



The Grapevine

The Newsletter of Our Saviour Lutheran Church

September 2026

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Pastor's Ponderings: Fall Faith Formation

Dear friends in Christ,

September has a way of gathering us again. After the different pace of summer, routines begin to settle, and congregational life takes shape for a new season. In it, we are reminded: the Christian life isn't about filling our calendars. It's about returning to the places where God has promised to meet us: in worship, Scripture, prayer, and the community gathered in Christ. One of my favorite moments in Bible study is when someone stops us and says, "Wait. I don't understand that." Usually, someone else nods, and sometimes I do too. One question can open the whole conversation. Each time we return to Scripture, we may notice something we hadn't heard before. Our lives change, but God continues to speak to us through the living Word. We listen together, trusting the Holy Spirit to help us hear God's promises more clearly. Our Wednesday Bible Study resumes September 2 at 10:30 a.m. This fall, we will use David J. Lose's *Making Sense of Scripture*. Lose invites us into a kitchen-table conversation about what the Bible is, how it is the Word of God, and what kind of authority it holds in our lives. This Wednesday gathering will be our primary opportunity for adult Bible study and faith formation this fall, in place of a separate Sunday morning class. Bring your questions and join the conversation (you don't need to be a Bible expert!). As we begin this new season, I hope you'll make room to be gathered again. Through the many ways we come together as a congregation, God reminds us that we belong to Christ and then sends us to care for our neighbors. There is a place for you here.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Joanna

OSLC News & Notes

August Council Highlights

- Pastor Joanna warned everyone of online scams using her name requesting gift cards. SHE SAID SUCH REQUESTS ARE NEVER FROM HER.
- Planning continues for the Fall Festival in November, which will include a garage sale.
- The congregation responded well to the request for school supplies for the Saluda River Academy for the Arts.
- **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: September 20, 2026, 11:46 AM**

Chat & Snack

Chat & Snack is the 2nd Sunday of each month. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for those willing to provide snacks. The next Chat & Snack will be on Sunday, September 13th

August Razberries

Sylvia Ford hosted August Razberries. Since it's back-to-school time, everyone was asked to bring a childhood or school photo. The photos were used for a fun guessing game!

Can you guess who these cute children are? Sandra Hughes was the winner, getting the most correct answers!



September Razberries

You are invited to join Sallie & David Hutto as they host the Razberries on September 17 at 6 pm. The fun will take place at the Old Mill Brewpub, 711 E Main Street in Lexington. Please RSVP to Sallie via text at (803) 414-6009 by Sept.15th.

Thank You from Mt. Hermon Outreach Team

Thank you SO much for all the linen donations for our Comforting for Kids project. A lot of children will sleep comfortable thanks to your support and generosity!

Thrivent Members

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

Thank You from Betty and Horace Meetze

Thank you for the cards, food, visits, phone calls, and all the kindness and support you showed during Horace's recovery. Your thoughtfulness, encouragement, and concern meant so much to us and helped make a challenging time much easier to get through. Your generosity, prayers, and words of encouragement provided comfort, strength, and reassurance when we needed it most. We deeply appreciate your support and will always remember the compassion you showed our family.

Lutheran Men

Lutheran Men will resume monthly breakfasts at the Lizard's Thicket on Augusta Road on Monday, September 21 at 9 a.m., and will continue on the third Monday of each month. All men of the congregation are invited!

Bill Aull's New Address

990 Columbia Ave. Apt 215
Irmo, SC 29063

Wednesday Bible Study

Resumes September 2 at 10:30 a.m. This fall, we will use David J. Lose's *Making Sense of Scripture* to explore some of our most important questions about the Bible. Bring your questions and join us around the table. Everyone is welcome!

Congregational Preparedness Workshop

Pastor Joanna, Jim Garner, Pam Hanfland, and Linda Griffith attended the Congregational Preparedness Workshop hosted by Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas (LDR Carolinas).



ELCA Press Releases

8/6: Patricia Davenport, first African American female bishop in ELCA, dies at 70

The Rev. Patricia Ann Curtis Davenport, the first African American woman to be elected a bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), died Wednesday, July 29. She was 70 years old.

7/28: All Together in One Place

Presiding Bishop Curry issues his third 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

SEPTEMBER MINISTRIES

Date	Flowers	Greeters	Worship Assistant	Lector
9/6	Dan & Pam Hanfland	Sylvia Ford	<i>*need volunteer</i>	Pam Hanfland
9/13	<i>*need volunteer</i>	Sandra Hughes	Marie Lybrand	Sylvia Ford
9/20	<i>*need volunteer</i>	Theresa Garner	<i>*need volunteer</i>	<i>*need volunteer</i>
9/27	Melba Murphy	<i>*need volunteer</i>	Gail Marcum	Caroline Raszewski

Role	September	October
Usher	Wayne Lybrand, Chief	Jim Garner, Chief
Usher	<i>*need volunteer</i>	<i>*need volunteer</i>
Altar Guild	Linda Hill Sylvia Ford	Gail Marcum Marie Lybrand
Offering	Wayne Lybrand	Pam Hanfland
Tellers	Beth Cleland/Sandra Hughes (Linda Griffith—alternate)	Pam Hanfland/Gail Marcum
Property	Jim Garner	Jim Garner

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/9: DeLeon & Jane Wallace

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/16: Horace Meetze

Average Worship Attendance in August— 35

COMMEMORATION PROFILES

Submitted by Ruth Nicholson

September 13 - John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople (c. 346-407)

Raised a Christian in Antioch, John studied law and theology. His service to the church began with ordination as a deacon. In 386 he became a priest and devoted himself to preaching, at which he was very skillful. He earned the name Chrysostom (Greek for “golden mouth”) and attracted a large following. However, during subsequent service as patriarch of Constantinople, John Chrysostom attempted reforms which angered powerful church officials as well as the emperor and his wife. He was ultimately removed from office and forced into exile. He died during an exhausting journey in severe weather. John is revered as one of the key figures of the early church.

September 16 - Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr (c. 200-c. 258)

A native of North Africa, Cyprian became a Christian at age forty-six, was ordained a priest, and became the bishop at Carthage soon after that. He had to care for his fellow Christians in covert ways because of persecution by imperial authorities. Cyprian believed strongly in the need for unity in the church, so he urged compassion for those Christians who had compromised their faith under pressure from Rome. When Cyprian was asked to renounce his own Christianity, his refusal led to his beheading.

September 18 - Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society (1905-1961)

Swedish statesman and international peacemaker, Dag Hammarskjöld began his career as a teacher before entering civil service. He was an astute financial expert whose influence extended beyond Sweden's borders following WWII. Two years after joining his country's delegation to the United Nations, he became the UN's second secretary-general. He was instrumental in bringing peaceful ends to conflicts in the Middle East in the 1950s. In 1961, while on a peace mission to the Congo, Hammarskjöld was killed in a plane crash. He was posthumously awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for that year.



Hello Ladies. I hope you all had a nice summer and are ready to get back into our more “routine” lives for the Fall and the rest of 2026. There are many opportunities to worship, serve, and enjoy our congregation as Women of the ELCA. Below are the upcoming events for WELCA and also other areas that are needing attention and assistance.

- The Cameron/Rebekah Circle’s community service project had a wonderful response from our congregation. They delivered approximately 30 sets of twin sheets, pillowcases, pillows and several throws to Mt. Hermon’s Men’s Group for their project of building beds for needy children. Money contributed will be used to purchase blankets. The generosity of our congregation, along with the talent of the bed builders at Mt. Hermon, will put a big smile on these children’s faces.
- The 2026 Saxe Gotha District Meeting will be held on September 20 at Mt. Tabor at 3:00 pm. I need a couple volunteers (or more) to attend. OSLC will be hosting in 2027. I will be out of town that weekend so will not be available to represent us. Please let me know if you are able to attend as our representatives. Everyone is invited!
- There are several members serving on the committee for OSLC to host a Fall Festival on November 14th. This event will be an opportunity for OSLC to reach out to the community and have fun and fellowship. See the included flyer.
- The Lydia Circle is responsible for a Social event which will be in December with the Lutheran Men to help plan our Congregation Christmas Party.
- The Thirteenth Triennial Convention was held July 13-14 in Des Moines, Iowa. The meeting was virtual except for staff, board members, and the Conduct of Elections Committee. For more information on the convention go to www.scwelca.com. The 2027 convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Nominations for the 2027 WELCA Officers will be voted on at the October Joint Meeting. Please have your nominations and Circle Leaders ready at the meeting October 18.

WELCA UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

September 14 @ 10:30 AM: OSLC Fellowship Hall, Linda Hill is Hostess and Leader
September 15 @ TBA. Sallie Hutto is Hostess and Marie Lybrand is Leader
September 20 @ 3:00 PM: Saxe Gotha District Meeting at Mt,
October 18 @3:00 PM: Joint Circle Meeting, Devotion--Rebekah, Refreshments—
Lydia
November 14 @ 8:00 AM: Fall Festival and Garage Sale
December (TBA): WELCA Executive Meeting (Circle leaders with unit officers)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those on our Prayer List below have special prayer 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 office so that name can be removed. Names on the prayer list are left on for two months but may be extended upon request.

Melanie Amick
Gerald Bush (friend of Sandra Hughes family)
Greg Chapman
Jeannie Chapman
Virginia M. Cromer
Katie Doble
Jerry Hite
Dolores Hopkins
Steve Rucker
Herman & Elizabeth Shealy
Marie Shealy (National Health Care)

GOD'S HELPING HANDS

God's Helping Hands current needs as of September 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 NEEDS

Thank you for continuing to support the Blessing Box. 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 SC heat and do not require refrigeration. Pop-top cans are especially helpful.

Back to School Blessing Celebration



OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

SHOP - SAVE - CELEBRATE - CONNECT

TREASURE FINDS & FALL FEST

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2026

Location: 1500 Sunset Blvd, West Columbia, SC 29169

Treasure Find Yard Sale
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fall Fest
11:00 PM - 2:00 PM



CONTACT OSLCEVENTS26@GMAIL.COM OR CALL/TEXT 803-719-356
APPLICATION FOR YARD SALE SPOT RESERVATIONS
ON BACK OF FLYER

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

YARD SALE FOR SELLER OR VENDOR SIGN-UP
20 SPOTS AVAILABLE | \$20 PER SPOT
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

- FULL NAME:
- PHONE NUMBER:
- EMAIL ADDRESS:
- HOW MANY SPOTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO RESERVE?

SELLER OR VENDOR GUIDELINES

- COST: \$20 PER SPOT
- ONLY 20 SPOTS AVAILABLE. RESERVATIONS ARE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.
- REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
- PACK IN, PACK OUT: PLEASE TAKE ALL UNSOLD ITEMS, BOXES, AND TRASH WITH YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE.
 - SELLERS SET THEIR OWN PRICES AND HANDLE THEIR OWN SALES.
 - SELLERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THEIR OWN CASH AND CHANGE.
 - EVENT ORGANIZERS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST, STOLEN, OR DAMAGED ITEMS.
- EMAIL THIS COMPLETE FORM TO OSLCEVENTS26@GMAIL.COM
- CONFIRMATION AND SETUP DETAILS WILL BE EMAILED ONCE YOUR SPOT HAS BEEN RESERVED

SIGNATURE (OR ACKNOWLEDGMENT): _____

DATE: _____

QUESTIONS?

EMAIL: OSLCEVENTS26@GMAIL.COM

FOR A QUICKER RESPONSE, YOU MAY TEXT THE EVENT ORGANIZER AT
[803-719-3569]

Pastor Nathan Gragg—2nd Camp/Casual Sunday



Luncheon at Shealy's BBQ



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Michail Chalkiopoulos, Organist
Melodie Capole, Handbell Director