

# THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

As I write this, I realize this may be my last article for the *Grapevine*. Therefore, wanted to let you all know what an honor it has been to serve at OSLC and to thank you for all the care and support and prayers you have offered me during this time. I am excited to see what God has planned in the future for OSLC.

When the church makes the move to December this year, it makes the move into Advent and a new year. This year, we will be reading from the Gospel according to Luke. This means we will return again and again to one reading in the first chapter of Luke, the *Magnificat*.

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The reversals and promises presented in this song of hope reappear throughout Luke.

*continued on page 3* →

# OSLC NEWS & NOTES



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

November 2024

Secretary, Charles Nicholson

- The Property Team has placed a contribution of bark mulch in the playground area, but leaves from trees along the property line may hasten deterioration of the mulch. The trees need to be need trimmed, and one tree may have to be removed.
- The Blessing Box has been set up but needs to be stabilized with one additional support. It will then be blessed and filled with food.
- The schedule for Advent and Christmas has been set. Christmas trees will be set up and decorated on Saturday, December 7. The nativity scene will be set up the following week. The Christmas Eve service will be at 5 PM. Decorations will be taken down during the week from December 30 to January 4, but the nativity scene with added Wise Men will stay up at least through January 12.

## CALLING POST UPDATE

We are in the process of updating our *Calling Post* phone numbers. We are aware that several members have chosen to discontinue their landlines and are using cell phones. Please email [evineoursaviour@gmail.com](mailto:evineoursaviour@gmail.com) or let Pam Hanfland know your decision.

1. If you would like to be included in calling post calls
2. If yes, what phone number would you like us to use
3. If you have any changes to any of your phone numbers (removed your landline or have changed your cell phone number) we will correct in the calling post and or directory.

## PASTOR JOANNA GRAGG



### Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

After prayerful discernment and with great joy, I humbly accept the call to serve as your pastor at Our Saviour Lutheran Church. It is an honor to join you in ministry and to walk alongside you as we follow where God is leading us together.

This new chapter offers exciting opportunities to grow in faith, deepen relationships, and live out the gospel in meaningful ways. I look forward to learning about your hopes, dreams, and unique gifts as a congregation, and I am eager to support and encourage you as we discern God's mission for us in this time and place.

As we prepare to begin this journey together, please know that you are already in my prayers. I ask for your prayers as well, as I transition into this new role and prepare to serve among you. The work God is doing through you is inspiring, and I am filled with hope and anticipation for all we will do together in Christ's name.

With gratitude and excitement  
for the future,  
Pastor Joanna Gragg



OSLC Call Committee

continued from page 1

Now, as the church enters into Advent, the world around us continues the rush of secular Christmas. If joining in on what that entails brings you joy, go for it. If putting up thousands of lights brings you joy, great! Just don't fall off the ladder! If parties and cooking bring excitement and joy, that's wonderful. But, if your style is more low-key or if the thought of decorating and cooking makes you feel sad and overwhelmed, take care of you. Feel free to cut back, to not accept every invitation to every party and cookie exchange and celebrate the lead up to Christmas in a way that makes sense to you. Jesus, God's son, will be given to us, even if we do not have a Christmas tree up.

May 2025 be a year of joy and new beginnings.

In peace,  
Pr. Christine

## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study will be going on hiatus during December. Stay tuned for updates in the new year

## RAZBERRIES

The Hanflands will be hosting Razberries at their home on December 7th (note date change) at 6:30.

## 2025 CHURCH DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY TEAMS

The sign-up sheets for the teams and the ministries are on the table in the Narthex until December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't already, please take a moment to sign up for all those you are interested in. Don't forget to check the church directory membership to make sure the informa-

## DECEMBER MINISTRIES

### FLOWERS

- Dec 1 *\*Need Volunteer*
- 8 *Wayne & Marie Lybrand*
- 15 *\*Need Volunteer*
- 22 *\*Need Volunteer*
- 24 *Poinsettias*
- 29 *Bill Aull*

### GREETERS

- Sylvia Ford*
- Mark & Ann Satterwhite*
- \*Need Volunteer*
- \*Need Volunteer*
- \*Need Volunteer*
- \*Need Volunteer*

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

- Dec 1 *Marie Lybrand*
- 8 *Marie Lybrand*
- 15 *Gail Marcum*
- 22 *\*Need Volunteer*
- 24 *\*Need Volunteer*
- 29 *\*Need Volunteer*

### LECTORS

- Sylvia Ford*
- Ann Satterwhite*
- Wayne Lybrand*
- Marie Lybrand*
- Caroline Raszewski*
- Isma Boland*

### DECEMBER

#### USHERS

- Chief Isma Boland*
- \*Need Volunteer*

### JANUARY

- Steve Nivens*
- \*Need Volunteer*

#### ALTAR GUILD

- \*Need Volunteer*

- Isma Boland & Melba Murphy*

#### OFFERING PICKUP

- Linda Griffith*

- Beth Cleland*

#### TELLERS

- Linda Griffith & Beth Cleland*

- Linda Griffith & Melba Murphy*

#### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- \*Need Volunteer*

- Steve Nivens*

## 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.



**December 4**  
**John of Damascus,**  
**Theologian and Hymnwriter**  
**(c. 675-749)**

John was a Syrian Christian whose father worked for the Muslim bureaucracy. In about 715, John began studying at a monastery near Jerusalem. He was ordained a priest and lived there for the rest of his life. When Byzantine Emperor Leo III sought to ban religious images, calling them idols, John became a leading advocate for them. He argued that Christ had taken bodily form, the Eucharist depended on concrete elements, and icons were useful in the Christian education of illiterate people. In addition to many influential theological treatises, John of Damascus contributed to Christian hymnody. The ELW contains two Easter hymns (#361 - "The Day of Resurrection!" and #363 - "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain") written by him.

**December 6**  
**Nicholas, Bishop of Myra**  
**(died c. 342)**

Although St. Nicholas is one of the most celebrated saints, few facts of his life are known beyond his service as a Christian bishop in southwestern Asia Minor. Legend has it that he saved several unjustly convicted persons from death and rescued a number of sailors from perishing. His association with gift-giving (as Saint Nick, Father Christmas, Père Noel, etc.) is said to originate in the story of his generosity toward three daughters of a poor man. In order to save the destitute girls from lives of

prostitution, he tossed bags of gold through the window of their home to provide dowries for decent marriages. Patron saint of sailors, children, and the state of Russia, Nicholas has been honored, as well, by having innumerable churches named after him.

**December 13**  
**Lucy,**  
**Martyr (died c. 304)**

Lucy was martyred for her Christian faith in Sicily during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. After Catholic authorities declared Lucy a saint, the similarity of her name to the Latin for "light" led to prayers directed to her for healing by those with eye diseases.



# THANK YOU

Dear OSLC-WELCA,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful bouquet of fall flowers and the "Butterfingers." I would reward myself with one after every physical therapy session! I am on the mend and so very grateful for all of you and your calls, cards, texts, emails, thoughts and prayers. You are the best!

Mary Havens

## OFFICERS

President—Linda Griffith (Rebekah)  
 Vice President—Isma Boland (Cameron)  
 Treasurer—Ann Satterwhite (Lydia)  
 Secretary—Caroline Raszewski (Lydia)

Circles are reminded that Linda Griffith has placed 4 pieces of fabric per circle (2 kits) for the Fabric Kit Project for Convention next August in the storage area of the very last classroom in the Cameron Building. All the circles have to do is purchase the thread for the two kits as indicated in the Lutheran World Relief Fabric Kits handout given each Circle during Joint Meeting last month. Please be sure to read all the instructions as suggested thread type and packing are outlined. A donation might be recommended to help with postage and handling.

**All circles have completed their duties for their respective committees this year; therefore, committees for 2025 are as follow:**

**Community-Rebekah** It is the work of this committee to encourage and aid members of the Women of the ELCA in ministering the love of Christ in our Church and the community. This committee will be responsible for the Easter Egg Hunt and a Social event.

**Action-Lydia** It shall be the duty of this committee to aid and carry out the work of Christian Service in the life of our congregation. It should provide opportunities for fellowship and service of deeds that show our love of Christ and to one another. The committee will be responsible for planning and implementing the Bible Study/Retreat, coordinating the Hospitality Committee Groups, and a Service Project.

**Growth/Sunshine-Cameron** This circle will keep the same committee as in the past. This committee encompasses the education function of Women of the ELCA, focusing special attention on the total mission of the Church and the spiritual growth of every individual member. It specifically coordinates the Women of the ELCA Sunday, Nursery monitors, Children's Activity Bags, sending Sunshine Cards, orders Spiritual Gifts for confirmands and baptisms and the coordination and decoration of the Christmas Tree in the Fellowship Hall.

## 2024 Calendar Events

December 9 WELCA & LMM Joint Christmas Dinner and Entertainment

## 2025 Calendar Events

*Visit the SC WELCA website ([www.scwelca.com](http://www.scwelca.com)) monthly as important information regarding retreat speakers, new payment options for events, The Ripple, Bible Study ideas, and updated convention information is posted on a regular basis. It also has a new look with a helpful menu for you to search for specific information.*

February 28 - March 1, 2025—SCWELCA CAMP KINARD RETREAT  
 Pegi Roberts will be back as the guest speaker. Details forthcoming.

March (TBA) Saxe Gotha Conference Spring Meeting.

April 15 6 pm.(Tuesday) Joint Circle Meeting  
 Devotion/Prayer-Lydia  
 Refreshments-Cameron/  
 Rebekah

May 16 - 18, 2025—SCWELCA ISLE OF PALMS RETREAT Details coming soon!

August 15-16, 2020—SCWELCA CONVENTION  
 St. Paul Lutheran Church, 961 Trail Ridge Road, Aiken, SC 29803. *Renew, Refresh, Remember*” is the theme this year.

September (TBA) Saxe Gotha Conference Fall Meeting.

October 12 3-5 PM (Sunday) Joint Circle Meeting  
 Devotion/Prayer-Rebekah  
 Refreshments-Lydia

## VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION AND BARBECUE LUNCH

On November 10, the WELCA Lydia Circle hosted a special Veteran's Day Celebration. The Worship Service was held in the Fellowship Hall and a delicious barbecue lunch followed. We had 55 in attendance. To show our patriotism and honor our congregation's military, photos and memorabilia were displayed along with a photo video. Many thanks to Wayne Lybrand for developing the video to share with the congregation. Also, thanks to Pam Hanfland and Sallie Loftis for the program. Sallie shared a letter written by her mother's brother during WWII which was so interesting and very special to hear. We then enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch, fellowship, and sang patriotic songs played by Melanie and the USC students.

The following current members were honored for their service and presented with a US Flag Cross Pin.

Army – Charles Burgin (Melodie's cousin),  
David Griffith, Charles Nicholson,  
Herman Shealy

Army Reserves – Horace Meetze

Army & Air National Guard – Gary Black,  
Charles Drafts

Navy – Jim Garner

Air Force – Bill Aull, Melodie Capole



## 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.

*Greg Chapman  
Jeannie Chapman  
Katie Doble  
Wayne & Jane Garrison (friends of David & Linda Griffith)  
Anne Moyer  
Anita Murphy (sorority sister of Linda Griffith)  
Steve Rucker  
Marie Shealy  
DeLeon & Jane Wallace*

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jennifer Gossett	12/03
Lisa Sawyer	12/07
Wayne Lybrand	12/08
Sutton Smith	12/08
Kay Black	12/16
Sonya Urban	12/29
Linda Hill	12/31

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Hampton & Nicole Lybrand	12/07
Francis & Rebecca Fingerlin	12/28

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.

### AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

*November 2024*

*WORSHIP—44*



### ELCA PRESS RELEASES

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

- 10/30 ELCA Receives Lily Endowment Grant for Children's Ministry
- 10/31 Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification
- 11/20 ELCA Church Council Considers Legislative Proposals for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly

### 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, December 30.**

## OSLC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Christmas party organized by WELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission will take place this year on Monday, December 9, at 6 PM. Tim's Catering will again provide a delicious holiday meal, and Phil Urban has been invited to present a program of Christmas music with some audience participation. A love offering will be collected for his performance.

The cost this year will be \$15 per person. Please see Gary Black, Charles Nicholson, Linda Griffith, or Linda Hill to buy your tickets by Sunday, December 1, so that we can give a number to the caterer.

Please remember that although the event is sponsored by LMM and WELCA, all members and friends of the congregation are invited. Please join us!



### POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Worship and Music Committee would like to request your assistance this year by asking you to lend a poinsettia for our Christmas Services at a cost of \$14.00 (includes tax). Your check should be made payable to the church and marked "POINSETTIA". Please indicate in the space below the information you want printed in the Christmas bulletin. Please place in the

offering plate or mail to the church with your check **BEFORE December 1, 2024.**

I desire to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s).

I desire the following information printed in the bulletin: G

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

(list designation) \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print legibly)