

Mt. Hebron Lutheran Church

June 2025

A note from the Pastor's desk:

Thursday, May 29th was Ascension Day. It's the day Jesus ascended back into heaven, forty days after his resurrection, as recorded in Acts 1:6-11. The apostles were all gathered together and talking with Jesus when suddenly, "as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight." (Acts 1:9) Two angels then appeared and said to the apostles, "This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11) After the apostles grew tired of staring up at the sky and trying to spot Jesus, they eventually wandered back into Jerusalem, to the place where they were all staying together. (Acts 1:13)

It's unfortunate that we never celebrate the Ascension in worship, as it always falls on a Thursday. But it's a neat story. It heralds the coming of a new season in the church year: Pentecost, which this year falls on Sunday, June 8th. This is the time of year when we say BYE. I've jokingly said before that Advent through Easter is the time of year when we say HI to Jesus, and Pentecost through November is the time of year when we say BYE to Jesus. Starting at Ascension, and continuing through Pentecost, Jesus's followers had to learn how to live and be the church without Jesus physically standing by their side anymore. They had to learn to say BYE.

I wonder what was going through the apostles' minds at that point. Jesus, their leader and teacher and friend for three years, had left them at his death, but miraculously came back three days later. Now, he's left them again! They can no longer listen to him explain the scriptures. They can no longer watch him heal the sick and cast out demons. They can no longer turn to Jesus and ask him a question whenever they need help or they don't understand something. I'm sure they missed him terribly, and felt somewhat adrift.

We might feel the same way. We don't have the physical presence of Jesus with us as a breathing, flesh-and-blood person. And I often think: Wouldn't it be nice if we did? We could ask him questions about the Bible. We could ask for his opinion on current events. We could ask him to tell us the best way to fix the world around us. But maybe it's best if that is not the case. Then, we would just ask Jesus to tell us everything, and that would deprive us of the opportunity to grow in our faith by reading, praying over, studying, and interpreting scripture for ourselves.

Of course, we do still have Jesus – we just have a hard time seeing him. But he's there, in the elements at communion, where two or three are gathered, in the proclamation of the Word, in the faces of our neighbors in need, and in many other ways.

What we also have is the Holy Spirit. During his last night on earth, just before his arrest, Jesus said to the apostles, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." (John 16:12-13) The Holy Spirit is at work among us even today, speaking to us and guiding us into all truth. This month, I pray that you will feel the Holy Spirit at work in your life, and that you would be blessed to listen to it and heed its voice.

-Pastor Christopher

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOK AT OUR YOUTH!

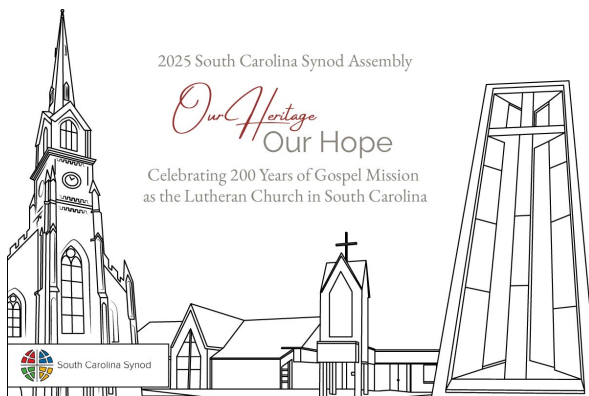


Congratulations to Ethan Barr!
Ethan made the State Clay Target Competition for trap shooting! He also participated in the State Skeet Shoot and won 4th place for the Senior Varsity High School teams! Way to go, Ethan!

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The SC Synod of the ELCA will gather in assembly from June 12th to 14th in North Charleston. This year, we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the South Carolina Synod! The theme of this year's gathering is "Our Heritage, Our Hope." The assembly's focus will be to highlight God's enduring faithfulness throughout time — covering the past, present, and future — in relation to the ministry within and through the South Carolina Synod.

This year we will be electing a new Synod Vice President. A brief job description has been created and shared on the synod website. Please be in prayer for this important election.



Youth Committee will meet **Sunday, June 1st at 8:30am.**

Church council will meet **Sunday, June 8th at 8:30am.**

Pentecost is **Sunday, June 8th!** Join us in wearing red!

Youth group will meet **Wednesday, June 25th at 5:00pm.** We will have snacks, conversation, a brief devotion, and a game! Bring a friend!

WELCA will meet **Thursday, June 26th at 6:00pm.** All women are welcome!

Sunday School will not meet in June and July, but will resume in August.

NEW WAY TO GIVE

There's a new way to give!
Mt. Hebron now has an online giving platform where you can give a memorial, and one time offering, or set up a recurring gift. This can be done through the Tithe.ly app. Many thanks to Denise Derrick for making this option possible!



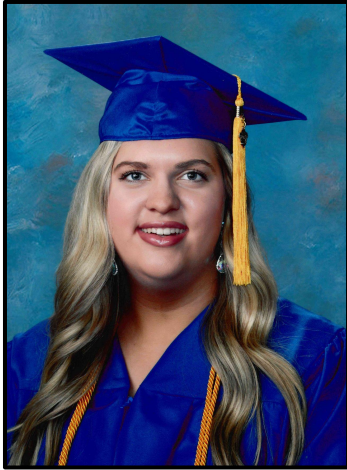
BRUSH UP ON THE CLASSICS

Whether you're packing your bags with romance novels to take to the beach, picking up the latest thriller for your weekend in the mountains, or dusting off some of those classics from your high school summer reading list, it's a great time of year to catch up on some reading!

This summer in worship, we will be brushing up on some classic stories from the Bible – Noah's Ark, David and Goliath, Daniel in the Lion's Den, and more! Please join us as we review these "tried but true" tales from scripture!

This summer sermon series will begin June 22nd and continue through August 31st.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Join us in celebrating two of our youth!
Congratulations to Avery Derrick and Ethan Barr on their high school graduations!

Avery Derrick graduated from King Academy. She plans to attend the University of South Carolina and major in marketing!

Ethan Barr graduated from Batesburg-Leesville High School and plans to attend Midlands Tech as he studies Machine Tools and Entrepreneurship.

We are so proud of you both and cannot wait to see what the Lord has planned for your future!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our Youth and Child Development Committee will host VBS June 16th-19th from 6:00-7:45pm.

This year's theme is **"Women of the Word!"**

Students will learn about various women in the bible, complete service projects, and play games!

Pastor Christopher plans to host an adult class that will meet in the Sanctuary. This class will also focus on various women of the Bible. All are welcome to join!

The committee will provide dinner each night, but asks the congregation to bring drinks and desserts!

WITTENBERG FOOD BANK

Leading up to Easter, Mt. Hebron offered members the chance to purchase Easter lilies as usual. But this year, members also had the opportunity to make a donation to Wittenberg Lutheran's food bank ministry.

Collectively, a total of \$375.00 was raised!
Your donations are greatly appreciated!
Thank you for providing so generously to those in need!



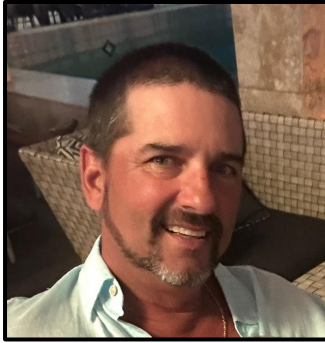
OUTREACH COMMITTEE

On Monday, May 26th, Memorial Day, the Outreach Committee gathered to prepare and deliver lunch plates for several of our members. This is one of the Outreach Committee's yearly projects, and is always greatly appreciated by the recipients of the plates.

Thank you to all the members of this team for your faithfulness!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Clay Derrick has been a member of Mt. Hebron for his entire life. Growing up, Sunday mornings meant church without question, a tradition he continues with his own family today.

Over the years, Clay has served the church in many different ways: as a committee member, church councilman, and as an unofficial "handyman/yard guy." He has always enjoyed serving the congregation. At the same time, he is ready to take a step back, and highly encourages other members to join in serving and helping the church to grow.

One of Clay's fondest memories at church is the many years spent playing on the softball team. They competed in the Gilbert Area Church Softball League, and regularly won the league title. They even won several county titles and placed in the state tournament!

During worship services, Clay particularly enjoys the children's sermon. The children entertain him – you never know what they're going to say! He is impressed by how much they already know about the Bible.

Whenever Clay manages to find a spare moment, you can often find him on his tractor in the pastures.

A fun fact about Clay is that he is the reigning winner of the Mt. Hebron Womanless Beauty Pageant! (There has only been one... so far.)

A funny memory Clay recalls is a youth trip to the Coastal Retreat Center with Cedar Grove on their church bus. The bus was older than anyone on the trip, including the chaperones! It had recapped tires, the fan didn't work, and the starter quit working. The kids didn't care, but "Berta and Aunt Rannie thought it was none too funny." Despite the deteriorating condition of the bus, everyone had a blast!

Clay adds, "I have always loved my church, as have my parents, grandparents and many other members of our family. We face many challenges as a society and as a church family today, and I hope Mt. Hebron can continue to be a place that grows and serves." Clay, thank you for your dedication to Mt. Hebron!

CHURCH HISTORY FROM A TO Z

F is for the Fall of Constantinople, a siege which culminated with the city's conquest on May 29th, 1453. For centuries, the Byzantine Empire had been shrinking and losing strength. By 1453, the empire consisted of Constantinople and its surrounding villages. In April of that year, Sultan Mehmed II and his army laid siege to the town. On May 29th, the army entered the town and conquered it. The Hagia Sophia, Eastern Christianity's holiest site, was made into a mosque. The wave of Byzantines who fled to Europe after the city's downfall contributed to the development of the Renaissance and later, the Protestant Reformation.

F is for fundamentalism, a movement within Christianity of those who claim to keep the fundamentals of faith. In America, fundamentalism started to develop in the late 1800s, as a reaction to several trends: more liberal interpretations of scripture, increased textual criticism of the Bible, and scientific discoveries (like evolution) which called into question literal interpretations of certain passages in scripture. Fundamentalists reject all these ideas, and consider their very strict, literal reading of scripture alone to be valid. Fundamentalist branches exist in every denomination.

F is for Filioque (*fill-ee-OH-kway*), a Latin word which means "and the son." This word appears in the Latin text of the Nicene Creed: "I believe in the Holy Spirit... who proceeds from the Father *and the Son*." These words can profoundly affect how you view the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The phrase was not included in the original text of the creed, as approved by the Council of Nicaea in 325. The inclusion of this phrase by Western churches, starting in the 6th century, led to much disagreement with Eastern churches, and is often cited as one reason why churches in the East and West split in 1054.



The Fall of Constantinople, as depicted in a 15th-century French manuscript

Memory Verse of the Month

Let's memorize scripture together!
Take time this month to memorize
the following verse:

*"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
There is no law against such things."*

-Galatians 5:22-23

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for our Youth Committee as they prepare for Vacation Bible School. Pray that the Lord would use them to share the good news. Prayer for our children and youth who will attend, that they would have open hearts and minds to hear and learn about God's Word.

Pray for the upcoming Synod Assembly: that God would be glorified by the work of the synod, that it would be a time of fellowship and growth, and that the best person would be led to serve in the role of synod vice president.

Pray for our fathers here at Mt. Hebron and around the world. Thank the Lord for all they do for their children and families. Ask God to fill their hearts with love and lead them in the ways they should go.

Pray for our new graduates, Avery and Ethan. As they prepare to meet new people, do new things, and adjust to new routines, ask the Lord to guide them.

Pray for peace in the world around us, that leaders everywhere would be led by the Holy Spirit to drop their weapons of war and work together for all people.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6/5 - Heather Lindler
6/10 - Wade Oxner II
6/18 - Evan Derrick
6/25 - DJ Barr
6/29 - Avery Derrick

JUNE HELPERS

Greeters / Ushers

Brad, Denise, and Avery Derrick

Lectors

6/1 - Glenn Harman
6/8 - Wade Oxner II
6/15 - Elaine Derrick
6/22 - Laiken Brock
6/29 - Joanne Shealy

Tabulators

Farrah Leaphart and Kevin Shealy
Alternate: Glenn Harman

Altar Guild

Del, Elaine, and Chris Derrick

Acolytes

6/1 - Atley Derrick
6/8 - Kellen Shealy
6/15 - Matthew Leaphart
6/22 - Ahlyer Derrick
6/29 - Kellen Shealy

Crucifers

6/8 - Matthew Leaphart
6/15 - Atley Derrick

Torchbearers

6/8 - Ahlyer and Atley Derrick
6/15 - Garrett Barr and Ahlyer Derrick

Flowers

6/1 - Melissa and Joey Ruff
6/8 - Wade Oxner and Family
6/15 - OPEN
6/22 - Elaine and Del Derrick
6/29 - Brad and Denise Derrick

Nursery

6/1 - Carlin Shealy and Sarah Shealy
6/8 - Kristen Derrick and Farrah Leaphart
6/15 - Denise Derrick and Benji Leaphart
6/22 - Amy Harman and Heather Worthy
6/29 - Farrah Leaphart and Sarah Shealy

Contact Pastor Christopher!

If you have a prayer request, questions,
or would like to speak with our pastor,
you can reach him at:

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803-940-7143 (cell)
mthebronpastor@gmail.com