

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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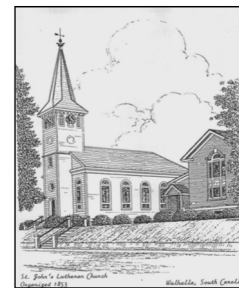
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OCTOBER



Dear Friends:

Every year on the first Sunday in October, Christians around the globe celebrate World Communion Sunday. It is a day to remember that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and that every Christian Church and any denomination that promotes Christian unity are one. On this day, people draw faith and inspiration from seeing that they are part of a community that boasts millions of believers and worshippers. This day teaches us that despite cultural, traditional, linguistic, and denominational differences, we all celebrate the power of unity and oneness. In our worship this Sunday, October 2, we join our voices at both services celebrating World Communion Sunday.

HISTORY OF WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY - The origin of this day is a brainwave that came to Dr. Hugh Kerr, pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. He came up with this idea in 1930 when he served as moderator of the General Assembly. Dr. Kerr's younger son, Rev. Dr. Donald Kerr, stated that World Communion Sunday had its beginnings in a stewardship celebration at Shadyside. His father had attempted to bring churches together in service of Christian unity, and the idea grew from there.

Initially, this idea did not take hold but with World War II came an increased understanding of one's own mortality, and the spirit of this day caught hold. This day symbolized the effort of bringing the world together, in a spiritual sense, thought Kerr. This celebration was adopted in the U.S. in the period during WW II, and soon, the organization now known as the National Council of Churches started endorsing and promoting the event to churches worldwide, led by their leader, Jesse Moren Bader.

Many celebrations revolve around the 'Last Supper' theme when Jesus Christ broke bread with his disciples right before he was betrayed by Judas. People even partake in the universal Christian practice of baking bread. Today, this day is celebrated the world over, bringing together the unique flavor of all denominations with a strong individual spirit, just like the world we live in.



In another "unity" offering, which I am a part of as a Chaplain with the Sheriff's office is **National Faith & Blue Weekend, October 7-9**. Faith & Blue is a nationwide initiative based on the premise that strong communities are built through mutual respect and understanding. Faith-based organizations and law enforcement are key pillars of each community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive.

On **Saturday, October 8th, at 9:00AM, St. John's members are invited to join in the first Sheriff's Office National Faith & Blue CommUNITY Walk**. You are invited to park at the Oconee County Courthouse (or the church). The walk begins at the courthouse and we will walk around to Main street walk past the Courthouse and then turn at St. John's onto Church Street and end our Walk at the OCSO-Law Enforcement Center. After the Walk, we plan to hear remarks from Sheriff, Crenshaw, as well as other community voices of Oconee County. (Water, and refreshments will be provided by St. John's representatives.)

Our newsletter is full of parish ministry news and ministries to take part in during the month of October. As the season changes and we feel the coolness of the Autumn air, I pray that you will also feel the Holy Spirit renewing and strengthening you in our faith and life together.

In Christ,

Pastor Rachel Connelly

*From the
Vicar*



The days and weeks are flying by! Fall is my favorite time of year, and I feel extremely blessed to be able to see the beauty of Walhalla and the Upstate during this time. Seeing the leaves change colors, feeling the crisp morning air, and—of course—having way too many pumpkin-flavored-coffees...are just my favorite things. It's hard to believe that it's already October and even harder to believe how busy St. John's will be this month.

With that being said, we've got our upcoming Heritage Day on October 15th and I am hosting a baking event in preparation for that. **Open to all 8th-12th grade girls**, you're invited to join me at the parsonage on October 9 4:30-6pm for an hour or so of baking, getting to know each other, and a short bible study/devotion. I'll be contacting parents within the next week for more details/logistics. I'm looking forward to seeing y'all there! I'm also looking forward to celebrating Reformation Sunday at the end of this month, especially given the rich history of St. John's. The music and atmosphere for that Sunday will be so fulfilling: with the handbells ringing and the organ singing along with God's people, it's sure to be a joyous and Spirit-filled day. I'm excited to spend it with you all!

I hope this next month brings you an abundance of blessings.

Grace and Peace be with you!

-Vicar Emily



THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Practice for the Chancel Choir is in full swing. 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 Director of Music, Carla Padgett, has been very excited with our choir and is looking forward to all the special music being shared now and during the upcoming holidays.

THE PRAISE RINGERS

Our Praise Ringers are preparing some special music for our upcoming worship services. We are looking for more members to ring with us. Practice for the Praise Ringers is 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



Deb Blackmore 843-834-1544 or blackmoredm@icloud.com

OUTREACH

MERCHANT MARKET & WALHALLA HISTORY DAY— SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15



This combined event will open to the community and take place on Main Street. There will be food vendors, merchandise vendors and entertainment for all ages. The museums will be open. There will be tours of St. John's sanctuary and cemetery.

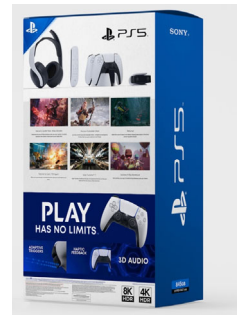
Along with tours of the church and cemetery, St. John's will host a food booth serving brats, sauerkraut, and German potato salad. NEEDED are volunteers to help smoke the brats and to serve at the food booth between 10am—3pm. We will have a bakery table at our booth. St. John's is known throughout the community for its delicious baked goods. Please bake-bake-bake. There is plenty of freezer space for your items. Bakery items will be priced for you, but please wrap/bag them for us and indicate what your item is.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to highlight St. John's and their historic significance in Walhalla. We will have 4-5 tour guides at the church from noon until 4pm. Please contact Joan Lewis at (864) 710-1756 or joanlewissc@aol.com if you are able to help with the food booth or sign-up at the Spiritual Ops table. Ask a friend to help. We welcome newcomers! YOU are needed to help make this event a success!!

RAFFLE FUNDRAISER FOR PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

One of the things that will be included in St. John's History Day event will be a raffle for a Play Station 5 donated by Jeremy Chapman—proceeds from that raffle will go towards St. John's Preschool scholarships.

The Playstation 5 is billed as the latest Nintendo release that has "Play with no Limits." This game is already proving to be a hard-to-find, hot ticket item for Christmas this year. So, buy your tickets now for a chance to own this hot game or to have ready to give as a gift. Raffle tickets will \$5 each and raffle sales will begin October 9 with the drawing to be held at the end of our booth sales on October 15.



POTTERS HOUSE MEAL MINISTRY



I LOVE THIS CHURCH—Ask and you shall receive! Last month I asked for 10 volunteers who would be interested in becoming part of a monthly meal team to prepare and serve meals to persons in need of food at the Potters House Church 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. 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. Quickly I received response from those 10 people! Three of us served a meal to "test the waters." We arrived at 4pm and were finished by 6pm—we served 60 hungry people. It is a meaningful and much needed ministry—and SO VERY appreciated by those who came. St. John's will begin helping on October 12. We will work initially with the Hamilton Career Center; they will prepare the meals and we will serve them. As the Potters House moves to weekly distribution, we will move to preparing and serving a monthly Wednesday meal. If this is something you would like to be a part of, let Joan Lewis know at (864)710-1756 or joanlewissc@aol.com. There will also be a sign-up sheet on the Spiritual Ops table at church.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR PRISON MINISTRY PROJECT

This fall our Outreach Committee will be filling Blessing Bags with hygiene and personal care items to be given to individuals upon their prison release. Each Ziploc bag will contain a pair of socks, a washcloth, soap, toothbrush/toothpaste, hand/face cream, wet wipes, Q-tips, Band-aids, antiseptic cream, chapstick, brush, and a \$5 food gift card, and tampons/pads(women). Please choose the TRAVEL SIZE when possible. Cards with words of encouragement made by St. John's members will also be included.



A container will be near the Spiritual Gifts table for donations made to this project.

Congregation Council Meeting— Sept 19, 2022 —Abbreviated Minutes

Members Present: Pastor Rachel Connelly, Vicar Emily Whitlow, Jan Long, Greg Harris, John Hewell, Marjorie Conaway, Stephanie Champion, Scot Williams, Grace Schmeelcke, Barbie White and Lynn Pode

Meeting called to order by President Jan Long at 6:08 pm.

Dwelling in the Word/Prayers Barbie led us in study of Jn 14:15-17 and Jn 15:26 as texts were read and discussed by members followed by Pastor Rachel leading members in prayer.

Minutes from the August 15 council meeting were approved.

Pastor Rachel's Report: August was very busy including funerals, staff changes and pastoral care needs. Continuing Ed. and Sunday off from Sept. 21-25. SC Synod Leaders CONVO is Oct. 24-26 at Lutheridge. Pastor and Vicar Emily will attend Internship Retreat Oct. 27-28 in Hickory, NC. Staff Reviews conducted with Greg.

Vicar's Report: Vicar Emily reported she moved into the parsonage August 18 and thanked everyone for the generous pounding she received. She has given one sermon, assisted with a funeral, visited with Seniors, and helped with Preschool drop off. Emily will meet with each member of Intern Committee to get to know them better. She has worked one Biggerstaff event and attended various committee meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Jan shared report from Mark McLean in Tom's absence. August income was over budget by \$2,449. The first eight months income is under budget by \$9,854. Expenses for August were under budget by \$284. Expenses for the first eight months are under budget by \$6,909. During August we transferred \$20,000 to the Intern Restricted Fund and \$6,000 for GSB Consulting. The current General Fund checking account balance is \$37,282.

Committee Reports

Property: Scot reported the next committee meeting will be held on Sept. 28. The ladies room renovation is underway and on schedule.

Worship and Music: Grace summarized the committee's August 24 meeting minutes. Carla Padgett began adult choir practice August 31. Carla has also met with the 9am worship musicians and will play the violin and sing with them. Services will continue at Biggerstaff through October. November 6th, 9am worship will resume in the Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary.

Biggerstaff: Stephanie reported that the committee met Sept. 12. The event calendar to run from March 15 through November 15 (with the exception of Christmas in the Barn). Pest control contract was signed, push mower was donated along with \$100 for a weed eater purchase. Fasci board to be replaced by December, brush burning will be done later in the fall.

Preschool: Marjorie stated the Preschool has 21 students currently. Staffing continues to be an issue, and we are interviewing for a 2 yr. old class. Sheila Harris, Director says the year is off to a fantastic start.

Parish Life/Outreach: John Hewell reported the committee met on Sept. 8. The Holy Smoke BBQ appears to be a success with expenses about \$1,800 and revenue of about \$4,600. DAR Starlight program will be the benefactor. History Day fast approaching on October 15, and we will have a food booth with German Food and participate in the church tours. In response to the homeless in our area, we plan to participate in the Potter's House Church for a Wednesday evening meal once a month. The plan is to serve 20-50 people from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Lynn was at the test meal with Joan and Shonda on the 15, and over 66 plates were served (ran out of chicken after 54 so the rest were vegetarian).

Faith Formation: Barbie stated that the youth will be visiting Miss Dottie and Jeanne Welch and are also planning an outing to Scaly Mountain's Highland Outpost to ride the Screamer. Confirmation class has doubled this year to six students and is going well. Adult Sunday School is back, Scott reports they had a full house last Sunday. The weekday Bible Study has resumed on Tuesday morning at 10am.

New Business: Jan reported recommendations from the Executive Committee staff salary increases. Pastor Rachel was excused as during Pastoral salary discussions. The Council voted on all the salary adjustments and they were approved.

GSB Strategic Planning: Greg summarized the joint August 25th Zoom meeting of council, strategic team, and Mitzie which reviewed the congregational survey results. The in-person meeting with all these members has been moved from September 29th to October 23rd to allow more time to refine specific goals based on the top 4 priorities the church members identified in the survey.

COUNCIL MINUTES Con't

Congregational meeting to be held November 20, to be held between the two services.

The 11am service will be adjusted to start at 11:15am *this Sunday only* to accommodate the meeting time.

Nominating Committee needs to be in place by October 1. Tom Ward has volunteered and 3 additional members will need to be recruited.

Next Council Meeting: October 17, 2022 at 6:00pm -- Monthly Council Meeting. Note: The October meeting will have a special order at 7pm for discussion of the 2023 budget. Dwelling in the Word will be done by Grace Schmeelcke.

Special Council Meeting -October 23, 2022, 12:30-2:30pm at St. John's with Strategic Planning Team and Consultant, Mitzie Schaefer.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Lynn Pode -- Congregational Council Secretary

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY — OCTOBER 2022

Baking with Vicar Emily— October 9—Open to all 8th-12th grade girls
You're invited to join me at the parsonage on October 9th 4:30-6pm for an hour or so of baking, getting to know each other, and a short bible study/devotion. Baked goods will be used at Walhalla History Day bake sale.



TRUNK OR TREAT—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29



A Halloween activity at St. John's on Church Street for our church, preschool kids, and the community. **Saturday, October 29, from 2-4pm Trunk or Treat** is an alternative to the house-to-house trick or treating tradition associated with Halloween. Participants park their cars side by side in a designated area of the parking lot. Most folks decorate their trunks for the event. Candy is handed out by the participants. There will also be pumpkins to paint and face painting by youth. We are looking for members to donate candy or to bring their cars/trucks and participate.



Sunday School for all ages, Sundays at 10am
Confirmation for Middle Schoolers 10am



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY AT 10AM

CURRENT STUDY: "THE MIGHTY ACTS OF GOD: - IN GENESIS

Tuesday morning Bible study meets for about an hour in the sanctuary. Come out and share in a time of study with other friends. Co-led by Pastor Rachel and Vicar Emily.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

St. John's Preschool will begin its "Kiss a farm animal" fundraiser this month. We have set up jars in the church for you to donate your change or money for the Preschool. Choose a teacher and donate. We are counting on your support. The Preschool has had some exciting happenings going on. Between our field trips to the library, cooking classes, and picture day we are off to a wonderful school year.

Wish List

Disinfectant Wipes and Spray
Kleenex
Glue Sticks

THE GLORIA SHEALY CIRCLE

Gloria Shealy will meet on Tuesday, October 18 at 5:00pm the Fellowship Hall. We will share a potluck soup supper. Tina Barrett will have devotions.



WELCA—Saturday, November 5--Short business meeting at 9:15am after which we will go to DAR for activities with the families of the Starlight program. More information will be emailed later in October.



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, October 12 and 26 at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

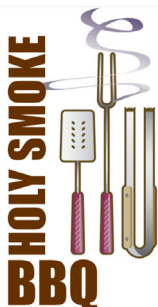
One-on-one teaching is available.
Questions? Call or text Barbara @ 864-723-3376.



Survivors Group

SURVIVORS GROUP

The Survivors group has two events planned for October. On Friday October 14 we are planning on going through a corn maze. We will have lunch after going through the maze. Then on Friday October 28, we are planning a Halloween lunch. Emails will be sent out prior to each event. All widows and widowers are invited to join us for our outings.



HOLY SMOKE...2022 IS HISTORY! Thanks to the support of St. John's and the community, we were able to raise \$4000 for the Tamassee STARLIGHT program—a 2 year program which houses, educates and mentors recovering women and their families. We served approximately 400 meals which included meals donated to our community first responders and to STARLIGHT residents and staff. Thank you to the 40 people who volunteered—you did a great job! AND—a huge shout out to Terry and Tina Stephens of Iron Pig BBQ who did an amazing job...once again! This is a huge commitment from them, and we at St. John's are eternally grateful for their generosity. St. John's is truly an amazing place with a huge heart!