

South Carolina Synod, ELCA  
200th Anniversary Celebration  
June 13, 2025

“*Our Heritage*, Our Hope”

We gather today to celebrate the unwavering faithfulness of God—a faithfulness that has been abundantly evident in the past, is powerfully at work in the present, and will continue to guide our path into the future. We come together in celebration as we reflect on ministry both in and through the South Carolina Synod, witnessing how God’s steadfast hand has shaped, sustained, and propelled our shared mission.

Nearly 300 years ago Lutherans from Europe began settling in various places in North America in large numbers. Beginning with the organization of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1748, they organized as Synods in order to work together to serve the needs of the original colonies.

By the time the South Carolina Synod organized in 1824, the Lutheran community had been firmly established in what was now the United States. And, by the time the Synod was established, many congregations had formed in various parts of South Carolina, that the Synod could separate from the North Carolina Synod.

Thus, our story as a Synod began. Today, after two centuries, we remember that story as a story of perseverance in the faith and an ongoing commitment to the Gospel witness in South Carolina. And, of course, many people in South Carolina today claim genealogical roots in the original churches here.

Remembering the legacy of the past also leads us to our own stories of ministry in the present and the future. Truly, God is at work in the South Carolina Synod! We pray that our celebration of our shared history will serve as a guide and an inspiration to a bright future.

Further, we pray for God's blessings in our continued journey of faith as we meet the challenges that lay before us.

# **Program**

## **Dinner**

Please go through the line and be seated

## **Welcome**

Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Secretary

## **Introduction to History**

Rev. Mark Scott, Chair Anniversary Committee

## ***“Our Broken, Glorious Call”***

Written by Rev. John Trump

Directed by Pat Gagliano

## **Worship**

Service compiled by Rev. Frank Anderson

Lead by Rev. Rick Carter, Assistant to the Bishop

Psalm read by Rev. Gregg Hoffman

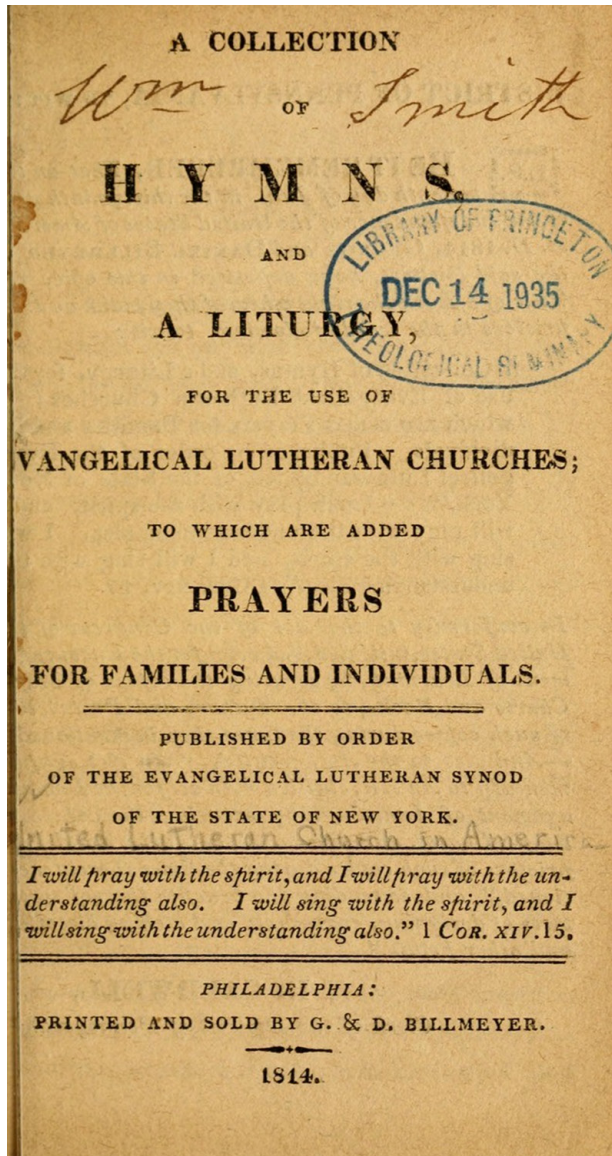
Music led by Neal F. Fischer

## **Closing Remarks**

Bishop Ginny Aebischer

# Evening Worship

200th Anniversary Celebration Dinner + June 13, 2025



## Order of Service

L: In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

P: Amen!

### 452 *Grateful recollections on the journey of life. P.M*

- 1 COME, thou fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise:  
Teach me some melodious measure,  
Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Fill my soul with sacred pleasure,  
While I sing redeeming love.
- 2 Here I raise mine Ebenezer,  
Hither by thy help I've come,  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home:  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to save my soul from danger,  
Interpos'd his precious blood.
- 3 O! to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrain'd to be!  
Let that grace, Lord, like a fetter,  
Bind my wand'ring heart to thee!  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love—  
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,  
Seal it from thy courts above.

**L:** How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord. For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand (Ps. 94, 1.2.10.)

**P:** One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple (Ps. 27, 4).

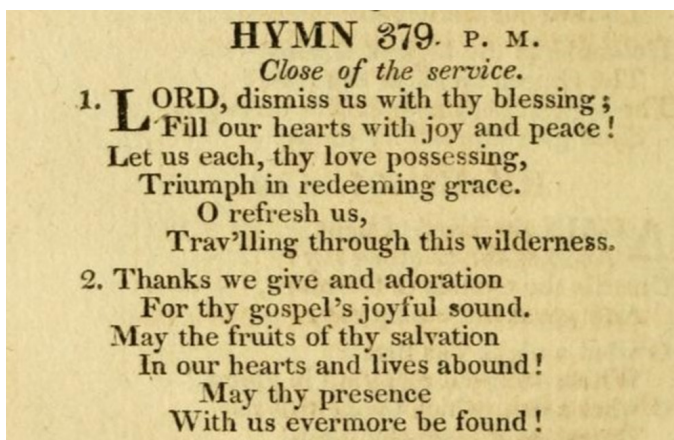
**L:** Let us pray, Almighty and most merciful God, we are now assembled in Thy presence to hear all that shall be spoken in Thy name and by Thy command; we pray Thee: grant that we may receive Thy word with true devotion and faithfully keep it. Remove from us all vain and sinful thoughts, and open our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit, that through the hearing of Thy blessed word we may be made truly to know Thy will, and to conform our lives thereto, to the praise and glory of Thy holy name, and to the salvation of our souls; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

**P:** Amen!

### **Psalm 145:1-7 (KJV)**

I will extol thee, my God, O King; And I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; And I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another,

And shall declare thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, And of thy wondrous works. And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: And I will declare thy greatness. They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, And shall sing of thy righteousness.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father...*

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The love of God, And the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.

P: Amen!

# *“Our Broken, Glorious Call”*

## CAST

Joan, SC Synod Bishop-elect ..... Vicky Saye Van Horne

John Bachman ..... Pat Gagliano

Ensemble ..... Merritt Vann  
Elyssa Mersdorf  
Maximilian Francis  
John Trump

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Playwright ..... John Trump

Director ..... Pat Gagliano

A heartfelt thank you to the cast, playwright, and director for gracing our 200th Anniversary Celebration with such an incredible production! You have helped make this milestone truly unforgettable!

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following who have provided grants and funds to support this 200th Anniversary Dinner Celebration. These generous contributions are a blessing, enabling us to gather in fellowship and commemorate two centuries of God’s grace and faithfulness here in South Carolina.

Through your partnership, we were able to create a truly special evening. We are deeply thankful for your gifts as we celebrate this significant milestone in our synod’s history!

- Foundation Board, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Columbia
- Mission Endowment Fund Grant
- Synod Council—unused, inactive funds designated by the Synod Council for the 200th Anniversary Celebration