

Lutheran Church By The Lake



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Sharing the GOOD NEWS

AUGUST 2026



What Kind of Transformation?

August is a month of quiet transition. Summer has not quite released its hold, yet change is already in the air. Here in McCormick County, students and teachers are settling back into classroom routines even as warm afternoons linger. Vacations give way to renewed responsibilities, and the evening light begins, almost imperceptibly, to soften and shift.

Such seasonal thresholds invite us to pause—to receive with gratitude what has been, to let go of what cannot remain, and to trust the God who accompanies us into whatever comes next.

This year, August 6 gives that reflection profound and solemn depth.

On that day, the Church remembers the Transfiguration of Our Lord. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain, where his appearance is transformed before them. For a sacred moment, the disciples glimpse what had always been present yet hidden from their ordinary sight: the radiant glory of God in Christ.

August 6 is also the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. On that morning, another kind of light pierced the sky—a horrific flash that revealed humanity's terrible capacity for destruction. In an instant, a city was devastated. Countless lives ended or were forever changed, and the world entered a frightening new age.

We must be careful not to draw an easy or superficial comparison between these events. Hiroshima deserves our quiet, reverent grief. Yet their coincidence on the calendar confronts us with a vital question: *What kind of transformation will shape our world—and what kind will shape our hearts?*

So often, we absorb the habits and answers of the world around us. Too frequently, those answers are rooted in fear, division, vengeance, and the tired assumption that security depends upon possessing greater power than someone else. The world teaches us to protect our lives by threatening the lives of others. It convinces us that peace can be maintained through our capacity to destroy.

Jesus offers us a radically different way. Speaking to his disciples on the night before his death, he promises: *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives."*

Christ does not simply offer minor improvements to our daily lives. He leads us away from death and toward life; away from despair and toward hope; away from vengeance and toward forgiveness; away from self-justification and toward repentance; away from fear and toward love. Jesus transforms, renews, redeems, and heals creation from the inside out.

Yet the disciples could not remain on the glowing mountaintop. They had to let go of that sacred moment and follow Jesus back down into a hurting and complicated world. What they saw on the mountain was not an escape from reality. It was a revelation of God's purpose for the world—and of the life into which Jesus was sending them.

At LCBTL, that purpose is expressed in these words: **"Transformed by Jesus, freed to love all."** This is why we exist.

These are more than inspiring words on a banner. They express how we understand and embody Christ's Great Commission. When Jesus tells his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations," he sends them to teach and bear witness as he had taught and borne witness among them. Jesus made God's love known through compassion and kindness, justice and mercy, forgiveness and healing. He welcomed those whom others rejected, touched those whom others avoided, and restored those whom others had cast aside.

Making disciples, therefore, is not simply telling people about Jesus. It is bearing witness to Jesus by loving others as he loves. When the Church practices compassion, seeks justice, extends mercy, offers forgiveness, and participates in God's healing work, we fulfill our purpose and live into the mission Christ has entrusted to us.

Through Christ, we are being set free: free from the fears, hatreds, and grievances that keep us bound; free from the desire for vengeance; and free from the false belief that another person must lose before we can be secure.

But we are not freed merely *from* something. We are freed *for* something: freed to love and forgive, to seek peace, to serve our neighbors, to speak truth in love, to repair what has been broken, and to see every person—even those whom the world calls enemies—as someone for whom Christ died.

As August carries us across another seasonal threshold, perhaps God is inviting us to release more than summer. Perhaps we are being asked to put down a heavy fear, a long-held grievance, a quiet prejudice, or a desire for retribution. Perhaps we are being called to trust that the way of Jesus remains possible, even in a world still captivated by violence.

The light of Christ does not destroy. It reveals, heals, and makes all things new.

May that gentle light transform us. And may we, shaped by Christ's grace, step together into what comes next—freed to love all.

The Presidents Notes

The month of June, with Pastor on vacation most of the month was a busy month, to finalize plans for celebrating Pastor's 30 th Anniversary of his Ordination, where he was ordained on June 30 th , 1996. The plan was to keep this a SECRET from Pastor Greg, which can be difficult to do.

This all started sometime in March or April, when Linda Van Dyke asked Sherri Kumle, then President of council about her idea and that since the date would be the same date that Pastor would be Baptizing their first Grandchild, Enzo on July 5 th , she wanted a plan that we could incorporate both celebrations on the same day. Sherri then immediately brought this idea to me, as I would most likely be President t this time that we work together to put this plan together. It started out with just us two, but then realized we needed to get more people involved and still maintain the secrecy. Sherri, I will say, did most of the leg work on this project, and did it very well.

All the invitations that went out to previous congregations, Bishop's from the Synod's Pastor Greg had served, etc. Organizing with Pat Bryant and Karen Divita, Harry putting out his Hymn selection jar, where Harry got Pastor to write down his favorite Hymns, of which is how we learned what his favorites were, "You Are Mine" and "Amazing Grace". Then through discovery, very good friends of Pastor Greg and Linda, Michael and Allen, offered to Sing, "Borning Cry", in celebration of Enzo's Baptism at the conclusion of the Anniversary celebration. which was also one of Pastor Greg's favorites.

With the Baptism of Vaugh Enzo Pacayo Van Dyke, and Pastor beaming with a smile from ear to ear as he held and carried Enzo, now Baptized Child of God, around the Congregation, and then to have his 30 years of ordination celebrated on the same day was Beautiful and I am so honored to have been a part of both of these events!

I have attached several pictures of these events, all of which were taken from Chuck Gresham, and, i thank him too!

Thank you to everyone that had some capacity in helping this all come to fruition, but especially to Sherri Kumle for her leadership and spearheading this day of celebration.

God's Blessings,

Bill Hutchinson



The Presidents Notes: Caring for Our Church Home

As we move through the summer, Church Council has been paying close attention to the care, safety, and long-term stewardship of our church property. Some of this work happens quietly behind the scenes, but it matters deeply.

Our buildings and grounds support worship, fellowship, learning, outreach and the many ways we live out our mission together:

****Gather, Grow, Go: Sharing Jesus' Love with All.****

Council is currently reviewing options for reliable fire alarm monitoring across our property. Professionals have inspected the church system, restored power, replaced needed parts, and helped us understand next steps. We are working carefully toward a responsible solution that protects the whole campus.

We are also addressing the landscaping around the church, the Ark, the Columbarium, and the parking lot. On Monday, August 4, B&H Land Management will trim the overgrown shrubs and bushes. Some areas may look bare at first, but this work is needed for the long-term health and appearance of the plants.

Council is also shaping new ministry teams and charters so the work of the church can be shared clearly and faithfully. This includes new opportunities for members to help care for our property: noticing maintenance needs, coordinating repairs, planning workdays, caring for outdoor spaces, and helping us think ahead.

If you have gifts for organization, repairs, landscaping, coordination, or simply a willing heart, there will be a place for you to serve.

Thank you for your prayers, your service, and your care for this congregation.

God's blessings to you all,
Bill Hutchinson



Camp Grand finishes their 16th Grand Time!

This year we entered a Grand 'Prix' led by our Good Shepherd! With our theme of 'The Lord Is My Shepherd in the Race of Life', along with a lot of 'Fun In The SON'. The campers enjoyed classes, music, crafts, and time at the pool and our Water Palooza with Water Blasters, a pool with slides, and a 30' dual-lane Slip-n-Slide. Along with a good spray from our SLV Fire Engine. Wetness abounded!

A big shoutout to all the Grandparents, Parents, Fans, and Volunteers who helped to make this possible.

It certainly was Grand! Hope you can join us next year as we start taking registrations in April for Camp Grand #17, Camp Grand Canyon running June 29 - July 2nd. Camp is always the week of July 4th and always no cost to the campers.

Photos are at <https://www.facebook.com/LutheranChurchByTheLake> and our gallery at LCBTL.org

Camp Grand Community Outreach
Doug Chalifour, Coordinator



In the Name of the Lord Biblical, Historical, and Liturgical Foundations of Christian Worship

Why do Christians worship the way we do? Why do we begin in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Why do we gather around Scripture, prayer, praise, and the Lord's Table? Why do sacred time, sacred space, and the shape of the liturgy matter?

This course will explore Christian worship from its biblical roots in Israel and the early church through its historical development and present practice. Scripture will play a central and substantial role throughout. Along the way, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Episcopal perspectives will help illuminate both the church's shared inheritance and the distinct accents distinct traditions bring to worship.

Part 2 will continue in the fall with five more sessions on the development of worship, the church year, sacred space, liturgical practice, and the deeper "why" behind what the church does when she gathers.

In addition to Scripture, three books will help guide the course:

- Paul F. Bradshaw, *Early Christian Worship*
- Paul F. Bradshaw and Maxwell E. Johnson, *The Origins of Feasts, Fasts and Seasons in Early Christianity*
- Gordon Lathrop, *Holy Things*

No one is expected to purchase all three books. They may be helpful, but they are not required. Of the three, ***Early Christian Worship*** will likely be the most approachable for most readers and the most useful single companion for the course.

This course is for anyone who wants to understand worship more deeply, participate in it more fully, and see more clearly how Scripture, history, theology, and practice come together in the church's life.

Come and explore how the people of God are called, named, formed, fed, and sent—in the Name of the Lord.

A look ahead:

Chuck Gresham finishes his Paul Bible Study on: 8/4.

Pastor Dusty Rhodes' study is cancelled for 9/15 through 10/6;

while "In The Name Of The Lord" will continue on 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, & 11/10.



I'm Julie Crane and I lead the Shepherding Care Prayer Team.

As you know, in recent months we have made some changes as to how we Make prayer requests at Lutheran Church By The Lake. Today, I want to provide a quick reminder and invitation to everyone to send us your prayer requests!

One: There is the red book in the Narthex on a podium by the sliding doors where anybody's first name can be written down for any reason.

Whatever the concern is, for you or someone you know. First name only please - a brief description is optional. The prayer vessel is still available and the names will be transferred to the red book. The red book is then carried forward to the altar during worship services during both services on Sunday morning, and for Tuesday morning prayer. All those names are also prayed over on a daily basis by your prayer team.

Two: There is the prayer section in the weekly bulletin with first and last names. This space is limited and used for prayer requests for members and close family members. Please remember that permission is required in order to publish in the bulletin. Some people prefer to keep their concerns private and confidential and we will always respect that. These people are also prayed over by name on a daily basis by your prayer team.

Just know that if your name is removed and you want to put it back on for two weeks, all you need to do is call me, use the gold box in the Narthex, or call the office.

Prayer has proven again and again to be powerful and effective in this very church. Your prayer team is committed. Your prayer team is faithful in lifting up every concern you share. Please make good use of these prayer opportunities.

SHEPHERDING CARE



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

PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY God, cover our community today. Bring healing and hope where it's needed, strengthen the bonds between us, and lift every heavy heart. Protect our homes, guide our steps, and let Your love shape how we support, uplift, and care for one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Endowment Fund Grant Applications Now Open

Each year the Lutheran Church By The Lake offers grants in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$1,200 to local non-profit organizations. Our own church ministries are also eligible to apply for these funds.

These funds cannot be used for regular operating income, but can fund special projects, services, or the purchase of equipment. The funds must be spent within 12 months of receipt.

The purpose must be consistent with the values of Christian charity, Christian faith and education, special needs, and local missions. Funds are to be spent in McCormick or Lincoln counties.

We know our members' involvement extends throughout the community, so help us bring awareness of the availability of these funds by sharing name and contact information for possible applicants.

The deadline for applications is noon, September 15, 2026.

To request an application for a non-profit or if you have questions about the grant process, please email Candy Zimmerman at candyzim@aol.com.



Lutheran Women In Mission



Join the women of the church on Thursday, September 17th at 4PM and make a lovely Christmas decoration for your home and enjoy a meal together.

With leadership from Karen Divita, the LWM is offering an evening of crafting and dinner. The invitation is open to the first 36 ladies to sign up, as we have a limited supply of craft materials. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex beginning August 1st.

The cost for the evening is \$16.00 and will cover your craft making and your meal. All supplies will be provided.

A Thank You from the Mc Cormick County Backpack Ministry



Dear Lutheran Women,

On behalf of the children of McCormick County and The Backpack Ministry Board, thank you for blessing us with your generous donation.

With the care and concern of organizations like Lutheran Women, we are able to be sure 155 children are fed on weekends throughout the school year.

God's Blessings,
The Backpack Ministry Board, Cherie Zeller



From There To Here

A Community Ministry of LCBTL

October 22, 2026

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Get Ready to be part of SOMETHING BIG!

Lutheran Church By The Lake is partnering with Self Regional Healthcare in a community event on the LCBTL Campus that will feature mobile service exhibits, demonstrations and key-note speakers. A Rescue Helicopter on site, community participants from insurance, Medicare, legal support, and other local representatives to help us all know more about how to transition to and live securely in our community!



**FOOD TRUCKS
RAFFLES and GIVEAWAYS**

"Gather, Grow, Go: Sharing Jesus' Love with All."

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.

Help Needed:



BRING UP THE GIFTS!

There is a new opportunity for you to participate in the worship service in a very meaningful way. It's quick and easy, but very special.

We would like members of the congregation to have the honor of bringing the gifts of bread and wine up to the altar during the service. You can do this by yourself, or with another person, or with your whole family.

The process is easy . You just go to the back of the church after the passing of the peace. An altar guild person will meet you there with the hosts and wine. You will follow the ushers up to the altar and wait for Pastor to receive the gifts. You then return to your pew with a glow in your heart.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex next to the Red Book of Prayers. Just write your name by the date and service you wish. Please contact Gloria Bramble with any questions. (864-391-5996)

Thank you,
The worship team



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. "Preemie" hats have been given to Self Hospital. Prayer Shawls 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, August 17th at 1:30 p.m. 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.



Prayer Shawl Circle is looking for a handy person to help with the shelving issue in the Prayer Shawl closet. If you think you can help with this, please contact Jean Randall at 864-602-9563



August Service Assistants

Communion Assistants 10:30 AM

Aug 2 nd	Ann Snyder, Donna Irmis
Aug 9 th	Sherri Kumle, Lynn Flom
Aug 16 th	Candy Zimmerman, Shelly Emery
Aug 23 rd	Judy Greiger, Lynn Flom
Aug 30 th	Deb Frederickson,

Lectors 10:30 AM

Aug 2 nd	Eric Randall
Aug 9 th	Julie Crane
Aug 16 th	Ann Snyder
Aug 23 rd	Linda Wakefield
Aug 30 th	Linda Wakefield

Ushers 10:30 AM

Aug 2 nd	Lynn & David Flom
Aug 9 th	Ann & Jim Snyder
Aug 16 th	David Flom, Maureen Mooney
Aug 23 rd	Candy & Mike Zimmerman
Aug 30 th	Lynn & David Flom

August Altar Flowers

Aug 2 nd	Sandy and Chuck Gresham
Aug 9 th	Karen and Tom Spilker
Aug 16 th	Bill and Sherri Kumle
Aug 23 rd	Donna and Ed Irmis
Aug 30 th	Tom and Bette Cullen Kelly and Lynette Jordan

Altar Guild

Aug 2 nd	Donna Irmis, Maureen Mooney
Aug 9 th	Donna Irmis, Maureen Mooney
Aug 16 th	Lorna Soule, Janet Gilbert
Aug 23 rd	Lorna Soule, Janet Gilbert
Aug 30 th	Lorna Soule



Sanctuary Flowers

The following dates are open on the Flower chart located in the Narthex. Please consider presenting flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary, or in memory of a loved one or special event.

September 6th
October 25th
November 8th

November 15th
November 22nd
November 29th



Deadline for the September
Newsletter is **August 19th**

Remember.....

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

Church Office: lcctl@lcctl.org

Pastor Greg: Pastor.greg@lcctl.org



2 nd Lynne Smith	13 th Steve Greene	22 nd Larry Lundy Grant Ziebell
6 th Nancy Kimball Jim Kinsler Gavin Montgomery	15 th Stacy Galloway	23 rd Bill Hutchinson
7 th Deborah Fuller Cherlyn Johnson	16 th Henry Jones	26 th Kellie Ergle
8 th Pam Walz	18 th Linda Manion	27 th David Markle
11 th Helene Rhodes	19 th Raylene Emerich	28 th Phylliss Roth
	20 th Gene Graziano Walter Riddick	31 st Abbie Ergle



8 th Judith & Pat Dundon Christie & Grant Ziebell	17 th Mark & Monica Lazar
12 th Gene & Jo Graziano David & Nancy Pund	20 th Hilda & Jim Brissey
13 th Craig & Sandy Granger	25 th Donna & Ed Irmis
14 th Chuck & Sandy Gresham	27 th Dave & Marjorie Phillips
15 th Ann & Jim Snyder David & Joy Swiecki	29 th Kelly & Lynette Jordan
	30 th Bette & Tom Cullen



OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

President	Bill Hutchinson
Vice President	Cherlyn Johnson
Secretary	Julienne Leibrandt
Treasurer	Rob Leibrandt

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Bill Hutchinson
Vice President	Cherlyn Johnson
Secretary	Julienne Leibrandt
Treasurer	Rob Leibrandt
Financial Secretary	Maria Gardner
At Large	Carol Hornung
At Large	Jim Mavity
At Large	Rev. Chris Craig-Jones

ORGANIZATION OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Endowment	Candy Zimmerman	Chair
	Joanna Feloni	Treasurer
	Carol Hornung	Secretary
LMM	Bill Kumle, 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

"Gather, Grow, Go: Sharing Jesus' Love with All."

- Gather: We come together to worship and pray, receiving the life-giving gifts of God's Word and Sacraments.
- Grow: We intentionally deepen our faith through study, service and fellowship, knowing that God shapes us continually.
- Go: We carry the love of Jesus into the world—especially here in Savannah Lakes Village—meeting neighbors with compassion, hope and kindness.

This rhythm of gather-grow-go is how we put God's transformative grace into action every day.