

HAPPENINGS AT THE MOUNT

October
2025

THE NEWSLETTER OF MT. HOREB LUTHERAN CHURCH | CHAPIN, SOUTH CAROLINA



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This past month we uncovered some jewels that have been hiding behind years of overgrowth. The trees and bushes that have covered up windows and crosses were given a haircut this past month. We look forward to spring when we can add some new manageable plantings. This will enhance our security efforts to provide a safe and secure house of worship for all who come through our doors and draw attention to the landmark that our Church has represented since the founding of our town of Chapin. You will also notice the pressure washing around the church and our Mt. Horeb cemetery wall, restoring its historic beauty.

Thanks to all who participated in the Labor Day parade and bake sale. Our Living Water Float was truly a team effort. Although we did not win an award this year, we certainly did provide a witness to the public about the grace we receive from Jesus and where living water is found through baptism.

We had quite a special Rally Sunday with Pastor Jim Kinsler and his wife Martha, and Pastor Jesse Canniff-Kuhn and his wife Lindsay, and their boys Witten and Landry joined us. It is not often that we have three pastors, —the '3 Amigos'—leading worship and we were grateful for their messages and devotion to serving others in Jesus' name!

Throughout October we will be continuing through the 17th and 18th chapters of Luke. Where Jesus instructs us in our responsibilities of discipleship. When we submit our will to the Holy Spirit, we are often given opportunities to help others find healing when the world throws them a curve ball. The answers may not always

be obvious, but through consistent prayer for them and with them, Christ's peace is experienced. When we are truly thinking where is God in all of this, the spotlight for helping a friend solve their problems is less about us, and all about how God is working through us. Once the disciples eventually understood that their actions and words point to the cross, their witness to others was magnified. The same occurs in our witness to others when we yield to God's nudges.

Below is a sneak peek at the Gospel lessons and the sermon titles I have chosen. I encourage you to read through Luke 17 & 18 as we discover what God is saying to us, and how we can be better informed disciples of His word.

October 5: "Serving others in Jesus' name is infectious!"
Luke 17:5-10

October 12: "What's the best Soap for Sin?"
Luke 17:11-19

October 19: "where to find your second wind? PRAYER!"
Luke 18:1-8

October 26: "Lord, it's hard to be humble" Luke 18:9-14

Serving others with you in Jesus' name,

Pastor Ron

Member Message Board

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to members who wish to share messages of encouragement or gratitude with the Mount Horeb family. To be included in next month's issue, please send your submission to outreach@mthoreb.net by the 17th of each month.

New T-Shirts Available

T-shirts are available in the fellowship hall, and everyone should get one! There is no cost, just take one. If your size is not available, put your name and size on the signup sheet and we will order more!



October Birthdays

1 Alice Teal	19 Ruthie Dasher
2 John Splittgerber	Ava Williams
3 Patricia Haltiwanger	21 Tommy Hill
4 Joseph Rister	22 Kay Shealy
5 Luther Lindler	23 Joey Wessinger
6 Charlie Davis	Ashley Wessinger
Walter Hutchens	24 James Rister
John Stoudemayer	25 Randy Bundrick
7 Freddy Heintz	Betsy Edgerton
8 Loretta Griffin	27 Louis Kolb
Gene Olsten	28 Susan Koon
16 Lois Bundrick	29 Jenny Marks
17 John Adams	31 Joshua Lindler
19 Earline Comalander	

October Anniversaries

- 1 Pastor Ron & Esther – 42
- 19 Furman & Peggy Miller – 47
- 22 Jeffrey & Jessica Griffin – 14
- 29 Greg & Heidi Fulcher – 26



OCTOBER EVENTS

Wed., Oct. 1

10:00 a.m. Fiber Friends

Thurs., Oct. 2

10:00 a.m. Social Ministry Meeting

5:30 p.m. Agape Circle

Sat., Oct. 4

8:00 a.m. DF Choral Society Meet and Greet

Sun., Oct. 19

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Classes

10:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Tues., Oct. 21

5:30 p.m. LutheReaders

6:30 p.m. DF Choral Society

Wed., Oct. 22

10:00 a.m. Fiber Friends

Sun., Oct. 5

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Classes

9:00 a.m. Cemetery Forum

10:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

12:00 p.m. Junior Cotillion

Tues., Oct. 7

9:30 a.m. Leisure Timers

6:00 p.m. Chapin Jr. Women's Club

6:30 p.m. DF Choral Society

Wed., Oct. 8

10:00 a.m. Fiber Friends

Sun., Oct. 26: Golden Ager Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Classes

10:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

11:30 a.m. Golden Ager Sunday Lunch

Mon., Oct. 27

6:00 p.m. Fellowship Committee Meeting

Tues., Oct. 28

6:30 p.m. DF Choral Society

Wed., Oct. 29

10:00 a.m. Fiber Friends

Sun., Oct. 12

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Classes

10:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

11:30 a.m. Council Meeting

Mon., Oct. 13

6:30 p.m. Lutheran Men in Mission Fish Fry

Tues., Oct. 14

6:00 p.m. Chapin Jr. Woman's Club

6:30 p.m. DF Choral Society

Thurs., Oct. 15

10:00 a.m. Fiber Friends

**Trunk-Or-Treat
To Be Determined...**



Golden Ager Stories

If you are new to the Golden Ager (75+ in 2025), please submit your story to be included in our Golden Ager booklet at Homecoming! Existing Golden Ager are also asked to submit any updates to their stories. All new stories and updates must be submitted by **October 12th!**

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



Social Ministry Meeting Thurs., Oct. 2

Caring hearts in action with a shared mission: to extend Christian compassion and care to those in need—whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually. This dedicated group includes our visitation team, caregivers, bereavement meal coordinators, and card ministry, and more. Together, they work to support the ill, the elderly, the grieving, the underprivileged, and anyone who could use a reminder that they are not alone. If you feel called to serve or want to learn more, contact Deena Bishop at all4cu@gmail.com. All are welcome!



Lutheran Men in Mission Fish Fry - Mon., Oct. 13

We will have a regular dinner meeting on Monday, October 13. Sister D'etta Broam, Deacon of Health and Wholeness for the SC Synod will present our program. She will discuss issues of mental health. She would like to know specific mental health issues you might have so she can be sure to address them. One already submitted is "what are the ramifications of today's social media on young people?" Please sign up at the welcome center.

Photo: Mayor Al Koon spoke to the Lutheran Men



Leisure Timers Apple Picking - Tues., Oct. 7

Meet us in the atrium to join us for apple picking! Join us for a crisp fall adventure as we go apple picking and enjoy the fresh air, beautiful scenery, and sweet apples.



Friendship Circle Fri., Oct 17

Ladies are invited to the next meeting of the Friendship Circle at 11:30 at Zorba's in Chapin. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with others, enjoy a delicious meal, and build lasting friendships. Women of all ages are welcome.

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



LutheReaders Book Club Tues., Oct. 21

Join us in the Fellowship hall for dinner and review of the book, "The Music of Bees" by Eileen Garvin. Please notify Leigh Bebbler 803-466-1976 so we can provide enough dinner for everyone!



Golden Agers Sunday Oct. 26

Save the Date! We will celebrate our amazing Golden Agers (75+). The main dish is provided—please bring a side and/or dessert to share. We're updating the Golden Age Booklet—if your info has changed or you're new to the group, let us know. Don't miss this special time of fellowship, food, and honoring our cherished members.

Chapin We Care October Most Needed

- Soups (all sizes and flavors)
- Peanut butter crackers
- Instant potatoes
- Beans: bakes, pork and beans
- Breakfast/snack bars
- Vienna sausages
- Spaghetti sauce
- Boxed pasta
- Grits
- Applesauce

We also ALWAYS need toiletries, dish soap, laundry detergent & cleaning supplies!



Support Chapin We Care

You can help make a difference in our community by donating items to Chapin We Care. Each donation helps bless a neighbor facing difficult times. Together we can bless our neighbors and remind them they are not alone.

Preschool Corner

September has flown by and Fall is finally here. We have made new friends and gotten into our school routine. October is such a FUN and BUSY month for us. We are looking forward to the falling leaves and the cooler weather.

Oct. 10 & 13th – Fall Breaky (No School)

Oct. 23 – Fall Art Show 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
DROP IN—We'd love to have you join us!

Oct. 30 – “Trick or Treat on Beaufort Street”
Come join us as we walk around the block and visit the Chapin area businesses for Tricks and Treats!
They are very good to our little ones.

October is Fire Prevention Month. (Check those smoke detector batteries!)

We will have a visit from the Chapin Fire Department and Police Officers from Chapin will visit as well.

Happy Fall Y'all,

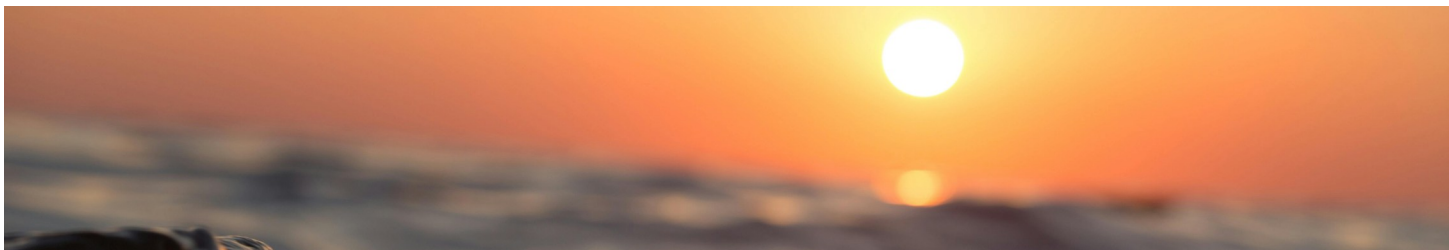
Ms. Sherri
Mt. Horeb Preschool Director



Mike Greene and his grandson Harrison, put together a new cabinet for the Preschool office.



Diane Senn reading to the Preschool children.



Long Term Prayer Requests for Members at The Mount

Bill Stockdell
Vie Wilmot
Jim Johnston
Nancy Crogen
Aubrey Metts
Pauline Wodtke
Brady Amick
Anne Mitchell
Holly Knight
Phyllis Barton
Dot Kleckley

Can we pray for you?

Visit mthoreb.net to submit a request. We would love to support you and your loved ones in prayer.

Prayer Requests for Friends of Our Church Family

- * Jimmy Jones, brother of Herbie Jones
- * Kit Alewine, brother of Tess Wessinger
- * Leon Rippy, friend of Jim Pope
- * Ray and JoAnn Williams, parents of David Williams
- * Friends and family of Jaheil "JD" Thompson, former student of Mattie Smith
- * Eilene Corder, niece of Pete and Sandra Ayoub
- * Kristie Koon Warner, sister of Robbie Koon DeFreese
- * Linda Hill, friend of Wanda Burelson
- * Sue Carver, friend of Joanne Hill
- * David Owens, friend of Tommy Hill
- * Lorraine Revels, daughter of friend of JoAnne Hill
- * Sally Thompson, sister-in-law of Susan Addy
- * Eddie Shealy, son of Gene & Ann B. Shealy
- * Tommy Ward, friend of Jim Pope
- * Payton Dominick, great-nephew of Glenda Lindler
- * Landon Derrick, Wes Hill's classmate & friend
- * Jimmy and Liane Talbert, uncle and aunt of Mattie Smith
- * Heidi Smith, wife of Lew Smith
- * Roy Talbert, father of Mattie Smith
- * Bill Plump, friend of Bill Stockdell
- * Debbie Bickley Wise, niece of Margaret Robinson and cousin of Joe Lassiter, Cathy Rodgers and Camille Joseph
- * Karen Bonno, daughter of Lynette Shealy
- * Michael Driggers, friend of Jerry & Vicky Shealy
- * All those serving in the military

To make updates to prayer requests, please email outreach@mthoreb.net.

Insight with Dr. Bob: Blowin' "Reveille" for Rally Day

The bulletin insert for September 7 indicated that the following Sunday, the 14th, was a Liturgical Double Header, namely Rally Day AND Holy Cross Day, red letter days by holy Church's reckoning. By happy coincidence the two liturgical observances have intersected to bring good news to the Mount. Had we gilded the liturgical lily, we might also have slipped in the appointed readings for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (the appointed readings for the 14th had it simply been "...next Sunday") to accompany the Holy Cross Day readings. Holy Cross' appointed Gospel is John 3:13-17, the beloved proclamation of God's unfathomable, cross-shaped love for the whole "universe." The English translation of the Greek reads "God so loved the world...", but the Greek doesn't beat around the bush: "God so loved [ton kosmon – the Cosmos]!

Nevertheless, such unfathomable love is practically impossible to get our heads and hearts around. God's scandalously generous work of salvation is at the same time the invitation for us to whole-heartedly embrace that love. However, life seems to demonstrate that nobody nowhere is that loving, generous, and welcoming, and very likely neither are we. But there IS the Good News of John 3, and the Evangelist is stickin' to it, thank you very much. Meanwhile, you can sneak a peek at what we would have heard had it just been the 14th Sunday after Pentecost [the appointed readings for that day are on page 47 of the ELW, Sunday, September 11-17, Set C]: Luke 15:1-10 presents Jesus' telling two parables to explain why he "...welcomes sinners and eats with them." The Pharisees and Scribes found Jesus' behavior disgusting and shameful, and many in the Church even to this day would tend to agree with them. We erect walls to keep those we have decided are spiritual and social "outsiders" out of our neighborhoods and the places where we gather. We tell ourselves that they just aren't "nice," and their actions or station in life, but often because of their identity, gender, race, or creed, we have no intention of welcoming. An "invasion of outsiders" can foment such anger and animosity that folks get up and walk away, even going to divisive lengths such as castigating those who remain in the company of the "undesirables" (like Jesus, for

example), or even forming brand-new, hyper-purified assemblies, ...so they think. Neither is it more blessed for folks who remain to vilify the ones who departed! A wise professor of mine, discussing the sixteenth century Reformation and its aftermath, noted that the tragedy was that no one could agree on how much reform was enough, thereafter littering the ecclesiastical landscape with myriad warring groups of disgruntled or offended Christians. Roman Catholicism as well as Judaism also have suffered greatly from similar upheavals.

St. Paul sums up the collective good news for both the 14th Sunday AND John 3:13-17: But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us [Romans 5:8]. God is utterly determined to bring us ALL back into community! God's unfathomable love for the cosmos is poured out on all because we CAN'T (and very likely WOULDN'T because of our willful stubbornness) ever be able, this side of glory, to form a "perfect" assembly of believers. The loving Father sent Jesus Christ to us precisely because we are sinners. God's love is NOT the payoff for having "made ourselves right with God" or fashioned what we think is heaven on earth. God has different thoughts about that matter; prepare to be surprised.

Thinking about these things through the lens of Rally Day and Holy Cross Day is exceedingly helpful. Rally Day is the Church's way of blowing Reveille to wake us up from our complacency, habitual behaviors, and self-righteous smugness, to be blunt about it. Reveille is a word borrowed from 17th century French meaning to "wake up!" It's Latin root suggests that being awake and alert is a fundamental part of "keeping vigilant," as in I Corinthians 16:13-14: Keep alert; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. "Rally" is borrowed from Old French, meaning to reassemble and bring together again. The Latin root suggests that the heart of "rally" is to bind together those who were separated into a cooperative, working group. That is why troops, teams, business associates, and even congregations or churches are "rallied" on occasion. The hymn "Bind Us Together, Lord" [With One Voice 748] is a fitting illustration of a Rally Day song.

Church's Reveille call bids us get up, don our red robes, and get going, ready to extend the "right hand of Christian fellowship" as the Disciples of Christ say when welcoming new Christians into their communities. Gabriel's horn is blowing and there's work to be done. People still suffer, still are lonely, forgotten, or shunned, there are a number of shirts needing to be unstuffed, and good news to be told. Ethyl Merman stentorian voices first belted out what might be considered Rally Day's wake-up call in the 1934 Broadway premier of Cole Porter's

Anything Goes: "Oh blow, Gabriel blow / Go an' blow, Gabriel blow / I've been a sinner', I've been a scamp / And now I'm willin' to trim my lamp / So blow, Gabriel blow!" And will somebody please say, "Amen!!!"

Prayerfully,
Dr. Bob Hawkins



Council Notes: Highlights from September Meeting

New Carillon System: Council documented approval of a donated carillon system from the Bill Dukes family.

Ministry Plan: First reading of the 2026 Ministry Spending Plan presented; Council to review and provide feedback before October 8.

Road Project Funds: Proposal to divide remaining funds into thirds — debt reduction, capital improvements, and ministries over three years.

Labor Day Success: Over 2,000 water bottles distributed and \$500 raised for USC Campus Ministry at the Bake Sale.

Rally Sunday: Celebrated with Pastor Jim Kinsler as keynote and Jesse Canniff-Kuhn serving as supply pastor.

Upcoming Events: Golden Age Sunday (Oct. 26), HUB Thanksgiving gravy donation, Angel Tree gifts, and Wreaths Across America (Dec. 13).

Cemetery Updates: Congregational meeting scheduled Dec. 5 to review bylaws, finances, and GIS project. Council approved \$2,250 for professional cleaning of the cemetery wall.

Stewardship for All Seasons: Materials in development for January 2026 launch.

Budget Timeline: Second reading (Oct. 12), Budget Forum (Nov. 9), Congregational Meeting (Nov. 16).

Safety Grant: MHLC awarded Homeland Security funding for security improvements — details pending

Be A Part of Mt. Horeb's Leadership Team



According to our church constitution, each year we invite members of the congregation to prayerfully consider serving as at-large nominees for our Congregational Council. **This is a wonderful opportunity to share your gifts, ideas, and energy in shaping the ministry and mission of Mt. Horeb.** You (or someone you know) are being called to make a great leader—we encourage you to add your name to the list of nominees. Your voice matters, and together we can continue to grow in faith and service! Please contact Laurie Schmidt, Cameron Short, Travis Goodman, or Katie Morgan, or sign up in the Welcome Center.



Staff Spotlight: Meet Amanda Our New Outreach Coordinator

On behalf of Mt. Horeb Human Relations ministry team, help me welcome to our staff Amanda Morris as our new Outreach Coordinator.

Amanda grew up in Pomaria and is a member of Bachman Chapel Lutheran Church. She graduated from Mid-Carolina High School in 2020. In 2024 she graduated Summa Cum Laude from Newberry College with a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design and a Bachelor of Science in Digital Marketing, plus a minor in Business Administration and Art.

Her skills align well with the vision of the Outreach Coordinator position.

As Outreach Coordinator, Amanda will be managing the communications of Mt. Horeb between the congregation, the Chapin community and surrounding areas. She will be updating our website, Facebook, Instagram, and Newsletter to

promote our church and create new video and print materials to reach a wider community through various media.

Amanda will engage with us to tell our story of what Jesus means to us, and the authentic welcome people experience when visiting Mt. Horeb. She is looking forward to getting to know our congregation. Please do not be shy if she asks to take your picture or have a conversation about your involvement in the ministry here.

We are grateful to God for giving her the skills to expand upon and we look forward to her partnership in growing the ministry of The Mount, Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church.

Excited about our future,

Pastor Ron

Stewardship: from Pastor Ron

When I was a teenager, I can remember the excitement surrounding the Kentucky Derby. The horses would be racing around the track with all their might and preparation, each attempting to be the first to cross the finish line. The announcer would bellow, “*here they come down the home stretch!*”

As we enter the last three months of the year, we too are coming down *the home stretch* toward Christmas. This is a good time to reflect on how God has blessed us throughout our lives and the many opportunities we have, to respond in gratitude.

How do we send a thank you note to Jesus for giving us the skills we have been blessed with, our families, our lives? What is a *good enough*

expression of our gratitude to God? Is *good enough*, even in God’s vocabulary? Ugh! Jesus tells the Church “It is better to give than receive” and that is so hard to do with so many demands for our income.

I am praying that you will discover new ways to experience the love of giving toward this ministry that not only helps it now but also in legacy gifts for those who come behind us. Be on the look out from our Stewardship team with more creative new strategies to show your gratitude to God’s work as you enter the *home stretch of 2025*.

Blessings upon each of you,

Pastor Ron

Snapshots of Life at The Mount



Labor Day parade crew



Pastor Ron reads to the preschool children



3 Crosses at The Mount

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