

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.

Summer Office Hours: M–Th 8:30–1:30 ~ Friday 8:30–12:30

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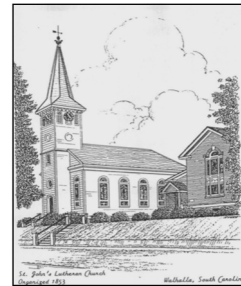
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You need my hands, my exhaustion, working love for the rest of the weary — a love that's willing to go on loving.

You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, but only asking for me to follow.

On the sand I have abandoned my small boat; now with you, I will seek other seas.

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” ELW Hymn # 717

Dear Friends:

The verse and refrain above from one of my favorite hymns provides comfort to me when I am weary from work and serving others. It is helpful for us all to remember that our work, our vocations are blessed by God whether we are a pastor, a nurse, a retired volunteer, a plumber, a teacher, etc.

Labor Day offers us a reminder and challenge to affirm the value of work, seek healthy workplace environments, and support opportunities for entrepreneurial adventure in the context of a just social safety net. On Labor Day, we give thanks for those whose efforts have led to workers rights and care for the least of these. And we can make a commitment to seek justice for all workers.

Come worship this Sunday of Labor Day weekend as we gather together by the lake and/or in our beautiful sanctuary. We will sing songs of praise, lift up and pray for our work, our daily labor and recognize that our vocations in the world are also a way to claim our skills and gifts and to show God's love.

And, this Sunday we will hear the proclamation of God's word from Vicar Emily!

God's Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Rachel Connelly



*The office will be closed on Labor Day Monday,
September 5, 2022
in observance of Labor Day.*

Congregation Council Meeting— August 15, 2022 —Abbreviated Minutes

Members Present: Pastor Rachel Connelly, Jan Long, Greg Harris, Tom Ward, John Hewell, Sandra Pruitt, Marjorie Conaway, Stephanie Champion, Barbie White and Lynn Pode.

Meeting called to order at 6:11pm. Dwelling in the Word chosen by Allen Harding.

July Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by John, second by Greg. Minutes approved.

Pastor's Report: Vicar Emily Whitlow, our new intern, will arrive August 18 with Service of Beginning on August 21. The Intern Committee for 22-23; Bill Brackett (Chair), Michael Pode, Brenda Safrit, Scott Sprouse, Connie Addis and Raeyanna Chapman. Newcomer Orientation will be August 23 with new members joining August 28. Other notes:

Doors & lights continue to be left open/on on a regular basis. Please make sure things are turned off and locked up when you leave the building.

Treasurer's Report: July's income was under budget by \$2,161. The first 7 months income was under budget by \$12,203. Expenses for July were under budget \$1,231. **YTD contributions are \$7,902. less than the first 7 months of 2021.** Starting in August, there will be an additional \$2,131 in the budget to cover the additional costs of intern and music director through December. The General Fund Checking Account balance is \$64,380.

Operating Safely Update: Continue with hand sanitizing and watching the numbers.

Property: Review of open projects was done at the August 10 meeting. The Admin HVAC unit failed and was replaced on 8/5 (a proactive quote was given in June). The parsonage was vacated and a short list of repair items is being addressed. Barbie presented the committee's plans to renovate the ladies bathroom. The partition would be removed making it a single use bathroom but with more room to move around. The fixtures and lighting will be replaced and a dark distressed wood would be used to make a 4 cubby unit with changing table. Several shelves and coat rack will also be added. The cinder block will be coated in a soft ivory toned plaster with dogwood trees sculpted in. The floor will be coated in an off white as well. A Motion from the Committee to renovate the ladies bathroom as detailed was submitted to Council. Tom seconded and it passed with unanimous vote. Time lines and funding will be discussed further.

Worship and Music: Carla Padgett, our new Director of Music has begun work and August 31 will be the first adult vocal choir practice.

Biggerstaff: Adding grass cutting schedules to google docs is planned. Allen has identified the need for equipment such as a push mower and weed eater and plans to ask members if they have one of these in good working order they no longer need to consider donating it.

Preschool: Marjorie stated Preschool will start next week. Along with the new Director we have 2 returning teachers and 2 new teachers with 26 students enrolled so far.

Outreach: Hygiene bags are being made to be distributed to inmates upon release. We plan to serve meals once per month on Wednesday at the Potter's House Church. Gather Uptown and the Hamilton Career Center are already helping with meals. Walhalla History Day is October 15 we will have a German food booth and participate in church and cemetery tours.

Faith Formation: LutherRoad Day Camp had 24 campers and was very successful. Scott Sprouse will resume Sunday School classes after Labor Day.

New Business: Greg reported the alarm for the Preschool door went off at 4:30am today, the police cleared the building and nothing appears to have been taken. Review of video footage is planned. Greg stated the St. John's planning team have met with Mitzie (GSB) by Zoom and have another Zoom meeting planned which will include the Council on August 25 at 6:30pm to discuss survey results. A bench will be placed by the side entrance for the next few weeks to allow Betty Mantel a place to sit prior to the doors opening at 10:30am. After Sunday School starts again the bench will no longer be needed.

Next Meetings: August 25, 6:30pm (Zoom) with Strategic Planning Team; September 19, 6pm Council Meeting, September 29, GSB, Strategic Planning Team & Council at St. John's.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:
Lynn Pode, Congregational Council Secretary

From the
Vicar



My Siblings in Christ,

Grace, peace, and my warmest greetings to you! I am so excited to be with y'all this upcoming year and to see how the year unfolds itself. Your welcoming cards and smiles have been greatly appreciated and have made my move to Walhalla immensely joyful. I wanted to extend my sincere thanks for your generosity in the "Pantry Pounding" I received—you all made sure that I would need/want for little upon my arrival whether that came in the form(s) of canned goods, cleaning supplies, gift cards, and even fresh flowers on the kitchen counter. I'm feeling incredibly blessed and grateful to be a part of this community and to be welcomed into it with such warmth and grace.

Fall is quickly approaching and it's looking like it'll be a jam-packed time for St. John's; I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone throughout this time—especially with our "Holy Smoke" Barbecue Fundraiser, historic church tours, and over the year in general!

Blessings,
Vicar Emily

"HOLY SMOKE" ... mark your calendars for our 6 annual BBQ coming to St. John's on Saturday, September 17 from 11am-2pm! Many thanks to Tina and Terry Stephens of Iron Pig BBQ for preparing BBQ plates. Pork BBQ, slaw, baked beans, and bread. BBQ by the pound and pint jars of sauce will be available for pick up at the door. We will have pounds available only until the supply runs out. No "pound pre-orders."



In 2022 we will be donating to the DAR Starlight Program. This is a mentoring program for recovering mothers, allowing them to live with their children on the DAR campus. Now it's up to the St. John's crew to *sell, sell, sell*, those tickets! Tickets are available for purchase beginning on August 14 at Biggerstaff Sunday worship, at St. John's, or at the door. Checks should be made out to St. John's. If you are unable to attend on 9/17- think about those who have helped you: doctors, nurses, hairdressers, neighbors, friends, family, the elderly, etc. Sell tickets to them or just give them a "special treat". In the past we have asked everyone to sell 10 tickets- this has been a huge success.

Questions- contact Joan Lewis at joanlewisc@aol.com or 864-710-1756.

HOLY SMOKE BBQ WAYS YOU CAN HELP



- Sign-up to help with food prep on Tuesday 9/13 and Friday 9/16
- Volunteer to help on Friday to set-up the tent and early on Saturday morning to set tables up and get things ready to go.
- Sign-up to help "pull the pork" at 9am on 9/17
- Sign-up to serve/package BBQ plates from 10am-2:30pm on 9/17
- Sign-up to help clean-up/tent "take-down" at 2pm on 9/17

Note — there will **not be a bake sale booth this year.

WELCA



Session 1 of the fall Bible study, "Jesus and Nature" is available <https://www.gathermagazine.org/jesus-and-nature-teachers-of-faith/>.

Designed for a group or individual home study, please view the video sometime during September. The pastor is teaching from her garden.

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 Wednesdays, September 14 and 28 at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. We are making hats/caps for residents at Lila Doyle in September. 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.

One-on-one teaching is available. Questions? Call or text Barbara @ 864-723-3376.

THE GLORIA SHEALY CIRCLE

The Gloria Shealy Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 20 at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will go out to eat at Puerto Nuevo after the meeting. Ann Brackett will have devotions. Hope to see you there!



It has been a great start to the new school year.
The first week has been exciting and fun filled.
God had blessed us with wonderful students and parents.
Many blessings,
Sheila Harris, Preschool Director

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Wish List

Disinfectant Wipes and Spray
Kleenex
Glue Sticks

NOTES OF THANKS

Dear Members of St. John's,
I would like to thank you all for the warm send off, gifts and cards you presented me with on Sunday the 14th. I have felt your love and support these past few years and it has meant a great deal to me. Thank you for all you've done for me as I start this new chapter of my life.
God bless you,
Grace Lichtenwald



I would like to thank everyone for all the cards and prayers you have sent me. They are greatly appreciated.
Jeanne Welch

SURVIVORS GROUP

This has been a busy time of year, but we're planning a couple of events for September to keep us together as a group.



Survivors Group

Monday, September 12 - The Survivors plan a nice drive to Spartanburg where we'll enjoy a wonderful lunch at the City Range restaurant. There is also a beautiful botanical garden we can visit if there is anyone interested. We will meet at the church at 9:30 to carpool. Please let Jeri know if you're interested so we may confirm the reservation.

Friday, September 30 - the Survivors plan to play miniature golf at The Oasis Ranch. We plan to meet there at 9am. Please let Jeri know if you're interested in playing so we can get a reservation.

Remember, the Survivors is a group of widows and widowers. We are here to support each other. All are welcome! I hope to see you at both of these scheduled events.

God be with you — Jan Long



YOUTH GROUP — AUGUST 2022

Youth will help set up for the "Holy Smoke BBQ" on Saturday, September 17th at 7am. Be on the lookout for more information for a trip to Scaly Mountain, North Carolina in October.

Sunday School for all ages, Sundays at 10am starting Sept. 11.

Confirmation class will begin on **Sunday, September 11, 2022, at 10:00am.** We welcome anyone who is currently in the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade. Class will be dismissed each Sunday at 10:55am. We meet in the classroom directly above Pastor's study.



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY AT 10AM

"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH."

Tuesday morning Bible study will begin Tuesday, September 13 at 10am and will meet in the church sanctuary. Come out and share in a time of study with other friends. Co-led by Pastor Rachel and Vicar Emily.

THE CHANCEL CHOIR AND THE PRAISE RINGERS

WELCOME
BACK, CHOIR

Practice for the Chancel Choir began on Wednesday, August 31. We are excited about resuming the choir after a two year hiatus. For those interested in Chancel choir please come out on Wednesdays at 7pm. Practice is about an hour. Bring a friend and no experience is required. Our new Director of Music, Carla Padgett, is eager to meet everyone and to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" together.

Practice for the Praise Ringers will be every Tuesday at 5:15pm for approximately an hour and 15 minutes. Those interested in ringing bells come to practice—again, no experience required. If you have any questions, please contact



THURSDAY MEAL DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. John's continues its ministry of Thursday Meal Delivery to those in our congregation who are shut-in, undergoing medical treatment and those who just need a weekly visitor. Those involved in this ministry find gratification in knowing they have reached out in such a meaningful way. As with all ministries, especially those begun during COVID, some volunteers have returned to their normal routines and are no longer available to help. If you have considered becoming part of this ministry *NOW IS THE TIME! We need additional volunteers. Please contact Joan Lewis for information on how you can help.*

MONTHLY PARTNERSHIP MEAL FOR NEEDY —

Getting back on track doing the community outreach that we have been so successful at in the past . . .

There is a "food coalition" effort developing in Oconee County designed to help those persons who are in need of food. One of the things that has begun is a weekly meal served at the Potters House Church (old Salvation Army Church) located on South John Street in Walhalla. There is a need for some local churches to take one week per month to prepare and serve a meal to between 30-50 people. Currently Gather Uptown is preparing/serving 2 Wednesday evenings per month, Rodney Quick at the Hamilton Career Center will take one Wednesday meal. After the meal, Potters House hosts a weekly Bible Study — meal participants are not required to attend the Bible study. They can eat and leave if they desire.

To become involved in this needed local ministry, we would need commitment from a minimum of 10 persons who are willing to prepare and serve. If this is something you would like to be a part let Joan Lewis know (864)710-1756 or joanlewisc@aol.com. With enough interest and support we will move ahead with a commitment. There will also be a sign-up sheet located on the Spiritual Ops table at church.

OCONEE COUNTY BACKPACK LUNCH PROGRAM has begun for the 2022-23 school year. Each month a group of St. John's volunteers deliver boxed lunches to students in need at Keowee Elementary School, Tamassee-Salem Elementary School, and Walhalla Middle School. This is a much needed outreach that our congregation has supported for more than 10 years. Many thanks to our deliverers this year- Dean and Anne Fogel, PJ and Danny Daniels, Ryan Raab and Judy Roth for their dedication to this ministry. Currently we are searching for an individual to pick-up boxed meals at School District of Oconee County transportation center (located on South Cove Road in Seneca) and deliver to Walhalla Middle School (located off Rt 183 in Walhalla). You will be sharing the route with PJ and Danny Daniels. Pick-up/delivery are on the first Tuesday of the month, every other month from September through May (you would be scheduled for October, November, January, March, May; summers off). Pick-up time is 2:45-3:15pm. You can deliver to the school immediately after pick-up. Please let me know if you can be involved – joanlewisc@aol.com or (864)710-1756

WALHALLA HISTORY DAY

On Saturday, October 15, Walhalla will hold its third annual HISTORY DAY. History Day will open to the community and, this year, take place on Main Street in conjunction with Market Day. There will be tours of St. John's sanctuary and cemetery. Along with these tours, St. John's will host a food booth on Main Street serving brats, sauerkraut and German potato salad. **NEEDED** are volunteers to help prepare our simple menu and to serve at the food both. This will be a great opportunity for us to showcase St. John's and their historic significance in Walhalla. More information and sign-up availability soon.