

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

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Office Hours
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Tuesday– Friday 8:30am-1:30pm
(864) 638-6363 or Email: stjohndluther@gmail.com



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 5, 2023
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.
Matthew: 5:14

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 5, 2023
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

PRELUDE

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

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 **Wednesday, February 8, at 10am** in the Fellowship Hall.



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!

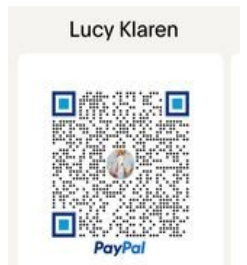
February 26, 2023 at the Walhalla Depot.

\$25 per ticket

Tickets are now available for purchase.

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

Donations also accepted through PayPal at "lucyklarencircle11"
by scanning the QR code to the right.



Today's altar flowers are given by Ron and Deb Blackmore to the glory of God and in honor of Emmeline, Deb, and Ron whose birthdays are in February.



Serving Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Rachel Connelly

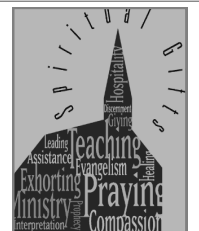
Lay Assistant: Vicar Emily Whitlow

Lector: Barbara Wilson

Organist: Carla Padgett

Greeter: Sharon Hamilton

Communion Ushers: Chuck and Diane Rawlins



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Our Church Family

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
Tiffany Chapman, healing/thanksgiving
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
Family and friends of Raylene Webster

Other Prayer Concerns

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



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

Our Extended Family and Friends

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 Françoise Fussell)
Gina Daly, health (daughter of Bob Johnson)
Lily Sander (granddaughter of the Johnsons)

OPENING HYMN

"Gather Us In"

ELW 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ers,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

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

Pastor Rachel Connelly

RECOGNITION OF MINISTRIES—OUTREACH AND BIGGERSTAFF

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-9a

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

PSALM 112:1-9—*Read Responsively*

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God’s commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶**For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

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 SENDING HYMN

God, Whose Almighty Word

“ELW 673



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter’s face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean’s tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth’s dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION AT THE ALTAR/IN SEATS

LAMB OF GOD

ELW 208

COMMUNION HYMN

“Bread of Life From Heaven”

ELW 474



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1	Break	now	the	bread	of	Christ's	sac - ri - fice;	giv - ing
2	Seek	not	the	food	that	will	pass a - way;	set your
3	Love	as	the	one	who,	in	love	for you,
4	Dwell	in	the	one	who	now	dwells	in you;
5	Drink	of	this	cup	and	de - clare	his	death;
								eat this



thanks,	hun - gry	ones,	gath - er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be
hearts	on	the	food	that	en - dures.	Come,	learn	the	true	and
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to	the	one
home	in	the	life - giv - ing	Word.	Know	on - ly	Christ,	Ho - ly		
bread	and	be - lieve	Eas - ter	morn;	trust	his	re - turn	and,	with	



sat - is - fied;	in	Christ's	pres - ence	the	loaves	will	a - bound.
liv - ing	way,	that	the	full - ness	of	life	may
food	for	you,	that	your	hun - ger	and	thirst
One	of	God,	and	be - lieve	in	the	truth
ev - 'ry	breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you
							are
							re - born.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD: Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
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SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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 5:13-20

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

THE MESSAGE

Vicar Emily Whitlow

HYMN OF RESPONSE “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” ELW 712



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love’s re-veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy’s per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-’ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press

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

*“When The Poor Ones”
Arr David Cherwein*

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