

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

October 2025



REST & RENEWAL

² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:30-31

As summer winds down and families return from their getaways, many of us carry memories of rest and renewal. Perhaps you remember childhood summers at the beach, or maybe you're like my grandparents who found their deepest rest in the quieter fall months. They often said the beach was much more peaceful without the summer crowds—a reminder that sometimes the most restorative times come not when it's convenient, but when we intentionally create space for renewal.

Each October, pastors from across South Carolina gather at Lutheridge for just such a time of spiritual recharging. There are inspiring lectures, apple picking, and afternoons spent on porches with fellow ministers. Yet sometimes—if I'm being honest—I return from these retreats feeling like I need another retreat to process all the deep thoughts provoked! Have you ever felt that way after a vacation? Like you need time to rest from your time of rest?

This reminds me of Jesus' experience in Matthew 4, when the Spirit led Him into the wilderness for forty days of fasting and testing. It was after this time of spiritual discipline—when He was physically and emotionally depleted—that the tempter approached with his strongest temptations. This teaches us something crucial: we all need genuine rest and renewal, because it's when we're tired and weary that we become most vulnerable to discouragement and temptation.

In our world today, with news of violence and senseless acts filling the news, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the presence of evil. These tragic events remind us that we live in a world where darkness and light coexist, and sometimes the darkness feels too heavy to bear.

But here's my message of pure hope for you today: **Jesus is good!** He is infinitely bigger than any evil we might encounter. He has witnessed every form of suffering and darkness this world can produce, yet He remains unshaken in His goodness. He walks the same paths we walk, sees what we see, and understands our struggles.

Remember this eternal truth: evil and darkness can only be conquered by goodness and light. Jesus is that Light! And incredibly, He has entrusted us—His church—to carry that light into every corner of our world. We are His vessels, chosen to spread brightness into the deepest, darkest places where hope seems lost.

So take heart, dear congregation. Rest when you need to rest. Allow yourself to be renewed by His presence. But then rise up with wings like eagles, strengthened by your time with the Lord, and go forth carrying your brightest light into a world that desperately longs to see the Light of Christ. In a time when darkness seems prevalent, we have the incredible privilege of being light-bearers. What a calling! What a hope! What a Savior we serve! May you find true rest in Him, and may His light shine brightly through you wherever you go.

*Sister in Christ,
Pastor Gina*

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CHURCH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

Motion from the September Council meeting

None.

Congregational Council Minutes August 2025

ATTENDANCE: Absent – Fran Bouknight, Cyndi Leaphart, and Jennifer Miller

CARES AND CONCERNS: Prayers for Skyler Miller as he recuperates from a workplace accident; Jennifer Miller as she cares for Skyler; Jean Shealy as she completes rehab at Lexington Extended Care; the family of Pete Fisher (friend of Terry Swygert) at his passing.

MEMBER CARE:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Accepted as presented

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Report for August 2025 was submitted.
- Treasurer: 1a Balance Sheet Last Month for July 2025, 1b Budget Comparison Last Month for July 2025, and 1c Designated Funds Last Month for July 2025 were submitted. We're behind budget in a few areas and July was a slow month for giving.
- Financial Secretary: Funds Report for July 2025 was submitted.
- Executive Committee:

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Team for Ministry: Met on August 4.

Care: Written report submitted.

Outreach: Written report submitted.

Support: Written report submitted.

Finance: Written report submitted. The Finance Committee recommends that we accept the quote from Georgia State to replace our stage curtain with a like color. The price should not exceed \$16,000 with money to come from the Loan Proceeds line item #3307 in the amount of \$7,838.36, with the remainder to come from Building Improvement #3305. **PASSED unanimously.**

Teach: No report submitted.

Worship: No report submitted. The Team will meet on Tuesday, August 19 to clean off the stage to prepare for the installation of the new stage curtain. All are welcome to help.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Director of Music Search Team – The committee met with the choir and handbell choir on August 3 to gather feedback and to discern what we're looking for in our next music director. Charlene Corley has made many phone calls looking for candidates.
2. Council Retreat IOP January 9-11, 2026 – The deposit has been paid to secure the reservation.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Parsonage Update – The current renters will move out in mid-August. Church Council would like to thank Joel Price, Sr., for his dedication to maintaining this property with great care.
2. Next Meeting: Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 11:30am
3. Next Month's Devotions and Lock Up – Cyndi Leaphart

Sheila Eargle, Council Secretary

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

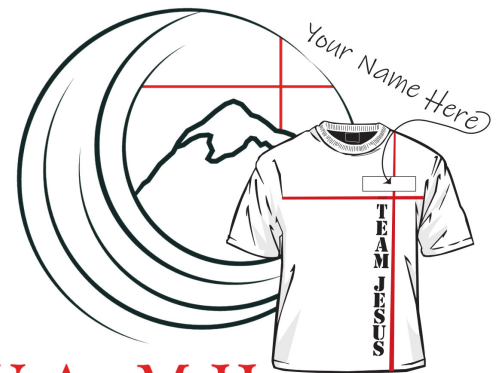
ATTENDANCE REPORT

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Live Streaming</u>	<u>Total</u>
Aug 31	83	127	210
Sept 07	87	146	233
Sept 14	86	152	238
Sept 21	88	143	231

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Homecoming 2025 – October 6th

We are all on the same team: Jesus! On Homecoming Sunday, we ask you to wear your favorite team jersey or team t-shirt. We will gather as a community in the Fellowship Hall and learn some history of Mt. Hermon from our own historian, Ann Addy. This will begin at 10:30 and the Homecoming luncheon will begin afterward. Bring your favorite dishes and plan to learn and fellowship with the disciples of Christ who call Mt. Hermon 'home'. The Care Team has mailed an invitation for all those over 80 years old inviting them to attend church and be honored at Homecoming. Please invite persons who were once connected to Mt. Hermon to join us for worship and lunch on October 6th.



WeAreMtHermon

*Thank
you*

I am so thankful for the Mt Hermon Lutheran Men's Group that built a handicap ramp for my mom (Nancee Paget) last week.

Their ministry is so appreciated as God uses their expertise and commitment to help those in need.

They are truly an answered prayer for us as I work to keep my mom safely at home. She is 87 years old and deteriorating every day. It was getting dangerous to have her use her steps to get in and out of the house. This new ramp will keep her connected to the world outside of her house. I can't tell you how much we appreciate this special gift.

Thanks again, *Susan Amick*



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Altar Flower Sign up: There is currently one opening for Altar Flower sign-up on October 5th. Please sign up in the breezeway if you are interested. Thank you



CARE TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Care Team meets on the 1st Monday of every month at 5:30 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Alyson Price and Sheila Starkey or any team members and attend the next meeting!



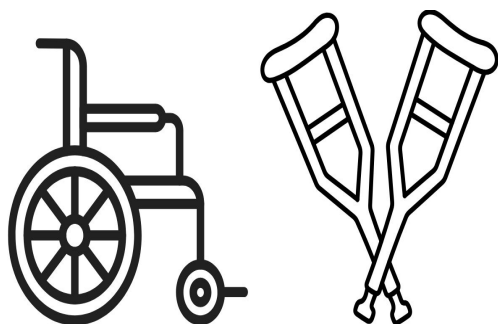
He-Brews Supper Clubs: Our next He-Brews Supper Club is Saturday, November 8th at 6:00 pm. Please register on or before November 2nd.

Sign-up sheet is in the breezeway or online at <https://tinyurl.com/Hebrewssupperclub>.

Jennifer and Skyler Miller Meal Train

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/69560y>

Please use the links if you would like to provide a meal or gift card.



MEDICAL TEAM

New Care Team Ministry:

Already the Medical Team has received a number of medical devices which anyone may use. If you have medical equipment that you wish to donate to this ministry, please contact Myra Kinard at 803-920-0222.

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OUTREACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Outreach Team meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Bonnie Bouknight, Melanie Jackson, or any team member and attend the next meeting.

Outreach Columbia- The Outreach Team is still looking for volunteers for the food bank on Saturdays. We need help with praying with participants, to load groceries and restocking set ups. Please consider volunteering for this very rewarding project. Please contact Diane Boulware or any member of the Outreach Team.



Fall Festival – Fall Festival - The Fall Festival this year will be held at Mt Hebron Methodist Church. The Outreach Team is partnering with Mt Hebron for a community event. It will be held October 26th 4:30 - 6:30pm. Mt Hermon is providing Hayrides, Trunks for Trunk or Treat, candy and collecting food items for the Food Pantry. Representatives from the NFL, DEA and SC National Guard will be there. There will also

be bounce houses, food and outside vendors. Please come and help support this exciting event.

Scooter Scott Project – Outreach in coordination with the Scooter Scott project is going to sponsor another Drivers Training class. The dates for the class will be September 30, October 1 and 2. Each night the class will run from 4:30 pm until 7:00 pm. If you are interested in assisting with this, please contact Charlene Corley at 803-636-5352.

Scooter Scott Project

Driver Training Classes

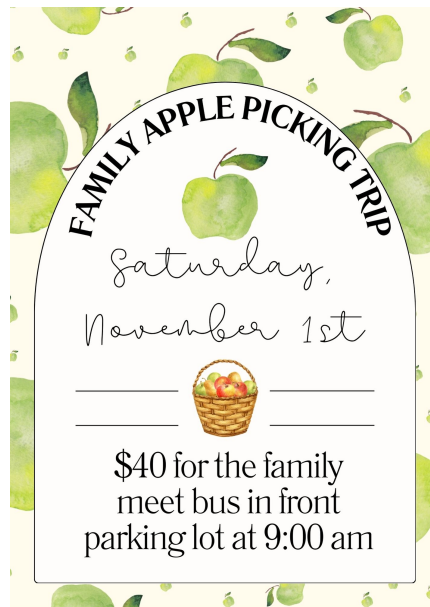
**Sept. 30th,
Oct. 1st & 2nd
4:30 pm - 7:00 pm**



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Free Smoke Detectors – The Outreach team met with a disaster coordinator for the Red Cross. As part of our discussion, we were told that any household in SC is entitled to get FREE smoke detectors through your local fire department. All you have to do is ask any fireman or call your local fire department and they will come out and install them for free. The life of the average smoke detector is normally ten years, so this would be an excellent way to replace or add to the safety of your home.

DID YOU KNOW?



WALKING TOGETHER, FOSTERING HOPE

Mental Health and Spiritual Care in the Lutheran Tradition



SAVE THE DATE: November 1, 2025

Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church

Suicide Awareness and Mental Health

Guest Speaker Dennis Gillan of Half a Sorrow

Presented by South Carolina Synod

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

SUPPORT TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Support Team meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Ronnie Fulmer or any team members and attend the next meeting.

Repairs Needed / Maintenance Projects:

- Install fascia board below new oven to trim the open space below oven. (3"Wx24"L)
- Floor repair in kitchen. Floor is weak where it meets up to the wall of laundry room.
- Likely a result of water damage. Floor tile needs replacing.
- Extend new tile flooring to back entrance door. Cut out carpet at this location due to stains. Blend back in with new tile floor.
- Painting interior rooms of house. Painting exterior trim and doors of house.
- Ceiling fan in great room needs light repair.
- Replace HVAC registers. Replace toilet seat in master bath.
- Replace blinds. Almost all are damaged. Replace door stop in Master Bedroom.
- Caulk (tape) Guest bathroom tub.

WORSHIP TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Worship Team meets on the 4th Sunday at 11:30am in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Marion Leaphart or any team member and attend the next meeting.



Eucharistic Ministry Team

The worship team would like to announce the development of a Eucharistic Ministry Team. Anyone interested in more information, please contact Pastor Gina.

Wear Red on Reformation Sunday, October 26th



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Oct 05	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26
Ushers	Ricky Bouknight	Terry Swygert	Danny Scott	Frank Bouknight
	Fran Bouknight	Allison Swygert	Jenny Scott	Mary Price
Crucifer	Connor Eargle	Hayden Eargle	Cameron Bucknam	Brayden Rutherford
Acolyte	Brayden Johnson	MacKenzie Burns	Chanler Coppens	Aaron Head
Lector	Ricky Bouknight	Parker Boulware	Angie Hydrick	Dylan Whitaker
Comm Assts	Connor Eargle	Hayden Eargle	Cameron Bucknam	Brayden Rutherford
	Ricky Bouknight	MacKenzie Burns	Chanler Coppens	Dylan Whitaker
	Fran Bouknight	Parker Boulware	Cheri Coppens	Aaron Head
	Lynn Bouknight	Diane Boulware	Angie Hydrick	David Marsh
	Marion Leaphart Cindy Leaphart	Debbie Fulmer	Marie Gardner	Scotty Marsh
Audio	Mike Rawl	Arron Kinard	Blake Allen	Brandon Donaldson
Video	Leah Rawl	Quentin Kinard	Breanna Metze	Marie Gardner
Nursery	Robin Machajewski	Melanie Jackson	Alyson Price	Kay Bryant
	Brittany Allen	Katie Donaldson	Brittany Allen	Larry Amick
Flowers	OPEN	David & Scottie Marsh	Sherwood Garrett	Joel & Devona Price

SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

COUNCIL REP: Danny Scott

ALTAR GUILD: Jennifer Price & Angie Hydrick

TABULATORS: Ronnie Fulmer, Mary Price

** If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to serve in your absence.*

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Oct 02	Amanda Mills
Oct 03	Bryson Johnson
	♥ Oct 02 Jon & Tiffany Kaylor
	♥ Oct 03 Jason & Kim Addy
Oct 04	Georgianna Gray
Oct 09	Tanner Addy
Oct 11	Jennifer Price
Oct 17	Presley Miller, Aura Swygert, Aiden Thompson
Oct 18	Audrey Jennings
Oct 19	Emily Arroyo
Oct 20	Jean Shealy
	♥ Oct 20 Rick & Daryl Leigh Anthony
Oct 21	Preston Bryant, Denise Thurman
Oct 22	Becky Johnson, Sophie Martin
Oct 23	Mackenzie Burns
	♥ Oct 26 Thomas & Danni Martin
Oct 27	Lynn Card
Oct 28	Cody Kleckley, Jackson Price
Oct 29	Marion Leaphart, Emily Morris
Oct 31	Gable Jolly

Please let the office know if your information is not printed in this listing.
office@WeAreMtHermon.com or 803.240-3143

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MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, *Asbury Arms*
Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place*
Doris Carver, *Presby Home*
Georgianna Gray, *home*
James Hallman, *Lakeside Place*
Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care*

Gloria Mathias, *home*
Ronnie Mathias, *Lex Med Center*
Jane Sexton, *Phoenix Asst Living*
Jean Shealy, *Lex Ext Care Rehab*
Cyndi Thurman, *home*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Chris Carroll	Debbie Duval	Renee Greenbaum
Joye Haygood	Skyler Miller	Dennis Thurman
Mary Frances Sease	Jim Whitaker	Lauren Addy

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayer

Billy Huckabee, *friend of Danny Scott*
Stetson Cooper, *grandson of Dan Cooper*
Paula Miller, *friend of Brittany Allen*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck,
 friend of Robin Ellisor
John Catoe, *family of the Ellisors*
Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn),
 friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
Mrs. Cruz, *teacher of Abbey Carroll*
Phil Dennis, *brother of Lavonne Roof*
Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,
 friends of Debra & Dave Butts
Sandra Watson,
 aunt of Courtney Bucknam
Jaimie Womack,
 friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price
Cynthia Rabon,
 friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price
Blase Rhine,
 grandson of Frank & Bonnie Bouknight
Jeslyn, *friend of Scarlett Bryant*
Faye McCartha, *mother of Debra Butts*
Robbie Rector, *friend Jennifer Miller*
Bill Geddings, *father of Allison Swygert*
Jane Baxley, *cousin of Michelle Gantt*
Joyce Davis,
 grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik

Will & Summer Satcher,
 friend of Courtney Bucknam
Sam Lockridge, *friend of Scottie Marsh*
Mary Duffie, *mother of Alyson Price*
Thelma Moyer,
 mother of Diane Boulware
Kaiden Howell,
 friend of Jacquelynn Hawlik
Randy Stonehill,
 friend of Ryan & Jennifer
Linda Bennett, *mother of Beth Jordan*
Neice of Abbey Carroll's teacher
Singley & Parisano families,
 friends of Sam & Kathy Cooper
Joy Jordan, *friend of Michelle Gantt*
Dorris Layton,
 friend of Earl & Mary Frances Sease
Jody Harper, *friend of Kelli Goff*
Tressa Oswalt, *Angie Hydrick's sister*
Wayne LaBounty,
 friend of Herb Bucknam
Scarlett Redmen,
 cousin of Kinard Family
Jon Ellis, *friend of Ryan Price*
Joe & Billy Corder, *friends of Ryan Price*
Michael Williams,
 Son-in-law Georgianna Gray

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00am Worship 10:30am New Disciples Class 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Worship Team 3:00pm FH: Legacy Planning Seminar	29	30 4:30pm Driver Training Class	1 9:00am Food Pantry (Mary Price, Angie Hydrick, Sherwood Garrett) 9:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Driver Training Class 6:00pm CR: Travel Team	2 4:30pm Driver Training Class	3	4 9:00am Food Pantry (Koon Family)
5 9:00am Worship - Homecoming 10:45am Program Luncheon	6 5:30pm CR: Care Team	7 5:00pm Executive Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support	8 9:00am Food Pantry (Ann Addy, Ann Bouknight, Sharon Keefe) 12:05pm OneBody	9 6:00pm Choir Practice	10	11 9:00am Food Pantry (Lynn Bouknight, Karen Nicholson) 12:00pm Confirmation Faith Statements Due
12 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Council Meets	13 Columbus Day 6:30pm Lutheran Men & Women 	14 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	15 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease, Mary Price) 9:30am Staff Meeting	16	17	18 9:00am Food Pantry (Wayne & Charlene Corley) 3:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal
19 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Teach Team 3:00pm Youth: Marty Party	20	21 6:00pm CR: Finance Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support	22 9:00am Food Pantry (Debbie & Rick Duval, Jamie & Nancy Addison) 12:05pm OneBody	23 6:00pm CR: Outreach Team	24 Newsletter Information Deadline	25 9:00am Food Pantry (Swygerts & Carrolls)
26 Reformation Sunday 9:00am Worship Confirmation 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Worship Team 4:30pm Harvest Festival 	27 PG Convocation	28 PG Convocation 6:30pm CR: Support Team 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	29 PG Convocation 9:00am Food Pantry (Jamie Addison, Nancy Addison, Denise Royal)	30	31	1 All Saints Day FH: Synod Meeting 8:00am Family Apple Picking 9:00am Food Pantry (Laura & Al Stevens, Frank Bouknight)



WeAreMtHermon

Mt Hermon Lutheran Church
3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Homecoming
October 5th

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor*
Roberta Smith *Parish Administrator*

803.951.3784
803.240.3143

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com
Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

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