



The Grapevine

The Newsletter of Our Saviour Lutheran Church

August 2026

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Pastor's Ponderings: Faith That Travels with Us

Dear friends in Christ,

Some of the lessons of faith that stay with us the longest are learned when we step outside our usual routines and go to camp or spend time on retreat. Camp is especially good soil for faith.

We often think of camp as something for children and youth, but camp is for everyone. I'm grateful for that because I still go to camp for rest and renewal. I've also been fortunate to have a ministry that has allowed me to bring others with me. One of the gatherings that seems to hold the whole camp experience together is time around a fire. We sing, hear stories, pray, and laugh at silly skits. As our time together comes to an end, we look around and realize that we are a community gathered in Christ. We carry that experience home with us. Church camp is part of my faith story. It's also a big part of how I came to understand my baptism and my call to ministry. I first went to Lutheridge as a camper in 1989. Over the years, camp became one of the places where I learned to listen for God's call. What was formed there has stayed with me and continues to shape my ministry today.

Camp reminds us that faith isn't limited to a sanctuary or a Sunday morning. We hear the stories of Jesus in a different setting and learn again that God is with us wherever we go.

Faith is formed as God's Word is spoken and sung and as people learn to trust God's promises. The Holy Spirit works through these experiences, sometimes in ways we recognize right away and sometimes in ways we won't understand until years later.

Many people can still remember a camp song, a counselor, or a worship service that helped them hear the gospel in a new way. At camp and on retreat, we learn that faith travels with us.

We also learn that church is a verb. Church happens whenever we gather around Scripture, water, bread, and wine. It happens when faith is shared and when we remind one another that we belong to Christ.

On Sunday, August 16, we'll celebrate Camp Sunday during worship at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Nathan Gragg from NovusWay Ministries will be with us, and we'll share lunch after worship. Come casual and comfortable as we give thanks for the people and places God uses to nurture us in faith.

Camp Sunday isn't only about summer camp. It's a reminder that all of God's children are called to follow Christ, grow in God's love, and care for our neighbor.

See you at Camp Casual Sunday!

In Christ, Pastor Joanna

OSLC News & Notes

Council Meetings

Next Council Meeting is on August 9th at 11:45.

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, August 9th.

Razberries

The Razberries will gather at the home of Sylvia Ford on Saturday, August 8 at 6:30. Details will be forthcoming.

Thank You

Brian Holcomb sends a big thank you to the Kitchen & Fellowship Committee for the great lunch provided on July 12th!

Lutheran Men Lucheon

Lutheran Men invite you to join us for our annual lunch at Shealy's in Leesville at noon on Tuesday, August 18th.

Thrivent Members

Thrivent Choice Dollars are now available to be directed to your favorite charity. Please consider directing them to Our Saviour Lutheran Church.

AUGUST MINISTRIES

Date	Flowers	Greeters	Worship Assistant	Lector
8/2	David & Linda Griffith	Doris Wessinger	Marie Lybrand	Marie Lybrand
8/9	Steve & Beverly Nivens	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	Ruth Nicholson
8/16	Jim & Theresa Garner	Frank Yonce	Charles Nicholson	Charles Nicholson
8/23	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	Melba Murphy	Melba Murphy
8/30	Linda Hill	Linda Hill	Gail Marcum	Linda Hill
Role		August	September	
Usher		Jim Garner, Chief	Wayne Lybrand, Chief	
Usher		<i>Need Volunteer</i>	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	
Altar Guild		Charles & Ruth Nicholson	Isma Boland/Melba Murphy	
Offering Pickup		Jim Garner	Wayne Lybrand	
Tellers		Beth Cleland/Melba Murphy	Beth Cleland/Sandra Hughes Linda Griffith (alternate)	
Property Committee		Jim Garner	Jim Garner	



ELCA Press Releases

7/8:	Bishop Curry Statement on SCOTUS Immigration Decisions Recently, the Supreme Court issued a decision that will allow this administration to proceed with terminating Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for more than 330,000 people from Haiti and 3,800 from Syria, many of whom have lived in this country for decades. They are not strangers. They are part of the fabric of our whole society. The termination of TPS threatens to separate families, destabilize local economies and force people to return to countries where they may face severe humanitarian crises, violence and threats to their very lives.
6/23:	All Together in One Place Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry issues his second in a series of monthly messages that continue through the end of this year, titled "All Together in One Place." Each message will share a pastoral word, rooted in Scripture, that witnesses to God's presence today, our rich theological tradition and the social teaching that connects us.

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

COMMEMORATION PROFILES

Submitted by Ruth Nicholson

August 11 - Clare, Abbess of San Damiano (1194-1253)

Born into the Italian nobility, Clare rejected two offers of marriage, choosing instead a life of poverty and piety. It was after St. Francis preached in her hometown that Clare, at age eighteen, left her family to seek a less worldly life. Francis found a refuge for her with Benedictine nuns, and soon Clare helped to establish a new Franciscan women's community near the church of San Damiano in Assisi. The new order, known as The Order of Poor Ladies, or The Poor Clares, was devoted to prayer and austerity. The pope gave the Clares permission to live entirely on alms given to them, with no property of their own. Clare led them resolutely for forty years and inspired other women of her time to lives of religious devotion.

August 14 - Maximilian Kolbe, martyr (1894-1941)

Son of poor Catholic parents in Russian-occupied Poland, Raymond Kolbe entered a Franciscan seminary at age sixteen and took the name Maximilian. Further studies in Rome led to his ordination as a priest in 1918. Father Kolbe returned to Poland to teach at a seminary, and in 1927 he founded a monastery near Warsaw on land donated by a Polish prince. In the 1930s Father Kolbe established another monastery in Nagasaki, Japan, which survived World War II and still serves as a Franciscan center. After the Nazi invasion of Poland, Father Kolbe and his fellow Franciscans sheltered refugees, many of them Jews. The Nazis arrested Father Kolbe in 1941, imprisoned him in Warsaw, and later moved him to Auschwitz. Following a prisoner's escape in July, 1941, the concentration camp authorities ordered ten men to be starved to death in retaliation. When one of those, a married man with children, pleaded for mercy, Father Kolbe volunteered to take his place among the ten. After several weeks of starvation, he was executed by lethal injection. Pope John Paul II's official declaration of Father Kolbe's sainthood was witnessed by the man whose life he had saved at Auschwitz.

August 14 - Kaj Munk, martyr (1898-1944)

Orphaned at age six, Kaj Munk was adopted by Christians who made sure that he got a good education. He became a Danish Lutheran pastor and served a very small parish, but his influence spread throughout Scandinavia. In his plays, sermons, and patriotic writings, Munk predicted the victory of Christian faith over adversity. The Danish resistance movement circulated his writings to encourage opposition to Hitler. The Nazis arrested Munk in 1944, and he was found shot to death soon after. His martyrdom only added to the determination of those resisting German aggression.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/4:	Jim & Theresa Garner	8/10:	Chris & Beth Boland
8/5:	Steve & Beverly Nivens	8/11:	David & Linda Griffith
8/8:	Don & Patsy Horton	8/13:	Howard & Sandra Hughes

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/9:	Jane Wallace	8/23:	David Griffith Marie Shealy
8/17:	Herman Shealy, Jr.	8/31:	Dolores Hopkins
8/18:	Gail Marcum		



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Ladies! This month will be the last for summer and then September will bring "back to school" for the children, cooler weather, football games and maybe a more routine lifestyle for most of us. Summer seems to be about children, beach, picnics, vacation, and time well spent with our families. Thanks be to God for all of these opportunities, and more, that He provides for us everyday.

WELCA Sunday went very well and we were very pleased to have Pastor Mary Finklea as our guest pastor. Linda Griffith was presented with an engraved cross and pearl necklace in appreciation for serving the past nine years of OSLC WELCA. Thanks again, Linda, and we appreciate you so much. You kept us all straight and I still count on you to keep me straight. On the Churchwide level, Risse Snelgrove was elected to the Executive Board for the 2026-2029 triennium. She represents Region 9C (South Carolina). Congratulations Risse! We are proud to have you as our SC WELCA Representative.

Although the Circles have not been meeting during the summer the Cameron Rebekah Circle kicked off their WELCA Service Project on WELCA Sunday in June. They are continuing to collect twin sheets, pillowcases and pillows for needy children during the month of August. Thanks for all of your support. Last month's Grapevine has the summary of the 2026 WELCA Convention.

The Fall will be full of events and opportunities to offer your service to our congregation and our Lord for the betterment of our community. Be on the lookout for these events coming out in the September Grapevine and please prayerfully consider offering your time and services to assist in the events being planned. Everyone is needed!

Hope everyone has a safe, healthy, and enjoyable August. Peace be with you.
Marie Lybrand, President

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

September 20 (Sunday) Saxe Gotha Conference Meeting

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those listed below have special prayer needs at this time. We always keep the entire congregation in our prayers, 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. Names on the prayer list are left on for two months but may be extended upon request.

Melanie Amick

Bill Aull

Gerald Bush

Greg Chapman

Jeannie Chapman

Virginia M. Cromer

Katie Doble

Jerry Hite

Dolores Hopkins

Charles Kirby

Steve Rucker

Herman & Elizabeth Shealy

Marie Shealy (National Health Care)

The Black family as they grieve the loss of their beloved Gary

GOD'S HELPING HANDS

God's Helping Hands current needs as of August 1st are: miscellaneous canned vegetables, canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, crackers, canned fruit and Jiffy cornbread mix. Please place donations in the container in the Cameron Hallway.

BLESSING BOX SUMMER NEEDS

Thank you for continuing to support the Blessing Box. During the summer months, the need for food and basic supplies remains strong. The Blessing Box is a simple ministry of mercy. It allows neighbors to receive what they need with dignity, and it gives our congregation a practical way to care for the community around us. Thank you for helping keep it stocked.!

Helpful items include:

Peanut butter crackers, canned meats, canned pasta, canned fruit, soup, cereal, shelf-stable milk, granola bars, rice or pasta sides, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant

Please choose items that can handle summer heat and do not require refrigeration. Pop-top cans are especially helpful.

WELCA COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

This summer the Cameron Rebekah Circle is collecting TWIN sheets, pillow cases, blankets and pillows. We are helping provide these items for Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church Men's group. They are building 100 beds for needy children in Lexington County, part of a Scooter Scott project they have taken on for the year or as long as needed. Two blue containers marked for these items are in the Cameron hallway. If you would like to

contribute money instead, make your check out to Our Saviour WELCA and give it to Ann Salter-White or Linda Hill. Thank you for your support and service to others.

AROUND OSLC THIS SUMMER

- + We continue to gather for worship and the everyday ministries that help us care for one another and our neighbors.
- + In August Denise Caulder will begin working in the church office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. She plans to be in the office from 9:00 – 2:00.
- + August will include a Camp/Casual Sunday with guest speakers and lunch after worship. These Sundays will be a fun chance to celebrate the gift of camp ministry and enjoy time together as a church family.
- + As we move through the summer and look ahead to fall, thank you to everyone who helps make ministry happen!

SECOND CAMP/CASUAL SUNDAY IS COMING!

Join us for the second Camp/Casual Sunday on **August 16th** at **10:30 a.m.** worship, followed by **lunch after worship**. This will be joyful summer Sunday to worship together, dress comfortably, share a meal, and celebrate the gift of camp and retreat ministry in the life of the church.

On **August 16**, we are glad to welcome **Pastor Nathan Gragg**, Chief Development Officer of NovusWay Ministries.

Camp and retreat ministries have shaped the faith of children, youth, adults, and congregations for generations. These places give people room to worship, pray, learn, serve, laugh, sing, and hear God's call in a setting away from the usual routines of daily life.

Many people can point to a camp, retreat, youth event, or time away where something important opened in their faith. Sometimes it happens around a campfire. Sometimes it happens during worship. Sometimes it happens at a meal, on a hike, in a cabin conversation, or through the simple gift of Christian community.

On Sunday, August 16th, wear something comfortable. Camp shirts, church shirts, casual clothes, sandals, sneakers, and summer colors are all welcome. Come ready for worship, fellowship, and lunch.

Come as you are. Bring a friend. Stay for lunch. Let's celebrate the God who meets us in worship, in community, and sometimes even outside.

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Michail Chalkiopoulos, Organist
Melodie Capole, Handbell Director