Maundy Thursday
- + **April 3**, 5pm: Good Friday service.
- + **April 5**, Easter Day:
Flowering of the Cross at 10am
Communion service at 10:30am.
There will be no Sunday School.



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.

BLESSING BOX UPDATE

Starting the New Year, our cupboard is bare. We need your help in restocking it. If you are able to do so, items needed are: small pop top cans of fruit, Vienna sausages, tuna, Dinty Moore meats, Spaghetti O's and others that are similar with meats. Thanks for our continued support of our WELCA community project.

RAZBERRIES will gather at Murray's Neighborhood Grill, 2433 Charleston Highway, Cayce, SC 29033, on Saturday, February 7th at 6 p.m. Please RSVP by noon on Wednesday, February 4th to Sandra and Howard Hughes at 803-622-6191.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS January 2026

- Pastor Joanna is planning a series of holy conversations for Lent in which we consider our church's and our own histories.
- Organ pedals are scheduled for repair.
- The search for a church musician/organist continues.

FEBRUARY MINISTRIES

Date	Flowers	Greeters	Worship Asst.	Lectors
Feb 1	*Need Volunteer	Gail Marcum	Steve Nivens	Ruth Nicholson
Feb 8	Gail Marcum	Gail Marcum	Beverly Nivens	Steve Nivens
Feb 15	Steve & Beverly Nivens	Gail Marcum	Charles Nicholson	Charles Nicholson
Feb 18(A. Wed)	Steve & Beverly Nivens	Charles Nicholson	Charles Nicholson	
Feb 22	*Need Volunteer	Gail Marcum	Beverly Nivens	Beverly Nivens
Role	February			March
Ushers	Gail Marcum			Wayne Lybrand
Usher	Steve Nivens			Mark Satterwhite
Altar Guild	Gail Marcum & Marie Lybrand			David & Linda Griffith
Offering Pickup	Gail Marcum			Wayne Lybrand
Tellers	Pam Hanland & Gail Marcum			Beth Cleland & Sandra Hughes
Property Committee	Steve Nivens			Bill Aull



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.



February 14

Cyril, monk (826-869) and Methodius, bishop (c. 815-885), missionaries to the Slavs

Cyril and Methodius were brothers from a noble family in Greece. In 860, Cyril resigned a job in Constantinople to join his brother on missionary trips to the Khazars and Bulgarians. Two years later, Emperor Michael III sent them to Moravia to preach the Gospel. Instead of using the Latin liturgy, these brothers used the Slavonic vernacular, now called Old Church Slavonic. In addition, they developed a new alphabet in order to translate the Bible into the local language. Cyril's and Methodius's work had a sacred dimension, as they spread Christianity, and a secular one, as their linguistic contributions were valuable for the beginnings of Slavic literature.

February 18

Martin Luther, Renewer of the church (1483-1546)

Founder of the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther formulated a new understanding of humanity's relationship with God. He recognized Jesus as the only mediator between people and God; he identified grace as the key element in forgiveness and salvation; and for him, word and sacrament were the key components of worship. Luther's translation of the Bible from churchly Latin into everyday German was a tremendous gift to Christianity and culture in Germany. His catechisms, tracts, letters, sermons and hymns remain powerful sources of education and inspiration for Christians around the world today.

February 25

Elizabeth Fedde, Deaconess (1850-1921)

Born on Christmas Day, 1850, in Norway, Elizabeth Fedde trained to be a deaconess. At age thirty-two, she was called to New York to minister to the poor and to Norwegian seamen. Her first accomplishment there was the establishment of the Norwegian Relief Society. Shortly thereafter, she opened the Deaconess House in Brooklyn and the Deaconess House and Hospital of the Lutheran Free Church in Minneapolis. She returned to Norway in 1895 and died there on February 25, 1921.



1/3	A Prayer for Venezuela
1/7	Bishop Curry issues statement on Venezuela
1/8	Deacons included in new ELCA/Episcopal Clergy Exchange Guidelines
1/9	Bishop Curry issues statement on shooting in Minneapolis
1/14	ELCA observes National Day of Racial Healing
1/16	Canada, Denmark, US Bishops issue joint statement supporting Greenlandic People

As part of the ELCA we share in a wider ministry at work in the world. The bishop of the ELCA and the office of the bishop make statements that are a part of the faithful conversation,. Please also see scsynod.com for your South Carolina Synod's news; scsynod.com



2026 OFFICERS

President—Marie Lybrand (Lydia)
803-397-0503
Vice-Pres—Linda Griffith (Rebekah)
803-920-3975
Treasurer—Ann Satterwhite (Lydia)
803-530-6249
Secretary—Caroline Raszewski (Lydia)
803-231-8642

WELCA SUNDAY TO BE RESCHEDULED

Due to inclement weather, our WELCA Sunday is being rescheduled. As soon as a date is available for our visiting pastor, it will be announced.

Sites you may find interesting when looking for possible program material and events:

www.scwelca.com

(*The Ripple, retreats, convention, circle news*)

Other Lutheran Camp Retreat Offerings for Adults

Novusway - <https://novusway.org/>

Lutherock -<https://lutheridge.org/>

Luther Springs - <https://lutheridge.org/>

Lutheranch - <https://luthersprings.org/>

www.womenoftheelca.org

(*triennial nominations/elections, business, offerings and so much more!*)

www.boldcafe.org

(*on-line magazine & podcast*)

www.scsynod.org

(*staff, calendar, stewardship and subscribe to the magazine and weekly E-News for current happenings and information*)

Check it all out also on Facebook and Instagram

WILD WOMEN'S WEEKEND AT LUTHERIDGE

Wild Women Weekend will be March 13-15, 2026 at Lutheridge. If you have registered to attend, you will need to contact the Lutheridge office directly to pay your balance at least two weeks prior to arrival either by mail or on-line. Suggest you pay your balance by February 25, especially if using US Postal Service.

Mailing Address: Novus Way Ministries

2049 Upper Laurel Drive

Arden, NC 28704

Phone: 1-828-209-6302

On-line: registration@novusway.org

Website: www.novusway.org

All the committees are busy planning for their respective duties this year. The Hospitality Committee Coordinators make their official duty change on February 1st. Remember: If we don't know, we can't take care of our family and friends. It's always nice to receive a card sharing hope and/or congratulations or notification if a meal is needed. Please contact Sandra Hughes as she is the chair for this committee. If your name is listed on Page 19 in the 2026 Ministry Directory and you do NOT wish to be contacted, please let Sandra know. The Directory is available on the shelves to your left as you enter Cameron Building.

Circles are requested to send articles to the Vice President for publication in **The Grapevine** before the last Monday of the month with a copy forwarded to the President for review. Information is normally due to the church secretary on the following Tuesday morning.

2026 OSLC-WELCA Calendar of Events

March 6 World Day of Prayer (Saxe Gotha will not host this event this year as this is a SCWELCA Retreat weekend)

March 6-7 (Friday-Saturday) SCWELCA Retreat @ Camp Kinard Retreat Center

March 13-15 "Wild Women Retreat" at Lutheridge With Pastor Joanna Gragg as leader.

March 15 (Sunday) Saxe Gotha Conference Meeting at Faith/West Columbia.

April (TBA) OSLC-Newberry College Nursing Scholarship Donations (Cameron Circle)

April 26 (Sunday) Joint Circle Meeting Devotion/Prayer-Lydia Refreshments-Cameron/Rebekah)

May 29-31 (Friday-Sunday) SCWELCA Retreat @ Isle of Palms Retreat Center

June 19-20 (Friday-Saturday) SCWELCA Convention/ Newberry-Redeemer Lutheran Church

July 16-19 Triennial Gathering—Des Moines, Iowa

September 20 (Sunday) Saxe Gotha Conference Meeting-Mt. Tabor/West Columbia

October 18 (Sunday) 3 PM Joint Circle Meeting (Officer nominations/election) Devotion/Prayer-Rebekah Refreshments-Lydia

December (TBA) WELCA Executive Meeting(circle leaders w/unit officers) Opening Prayer: Gail Marcum

THANK YOU

Dear OSLC family,

I just want to say a heartfelt thank you for the card and gift. Your generosity means the world to me, and I'm so grateful for your support and kindness this past year. It's truly an honor to serve such a wonderful church family. Thank you for everything. I'm blessed to be a part of this community.

With love and appreciation,
Melodie

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards and the Christmas cards you sent to me. I also want to thank the members who brought the delicious meal to me and my family. The Christmas gift bag was also greatly appreciated. I am still trying to recover from back problems, but I hope to be back home very soon.

God Bless,
Dolores Hopkins

Dear Our Saviour Friends,

Thank you so much for the Christmas bags that you filled for Greg, Katie and me. The special treats and gifts are being enjoyed by us. We truly are blessed to be part of such loving and caring people at Our Savior.

We pray for God's best blessings to be yours always. May 2026 be a great year for all of us.

Love,
Jeannie Chapman, Greg
Chapman, Katie Doble-Bone

Dear OSLC Friends,

Thank you for the Christmas gift. You are all so kind and generous.

Mary Havens

Dear all beloved of OSLC,
Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. Your care and encouragement mean so much to me! I am grateful beyond words to be a part of this family of faith.

Blessings, Pastor Joanna + the whole Gragg family

Pastor Joanna and Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the thoughts, prayers, food, and all your concern during my recent fall and recovery. Albert and I are anxious to return to regular worship and church activities.

God bless all of you,
Sue and Albert Drafts

Dear WELCA and Our Saviour Friends,

We want to thank you for the Christmas gift bags. You were so generous in filling them with cards, useful items, and special treats. Also thanks to Melba for delivering them. You are special people and we are blessed.

Sincerely,
Jeannie Chapman, Greg
Chapman, Katie Doble-Bone

Dear Our Saviour Friends,

We thank you from our hearts for your prayers, calls, cards over the years; never failing to let us know we are not forgotten. We enjoy our monthly *Grapevine* keeping us informed of events. DeLeon and I are doing OK but older now and thankful for each day God gives us. Thank you for our Christmas "Goody" Bag. We are enjoying all the treats. A special thanks to David and Linda Griffith for delivering it to us. We love each and every one of you. You make our Saviour a wonderful church.

Yours in Christ,
DeLeon and Jane Wallace

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
Don Horton
Anne Moye
Steve Rucker
Herman & Elizabeth Shealy
Marie Shealy
DeLeon & Jane Wallace*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ashley Meetze	2/13
Betty Meetze	2/13
Karen Dawkins	2/14
Don Horton	2/27

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, February 23.

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.



SOUPer Bowl Time Is Almost Here!

As we prepare for this year's Souper Bowl of Caring, we'll be cooking **three** soups—and we'd love your input! Please vote for **your top 3 favorites** from the following options: Clam Chowder, Chicken Noodle, Zuppa Toscana (Tuscan Soup), and Beef Veggie. **Voting slips are located outside the Narthex.** Please place your completed ballot in the basket in the Narthex. Voting will remain open until preparation time, no later than Wed, Jan 28.



Installation of Church Council, and LMM, and WELCA Officers