

Happenings at The Mount

MAY-JUNE 2026



**Our church calendar is dominated by the Season of Pentecost
and the beginning of the Season After Pentecost.**



Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

Easter 2026 at The Mount

We celebrated Easter at The Mount on April 5 with a beautiful Sunrise Service at the Cemetery, where we focused on the resurrection of our Lord with songs and prayers, a homily by Pastor Ron, and singing led by Jim Boatwright. On the way back to the church, adults picked up large eggs containing surprises. As we were waiting for

our celebratory breakfast feast, Mary Epting discovered that her egg contained a lottery ticket worth \$10! And prior to our Easter Service at 10 a.m., several volunteers led by Deena Bishop participated in Flowering of the Cross, transforming a stark wooden cross into a vibrant symbol of life and resurrection.

Human Trafficking In Our Community: Awareness And Response

Tuesday, May 5, 6 p.m.

Join local and state leaders here at The Mount for a community conversation about human trafficking in South Carolina. Learn how trafficking impacts our communities and how law enforcement, service providers, and advocates are working together to prevent exploitation and support survivors. Opening remarks will be made by Attorney General Alan Wilson.



A panel discussion on this important issue which affects our community, especially youth, will be led by Monique Garvin, director of the Violence Against Women Act Programs and the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force at the Attorney General's office. Other panelists are Lt. Jade Roy of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Lisa Kjer of Lighthouse for Life, Dr. Pam Imm of The Courage Center and Roger Acton of the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network.

Welcome New Administrative Assistant Pamela Alford



After a number of interviews, Mt. Horeb's HR team is pleased to welcome Pamela Alford as our Administrative Assistant.

is an S.C. State University graduate with a BS Business Degree. She spent many years with Blue Cross-Blue Shield with IT leadership responsibilities before retirement.

We are excited about Pamela joining our mission here at "The Mount" on Monday, April 13. Her office hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Pamela comes to Mt. Horeb through the Apple One (Temporary) Employment Services. She

Jim Boatwright Joins Mt. Horeb As Interim Music Director



I am delighted to be Mt. Horeb's new interim music director. I think many of you all know that I served as Mt. Horeb's organist/choir director from 1980-1983, so

it's rewarding for me to be able to return to The Mount.

I retired from Redeemer Lutheran in St. Andrews December, 2024. As a friend of mine said, "I failed retirement." So here I am with you all and having a blast!

I've taught music in Irmo, Birmingham, Shreveport, and Tulsa. Much of that time I also worked as a church musician. While in Tulsa, I taught at Cascia Hall Preparatory School and served as chair of the Fine Arts Department. Interestingly enough, the head of the Augustinian Order, of which Cascia Hall is a part, was, in those days, a charming and affable priest: Father Bob Prevost. Some may know him by his most current title, Pope Leo XIV. Yes, I met him. Yes, he's sincere, kind, and funny. And, yes, I was organist for a Mass he celebrated at Cascia Hall when he was simply Fr. Bob.

Many of you have already met my wife, Janet. She, as everyone soon learns, is my best asset. She's also my best friend. I have two children, Andrew (36) and Ashlyn (33) and two stepdaughters, Hannah (36) and Sarah (41). Even though they had different biological parents, Andrew (Drew) and Hannah call themselves twins. Their birthdays are one day apart, so being thought of as twins seemed as good an idea as any. Janet and I have an adorable granddaughter, Penny, whom we visit as often as possible, even though she and her parents, Hannah and Evan live in Tulsa.

My biggest goal while here at the Mount is to craft church music that awakens us to vibrant worship. A colleague of mine describes that kind of music as "deepening the prayers of the people.", that is, to deepen our spirituality. Marcus Borg describes certain moments as "thin moments"—those times when the space between you and God becomes thin—thin enough to see through. Those are the moments I want to help bring to Mt. Horeb. I also want to involve more people, so here's my shameless pitch: Come join the choir. Let me know if you play an instrument. Let me know if you're interested in handbells. The community built around these musical ministries is strong and supportive. I look forward to exciting times at the Mount!

— Jim Boatwright

New Director Of Preschool Brittany Woodall



We are pleased to announce the new Mt. Horeb Preschool Director, Brittany Woodall, to our preschool family.

Brittany brings a deep love for children, a strong commitment to early childhood

education, and a heart for ministry. Her background is in Elementary and Early Childhood Education and has worked previously over 12 years at Chapin Elementary and Pleasant Hill Elementary as a Teacher Assistant, PreK Teacher, Kindergarten Teacher and a Second Grade Teacher. She also was Preschool Team Leader for her former church for many years.

In Brittany's words, "I am especially drawn to the opportunity to serve in a faith-based setting. I believe early childhood education is not only about preparing children for kindergarten but also nurturing their character, compassion, and understanding of God's love. I am committed to creating a preschool culture that reflects Christian values through kindness, patience, integrity, and service. As a leader, I value teamwork, clear communication, and servant leadership. I strive to support teachers so they feel encouraged, equipped, and appreciated, knowing that when educators feel supported, children flourish. I also understand the importance of partnering closely with family and church leadership to ensure the preschool remains a welcoming and mission-aligned ministry that it has been for 52 years. I am very excited about this opportunity and look forward to getting to know each of you. Please know our doors at the Preschool are always open to each of you as members."



Art Show, Book Fair & Spaghetti Dinner

Wednesday, April 23 | Evening

Our Preschool children have created beautiful works of art, and displayed their creativity at our **Preschool Art Show and Scholastic Book Fair** on April 23rd!

The children showcased their artwork in a joyful **Art Show**, and we hosted a Scholastic **Book Fair** where books for your children or grandchildren were purchased — all while supporting our Preschool ministry.

Spaghetti Dinner— Our church hosted a dinner that evening, with proceeds going directly to support the Preschool.

Preschool Registration Is Now Open

Tuesday, May 5, 6 p.m.

Class space is limited, so be sure and return your Enrollment Form along with the registration fee so we may hold your child's spot in our exciting program.

Enrollment forms can be picked up through the Preschool or church office. Please call the Preschool at (803)345-6441 if you need further information.

Pastor Ron, recognizing the Preschool, gave a message for children during the service on March 15. And on March 13, we celebrated DONUTS FOR DADS with the children.



Church Council Highlights 2026 To Date

- Entered into a 12-month contract with “Marketing Performance Group”, a professional marketing consultation firm, in lieu of continuing our attempts to fill the open Outreach Coordinator position, to leverage modern advertising and intent-based digital tools to increase Mt. Horeb’s visibility in the community.
- There is a need for additional updates to the Cemetery Bylaws, specifically, updates to the policies involving cremations.
- The decision was made to allow our agreement with Schroeder’s Towing to expire.
- Made the decision to publish the 2026 Yearbook separate from the Pictorial Directory. Council made the decision to publish the yearbook in-house due to the lower cost.
- Approved the process of hosting quarterly community forums to increase local visibility.
- The decision was made to continue to have periodic outdoor worship services.
- Ongoing communication with the SCDOT regarding the upcoming road project in Chapin.
- Established a church calendar for meetings and events.
- Upgraded the security system.
- Approval for participation in the 75th Anniversary Fundraiser for Lutheridge.
- Initiated the process of modernizing record keeping and improving the way we manage the cemetery. The GIS project is nearing completion. Cemetery bylaws have been updated.
- Begin the process of exploring ways to improve the cemetery, which include options for columbarium installation.
- Designated two parking spaces with signage for visitors.
- Interim parish musician Jim Boatwright hired. The search is ongoing for a new Director of Music.
- Approved the demolition and construction of a new wheelchair ramp. The project should begin in the spring.

Finance And Stewardship Report

As of March 31, 2026

Finance Committee Members: Russ Burleson (Chair), Lisa Smith (Treasurer), Rod Davis (Vice Chair), Todd Soderlund, Tom Griffin (Council Representative), Pastor Ron Philabaum

The first quarter of 2026 presented financial challenges, particularly due to winter weather conditions in January and February that resulted in canceled worship services on January 24 and February 1. As a result, offerings declined and reached a low point by the end of February.

Encouragingly, congregational generosity in March helped offset earlier shortfalls. Offerings for the month nearly met budget expectations, and with reduced expenses, the congregation was able to begin replenishing cash reserves. We are grateful for the continued faithfulness and commitment of our members during this time.

Stewardship Committee Report

Members: Pastor Ron Philabaum, Tom Griffin (Council Representative), Rod Davis (Council Chair), Lisa Smith (Treasurer), Russ Burleson, Bill Dukes, Katie Morgan, Pam Pope, Pam Shear, Stan Shealy

Following the recent kickoff of our 2026 Stewardship Drive, 30 out of approximately 150 contributing households have submitted commitment cards, totaling \$222,448 in

pledged giving for the remainder of the year. While this is a strong beginning, additional participation will be necessary to reach our annual budget goal of \$610,526.

In the coming months, the committee will continue its efforts through temple talks, stewardship presentations, and mailings to encourage broader engagement. We extend our sincere thanks to those who have already made commitments to support the ministry of the church.

Property Committee Summary

Carillon System: Purchased and installed surge protector to protect the electronics.
Exterior Cleanup: On Dec. 4, exterior cleanup continued in the E. Boundary parking lot and the crape myrtle trees at the rear of the Church. Carolina Brush Cutting (Aaron Shealy) provided the heavy equipment and personnel to assist with the project. Thanks to Wayne Addy, Tony Bebbler, Don Martin, Rick Setzer, Marion Frick, Pastor Ron and Bill Dukes for their help.

Disabled Ramp Replacement: Formed subcommittee (Joey Bishop-Chair, Hal Hutchens, Barry McCall). Demolition of the current ramp and construction of the new one should be completed in the Spring.

Met with members of the SCDOT to clarify any modifications to the sidewalk and parking spaces along E. Boundary Street and to better understand the positioning of the curb cutout on the bypass to allow potential access to MHLC property adjacent to the bypass.

The parking spaces along E. Boudary Street and Beaufort Street and the sidewalks belong to the SCDOT and will remain intact.

Outside HVAC Equipment room door and frame replacement is nearing completion. Step lighting at sanctuary main entrance has been replaced.

Cross Tower Lighting.

Sidewalk lighting: Re-lamped all sidewalk lighting with LED lights.

Fellowship Hall ceiling tile;; Replaced stained ceiling tiles.

Cemetery Committee Report

March 2026

GIS Mapping Project

Beginning in June 2025, Billy Griffin (GIS Mapping Chair), along with Elizabeth Radecki (USC Student Intern) and members of the Cemetery Team, initiated the development of a comprehensive Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database for the Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church cemetery.

This project has produced an interactive digital map that includes detailed burial records and spatial data to support both administrative functions within the church office and long-term cemetery planning. In addition, a public-facing version of this map has been made available on the church website for congregational and community access.

To learn more about the project, its development, and how to use the map, please visit: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3a0498609eea4f7391>

Social Ministry Report

The Social Ministry often serves as the “front door” of the church during times of grief and loss. Its members provide and serve meals to bereaved families in the church when a member passes.

The visitation team is a critical part of Social Ministry as they visit and provide communion to members who are unable to attend worship due to being homebound or if they are dealing with health issues.

The Ministry also sends supportive cards to young adults after their high school graduation and organizes donations for the SONshine bags that are delivered to shut-ins. These small gestures provide encouragement and an unexpected bit of cheer during exams and holidays.

If you'd like to learn more, please contact Deena Bishop at all4cu@gmail.com or Kay Shealy at kayshealy@bellsouth.net.

Outside Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m.– Noon



The MHLC Property Team and Lutheran Men's Group invite you to help clean the two exterior storage buildings: one at the rear of

the East Boundary Street parking lot, and the other behind the Beaufort Street lot near the preschool playground.

We'll clean inside and outside, trim small trees and shrubs, remove all debris, paint the E. Boundary Street building, and assess repairs for the Beaufort Street building.

Please bring gloves, hand tools, and pickup trucks. Note; The original scheduled date was May 9. The date was changed to May 16 because May 9 is Mothers Day weekend.

Pray and Play Update



Lots of learning and fun is going on in the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Week 1 we had 17 show up and week 2 we continued with 22 people participating!

We have been learning Mah Jongg. It is a new and exciting game, and we are getting better at it! We have advanced to playing real games.

You are still invited to join us and can play with someone and learn as you go! Beginning Thursday, March 19 we added additional games for those not interested in Mah Jongg, such as games of Scrabble and a deck of cards. Other games will be added as we continue to grow this group.

We are creating a small group atmosphere for anyone to join and just "hangout". Several have brought friends with them; the more the merrier! Thursday mornings at 9:30 is the place to be for fun and fellowship, and "snacks" are provided! We took off a couple of Thursdays, and started back on Thursday, April 16. Join us!

God's Work, Our Hands

God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 13, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, "God's work. Our hands."

Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in faith and life. As we continue our tradition of service, we remember the words of Martin Luther, "Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing." With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name.

Lutheran Men In Mission

Focusing on Faith, Fellowship and Service



The Lutheran Men in Mission meet at 6:30 PM the second Monday of each month. All men and women are invited.

On Monday, April 13, we welcomed Lexington County Sheriff Jay Koon. With him was Resident Deputy Landon Nutt, Sgt. Jeff Weed and Capt. Charles Lent.

On May 11, we will have a Safe Stress Talk from Sarah Dippity of SCHEMA.ORG. The presentation is based on the book "MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS".

On June 8 we will hear from Pastor Jim Kinsler about his adventures on the Appalachian Trail.

Leisure Timers—"On The Road Again"

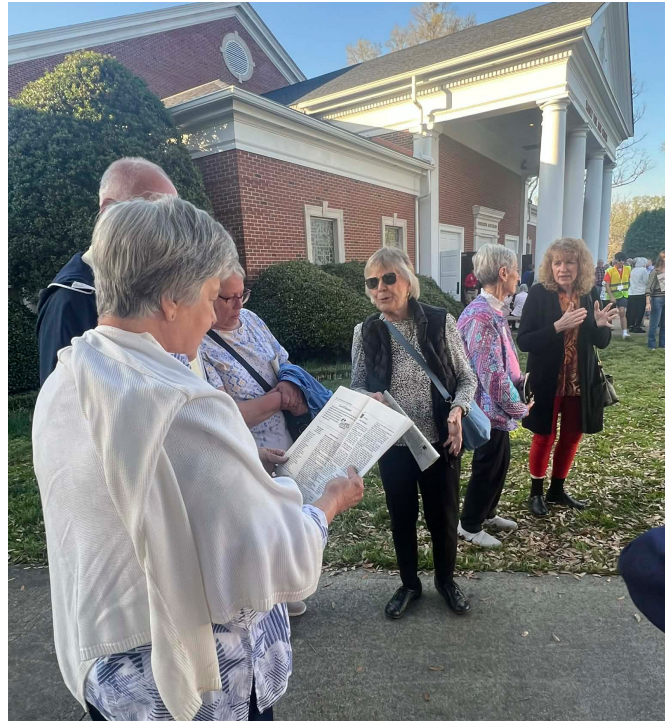
The Mt. Horeb Leisure Timers were "On The Road Again" Saturday, March 14, traveling to Anderson University's Henderson Auditorium to see the Anderson Senior Follies production, "The Last Resort." Eleven of us traveled by van with Barry McCall at the wheel.

The show was outstanding. When a well-meaning child places her aging parents in a Retirement Community, a week of hilarity ensues.

We enjoyed a mix of sharp comedy, toe-tapping music and spirited dancing, brought to life by a more than 50-member remarkably talented cast, ranging in age from 57 to 100. There were quirky characters including the kleptomaniacs, the red hat ladies, the church ladies, the resident minister and his wife, the glamour couple, retired military, the resort staff, the eccentrics, the athletic types, the hiking enthusiast and the Charleston couple.

This was the Follies 37th year. Next year's show, "Don't Touch That Dial", is planned for March 11-14, 2027. The Leisure Timers might be up for a return visit. The Leisure Timers are looking for fun in all the fun places. Come and join them for their next memory-making experience!

The Leisure Times will be taking a trip to Shealy's Barbecue on Tuesday, May 5. Meet at the church at 10 a.m. You must sign up by May 3rd to arrange for transportation. Strawberry picking is on the agenda, details to be announced.



Agape Circle To Prepare “Blessing Bags”

Agape Circle invites the congregation to join us in preparing “Blessing Bags”.

Blessing Bags are ready packed bags that can be given to anyone in need. In the month of June, we will begin collecting items for the bags and then in July we will have bags ready for distribution.

During the month of June, we will have collection boxes sitting on the first rows of each side of the church. These boxes will be labeled to help us organize as we assemble the bags. You may drop off items at any time. Maybe a meaningful time would be as you approach for communion.

SUGGESTED ITEMS:

- Deodorant
- Wet wipes
- Lip balm
- Toothpaste
- Tooth brush
- Comb
- Wash cloth
- Small water bottles
- Pens
- Band-aids
- Notepads
- Little packs of tissues
- Personal hygiene items for women
- Handwritten small notes of encouragement without your name or any identifying info,
- \$5 gift card from McDonald’s or similar
- Snacks (no chocolate) — packs of nuts, packs of crackers, packs of fig newtons, little bags of goldfish, little packages of dried fruit or fruit gummies, bags of Ritz with peanut butter or cheese, gum, life savers/mints, and, other similar small size items you think someone could use. No cash, no razors.

All items will be packed/stuffed into gallon sized ZipLock bags. Bags do not have to have all the same items, just filled!

We have set a goal of 50 bags, and would love to have more!

State Prayer Breakfast



Bill Dukes invited several from The Mount to join him at a table at the South Carolina State Prayer Breakfast on April 8. These included Buddy Johnson, Stan Shealy, Rod Davis, Gail Bundrick and Pastor Ron Philabaum. Also in the photo are Robbie Butt, Attorney General Alan Wilson, and U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson.

We especially enjoyed talks by Gov. Henry McMaster, South Carolina's longest serving Governor, and by featured speaker, former Governor David Beasley.

Betty Shealy Celebrates Her 90th Birthday



Betty Shealy celebrated her 90th birthday at the Southwoode Clubhouse on Sunday, March 15. All of her family and numerous loving friends were able to share in

the joy of this momentous occasion with her. Thanks to everyone who came and made this special time of her life so unforgettable! We love you, Mimi!

—Lisa Shealy Haley



Birthdays & Anniversaries

MAY & JUNE BIRTHDAYS

May 3 Millie Courtney
May 3 Annie Wessinger
May 5 Russ Burleson
May 6 Todd Soderlund
May 9 Trina Free
May 9 Jeanie Frick
May 9 Anne Wessinger
May 9 Pastor Ron Philabaum
May 10 Katie Wessinger
May 13 Mary Morgan
May 15 Bonnie Lindler
May 17 Ryan O'Dell
May 21 Brandon Teal
May 23 Macie Goodman
May 24 Tracy Shealy
May 25 Peggy Moates
May 27 Lisa Smith
May 27 Kenneth Wessinger
May 29 Abbie Derrick
May 29 "Sonny" Shealy
Jun 1 Zach Stoudemayer
Jun 2 Craig Lindler
Jun 2 Don Martin
Jun 3 Camille Joseph
Jun 3 Harper Gowans

Jun 3 Billy Griffin
Jun 3 Jim Johnston
Jun 4 Anne Mitchell
Jun 5 Samantha McCall
Jun 6 Mary R. Epting
Jun 6 Wilson Hutchens
Jun 7 Carol Jean Lindler
Jun 7 Marjorie F. Turner
Jun 8 Will Rodgers
Jun 12 Jonathan McDonald
Jun 12 Jennings W. Shealy
Jun 13 Berley Rister, III
Jun 15 Brandon Miller
Jun 20 Y. M. Miller, Jr.
Jun 21 Sherry Teal
Jun 23 Berley Rister, Jr.
Jun 25 ohn DiMascio
Jun 26 Athalee Rauch
Jun 26 Walter (Ozzie) Herlong, Jr.
Jun 27 Gene Teal, Jr.
Jun 28 Ann S. Shealy
Jun 29 Pastor Henri Bishop
Jun 29 Pauline Rister
Jun 30 Tillman Prince

MAY & JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

May 2 Barry & Maria McCall--34
May 3 Hal & Ann Hutchens--46
May 4 Greg & Kim Shealy--35
May 7 Stan & Diane Senn--43
May 14 Russ & Wanda Burleson--57
Jun 1 John & Stephanie Stoudemayer- 41
Jun 5 Benny & Bonnie Counts--57
Jun 11 Randy & Shannon Bundrick--15
Jun 16 Wil & Rachel Hutchens--19

Jun 18 David & Ashley Williams--21
Jun 19 Luther & Chuanling H Lindler--26
Jun 21 John & Cathy Rodgers--46
Jun 24 Glen & Kelly Wessinger--31
Jun 25 David & Holly Knight--4
Jun 25 Y.M. & Carolyn Miller--56
Jun 25 Don & Marilyn Wise--44
Jun 26 Bart & Alice Teal--60
Jun 30 Bernie & Faye Hawkins---69