

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

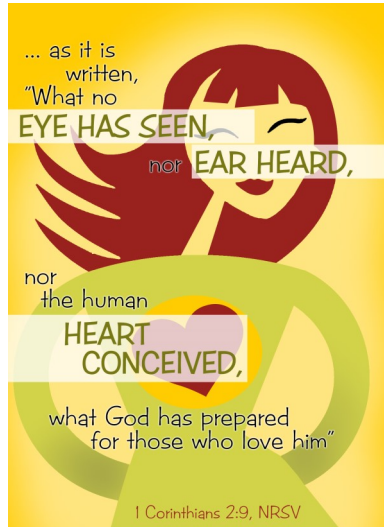
Cell: (803) 587-3113 or Email: stjohndvicaremy@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday 8:30am-12:30pm

Tuesday– Friday 8:30am-1:30pm

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



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

February 5, 2023
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

St. John's Fellowship Hall

Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY

February 5, 2023

9:00AM

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.

PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG: "Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alle -lu- Alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and you shall find;
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia. *Refrain*

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.**

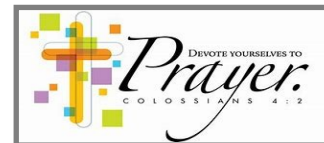
Pastor: Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven

in the name of ✠ Christ our Savior

People: Amen.

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



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
Tiffany Chapman, healing/thanksgiving
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

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

OPENING SONG: "Gather Us In"



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 - ters,
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.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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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: 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.**

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. ²Yet 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. ³“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. ⁴Look, 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. ⁵Is 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? ⁷Is 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? ⁸Then 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. ^{9a}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.

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.



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 pick up in the church office.

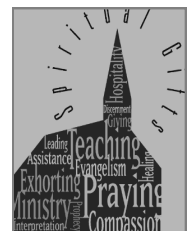
Donations also accepted through PayPal at
“lucyklarencircle11”
by scanning the QR ...

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:	Bill Hughes
Greeters:	Joe and Trisha Sears
Director of Music:	Carla Padgett
Musicians:	Tom Ward, Ray Burroughs,



COMMUNION SONG: "Bind Us Together"

Refrain: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord
Bind us together in love.

There is only one God. There is only one King.
There is only one Body; that is why we can sing. *Refrain.*

You are the fam'ly of God. You are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine. Refrain

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.**

SENDING SONG: "Go Make Disciples"

Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them,
 teach - ing them. Go, make dis - ci - ples, for
 I am with you till the end of time. Go, be the
 salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.
 Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you're
 serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples.

DISMISSAL

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

⁸Their 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.

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.

GOSPEL VERSE

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

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

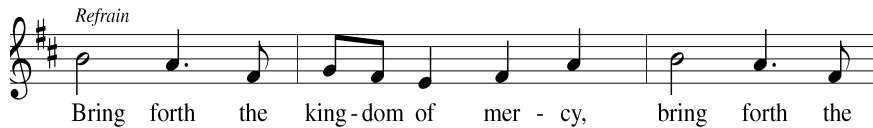
SONG OF RESPONSE “Bring Forth the Kingdom”



- 1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the king-dom of God!
- 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the cit - y of God!
- 3 You are a seed of the word, O peo-ple: bring forth the king-dom of God!
- 4 We are a blest and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the king-dom of God!



Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king - dom of God!
 Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king - dom of God!
 Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king - dom of God!
 Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the king - dom of God!



Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the



king - dom of peace; bring forth the king - dom of jus - tice,



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