

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

Cell: (910) 515-0897 or Email: stjohnpastorrachel@gmail.com

Vicar Emily Whitlow, Seminary Intern

Cell: (803) 587-3113 or Email: stjohnsvicaremy@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday 8:30am-12:30pm

Tuesday– Friday 8:30am-1:30pm

(864) 638-6363 or Email: stjohnluther@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
9am Worship



DEUTERONOMY 30:14, NIV

February 12, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

St. John's Fellowship Hall

Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY

February 12, 2023

9:00AM

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.

PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG: "Come All You People"

Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come now and worship the Lord.

Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come now and worship the Lord.

Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come now and worship the Lord.

Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

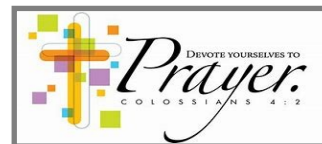
Pastor: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

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. Amen.**

Our Extended Family and Friends

George Combes, hospitalized with Covid (twin brother of Grace Lichtenwald)
Peggy Hall, advanced melanoma of the lung (sister of Libby McLean)
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 Françoise Fussell)
Gina Daly, health (daughter of Bob Johnson)
Lily Sander (granddaughter of the Johnsons)



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



Our Church Family

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

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

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

Those Grieving

Family and friends of Mabel Grant
Family and friends of Raylene Webster

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 especially those who lost loved ones.
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff
Our elected leaders, for continued wisdom
All military personnel

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.**

OPENING SONG “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see you, I want to see You. *(Repeat)*

To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory;
Pour out Your pow’r and love,
As we sing, “holy, holy, holy... *(Repeat from beginning)*

Last Time: holy, holy, holy; holy, holy, holy...
holy, holy, holy ... I want to see You.

THE APOSTOLIC 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: O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **People: Amen.**

RECOGNITION OF MINISTRIES—PARISH LIFE

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!

²Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,

³who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

⁴You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.

Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

⁶Then 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.

⁸I 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 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.

GOSPEL VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Bell Tower—Ministry News



PANCAKE SUPPER / MARDI GRAS

Tuesday, February 21

Supper @ 6:00pm

and Burning of the Palm Service @ 7:00pm



LUCY KLAREN CIRCLE IN PERSON AUCTION!

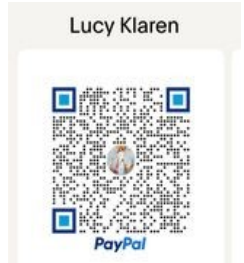
February 25, 2023 at the Walhalla Depot.

\$25 per ticket

Tickets are now available for purchase.

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

Donations also accepted through PayPal at
“lucyklarencircle11”
by scanning the QR ...

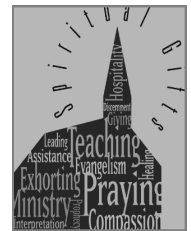


WELCA --The first meeting for 2023 for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be on **Saturday, February 18**, in the fellowship hall. **Socializing and refreshments at 9:15 am with meeting 9:30 --10:30 am.** Your input is helpful for the activities and projects that we are planning. 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.



Serving Today

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Rachel Connelly
Lay Assistant:	Vicar Emily Whitlow
Lector:	Cathy Plowden
Greeters:	Gary and Barbara Bowman
Director of Music:	Carla Padgett
Musicians:	Tom Ward, Ray Burroughs, David Devoe



SENDING HYMN "This Little Light of Mine"

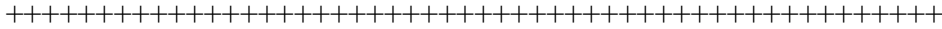
This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

DISMISSAL

Assistant: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

People: Thanks be to God.



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

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

SONG OF RESPONSE “Healer of Our Every Ill”

Refrain Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

- 1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*
- 2 In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*
- 3 Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*
- 4 You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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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.

PRE-COMMUNION SONG “We Are an Offering”

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives they are Yours: we are an offering

All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to You, we give to You.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering,
we are an offering.

THE MEAL

All of God's people who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord are invited to the table of Holy Communion. Prefilled fellowship cups are available.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PARTAKING OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG: “Christ Our Peace”

Christ, our peace,
you break down the walls that divide us;
Christ, our peace,
come, make us one body in you.

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THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

BLESSING

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