

THE CHIMES

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA 301 West Main Street
Walhalla, South Carolina

*We are called and empowered by God to spread the Gospel and
to share the love of Jesus Christ in service to all.*

The Rev. Robert C. Schmeelcke, Interim Pastor

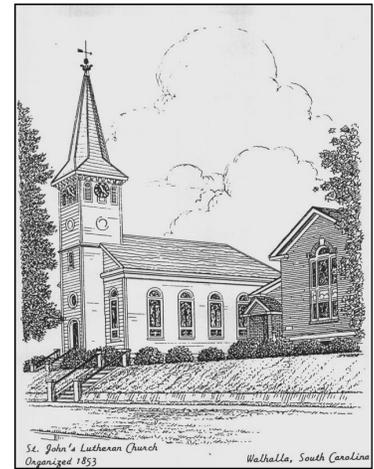
Office Hours Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am - 1:00 pm Phone: (864) 638-6363 Fax: (864) 638-8238

Email: stjohnsluther@gmail.com Website: www.stjohnswalhalla.org

Biggerstaff Christian Retreat: 864-882-3337 398 Biggerstaff Road; Seneca SC 29672

Email: biggerstaffctr@bellsouth.net

St. John's Pre-School: (864) 638-8099 Pre-School Email: stjohnspreschool@bellsouth.net



March 2017

Dear sister & brothers in Christ,

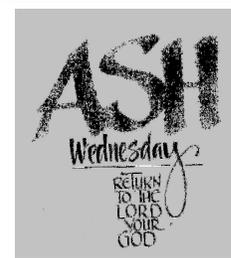
On the first day of this month, the very special church season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Lent is not a season you will see on many secular calendars. It is seldom mentioned in the regular news programs or in the newspapers, but it is an important time for us as we focus upon our baptismal faith and prepare for the central season of the church year, Holy Week and Easter.

Over 500 years ago the Protestant Reformation began in a tiny town in Germany when an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther nailed so 95 points of discussion to the church door. As a Pastor he was concerned about the very popular selling of indulgences. This fund-raising program undercut the gospel idea of forgiveness as a gift from God and threatened to turn God's grace into an item for sale. This simple challenge opened the door to many, many other challenges to the Roman Catholic power structure and quickly became a social revolution. Luther was condemned and grabbed by his friends to be hidden in a remote castle while this revolutionary movement played out across the whole of Europe.

Luther used his time in friendly "captivity" very well as he translated the Bible into contemporary German. When it was judged safe to emerge from the castle, Luther toured the towns and provinces that had become "protestant" and was very, very troubled by what he saw. Although the congregations were now free of Roman control, Luther noted that there was a great deal of ignorance about the central teachings of the Christian faith. His concern led to the creation of two teaching tools, the Large and the Small Catechisms. Designed for family units to use for reflection and learning in a home environment, these tools are still useful today.

During the five Wednesday evenings of Lent we will gather in the Social Hall for a light dinner of soup and bread and then reflect together upon Luther's Small Catechism. It is actually printed in our red book of worship so you will not need to go out and purchase the book, just plan to come and join with others as we examine the central teaching of our Christian faith.

Pastor Bob



ASH
WEDNESDAY
Worship
Service
March 1, 2017
7pm



LENTEN STUDY
and SOUP
SUPPERS

Weekly Lenten Study will be held on Wednesday evenings. This year's study will recognize the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a study of Martin Luther's catechism.

Soup and Bread Supper will begin at 6pm, followed by Study at 6:30pm.

Begins Wednesday, March 8th and continues through April 5th.

Please sign-up at the Spiritual Opportunities table



Men in Mission

Monday March 6 at 6:00 pm
We will be discussing
Mere by Christianity by C S Lewis
Book III Chapters 1 through 6

The Morning Circle

The women of the Morning Circle will hold a luncheon for their next meeting on Tuesday, March 21st at the Lighthouse Restaurant at noon. We will be preparing our Easter gifts for delivery to DSS adults. Please join us.

The Gloria Shealy Circle

The Gloria Shealy Circle will meet on Thursday, March 23rd at St. Luke Methodist Church to provide dinner for 50 people participating in the "Strengthening Families" program. Circle members are asked to bring their prepared food to the Methodist Church at 5:30 pm. Note that this service project is not on our regular meeting day or time. After setting up the dinner, the circle will go to Puerto Noevo Mexican & Seafood Restaurant for dinner and our monthly meeting. Visitors are welcome. Come join us.

Reminder....



Knitters-Crocheters meet **March 8th and 22nd** Come enjoy the fellowship and click your needles. Plan to stay for lunch, too.

Wednesday Lunch

March 8th and 22nd. We gather for lunch at 11:30 am. Sign up today or speak with Libby McLean at 638-7070 or Cathie Nowell at 638-3284



St. John's WELCA will hold their Quarterly meeting on Saturday, March 4th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m.

The Morning Circle will be host. All women of our church are part of this group. You are invited and urged to attend. Hope to see you there.

The WELCA Foothills Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, March 11th at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Greenville, SC at 10:30 a.m. Sign-up sheet is available at the Spiritual Gifts table for car pooling. **Must be signed up by March 5th, if going.**



Parish News.....

Pastor Bob Schmeelcke's contact information:

rctwing@att.net
or
903-9355(cell).

2016 St. John's Annual Reports are now available

Pick up yours today.

Located on the racks beside the Spiritual Opps table



Thank you to all who supported Low Country Boil 2017. We served 164 delicious dinners, 79 people stayed to eat their meal and enjoy fellowship, while 85 meals were packaged and sent home. Our gross, after expenses, was \$1,222.75 which will be used for Biggerstaff maintenance. Even though our expenses were higher this year and we lost our Thrivent funding, we still had the largest profit to date. Many thanks to all the workers- cooks, servers, brownie bakers and everyone else who helped make this such a successful fundraiser.

St. John's World Day of Prayer Vigil March 3, 2017

What is the World Day of Prayer?

World Day of Prayer takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. In 2017 that will be March 3. The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

What is a prayer vigil?

Just what is a prayer vigil? The idea is many centuries old. According to the dictionary again, "Vigil" indicates "a time of vigilance, wakefulness, a watch, originally kept on the night before a religious feast with prayer or other devotions." Remember the verse in 2 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing"? That's what a prayer vigil accomplishes for us. We have chosen March 3rd to do just that, Pray without ceasing.

Why are we doing this?

We are doing this to support the World Day of Prayer. We pray for many reasons, but one favorite mentioned in the Bible is:

Matthew 18:19-20 "Also, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about something and pray for it, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. This is true because if two or three people come together in my name, I am there with them."

We have so many needs and concerns we daily use as our prayer topics. But we have only listed 24 separate topics on which to focus during these next 12 hours. Each half hour has a topic, a verse or two to reflect on that topic and a short prayer to pray. So, let's begin our time to "pray without ceasing" and invite Our Lord to join us.



CHURCH COUNCIL CORNER

Abbrev. St. John's Council Meeting Minutes Jan 28, 2017—12:30 p.m. after Council Retreat
Opening Prayer and Devotion—Bill.
December Minutes & Called Cong. Meeting Jan. 15—Accepted.

Pastor's Report—To date has conducted 3 funerals, is visiting shut-in/ hospitalized members & more classes

on Sun. morning, leading Bible Conversations on Mondays. Pastor is concerned on the need to develop plans for income enhancement. Ash Wed. Service: March 1 followed by Wed. night meals and reflection on Luther's Small Catechism. Holy Week Services: St. John's. Continues leading regular Sunday worship with a Sunday a month out of town.

Treas./Fin.Com. Report—Dec. contributions & rental income: \$10,610 > than expenses. Expenses: \$6,476 under budget due entirely to the change in the salary package for an Interim versus a full time pastor. For 2016 total contributions/rental income were \$5,367 < expenses. This marks the *fifth* consecutive year that we have overspent our income. Since the internal debt was \$24,296 at the beginning of the year, it is now \$29,663. A few highlights from 2016 are: contributions were \$15,672 under budget, or 5%; rental income was \$3,500 under budget; total expenses were \$13,805 under budget; the full benevolence of \$25,000 was paid; total utilities, a major expense, came in at 93% of budget. Total Restricted Funds were \$113,708 at the end of 2016. Money held in reserve for this is a \$35,000 CD, \$20,000 in a Money Market Fund, and \$29,040 in the checking account which adds up to \$84,045. The other \$29,663 has been spent to pay General Fund expenses.

OLD BUSINESS

Reformation Anniversary/Lenten Study—Use Luther's Small Catechism on Wed. evenings after soup & bread supper.

Ballenger House and Corner Property—Recommendation from Property Com. to explore sales of same.

Congregational Event February 26th—As part of the Call Process, the Call Com. will complete the Ministry Site Profile which will be given to Bishop Yoos and Pastor Ginny Aebischer during a congregational luncheon after worship on February 26th.

Call Committee Discussion—Call Com. members elected at the January 15, 2017 Called Congregational Meeting were Duane Carlson, Patty Shepard, Micky Ward, Allen Harding, Dean Fogel, Jeri Klaren, Haileigh Chapman with Jan Long as alternate. Allen Harding Chm., & Patty Shepard Rec. Sec. elected at 1st meeting.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Preschool—Preschool Sun.--Feb. 5. Students/ parents are invited to worship, & teachers will be introduced.

Worship & Music—Altar Guild flower fund overage from 2016 will be used to pay for tuning the organ.

Stewardship—During the retreat the Council discussed and prioritized the following items: repair outside sanctuary wall, replace sanctuary lighting, form Youth Ministry Team, upgrade financial system software, replace fellowship flooring, potential sale of Ballenger & corner properties, sanctuary roof enhancement, relocate two fellowship hall windows. This list is on an easel in the sacristy. Temple talks to follow.

NEW BUSINESS

Preview of New Movie about Martin Luther—Feb. 16/sponsored by Eternal Luth. Ch., Seneca.

Adjournment: 1:45 p.m. after praying The Lord's Prayer.

Present: Bill Brackett, Lois Sharpe, Catherine Lee, Barbara Wilson, Tiffany Chapman, Chris Lawrence, Charlie Busch, Andrea Carlson, Tom Ward, Deb Blackmore, Pastor Schmeelcke.

Absent: Blair Stoudemire, Joe Sears.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Wilson, Sec



March Chimes 2017

The Preschool has enjoyed the past month. They had Ground Hog's day (and what it meant if he saw his shadow) Valentine's Day and special snacks. The children

are enjoying music, reading, yoga, power tumbling and Chapel. We are getting ready to celebrate our Dad's with a breakfast on March 10th. Thanks to everyone that volunteers, donates or contributes to the preschool we couldn't make without you.

With love,

Mrs. Cindy and the Preschool Teachers

Special Items Needed:

Clorox Wipes

3-CD Players slightly used but still working

Baby Wipes

View Finder Slides

Kleenex

Clothes for ages 18months-5 years

Hand Sanitizer

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

The Church Council has identified certain items which need to be addressed in the coming months. A fund has been established in order to meet these goals.

Please prayerfully consider donating in addition to your normal offering.

Please mark your envelope "Capital Funds".

- Repair Outer Sanctuary Wall
- Replace Sanctuary Lighting
- Form Youth Ministry Team
- Upgrade Church Financial Software
- Replace Fellowship Hall Flooring
- Potential Sale of Ballenger and Corner Properties
- Sanctuary Roof cosmetic upgrade
- Relocate 2 Fellowship Hall Windows

January 2017..from the Financial Secretary

Contributions and Rentals	\$ 28,383
Expenses	(21,386)
Excess	\$ 6,997

Great Month! Having a 5 Sunday month helps. The excess of \$6997 was applied to the internal debt, reducing it from \$29,663 at the start of the month to \$ 22,666.

St. John's Staff

Rev. Robert C. Schmeelcke, Interim Pastor
Bill Brackett, Congregational President
Anna T. Zelaya, Parish Secretary
Joan Lewis, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator
Christopher Girardeau, Youth Director
Ray Burroughs, Sexton/Biggerstaff Christian Retreat
Marsha Cabbage, Organist and Director of Music
Cindy Kelly, SJ Preschool Director
Chuck Rawlins, Congregational Treasurer
Mark McLean, Financial Secretary
Martha Murtiashaw, Andera Stroud, Nancy Carter:
Altar Guild
Cory Drennon, Cemetery Grounds Keeper
Dave Parkey, Special Projects

SAVE THE DATES



PROJECT INASMUCH - SATURDAY, April 29th

We will be working together at Lakeview Assisted Living, ministering to the residents.

ISSAQUEENA'S BIKE RIDE – SATURDAY APRIL 22nd

St. John's will be hosting the annual bike ride by providing breakfast and lunch to the riders.

Volunteers will be asked to work a 3 hour shift and donate soups/salads/sandwiches.

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

Non Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Walhalla, SC
Permit No. 26

TIME DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

St. John's Lutheran Church
301 West Main St.
Walhalla, SC 29691

