

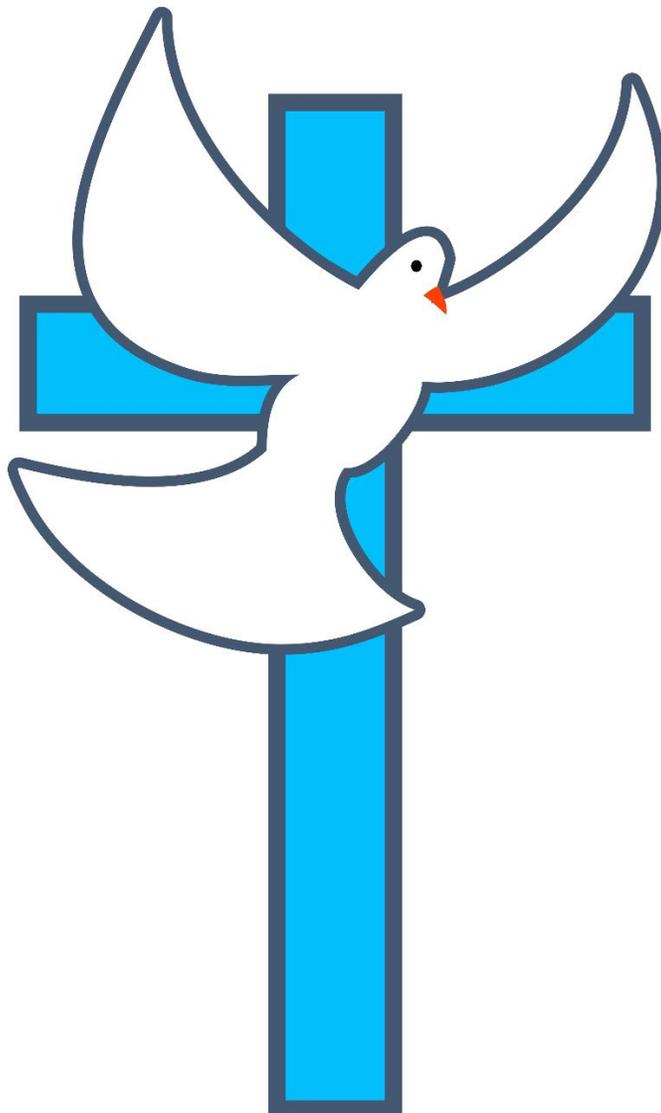
Lutheran Church By The Lake



100 Twelve Oaks Dr. McCormick SC 29835 864-391-3000
Reverend Greg Van Dyke lcbtlpastor@wctel.net 843-315-8088



Sharing the GOOD NEWS **MARCH 2026**



Pastor's Corner

Watch Out for Email Spoofing

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves."

— Matthew 7:15

I've been spoofed... again.

Yet another spoofing attack has made its way to Lutheran Church By The Lake—this time by email (and occasionally by text). Someone created an account intended to look like it is from me. This is important to understand: spoofing is not a hack of my email account and it is not necessarily a breach of confidential church information. It is impersonation—an attempt to borrow trust.

What "spoofing" means

Email spoofing is when a message is made to appear as if it is from someone you know—often by copying the sender's name, forging an address that looks similar, or manipulating what you see on the screen—even though the sender is not actually using that person's real account. You may also hear a few related terms:

- Display-name spoofing:** my name appears as the sender, but the underlying email address is different.
- From-address/domain spoofing:** an address is forged to look like the real thing (sometimes very close).
- Impersonation / Business Email Compromise (BEC):** the broader category of scams that impersonate leaders (pastors, treasurers, administrators) to pressure people into sending money or information.

If you want a single, accurate phrase: **"email spoofing (impersonation)."**

Why churches get targeted

Churches are attractive targets because we are a community built on trust. Scammers know that people may respond quickly to a pastor's name, especially if the message suggests urgency, confidentiality, or compassion. And because churches are public-facing by nature, it doesn't take much to learn enough details to sound believable.

How scammers get the "ingredients"

Most of what they need can be gathered without breaking into anyone's account:

- Public church information:** staff pages, worship bulletins, newsletters, event calendars, livestreams, social media posts and comments.
- Google-indexed PDFs:** older documents can remain searchable online longer than we realize.
- Social media mapping:** scammers can infer who is active and who holds responsibility (finance, council, leadership).
- Data brokers and old breaches:** emails and phone numbers are often bought and sold in bulk from past leaks elsewhere.
- Inbox scraping from someone else's compromised account:** if anyone's email gets compromised, scammers can search for "church," "pastor," "directory," "council," and harvest names and context.
- Reply-chain harvesting:** a single message sent with a long list in To: or CC: (instead of BCC) can expose many addresses at once.

What they're trying to accomplish

In plain terms: **money, leverage, and access—using my name to borrow your trust.**

They typically aim for:

- Fast cash** (gift cards, payment apps, wire transfers).
- Secrecy + urgency** (“I can’t discuss this,” “I need discretion,” “please don’t tell anyone”).
- Information for future scams** (cell numbers, personal emails, addresses, who handles money, internal routines).
- Account access** (getting someone to click a link, share a code, “help” with login).
- Larger-dollar fraud** (invoice scams and payment redirection, aimed at finance/admin roles).
- A confirmed list of responsive people** (once you reply, they know you’re reachable).

How to protect yourself

Here are the simple habits that stop most scams:

1) Recognize the “automatic no” requests

There are certain kinds of messages that are always fraud when they come by email or text in my name:

- requests for **gift cards**
- requests for **wire transfers** or payment apps
- instructions to keep it **secret, discreet**, or “don’t tell anyone”
- pressure to act **immediately** or “as soon as possible”
- vague claims like “I can’t talk about this over the phone” paired with a request for money or private action

When those elements show up, you do not need to wonder, investigate, or verify. **Delete it.**

2) Verify the sender’s actual email address

Do not trust the “name” you see. Tap/click the sender line and look at the real address.

- Watch for look-alikes: extra letters, swapped characters, strange punctuation, or a different domain.
- If the address isn’t one you recognize as mine, treat it as suspicious.

3) Look for my consistent email signature

All emails that truly come from my official accounts include a signature. It may change slightly over time, but it is always present. Right now, it reads:

Pastor Greg Van Dyke
Transformed by Jesus. Freed to Love All

Lutheran Church By The Lake
100 Twelve Oaks Dr.
McCormick, SC 29835
(864)391-3000

Colossians 3:23-24

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

If the message has **no signature**, or the signature is **missing or strange**, that is another clear warning sign.

4) Don't click, don't reply

Don't click links or open attachments from unexpected messages.

Don't reply "Is this really you?"

Replying can confirm your address/number is active and can lead to more attempts.

5) Report it

Mark it as **Phishing/Spam** (not just delete it), and block the sender. This helps your email provider learn and filter future attempts.

"I replied—what now?"

If all you did was reply (for example, "Is this really Pastor Greg?" or "Stop bothering me"), you probably haven't lost anything. The main downside is that you confirmed you are a real, responsive person—so they may try again.

What to do:

Stop engaging.

Mark as phishing/spam and block.

If you clicked a link, opened an attachment, or shared information, take it seriously: change passwords and enable two-factor authentication where possible.

One clear bottom line

I rarely use the word "never"—but there are a few things I can say plainly:

I will NEVER ask you for gift cards.

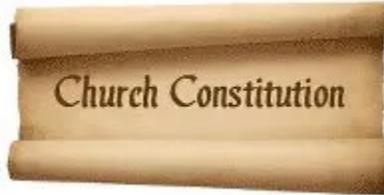
I will NEVER ask you for wire transfers or payment apps by email or text.

I will NEVER ask you to keep a financial request secret or "discreet."

I will NEVER ask you to send codes, passwords, or account access.

If a message using my name asks for gift cards, money transfers, secrecy, codes, or urgent private action, you do not need to verify it. **Delete it.**

Lutheran Church By The Lake 2026 Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions



*Your Congregation Council has been busy at work in so many ways, and reviewing the LCBTL Constitution is one of the tasks that occur at least every three years. We are blessed to have members who are well versed in overseeing this project and planning for the best possible guidelines for us at Lutheran Church By The Lake. This review did require some minor (mostly grammatical, formatting, and wordsmithing) changes from our ELCA Synod. Additionally, in evaluating the structure of our Council, the review team has put together a plan that aligns beautifully with our congregation's mission to "**Gather, Grow, and Go**" and assists in helping our folks find ways in which they can serve in the most meaningful ways. We are bound to a very specific process for this review, and the following will help to guide you through these steps as we work side-by-side to be the best we can be. You will learn about provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions throughout this process, and always be reminded that your questions are eagerly accepted as we accomplish this task together. Below are some of the details to inform you of the timeline and steps being taken toward approval of the 2026 LCBTL Constitution.*

Common Questions and Answers About the LCBTL Constitution & Bylaws Review and Approval Process

Q: Has LCBTL always had a constitution?

A: Since the inception of our congregation, as part of a larger church body known as *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, LCBTL has indeed been governed by a constitution and bylaws.

Q: How often is the constitution reviewed?

A: The ELCA and Synod review their constitutions every three years and make recommendations for ELCA congregations to follow the model they provide. Some provisions are required, while

others are left up to each individual congregation. Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions are always created by individual congregations to help govern the local church body.

Q: How is the constitution reviewed and how is it approved?

A: Initially, a Constitution Team reviews the current constitution, compares it to the provided model, and makes recommendations to the Council for any updates, additions, and amendments.

Q: What happens during a council review at LCBTL??

A: Copies of the most recently approved constitution, the ELCA model constitution, and a proposed constitution referencing all changes and updates is emailed to each council member for review prior to opportunities for questions and discussion. A timeline is followed to allow adequate time for this review to occur. The council comes to an agreement on the committee-proposed constitution and approves for recommendation to the congregation for a vote.

Q: What are the steps for the congregation to approve the Council recommended constitution?

A1: Because approval by the congregation is a two-step process, members will be given notice 30 days prior to a special congregational meeting (scheduled April 26, 2026 following the 10:30am service). This first meeting will be specifically for the vote to approve the 2026 Constitution and requires a quorum and a majority vote to advance to a second meeting. Members will be given notice at least 60 days in advance of the Semi-Annual congregational meeting (scheduled May 31, 2026,) for *ratification without changes* of the 2026 LCBTL Constitution. This vote requires a 2/3 “ratification without change” vote. This meeting is a regularly scheduled Semi-Annual Meeting and other business will be conducted. Notices will be given and dates of these meetings will be provided in Sunday Morning Worship Service announcements as well as by email.

A2: Each member of the congregation will receive an emailed copy of the proposed constitution along with a summary of additions and changes since the most recently approved 2023 LCBTL Constitution. Hard copies will be in a binder in the Narthex and can be provided individually for pick-up at the church if requested. Additionally, the 2023 Approved Constitution is available in a binder in the Narthex and is also available to be emailed for comparison.

A3: Members will be given an opportunity to submit questions and comments *before* the votes take place. An info-session will be set in early April for the Constitution Team and Council to address these concerns and allow for any dialogue that might be helpful in better understanding the proposed constitution. A summary of those questions and comments will then be distributed to all members of the congregation.

Read the April Newsletter for more information about the LCBTL Constitution!

Invitation to walk with Jesus During this Lenten Season

Lutheran Church by The Lake invites you to walk with Jesus during this Lenten Season, beginning on Ash Wednesday. This journey then will continue weekly on Wednesday evenings, March 4, 11, 18. and 25th , for our Mid-Week Lenten/shared meal and service, to include a gathering in the ARK for conversation and fellowship, then a simple shared meal, followed by a mid-week Service.

We will start to gather at 4:45pm in the ARK, have a Blessing for the meal at approximately 5:10, with the meal at 5:15pm. At approximately 5:45 we will begin cleanup and transition for the service to begin at 6:00pm.

We will share in the Eucharist of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus, at all services.

Our weekly Sunday services are at 9:00 and 10:30 am. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 29, with services at 9:00 and 10:30am, Maundy Thursday Service April 2, at 6:00pm, Good Friday service April 3 at 6:00pm and Easter Vigil service on Saturday April 4, at 6:00pm.

The climax of Holy Week is EASTER SUNDAY! April 5th at 9:00am and 10:30am

Come, bring something to share for the mid-week meal and join us on this walk with Jesus!

In Christ,
Bill Hutchinson
Worship Team Chair



Winter Bible Study

*Feb.- March - Candy Zimmerman will take us on an in-depth study of King David, a man who was a brilliant poet and singer. Dates: 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 & 3/31.

April- May- Pastor Scott Crane will present a study entitled "Practicing Changing Yourself To Change The World." The study will begin just after Easter and continue into May. Dates: 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, & 5/5. (No Bible Study 4/28)

May- June- The Three Amigos will present team taught lessons on denominational church practice- Pastor Greg, Pastor Crane, and Pastor Chris/Craig Jones will be !! officiating. Dates: 5/12, 5/19, 5/26 & 6/2

June- July- Chuck Gresham will study Paul's Books over three or four sessions. Dates: 6/9, 6/16, 6/23 & 7/7 or 7/14.

Your Guide For Requesting Prayers, Visits, Calls, Home Communion, or Cards at LCBTL



What Is Shepherding Care?

Shepherding Care is a ministry at Lutheran Church By The Lake that combines the **Pastoral Care** of Pastor Greg combined with lay leaders of the congregation who have volunteered to assist him by providing **Coordination of Requests**, (*Sherry Kumle*) and Caring Leadership **in Eucharistic Visits and Calls** (*Candy Zimmerman*), **Prayers** (*Julie Crane*), and **Cards** (*Denise Uitto*).

Should I Connect with Shepherding Care?

Everyone in the congregation is invited to connect with Shepherding Care for themselves, a loved one, or in some cases neighbors and friends if there is a need for prayer. Although prayer is always available for all those in need, Calls, visits, and cards are primarily for the people of Lutheran Church By The Lake.

Why Not Just Make a Request in Person to Pastor or A Lay Leader?

Mentioning needs is always appropriate; however, to ensure that the request is recorded and that your wishes are fulfilled, making a request through Shepherding Care is also recommended.

How Do I Connect?

- Email Shepherding Care anytime using a secure email address that only Pastor and the Shepherding Care Lay Leaders will see: LCBTLshepherdingcare@gmail.com
 - Or
- Call the church office at **864-391-3000** and ask for a specific request to be sent to Shepherding Care.
 - Or
- Go to the blue covered table in the Narthex and **fill out a request form** that may be placed in the GOLD BOX for a Shepherding Care Leader to pick up and respond to. (For your convenience, the *QR CODE on the table goes directly to LCBTLshepherdingcare@gmail.com*).

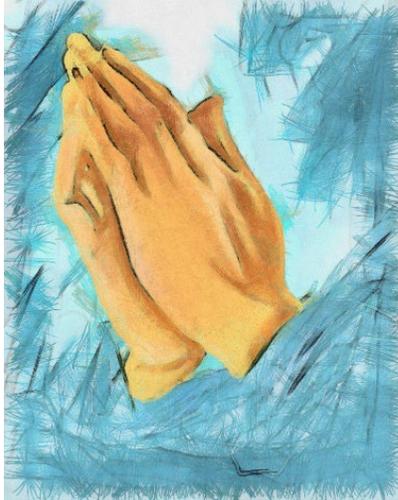
What Can I Do ANYTIME To Make a Request?

- You may add a name (first name only) to the RED Intercessory Prayer Book
- You may fill out and drop a Request Form in the Gold Box for any of the three caring ministries
- You may place a name in the Prayer Vessel to be read on Sunday Morning

Did You Know?



At the entrance to the front doors of Lutheran Church By The Lake is a lovely patch of well-tended "Lenten Roses", otherwise known as "Helleborus orientalis"- the species name. This patch, along with all of the grounds of our campus, are looked after by long-time member Gary Hannah. He carefully monitors this particular patch to assure that they receive correct watering, pruning, nourishment, and care. This year he has added to the number of plants to fill in the space, replacing plants that might have been visited by local critters. These lovely flowers greet all of us with winter blooms and are especially colorful and full as we enter the Lenten Season. Please be sure to thank Gary for his tender care of these beautiful flowers as well as the rest of our campus- and Google Lenten Roses for an interesting history of the mythology that accompanies their story!



The Shepherding Care Prayer Team invites you to join us in daily prayers with this beautiful, yet simple prayer - just insert the name(s) of those for whom you would like to offer prayer anytime, any day!

OH LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER FOR... (Name someone anxious / stressed) "The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams." Psalms 23:1-2 NLT May this person fully receive your peace and mercy at this time. May they give themselves permission to let go and rest in Your perfect care amidst the green grass, blue skies, puffy clouds and the gentle, soothing sounds of the stream. May they be comforted by You and know You are caring for their every need. May they find the freedom to relax because of Your loving presence and provision

How To Get Your Group Info to church members and the wider SLV Community

Miscommunication is a problem for everyone. There are 4 methods to get your announcements out to our church members and also those within the SLV community.

Sunday Bulletin: Our bulletin is printed each **Wednesday** for the upcoming Sunday. Please email your announcement to the church office by **noon on Tuesdays**. We will then print your information in the bulletin. Please write out exactly how you want it stated in the bulletin and instruct the office that you want it placed in the Sunday bulletin

Realm Email "Blast": If you would like to see your announcement sent via email , again, write out exactly how you want it stated in the email and instruct the office that you want an email sent out through Realm and what date you would like to have it sent. Please allow the office staff enough time to prepare the email for distribution. It usually takes us an hour to turn it around.

Monthly Newsletter: Please email your announcement/news exactly how you want it printed in the newsletter. **Deadline for submissions is the 19th of the month** for the next month's newsletter. Again, instruct the office that you are submitting this item for the Newsletter.

SLV NeighborLink: If you would like to see your announcement in NeighborLink, write out exactly how you want it stated in an email and submit to either the Council President or Pastor Greg for approval. They will then send your approved announcement to the office. Please allow all involved enough time to prepare your announcement for submission to NeighborLink. Please inform the Council President or Pastor Greg the dates you want the submission to run. Also make yourself aware of the guidelines involved in a NeighborLink submission.

Most important is the fact that you let the office staff know how you want your communication to be handled:

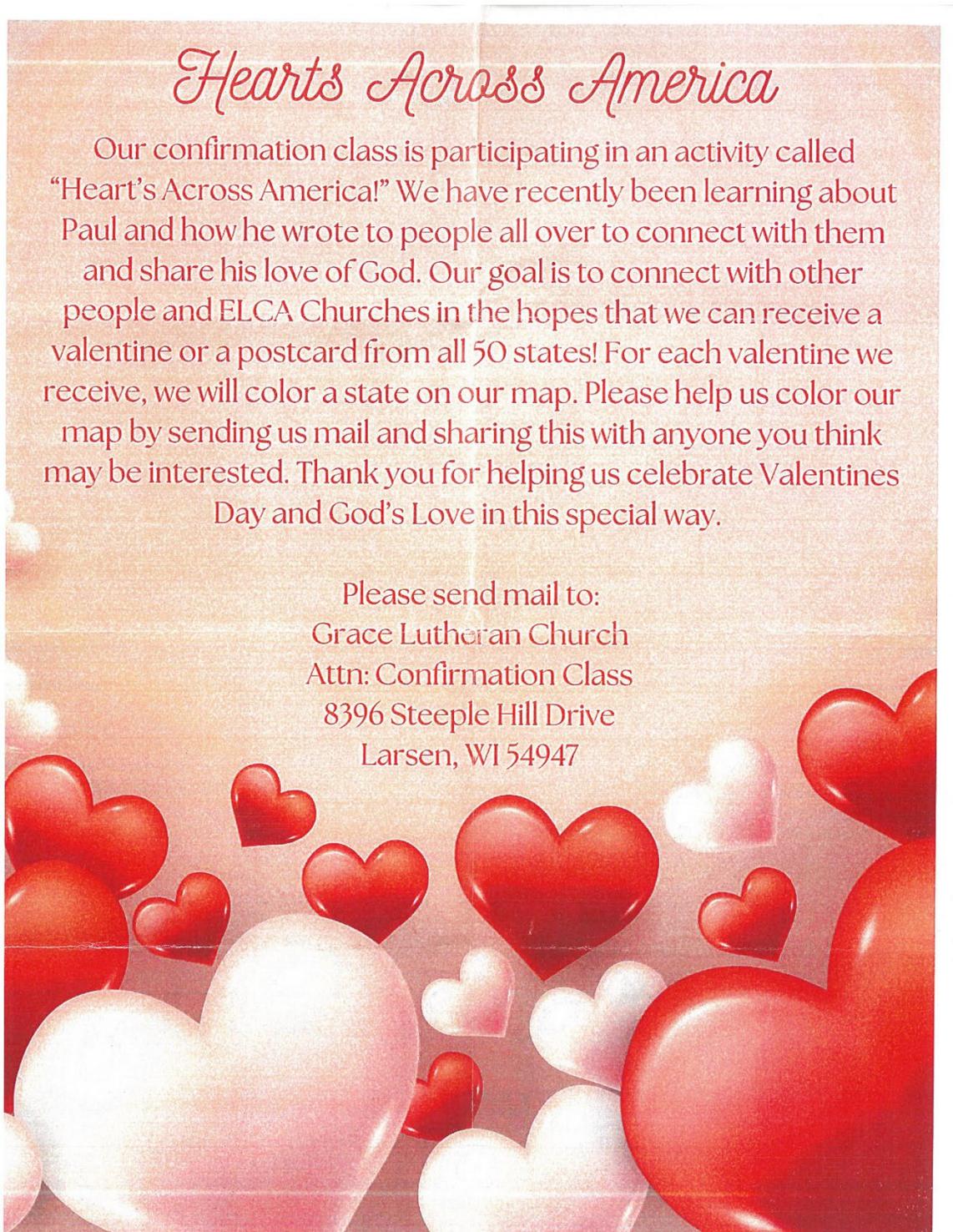
Bulletin
Email Blast
Newsletter
NeighborLink

We try hard to help you with your communication needs, and your help with this is truly appreciated.

Lutheran Women in Mission News

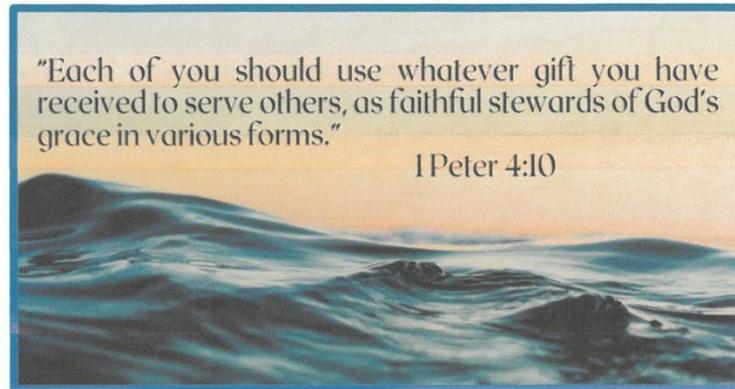
We received this letter from Grace Lutheran Church in Larsen, Wisconsin, requesting a card/postcard from us and we happily complied – so now they can color in South Carolina.

We found this to be an interesting project for a confirmation class studying Paul.



All Women Are Invited

**Spring Foothills Conference Gathering
Saturday, March 14th, 2026
University Lutheran Church
111 Sloan St., Clemson, SC 29631**



The women of University Lutheran Church in Clemson, SC are pleased to host the Spring Conference for the Foothills Region on Saturday, March 14th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with registration beginning at 9:30 am. A light lunch will be served.

Our guest speaker will be from ***Ripple of One***, an organization that empowers families and young adults to move beyond the need for public assistance and into their full God-given potential. Ripple's vision is to transform poverty into generational success one client at a time, and to walk alongside their clients by providing them with emotional, educational, and financial support. Please plan to join us as we gather to celebrate and act boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ. **ALL ladies are invited. No need to be a member of a church to attend!**

Please RSVP with the number of ladies planning to attend by Sunday, March 8th to Lena Jones at lenajones038@gmail.com or (864) 425-2622.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



The LWM will hold their Annual Yard Sale on May 2nd this year. So, hold on to your treasures and we will begin our intake on April 26th.

Acceptable Items you may donate: All items need to be clean and in working condition.

Small scale furniture - tables, chairs, end tables, small patio sets, etc.

Gently used or new shoes

Framed artwork

Lamps

Linens, decorative pillows, bedspreads/comforters

Household items

Kitchen items/appliances

Children toys or books

Area rugs - need to be clean, good condition and no frayed edges

Jewelry - place in a bag or box and hand to a worker separately if donation other items

Garden items

Sport equipment - golf clubs, bikes, boating, fishing

Pet items

Tools

Holiday items

Non-acceptable items:

Large or heavy furniture - nothing that 2 people can't carry

Books or CD's

Clothes

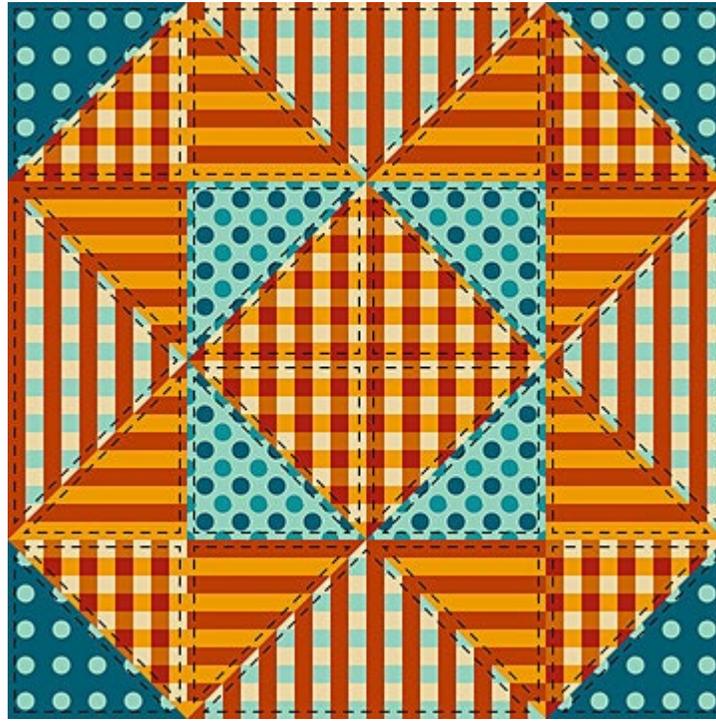
Televisions or computers

Picture frames unless they contain artwork

We will need an organizer for the Bake Sale table, and the Jewelry table, so if you are interested please call the office.

And of course, we need your help with sorting and pricing during the week beginning 4/27 thru 5/1, plus the day of the sale Saturday, May 2nd.

Continue to watch your weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter for additional information.



The next community quilting bee at the Lutheran Church By the Lake will be held March 21st from 10-2pm in the Ark building. Bring your sewing machine if you plan to sew. We will also be spray basting and layering quilts, so if you don't sew we still have a job for you. Bring a lunch with you. Call Karen Divita at 240-687-4088 if you have any questions.

PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE

The members of the Prayer Shawl Circle wanted to tell you where our knitted/crocheted pieces have gone in the past year. We have donated more than 30 hats to First Steps of McCormick. "Premie" hats have been given to Self Hospital. Prayer Shawl have gone out to members of LCBTL and others in the community. We have also given larger pieces to the Veterans Home in Anderson, SC. Other pieces have been given to hospitals and homebound people. Pocket Prayer Shawls are being given out to visiting guests at Lutheran Church By The Lake.

We meet on the third Monday of each month in the church conference room or The Bridge. Please come and see what we do. We can teach you how to knit or crochet. We can also provide yarn and needles.

If you have any questions, call either co-chair:

Gail Oust: (864) 554-4503 or

Jean Randall: (864) 602-9563

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 16th 2026 at 1:30 PM in the Bridge.

If you would like to make a donation to purchase yarn, make out your check to LCBTL with Prayer Shawl Circle in the memo field.



Here is the order form to order this years Easter Lily for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 3rd.



If you wish to place a lily(lilies) at the Easter Sunday Service, fill in the form below and return to the church office **no later than Sunday, March 29th**. The cost of the lilies will be \$13.50 each. After Easter Sunday worship service please pick up your lily/lilies.

I wish to purchase _____ lily/lilies at a cost of **\$13.50 each**. Attached is my check for \$_____, payable to Lutheran Church By The Lake.

In memory of: _____

By: _____

or

In honor of: _____

By: _____



Deadline for the April Newsletter
is March 19th

Remember.....

The Church office and Pastor Greg have a new e-mail addresses.

Church Office: lcctl@lcctl.org

Pastor Greg: Pastor.greg@lcctl.org



**2nd
Howard Stewart**

**3rd
Luann Danielski**

**4th
David Flom**

**6th
Joe Cieslak**

**10th
Sandy Granger**

**11th
Vickie Leonard
Denise Uitto**

**13th
Angela McClure
Nancy Pund**

**19th
Monte Gunzenhauser
Nanette Martinez**

**20th
Shorty Steele**

**21st
Marvin Decker
Linda Klug
Margo Kite**

**22nd
Elaine Beggs**

**26th
Barbara Putney**

**29th
Steve Walz**

**30th
Carrie Gehlbach**

**31st
Marianne Chalifour**

(Sadly, nobody got married in the month of March)



March Service Assistants

Communion Assistants 9:00 AM

1st Anne & Gerry Wasserman
8th Robin Bush, Jeanne Thayer
15th Lynette & Kelly Jordan
22nd Anne & Gerry Wasserman
29th Marvin Decker, Raylene Emerich

Communion Assistants 10:30 AM

1st Donna Irmis and Lynn Flom
8th Candy Zimmerman, Deb Frederickson
15th Gloria Bramble and Judy Greiger
22nd Donna Irmis and Ann Snyder
29th Candy Zimmerman, Deb Frederickson

Lectors 9:00 am

1st Gerry Wasserman
8th Lea Shaw
15th Gerry Wasserman
22nd Gerry Wasserman
29th Joanna Feloni

Lectors 10:30 am

1st Judy Greiger
8th Julie Crane
15th Dale Nixon
22nd Barbara Hinkel
29th Ann Snyder

Ushers 9:00 am

1st Anne & Gerry Wasserman
8th Robin Bush, Jeanne Thayer
15th Lynette & Kelly Jordan
22nd Anne & Gerry Wasserman
29th Marvin Decker, Raylene Emerich

Ushers 10:30 am

1st Elaine Beggs and Maureen Mooney
8th David and Lynn Flom
15th Paul Kline and Betty Palone
22nd Candy and Mike Zimmerman
29th Bill and Margo Kite

March Altar Flowers

1st open
8th open
15th Carol and Tom Hornung
22nd Diane Nelson
29th Bill Kite

(Please consider an open date on the Flower Chart in the Narthex for 2026)

Altar Guild

Gloria Bramble, Nena DeArment, Lorna Soule, Sue Heffner

CHURCH COUNCIL

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

President	Sherri Kumle
Vice President	Cherlyn Johnson
Secretary	Julienne Leibrandt
Treasurer	Paul Klein

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Sherri Kumle
Vice President	Cherlyn Johnson
Secretary	Julienne Leibrandt
Treasurer	Paul Klein
Financial Secretary	Eileen Hurlbut
Discipleship of Education	Bill Kite
Discipleship of Evangelism	
Fellowship Leader	Judy Greiger
Servant Leadership	Jeanne Thayer
Stewardship of Life	Charlie Clark
Stewardship of Property	Bill Kumle
Stewardship of Technology	Doug Bauer
Worship Leader	Bill Hutchinson

ORGANIZATION OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Endowment	Candy Zimmerman	
	Elaine Beggs	Treasurer
	Carol Hornung	Secretary
LMM	Bill Kumle and Fred Frederickson	
	Co-Chairs	
	Doug Chalifour	Treasurer
	Paul Klein	Quartermaster
LWM	Debbie Frederickson	Vice President
	Karen Divita	Secretary
	Susan Mazur	Treasurer

LUTHERAN CHURCH BY THE LAKE MISSION STATEMENT

We are called as a community of faith to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission to our neighbors and the world.