

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 **December 2024**



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 Doug Bauer



I was born in Alpena, Michigan and have lived most of my life in Troy, Michigan. I was an IT Manager at Ford Motor Company where I worked for 30 years before retiring in 2006. My wife of 52 years (DeeAnn) and I built our house in SLV in 1996 and rented it out for 12 years and have been coming to SLV for the winter for the past 16 years. I enjoy many activities, including golfing, astronomy, travel and outings with friends.

DeeAnn and I are Catholic (she was raised Catholic and I was raised Lutheran) and when we started coming to SLV we were looking for a church. We saw the beautiful windows at LCBTL and decided to attend a service. We soon discovered that Pastor Jim and Martha were our neighbors and formed a friendship with them. We quickly developed more friendships through the church and its ministries.

We have been attending a large church in the Troy area and never really felt connected to the church community. We both grew up attending small churches where everyone knew everyone. Our mothers were both very active in the churches.

What drew us to LCBTL was the small size and the friendly community atmosphere. It was a place where we felt at home and could get involved with various church activities. I enjoy the enthusiasm of the church members as they participate in the various ministries and the good that these ministries are doing in the community.

I really value the community at LCBTL and the friends we have made here. I have become active in several groups, knitting group, LMM, the garage sale, backpack ministry, Stewardship of Technology on the church council helping with some technology issues.

My greatest hope for LCBTL is that it continues to be a welcoming place for all and its ministries attract more people who enjoy being of service to the communities we live in.

Pastor's Corner

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a

As we move through this season between Thanksgiving and Christmas, our hearts can be overwhelmed with the demands of life and the fears that dominate our world. We face the ongoing news of wars, natural disasters, climate concerns, and political tensions. On top of that, we experience our own personal struggles: medical diagnoses, family disagreements, and the stress of everyday living.

Yet, in the midst of this uncertainty, our faith speaks clearly: God is with us. This is a season not of fear, but of promise and hope. The God who spoke through the prophet Jeremiah is the same God who speaks to us today—offering us a future filled with hope. This hope is not mere optimism, which depends on how we choose to view the world. Optimism is a perspective, but hope is a reality—a gift given by Christ, rooted in God's enduring love for us. In Jesus Christ, we have received the greatest gift of all, the reassurance that God's love and grace are never far away. God's presence brings us comfort and fills us with grace-filled hope.

As we look toward the New Year, may we find strength in this promise: that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God's love has the power to transform us, to make us new, and to sustain us through every trial. In Christ, our hope is not wishful thinking, but a confident assurance that God is at work, bringing light into our darkness. May this season be one where God's hope, peace, and love find a home in each of our hearts.

Prayer:

Gracious God,

In this season of promise and hope, we come before you with grateful hearts. Though the world is filled with uncertainty and fear, we trust in your abiding presence. We know that you have plans for us—plans for our welfare and not for harm, to give us a future filled with hope. Help us to embrace the true hope that comes through Jesus Christ, not just as a point of view, but as the unshakable reality of your love for us.

Strengthen us as we face our personal struggles and the challenges of our world. May your love transform us, renew us, and sustain us each day. Let your grace fill our hearts, and may your peace and hope overflow into our lives and our community. As we journey toward the New Year, remind us that nothing can separate us from your love. Help us to live as people of hope, bringing your light into the darkness around us.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

God's Peace,

Pastor Greg

From the Desk of the President December, 2024

“Retreating”, Yet Moving Forward

Although Helene and the aftermath did cause us to “retreat” to places of safety and delay the Council Retreat planned for the week following the storm, we finally came together a month later to accomplish our goals for “*retreating*” as a body of leaders. The goals and outcomes paralleled the theme of this retreat held at Liberty Farms in McCormick – “**Unleashing God’s Gifts**” afforded an opportunity for us to recognize the gifts God has given each of us and help us understand how best to use those gifts. Of course, this personal journey was revealing and helpful, but mostly, it inspired us to understand how we can best tap into the gifts of others (*spell that...“our members at LCBTL”...*). The exercises at the retreat opened a Pandora’s box of memories from the history of our church and an explosion of ideas for our future. We were blessed with the leadership of Pastor Debra Griffis-Woodberry, an SLV resident who is a *Pinnacle Leadership Associate*, a group of clergy providing coaching for churches in transition or in search of support in meeting the needs of families and individuals in the church of today and in the future. Pastor Debra was joined by Pastor Scott Crane and his wife Julie, both regular participants in LCBTL worship and other activities. Pastor Scott and Julie served together as Chaplains and Devotional Leaders for the two-day retreat, joining into conversations during group discussions and leading us in prayer and worship throughout the experience.

Our retreat was funded by several generous donations as well as each individual Council member paying for the meals that were involved. Leadership training and spiritual support and growth of our leadership is an important and worthwhile expense for the benefit of the health of the entire congregation, requiring yet another gift of time and talent of those who have agreed to serve God and Lutheran Church By The Lake on the LCBTL Council. We encourage members to ask the Council members about the experience, and we thank you for your prayers and continuing encouragement.

“We Certainly Are A Busy Church”

Recently in conversations with folks in the community I have heard the repeated comment, “Lutheran Church By The Lake certainly is a busy church!” As an insider who knows fully how busy we are, I smile and remind them that in a church family there is much work to do, and we are blessed to have so many willing hands. Even our own members chuckle every Sunday mornings when we remind them to “Sign up in the Narthex for this project, that event, this or that need of help”. But what has God called us to do?

He tells us in 1 Peter 4:10: *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied race..."*

With this reminder, we are serving God together in our church, in our community and beyond by accepting those requests for help, stepping into roles that will benefit from our experience, our passions, our gifts, and our enthusiasm to serve. Together we are members of God's Army of followers, welcoming guests in worship, preparing food for fellowship, joining hands in projects on our campus, coming together in study as we hear God's word and learn how to apply those teachings in our personal lives. Yes, our calendars are bursting at the seams, but as we serve, we grow spiritually, and we grow closer as brothers and sisters in Christ. Your sacrifices and your gifts are blessings to us all...

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16.

Pro-Tip About Membership

Following one of our Congregational Meetings there is typically some conversation surrounding- "What is she referring to when she says, "Verified Voting Member"? Just like all organizations, Lutheran Church By The Lake has a Constitution and By-Laws that govern the "business" side of being a church. Although worship, stewardship, fellowship, and evangelism are cornerstones of being connected to a congregation, we also have an obligation to assure that we maintain accurate records, oversee an annual budget, provide ongoing care for our property, handle payroll, and many other "business" obligations for the church." Verified Voting" Membership simply indicates that an individual has declared themselves to be a member by following the LCBTL Constitution Chapter 8 stated requirements. NOW, Chapter 8 is a bit lengthy to include here, but the Constitution is available by simply asking the office to email or print a copy for you. Feel free to reach out any time with questions!

As Always, Thank you!

As a church family, we have much to be thankful for, and your being part of our congregation is a blessing and a gift. Every prayer, every offering, every meeting, every project, every hymn you sing with us – and especially your presence in our midst is a sign that God's church is important and will be strengthened by our faith. God Bless!

Council Tips

Submitted by Cherlyn Johnson

At the October Council Meeting the following was approved for inclusion in the LCBTL Operations & Procedures Manual.

Use of Sanctuary

The use of the Sanctuary at LCBTL is to be pre-arranged and approved by the Council for each event, with the protocols distributed to those who will be performing or overseeing any event in the Sanctuary. It is imperative that no matter what the event is that the Sanctuary be treated with respect and that care be given to maintain the sacred purpose of the Sanctuary and to also protect the furniture, carpet, technology, and all other LCBTL components and fixtures. This applies to all services and events, including funerals, weddings, Sundays at Four performances, and any and all other uses of the Sanctuary.

Please note the following:

- No one is to adjust the heating and air conditioning settings except the pastor, the LCBTL Music Director or the property manager or his appointee. It should be returned to the original setting at the end of the service or event.
- The Sanctuary, Narthex and Bridge, will be returned to the condition in which they were found by those who reserved the building for an event or service.
- No adhesive of any kind is to be applied to any wood surface or to the carpet in any of the rooms. This includes any kind of tape, glue, thumbtacks, pushpins, etc.
- The altar is not to be used as a table or surface for any purpose except for a service that includes worship. It is to be slid by two people to the rear of the chancel and returned to its original position in the same manner after an event that requires repositioning.
- The LCBTL sound system is to be operated by a trained and qualified member of the LCBTL Technology Team only.
- The piano is to be moved by two people rolling it out of the way or into position. It should be returned to its original position in the same manner. NOTHING is to be placed on the piano.
- No open containers of beverage other than water, nor any food is to be taken into the Sanctuary.
- Programs, bulletins, or debris of any kind is to be disposed of after the clearing of the Sanctuary. (Trash can is in the Bridge Fellowship Hall)
- Lights are to be turned off and all doors secured at the end of the service or event.

Date Approved/Updated: 10.28.2024

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



A SPECIAL THANK YOU



*Lutheran Church By The Lake,
You have made a difference and
we are grateful!
From all of us at The HSNIC*

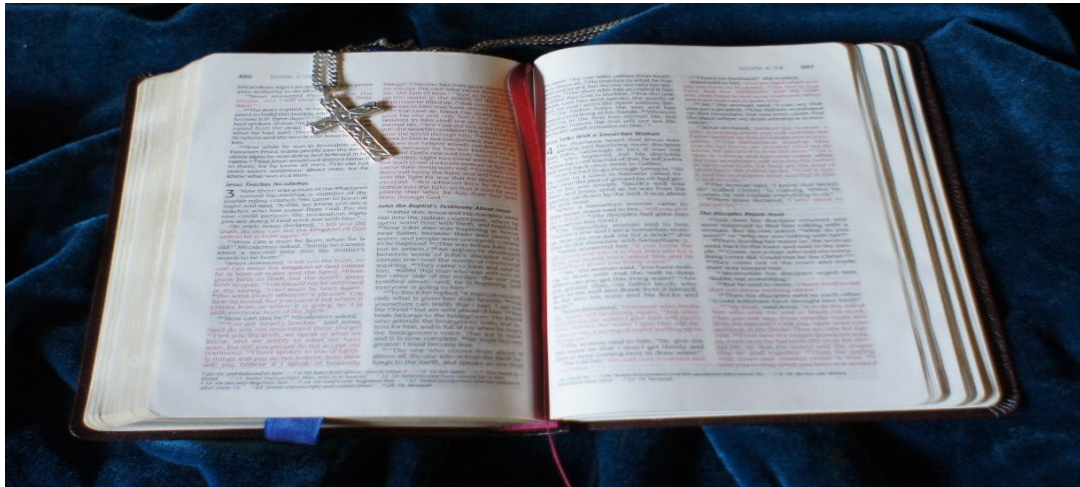
LWM

LWM held their holiday wine party November 14th with 22 women attending. Guest speaker Natoya Cartledge from First Steps gave a very informative talk about their program and needs. Following this, food was shared and a fun gift exchange game was played. LWM will be assisting with the First Steps gift bags in December. We will kick off the new year on January 16th at 3pm with speaker K. Renee Robertson, director of the Chamber of Commerce. She will share her visions for McCormick County. We will also be doing a Valentine craft to take to the McCormick rehab facility. We encourage all women to attend.



BIBLE STUDY NEWS

Pastor Greg will lead a Bible Study on Tuesdays 12/03, 12/10, & 12/17 @ 10:00 am in the Ark entitled "Life Tree Café" designed to help participants grow spiritually for Advent . Also, A Bible Study led by Chuck Gresham will be scheduled in January, 2025.



Old Fashioned



Carol Singing

Friday, December 6th

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Under the pavilion

*Bring a chair a sprig of pine and
a stick to roast marshmallows*

Bring a friend or two!

*There will be fire pits to roast our
marshmallows for “S’Mores” and hot cocoa to
keep us warm*

Prayer Shawl



The PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE this year donated many hats, some scarves, some prayer shawls and quite a few knitted and crocheted quilts, and Afghans, to families up in the Asheville area, where families were devastated by the loss of their homes during hurricane Helene.

We are now beginning to make new items to be donated to people in need this year. If you know of someone who is suffering because of illness or death or for any reason, you are always welcome to help yourself to one of our Prayer Shawls, available in the bridge.

We are always looking for new members to join our group. We meet the third Monday of every month in the bridge from 1:30 to 3:30. Please come and give us a try. We can also help you pick up your skills in knitting and crocheting.

So think about it and come and give us a hand.

Thank you very much Gail Oust and Jean Randall co-chairs of the PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE.....

LCBTL Nativity Extravaganza

December 6, 7, 8 2024



Experience with us the emotions, the drama, the history and the love as told through this *Lutheran Church By The Lake* tradition as we transform the Bridge into an amazing museum-quality display of over 100 Nativities entrusted to us by our members and those in the community. The lighting, the hushed sense of reverence, and the dramatic placement of each set will transform your perception of the night when Christ was born in Bethlehem. If you have a crèche (nativity) that you would like to include in this special display open to the public to view on December 6, 7, 8, from 12:00 PM-3:00PM, please sign up in the Narthex to let us know that you will drop it off on December 1 (after both services) or December 2 between 9:00 AM and Noon. All pieces will be carefully signed in, you will receive a ticket for pick up after the event, and they will be kept safely until the days of set-up by our team of "decorators". We will keep the display set up through Dec. 11, and all the nativities will be ready for pick-up on Thursday, December 12. In addition to including your special nativity in our display, you might like to serve with our team as a host or hostess for one of the 3-hour shifts when we are open, or you might like to assist with the set-up or take down. Some of our previous helpers have expressed that they prefer to pack-up their personal display on pick-up day. A sign-up sheet for these possibilities is available in the Narthex as well.

Come! Be part of the tradition and share your special display with others as we all anticipate the Holy Birth of Jesus!

Invitation to Blue Christmas Service

As the holiday season approaches, with its lights, music, and gatherings, many find themselves feeling disconnected or weighed down by grief, loneliness, or the burdens of life's hardships. This year, as we face the impact of two hurricanes, the strain of war, and the tensions of a divisive election, these emotions may feel even more pronounced.

Lutheran Church by The Lake invites you to a Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, **December 15, 2024, at 3:00 PM**. This service acknowledges the darkness that any experience during this time of year—the sorrow of lost loved ones, the isolation of illness, or the struggles of life's uncertainties. In this space, we will set aside the usual holiday trappings to offer solace, healing, and hope.

Together, we will light candles, offer prayers, and remind one another that even in the longest and most difficult nights or times of darkness, we are not alone. God is with us, sharing in our pain and leading us toward the promise of new light.

Please join us, whether you come seeking comfort, community, or a quiet moment to reflect. You are welcome here.

In Christ,
Bill Hutchinson
Worship Committee Chair



STEWARDSHIP

Pre New Year's Resolution Opportunity

The clock is ticking on 2024 and December is our last chance to make amends on some intentions that may have fallen by the wayside. This last month of the year is a good time to catch up on our intentions to support our church financially by engaging in an act of worship in making an offering to the church. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in this opportunity.

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 January Newsletter
is December 19th



Birthdays

3rd

Jo Graziano
Peggy Thomas

4th

Joann McEvoy

5th

Craig Granger

6th

Bev Sautter

7th

Julienne Leibrandt

11th

Barbara Hinkle

15th

Cathy Clark

16th

Maureen Mooney

18th

Nena DeArment

19th

Martha Kinsler

23rd

Amanda Flom
Marc Metayer

25th

Dusty Rhodes

27th

Sandy Gresham

28th

Rob Leibrandt

Anniversaries

1st

Vickie and Bob Leonard

5th

LuAnn and Bill Freiberg

16th

Pat and Bruce Bryant

21st

Gloria and Bill Bramble

26th

Betsy and Russ Griffeth



Communion Days This Month

Dec 1, 8, 15, 22 24 and 29

Communion Assistants

Dec 1 Early Ruth and Steve Detrick
Dec 1 Late Margo and Bill Kite
Dec 8 Early Jeanne Thayer, Lea Shaw
Dec 8 Late Ann and Jim Snyder
Dec 15 Early Marvin Decker, Chuck Gresham
Dec 15 Late Gloria Bramble, Eileen Hurlbut
Dec 22 Early Gloria Bramble, Marvin Decker

Dec 22 Late Lynn Flom, Maureen Mooney
Dec 24 4PM Candy and Mike Zimmerman
Dec 24 7PM Ann and Jim Snyder
Dec 29 Early Lea Shaw, Roseann Selby
Dec 29 Late Sherri Kumle, Kathie Nixon

Lectors 9:00 am

Dec 1 Ruth Detrick
Dec 8 Roseann Selby
Dec 15 Chuck Gresham
Dec 22 Joanna Feloni
Dec 24 4PM Lea Shaw
Dec 29 Roseanne Selby

Ushers 9:00 am

Dec 1 Ruth and Steve Detrick
Dec 8 Roseanne and Dick Selby
Dec 15 Marvin Decker, Chuck Gresham
Dec 22 Gloria Bramble, Marvin Decker
Dec 24 4PM Candy and Mike Zimmerman
Dec 29 Roseanne and Dick Selby

Lectors 10:30 am

Dec 1 Barbara Hinkle
Dec 8 TBA
Dec 15 TBA
Dec 22 TBA
Dec 24 7PM TBA
Dec 29 TBA

Ushers 10:30 am

Dec 1 Elaine Beggs, Maureen Mooney
Dec 8 Peggy and Mike Thomas
Dec 15 Margo and Bill Kite
Dec 22 Ann and Jim Snyder
Dec 24 7PM Gloria Bramble, Maureen Mooney
Dec 29 Ann and Jim Snyder



| | |
|--------|---|
| Dec 1 | Chancel Choir – In memory of all deceased choir members |
| Dec 8 | Jan Weisenborn – in memory of her late husband |
| Dec 15 | Monte Gunzenhauser – in memory of Marty |
| Dec 22 | Amanda Flom – in honor of her birthday |
| Dec 29 | Peggy and Mike Thomas – in memory of their son, Jason |

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 |
| 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.