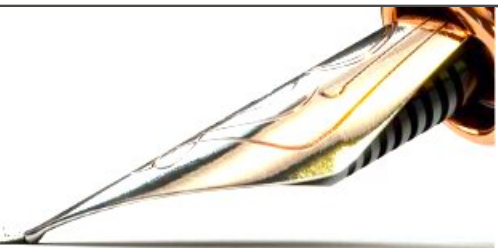
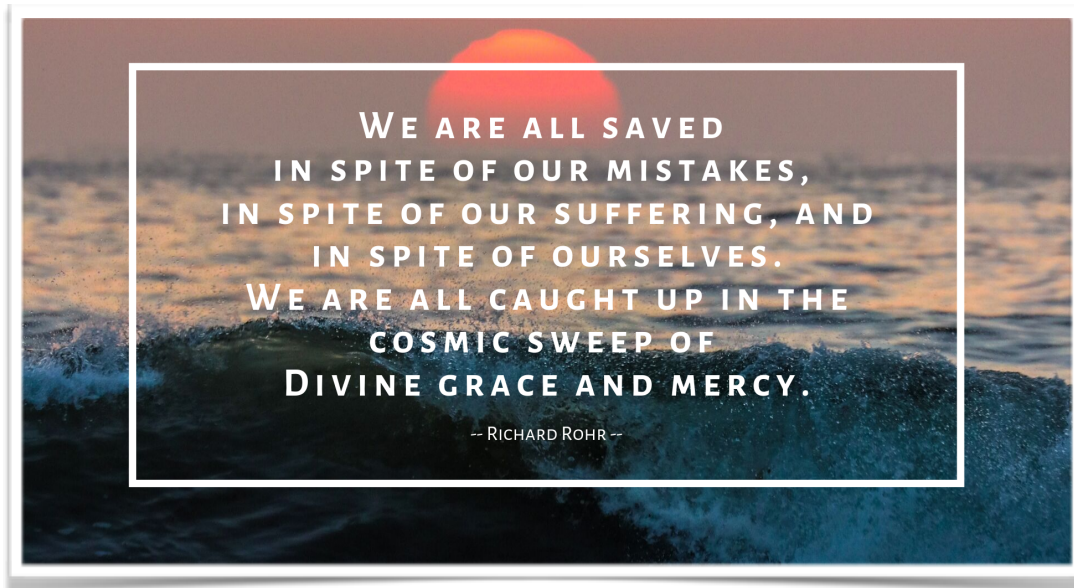


# Grace Notes



A publication of Shades Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA), Birmingham, AL ✚ October, 2019



## Reformation Weekend

### *Saturday, Oct. 26*



#### **10:00AM - Blessing of Animals**

Bring your pet(s) to Homewood Central Park for this annual celebration of creatures great and small. A short service, including the individual blessing of each pet begins at approximately 10:00AM. Fun for the whole family, including those we are blessed to have as pets.

### *Sunday, Oct. 27*

#### **9:30AM - Reformation Eucharist**

We'll "pull out all the stops" for this annual celebration of the Holy Spirit's ongoing reformation of the Church. Wear red, the liturgical color of the day, and invite a friend to this festival eucharist.

### *Sunday, Oct. 27*

## **Oktoberfest 2019**

**Sunday, October 27, 3:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Food - Music - Beer - Fellowship**

**More Details Coming Soon**

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**Pastor Eric Murray**  
**CONJECTURES**

***The Cosmic Sweep***

If what I suggested in last month’s article is true, namely that God in Christ is not separate from us, but rather present in all things, all around us, all the time, then it seems to me that God intends to save all people, all things, indeed the entire creation. How could God not do so? God created everything and declared from the beginning that it was “good, good, good, good, good,..very good!”

In the letter to the congregation in Ephesus, we read:

*God has taken pleasure in revealing the mystery of the plan through Christ, to be carried out in the fullness of time; namely, to bring all things — in heaven and on earth — together in Christ.*

The Franciscan author, Richard Rohr says it this way:

*The good news of the Gospel is that God is saving and redeeming the Whole first and foremost, and we are all caught up in this Cosmic Sweep of Divine Love.*

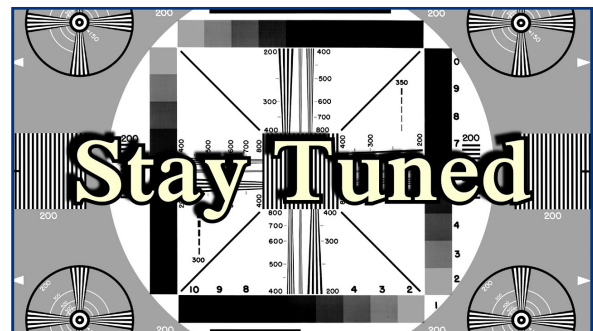
The God of Love made the Whole and will not stop until God has saved everything entirely.

But, what is involved in this saving and redeeming the Whole? Remember, that word so often translated as “saved” can also be translated as “healed”. So, think of it this way, God’s salvation comes in the form of mending and healing everything. Every last person, animal, plant, planet, healed and made whole.

God is at this moment working to bring healing, reconciliation, unity, wholeness to the whole of the cosmos. And, that is good news. It is good news because God is the one initiating it and God is the one who will bring it to completion. We are free then to simply trust God’s intention and allow ourselves to get caught up in the *cosmic sweep of divine love*, joining God in this work to heal all people and the creation in Christ.

“From beginning to end Christ is there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is Christ, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in Christ without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe— people and things, animals and atoms— get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies,”

- Colossians 1:19-20 (THE MESSAGE)



*for news on an exciting new ministry opportunity*

**“UNITED”  
 TRANSFORMATIONAL  
 MINISTRY 2.0**

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

### Music

*The spiritual pathway to illuminate your soul!*

*by Rebecca Rehorst*



I would like to thank Shades Valley Lutheran for making me feel very welcomed in my first few weeks as music director! I have had the opportunity to serve many different congregations and denominations as director, vocalist, pianist and organist, bell choir director, choir direct, children's choir director and special music coordinator.

My goal as a director is to allow music to envelop the soul and move each of us closer to our relationship with God. Through various styles, orchestrations and instrumentation, I believe music can reach each of us in astounding ways! Be it music with words or without words, simple or complex, it can deeply touch us in ways that nothing else can.

I believe that the purpose of music in worship is to support scripture and to align with the overall theme at particular times in a worship setting. I strongly believe that involvement in music from young children to older adults in a variety of ways has a strong impact in the community of the church, strengthens the bond of its members with each other and their personal relationship with God and brings an overall heightened sense of spirituality to those participating in worship.

I look forward to developing and broadening the worship experience via the conduit of inspiring music experiences at Shades Valley Lutheran Church!

## SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRY

### Pub Theology

**October 10,  
7:00-9:00PM**

#### SOHO Social

Pub Theology is an informal gathering of seekers, questioners, religious, spiritualists, humanists, believers, and non-believers, any who are interested in discussing culture and faith in a PUBLIC setting.

All are welcome to join us for great company, conversation, and theological/spiritual discussion on October 10 from 7-9pm at **SOHO Social, 1830 29TH AVE S - Homewood.**



## Courtyard Conversations

**Thursday, Oct. 24, 7:00 - 9:00PM**

**In the courtyard at Shades Valley**

On Thursday evening, October 24, Pastors Eric and Pauline are building a fire pit campfire in the courtyard at Shades Valley.



They would love for you to pull a chair up and join them around the fire.

There is no agenda or study involved, just a desire to enjoy a campfire and the company of others. If you want, bring your own beverage and/or snack, along with a thirst for conversation. (If you have one, a folding chair might be good, too).

Come any time between 7:00-9:00PM and stay as long as you like.

## FAMILY MINISTRY



### **Children's Church**

We will have Children's Church during the WORD section of worship (following Children's Message up to the Offering

time) children (PreK-5th grades) have the option of moving to the chapel for an abbreviated Sunday school lesson and craft.

Children's Church is based off of the Whirl Lectionary series from Sparkhouse. It follows the Year C lectionary that is being followed in our worship service. A couple stories we have discussed are "Hospitality and Humility" and "Pray for Everyone."

### **Middle School Catechism - Parents' Meeting**

**Sunday, Oct. 6 ~ 10:45AM**

#### **Bonhoeffer Room**

Parents of middle school (junior high) youth will meet with Pastor Eric on Sunday, Oct. 6 following worship to discuss and plan this year's catechism schedule. All parents are encouraged to attend. Anyone who is interested in helping with our middle school confirmation ministry is welcome to join us.

### **Senior High Bible Study** **Wednesday evenings at 5:30PM.**

### **Jr. & Sr. High Youth Activities**

**November 9-10, 2019**

All Tennessee (Trinity, Hixon, TN)

**February 9-10, 2020**

All GA (Camp Grace, Roberta, GA)

**March 13-15, 2020**

SESLYO Assembly (Lutheranch)

**June 14-19**

Affirm (UWA)

### **Did You Know**

**SVLC uses**

**CTRN Church Directory?**



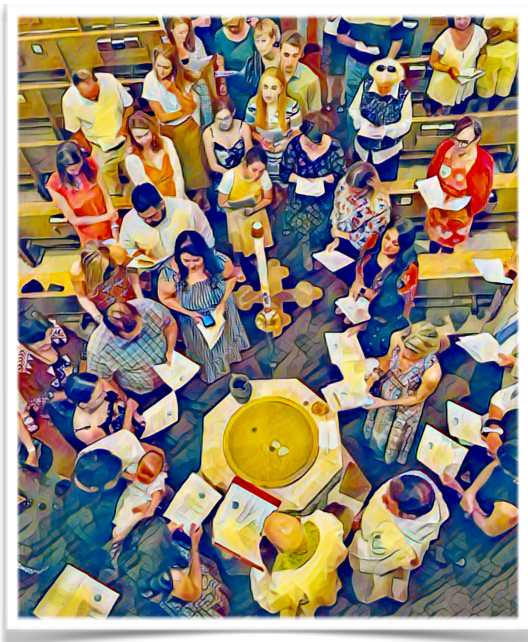
CTRN is an online, easily accessible church directory. You can access SVLC's member directory and update your photo and personal information via [shadesvalleylutheran.org/resources](http://shadesvalleylutheran.org/resources)

Access is password protected, so if you have yet to log on, please email [Susan Harchelroad](mailto:Susan.Harchelroad) or call or text at #205-470-3191 to request a password.

Beyond online access, CTRN has developed a secure church mobile app with many great features. Enjoy the benefit of secure access to your Online Church Directory, from any mobile device anywhere and anytime! The app is available for Apple and Android mobile devices.

Of course, privacy and security is paramount. With the CTRN Church Directory app, your information is **not** accessible to the general public or general "phishing" programs.

SVLC is planning to begin using the message / notification feature included in the app. So, if you haven't already, please download the app — it's free — and set it to allow notifications.



## **Around the Font**

### ***Are You Missing SVLC's Wednesday Dinners?***

If so, please let your council and Pastor Eric know. Better yet, if you know of a caterer or chef — one willing to barter for use of a fully equipped kitchen in exchange for cooking meals for SVLC on Wednesday nights — please let us know.

### ***T-shirt Youth Fundraiser***

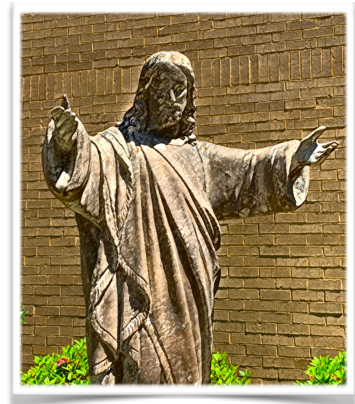
T-shirts are still available if you are interested in purchasing one. Please contact the office (#205-871-3512) to purchase your shirt today!

### ***Worship Assistants Training***

On October 20, SVLC will have a training session for current worship assistants, as well as those interested in being a Lay Assistant, Acolyte, Crucifer, Communion Assistant, Altar Guild or Usher. The training will be after worship at 10:45am. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

### **Missing Jesus?**

We are sad to report that Jesus took a tumble off his fountain pedestal and suffered a broken wrist. Those angels may keep him from dashing a foot against a stone, but apparently they are less concerned with wrists. Doubtless you will quote to him this proverb, *'Doctor, cure yourself!'* Alas, no. But, Jesus is receiving treatment and if everything heals properly, he'll be back on his pedestal soon, ready to greet any and all who enter the doors of Shades Valley.



### ***Oktoberfest Help Needed***

If you like planning and hosting parties, or are just looking for a way to help out, we have an opportunity for you. Oktoberfest is coming up on Sunday, October 27 from 3:00-7:00PM. If you are willing to help with planning, cooking, set-up, clean-up, advertising, or in some other way, please contact Pastor Eric to volunteer.

## **October Birthdays**

- 10/1** Jason Cristofani
- 10/4** Joel Arnold  
Kathryn Minton
- 10/5** Stan Smith  
Candy Wallace
- 10/8** Lucille McCoy  
Taft Walley
- 10/12** Kristi Minton
- 10/13** Jase Harper
- 10/14** Carolyn Galgano  
Gretchen Sexton
- 10/20** Jan Snider
- 10/25** Ashleigh Walley
- 10/30** Deanna Cox  
Courtney  
McCoy-Goodwin

## Prayer & Practices:

### Entering the Story

Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, popularized this form of prayer in which you imagine yourself in a scene from scripture. It is a way of letting God speak to you through your imagination.

First, choose a narrative passage from scripture, one that you enjoy. Then,...

**Read the text slowly and carefully;** recall what it is about; then let it come alive for you!

**Place yourself inside the story,** using your imagination; become one of the characters in the scene.

**Participate in the dynamics of the scene,** dialoguing & interacting with Jesus and other characters.

**Observe** what is going on around you in the scene: What do you see, hear, feel, smell, taste, touch?

**Dialogue** with the other characters: What do they say or ask you? What do you say or ask them in reply?

**Notice** what is going on inside you as you pray: joy, sorrow, peace, confusion, love, anger, etc.

**Pray:** enter into a short personal conversation with God; speak heart-to-heart, as if conversing with a close friend.

## Thoughts & Prayers

*Please join us in praying for the following:*

### Members...

Paul Schabacker, Marti Rowe, Donna Snider, Gerry Arndt, Marie Dubois

### Friends and relatives...

The Family of Karen Simmons Yarborough, Sarah Stephenson, The Family of Ronald Curlings, Cindy Hilton, The Family of Daniel Caldeman, The Family of Heather Turney, The Family of Branden Malone, Jana Thomas, Kinsley Green, Suzie Easterling

### Our Church...

Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and our Bishop Elizabeth.

Our ELCA – Southeastern Synod, and our Bishop Kevin.



## Sunday Worship Scripture Texts for October

Date	First Reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel
Oct. 6	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4	Psalms 37:1-9	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
Oct. 13	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c	Psalms 111	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
Oct. 20	Genesis 32:22-32	Psalms 121	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
Oct. 27	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalms 46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36

## ELCA NEWS



**LDR**  
*assists flooding victims in the United States*

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

### U.S. Flooding

Periods of heavy rainfall in southeastern Texas have resulted in widespread flooding and that some residents in and around Houston report to be worse than what they remember during Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Neighborhoods, roads and farms are completely submerged.

Cleanup continues in Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, and other states affected by spring floods and severe storms over the summer months, where historic flood levels were recorded at 42 locations.

### Our response:

Lutheran Disaster Response is responding to these emergencies through congregations, synods and our affiliates across Texas, Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin and Missouri.

### What you can do:

Gifts to "U.S. flooding" will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those affected by flooding until the response is complete.

## SYNOD NEWS

**Rev. Kevin Strickland**  
**to be installed as Bishop of the ELCA-Southeastern Synod on October 5**



The service of Holy Communion with the Rite of Installation of The Reverend Kevin Lyle Strickland as Bishop of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will occur at 2pm EDT on Saturday, October 5th at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, GA. All are welcome!

Prior to being elected Bishop of the Southeastern Synod on June 2, 2019, Bishop Strickland served as the Assistant to the ELCA Presiding Bishop — Executive for Worship of the ELCA. His service with the ELCA churchwide staff in Chicago began in August 2014.

Born and raised in Lexington, SC, Bishop Strickland is an honors graduate of Newberry College (Newberry, SC) with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Philosophy and a minor in History. He also received a Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Columbia, SC).

Following his ordination Bishop Strickland served as pastor of St. Paul (Maryville, TN) and Holy Trinity (Nashville, TN). Previously Bishop Strickland served in the area of youth and family ministry with Incarnation (Columbia, SC), St. Philip's (Newberry, SC), Church of the Redeemer (Newberry, SC), & Mt. Tabor (W. Columbia, SC).

Bishop Strickland has served on various local non-profit boards and has a heart for justice and advocacy ministry.

Bishop Strickland and his spouse, Robby are excited about what God has in store for the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA and look forward to walking this journey together.

## OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	10/6	10/13	10/20	10/27
COFFEE	Joan Carlisle Lois Luther	G&S Vitalis Susan Summers	Gaylia Malone	Anne Scholl Candy Wallace
OPEN/ LOCKUP	J&S Trombley Stuart Hall	J&S Trombley Susan Harchelroad	J&S Trombley Kristin Bakkegard	J&S Trombley Stephen Schrader
FLOWERS	Minton/Curlings	Kezar/Waters	Kezar/Sullivan	Lawler/
USHERS	Terry Carlisle Scott Curlings Phyllis Sullivan Joy Ray	EJ Rauworth Ed Kezar Jack Wallace Rick Lampkin	Blaine Minton Caleb Hopkins John Trombley Greg Vitalis	Lucas McDonald Bruce Montgomery Lane Graham Kristin Bakkegard
ACOLYTE	Lucia Hopkins	Kathryn Minton	Laura Rehder	Edward Cristofani
CRUCIFER	Charlotte Curlings	Olivia Minton	Carson Rehder	Denton McDonald
LECTOR	Stuart Hall	Maria Hopkins	Sharon Lampkin	Sandy Vitalis
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Stuart Hall Amy Cristofani	Johanna Graham Maria Hopkins	Kaitlyn Hall Jack Wallace	Gaylia Malone Bettye Neuhaus
LAY ASSISTANT	Laura Kezar	Regina Stanton	Candy Wallace	Beth Thomas
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Sarah Beth Hall	Gretchen Sexton	Sarah Trombley	Maria Hopkins
NURSERY VOLUNTEER	Blaine Minton	Gail McCormick	Susan Summers	Cindy Graham
ALTAR GUILD	Roberta Stamp Debbie Reid			

## Shades Valley Lutheran Church

**Ministers** - Members of Shades Valley Lutheran Church

### Staff

Office Professional - Sarah Beth Hall     [secretary@shadesvalleylutheran.org](mailto:secretary@shadesvalleylutheran.org)  
 Financial Secretary - Charlie Venable     [finance@shadesvalleylutheran.org](mailto:finance@shadesvalleylutheran.org)  
 Director of Music – Rebecca Rehorst     [music@shadesvalleylutheran.org](mailto:music@shadesvalleylutheran.org)  
 Pastor – Rev. Eric L. Murray     [pastor@shadesvalleylutheran.org](mailto:pastor@shadesvalleylutheran.org)

### Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

ELCA-Southeastern Synod Bishop -- Rev. Kevin Strickland  
 ELCA Presiding Bishop -- Rev. Elizabeth Eaton