

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

November 2025



GRACE AND WORSHIP

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Romans 3:21-24

This past Sunday, we celebrated Reformation Sunday together as a congregation, and what a joyful celebration it was! I am especially delighted to announce that two new students were confirmed into our faith family at Mt. Hermon: Aaron Head and Dylan Whitaker. We welcome them warmly to this community of faith. Their confirmation reminds us of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in calling people to faith and strengthening them in their walk with Christ.

Many Christian denominations believe in grace, and rightly so—it is central to our faith. However, the understanding of grace differs among Christians. While some denominations believe that grace is primarily shared through their sacraments or earned through religious practices, Lutherans understand grace to be God's love freely given. There is nothing we can do to earn more grace, and there is nothing we can do to earn less. It is a gift from God, pure and simple.

The Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Romans that we are justified by grace as a gift. Hear that? We are all sinners! We all fall short of the glory of God. But then—and here is the good news that changes everything—because of Jesus, we are made right with God through the blood of Jesus as a gift! Not because we deserved it. Not because we worked hard enough. But simply because God loves us and chose to give us this incredible gift.

Many of you are very good at sending thank you notes. I know because I have received some from you, and they always brighten my day. When someone gives you a gift—especially a meaningful, generous gift—the natural response is gratitude. Now, imagine receiving a gift so enormous, so valuable, so life-changing that you could never possibly repay it. Perhaps you might understand that worship is our response to a gift that we could never be able to repay.

Worship is the highest form of praise that we offer to God. That's why we worship! We don't worship to earn God's favor or to check it off a list. We worship to continue the thank you and praise to the God who gave us everything that we have. Our very lives, our families, our faith, our salvation—all of it is gift. And so we gather week after week, not out of obligation, but out of joy and thanksgiving.

*Sister in Christ,
Pastor Gina*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

CHURCH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

Motion from the September Council meeting

Approved 2026 mission plan.

Nominations from council: Jamie Addison, Diane Boulware, Angie Hydrick, Melanie Jackson, Hayden Eargle, youth nominee

Congregational Council Minutes September 2025

ATTENDANCE: Absent – Jennifer Miller, Jerry Price, Danny Scott, Pastor Gina

CARES AND CONCERNS: Prayers for the highway patrolman who was struck by the roadside this week; Angie Hydrick's sister, Tressa, who was recently diagnosed with congestive heart failure.

MEMBER CARE:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented with the addition of a recommendation from Executive Committee

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Accepted as presented

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Report for September 2025 was submitted.
- Treasurer: No reports were submitted due to the treasurer being on vacation
- Financial Secretary: Funds Report for August 2025 was submitted.
- Executive Committee: The Executive Committee recommends that Greg Bowman be allowed to rent the parsonage at the current rental rate. Executive Committee will draw up the lease agreement for Greg to sign. **PASSED unanimously.**

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Team for Ministry:

Care: Written report submitted.

Outreach: Written report submitted. Mt. Hermon will work jointly with Mt. Hebron to sponsor a Fall Festival to be held at Mt. Hebron on Sunday, October 26 at 4:30. We will provide helpers and funds for the food.

Support: Written report submitted.

Finance: No report submitted.

Teach: No report submitted.

Worship: Written report submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Director of Music Search Team – The team has approached Ryan Price, Irina Roof, and Josh Evonovich to see if they are willing to tag team this position. They plan to meet with all parties to see if this is a viable option.
2. Stage Curtain – The deposit has been paid, and work should begin in December.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Parsonage Rental – This item was addressed under Executive Committee.
2. 2026 Budget Requests by September 28, 2025 – Committees should turn in all budget requests to Finance Committee as soon as possible.
3. Next Meeting: Sunday, October 12, 2025, at 11:30am
4. Next Month's Devotions and Lock Up – Danny Scott

Sheila Eargle, Council Secretary

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ATTENDANCE REPORT

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Live Streaming</u>	<u>Total</u>
Oct 5	102	177	279
Oct 12	66	181	247
Oct 19	103	173	276
Oct 26	110	152	262

TREASURER REPORT

Loan Balance 09/30/2025 50,581.52

2025 September	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Difference
Current & Benevolence	14,576.55	26,381.84	(11,805.29)
Building Improvement	7,109.80	6,929.80	180.00
Building Fund	4,570.00	4,974.48	(404.48)

2025 Year to Date	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Difference
Current & Benevolence	178,508.92	205,842.02	(27,333.10)
Building Improvement	19,305.60	18,931.63	373.97
Building Fund	17,527.88	13,677.59	3,850.29

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



2025 Annual Meeting Notice

ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 16

NOMINATING MEETING NOVEMBER 02

TIE-BREAK MEETING NOVEMBER 09

Mt HERMON LUTHERAN Church
3011 LEAPHART RD
WEST COLUMBIA



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

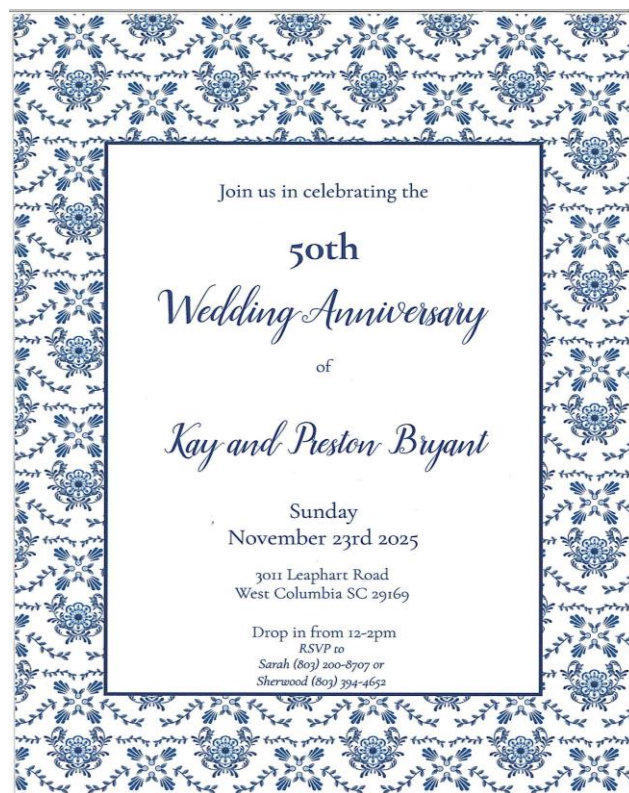
Coffee Food & Fellowship: The congregation will celebrate CFF on November 2nd at 10:30 after service for all the Saints, our new Confirmands and new members. The congregation is asked to bring food items. You can sign up on a sheet in the breezeway. All teams are asked to participate in set-up and clean up. Many thanks.



Mempkin Abbey
Creche Festival
Saturday, December 6



Travel with us to Mempkin Abbey Creche Festival
theme: Nativity in Wood and With Wood
Bus leaves at 8:30 am
Lunch after at Music Man's Bar-B-Que
Reservations limited to 35 people - sign up in breezeway



**WALKING TOGETHER,
FOSTERING HOPE**

Mental Health and Spiritual Care in the Lutheran Tradition



November 1, 2025
10:00am - 2:00pm Lunch included
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

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!

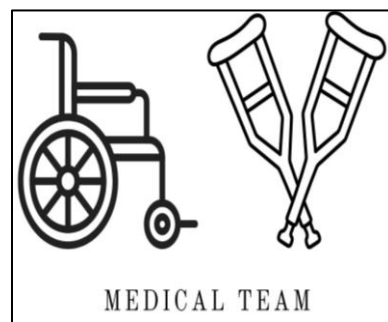


He-Brews Supper Clubs: Our next He-Brews Supper Club is Saturday, November 8th at 6:00 pm. Please register on or before November 2nd.

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

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.



Meal Trains

Jennifer and Skyler Miller

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/6956oy>

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

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.



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Food Pantry Needs

Food Pantry: This month we are collecting canned hams and canned sweet potatoes for our Thanksgiving food bags. We are planning to distribute 75 bags with the makings for Thanksgiving dinner in addition to our regular setups. If you are able to donate any, it would be greatly appreciated. God has enabled us to help feed many families through your continued generosity. Thank you for answering God's call to feed His sheep.

Free Garage Sale

We will host a free garage sale for families in need of assistance on December 5. If you have items in good condition such as furniture, linens, blankets, towels, coats, socks, shoes, gloves, books, children's clothes, baby items, household items, toys, etc. that you are willing to donate, we are ready to start gathering now.

The items can be placed in the room across from the youth room in the church basement. (The only adult clothing we are collecting are jackets, coats and shoes.) Your donations are another way that we are caring for God's children. We are also looking for volunteers to help us organize the donated items the week after Thanksgiving and volunteers to help the day of the Free Garage Sale. If you are interested in assisting us, please let Diane Boulware know by calling her or emailing her at mthoutreach@gmail.com.



Taking Donations Now!



Angel Tree Ministry

Spread Christmas Cheer by sponsoring a child for Christmas. Each year we help children in the community have a brighter Christmas by buying gifts for them. The children are identified by the local schools, and we gather a list of their needs and wants and place them on ornaments. We will have the tree up and the ornaments on it by **Sunday, Nov. 16**. Please make plans to sponsor a child this Christmas. We will also include parents of the children on the tree with some of their needs. We will need the gifts by **Monday, December 8**.

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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.

TEACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

*The Teach Team meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 11:30am in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact **Mary Koon**, **Cyndi Leaphart**, or **any team member** and attend the next meeting.*

Children's Christmas Program

Elementary students will be sharing the Story of the Nativity with our congregation in the season of Advent! This event will be a Blessing to All!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with program practice, costumes, and day-of-performance directing! Reach out to Mary Koon if you feel called to serve!



PARENTS of Elementary Students:

Stay tuned for a questionnaire to determine the best meeting times in Nov / Dec for your child to participate in the Christmas Program practice. We know families are busier than ever with school, family, and community obligations so your feedback is essential so we can help you prioritize this meaningful opportunity!



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YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS!

A small but mighty group attended the MARTY PARTY at Zion Lutheran Church in October! They joined Ebenezer and Christos Victor youth to form a competitive team! About 25 youth from the Lexington area participated to share in fellowship, good sportsmanship, and God's Love!



PARENTS of Youth:

Stayed tuned for a questionnaire to determine winter and spring programs to gauge interest, availability, and commitment! Youth have MANY obligations and social engagements so we want to honor their schedules while providing opportunities to stay rooted in their faith and fellowship!

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.

We wore red and celebrated Aaron Head and Dylan Whitaker Reformation Sunday, October 26th



Aaron Head and his family



Dylan Whitaker and his family

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
Ushers	Joel Price, Sr.	Parker Boulware	Joey Koon	Kirby Johnson	Joel Price, Sr.
	Cindy Price	Jeff Price	Teddy Koon	Arron Kinard	Angie Hydrick
Crucifer	Spencer Price	Mackenzie Burns	Sam Koon	Chanler Coppens	Hayes Wingard
Acolyte	Walker Kinard	Brayden Morris	Sydney Bucknam	Bryson Johnson	Hayden Eargle
Lector	Mary Price	Frankie Jackson	Joey Koon	Kirby Johnson	Charlene Corley
Comm Assts	Arron Kinard	Melanie Jackson	Sam Koon	Chanler Coppens	Kathy Cooper
	Elyse Kinard	Mackenzie Burns	Mary Koon	Danny Scott	Hayes Wingard
	Spencer Price	Frankie Jackson	Sydney Bucknam	Jenny Scott	Charlene Corley
	Walker Kinard Devona Price	Brayden Morris	Terry Swygert	Dani Martin	Wayne Corley
	Wynne Price Mary Price	Denise Thurman	Allison Swygert	Bryson Johnson	Hayden Eargle
Audio	Mike Rawl	Arron Kinard	Blake Allen	Marie Gardner	Ryan Corley
Video	Leah Rawl	Quentin Kinard	Breanna Metze	Brandon Donaldson	Rick Duval
Nursery	Charlene Corley	Cassie Swygert	Charlene Corley	Robin Machajewski	Melanie Jackson
	DJ Plummer	Laura Carroll	DJ Plummer	Brittany Allen	Katie Donaldson
Flowers	Fulmer/ Gardner	Jacksons	Price Families	Joel & Devona Price	Kay Bryant

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

COUNCIL REP: Ronnie Fulmer

ALTAR GUILD: Jennifer Price

TABULATORS: Ann Addy, Mary Frances Sease

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

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



NOVEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

Nov 01	Frank Bouknight
Nov 05	Jessica Goodwin, Alex Greer, Parker Greer
Nov 08	Mary Koon
Nov 11	Karl Dugan, Jerry Ellisor
	♥ Nov 11 Frankie & Melanie Jackson
Nov 12	Joshua Koon
	♥ Nov 13 Curtis & DJ Plummer
Nov 16	Gloria Watson, Kathy Whitaker
Nov 17	Cassie Swygert
Nov 19	Marie Kleckley
Nov 20	Lynn Bouknight
Nov 21	Angie Hydrick, Jon Kaylor
Nov 23	Walker Kinard
Nov 24	Dennis Thurman
Nov 28	Abram Kaylor, Mary Price
	♥ Nov 28 Preston & Kay Bryant
Nov 29	Bella Kaylor
	♥ Nov 30 Ryan & Jennifer Price

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*
Jean Shealy, *Lex Ext Care Rehab*
Cyndi Thurman, *home*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

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

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*
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
Joe & Billy Corder, *friends of Ryan Price*
Michael Williams,
 Son-in-law Georgianna Gray

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00am FH: Synod Mental Health All Saints Day 9:00am Food Pantry (The Kinard Family)
2 All Saints Sunday Daylight-Saving Time Ends 9:00am Nominating Team Meeting 9:00am Worship Annual Nominating 10:15am FH: CFF	3 5:30pm CR: Care Team 6:30pm Team for Ministry	4 5:00pm Executive Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support	5 9:00am Food Pantry (Fran Bouknight, Angie Hydrick, Sherwood Garrett) 9:30am Staff Meeting	6	7	8 9:00am Food Pantry (Laura Stevens & Friend) 6:00pm Hebrews Dinner
9 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Council Meets	10 6:30pm Lutheran Men & Women	11 Veterans Day 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	12 9:00am Food Pantry (Ann Addy, Ann Bouknight, Sharon Keefe) 12:05pm OneBody 6:30pm Choir Practice	13 6:00pm CR: Travel Team	14	15 9:00am Food Pantry (Wayne & Charlene Corley)
16 9:00am Worship 10:30am FH: Annual Meeting 11:30am CR: Teach Team	17	18 6:00pm CR: Finance Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support	19 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease, Mary Price) 9:30am Staff Meeting	20 6:00pm CR: Outreach Team	21 Newsletter Information Deadline	22 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane & Parker Boulware, Elaine Clawson)
23 12:00pm FH: Bryant Anniversary Drop In 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Worship Team	24	25 6:30pm CR: Support Team 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	26 9:00am Food Pantry (Debbie & Rick Duval, Jamie & Nancy Addison) 12:05pm OneBody	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29 9:00am Food Pantry (DJ Plummer & Youth)
30 Advent FH: Free Garage Sale 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School						



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

803.951.3784
803.240.3143

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com
Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

<i>Grace and Worship.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Church Council Happenings.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Attendance Report.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Treasurer Report.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Community Happenings.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Care Team Happenings.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Outreach Team Happenings.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Support Team Happenings.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Teach Team Happenings.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Worship Team Happenings.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Serving in Worship.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Birthdays & Anniversaries.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Mt Hermon Prays.....</i>	<i>11</i>