

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

September 2021



## Confusion / Uncertainty / Cancellations

<sup>15</sup> Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, *Ephesians 5:15*

Can you believe it is September! Time goes by so quickly. It appears that this Covid-19 virus and all the variants – just will not go away. I know that many events are being cancelled, three of my events this Fall have been cancelled. The Synod's December trip to the Holy Land is postponed. Schools are trying to figure out the safest/most effective way for our children to learn. Restaurants and businesses are operating with caution.

As your pastor I am concerned for both your mental and spiritual health. Please be careful! Remember that MASKS have not ever been forbidden. At one time they were REQUIRED. For our safety we ask you to DETERMINE if you SHOULD/NEED to wear a mask when you are attending activities both at church and in your daily lives. I continue to monitor the numbers and I continue to pray for each of our safety. PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

In Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus, he reminds them of the evil in the world and he reminds them, that we (followers of Christ) are to live and understand the world and life differently from those who are "exposed to the light." We are those people. We live in a sure and certain hope; however, we are also free to make choices.

Most of you know that I received my vaccination in December and January. My family is fully vaccinated. I also know that many are fully vaccinated. I know that some of us have received a THIRD vaccination. I also know that some of us are vaccinated and will continue to wear a mask for an additional level of protection. I know that some have medically advised not to receive a vaccine. I know that some are choosing not to receive the vaccine. All of us need to be cautious. I ask that if you attend a church activity and you soon test positive for the virus, please let me know so that we can notify/inform those whom you may have been in contact with while you are at church.

That is what it means to be wise. To use our brains for knowledge and protection. Please be careful. Be wise. Make a difference in the world!

Sister in Christ,

**Pastor Gina**

*Remember to join FaceBook Live (or through [www.WeAreMtHermon.com](http://www.WeAreMtHermon.com)) for nightly devotions at 6:35 pm.*

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Look out! Here we go! I find it hard to believe that our fall programs are beginning in just a couple of weeks. For ANYONE interested or signed up for choirs, puppets, handbells, etc.: **THERE ARE FINE ARTS MINISTRIES CALENDARS THROUGH JANUARY AVAILABLE FOR YOU IN THE BREEZEWAY!!** Rather than making schedules for each group and event, I found it was easier to make a calendar with all rehearsals and events. The only things not included in the calendar are “field trips” and fun events for kids that will be scheduled as we go.

For example, we are planning to take any kids/ youth interested, to the Columbia Marionette Theater for a field trip and show. I am working on a date with the theater now and will let you know when we firm that up.

Please sign up for the September candlelight dinner. My friend and colleague from the last 25 years will be presenting the program - a mixture of “this and that” you will not want to miss. He resides in Augusta and Ms. Starkey is going to provide a link on our website to his bio.

I want to thank Erica Conklin for a great time at Palmetto Athletic Center this month. We would not have been able to do this without her. Thank you!!!!

Please stay safe. Be assured that we are taking all precautions in rehearsals and programs to offer activities while keeping all of us safe here at Mt. Hermon.

I look forward to seeing you at activities very soon!

Ruthie Brannen



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Congregational Council Minutes July 18, 2021

**ATTENDANCE:** All were present except Sheila Starkey, Jackson Price, Joe Koon, and Buddy Hydrick (hospitalized).

**CARES AND CONCERNS:** Praying for Jenny Scott's son Ross and daughter-in-law Lindsay and Buddy Hydrick hospitalized for two weeks without a diagnosis.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Approved with two additions

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** Approved with no corrections

### **REPORTS:**

- Pastor Gina: Written report received. She taught bible study weekly in June and adult class at VBS. Pastor Gina will be at SC Lutheran Men retreat August 20-22 and Women's Retreat at Camp Kinard September 16-19.
- Treasurer: Written reports received for May and June 2021.
- Financial Secretary: Written reports received for April, May, and June 2021.

### **Team Reports/Recommendations:**

**Worship:** Two Candlelight Dinners are being planned for October 16<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>. The Worship Team recommends we accept donation from Temples Halloran Funeral Home for 6 military flags and that Mt. Hermon purchase the flag poles, stands, and other accessories at a cost of approximately \$150 each for total of \$900 with funds to be taken from Capital Campaign line item (which has \$5639.36) if the congregation doesn't donate all of them. **APPROVED.** The Worship Team purchased and installed a \$4843.15 sound board without taking a recommendation to the Finance Committee or Church Council for approval. Motion to approve already purchased and installed sound board at a cost of \$4843.15 with funds to be taken from Capital Campaign line item which has \$5639.36 in its account. **APPROVED.**

**Teach:** Purchased crosses for Confirmation gifts and items for new member baskets. VBS curriculum Discovery on Adventure Island purchased for VBS July 20-22. Sunday School will restart on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The Teach team is asking for volunteers to teach all levels of Sunday School. Council member inquired if the Teach team is current on background checks for adults teaching those under age 18. Motion by council to change youth storage area room key back to standard church key. Also, notify Bryan and Missy Addy to remove anything they need before lock changed. **APPROVED.**

**Outreach:** Written report received from June meeting. Next blood drive will be August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:30 to 4 pm. The donations of fresh produce for the Food Pantry have been appreciated. The team will work on feedback received from Church Council regarding the church brochure. School supplies being collected to distribute to local schools. Bishop Carder's Dementia Workshop has been rescheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Building Renovation & Repair Task Force: They submitted a two-page list of repairs and renovations the task force recommends Church Council consider. Motion to accept these suggestions as information. **APPROVED.** Task Force recommends a HVAC split unit (air handler in room and compressor outside) for

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Live Streaming room at a cost of \$3300. The electrical work to connect it, partially repairing power panel in acolyte room, and two thermostats for fellowship hall would cost \$2590 with total cost of scope of work \$5890 with funds coming from \$52,657.33 loan balance as of May 31<sup>st</sup>. **APPROVED.** The task force also recommends replacing the carpet in new Fellowship Hall entrance and basement hallway. The area would also need cement leveling and baseboards. Two quotes received within \$100 of each other and quote was \$12,700. Council members requested receiving an additional quote for replacing buckling flooring in narthex. The recommendation will be revisited next month after additional information received.

2. Synod Convention: Terry Swygert selected as 2022 CWA delegate for meeting in Ohio

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Procedural Audit Inquiry: Recommendation that we conduct a congregational audit on our finances, policies, and procedures. Recommendation tabled for further discussion at next meeting due to long agenda tonight.
2. Reservation request for monthly use of Fellowship Hall: Neal Taylor of Beekeeper Association requests rental of Fellowship Hall monthly on first Tuesday of the month from 6-9 pm at a rate of \$200 which would be deposited in Building Improvement Fund. **APPROVED as long as there is no conflict with Mt. Hermon activities.**
3. Church Bus: There are only 6 CDL drivers in the church. The bus was purchased in approximately 1999 and motion to investigate selling the bus. **APPROVED**
4. Church parsonage: Tenant to move out August 31<sup>st</sup>.
5. Next meeting in person in Fellowship Hall August 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm with devotions by Sheila Starkey.

Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary

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## **Treasurer Report July 2021**

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<b>Current &amp; Benevolence</b>	126,831.34	124,923.06	1,908.28
<b>Building Improvement</b>	18,598.53	9,143.64	9,454.89
<b>Building on Holy Ground</b>	32,056.45	35,000.00	(2,943.55)



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



## Live Stream Check-ins + In-person = Total

August 1 <sup>st</sup>	68	+	84	152
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	71	+	77	148
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	67	+	87	154
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	72	+	61	133

## WOW!

**Word on Wednesdays**  
**In September**  
**6:00 – 7:00 Fellowship Hall**

Pastor Gina has written a Bible Study based around the Disney Movie Moana. Plan to attend – bring your Bibles – and see what similarities Moana has with your walk as a disciple of Christ. This is a great opportunity for someone to join you for Bible study. It is applying what we read in the Bible to our everyday lives.



Hint: There are many reflections of Moana's thoughts and the thoughts of our obedience to family and to God.



## Lutheran Men in Mission Chicken Stew – September 25<sup>th</sup>

Come join us for our LMIM Chicken Stew on September 25<sup>th</sup>, from

10:00 am to 2:00pm. Come out and get a bite to eat and support Mt Hermon's Lutheran Men in Mission. Tickets are available each Sunday after worship and from any of the Lutheran Men. Plates are \$7.00 ~ Quarts of stew \$9.00. Eat in or carry-out. 90% of the proceeds of this fundraiser go to Mt. Hermon's Growing on Holy Ground fun and 10% go to the LMIM outreach budget for materials and installation of handicap ramps for those in need.



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Outreach Happenings

### School Supply Drive

Thank you for your tremendous response to our school supply drive. Your donations helped so many students. We contacted all the schools where our members work. Some of the schools said they had enough supplies already donated from other sources and wanted us to share theirs with schools whose need was greater. We delivered to the following schools: Fulmer Middle, Pine Ridge Middle, Oak Grove Elementary, Wood Elementary and Cayce Elementary. The schools were very appreciative. One school sent us a quick note that said, ***“Thank you so much for the bookbags and school supplies. We were in desperate need and your church has come to our rescue!”***. Thank you for your generous donations.



### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



### Adopt-A- Highway

Thank you to all those who helped clean up Leaphart Road at this quarter's Adopt-a-Highway: Tom Stahl, Al Stevens, Laura Stevens, Joshua Koon, Joe Koon, Diane Boulware and Parker Boulware. Please make plans to join together on November 13 for the next Adopt-a-Highway.



### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Mt. Hermon hosted another Blood Drive on **Sunday, August 22**. Those who donated, helped save many lives. With your help, we exceeded the goal of 21 units set by the Red Cross. We collected 29 units of blood! Thank you to all who donated and/or volunteered. You made this drive a success. Thank you to Laura Stevens for coordinating this event.



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Community Education Speakers

The Outreach Team is interested in sponsoring some Community Education Events this year. Last Spring, Covid caused us to postpone the session, ***Dementia Through the Lens of Grace***. We were thrilled that Bishop Kenneth Carder was able to reschedule this event for Sunday, August 29.

His session covered:

- What is Dementia? Dementia through a Medical Lens
- Dementia through a Spiritual/Theological Lens
- Gifts and Opportunities of Congregation to be in ministry

To learn more about Bishop Carder check out this link to the Living Lutheran article. <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2021/08/inherent-worth/>



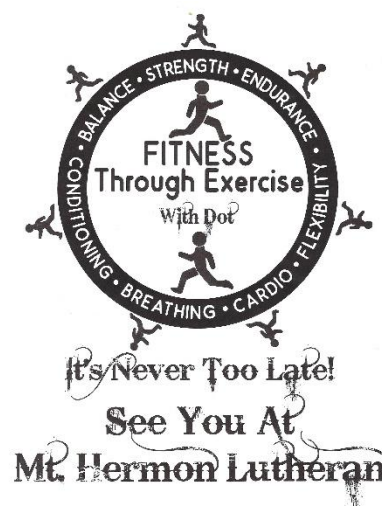
Here are the two-video links that Bishop Carder used during the session:

1. What is dementia (length is only 2 minutes).  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_KlRpFu1Ub8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KlRpFu1Ub8)
2. This is Naomi Feil and Gladys Wilson, which is about 5 minutes in length.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrZXz10FcVM>

If you have a particular topic that we would be interested in learning more about, please let a member of the Outreach Team know.

## Exercise Classes

For almost 20 years, Dot Mathias has been leading people to become healthier through exercise. She is a certified instructor and the classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the church Assembly Room. The 2:00 class is the exercise class with exercises that can be done either standing or seated in a chair. The 3:00 class is on Tuesdays only and is a mat class using mainly Pilates. All are welcome to come and participate. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes. If you have questions, give Dot a call. Masks and hand sanitizer are available and there is room for social distancing.



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



## Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is definitely being used by the community. Some of the local schools are listing our Food Pantry on the resource sheet they share with families in need of assistance.

The list of food and toiletries that we normally distribute is on the church website. If you are able to add any of these to your grocery list and drop them by the church, we will share them with those in need. As food costs continue to increase, our Food Pantry funds are becoming depleted. Any donation you can make would be greatly appreciated.

**We are grateful to all who continue to give to make this ministry possible.**



## Meals on Wheels

Mt. Hermon has participated with The Lexington County Commission on Aging's Meals on Wheels program for many years. James Hallman started Mt. Hermon's participation many years ago. For over 20 years James Hallman and Jean Shealy have coordinated the Mt. Hermon group. They have decided to step down from coordinating it, but will continue to serve one

Wednesday each month. Thank you so much James and Jean for your dedication to help seniors receive healthy meals.

Currently our Meals on Wheels serving schedule is each Wednesday. The schedule is as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month – Doris Maddox and Ann Bouknight
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month – James Hallman and Jean Shealy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month – Angie Hydrick, Jenny Scott and Annette Price
- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month – Diane and Parker Boulware
- 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month – Earl and Mary Frances Sease



## Food Truck – October 1

Fine Arts Ministry 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Food Truck Fall Festival is October 1 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the church parking lot. A portion of Food Truck sales will support Mt. Hermon's Funds for the Arts. There will be activities for children and food for all ages! It will be a wonderful time to join with friends and neighbors.





# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Saturday, October 30

Mt. Hermon will host a **Trunk or Treat** event for the congregation and the community. The event is planned to be from 5:00 – 7:00pm. Please make plans to participate and decorate your car for this event. Melanie Jackson has agreed to coordinate this event. Let us know if you are interested in helping with this.



## Volunteering

If you are interested in being involved in any of these ministries, please let either Pastor Gina or an Outreach Team Member know. We would love to have your help. The Outreach Team members are: Laura Stevens, Mitch Stevens, Angie Hydrick, Allison Swygert, Jenny Scott, Sheila Starkey, Eric Carroll, Laura Carroll, Mike Rawl, Leah Rawl, Nancy Addison, Lynn Bouknight, Jo Leach, Mary Koon, Pastor Gina and Diane Boulware, chair.

## Confirmation Classes

Confirmation students – It's time. We will begin our studies of the Bible Year on September 26<sup>th</sup>. More information will be coming your way soon.



## Blessing of the Backpacks/Lunch boxes/totes

If you were not able to attend worship on August 15<sup>th</sup> and did not pick up your tag, we have one for you. They are on the table outside of the church office. If you would like to take one to your friend, please take one. We love you and we want you to have wonderful year!

## AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



You will notice that though we are cautiously moving forward, and the church calendar is filling up quickly. If you would like to host an event at the church, you may view the calendar at [www.WeAreMtHermon.com](http://www.WeAreMtHermon.com) calendar of events. If you would like to add an event, please call the church office to add to the calendar.

A background graphic featuring a piano keyboard at the top and musical notes on staves at the bottom, all in a muted, artistic style.

# Homecoming & Gospel Sunday October 10, 2021

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Dear Church Family,

When Buddy was diagnosed and put on our prayer list, the card and phone calls, the get well wishes started. At first Buddy tried to keep up and send thank you notes. I told him it wasn't necessary, that people who sent cards didn't really expect thank you notes.

We knew at some point we could thank you all through the newsletter. During the month or so between his treatments and hospitalization, he would mention that he had not sent the thank you to the newsletter.

Now, after his passing, I am overwhelmed at the outpouring of support, sympathy and love. Our church family is truly a family, and I love you all.

Thank you so much for the cards, calls, visits, and especially the prayers, both since Buddy's diagnosis and since his passing. Thank you for the meal provided and the beautiful altar flowers.

Thank you, Pastor Gina, for the support and visits to the hospital and our home. Thank you for the beautiful tribute during the service.

Love,  
*Angie Hydrick*

*thank you!*

Dear Mt. Hermon Family,

I can't thank all of you enough who came to celebrate with me as I participated in my Eagle Ceremony. I know due to circumstances, there were many that couldn't be there, and I understand and appreciate all the love and support you have given me throughout the years as I have worked to achieve this goal. Your support as a church family means so much to me.

Thanks again!  
*Jackson Price*



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



**Sept 01**

Cyndi Thurman

**Sept 04**

Wayne Eargle

**Sept 07**

Blake Allen

**Sept 12**

Sarah Bryant

**Sept 13**

Shirley Riley

**Sept 14**

Cyndi Leaphart

**Sept 16**

Gene Sexton

**Sept 18**

Lawrence Boulware

**Sept 19**

Regan Anthony

**Sept 22**

Karen Nicholson

**Sept 23**

Bonnie Bouknight

Cameron Buckman

Myra Kinard

**Sept 24**

Grayson Anthony

Sonya Miller

Jerry Price, III

**Sept 26**

James Hallman

**Sept 27**

Dave Butts



No anniversaries known at time of printing for September.

We would love to keep our calendar up to date with your special occasions, but we need your help. If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please give us a call or email us at [office@wearethermon.com](mailto:office@wearethermon.com)

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## MT HERMON PRAYS ...

### **Continual Prayers**

Patricia Bachman, *Generations*

Alberta Berry, *home*

Hazel Bockus, *Springdale Home*

Lyle Bockus, *Springdale Home*

Nell Buff, *NHC*

Gennar Kiser, *home*

Rev. Everette Price, *home*

June Roof, *Rapha*

Tom Roof, *home*

Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

### **Members in Special Need of Prayer**

Linda Waters-Hamilton

Jo Leach

Jimmy Maddox

Jerry Price III

Earl Sease

Jane Sexton

\*Cyndi Thurman, *Encompass*

### **Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers**

Grayson Dykes, *friend of Angie Hydrick*

Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*

David Hydrick, *family of Angie Hydrick*

Charlotte & Paul Nelson, *friends of Herb Bucknam*

Richard Lindler, *friend of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart*

Robert Lindler, *father of Cassie Swygert*

Bob Eastwood, *brother-in-law of Marie Kleckley*

Molly Kate Shealy, *friend of Jean Shealy*

Chuck Bachman, *nephew of Jean Shealy*

Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*

Gary & Linda Hodgin, *friends of Herb Bucknam*

Tressa Oswalt, *sister of Angie Hydrick*

Don Freeman, *friend of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart*

Jessica Drigger's mother, *friend of Denise Thurman*

Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*

Bill Harrell, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*

Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*

John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*

Dr. Kay Moore, *friend and co-worker of Cyndi Leaphart*

Thomas McDonald, *son-in-law of Joel and Cindy Price*

Cindy Maples, *mother of Jennifer Miller*

Todd and Heidi Hillsgrove, *nephew of Herb Bucknam*

Carter Miller, *great-grandson of Mary and Wynne Price*

Lewis Turner, *friend of Jo Leach*

Sarah Geddings, *mother of Allison Swygert*

Emma Hunt, *grandmother of Laura Carroll*

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Serving in the Community September 2021

**COUNCIL REP:** Karen Nicholson

**ALTAR GUILD:** Ann Addy, Annette Price

**TABULATORS:** Larry Amick and Angie Hydrick

**USHERS:** \*call the church office






<b>Altar Flowers</b>		<b>Greeter</b>	
5	Doris Maddox	5	*
12	Al and Laura Stevens	12	*
19	*	19	*
26	Price/Anthony	26	*
<b>Acolyte</b>		<b>Crucifer</b>	
5	Gable Jolly	5	Kim Jolly
12	Jake Dugan	12	Skyler Miller
19	Spencer Price	19	Tanner Addy
26	Sam Koon	26	Josh Koon
<b>Lector</b>		<b>Communion Assistants</b>	
5	Danny Scott	5	Terry Swygert, Danny Scott
12	Erica Conklin	12	Jennifer Miller, Ronnie Fulmer
19	Mary Price	19	Joel Price, Sr., Marion Leaphart
26	Frankie Jackson	26	Frankie Jackson, Terry Swygert
<b>Nursery Workers</b>			
5	*		
12	*		
19	*		
26	*		
* Call the church office to sign up for this way to serve during worship.			



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Mt Hermon Lutheran Church

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:00 am Food Pantry (Doris Maddox, Angie Hydriek, and Fran Bouknight)	<b>2</b> 2:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm Exercise class Handbells Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Food Pantry (Mike Rawl and Laura Stevens)
<b>5</b> 9:00 am 10:30 am Worship Sunday School	<b>6</b> Labor Day Office Closed 	<b>7</b> 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class Executive committee	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Food Pantry (Annette Price, Ann Bouknight, Sharon Keefe)	<b>9</b> 2:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm Exercise class Handbells Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Food Pantry (Lynn Bouknight and Karen Nicholson) 
<b>12</b> 9:00 am 10:15 am 10:30 am 3:00 pm 6:00 pm FH: Brittany Allen Worship Cherub Tone Chimes Sunday School Confirmation Class Council Meets	<b>13</b> 10:00 am 6:30 pm FH: Candlelight Decor Staff Meeting Lutheran Men meeting	<b>14</b> 2:00 pm FH: Candlelight Decor Exercise class	<b>15</b> 9:00 am First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month FH: Candlelight Decor Food Pantry (Diane Boulware and Mary Frances Sease)	<b>16</b> 2:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm FH: Candlelight Decor Exercise class Handbells Choir	<b>17</b> FH: Candlelight Decor	<b>18</b> 9:00 am 6:00 pm FH: Candlelight Decor Food Pantry (Parker and Diane Boulware) Candlelight Dinner 
<b>19</b> 9:00 am 10:15 am 10:30 am 2:30 pm 3:00 pm FH: Candlelight Decor Worship Cherub Tone Chimes Sunday School Children's Handbells Puppets	<b>20</b> 10:00 am 6:00 pm FH: Candlelight Decor Staff Meeting Outreach Team (conf room)	<b>21</b> 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class Finance Committee	<b>22</b> 9:00 am Food Pantry (Doris Maddox, Angie Hydriek, Fran Bouknight)	<b>23</b> 2:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm Exercise class Handbells Worship Team Choir	<b>24</b> Chicken Bog	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Chicken Bog Food Pantry (Terry and Allison Swygert, and Laura Carroll)
<b>26</b> 9:00 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 3:00 pm 4:00 pm Worship Sunday School Sunday School Confirmation Class PG Lutheridge	<b>27</b> 10:00 am PG Lutheridge Staff Meeting	<b>28</b> 2:00 pm PG Lutheridge Exercise class	<b>29</b> 9:00 am PG Lutheridge Food Pantry (Frank and Bonnie Bouknight, Andrea Bowers))	<b>30</b> 2:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm Exercise class Handbells Choir		

\*\*\*Please see "calendar of events" at WeAreMtHermon .com for updates. \*\*\*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Gina D Metze, Pastor	803.951.3784	PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com
Ruthie Brannen, Director of Music		Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com
Lisa Crouch, Parish Administrator		office@WeAreMtHermon.com
Matt Hansen, Seminarian		Matthew.Hansen@my.lr.edu

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West Columbia, SC 29169  
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9:00 am – 2:00 pm

## Table of Contents

Letter from Pastor . . . . .	1
News from Music Director . . . .	2
Council Notes . . . . .	3-4
Community News . . . . .	5-11
Birthdays and Anniversaries . .	12
Prayer List. . . . .	13
Serving in the Community. . . . .	14
Calendar . . . . .	15