



The Grapevine

The Newsletter of Our Saviour Lutheran Church

October 2026

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Pastor's Ponderings: Showing Up, Leaning In

We're all trainers in training!

Sometimes we want to help, but we don't know what to say. Someone we care about has received hard news or had their life turned upside down, and we find ourselves searching for words that might bring comfort.

As September turned into October, I participated in a Training of Trainers for Mental, Emotional, Spiritual Support (MESS) at the North Carolina Synod Office. We explored how to support people after a crisis, and I was equipped to lead this training for others. I look forward to sharing what I learned as we continue learning how to care for one another.

Since then, I've been thinking about how much it matters simply to be present—to sit with someone, listen, and make room for what they need to say. Often, care begins before we even speak.

That presence is part of our life together as the church. As Paul wrote, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15). We share in one another's lives because Christ has made us a community. When one of us is hurting, others can help carry the burden. And when we're the ones who need care, that same love is for us, too.

As we move through October, I invite you to consider:

- Who might appreciate a visit or a phone call?
- What helps you feel connected when you're having a hard time?
- Is there a burden you could let someone help you carry?

In Christ's love,
Pastor Joanna

OSLC News & Notes

September Council Highlights

Submitted by Charles Nicholson

Pastor Joanna and three members of the congregation participated in a Congregational Preparedness Workshop at the end of August.

Preparation continues for the Treasure Find and Fall Fest on November 14. There will be opportunities for volunteers to help. Members are working to set up a food truck and are considering coupons for children to use for the food. Other things being considered are welcome bags, a bouncy house, corn hole, and face painting.

The congregation made a generous donation of school supplies to the Saluda River Academy for the Arts. Also, a \$250 gift card was received from Thrivent. Part of this was used to buy emergency clothing for students at SRAA (tops, pants, and underwear of all sizes). The school gives tickets for expressions of good character, and the students exchange the tickets for prizes. The remainder of the Thrivent money will be used to buy some of these prizes.

Plans are being made for an Oktoberfest dinner with USC ministry in October.

September Razberries

Sallie & David Hutto hosted the Razberries at the Old Mill Brewpub.

October Razberries

RAZBERRIES ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST

The Lybrands will be the hosts for October Razberries. Hope you can join us on Wednesday, October 7 @ 6:00 PM at Julia's German Restaurant. The address is: [120 Sparkleberry Crossing, Columbia SC](#). Please arrive before 6:00 as everyone needs to be present before we're seated. RSVP to Marie by October 4th. [803-397-0503](tel:803-397-0503). Hope to see you there!

Lutheran Men

Lutheran Men's next monthly breakfast will be on Monday, October 21st at 9 a.m. at Lizard's Thicket on Augusta Road. All men of the congregation are invited!

Worship Leadership Opportunities

As we continue expanding opportunities for people to serve, you are invited to participate in one or more of the following ways: assist with communion, lead the creed and prayers, or serve in both roles if you feel called to do so. If you are interested, please sign up in the narthex or speak with Pastor Joanna.



ELCA Press Releases

8/19: **A Call to be Trusted Messengers in this Election Season**

Presiding Bishop Curry issues his fourth 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

OCTOBER MINISTRIES

Date	Flowers	Greeters	Worship Assistant	Lector
10/4	Frank Yonce	Frank Yonce	Bill Aull	Bill Aull
10/11	<i>*need volunteer</i>	<i>*need volunteer</i>	Melba Murphy	Melba Murphy
10/18	Sandra Hughes	Doris Wessinger	Gail Marcum	Wayne Lybrand
10/25	Wayne & Marie Lybrand	Steve & Beverly Nivens	<i>*need volunteer</i>	Beverly Nivens

Role	October	November
Usher	Jim Garner, Chief	Steve Nivens, Chief
Usher	<i>*need volunteer</i>	Mark Satterwhite
Altar Guild	Gail Marcum/Marie Lybrand	Steve & Beverly Nivens
Offering Pickup	Pam Hanfland	Steve Nivens
Tellers	Pam Hanfland/Gail Marcum	Beth Cleland/Melba Murphy
Property	Jim Garner	Steve Nivens

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/29: Mark & Ann Satterwhite

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/2: Rhett Chapman

10/22: Chris Boland

10/4: Francis Fingerlin

Sylvia Ford

10/7: Melodie Capole

10/27: Beverly Nivens

10/15: Pam Hanfland

10/29: Marie Lybrand

10/20: Charles Nicholson

Average Worship Attendance in September – 28

Average Worship Attendance for Quarter 3 - 32

COMMEMORATION PROFILES

Submitted by Ruth Nicholson

October 4 - Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church **(1182-1226)**

One of the best-known and best-loved saints, Francis was born into wealth and privilege. It was only after wartime imprisonment and subsequent illness that he grew dissatisfied with worldly ways. Francis turned to a simple life of prayer and charitable service. He attracted a group of followers who joined him in extensive travel and preaching. The pope made Francis a deacon to formally approve his ministry. The order of friars founded by Francis (Franciscans) established a branch for women, called the Poor Clares, in 1212. In 1221, these were joined by a society for laypeople, known as The Third Order.

October 4 - Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society **(1800-1864)**

Fliedner was a German pastor who revived the deaconess system there and caused it to flourish and spread to other countries, including the United States. In addition to ministry among German congregations, deaconesses were called as nurses in public hospitals. Training schools for women teachers were an outgrowth of the deaconess movement. Schools for parish workers, a home for unwed mothers, and the first German nursery school were also products of Fliedner's endeavors in his homeland. His efforts did much to meet society's needs while also providing women with opportunities for significant service.

October 23 - James of Jerusalem, martyr (died ca. 62)

James may or may not have been the brother of Jesus, since the Aramaic word for "brother" can also mean "cousin." In any case, James does not seem to have been a disciple until after the resurrected Christ appeared to him. Both St. Paul's writings and the Book of Acts tell of James' leadership position in the church at Jerusalem; he may have been its first bishop. The writings mention that James encouraged Jews to adhere to their law but not to impose it on Gentile converts. According to Jewish historian Josephus, James was stoned to death in 62 AD.



Hello Ladies,

Many thanks to Linda Hill and Kay Black for representing Our Saviour WELCA at the Fall Saxe Gotha meeting. Below are their notes from the meeting:

“The Saxe Gotha Fall Gathering was held Sunday, September 20, 2026 at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church. There were 29 present and 7 congregations represented with Kay Black and Linda Hill representing Our Saviour. Ann Spainhour, president of Mt. Tabor WELCA welcomed everyone and had devotions. She introduced the guest speaker, Michelle Gaskins, of Greenwood, SC. Michelle is a recovering drug addict and has been drug free for 18 years. During that time she earned her college degree and received a masters in counseling. She has partnered with Restoration Lutheran Church in Greenwood and opened a home for women trying to straighten their lives out from drug abuse. The offering received of \$120 went to her home for women, Kinard Manor. During the business sessions, the following were re-elected for the 2027 year term: President-Ella Shumpert, Secretary-Kristie Marshall, and Financial Secretary-Betty Enlow. Our Saviour will host the spring gathering on March 21, 2027. The meeting closed with the WELCA Purpose Statement and delicious refreshments were served.”

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 on October 18. Rebekah Circle is responsible for the devotion and Lydia Circle the refreshments.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

October 5 @ 12:00 PM: Rebekah/Cameron Circles will meet at Laurel Crest to have lunch and fellowship with Elizabeth Shealy.

October 12 @ 6:00 PM: Leader is Rebecca Fingerlin and Beverly Nivens is Hostess.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

In our prayers, we commend the following individuals to God's gracious care. If a name belongs to someone outside our congregation, please let the office know your connections. If there are any names to update, please also let us know additions or changes.

Melanie Amick
Gerald Bush (Friend of Sandra Hughes)
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 October 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.



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]

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