

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
301 W. Main Street, Walhalla, SC
www.stjohnswalhalla.org
Facebook — St. John's Lutheran, Walhalla

The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly
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Vicar Emily Whitlow, Seminary Intern
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Office Hours
Monday 8:30am-12:30pm
Tuesday– Friday 8:30am-1:30pm
(864) 638-6363 or Email: stjohnsluther@gmail.com

Love the LORD your God...
and hold fast to him.



DEUTERONOMY 30:20, NIV

Additional St. John's Staff

Ray Burroughs, Facilities Manager
Carla Padgett, Music Director/Organist
Joan Lewis, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator
Patty Shepard, Youth Director
Tiffany Chapman, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Congregational President Greg Harris

Our tithes and offerings are an important part of our faith journey. Electronic offerings may be given through GIVELIFY. You may also go to our website: www.stjohnswalhalla.org and access the secure giving button.



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Walhalla, South Carolina
11am Worship Service

February 12, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



DEUTERONOMY 30:14, NIV

Welcome to Worship at St. John's!

We are glad that you are with us today as we worship our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please use the hand sanitizing upon entering and exiting the building.
Communion is celebrated at the altar or with the pre-filled communion fellowship cups.

If you are a 1st time Worshiper at St John's, we invite you to sign our visitor book in either the Narthex, or the Back Gathering area.

+++ Please be courteous and respectful. Please turn off all electronic devices during worship .+++

Sunday, February 12, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

PRELUDE *"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"*
Arranged by Douglas Wagner
SJ Praise Ringers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Holy One, source of our renewal,
we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior.

People: Amen.

The Bell Tower—Ministry News



PANCAKE SUPPER / MARDI GRAS

Tuesday, February 21

Supper @ 6:00pm

and Burning of the Palm Service @ 7:00pm



WELCA --The first meeting for 2023 for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be on **Saturday, February 18**, in the fellowship hall. **Socializing and refreshments at 9:15 am with meeting 9:30 --10:30 am.** Your input is helpful for the activities and projects that we are planning. Be a part of the bold women of St. John's who serve our congregation and our neighbors. Questions? Call Barbara Wilson (864) 723-3376.

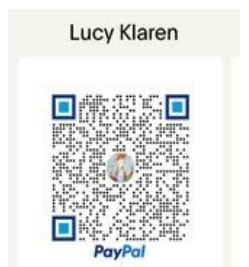


LUCY KLAREN CIRCLE IN PERSON AUCTION!

February 25, 2023 at the Walhalla Depot.
\$25 per ticket

Tickets are now available for purchase.

Email LKC for tickets at
lucyklarencircle11@gmail.com
or in the church office.



Serving Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Gary Safrit

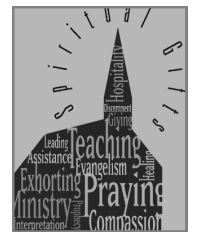
Lay Assistant: Vicar Emily Whitlow

Lector: Barbara Wilson

Organist: Carla Padgett

Greeter: Sharon Hamilton

Communion Ushers: Chuck and Diane Rawlins



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Our Extended Family and Friends

Our Church Family

Tiffany Chapman, healing/upcoming surgery
Deb Blackmore, healing/rehab/back surgery
Bob Beck, fall, back injury
Dave Lewis, healing, treatments
Frieda Cobb, breast cancer diagnosis
Eddie Harper, radiation/rehab
Jan Long, home/healing
Ann Brackett, breast cancer/radiation treatment
Judy Nelson, healing from sickness
Beth Davis, home
Annie Henry, recovery from hip surgery
Jana Snelgrove, healing
Baby Liam Plowden, continued growth

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

Peg Turner, The Oaks (healing from fall)
Jenine Baldus, hospice/home care (possible stroke)
Ann Biemann, home healing
Jack Campbell, home
Brenda Cantrell, home
Linda Humphries, home. recovery cataract surgery
Doug Deane, hospice at home
Betty Sosebee, Residence at Park Place
Jeanne Welch, home, healing
Dottie Brandt, Lila Doyle
Julie Corbett, home care
Marie Palmatier, home
Betty Wallace, Belvedere

Those Grieving

Family and friends of Mabel Grant

Other Prayer Concerns

For Syria and Turkey following the devastating earthquake that has taken more than 20,000 lives and left thousands injured and /or homeless
All those affected by winter storms.
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff
Our elected leaders, for continued wisdom
All military personnel



Please let the church office know of any updates to our prayer list.

George Combes, hospitalized with Covid (twin brother of Grace Lichtenwald)
Peggy Hall, (Libby McLean's sister) advanced melanoma in lung
Don Rivers, COPD complications (brother-in-law of Ann Brackett)
Mark Vassey, failure of transplanted kidney (friend of Ann Brackett)
Ken Burnside, chemo/radiation (cousin of Barbara and Paul Wilson)
Joey Kuemmerer, open heart surgery (cousin of Barbara and Paul Wilson)
Lauren Bowman, Lyme disease (daughter of Gary and Barb Bowman)
Sara Pike, breast cancer/treatment (daughter of Dean and Anne Fogel)
Volanté Roberts, breast cancer (friend of David and Cathy Plowden)
Debra Turk, treatment of breast cancer (daughter of Delores Kreuger)
Perry Shearouse, treatment of cancer (cousin of Delores Kreuger)
Barbara Vigneault, healing from lymphoma (friend of Williams)
Chris Dodson, healing from surgery (Daniels)
Diane Rivers, treatment for cancer (sister of Bill Brackett)
Tara Nolan, cancer (friend of Anne Fogel)
Doug Wilson, continued healing (Tina Barrett)
Jacquelyn Moore, healing/MS (niece of Kathy Scherter)
Bennie Smith, health (nephew of Wards)
Jaime Henry, heart issues (son of Annie Henry)
Bryce Easton, cancer (family of Fredi Hallman)
Kay Davis, cancer (friend of the Daniels)
Betty Watkins (friend of Betty Sosebee)
John Heasley, diabetes (son-in-law of Johnsons)
Dohnvan (grandson of Kathy Scherter)
Tom Tyree, cancer (friend of Sears)
Harold Smith, heart (friend of Tina Barrett)
Jennifer Rowe (friend of the Nortons)
Dolorico Perez (father of Josie Perez)
Eddie Harper, health (husband of Diane Harper)
Eve Mills, cancer (niece of Francoise Fussell)
Gina Daly, health (daughter of Bob Johnson)
Lily Sander (granddaughter of the Johnsons)

OPENING HYMN

“Holy Spirit Ever Dwelling”



1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er dwell-ing in the ho-liest realms of light;
2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er liv-ing as the church's ver-y life;
3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er work-ing through the church's min-is-try;



Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er striv-ing through us in a cease-less strife;
quick-'ning, strength-'ning, and ab-solv-ing, set-ting cap-tive sin-ners free;



Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er rais-ing those of earth to thrones on high;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er form-ing in the church the mind of Christ:
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er bind-ing age to age and soul to soul



liv-ing, life-im-part-ing Spir-it, you we praise and mag-ni-fy.
you we praise with end-less wor-ship for your gifts and fruits un-priced.
in com-mu-nion nev-er end-ing, you we wor-ship and ex-tol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874-1939, alt.
Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

THE GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: .Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **People: Amen.**

CHILDREN & YOUTH MESSAGE

Mark McLean

RECOGNITION OF MINISTRIES—PARISH LIFE

THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said to the people:] ⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

PSALM 119:1-8—*Read Responsively*

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD!
²**Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,**
³who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.
⁴**You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.**
Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!
⁶**Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.**
⁷I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.
⁸**I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.**

SECOND READING

I Corinthians 3:1-9

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?
⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives

THE SENDING HYMN

O Christ, Our Hope”

ELW 604



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through

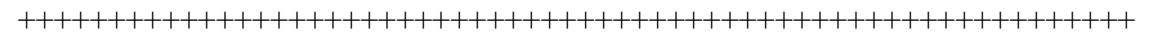


ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

THE DISMISSAL

Assisting: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **People: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



St. John's Congregation Council announces a Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, February 27, 2023 at 10:00AM in the fellowship hall.** The agenda includes:

- ◆ Opening Prayer
- ◆ 2022 Annual Report Distribution
- ◆ Vote on Strategic Plan that was shared on December 12 with the congregation and with our GSB consultant Mitzie Shafer
- ◆ Announcements/Closing Prayer

COMMUNION HYMN

“In the Singing



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Refrain
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931
Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926
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THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting: Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **People: Amen**

THE BLESSING

Pastor: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✚ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **People: Amen**

the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

A: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 205

***Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.***

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21-37

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE MESSAGE

Vicar Emily Whitlow

Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate and was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition— Merciful God, receive our prayer.

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always. **People: And also with you.**

THE OFFERING

We share our tithes and offerings in response to God's grace and love to us.

ANTHEM

*“Steal Away”
 Arranged by Sandra Eithun
 SJ Praise Ringers*

DOXOLOGY

ELW 885

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior.

People: Amen.

THE MEAL

All of God's people who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord are invited to His table for Holy Communion. When someone cannot receive either the bread or the wine, it is permissible to receive only one element, being assured that the full gift of the Lord's Supper is received. Please follow the directions of the ushers as you come forward to the communion table. Prefilled fellowship cups are also available.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 206

THE PROPER PREFACE

THE SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p. 207

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION AT THE ALTAR/IN SEATS

LAMB OF GOD

ELW 208