

# *Mt. Hebron Lutheran Church*

September 2025

## *A note from the Pastor's desk:*

With Labor Day comes the unofficial start of fall, and the end of our summer series, "Brush Up on the Classics." Over the last three months, we've been reading some of the most familiar stories from scripture during worship – stories you may have heard for the first time as a kid in Sunday School, and that you may have heard many times since then. I, for one, have enjoyed reviewing these passages about such figures as Abraham, Moses, Ruth, David, and others. I hope that you also have gotten something out of hearing these "tried and true" stories!

As I look back at the list of stories we've read since June, and all the various people we've encountered, a few themes emerge.

**1) God is at work even when all hope seems lost.** The whole world was flooding, but God used Noah to preserve a remnant of life. Seven years of famine were about to strike the land of Egypt, but God used Joseph to save the people from starvation. The Israelites appeared to be stuck in slavery forever, but God used Moses to bring them out of Egypt, leading them across the Red Sea. All the Jews were in danger of being annihilated, but God used Esther to forestall their destruction. When all hope seems lost, count on God to step in!

**2) God works through people whom you wouldn't expect.** Rahab was a prostitute, but God used her to save the spies that Joshua sent to Jericho. (And she became an ancestor of Jesus.) David was just an unimpressive shepherd, but God used him to defeat the Philistine giant Goliath. Ruth was a Moabite – not even a member of God's covenant people – yet she became the great-grandmother of King David. Esther belonged to the king's harem, yet on account of her courageous action, the Jewish people were saved. If you think there's a person or group of people that God couldn't possibly use – think again!

**3) God works through people despite their hesitation, flaws, or history.** Moses had a whole list of reasons why he didn't want to go to Egypt, but it was him that God sent. Samson turned aside from following God many times during his life, but in his last moments, God used him to achieve a great victory over the Philistines. After Moses died, Joshua might've been a bit nervous because he had some mighty big shoes to fill as the leader of the Israelites. But God worked through him to bring the people into the Promised Land. If you don't think God could possibly use you because of your sinfulness or lack of ability, rest assured that God has already taken those things into account!

In short, it seems to me that many of these heroes of scripture were just ordinary people who were called by God to extraordinary things. That leads me to ponder: What extraordinary things might God be calling all of US ordinary people to do?

**-Pastor Christopher**

## HOMEcoming



On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, Mt. Hebron celebrated homecoming!

88 people gathered for worship, communion, and fellowship as we gave thanks to God for another year of ministry. Our guest speaker, former pastor of Mt. Hebron Reverend Tommy Lineberger, gave a wonderful message and assisted with worship.

Everyone gathered in the fellowship hall after worship for a delicious covered dish meal. A great time was had by all!

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the day's festivities.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES



During July and August, the members of Mt. Hebron collected school supplies for students in our local schools! These supplies will be given to students who may not be able to afford what they need for school.

They have already been delivered to Marett Bishop, the Lexington School District 3 social worker, who will distribute them accordingly.

Many thanks to all those who contributed – you are being God's hands and feet in the world by serving those in need!

## JULY FINANCES

Starting this month, each newsletter will contain a review of recent church finances.

In July, the church had expenses from the General Fund totalling \$1,551.46 more than what came in from offerings. The other funds had no noteworthy changes.

Through July, the church's budgeted amount was \$81,997.00, and the church had expenses of \$78,652.77 – about \$3,000 under budget.

The total church income for the year through July was \$56,629.92 – about \$22,000 behind our expenses.

**Sunday School** will resume **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am** with classes for children, confirmands, and adults. Please plan to attend!

**Church council** will meet **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.**

**LMM** will meet **Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30am.**

**Youth group** will meet **Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.** All youth welcome! Bring a friend!

**WELCA** will meet **Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.** All women are welcome!

**Youth Committee** will meet **Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.**

The Youth Committee is planning our Fall Festival! **Mark you calendars for Saturday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> from 4-6!**

## BIRTHDAY DROP-IN



Hoyt Prosser is turning 90 on September 1<sup>st</sup>! There will be a drop-in for him **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 2-4** in the church fellowship hall. He would love to see you there!

## NEW CONTACT INFO

Avery Derrick has officially moved on campus at USC! Her new mailing address is:

USC Mail #99730  
1300 Wheat St  
Columbia, SC 29225

Additionally, Laiken Brock has a new mailing address for the year:

1100 Cambridge Creek Court  
APT 614  
Clemson, SC 29631



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jo Ann Williams is our newest member of Mt. Hebron! She officially joined just two months ago on June 29<sup>th</sup>, after having visited us since the latter part of 2024. Originally from Cedar Grove Lutheran, Jo Ann was looking for a new church, and she knew a number of people here who made her feel very welcome.

Since joining Mt. Hebron, Jo Ann has joined WELCA. In the past, she has also served as lector and a member of the Care Committee, visiting homebound members.

Jo Ann loves to make a joyful noise, despite her belief that she doesn't sing very well! On Sunday mornings, she enjoys singing the hymns and the Lord's Prayer on communion Sundays. She also enjoys the sermon.

Something interesting about Jo Ann is that she worked in the Medical Record Dept. at Palmetto Health Richland Hospital – for 44 years! Influenced by her time working in a teaching hospital, Jo Ann has decided to donate her body to the Medical School after her death.

In her spare time, Jo Ann cultivates relationships with the people around her. When they are in town, she loves hanging out with her daughters – Holly who lives in Houston, TX, and Hope who lives in Sumter. Jo Ann volunteers her time each week at two different food pantries, as a meaningful way to give back to the community. And, Jo Ann likes to travel! She and a friend are going on a bus trip this month to Mackinac Island, Michigan. In March, they will be cruising through the Panama Canal!

Jo Ann, we are delighted to have you here as a member of Mt. Hebron! We thank God for your faith, and we are so excited to get to know you better,

# CHURCH HISTORY FROM A TO Z

**I is for Inquisition**, a judicial practice of the Catholic Church for several centuries. Judges investigated claims of heresy, apostasy (returning to non-Catholic beliefs), witchcraft, and other things. Inquisitors came to be known for their brutality, sometimes torturing people to extract confessions. The Inquisition was most active in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, and lasted from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 2000, Pope John Paul II apologized on behalf of the church for sins committed during the Inquisition.

**I is for Incarnation**, the Christian belief that God took on flesh and came down to earth, in the person of Jesus. This idea is referenced in scripture, most notably in John 1:14 – “And the Word became flesh and lived among us.” The idea of incarnation led the early church to conclude that Jesus retained both his divinity and his humanity: he was both fully God and fully human. Over the years, theologians have wondered: why did God become human anyway? Perhaps the incarnation is the fulfillment of God's desire to draw closer to humanity, to “walk with us.”

**I is for indulgence**, a particular doctrine of the Catholic Church. When someone sins and then repents, they are forgiven, but some punishment for their sin remains. An indulgence is meant to lessen this punishment. To receive an indulgence, one must complete a specific task: saying a certain prayer, doing a particular good work, or even making a pilgrimage. In the Middle Ages, indulgences were often sold for money. Luther accused the church of taking advantage of poor people by selling them indulgences and using the money to finance large building projects.



The Heavenly and Earthly Trinities, by Murillo,  
A 17<sup>th</sup>-century representation of the incarnation

### Memory Verse of the Month

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

*"God chose what is foolish in the world  
to shame the wise;  
God chose what is weak in the world  
to shame the strong."*

-1 Corinthians 1:27

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Continue praying for Delores Spires, that she would recover well from recent hip surgery and pneumonia.

Pray for the Christian Ministry Center, that the Lord would bless their work, provide for their needs, and draw people to Christ through their ministry.

Pray for our neighboring congregations, that we would all work together to do God's will, and that people would be led to Christ through our efforts.

Pray for an end to conflict in Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, sub-Saharan Africa, and elsewhere.  
Pray for those who work for peace.

Pray for our political leaders, that they would seek to do the most good for the greatest number of people.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9/1 - Hoyt Prosser  
9/4 - Jim Worthy  
9/9 - Michala Brown  
9/10 - Beverly Barr  
9/12 - Daniel Lowman

9/12 - Melissa Shaver  
9/16 - Adrianna Oxner  
9/19 - Barbara Oxner  
9/20 - Andrea Derrick  
9/28 - Kevin Shealy

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

9/18 - Brad and Denise Derrick  
9/21 - Jim and Heather Worthy

## SEPTEMBER HELPERS

### Greeters / Ushers

Evan, Kristen, Ahlyer, Atley, and Windsor Derrick

### Lectors

9/7 - Janine McCartha  
9/14 - Ethan Barr  
9/21 - Glenn Harman  
9/28 - Wade Oxner II

### Tabulators

Clay Derrick and Farrah Leaphart  
*Alternate: Amy Harman*

### Altar Guild

Keith and Martha Oxner

### Acolytes

9/7 - Atley Derrick  
9/14 - Kellen Shealy  
9/21 - Garrett Barr  
9/28 - Matthew Leaphart

### Crucifers

9/7 - Ahlyer Derrick

### Torchbearers

9/7 - Garrett Barr and Atley Derrick

### Flowers

9/7 - OPEN  
9/14 - Lindler Family  
9/21 - Del and Elaine Derrick  
9/28 - OPEN

### Nursery

9/7 - Farrah Leaphart and Sarah Shealy  
9/14 - Kristen Derrick and Carlin Shealy  
9/21 - Amy Harman and Benji Leaphart  
9/28 - Amy Harman and Heather Worthy

### Contact Pastor Christopher!

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

803-580-5215 (office)  
803-940-7143 (cell)  
mthebronpastor@gmail.com