

# THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

## February 2025 In This Issue

Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	7
Commemoration Profiles .....	4
OSLC News.....	2
Prayer Requests.....	7
Thank you.....	6
WELCA.....	5



*The Grapevine* is a monthly newsletter published by the staff & members of Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
1500 Sunset Blvd  
West Columbia, SC 29169  
Phone: 803.794.8180  
E-mail: [oslc1957@sc.rr.com](mailto:oslc1957@sc.rr.com)  
Website: [www.oursaviour.net](http://www.oursaviour.net)

Reverend Joanna Gragg, Pastor  
Cell: 864-992-1246  
Primary email:  
[Pastorjoannagragg@gmail.com](mailto:Pastorjoannagragg@gmail.com)  
Church email:  
[oslcpastor@sc.rr.com](mailto:oslcpastor@sc.rr.com)

Brent Holcomb—Organist/ Choirmaster  
Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

## Arise, shine, for your light has come!

These opening words from the prophet Isaiah (60:1-3) hit right at the heart of Epiphany. This festival, celebrated on January 6, marks the conclusion of the Christmas season. On this day, we remember the magi—those seekers of wisdom—who followed the light of a star to worship the Christ child. The manifestation, the revealing of God incarnate, is what the word *Epiphany* means and how the day got its name.

While epiphany is not simply a singular moment, the festival of Epiphany is a single day. It ushers in a season called *the season after Epiphany*. It is not *the season of Epiphany*—a phrase that suggests it's all contained and wrapped up—but *the Sundays after Epiphany*, an ongoing movement of revelation and response. The participle **after** makes all the difference. It points us toward what flows from the light of Christ breaking into the world: a journey, a calling, and a mission to live out that light.

The Sundays after Epiphany lead us right up to Lent and give us plenty to think about as we hear about Jesus' earthly ministry. During this liturgically green season, we hear about Jesus' baptism, the calling of disciples, and Jesus' teachings and miracles. All of these moments reveal who Jesus is and what the mission is about: sharing the good news of God, calling us to live in God's light of grace and love, and showing us the joy that comes with new life in Christ.

When I gave my first children's message here at Our Saviour, the youth and I talked about the light of Christ—how it's not just for a select few, but for everyone. We're called to shine that light! The children took battery powered candles home to remind them that they have the light of Christ with them and can share it too. How can we be a light in our daily lives? How do we live out the light Isaiah speaks about during this time after Epiphany? How can we more fully shine the light to others?

*continued on page 3* →

# OSLC NEWS & NOTES



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January 2025  
Secretary, Charles Nicholson

- Except for the pouring of a concrete catch basin and placement of covers for the sump pumps, the work to solve the church's problem with flooding under the sanctuary and high indoor humidity has been completed.
- Council discussed possible replacement of aging parking-lot lighting.
- Steve Nivens would welcome help on Saturday, February 2, in preparing soup for Souper Bowl Sunday the following week.
- The 2025 Ministry Directory is printed and ready for members to pick up.
- Council approved use of the church's parking lot for Donna Branham to sell Valentines' baskets on February 13 and 14 and for Bible Mobile to park a bus from January 22 to 31 in which to offer school-time ministry classes to students of the Saluda River Academy for the Arts.

## 2025 MINISTRY DIRECTORY

The 2025 Ministry Directory may be picked up from the basket on the table in the Cameron Hall. Please take no more than you need.

♥RAZBERRIES♥  
♥FEBRUARY 8♥  
♥SATURDAY, 7:00 pm♥

Please join us for Razberries February 8th at Travinia's in Lexington for a Valentine's Day celebration. Please let Caroline know by Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at [razcaroline@gmail.com](mailto:razcaroline@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!



## VALENTINE BAGS FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Seven Valentine Day Bags for the shut in's will be available for items and will remain until February 9th. Please consider different flavors of hot chocolate, maybe some cakes, danishes or Valentine coffee mugs. There are five women and two men.

## GOD'S HELPING HANDS

God's Helping Hands current needs are: Jiffy mix, spaghetti sauce, regular cooking oil, juice, crackers, cookies, flour, sugar, jello, pudding, dry milk, mixed vegetables and ramen noodles. Please place donations in the designated container in the Cameron Hallway.



### Installation of Council Members

President Rebecca Fingerlin, Vice President Mark Satterwhite, Secretary Charles Nicholson, Treasurer Meredith Cleland, Wayne Lybrand, Gail Marcum, Steve Nivens, Beth Cleland, and Jim Garner.

continued from page 1

Maybe the answer is as simple as remembering God loves us and the people who we encounter.

God is love incarnate! God loves you. I see God's love is a beacon of light at Our Saviour and I pray you do too. We are on the journey of discipleship always (and in the Sundays after Epiphany!). We join the mission that pushes back against the limits the world tries to put on God's ways. Jesus makes it clear that God's steadfast love is for everyone, and the light shines into even the darkest corners. God's love is universal, built into who we are. We're called to share that love, living out the grace and truth of Jesus every day.

Just as the magi followed the star, we're called to follow Jesus' light and be light for others. Jesus says in Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden." The themes of the season after Epiphany—revelation, light, and discipleship—set us up for what's ahead. As we move through these weeks, we're reminded that God's love isn't stuck in the past or confined to certain places. It's alive and active, reaching out to us in Jesus and inviting us to live as disciples. So let's fix our eyes on Jesus and let the light shine through us as an Epiphany (manifestation! revelation!) of God's love.

**Arise, shine, for your light has come!**

In Christ,  
Pastor Joanna Gragg



## FEBRUARY MINISTRIES

### FLOWERS

Feb 2 Francis & Rebecca Fingerlin

9 Gail Marcum

16 Mark & Ann Satterwhite

23 Caroline Raszewski

### GREETERS

Gary & Kay Black

Sandra Hughes

\*Need Volunteer

Steve & Beverly Nivens

### WORSHIP

#### ASSISTANTS

Feb 2 Gail Marcum

9 Steve Nivens

16 Charles Nicholson

23 Beverly Nivens

#### LECTORS

Ruth Nicholson

Steve Nivens

Charles Nicholson

Beverly Nivens

### FEBRUARY

#### USHERS

Chief Steve Nivens

Wayne Lybrand

### MARCH

Mark Satterwhite

Gail Marcum

#### ALTAR GUILD

Steve & Beverly Nivens

Isma Boland & Melba Murphy

#### OFFERING PICKUP

Steve Nivens

Gail Marcum

#### TELLERS

Beth Cleland & Sandra Hughes

Linda Griffith & Linda Hill

#### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Bill Aull

David Griffith

## INTERIOR DOORS

Please keep all interior doors closed when not in use. These are fire doors.

## 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.



### February 3

#### **Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, Missionary to Denmark and Sweden (801-865)**

Ansgar was born near Amiens, France. After his mother's early death, he was sent to join a monastery. In his subsequent life as a monk, Ansgar became the first Christian missionary to Scandinavia. His appointment as an archbishop gave him much-needed funding and a base of operations for his difficult work. Just before his death, Ansgar asked his friends not to abandon the mission to the Nordic countries, but two centuries passed before Christianity was able to gain ground there. Today's Swedish Lutherans, in particular, hold Ansgar in high regard.

### February 5

#### **The Martyrs of Japan (died 1597)**

Catholic, Episcopal, and Lutheran churches have chosen to remember, each February fifth, the crucifixion of twenty-six Christians in Nagasaki, Japan. These sixteenth-century men of faith were six Franciscan missionaries sent from Europe, a Japanese Jesuit priest, a Korean layman, fifteen Japanese laymen, and three young boys. Despite the virtual banishment of Christianity from Japan by 1630, missionaries who entered the country in the mid-1800s found a community of Christians there that had survived by hiding its faith and worship.

### February 23

#### **Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr (c. 69-156)**

Polycarp, long-lived Christian bishop of western Asia Minor, was a link between the world of the Apostles and the second-century church. It is said that he knew John, the author of Revelation, and we know that Irenaeus and Ignatius, pillars of second-century Christendom, were acquainted with him. At age eighty-six, Polycarp was arrested and ordered to renounce his faith or be killed. Unwilling to do the former, he was burned at the stake



## ELCA PRESS RELEASES

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

- 1/9 A Message from Bishop Easton on the California Wildfires
- 1/14 ELCA Observes National Day of Racial Healing
- 1/24 Presiding Bishop Eaton Issues Pastoral Message on Executive Orders

## AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

*January 2025*

**WORSHIP—53**



## OFFICERS

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

Circles are requested to send articles to the Church Secretary for publication on this page regarding plans and/or events about WELCA. The newsletter deadline is normally the last Monday of the month by 9 am. A copy should be forwarded to the President.

As to information regarding upcoming SCWELCA events, I believe you all receive the same emails as the President; i.e., **The Ripple**. Please read and discuss among your circle members.

Plans for Convention are underway for August, so please remember the fabric kits for the Lutheran World Relief Project are in the designated storage room with other festival and holiday decorations in the Cameron Building. Money donations should also be considered as part of this Project to ship/mail the kits.

Reminder about respective committees for 2025:

### (1) **Rebekah (Community/Sunshine)**

Committee is responsible for the Easter Egg Hunt and a Social event. Circle meets on the 1st Monday at 10:30 AM at the church. Leader-Linda Hill, Recorder-Sandra Hughes, & Treasurer-Linda Griffith Sandra Hughes will send cards to congregation members and others as needed during 2025. This is a new responsibility to this circle. (Please call Sandra or LindaG when cards need to be sent for illness, etc.)

(2) **Lydia (Action)** Committee is responsible for planning and implementing the Bible Study/Retreat, coordinating the Hospitality Committee Groups beginning February 1, and a Service Project. Circle meets the 2nd Monday in a member's home at 6 PM. Leader-Marie Lybrand & Recorder-Beverly Nivens

(3) **Cameron (Growth)** Committee continues to keep their same duties yearly which encompasses the education function of Women of the ELCA, coordinates the Women of the ELCA Sunday, nursery monitors, children's activity bags, orders

spiritual gifts for confirmands and baptisms and will continue to coordinate decorating for Christmas in the Fellowship Hall. Cameron Circle meets with the Rebekah Circle on the first Monday at 10:30 AM at the church. Leader—Isma Boland

## 2025 Calendar of Events

*Visit the SC WELCA website (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 **NEW PAYMENT OPTION!** Register and pay a deposit now. Pay a deposit of \$35.00 now, with the remaining balance due on Sunday, February 16. Pegi Roberts is back as the guest speaker. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

March (TBA) World Day of Prayer  
 March (TBA) Saxe Gotha Conference Spring Meeting.

April (TBA) OSLC-Newberry College Nursing Scholarship Donations (Cameron Circle)

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

May 16 - 18, 2025—SCWELCA ISLE OF PALMS RETREAT *Details in March Grapevine.*

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 Mtg.  
 Devotion/Prayer-Rebekah  
 Refreshments-Lydia

December (TBA) Immediately following Worship Service WELCA Executive Mtg. (circle leaders w/unit officers)  
 Opening Prayer: Treasurer, Ann Satterwhite

# THANK YOU

Friends,

Thank you so much for the many cards I received with prayers of concern and birthday wishes. They truly meant a lot to me personally. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Linda Griffith

A special thank you for the gift bags at Christmas for Katie, Greg, and myself. They were well-filled with many useful items that are being used. You could feel God's love that came with each item. You are special people at O.S.L.C. And we're blessed to be part of you!

Love,  
Jeannie, &\* Greg Chapman,  
and Katie Doble



Pictures from the Installation of our new pastor, the Reverend Joanna Gragg

# 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*

*Sierra Dunaway and her premature newborn baby, "Ruby" (friend of Caroline Raszewski)  
Anne Moye  
Steve Rucker  
Marie Shealy  
DeLeon & Jane Wallace*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Betty Meetze	2/13
Karen Dawkins	2/14
Rebecca Kleckley	2/15
Bryson Raszewski	2/20
Don Horton	2/27



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.



## 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 February 24, 9:00 am.**



## Get Ready for the Souper Bowl of Caring 2025!

Warm hearts and fill bowls this season by joining us for a special cause!

We're serving up delicious soup flavors

- ✓ Classic Chicken Noodle – Comfort in every bite
- ✓ Clam Chowder – Rich, creamy, and oh-so-delicious
- ✓ Tuscan Soup – A savory blend of Italian flavors to warm your soul
- ✓ Beef Veggie – Bold, flavorful, and satisfying

### How can you help?

Simply buy a bowl of soup, and every purchase helps support those in need in our community. Together, we can tackle hunger one bowl at a time!

**When:** Sunday, February 9, 2025 (11:45am-until we run out!)

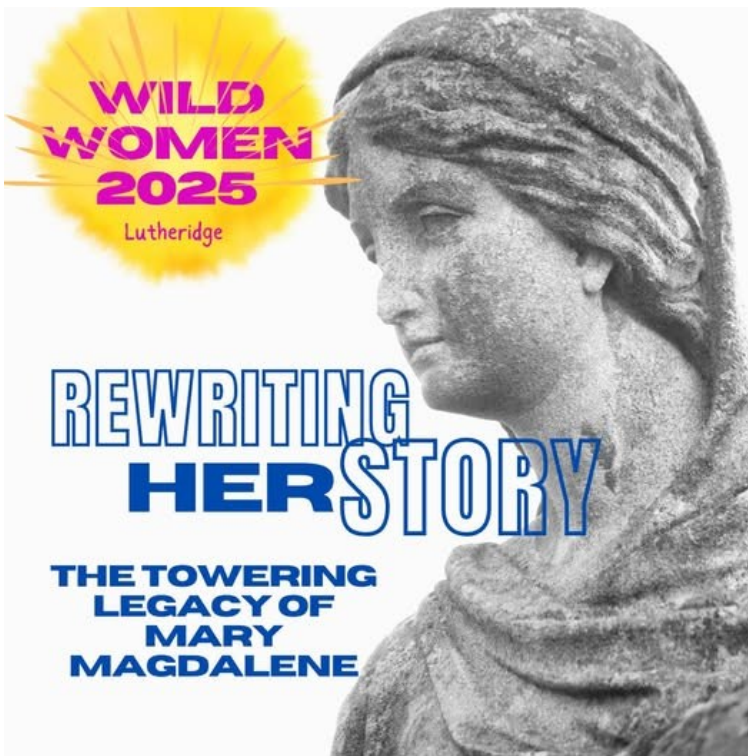
**Where:** Our Saviour Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, Sales will begin Sunday, Feb 9, shortly after service

**Please Note:** There will be no presales, so arrive early to grab your favorite flavor!

Let's make this Souperbowl the most caring one yet. Bring your appetite, your friends, and your spirit of giving!

Quart: \$10

Pint: \$5



Registration is now open for Wild Woman 2025, March 7-9 and March 14-16 at Lutheridge!

Embrace the confidence and courage of following Jesus with your whole life through this retreat that empowers, inspires, and renews hundreds of Wild Women each year. This year's theme focuses on the old story and new findings around Mary Magdalene and inspires us to rewrite our own HERstory.

Reverend Joanna Gragg will be one of the Leaders on March 14-16.