

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



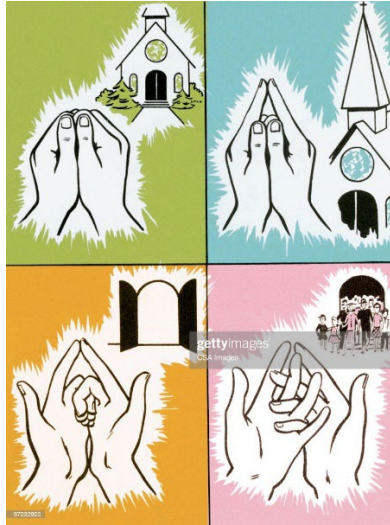
Sharing the GOOD NEWS *February 2025*



In keeping with "I Love To Tell The Story", this month begins a series of "stories" told by our brothers and sisters at Lutheran Church By The Lake who over the years, or maybe even just last week, have felt the impact of what this church, this congregation, means to them. These stories will help us know each other better, help us understand where we have been and where we want to go as a family of faith. Stories might tell about how we came to be here, some might tell of the support an individual received during a stressful time, others might tell about past disappointments in a congregation and how LCBTL filled a void. We could hear about hardships, celebrations, triumphs over illness, and maybe even just some down-to-earth thanks for a church that is just exactly what someone was looking for. We hope many of us will share in this way, for it is through telling our stories that we share God's love and show thanks for all that he does for us. It can be long or short, sad or funny, a big impact or a very small impact- all come from the heart of people we love!

Impact Story

Do you remember this children's finger play?



*Here is the church
And here is the steeple
Open the doors
And see all the people*

The first part of this rhyme reminds me of my initial visit to this area in early 2021. I was immediately attracted to the beautiful LCBTL building and of course to God's other magnificent creation of trees, water and weather. So, when I finally moved here, I ventured through those open church doors to see all the PEOPLE inside the building. I also saw those same PEOPLE & worshipped with them at the Lake services in God's natural temple. But it wasn't just the beauty of the church that kept me coming back in 2022. It was the PEOPLE inside who brought me to becoming a member in 2023.

*Close the doors
And hear them pray*

I've already shared in my previous story just how important those prayers were for me during a very challenging year of personal loss so will not repeat here. Instead, I'd like to share what I've witnessed after being called to serve on the Call Committee and Congregational Council. If you are like me, you may be reluctant to get involved as a volunteer since from past experiences it seems too often a few people end up doing most of the work. You know:

*Open the doors
And they all walk away*

Well after thought and prayer, I answered the calls putting all my trust in God's will and guidance. Feeling uncertain about my abilities to serve on a Committee charged with the work of calling a new pastor, with little to no personal history of LCBTL, and then being asked to serve as the Chair was overwhelming. However, God provided members that shared history, actively volunteered to share devotions, took notes and helped with

meeting logistics. God continued to provide so, so many PEOPLE doing His work including the Synod sending us qualified rostered ministers to consider. Pastor Greg accepted the call, and all the PEOPLE on the council, in the congregation, our community and his family all participated in God's call to LCBTL.

Currently serving as Council Vice President, I'm again faced with that overwhelming feeling of Chairing a Nominating Committee responsible for presenting candidates for future leadership roles. And with so many ministries and activities there are many PEOPLE doing God's work so when those church doors open, I know that they're not walking away but rather continuing this ongoing work. It is truly amazing to be part of this church community and trust me if you are called, you should know that you will not be alone. Rather you'll feel that you are part of all the PEOPLE, a healthy functioning body of fellow believers doing God's work. So when those doors open, please consider: Here am I, send me, send me!

Cherlyn Johnson
Council Vice President

Pastor's Corner

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a quiet place and rest a while,” for many people were coming and going and they did not even have a chance to eat. ³² So they went away by boat to a solitary place by themselves. (Mark 6:30–32)

What a whirlwind this last year and a half has been—for Lutheran Church By The Lake, and for Linda and me. In September 2023, neither LCBTL nor I knew the other existed. By April 1, 2024, we had discerned a call to ministry together, and I began serving as your pastor. This sudden series of twists and turns has led us into a new chapter of God's work.

These have certainly been exciting times, but they've also brought stress, uncertainty, and plenty of surprises. Even so, Linda and I feel blessed by how God has guided us here. We are grateful for your warmth and support as we settle into this community.

So, it may come as no surprise that, as you read these words, Linda and I are stepping away for a short time of rest. We'll be cruising the Caribbean, soaking in the sun, and recharging our batteries so we can return refreshed for the work God has in store.

I'm already looking forward to coming back energized and ready to see where the Holy Spirit leads us next. Together, we'll continue meeting the challenges and opportunities before us as we strive to make Christ known in this corner of paradise.

Thank you for your welcome, encouragement, and prayers since we began this journey. I am grateful for the gift and call to ministry that thrives at Lutheran Church By The Lake.

Together, we are being transformed by Christ as we share God's love with Savannah Lakes Village and beyond!

In Christ,
Pastor Greg



President's Page-

February Newsletter

From the Desk of Sherri Kumle

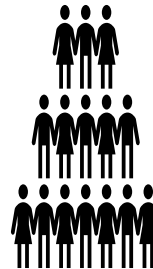
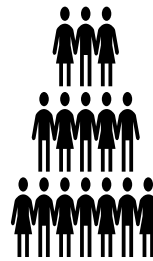
I have been looking back over the past year and attempting to grasp how far we have come as a congregation. Although there is much work to be done, we as the body of Christ at Lutheran Church By The Lake can learn from where we have been and apply those lessons to how we serve God from this McCormick, SC, "church on the hill". I thought it might be fun to pick one month, and December was fun to do because of the many, many special things we do in celebration of Christ's birth. We all knew we had a busy month- remember those weary bones we felt? - but take a look at the ways we *know* we touched others, then stretch your imagination to fill in the blanks of ways we cannot calculate the people we touched. God is indeed present at LCBTL and helping us find new ways to reach his people in our community and beyond. Consider how you might join us in new and creative ways in this exciting time as you bring your gifts to the table to serve our Lord!

In December, 2024, We at LCBTL Touched Others... *(An unscientific look at the numbers)*

• Dec. Av. Sunday Weekly Attendance (5 weeks)	116 (5 wks)
• Dec. Weekly YouTube/FB Av. "Watches" (x people in house)	52 (5 wks)
• Dec. Total <u>Guests</u> (Christmas Eve= 65% of attendees)	155+
• Christmas Eve "Watches" (x people in house)	79 and 36
• Christmas Eve 4:00 PM	131
• Christmas Eve 7:00 PM	106
• <i>(Members Away Christmas Eve)</i>	100 (approx.)
• Turkey Trot	125
• Blue Christmas	30
• Christmas Caroling	25
• Christmas and other cards to Shut-Ins and Others	75+
• Dec. Average Weekly Morning Prayer	12
• Dec. Avg. Pastor's Class	12
• Nativity Experience	275
• Ladie's Tea	96
• Facebook Followers/Friends	607
• McCormick Christmas Parade	1000?
• Christmas Flyer Blast	1800

- NeighborLink Posts
- Our sign on the hill
- Our conversations
- Our invitations
- Our prayers
- Word of mouth
- Pastor Contacts and Visits
- Other ministries
 - Food Pantry
 - Blessing Bags
 - First Steps
 - Prayer Shawl
 - Quilting Group
 - Community Resource
 - Help for Callers in need

8x 2500 people 😊



What other ways can you add to this long list of ways that we as a congregation have reached out to touch others just in December? Now think of other projects and times of the year- how many can you add?? God is surely directing us to touch the lives of those around us in a variety of ways.

Hebrews 10:24 *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...”*

News from the Worship Team

Invitation to

Lutheran Church By The Lake is delighted to hold the weekly Ecumenical Morning Prayer Service, led by Pastor Greg Van Dyke.

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00 am, come and experience the peace and inspiration found in communal prayer. Following the service, there will be an opportunity to gather and mingle. For those interested, a Bible Study session will commence at 10:00 am.

We warmly welcome all members of the congregation and the broader community to participate in these enriching spiritual gatherings.

For Lutheran Church By The Lake

864-391-3000

Bill Hutchinson - Worship Chair

Whutchinson7@outlook.com

419-463-8112



LWM



LWM held their January meeting amid the power outage with a turnout of 22 ladies to hear speaker K. Renee Robertson, CEO of the Chamber. Following her talk we made 110 Valentine crafts to take to the McCormick Rehab center.

The LWM board is adding a new "Volunteer Coordinator" position. This person will organize a list of volunteers to lead service projects and events so that this does not always fall on the board members. We would like to add a second position "Board Member at Large". This person would sit on the board and assist the board as needed. Please prayerfully consider taking on this position. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex for volunteers willing to assist with projects. We have two upcoming events scheduled:

1. Movie Day March 13th at 3pm - "Unsung Hero". Come and enjoy a heartwarming movie and some popcorn made with our newly purchased popcorn machine! Feel free to bring a snack or some candy to share.
2. The Yard Sale is scheduled for the week of May 5-10. Items will be accepted May 5-9, with the yard sale on May 10th. We will not accept items early, nor store them in the basement. Watch for future information about the yard sale as this one will be a little different from the last couple years. We are also looking for coordinators to run the bake sale and jewelry.

We look forward to seeing you all on March 13th. Bring a friend or neighbor with you.

LMM

There will be a general meeting of LMM on February 13th, 5:00 PM in the Ark. We will be planning our Annual Pancake Dinner that will be held on March 4, 2025. All men are invited. Please call Bill Kumle with any questions. 937-313-6636



BIBLE STUDY NEWS



February Bible Study will meet in the ARK on the following Tuesdays at 10:00 AM 2/11, 2/18, 2/25 and 3/04 when we will be discussing "Finding Me in Community: Being the Body of Christ" presented by Pastor Scott Crane

March and April we will meet on 3/11, 3/18, 3/25 and 4/1 for a Lenten Discussion Series: How Lutherans Interpret the Bible. Our subtopics will include: The Word of God, Interpreting the Bible in Context, and The Many Meanings of the Bible. This series will be presented by Pastor Greg and again meet on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM.

SOOPER BOWL SUNDAY



Who's Gonna Win?

The McCormick County Food Pantry!

February 2 and 9

Bring canned goods of any variety and place them in the bin under your team's banner to count as a "vote" to win! Cash Collection cans will be on the table-top "field" for your donations- each can counts as a dollar and cash will be counted as face value! Help your team win and help the Food Pantry care for our neighbors in the community!

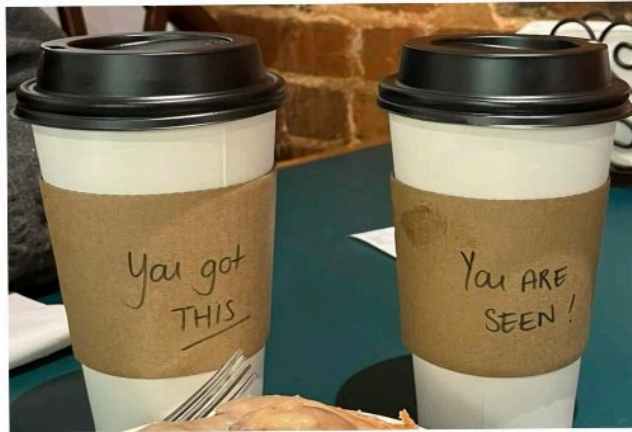
Servant Leadership Committee

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

SOMETHING NEW! A COFFEE SHOP MINISTRY!

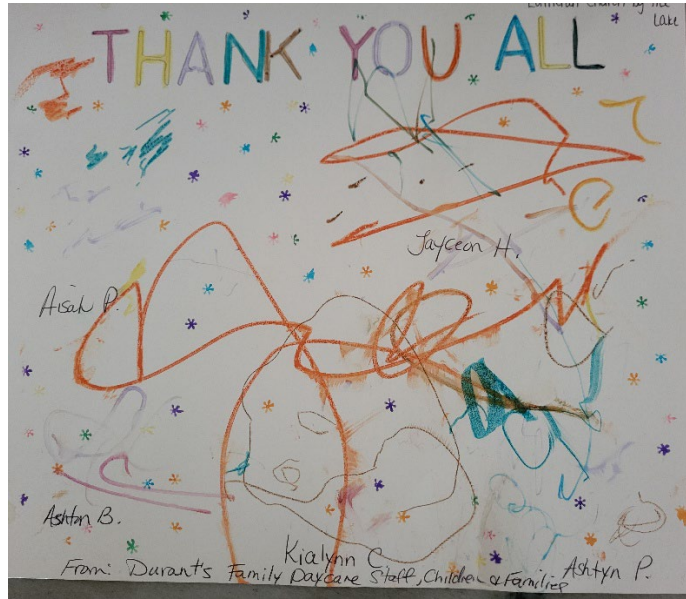
A cup of coffee... a splash of friendly fellowship... and a slice of encouragement for their customers!

If you are interested in more information, please contact:

Ann Snyder (413) 351-1748

Julie Crane (517) 488-7892

A big thank you from little people!



Your donation assisted in purchasing
20 helmets for the children to safely ride
their bikes!

Dear Lutheran Church by the lake,

Thank you for your generosity.
Your donation has made our
Christmas a little more bright.
Happy Holidays!

Thank you
Matthew Kowalski

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:

February 17th

March 17th

April 21st

May 19th

June 16th

July 21st

August 18th

September 15th

October 20th

November 17th

December 15th

Come join us and make something special!

Quilt Circle



The quilt circle started off the new year with 16 busy bees attending our community quilting bee on Saturday January 18th. We basted, created and sewed many quilts. A wonderful angel bee popped in and donated a roll of batting and a large quantity of fabric. Just a wonderful example of how our community always steps up to help others. While we give our quilts to charity, we would also like the congregation to know that if you or someone you know is going through a difficult time and would benefit from a quilt we are happy to provide one. Our next meeting will be in March.



Save the Date

Fellowship Event

The fellowship committee is planning an event in the ARK featuring music by Rhonda McDaniel on Saturday, March 8th from 7-9PM..Bring your own beverages, snacks and friends and come and enjoy a fun evening. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex. We will also be taking up a free will offering to cover expenses to ensure more evenings like this in the future.

Home Visits

If you or someone in your household is homebound and unable to attend church in person, please know that **Home Communion** is available. Pastor Greg can visit you during the week following a regular Communion Sunday (either the 1st or 3rd Sunday of the month). Please call the church office if you would like to have a Home Communion visit. The number is 864-391-3000. Or in an emergency you may call his cell phone at 843-315-8088.





We would like to invite anyone that is a caregiver to a loved one to attend our group. Experience from others helps. Everyone has different situations, however it always comes down to we want to do the best we can and it becomes a 24/7 position.

We meet the last Monday of the month at 2:00 pm in the Conference room. It is over at 3:00.

Jeanne Thayer
Facilitator for Caregivers



Deadline for the March Newsletter
is February 19th



Birthdays

5th

Fran Castle
Roger Stielow

6th

Harry Klug

9th

Bob Oust

10th

Marjorie Phillips

13th

Denny Steele

15th

Ada Rousseau

25th

Jim Emerich
Garry Kline
Jim Lane

26th

Mae Lee Hafer
Gary Hannah

29th

Norm Francavilla

Anniversaries

1st

Bill and Fran Castle

12th

Bob and Gail Oust

20th

Darlene and Jerry Bailey



Communion Days This Month
Feb 2nd and 16th

Communion Assistants

- Feb 2nd Early** Jeanne Thayer and Raylene Emerich
Feb 2nd Late Bill and Margo Kite
Feb 16th Early Gloria Bramble & Linda McCullough
Feb 16th Late Candy Zimmerman & Deb Frederickson

Lectors 9:00 am

- Feb 2** Joanna Feloni
Feb 9 Joanna Feloni
Feb 16 Lea Shaw
Feb 23 Chuck Uitto

Ushers 9:00 am

- Feb 2** Jeanne Thayer & Raylene Emerich
Feb 9 Marvin Decker and Gloria Bramble
Feb 16 Lynette and Kelly Jordan
Feb 23 Jim and Sandi Atols

Lectors 10:30 am

- Feb 2** Dale Nixon
Feb 9 Barbara Hinkel
Feb 16 Judy Greiger
Feb 23 Julie Crane

Ushers 10:30 am

- Feb 2** Ann and Jim Snyder
Feb 9 Candy and Mike Zimmerman
Feb 16 Elaine Beggs & Maureen Mooney
Feb 23 Mike and Peggy Thomas



- | | |
|--------|---|
| Feb 2 | Nena DeArment in memory of Doris DeArment |
| Feb 9 | Bill & Sherri Kumle in memory of loved ones |
| Feb 16 | Charlie and Cathy Clark |
| Feb 23 | Dave and Joy Swiecki in honor of our family |

Altar Guild Assistants
FEBRUARY
Linda Klug and Luann Danielski



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
Assistant Treasurer	Christie Ziebell
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.



Lutheran Church By The Lake

Ministries and Contacts

864-391-3000

Ark Angels	Coordination and assistance with kitchen events	Pat Bryant: pbryant50@wctel.net
Audio Visual Services	Technology based assistance for worship services	Nena DeArment: nena.dearment@gmail.com
Backpack Ministry	Weekend Food for Children	Roseanne Selby: rmselby@wctel.net
Bible Studies and Education	Various Bible Studies and Series	Bill Kite: billmargo.kite@gmail.com
Bob White Memorial Golf Tourn.	Benefits community & church ministries	Bill Kumle: BillKumle@yahoo.com
Camp Grand	Vacation Bible School	Doug Chalifour: dchali4@gmail.com
Cards From The Heart	Cards for the ill, hospitalized, etc.	Lynn Flom: cardsfromtheheartlcbtl.com
Christian Caring	Calls, visitation, homebound communion	Jeanne Thayer: jeannebthayer@gmail.com Candy Zimmerman: candyzim@aol.com
Church Christmas Decorating	Chrismon Trees, Christmas Décor	Bill Hutchinson: whutchinson7@outlook.com
Communion Assistants	Assist with Communion During Worship	Ann Snyder:akadunkin@gmail.com
Endowment Committee	Directs Endowment Fund	Candy Zimmerman: candyzim@aol.com
Fellowship Activities	Planning and Execution of Fellowship	JoAnn McAvoy:dmac2@wctel.net
Finance	Direction of Financial Affairs	Paul Klein:pklein109@gmail.com
Funeral & Columbarium Services	Funeral Service Planning Interment of Ashes	Debbie Fredrickson: lcbtl@wctel.net Jeanne Thayer: jeanneblanchek@yahoo.com
First Steps	McCormick Pre-School Ministry	Ann Snyder:akadunkin@gmail.com
Grief Share and Caregivers	Support for those grieving and those providing care	Jeanne Thayer: jeanneblanchek@yahoo.com
Kairos Prison Ministry	Christian retreat for inmates at McCormick Correctional	Bill Freiberg: bill.frei.b727@gmail.com
Lutheran Men in Mission	Men's fellowship and service	BillKumle@yahoo.com@gmail.com ffredrickson58@gmail.com
Lutheran Women in Mission	Women's fellowship and service	Karen Spilker kspilker@wctel.net Christie Ziebell Christiez5906@aol.com
Meals From The Heart	Meals for those recently hospitalized	JeanneThayer: jeannebthayer@gmail.com
Music Ministry	Choir	Harry Hafer: MUSIC.LCBTL@gmail.com
Prayer Shawl Circle	Knitting and Crocheting	Jean Randall: grandmajeanr@gmail.com
Prime Timers	Adult Respite Care	Jeanne Thayer: jeannebthayer@gmail.com
Property Committee	Property oversight	Bill Kumle: BillKumle@yahoo.com

Red Cross Blood Drive	Community Blood Drive	Candy Zimmerman: candyzim@aol.com Charlie Clark: cclark5601@aol.com
Quilting Circle	Quilts for outreach	Karen Divita: karendiv10@gmail.com
Ushers	Provide ushering service for Sunday worship	Gloria Bramble: wbramble@wctel.net
Technology	PCs, Software, etc	Doug Bauer: dougbauer@comcast.net
Welcome Ambassadors	Greeters at Worship Services	Denise Uitto: edconnectlearning@gmail.com Gloria Bramble: wbramble@wctel.net Margo Kite: billmargo.kite@gmail.com
Worship Assistants	Lectors, Altar Guild, Ushers	Donna Irmis: blueeyes628@wctel.net
Altar Guild	Lorna Soule	ssoulelorna@gmail.com

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