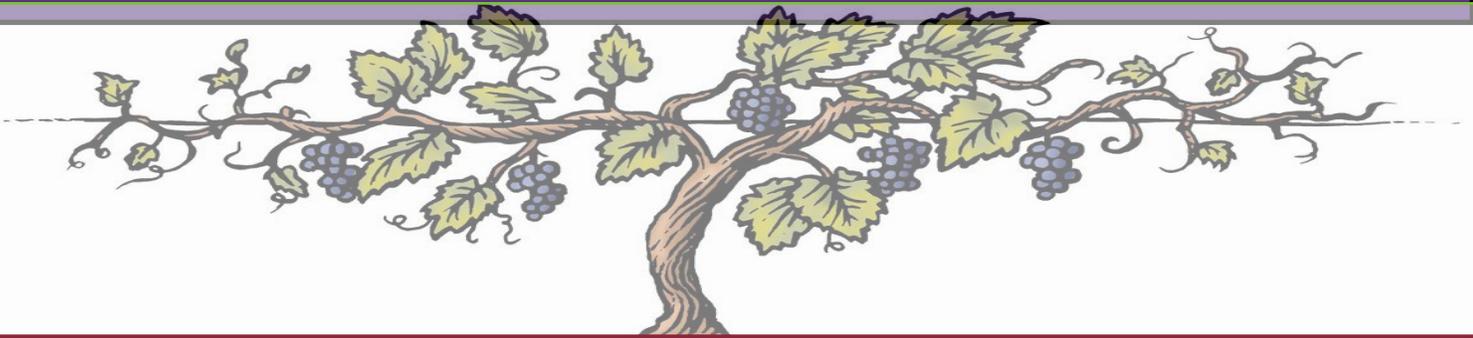


# THE GRAPEVINE



The Newsletter of Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
March 2026

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*The Grapevine*  
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by the staff & members of

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Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

## Pastor's Ponderings: Giving Up and Taking On

This Lent we're practicing holy conversations by listening to Jesus in the Gospel readings, listening to one another, and listening for what the Spirit is doing among us. One simple way to enter that practice is to let go of unhealthy practices and take up things that make room in our heart and mind for faith. As you add your story to the church timeline in the narthex, and as we think, talk, and pray about our calling during this season, may this poem be a prayer and inspiration.

### A Special Lenten Fast:

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.  
Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.  
Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.  
Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.  
Give up worrying: take up trust in God.  
Give up complaining: value what you have.  
Give up stress: take up prayer.  
Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.  
Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.  
Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.  
Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.  
Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

*Author unknown (widely circulated).*

When Lent starts, it's easy to picture it as a list. What am I giving up. What am I taking on. What am I going to do better. This year, our Lenten invitation is a practice: holy conversation. After praying your way through this poem of giving up and taking on, here's the next step: notice how that practice becomes a way of listening.

In the gospels, Jesus meets real people in real exchanges. He asks questions. He tells the truth. He makes room for conversation and relationship in ways that are life-giving and freeing. That is what we're practicing together at Our Saviour. We are making room for the Word of God to meet us in the middle of real life, and we are making room for one another.

*(continued on page 2)*

Over time, this kind of conversation becomes a walking prayer.

Here is what **Holy Conversation** looks like here at Our Saviour:

It looks like a **Timeline in the narthex**, our life and faith moments laid out where we can see them. We are living witnesses to God's faithfulness. Add your baptism date, your year of becoming a member, and dates from your family, any and all things you hold dear about faith formation, growth, and leadership in ministry here at OSLC. Write them down on the timeline. We want to hear this part of our story. Sometimes the Spirit speaks simply by helping us remember together.

It looks like **Wednesdays in Lent** in the chapel, with Scripture, prayer, and time to listen together. Some of us come with clarity. Some of us come tired or carrying grief. Either way, we gather because the church is a place where we can simply be present and let God speak.

It looks like **Community Lunch**, where holy conversation happens in simple ways. It can sound like learning a name, hearing what someone is going through, or noticing someone is missing and asking about them. This is the Body of Christ being the Body of Christ. Holy conversation also happens when we speak with God in prayer, whether in words, in presence, or in a moment of silence.

So here's my invitation for this month: keep practicing the conversation.

Come to worship. Add your voice to the story in the narthex. Show up in the chapel on Wednesdays. Lean into the questions we are asking as a congregation. Sit at a table at Community Lunch. Listen for the Spirit in the voices around you. Lent is not about giving up everything until Easter. Lent is about being brought back, again and again, to God's voice, full of mercy and love. Let us speak and listen. Let this time be holy in conversation.

In Christ's Love 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.

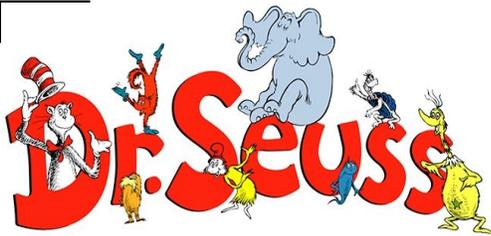
Beginning on February 25, these Lenten Conversations will meet in the Chapel at noon on Wednesdays. On Community Lunch Wednesdays, we will meet in the chapel after lunch, around 12:35 pm.

### **+ LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

- + **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.



# OSLC News & Notes



## RAZBERRIES

**CATS, AND TURTLES, AND LORAXES...OH MY!**  
 Razberries will meet March 7, 6:00 pm at The Hanflands, for a Dr Seuss Birthday Party. Additional details forthcoming.

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### February 2026

- Pastor Joanna is interviewing a USC graduate student as possible permanent organist. The congregation will get to meet the interviewee (Michail) on February 22 and March 1. We look forward to hearing more from and about our candidate for organist.
- This year's SC Synod Assembly will be held from June 11 through 13 at Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia. Pam Hanfland and Jim Garner will be our delegates to the assembly. The 2026 South Carolina Synod Assembly will elect a new bishop via an ecclesiastical ballot.
- Council approved using memorials for Heyward Wessinger and Willette Satterwhite to buy a new Yamaha CPL 885 B Clavinova for use in the Sanctuary.
- The church has received a generous bequest from the estate of Carolyn Roof.
- Funds raised at this year's "Souper Bowl of Caring" will go to God's Helping Hands and Cocky's Cupboard, a food pantry at the USC School of Medicine.
- Council will have a retreat at the church on two Saturdays, February 21 and April 18, led by Deacon Lexanne Graves. Deacon Graves will help us give words to our vision for the future as a community of faith at Our Saviour Lutheran Church.

## MARCH MINISTRIES

Date	Flowers	Greeters	Worship Asst.	Lectors
Mar 1	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>	Gary & Kay Black	Emilia Havens	Melanie Tieman
Mar 8	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>	Sandra Hughes	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>	Pam Hanfland
Mar 15	Francis & Rebecca Fingerlin	Isma Boland	David Griffith	David Griffith
March 22	Melba Murphy	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>	Marie Lybrand	Marie Lybrand
March 29	Isma Boland	Frank Yonce	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>	Wayne Lybrand

Role	March	April
Ushers	Wayne Lybrand	Jim Garner
Usher	Mark Satterwhite	<i>*Need Volunteer</i>
Altar Guild	David & Linda Griffith	<i>*Need Volunteers</i>
Offering Pickup	Wayne Lybrand	Gail Marcum
Tellers	Beth Cleland & Sandra Hughes	Linda Griffith & Sylvia Ford
Property Committee	Bill Aull	Jim Garner

**AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE** February 2026 **WORSHIP—34**



## 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.



**March 1**  
**George Herbert,**  
**Hymnwriter**  
**(1593-1633)**

A Welshman by birth and an educated young man of many talents, George Herbert seemed destined for a position of influence, perhaps as a diplomat, since he was fluent in six languages. After his patron, King James the First, died, Herbert returned to his original intention of becoming a priest. He earned great respect in his vocation. After his death, his sincere, inventive religious poetry gained him an even broader hearing. Those poems and the hymns fashioned from them (see ELW 816, “Come My Way, My Truth, My Life”), plus several prose writings, still speak his message long after the end of his earthly life.

**March 22**  
**Jonathan Edwards,**  
**Teacher, Missionary to American**  
**Indians**  
**(1703-1758)**

A brilliant thinker and powerful preacher, Jonathan Edwards studied for the ministry after graduating from Yale at age seventeen. Although his Puritan-inspired writings about God’s wrath are often cited in textbooks, he also spoke ardently about the grandeur of God’s love and grace. A disagreement with his Massachusetts congregation about who should partake of Holy Communion resulted in Edwards’ dismissal from that pastorate. It was then that he embarked on missionary work among Native Americans in western Massachusetts, coupled with extensive writing projects. In 1757 Edwards was elected president of what is now Princeton University. He died of smallpox a few months later.

**March 29**  
**Hans Nielsen Hauge,**  
**Renewer of the church**  
**(1771-1824)**

After an intense mystical experience at age twenty-five, Hans Hauge, a farmer’s son, was convinced that he should rouse his fellow Norwegians to a new awareness of God’s salvation. At that time in Norway, itinerant preaching was illegal, but Hauge, a layperson, took his message all across the country from 1797 to 1804. He was frequently arrested, jailed, and fined, but he gathered quite a following. After a lengthy prison term and considerable personal hardship, Hauge stopped his travels and settled on a farm near Oslo to write. In later life, he gained the respect of many church leaders. One of Hauge’s central ideas is the very Lutheran belief in vocation as a form of service to God. Although he often disputed with the official church in Norway, Hauge never advocated separation from it.



- 1/29 Presiding Bishop Curry and Minnesota Synod condemn immigration activity
- 2/12 Bishop Curry and Faith Leaders urge humane policies in DHS negotiations

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](http://scsynod.com) for your South Carolina Synod’s news; [scsynod.com](http://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

**MARCH CIRCLE MEETINGS**

*Cameron/Rebekah:* March 2 at 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Hostess/Leader: Sandra Hughes

*Lydia:* March 9 at 6:00 pm. Hostess: Marie Lybrand, Leader: Sallie Hutto

**REMINDER:** 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 due to the church secretary on the following Tuesday morning.

**WILD WOMEN WEEKEND---**If you have not paid your balance for this retreat, you need to call Lutheridge (828-209-6302) and speak with Laura or go on-line at *registration@novusway.org* to finalize your registration. Letters were emailed back in November with your balance. If you have paid in full, you would also have received an email with a \$0 balance. (Note: If you plan to use GPS to get there, Laura said to use 2511 Hendersonville Road, Arden, NC 28704 which will bring us in the Main Entrance.)

**EASTER EGG HUNT---**Our annual egg hunt will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 29 from 2:00-3:30 pm. (Notice the date/time change.) There is a box in the Narthex for candy donations. We are fine on the plastic eggs as they were donated by Pam Hanfland from her daughter, Nicole. Bring your little ones (ages 2-10) to join in the fun and to hear the Easter Story from Pastor Joanna.

**WELCA SUNDAY----**will be rescheduled in late spring or early summer.

**JOINT WELCA MEETING---**April 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. Lydia Circle is responsible for the devotion and Cameron/Rebekah refreshments.

**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!

**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 Church Family and Pastor Joanna,

Herman and I want to express our sincere thanks to all of you for the cards, calls, texts, and visits since we have been in our new home at Laurel Crest. As we have always known, there is no congregation like Our Saviour! We are very happy here but miss seeing all of you at church and we miss being involved in worship there. Hopefully, we will be able to return soon.

With much love,  
Elizabeth Shealy

Dear Church Family

Thank you all, so much, for all the cards and calls during this long recovery I have been going through. Hopefully you all know how grateful I am for the prayers that have been offered up for my successful surgery and recovery. It is great solace to know that all of you are so dear and so concerned. Hope to be able to get out and see you soon.

Don Horton

## CONGRATULATIONS ELIZABETH!

**2026 Educator Hall of Fame Inductee  
Brookland-Cayce High School Education Foundation  
Mrs. Elizabeth Shealy**



Mrs. Shealy grew up in Pomaria, South Carolina, as one of five children. During her senior year she transferred from Pomaria High School to Mid-Carolina High School, where she served as student body president and graduated as part of the schools' first graduating class. After high school, she attended Newberry College, earning a degree in English and Secondary Education. It was also at Newberry where she met her husband, Mr. Herman Shealy, whom she married shortly after graduation.

Mrs. Shealy began her teaching career in 1963 at Batesburg-Leesville High School. In 1964, she joined the Lexington School District Two family, teaching at Airport High School, Fulmer Middle School, and Brookland-Cayce High School. In 1970, she took time away from the classroom to stay home with her children before returning to education in 1982. The final 19 years of her distinguished career were spent at Brookland-Cayce High School.

During her time at Brookland-Cayce, Mrs. Shealy was honored as Teacher of the Year for the 1998-1999 school year. One of her most cherished memories was serving as the Class Advisor for the Class of 1994 throughout all four years of their high school journey.

Mrs. Shealy and her husband have two children, Michael and Stephanie, both proud graduates of Brookland-Cayce High School, and five grandchildren.

# 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.

*Melanie Amick  
Gary Black  
Greg Chapman  
Jeannie Chapman  
Katie Doble  
Dolores Hopkins*

*Don Horton  
Anne Moye  
Steve Rucker  
Herman & Elizabeth Shealy  
Marie Shealy (National Health Care)*

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Cindy Moye	3/02
Caroline Raszewski	3/03
Ann Satterwhite	3/06
Susan Smith	3/06
Anne Moye	3/16
Katie Doble	3/17
Adam Fingerlin	3/17
Claire Fingerlin	3/17
Evan Dawkins	3/22
Madison Dawkins	3/22
DeLeon Wallace	3/23
Jeannie Chapman	3/27
Beth Cleland	3/30
Michael Urban	3/30
Gary Black	3/31

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Christopher & Jennifer Gossett	3/18
Herman & Elizabeth Shealy	3/29

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, March 23.



During Lent, Linda and David are presenting a series of "temple talks" about "God's Story in the Windows of OSLC."

## SCAM ALERT

The pastor NEVER asks over email or text for gift cards or money. If you receive such a message, DO NOT respond and NEVER send them whatever they are asking for you to send them.

# You Are Invited To Our Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 29  
2-3:30 pm  
Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
1500 Sunset Blvd, West Columbia



Activities begin in the  
Fellowship Hall at 2 pm



Games and activities for  
children ages 2- 10



Bring a basket for  
gathering Easter eggs



To prepare for the children, sign up on the sheet  
in the Narthex, or call 803-794-8180 or Email  
OSLC1957@sc.rr.com

**NO LATER THAN Wednesday, March 25th.**  
Please indicate the ages and number of children.



## ***EASTER LILIES***

The *Worship and Music Committee* would like to request your assistance this year by asking you to lend a lily for our Easter Service at a cost of **\$15.00 each (includes tax)**. Your check should be made payable to the church and marked for *EASTER LILY*. Please indicate in the space below the information you desire printed in the Easter bulletin. **Please place in offering plate or mail to the church with your check ON OR BEFORE SUNDAY, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

I desire the Worship and Music Committee to order \_\_\_\_\_ lily(ies).

I desire the following information printed in the bulletin:

Given \_\_\_\_\_ IN MEMORY OF or \_\_\_\_\_ IN HONOR OF or \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER

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**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY**

By \_\_\_\_\_

*Please attach check.*