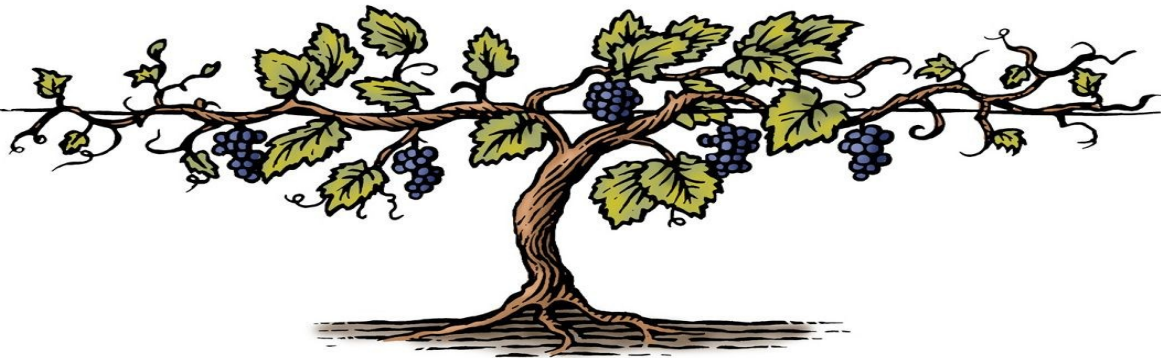


The Grapevine

The Newsletter of Our Saviour Lutheran Church

June 2026



Pastor's Ponderings: Fire, Water, and Growth

Pentecost Sunday (was on May 24) gives us the color red, as in a red flame. The Sundays after Pentecost give us green, green as in growth for a long growing season.

That is the movement of the church year. On Pentecost, we remember the Holy Spirit coming like wind and flame. The color is red: fire, Spirit, energy, and sending. Then the church moves into the long season after Pentecost, and the color becomes green. Green is the color of growth, discipleship, and life in Christ. That movement tells us something about faithful living. The Spirit does not come only in one dramatic moment. The Spirit keeps working. The Spirit gives breath, gathers the church, and sends God's people into the world. Fire and growth may sound like opposites, but creation teaches us otherwise. In forests and fields, fire can clear away what is dead, return nutrients to the soil, and make room for new life. Fire is not only destruction. Under the right conditions, it can prepare the ground for growth.

Pentecost fire is like that. The Spirit burns through fear. The Spirit clears away what keeps the gospel locked inside. The Spirit makes room for courage, mercy, speech, and witness. And then comes green.

The long work of growing in faith. The daily work of loving our neighbors. The patient work of becoming the body of Christ together. At Our Saviour, I see the Spirit's work in ordinary places. In worship. At the font. At the table. In food shared. In prayers offered. In neighbors checked on. In welcome extended. In care given through the Blessing Box, God's Helping Hands, community lunch, school partnerships, and quiet kindness that often happens without announcement. Pentecost reminds us that the church belongs to God. We do not create it by our own strength. Christ gathers us. The Spirit gives us breath. Then God sends us out to follow Jesus, grow in God's love, and care for our neighbors. So this month, I invite you to notice where the Spirit may be making room for growth. Where is God clearing away fear?

Where is mercy taking shape?

Who needs encouragement from you?

Who could you check on this week?

What could you bring for the Blessing Box?

Who could you invite to worship, community lunch, or a church activity?

Where might you pray, "Holy Spirit, show me where to love today"?

Pentecost gives us fire. The Sundays after Pentecost give us green.

And through it all, the Spirit keeps growing the life of Christ
among us. Thanks be to God.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Charles Nicholson

Council is considering expanding the Fall Festival. It is also searching for ways to partner with the Saluda River Academy for the Arts and with USC Campus Ministry and to create relationships with some of the assisted-living facilities in the area. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join in these efforts.

Chat & Snack

Chat & Snack will resume on the 2nd Sunday of the each month. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex for those willing to provide snacks . The next “chat & snack” will be on Sunday , June 14.

RAZBERRIES

Don and Patsy Horton are scheduled to host Razberries on June 13.

JUNE MINISTRIES

Date	Flowers	Greeters	Worship Assistant	Lectors
Jun 7	Need Volunteer	Gail Marcum	Need Volunteer	Marie Lybrand
Jun 14	Doris Wessinger	Gail Marcum	Marie Lybrand	Wayne Lybrand
Jun 21	Need Volunteer	Gail Marcum	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
Jun 28	Need Volunteer	Gail Marcum	Caroline Raszewski	Caroline Raszewski

Role	June	July
Usher	Gail Marcum	Need Volunteer
Usher	Jim Garner	Need Volunteer
Altar Guild	Wayne & Marie Lybrand	Isma Boland & Melba Murphy
Offering Pickup	Pam Hanflabnd	Linda Griffith
Tellers	Pam Hanfland & Gail Marcum	Linda Griffith & Linda Hill
Property Committee	Jim Garner	Steve Nivens

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE *May 2026* WORSHIP—44



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

2026 OSLC-WELCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 29-31 (Friday-Sunday) SCWELCA Retreat @ Isle of Palms Retreat Center
June 19-20 (Friday-Saturday) SCWELCA Convention
At Newberry-Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
June 28 OSLC-WELCA SUNDAY & Newberry College Nursing Scholarship Donations
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

2026 SC WELCA CONVENTION

Date/Time: June 19-20 Friday 12:00 pm—8:00 pm/Saturday 8:30 am — 3:30 pm
Theme: “I am Worthy. I am Loved. I am Enough” Location: Lutheran Church of Redeemer (1515 Boundary Street, Newberry) Delegates: Marie Lybrand & Gail Marcum

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
Gerald Bush
Greg Chapman
Jeannie Chapman
Katie Doble
Dolores Hopkins
Marie Lybrand
Steve Rucker
Herman & Elizabeth Shealy
Marie Shealy (National Health Care)*

The family of Anne Moye upon her death

COMMEMORATION PROFILES

Submitted by 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.

Note to “Grapevine” readers: In June, 2026, each Sunday’s date corresponds to one or more commemorations, making it a seven-person month—highly unusual.

June 7

Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy (c. 1790-1866)

Seattle was chief of the Suquamish tribe in the northwestern US and also the leader of a confederacy of tribes. He chose the way of peace rather than war and was respected by his people and whites alike. He embraced Catholicism in the 1830s. Modern environmentalists draw inspiration from prayers he composed, many of which emphasize the direct role that humans play in the well-being of the entire earth. The city of Seattle was named in his honor, against his wishes.

June 14

Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea (c. 330-379)

Basil was born at Caesarea to devout Christian parents. After completing his education in Constantinople and Athens, he decided to become a monk, living as a hermit and traveling on preaching missions. In 364, his bishop convinced Basil to become ordained, and he was soon busy defending the doctrine of Christ’s divinity against the Arian heresy espoused by the emperor, Valens. Basil is remembered for his writings in defense of doctrine and for his code of monastic life.

June 14

Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople (329- c. 389)

Gregory of Nazianzus was a close associate of Basil and another defender of orthodox Christianity against the heresies of the time. He studied in Alexandria and Athens before becoming a monk. For a while he assisted his father, who was bishop of Nazianzus and who insisted that he become an ordained priest. In 379, Gregory moved to Constantinople and became famous for his powerful doctrinal pronouncements on the nature of Christ and the Trinity. He was nicknamed “the Theologian” and made

bishop there, but he was not happy in public life. Gregory resigned his position to return to a life of contemplation near Nazianzus.

June 14

Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (c. 330-c. 385)

Gregory was a younger brother of Basil the Great. He left his job as a teacher of rhetoric to enter a monastery founded by Basil. In 371, he was elected bishop of Nyssa, where he had difficult opposition from Arian heretics. Like his brother and Gregory of Nazianzus, this Gregory became an ardent defender of orthodox doctrine concerning the nature of Christ and the Trinity. His writings on theological subjects are voluminous, and he has been called the father of mysticism. Gregory of Nyssa was a deep thinker whose influence extends to the present day, especially in the Orthodox Church.

June 14

Macrina, teacher (c. 330-379)

Born in Caesarea in Cappadocia, Macrina became a wife at age twelve after an arranged marriage. Her husband lived only a short time, however. After the death of Macrina’s father, her brother Basil took Macrina and their mother to a family estate in Pontus. The whole household was dedicated to God, and others joined them to form a Christian community. Macrina became its leader after her mother died. She is remembered as a teacher because of her role in training her younger brothers, who are now known as Saint Basil, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, and Peter of Sebastea. (The first two are profiled above.) Writings by Gregory preserve details of Macrina’s life.

June 21

Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist (1855-1931)

Born in the Galla homeland of Ethiopia, Onesimos Nesib was captured by slave traders and taken to Eritrea. He was bought and freed by Swedish missionaries who then educated and baptized him. Nesib became an evangelist, translated the Bible into his native Galla, and returned to his homeland to preach the gospel. He died on his way to preach at what is

OSLC May Events
Photos submitted by Linda Griffith

now Mekane Yesus Church in Nekemte. On Nesib's tombstone are the words of Jeremiah 22:29, "O land, land, land, hear the word of the Lord!"

June 28
Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons
(c. 130- c. 202)


Despite his stature as an important second-century theologian, Irenaeus' personal biography is a virtual blank. He was probably born in Smyrna and educated in Rome. Later, he was appointed bishop at Lyons in Gaul (now France). Irenaeus opposed Gnosticism's emphasis on closely-held knowledge, affirming instead that the truth handed down from the Apostles is for all people in a church that is catholic in its scope and not defined by national boundaries.



Choir and Handbell Choir on Mother's Day



OSLC Sanctuary on Mother's Day



5/20 Justin Grimm Elected Bishop of the ELCA St. Paul Area Synod

5/19 Joy Mortensen-Wiebe Reelected Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

5/19 Amy Current Reelected Bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Iowa Synod

4/29 Taryn Montgomery elected Bishop of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod

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



Chat & Snack is back on the 2nd Sunday of the month.



Cameron/Rebekah Circle Luncheon Outing in May

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Gary & Kay Black 6/01
Meredith & Beth Cleland 6/25

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Melba Murphy 6/02
Lucy Hughes 6/09
Steve Rucker 6/10
Sue Drafts 6/16
Ruth Nicholson 6/17

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.

GOD'S HELPING HANDS

God's Helping Hands current needs as of May 14th are: canned vegetables (especially green beans, mixed vegetables, and sweet peas), macaroni and cheese, jelly, small bags of sugar, flour, corn meal, and grits, and non-refrigerated juice. Please place donations in the container in the Cameron Hallway.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT

Be on the lookout for upcoming information on 2026 VBS dates and details, as well as the Fall Festival. More information will be shared as it becomes available

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, June 22, 2026. If possible, please send as a Word document in Georgia 12 font.

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Melodie Capole—Handbell Director