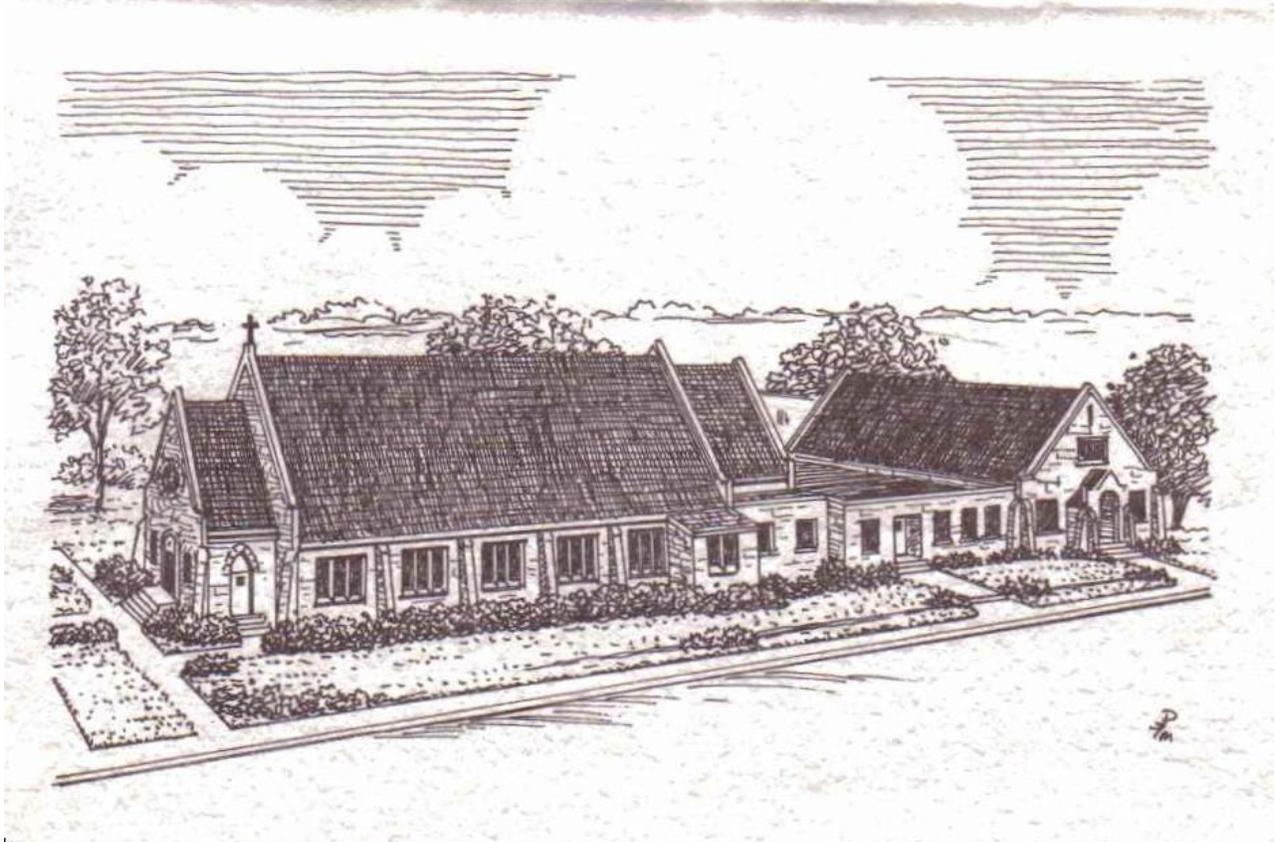


THE REACH

JUNE 2022



At Ascension, we celebrate the wonderful diversity of God's family!
Join YOUR hands with ours so we can
REACH out together to serve in God's name!

THE REACH

**The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension
827 Wildwood Avenue
Columbia, SC 29203-5815**



ALL ARE WELCOME!
SUNDAYS 11:00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
The Reverend Jackie Utley, Pastor



Office Phone #: 803-786-6429

Office Hours: By Appointment

Mailing Address: 827 Wildwood Ave., Columbia, SC 29203

Office Email: ascension.office827@gmail.com

Pastor's Email: ascension.elca@gmail.com

Website: www.ascensionlutherancolasc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Ascension.ColumbiaSC

Staff:

Jackie Utley, Pastor – ascension.elca@gmail.com

Laura Browder, Office Administrator – ascension.office827@gmail.com

Greg Stone, Parish Musician – gstone@sc.rr.com

Church Council:

Ken Dobbins, Chairperson – kdoobb007@gmail.com

Pastor Jackie Utley, Vice Chairperson - ascension.elca@gmail.com

Laura Browder, Secretary - ascension.office827@gmail.com

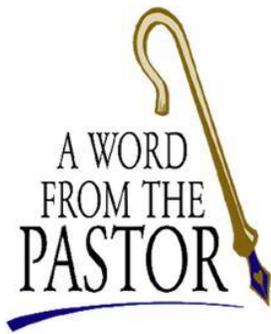
Mike Lever - MLever@l-jinc.com

Pastoral Support & Advisory Board:

Billy Browder - bbjb1974@yahoo.com

Catherine Garren - cgarren210@bellsouth.net

Ken Dobbins - kdoobb007@gmail.com



Words spoken in Genesis 1:3 are the very first words of God, “Let there be light” and there was light. After hearing of the recent mass shooting of the 10 killed and 3 injured in Buffalo, NY (because of racial hatred), the shooting in a California church, and a Flea Market in Houston, TX (all gun violence atrocities), I cannot help but wonder where is the light? If ever there was a time that we need to see the light of God’s love shine in this world of darkness, the time is now. Where has the light gone?

Having this question in mind, I think of our congregation’s involvement with the work of the MORE Justice ministry as a means of shining the light of God’s love here in our small corner of the world, as we are in a struggle to get our city officials on board with the plan to combat gun violence. Given the varying degrees of diversity among the 25 congregations that make up MORE Justice, with all that we are striving for together in these times of darkness, it is because of God’s love for us and our love for one another; for all humanity, that we are enabled to be a beacon of light in this world of darkness. This is why doing the work of justice is so very important.

It is so very disheartening and painful to see the rising of hate crimes in our country. I confess that in addition to my faith, if it were not for actually being a part of something bigger than me, like our justice ministry, I would almost give up hope. Thus, I take consolation in the words of the late Desmond Tutu from an African Prayer Book, penned as the text of a hymn (ELW 721); “Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil, love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death; vic-t’ry is ours, vic-t’ry is ours, through God who loves us.”

Here I find it fitting to share the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen!*

Blessings & Peace,
Pastor Jackie





Herman Clinard Rawls
July 4, 1940 – May 3, 2022

Herman Clinard Rawls, Jr., 81, of Columbia, died on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. Born in Columbia, SC, on July 4, 1940, he was a son of the late Herman Clinard Rawls, Sr. and Reba Boulware Rawls. Mr. Rawls was a graduate of Carlisle Military School and following his graduation he enlisted in the Naval Reserves in May of 1958. After his service in the Navy he met the love of his life, Betty while with friends. In 1964, they were engaged and later married March 19, 1965 at

Bethel Lutheran Church in White Rock, SC. Family meant everything to him and he was so proud of his children and grandchildren. Mr. Rawls retired from the State of South Carolina where he spent many years in plumbing.

Affectionately called Clinard by his church family members and friends, he is remembered fondly for his carpentry and wood crafting skills. In addition to his handiwork around the church, he was known for blessing several members with a special hand-carved gift on different occasions. Clinard remained a faithful and active member at Ascension Lutheran Church until his demise. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all.

A Memorial Service took place at Ascension Lutheran Church on Monday, May 9, 2022, followed by burial at Greenlawn Cemetery. Survivors include his children, Edmond B. Rawls (Mary), Kenneth R. Rawls (Marty), and Audrey R. Sawyer (Dwight); grandchildren, Marrett Rawls, Alexander Rawls (Wesley), Lauren McClure (Jamie), Preston Sawyer and Dylan Sawyer; and a brother, Hayne D. Rawls, Sr. (Alice). In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Irene Rawls; and sister, Audrey Phillips.

Memorials may be made to:

Ascension Lutheran Church, 827 Wildwood Avenue, Columbia, SC 29203

Richland County Sheriff's Office – Project H.O.P.E.
5623 Two Notch Road, Columbia, Sc 29223

The Shriners Hospital, 206 Jamil Rd, Columbia, SC 29210

Sympathy cards may be sent to:

The Rawls Family, 5120 Holmes Ave, Columbia, SC 29203

"Rest eternal grant him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him."

Monthly Scripture Readings

June 5th – Day of Pentecost

On Pentecost, we celebrate that we have been given an Advocate to accompany us. Poured out in wind and fire, water, wine, and bread, the Holy Spirit abides in and among us. We give thanks that God speaks to each of us, no matter our origins, language, or life path. Filled with the Spirit of truth, we go out from worship to proclaim the saving power of Christ's love and the freedom of God's grace with all the world. Acts 2:1-21 | Psalm 104:24-34, 35b | Romans 8:14-17 | John 14:8-27

June 12th – Holy Trinity Sunday

“O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” Today we celebrate the holy Trinity. Paul writes that through Jesus we have peace with God, whose love pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us lasting hope. We celebrate the gracious One-in-Three, eternal Three-in-One, as we worship in community; as we share water and word, bread and wine; and as we bring God's love and hope to our neighbors. Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 | Psalm 8 | Romans 5:1-5 | John 16:12-15

June 19th – Second Sunday after Pentecost

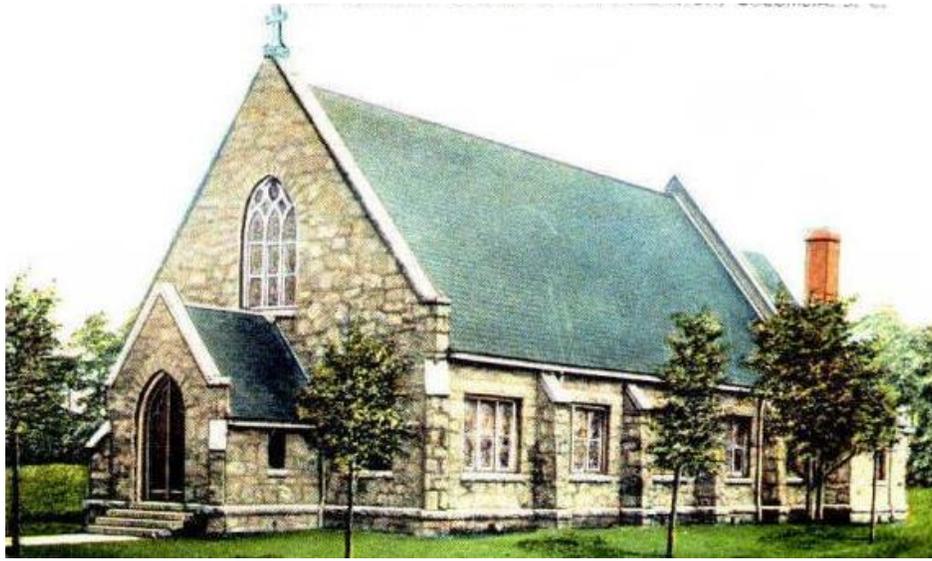
This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of “how much God has done for you.”

Isaiah 65:1-9 | Psalm 22:19-28 | Galatians 3:23-29 | Luke 8:26-39

June 26th – Third Sunday after Pentecost

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 | Psalm 16 | Galatians 5:1, 13-25 | Luke 9:51-62



REMEMBERING OUR BEGINNINGS

On June 23, 1912, the Lutheran Church of the Ascension was organized in the old seminary chapel by Pastor Walton H. Greever and 36 charter members, who continued to worship there each Sunday until the sanctuary was built and dedicated a year later, on June 29, 1913.

The Lord God in his goodness has blessed us with 110 years of mission and ministry as the Lutheran Church of the Ascension. We are a remembering people, and it is good that we remember that God has chosen us, baptized us, and brought us together as the Church of Christ in this place. As remembering people, we look back at all the saving acts of God: the Creation, the Flood, the Covenant, the Exodus, the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, the birth of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and the birth of this congregation a century ago.

We are a remembering people, but we are also a people of the present, brought together by God to be a holy fellowship of believers: the Body of Christ, sharing, caring, working in the world, and living in the hope of the world to come.

Our eyes look back with thanksgiving. Our eyes look forward in hope. Therefore, with thanksgiving for the past and hope for the future, let us dedicate ourselves and our lives to the mission which God gives us as the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the work you have done in Ascension Lutheran Church. We give you thanks for your love and faithfulness. When we called on your name, you made your presence known to us. When we prayed, you heard us. When we preached your Word and administered your Sacraments, you were in our midst. You have accepted our humble sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving. You have listened to our confessions and forgiven our sins. And you have sent your Holy Spirit to heal and comfort our hurts, our sorrows, our infirmities, and our losses. Continue to empower us with your Spirit, O Lord, that we might proclaim your Gospel to all people. We dedicate our lives to your service. Amen.



110th Anniversary of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension

We will be having a special
Celebration and Homecoming Service

Sunday, June 26th at 11:00 a.m.

Special Events will include:

- **Special Musical selections by our Chancel & Handbell Choirs**
- **A duet performance by Rev. Ron Brown & Rev. Jackie Utley.**
- **Catered lunch following the service**

We hope to see you there!

RSVP to the church office at 803-786-6429 or
ascension.office827@gmail.com.

CELEBRATIONS!!

Birthdays



Ava Hudson 2nd

Johann Roof 11th

Margarie Lever 14th

Mrs. Margarie Lever

will be turning 105 on June 16th!

Be sure to drop a card in the mail to help our eldest member celebrate!

Mrs. Margarie Lever

Generations of Irmo

7142 Woodrow St.

Irmo, SC 29063

Did we miss your Birthday or Anniversary? Let us know so we can update our information on file.

Baby Bottle Campaign to support Birthright of Columbia

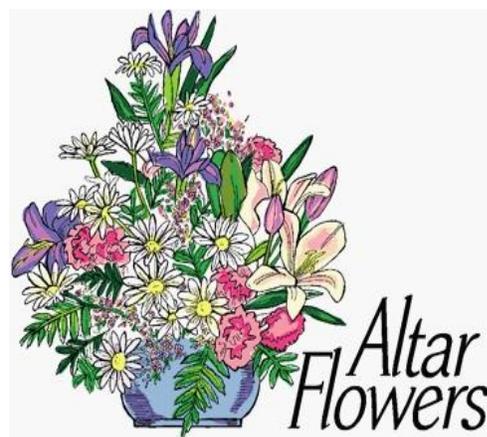


Do not forget to bring your baby bottle filled with coins, cash, or check* back on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19th!

Funds enable Birthright to offer positive assistance and aid to local pregnant girls and women who contact them for help.

*Checks should be made payable to Birthright of Columbia.

Sponsoring the Altar Flowers is a wonderful way to give to the Glory of God in celebration, in honor, or in loving memory of your friends and family. The cost is \$60 for the pair. Enjoy your arrangements after worship at home or leave them for extended use. One set of flowers will usually last an entire month. If you do not want to sponsor a pair but would like to contribute to the Altar Flower Fund, please mark your offering envelopes "Flower Fund."



*Don't forget to wear **RED** on Pentecost Sunday!
June 5, 2022*



Our members, family, and friends with current needs:

The Family of Clinard Rawls

The Family of Frances Jordan, mother of Ruben Jordan (and Leisure Time Member)

Min. LaVone Griffin

Pamela Fuentes, friend of Phyllis Hutchinson

Randy Cooper, cousin of Billy Browder

Members in care centers and at home:

Ava Hudson

Pat Martin

Charlene Van Patten

David Lever

Lisa Mosely

Dorothy Van Patten

Margarie Lever

Delores Richardson

Members with special/long term needs:

Tommy Boozer

Pete Currie

LaVone Griffin

Debbie Shumpert

Debra Butler

Donna Clark

Gene Roof

Ken Butler

Selma Foster

Johann Roof

Our family and friends with long term needs:

Paula Bodner, friend of Nancy Kerr

Dianne Browder, Steve Browder, & Linda Poole, siblings of Billy Browder

Dave Conant, Friend of Greg Stone

Lynette Funk, daughter-in-law of Carol Funk

Charles Garren & Kay Garren (as caregiver), brother of Catherine Garren

Nancy (Sharpe) & Kenny Glenn, relatives of Joyce Browder

Linda Green, friend of Phyllis Hutchinson

Barb Hessenthaller, sister of Carol Funk

Marian and Steve Hudson, Ava Hudson's daughter-in-law and son

Eleanor & Mike Jenkins, relatives of Lily Jenkins

Butch Johnson, friend of Ruben Jordan

Marilyn Johnson, friend of Pastor Jackie Utley

Conner Miller & Ian Miller, grandsons of Ken Dobbins

Cleo Morris, frequent visitor & neighbor of the church

Dihue Paisley, friend of Pastor Jackie

Wendall Patton, friend of Billy Browder

Matt Robinson & Carrie Schilling, friends of Catherine Garren

Bear Sheneman (6 yrs. w/severe health issues), friend of the Browder Family

Kennedy Small, great niece of Carol Funk

Jerry Stone, father of Greg Stone

William Utley, brother of Pastor Jackie

Charlie Whyde, friend of Ken Butler

Our Neighbors & Community:

The Dowdy House residents & staff
Eau Claire Community Council
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
Seminary Ridge Neighborhood Association
South Carolina Hispanic Outreach staff and clients

Our ELCA & SC Synod Ministries:

The Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America & Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
The South Carolina Synod of the ELCA & Bishop Virginia "Ginny" Aebischer
Sagrada Familia & Cristo Rey Lutheran Churches & The Rev. Jorge Leone
S.C. Lutheran Men in Mission & "One Year to Live" participants
Journey Ministry & Minister LaVone Griffin
Lutheran Services Carolinas

Our Ascension Groups & Ministries:

Members of the Church Council & Ken Dobbins, Chairperson
Members of the Choirs & Greg Stone, Parish Musician
The Service & Outreach Committee
M.O.R.E Justice Team & Laura Browder, Team Leader
The Parish, Administrative, & Grounds Keeping Staff
"Share the Joy" Worship Volunteers

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**Closing Prayers:      **A Summer Prayer** (By Jim Manney)**

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. Amen.

**A Prayer for Father's Day** (author unknown)

God our Father, it is Your Commandment that we should honor our fathers;  
Hear the prayers we offer You for them. Grant them many years on earth and keep them in health of mind and body. Bless their word and all they do. Give them back a hundred-fold whatever they have done for us. Inspire them with Your love and help them to fulfill Your holy law. One day, may we be their comfort and support, so that having enjoyed their affection on earth We may have the joy of being with them forever in Your home in Heaven through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.