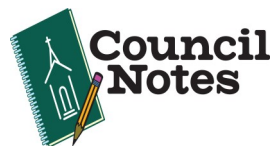


**Congregational Council Meeting - February 20, 2023**  
**Abbreviated Minutes**



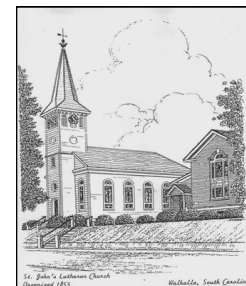
**Members Present:** All Members present including Vicar Emily  
Meeting called to order at 6:00pm. Dwelling in the Word led by Cathy Plowden.  
January Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve as presented, Cathy, second by Scot. Minutes approved.  
**Pastor's Report:** Epiphany season has gone well, weekly combined attendance at both services has us back to pre-Covid numbers. A new member orientation will be held in March.  
**Vicar's Report:** Emily is now 6 months into her internship. The candidacy committee visited in February and she is working on her intern project. Pastor and Emily will attend a retreat March 6-7 in Hickory.  
**Treasurer's Report:** Total income and expenses for January were under budget for the month. The General Fund checking account balance is \$50,708. It was noted that next year's intern funds are not in the budget.  
**Worship and Music:** Sandra is the new liaison and the group met on Jan. 19th, prior to her start. The next meeting is March 23rd. Lent & Easter planning underway.  
**Lenten Services:** Ash Wednesday 12:15pm & 7pm with drive-thru Imposition of Ashes from 4-6pm. A full listing will be published shortly.  
**Parish Life/Outreach:** John reported we prepared and delivered 408 Christmas Eve meals. The Fair Trade Market netted proceeds of \$2,072.06 which was donated to the Starlight program. Planning for the Issaqueena bike ride on April 15th is underway.  
**Property:** Scot noted the sprinkler system was repaired and an outdoor water leak in the Parsonage was identified and repaired as well.  
**Biggerstaff:** Stephanie reported next meeting is Thursday. Allen stated brush piles have been burned and they are getting grass mowing/weeding quotes now.  
**Strategic Planning Proposal:** Discussion yielded changes to the original document. The Council identified two items in the "Ministry to Families with Youth & Children" that could be reworded to better define our goals. Under Tactics: "Be Intentional in cross engagement with the Preschool through opportunities like a Pre-school family day at Biggerstaff Retreat" was changed to: *Assess the desire and feasibility for re-opening the Preschool.* In "Estimated Cost Annually" the phrase "50,000- \$70,000 for staff capacity building to reach the goal" was revised to: *\$5,000 for research, assessment and development toward additional staff and capacity building to reach the goal.* The Biggerstaff Facility and Ministry Assessment was missing the last two lines under "Tactics" in the original version. It should read to include: Champion: Biggerstaff Board; Cost Estimate: \$10,000. Allen Harding put forth a Motion to adopt the above changes to the Strategic Plan. John Hewell seconded. Council Approved unanimously. A revised copy will be sent out to all by email/USPS. The Congregational Meeting will be held on Feb.26th at 10:00am to vote on this Strategic Plan. Next Council Meeting is March 20, 2023 at 6:00pm Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm with praying the Lord's Prayer.

**THURSDAY CHEFS MEAL DELIVERY**

Through many generous member donations St John's has been fortunate to continue to provide meals to 15 of our members who are elderly, live alone or need a few extra meals per month. St. John's volunteers prepare and deliver over 1000 meals per year - this has become an amazing outreach. Many thanks to the 30 volunteer drivers who deliver each week- without them we could not do our work. On the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Thursdays our established Chefs ministry prepares and delivers meals. On the 4th, and 5th Thursdays we have partnered with the culinary arts students at the Hamilton Career Center. The students, under the direction of Rodney Quick, have been preparing the meals. This is a win-win ministry- we are supporting the students and they are helping us. In the words of Mr. Quick "the teaching tool of learning to give back is priceless". I speak for myself, our volunteers, and our recipients when I say thank you to all involved for your continuing support of this ministry. As with all our ministries and outreach opportunities there is a turn-over of volunteers. We are always in need of men and ladies to prepare and/or deliver meals. We will work with your schedule and with your gifts. Please contact Joan Lewis at (864) 710-1756 or joanlewisc@aol.com if you can help in any way.

**Issaqueena's Last Ride — Saturday, April 15th**

St. John's Lutheran Church is hosting Issaqueena's Last Ride cycling event again this year on Saturday, April 15th. The ride departs from St. John's at 9:00 A.M. When the more than 200 riders return, St. John's will feed them again with soups, pasta salad, sandwiches, cookies and drinks. Volunteers needed to donate the food and to serve the food. Sign-up soon at the Spiritual Ops table.



# THE CHIMES — MARCH 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Mission: Embraces a changing world in Christ's love and service.

PLEASE NOTE: Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9am-1:00pm  
OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS IN MARCH

Email: stjohsluther@gmail.com  
Website: www.stjohnswalhalla.org  
864-638-6363

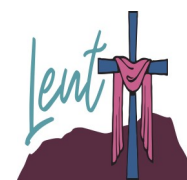
Biggerstaff Christian Retreat  
biggerstaffretreat@gmail.com

## ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER

*As I arise today, may the strength of God pilot me,  
the power of God uphold me, the wisdom of God guide me.  
May the eye of God look before me, the ear of God hear me,  
the word of God speak for me. May the hand of God protect me,  
the way of God lie before me, the shield of God defend me,  
the host of God save me. May Christ shield me today.*

*Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,  
Christ when I stand, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.  
Amen.*

## LENTEN SOUP & PRAYER



Lenten Soup and Study have begun on Wednesday evenings. We gather at 5:45pm for soup supper. Lenten study/service on Prayer will begin at 6:30 and last approximately 30 minutes. A \$5 donation (\$10 max per family) will be donated to Camp Kinard. 5-6 volunteers are asked to provide soup each Wednesday. Sign-up sheets are located at the Spiritual Ops table or you can sign-up on the link below. Bread and drinks are provided- no desserts during Lent.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tf5MyZ7edUZtsRQT74ZnbaTJSeMxQwv/edit#gid=1077447657>

This year all proceeds from Lenten suppers will be donated to:  
**SC LUTHERAN RETREAT CENTERS**  
**(Camp Kinard /Isle of Palms Retreat Center)**  
**BUILDING+RENEWING+BELIEVING: HOLY SPACES CAMPAIGN**



*"Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time." Habakkuk 2:1*

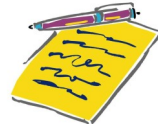


On Sunday, February 26, St. John's congregation gathered at 10am to discuss and vote on the proposed Strategic Plan that was presented in December. Sixty-four members were present and voted unanimously to move forward the plan that has four major areas of focus: Accessibility, ElderCare, Ministry to Families with Youth and Children, and Biggerstaff Retreat Center. Please keep our congregation in prayer as we begin!

Grace and Peace to you, friends!

It's hard to believe it's already March! And that we're coming up on the second Sunday in Lent. Throughout the season of Lent this year, we are focusing on prayer: growing in our own prayer life, our prayers as a congregation and community, and overall, learning various methods of prayer.

From the  
Vicar



Early on in my prayer life, I struggled with feeling like I didn't have the "right" words to pray or lacked the words that sounded "pretty" to pray. That's why learning different prayer methods have been helpful for me in my prayer life: learning how I feel most connected to God, how I best hear God speaking to me, what helps me hone in on what it is that I'm really trying to talk with God about. Where are you in your prayer life? Maybe for you it's those unspoken prayers that you have running through your head as you lay down to sleep. Maybe you're at a point where you talk out loud to God in your prayers. Maybe coming up with a prayer to say out loud overwhelms you. Wherever you are in your prayers, know that God hears and knows them, regardless.

I invite and encourage you to attend our Wednesday night Soup and Study, to hear some different methods of prayer and to find which one speaks best to you in this season.

Blessings upon blessings,  
*Vicar Emily Whitlow*



### BIGGERSTAFF WORK DAY

Come "wake" Biggerstaff up after its winter hibernation!

**Saturday, March 18 from 9am until 3pm** there will be a workday at Biggerstaff. Lunch will be provided. Many hands are needed to clean the gazebo, work on the gardens and clean up debris on the property.

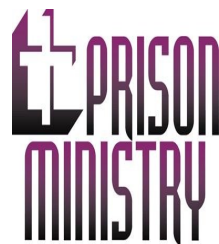
Come for the day or come for several hours.

**WE NEED YOU THERE TO HELP!!** Sign-up at the Spiritual Ops table.



### PRISON MINISTRY—Donations Needed

Donation are needed to support our prison ministry project. This spring our Outreach Committee will be filling Blessing Bags with hygiene and personal care items to be given to individuals upon their prison release. Each Zip lock bag will contain a pair of socks, a washcloth, wet wipes, Q tips, antiseptic cream, chap stick, a brush, soap, deodorant, toothpaste/toothbrush, hand/face cream, band aids, a \$5.00 food gift card, tampons/pads (for 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 Gift's table for donations to this project. Questions? Contact Libby McLean (mmclean7070@att.net)



Daylight Saving Time begins on  
Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 2:00 am.  
At this time, we "spring forward" one hour!  
Set your clock and don't be late to church!



### WELCA REPORT

During the meeting on February 18, the energetic group of women who gathered shared their projects and activities since November 2022. After discussions the women approved a Lutheran World Relief project and set a tentative date for our Tour of Tables which was postponed due to Covid. More information on both of these will be shared via email, worship bulletins, and Chimes newsletter. If you have not received emails about WELCA information from Barbara Wilson, please respond to [hickoryhollowbw@bellsouth.net](mailto:hickoryhollowbw@bellsouth.net) or call/text 864-723-3376.

### KNITTERS & CROCHETERS

Would you like to learn how to knit/crochet? Or need help to revive your skills?

Consider meeting with the group on Wednesday, March 22 at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

One-on-one teaching is available.

Questions? Call or text Barbara at (864) 723-3376!



### THE GLORIA SHEALY CIRCLE

The Gloria Shealy Circle will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

**Mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 21  
at 5pm for the next meeting.**

If you're interested in getting involved with the Gloria Shealy Circle, contact Anne Craig at (803)292 - 4492!

Gloria Shealy Circle



### THE SURVIVORS GROUP



Survivors Group

The Survivors group has several activities planned for March. On Sunday, March 5th, we will have a lunch with bingo. Then on Sunday, March 12th, several in the group will be going out to lunch followed by going to the Senior Follies. On Sunday, March 19th, lunch and going to the Winds concert at Walhalla High School is being planned. All widows/widowers are invited.

### THE CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel choir meets on Wednesdays at 6pm. We are now working on selections for Lent and Easter. Come out for a rehearsal and add your voice to the group as we sing praise and give glory to God!!

Questions: Call Carla Padgett, our Music Director at (864)561-0822



EASTER is SUNDAY, APRIL 9th. Beginning with Sunday, March 12th, the form for Easter lily donations in memory or in honor of a loved one will be in the bulletin.