

THE CHIMES

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

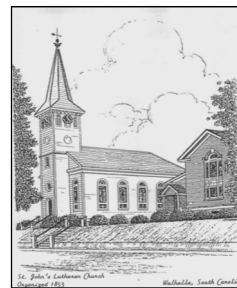
Mission: EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE JOYFULLY INVITE ALL TO LOVE, SERVE, AND GROW IN CHRIST WHILE EMBRACING A CHANGING WORLD.

Office Hours: M–Th 8:30am-1:30pm; F 8:30am-1pm

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Can you believe it's already time for Lent?

It seems as though the year has barely started, and yet here we are once again. Especially during Lent Christians are encouraged to pay special attention to our own life of faith and relationship with God and our faith community. For some, this means participating in the tradition of “giving up” something for the season—especially something which hinders our relationship with God. For others it may mean “taking up” or renewing a faith practice, such as participation in daily devotions, prayers, or additional time with scripture. I generally fall into the latter camp! I appreciate the reminder to remember the story of Jesus and take time to look at how this story has shaped my own life and pay attention to what is still happening today.

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday services on March 2. St. John's will have many opportunities to participate, with two Ash Wednesday services as well as the return of “drive-thru” ashes on Church Street.

A joint study with our friends at St. Luke's Methodist Church will begin March 9 and continue on Wednesdays in Lent. We will focus on a short book by Pastor Adam Hamilton called “24 Hours That Changed the World”. This study will take a close look at events leading up to and during the crucifixion of Jesus. We will also share in a time of fellowship each week with a soup supper being offered. This is a wonderful chance to go deeper into the story of Jesus and how we can remember these events every day.

You are invited to pick up a copy of the 2022 Lent devotional “Grace Unbounded”. This devotional will journey through the Gospel of Luke as we approach the recounting of the death and resurrection of Jesus. There will also be a daily ‘digital devotional’ consisting of short video stories posted on St. John's Facebook page and YouTube channel. The story we see in the Bible is continuing today, and by sharing our own stories we remember how God's mission and story is still unfolding in our lives.

All of the stories we hear and remember during this time help to remind us that we are still a part of God's story and mission in the world today. We are all members of this mission together and are able to participate widely and generously in this story. In the past week you will have received an invitation to declare your financial commitment for the work of the congregation. If you have not already done so, I again invite you to consider how you can join into these stories and renew your commitment to the mission of this congregation and beyond. Please remember that we will be collecting pledge cards on the 1st Sunday in Lent during both worship services. These pledges help us to fund and grow our ministry for 2022 and plan for the future of this congregation. The ways in which this congregation touches the lives of those in Walhalla and the surrounding area are made possible through this support and joining together of resources.

I truly look forward to the journey we are on together and hope you will take a moment to continue to enter where God is calling us all.

In Christ,

Vicar Laura Beall



Youth and tiny tots are invited to attend the Shrove Tuesday dinner
 The tween meetings will continue after first meeting February 28.
 There will be an Easter activity for the tiny tots in April, watch for more information.

WELCA—St. John's will be hosting the WELCA Spring Foothills Conference on Saturday, March 5, beginning at 9:30am.
 Thanks to those who have signed up to attend. We are looking forward to seeing you and ladies from the Conference.



All ladies of St. John's are invited to the **first meeting for our congregation for 2022 on Saturday, April 23, beginning with refreshment at 9:15am** in the fellowship hall. Devotion, speaker, and business meeting: 9:30am until 10:30am. Vicar Laura will share her biography and call to ministry. Come share in fellowship with the ladies of St. John's and learn what is being planned for the year. Reminder—all ladies of the congregation are members of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Knitters & Crocheters

Knitters & Crocheters--Would you like to learn how to knit/crochet? Or just need help to revive your skills?
 Consider meeting with the group on March 9 and 23 (second and fourth Wednesdays) at 10am in the fellowship hall. We make our own items, but our main goal is to reach out to our congregation, community and nationally for those in need for caps, scarves, afghans, etc. Contact Barbara Wilson for more information.

The Survivors Group is planning on attending the Winds concert on *Sunday March 6*. This is a free concert held at Walhalla High School. We are planning on going to lunch after worship. In order to coordinate carpooling and making reservations for lunch, please respond to Jeri Klaren.

On *Sunday March 13* a group will be going to the Senior Follies in Anderson. If you don't have tickets and would like to go, talk to Fredi Hallman. Fredi will make reservations at Tuckers for lunch; please let her know if you will be going to lunch.



Survivors Group

Plans are being made for a game day on *March 28*. Watch for emails about this event.



Memory Café for March will be held on *March 15, 2022*. We will meet at 2:00pm in the office building of Saint Luke United Methodist Church. The address is 607 E Main Street, Walhalla, South Carolina 29691.
 The special event for the day is a surprise St. Patrick's Day craft. Come join us and make Memory Café a place where you and your loved one with memory loss can get together in a safe, supportive, and engaging environment. It is a place where you can interact, laugh, cry, find support, share concerns, celebrate, and encourage friendship and acceptance. There is no cost. All meetings are free. Please come join us. Call Bonnie Holmes at (864-539-6069) for more information.

SAVE THE DATE — ISSAQUEENA BIKE RIDE- SATURDAY APRIL 30TH

St. John's will be hosting the annual bike ride by providing lunch to the 200+ riders. Volunteers will be asked to work a 3 hour shift and donate soups/salads/sandwiches. MORE INFO COMING SOON!

Congregation Council Meeting— February 21, 2022
—Abbreviated Minutes



Members Present: All members including Vicar Laura.

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm. Dwelling in the Word led by Grace Schmeelcke.

January Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve as presented, Tom Ward, second by Marjorie Conaway. Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report: It's been a busy start to the year including Boundary Training through Luther Seminary, the SC Synod Symposium by Zoom and attending Alumni Days at Seminary. Pastor Rachel & Vicar Laura will also attend a Supervisor/Intern retreat Feb. 24-25th. Preparations are underway for Lenten services including a pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday with the youth and Wednesday soup and study sessions will be held at St. John's & St. Luke's on alternating weeks. A new member orientation will be held in March.

Vicar's Report: Tiffany Chapman returned in mid February to teach Children's Sunday School classes, Vicar Laura said she enjoyed her time with the kids. Lenten preparations are being made including a project for her internship involving digital devotional stories from congregation members. She is looking to pre-record members short stories (3-5 minutes) one per day on FaceBook during Lent.

Treasurer's Report: Total income and expenses for January were under budget for the month. It is hoped with the stewardship letter being sent out soon, members will prayerfully consider what we need to be giving to our church. The General Fund checking account balance is \$64,974.

Operating Safely Update: In consideration of the lowering Covid cases the Council recommends that masking, once seated, will be optional beginning next Sunday, February 27th. Conditions will continue to be monitored.

Worship and Music: Tina Barrett will head the committee this year. The need to define a new music leaders role and job description are in process.

Preschool: A new teacher for the 3's class was hired (Ms. Lisa). Early registration event to be held Feb. 22nd at 6pm. A new director search will be underway soon.

Congregational Care: Chef's routes for Thursdays are all going well. The Survivors group is helping St. Luke's to start a similar program and look forward to joint events.

Annual Report Draft: Reviewed and will further review over next few days. Distribution will be Sunday, March 6th with a short overview before each service.

Council Retreat: March 19, Chau Ram Park 9am-2pm with Council Meeting included.

Lenten Services: Ash Wednesday 12pm & 7pm with drive by imposition of ashes from 4-6pm. A full listing will be published shortly.

Ministry Fair: Will be held on Sunday, March 27th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted: Lynn Pode, Congregational Council Secretary



Easter Lily Order Form



Your Name: _____ Your Phone Number: _____

Circle One: Honor / Memory of: _____

Circle One: Honor / Memory of: _____

Circle One: Honor / Memory of: _____

Cost per plant is \$12.00. Amount per order form: _____

Deadline for ordering Easter Lilies is **Wednesday April 6.**

St. John's Staff

The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly, Pastor
Vicar Laura Beall, Seminary Intern
Alicia Rannou, Administrative Assistant
Ray Burroughs, Sexton/Technology Support
Judi Matalik, SJ Preschool Director
Joan Lewis, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator
Patty Shepard, Youth Director
Tiffany Chapman, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Jan Long, Congregational President
Chuck Rawlins, Congregational Treasurer
Mark McLean, Financial Secretary
Greg Harris, Cemetery Coordinator
Diane Rawlins, Altar Guild

Pastor Rachel's contact information:
Email: stjohnspastorrachel@gmail.com
Cell # (910) 515-0897

Vicar Laura's contact information:
Email: stjohnsvicarlaura@gmail.com
Cell # (605) 464-5941

Check out St. John's Website for more information
on ministries at: stjohnswalhalla.org



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON
ST JOHN'S FACEBOOK PAGE
LIVE ON SUNDAYS**
St. John's Lutheran Church, Walhalla



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

and

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Tuesday, March 1

Supper @ 6:00pm

Burning of the Ashes Service @ 7:00pm



Shrove
Tuesday



TIME DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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301 West Main St.
Walhalla, SC 29691

