

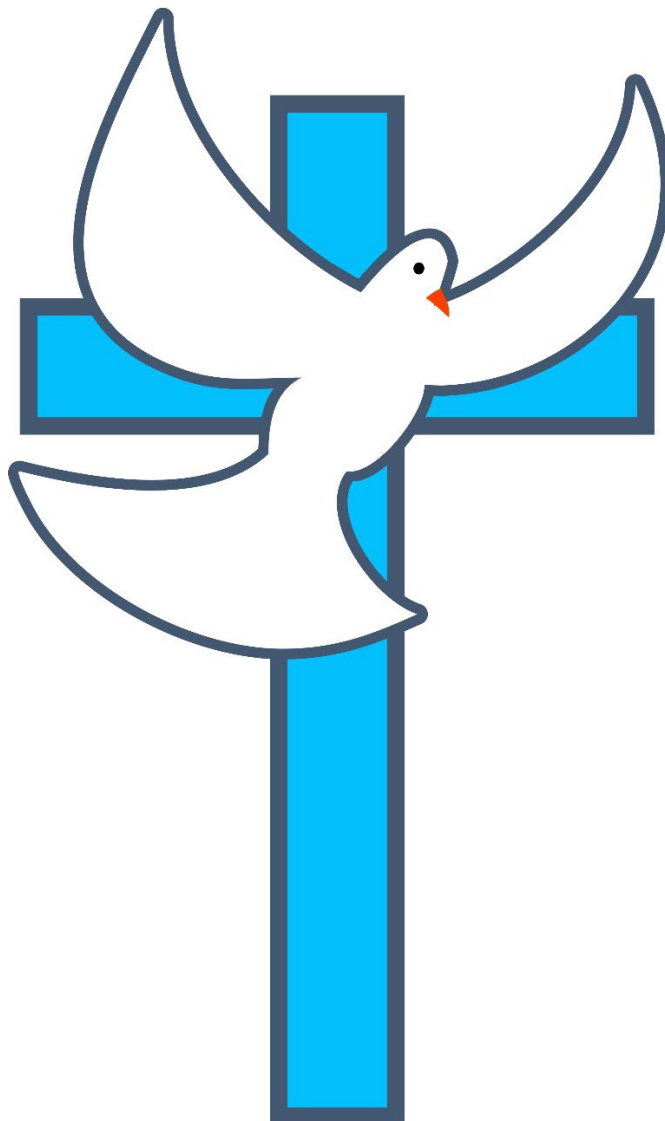
Lutheran Church By The Lake



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



Sharing the GOOD NEWS
MAY 2025



Pastor's Corner

He Goes Ahead of You: Hope in the Face of Doubt

By Pastor Greg Van Dyke
Lutheran Church By The Lake | May 2025

Alleluia! Christ is risen. The tomb is empty. The promise holds.

After journeying through a rich Holy Week — from Maundy Thursday's basin and towel, to Good Friday's silence, through the Vigil's fire and font, and on to Easter morning's radiant joy — we continue walking in the season of Resurrection. But the Gospel doesn't end at the tomb. In Matthew's account, the risen Jesus meets his disciples and says:

"Go to Galilee; there you will see me." (Matt. 28:7, 10)

There's comfort in that line: He goes ahead of us. In a world thick with uncertainty — political, personal, global — this Easter promise is a balm. Jesus is not behind us, hoping we figure it out. He's ahead of us, already at work in the future we fear.

But Matthew also tells us something surprisingly honest:

"When they saw him, they worshiped him; but they doubted." (Matt. 28:17)

It's a sentence that rattles our expectations. These are the disciples — the ones who've seen the empty tomb, heard the angel, followed Jesus for years. And still, as they kneel before the risen Christ, they doubt.

The Greek here is striking. It doesn't say "some" doubted. That word isn't there. What Matthew actually writes is:

"They worshiped him; but they doubted."

There's no clean separation — just a holy paradox. As Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell has noted, Matthew may be intentionally showing us that worship and doubt often share the same heart. These are not two groups — the faithful and the hesitant — but one body of believers whose faith is mixed with fear, whose praise is tangled with uncertainty.

And what does Jesus do? He doesn't rebuke them. He doesn't withhold the mission. He says, **"Go. Make disciples. And know this: I am with you always."**

That is the heart of Easter: God is with us — even when we're not sure. Hope is not just for the certain; it's for the unsure, the overwhelmed, the ones holding onto faith by a thread.

Maybe that's you right now. Maybe the resurrection feels real on Sunday, but less so on Tuesday morning. Maybe you've prayed with trembling hands. Maybe you've worshiped while wondering whether hope can outlast the headlines.

If so, hear the Gospel again:

**Christ goes ahead of you.
Christ meets you in your doubt.
Christ calls you anyway.
And Christ is with you — always.**

This is the kind of hope that reshapes the world — not in spite of our humanity, but right in the middle of it.
Alleluia. Amen.



President's Page -Sherri Kumle

What In the World Is Going On at LCBTL?

We will pick up where we left off last month, highlighting the ways in which Council members and Teams serve Lutheran Church By The Lake ! As you read about the wonderful ways each of these teams serve God through the church, you will notice that they intentionally overlap in many ways.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Evangelism

The Evangelism Team engages in various activities that support relationships within the congregation and provide information and a welcoming atmosphere for guests. The creation of an Ambassador Team to greet guests and answer questions is aimed at encouraging return visits and longer association with the congregation. Building relationships with members and guests promotes a culture of warmth and acceptance that aligns with our mission – “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.” The Evangelism Team also facilitates relationships with other organizations and individuals in the community, laying the groundwork for future collaboration and community resource building. When you see name tags, gift bags, and smiling faces, the Evangelism Team is nearby.

Fellowship

Fellowship and Fun at LCBTL aims to unite people through enjoyable activities. We gather in the ARK for meals, game nights, movies, crafts, lectures, and short trips. Everyone, including neighbors and friends, is welcome to join us in building relationships and enjoying God’s world together. Join our next fellowship activity!

Education

Education at LCBTL offers diverse opportunities for all interests. We host the annual Vacation Bible School, redesigned as CAMP GRAND(parent), to help grandparents engage visiting grandchildren in a God-centered experience. This event fosters connections among kids, families, and volunteers.

Adult programs throughout the year feature varied, thought-provoking topics led by experienced leaders, including our pastor, retired clergy, and knowledgeable laypersons. Studies may cover books of the Bible, video series discussions, or comparative religion. Participants leave sessions eager to return due to the engaging content and fellowship.

Technology

Technology has become a very necessary part of all of our lives, and no less so in the church. Since COVID, we have been blessed with equipment provided by a former

member to begin the live stream of Sunday morning worship services and sometimes funerals or memorials. The ARK has a large screen TV, additional monitor, and amazing sound system – some of which was recently upgraded with funds from another generous gift from a former member's family. We have added a special system for those needing hearing assistance called "Listen Everywhere" in both buildings, and in the Conference Room we are equipped to participate in educational webinars and meetings via ZOOM and conferencing equipment. Technology is expensive and also ever-changing. We have been so blessed to have been provided with the resources to stay current technologically and continue to be a church that understands the importance of connecting with others, sometimes remotely.

Next Month- more Good News about LCBTL!

The image features the words "GOOD NEWS!" in a large, colorful, 3D block letter font. Each letter is filled with a different color: 'G' is pink, 'O' is teal, 'O' is yellow, 'D' is blue, 'N' is pink, 'E' is blue, 'W' is yellow, 'S' is teal, and the exclamation mark is pink. The letters have a slight shadow beneath them, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

God's in charge of Flowers and Trees.

I am in charge of weeds and seeds.

I have a little sign by my desk with that saying on it. So, as I write this article for our May Newsletter, I think of Spring and of our upcoming congregational meeting, I begin with a prayer that the Holy Spirit opens your hearts so that the seeds gifted to you may spring forth in service.

Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38)

As our church continues to grow and prosper, your Nominating Committee (Chuck Gresham, Donna Irmis and I) pray for wisdom and guidance as we search for new Council and Committee Members to fill vacancies effective May 31, 2025. At this writing, we are still seeking candidates for election at the May congregational meeting to Chair:

- The Fellowship Committee
- The Discipleship of Evangelism Committee

Everyone in our church has their own likes and dislikes, skills and abilities, schedules and commitments so whether you've never considered it, feel reluctant, time challenged, too_____ (fill in your own blank) or maybe have previously said "no," I invite you to learn more. Please feel free to contact me in person, by phone, text or e-mail to discuss these or other Council & Committee roles.

Cherlyn Johnson
816-820-3013
Csuej2000@aol.com

First, Last and Throughout

Prayer is our key nominating tool. Staying in close, personal contact with the Holy Spirit opens us to his involvement in the nomination process. Recruitment is inviting His people to use gifts He has given in His service. We can be confident that God will supply all the people needed to do what he wants done. When we remember it's about Him and not about us, nomination is an exciting adventure in His service.

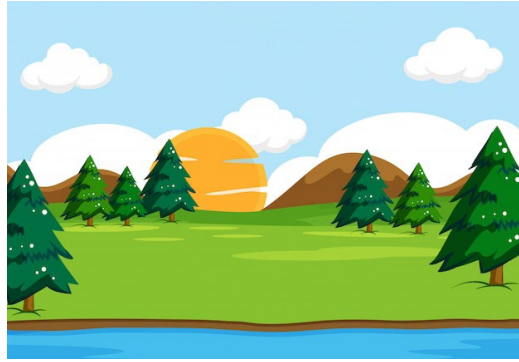
We pray that the individuals we nominate and appoint will be good servants and examples of your love and grace to our community. We trust in your provision and guidance and pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Does this elephant look familiar to anyone? It turned up during last year's Camp Grand Safari and he has been unable to find his way home since then. If it's yours and you want it back, please call the office. Otherwise we will find it a good home during the LWM yard sale on May 10th



News from the Worship Team



Lutheran Church By The Lake, welcomes everyone to our Outdoor Lake Services, in the "Cathedral of Creation", located at Elijah Clark State Park, Pavilion 3. Come, join us in worship and praise every Sunday morning beginning on Memorial Day weekend, Sunday, May 25, 2025 at 9:00am, through Sunday, August 31, 2025.

Come by boat and dock on the shoreline or by car and bring a lawn chair. Weekly Entrance fees to the park are required and are \$5.00 per car each Sunday. Annual passes are available for \$50.00, and seniors over 62 for \$25.00, other discounted passes are available. All discounted passes must be purchased in person at the gate.

For Lutheran Church By The Lake

Bill Hutchinson

Whutchinson7@outlook.com



LWM



May 10th from 8 am to 2 pm

**Drop off of donations will begin Sunday, May 4th from 3-5 PM at the ARK
Drop offs will continue Monday May 5th thru Friday May 9 from 9AM to 1PM
in the ARK**

Two shifts of volunteers are needed: 7:30 am to 11:30 am and 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. Please see sign up sheet in narthex. Many volunteers are needed.

All items need to be clean, in good condition and working.

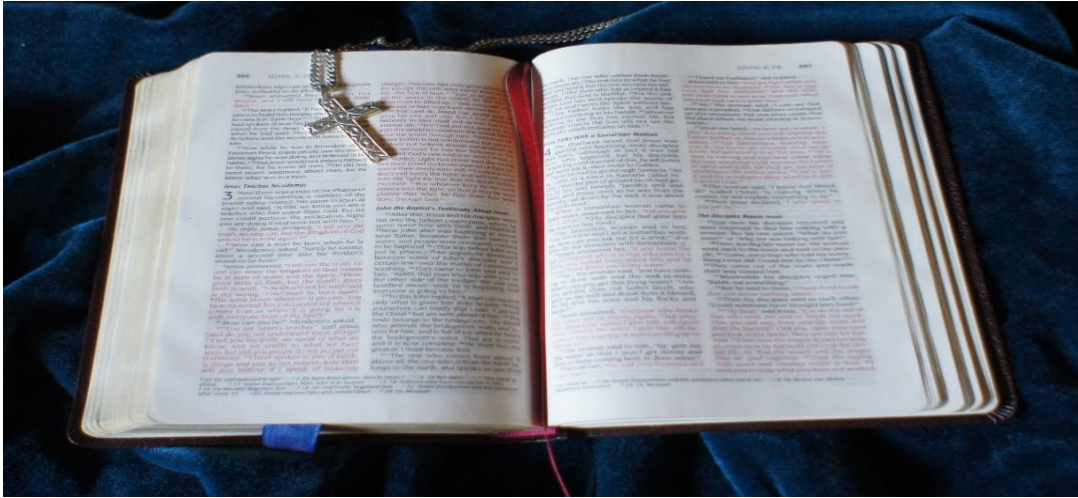
Non-acceptable items:

- 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

Acceptable Items:

- 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 donating other items.
- Garden items
- Sport equipment – golf clubs, bikes, boating, fishing
- Pet items
- Tools
- Holiday items

BIBLE STUDY NEWS



LCBTL Tuesday Bible Studies @ 10:00 A.M. in the Ark run approx. one hour and a half.

**Please come and experience some new areas of study led by
Pastor Dusty Rhodes**

**"A Study on the Resurrection of Jesus"
Final Date 5/13**

June, July & August, 2025-

"A Study of 'The Letters of John, from N.T. Wright's 'The Bible for Everyone'"
presented by Candy Zimmerman.!

Dates: 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24 & 7/08, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29, & 8/05

What is LDR Carolinas?

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.

The ministry of LDR Carolinas has been funded by a grant from Lutheran Disaster Response to provide local faces and voices for this vital ministry. Grounded in faith, we are focused on helping individuals and congregations prepare for disaster and on building a network of resources across North and South Carolina to respond when disasters occur. We are reminded many places in scripture that we can trust in God in any situation: Psalm 46:1-3

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

How Did LDR Help LCBTL?

Through those who helped build the resources of Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas, grants were made available to assist congregations in their efforts to be better prepared for disaster. Our LCBTL Safety Team recommended that we secure our doors more effectively to protect those working in the building by adding a "RING DOORBELL" systems to the front and side doors. Our grant application was approved for \$750.00 and covered the cost of the entire system. *THANK YOU LDR!*



Supporting this Ministry

Your support will help expand and continue disaster preparedness and response ministry in these ways:

To support this ongoing ministry of preparedness in the North and South Carolina Synods, give to LDR Carolinas. This ministry has been given a grant from Lutheran Disaster Response to begin this important work. You can help make it ongoing. Send your donation to:

LDR Carolinas, 1988 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury NC 28144
South Carolina Synod 1003 Richland Street Columbia SC 29201

Our Appreciation for Pastor Greg and Linda

HAPPY ONE YEAR (On April 1) ANNIVERSARY!

April 1, 2024, Lutheran Church By The Lake welcomed Pastor Greg and Linda Van Dyke into our faith life as well as our community. One year ago , our days of being without a full time regular pastor was officially in the rear view mirror! With our rich 26-year history of faithful pastoral care and leadership, and with months and months of preparation and anticipation for new beginnings of spiritual growth and a relationship with a called Minister of Word and Sacrament, our hearts and minds were eager to welcome the Van Dykes! Never mind that Pastor's first day in the office was April Fool's Day- this was a day to celebrate our future at LCBTL!

When we say Pastor jumped in with both feet, we're not kidding! In fact, before he lived in SLV and even had keys to the building, he volunteered to lead a funeral service. Immediately after accepting our call to serve, he began connecting with Council leadership about plans, schedules, goals, and ideas. While packing to move, he injured his back yet continued to begin the transition into temporary rental homes while he and Linda made trips from Pawley's Island to set up his office at LCBTL. These are just glimpses into his enthusiasm for joining us in our mission to serve God and our community. Linda also redirected her career so that she could be part of this transition in McCormick and together they also made plans to bring Pastor's mother to Wesley Commons in Greenwood. All of this while selling their home on the coast and beginning the building process in SLV - ALL IN LESS THAN A YEAR!

Pastor came to us with a heart for valuing our past while concurrently helping us adapt to our present and future. He has spent many hours and countless meetings listening, evaluating, and suggesting ways that we might fine tune our administrative procedures. We continue to benefit from his years of experience and his desire to continue to learn from a variety of resources that he has made available to us. Pastor Greg recognizes that today's church is not and will not be the same as the churches of 25-40 years ago. It is imperative that we adapt our approaches to continue worshiping and serving God through our Lutheran traditions while also recognizing the changing needs of the people who look to us for spiritual guidance, and his ability to balance this has been thoughtful and helpful.

How blessed we are to have Pastor Greg and Linda at the center of our church family! Look further in this month's Newsletter to see how we plan to celebrate Pastor and Linda at a Baby Shower THIS MONTH! You will want to be part of this celebration!



May 18, 2025

Come join in the fun as we celebrate Pastor and Linda's coming grandbaby!

Our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary May 18th following the 10:30 worship service. We will enjoy a time of fellowship and a chicken dinner with desserts and decorations provided by LWM!

The expectant parents will join us via ZOOM and open presents for us all to see!

(The Van Dykes are registered on Amazon. You may select from the list of items they have chosen and either bring them to the shower or have the gift sent directly to Pastor and Linda's home at [173 Rhett Dr., McCormick, SC 29835](#) for them to personally deliver to Baltimore!)

Link for the register: https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/alexandmayet-vandyke-june-2025-glenburnie/35A3A15VBPQAE?ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_dp_1N6AWDSPT5SQCP66Q0SV

LCBTL'S newest members received on Easter Sunday!



Susan Skyzinski and Joe Cieslak



Reverend Chris and Jane Craig-Jones Servant Leadership Committee

The Servant Leadership Committee is pleased to announce that a schedule for our "Blessing Ministry" has been finalized for 2025. Our LCBTL congregation has long been instrumental in sharing our blessings with others through various ministries of the church, and in recent years we have utilized the "Blessing Bag" program. However, we find that many of our donations do not "fit" into traditional bags, but rather take the form of donations above and beyond our normal offering for the support of local non-profit charities and local projects needing community support. For that reason, we have renamed this a **"BLESSING MINISTRY"** and we thank you in advance for your support throughout the coming year. We provide the following opportunities for giving to our congregation:

- ☐ McCormick County Food Pantry (Souper Bowl, Thanksgiving, Turkey Trot)
- ☐ Kinard Manor Recovery of Greenwood
- ☐ Salkahatchie Summer Service Youth Program
- ☐ McCormick County Backpack Ministries
- ☐ McCormick County First Steps
- ☐ McCormick County First Responders, Firefighters, and Law Enforcement

We know the impact your giving has on members of our community. With God's Grace, we will continue as the Body of Christ to support our friends and neighbors in need.

Thank you
Jeanne Thayer



SOLID GROUNDS

Serving up the love of God
on every cup
Write inspirations
Enjoy some fellowship

MAIN STREET COFFEE
2nd and 4th Friday
1:15pm

Julie Crane
Ann Snyder

A COFFEE SHOP MINISTRY!

A cup of coffee... a splash of friendly fellowship... and a slice of encouragement for their customers!

This month's dates for this ministry are

May 9th
May 23rd

Prayer Shawl



Prayer Shawl Circle takes place the third Monday of every month at 1:30 pm in the Bridge. Here are all the upcoming dates for 2025:

May 19th

June 16th

July 21st

August 18th

September 15th

October 20th

November 17th

December 15th

Come join us and make something special!

There Are Pocket Prayer Squares in the basket in the Narthex at the round table where the Prayer requests are placed. The Prayer Shawl Circle knits and crochets these and would like to share them with the congregation and friends. They are for anyone to take and spread God's love.

25TH ANNIVERSARY!

Bob White Charity Golf Tournament

Lutheran Church By The Lake will be sponsoring the **25th Annual "Bob White" Charity Golf Tournament on Tuesday, May 20th**. If you wish to play, it's a Shotgun fun Scramble at Monti. It includes lunch and a Southern BBQ in the ARK after golf. (Cost \$340 per team, \$85 a person).

If you don't golf, you can still join us for dinner and Christian Fellowship (\$16).

The purpose of the outing is to raise money for local charities supported by the church. The majority of dollars raised comes from sponsors and donations. Thanks to these wonderful people, last year's Tournament enabled us to again use the net proceeds to help support and grow the many local organizations supported by Lutheran Church By The Lake. These organizations included: the McCormick Food Pantry, McCormick Educational Fund, Camp Grand, Burton Center of McCormick, Fuller House (Habitat), Paul Dennis Youth Center, Sandy Branch First Responders and McCormick Helping Hands.

WILL YOU SPONSOR A HOLE? THE COST TO SPONSOR A HOLE IS \$100.00. Please call the church office (864-391-3000) or email billkumle@yahoo.com with any questions. Sponsor checks or donations are made payable to **"LCBTL Bob White Charity Golf Tournament"** and mail to: Lutheran Church By The Lake, Attention: Bill Kumle. Bill has Sponsor forms.



Join us in our Prayers for New Homes Savannah Lakes Village & Lincolnton

Many new homes are being built in our area, bringing new people to join us in our faith community at Lutheran Church By The Lake. We would love to have all our new homes blessed with prayer and new residents invited to join us.

- Please stop by a new home being built and say a prayer for the family who will reside in it.
- Send the address and names of the residents (if known) to LCBTLoutreach@gmail.com
- When the family moves into the home, please an email to LCBTLoutreach@gmail.com

When families move into their new homes, prayers will be given during morning worship and during our community prayer. A card will be sent to the new family welcoming them to Savannah Lakes Village and inviting them to our worship services.

Questions? Contact us at LCBTLoutreach@gmail.com or call the office

Sample Prayers

Keep these tucked into your car or golf cart!

A House Blessing – Dear Lord, within this house may God's peace abide, to bless all those who step inside. And may there be joy and laughter heard, and love in every act and word. In Your name we pray, Amen

Prayer for Gratitude in a New Home – Holy Father, thank You for this new home, a place of shelter and love. May your blessings fill every corner, and may we always be grateful for this gift of security and comfort. Amen.

New Home Blessing – Gracious God, as the new homeowner's feet walk through the door, may their heart feel steady. May love and laughter swirl through every room. May goals and dreams be articulated and celebrated within these walls. May rest and sweet dreams be a nightly blessing. May this home always be a haven for their soul.

New Home Prayer - O Lord, we thank you for this new home, for the shelter it will provide, for the moments of life that will be shared within it. Be present at their table as family and friends eat together. Be present as they rise in the morning and lie down at night. May Your Spirit inhabit this home, making of it a sanctuary where hearts and lives are knit together. Where bonds of love are strengthened, where mercy is learned and practiced. Lord, all this we ask in Your name, Amen.

In Savannah Lakes Village, look for new homes being built at these addresses. When the walls are up, please offer a prayer for the families who will reside in these homes.

THANK YOU for sharing God's love through prayer.

Evangelism Team

Denise Uitto, Ministry Leader

Camp Grand 'Strand'

We're Goin' To The Beach

July 1st - July 4th



An Innovative Version of VBS

Camp Grand, A Community Outreach Program of Lutheran Church By The Lake

Program & Registration

Our Theme: "Walking With The Lord"

Our Purpose: *"Having a Grand Time Together Seeking & Sharing God's Word" Deut.6:6-8*
And...Fun in the "SON"

Camp will open on Tuesday afternoon July 1st, 5pm with sign-in and orientation for all campers at the Lutheran Church. This will also be an entertaining gathering for all the parents, families, and grandparents. Hotdogs and ice cream for all. More info to follow. This will be our 15th Camp Grand.

On July 2,3,&4 Camp will begin at 8:45am for campers, grandparents/family. This will start with a fun time of 20 minutes you will not want to miss. Each morning at the church the children will start out with 'Minute-To-Win It', then have that day's story. 9:20 Adults head home and campers move on to classrooms for lessons based on the story, snacks, music, and crafts. 12:15 home for lunch and back later in the afternoon for a fun, fun activity.

Your grandchildren/children, ages 4-14, are going to love being with you for Camp Grand 'Strand' Every day at Camp Grand 'Strand' will be like a day at the beach, as we continue the tradition of Camp Grand.

Thank you for your consideration in sharing your children/grandchildren with us!

Lutheran Church By The Lake
Volunteers:
In HIS Service,
Pastor Greg Van Dyke

Camp Coordinators:

Doug & Marianne Chalifour
DChali4@gmail.com

Coordinator for

TBD

After completion of signing up, a confirmation appears for additional camper registrations if needed as well as to edit your entry for missing info.

To sign up click [Registration](#)



Deadline for the June Newsletter
is May 19th



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1st

Chuck Gresham

7th

Sharon Gagon

9th

Julie Crane
Ron Hinkel

10th

Judy Reichard

19th

Bob Leonard

20th

Tom Cullen

24th

Sam Wakefield

25th

Jean Randall
Dave Phillips



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17th t

Sue and Gary Hannah

22nd

Joann and Doug McEvoy

29th

Ann and Norm Francavilla

31st

Luann and Mark Danielski



MAY SERVICE ASSISTANTS

May Communion Assistants

4th	Early	Gloria Bramble, Linda McCullough	18th	Early	Chuck Gresha & Gloria Bramble
	Late	Bill & Margo Kite			
11th	Early	Raylene Emerich & Jeanne Thayer		Late	Kathie Nixon & Eileen Hurlbut
	Late	Deb Frederickson & Candy Zimmerman	25th	Late	Donna Irmis & Maureen Mooney

May Lectors 9:00 am

4th	Sandi Atols
11th	Joanna Feloni
18th	Chuck Gresham

May Ushers 9:00 am

4th	Jim and Sani Atols
11th	Raylene and Jeanne Thayer
18th	Chuck Gresham and Gloria Bramble

May Lectors 10:30 am

4th	Julie Crane
11th	Ann Snyder
18th	Dale Nixon
25th	Julie Crane

May Ushers 10:30 am

4th	Candy and Mike Zimmerman
11th	Gloria Bramble, Paul Klein
18th	Ann and Jim Snyder
25th	Peggy and Mike Thomas

May Altar Flowers

4th	Paul and Maria Gardner
11th	Tracy and Bill Hutchinson
18th	Jo Ann and Doug McEvoy
25th	Diane Nelson



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	Denise Uitto
Fellowship Leader	JoAnn McEvoy
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
	Secretary
LMM	Bill Kumle and Fred Frederickson
	Co-Chairs
	Doug Chalifour
	Treasurer
	Paul Klein
	Quartermaster
LWM	Karen Spilker, Christie Ziebelle
	Co-Chairs
	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.