

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
Monday– Friday 9:00am-1:00pm (temporary)
(864) 638-6363 or Email: stjohsluther@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
March 5, 2023
Second Sunday in Lent



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, March 5, 2023
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

People: Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Holy God,

People: we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave His only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

People: Amen.

The Bell Tower—Ministry News

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AND PRAYER SERVICES

Weekly Lenten Soup Meals and Prayer Services begin Wednesday, March 1 and will continue each Wednesday in March.

The Meal will begin at 5:45pm.

Prayer services start at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall.

Crockpots of Soup are needed for each Wednesday meal.

Please sign-up at the Spiritual Opportunities table to provide a crockpot of soup.

Those providing soup eat free that night.

Bread and drinks will be provided—no desserts during Lent.
Suggested dinner donation: \$5 per person/\$10 max for a family.



This year all proceeds from Lenten suppers will be donated to:
SC LUTHERAN RETREAT CENTERS
BUILDING+RENEWING+BELIEVING:
HOLY SPACES CAMPAIGN

THIS YEAR OUR LENTEN SEASON THEME IS PRAYER.



Serving Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Rachel Connelly

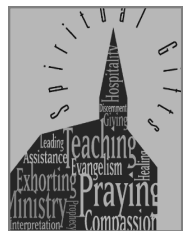
Lay Assistant: Vicar Emily Whitlow

Lector: Barbara Wilson

Organist: Carla Padgett

Greeter/Ushers: Ryan and Christy Raab

Altar Guild: Diane Rawlins



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Our Church Family

Eddie Harper, colon cancer/rehab
Dolly Johnson, healing
Tiffany Chapman, healing/ surgery
Deb Blackmore, healing/rehab
Bob Beck, healing/back injury
Dave Lewis, healing, treatments
Frieda Cobb, healing
Ann Brackett, healing
Judy Nelson, healing from sickness
Beth Davis, home
Annie Henry, recovery from hip surgery
Baby Liam Plowden, continued growth

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

Peg Turner, The Oaks
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

Other Prayer Concerns

For Syria and Turkey following the devastating earthquake that has taken more than 40,000 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.

Our Extended Family and Friends

Dan Huber (Safrit)
George Combes, healing from Covid (twin brother of Grace Lichtenwald)
Peggy Hall, (Libby McLean’s sister) advanced melanoma in lung
Don Rivers, COPD complications (Brackett)
Mark Vassey, failure of transplanted kidney (friend of Ann Brackett)
Ken Burnside, chemo/radiation (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 SONG

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW#733



1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win - ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor-row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid-ed; great is thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960
Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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.**

KYRIE

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MESSAGE

Pastor Rachel Connelly

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

PSALM 121—*Read Responsively*

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

THE SENDING HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW #660



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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THE DISMISSAL

Assisting: Go in peace. Serve in love. **People: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
 2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
 3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
 in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
 glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
 God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
 in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
 in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
 Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker
 Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **People: Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Pastor: God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

People: Amen.

LENTEN VERSE



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and



mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith-ful-ness of God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

THE MESSAGE

Vicar Emily Whitlow



1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
 2 “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
 3 “When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
 4 “Through-out all their life-time my peo-ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in his ex-cel-lent word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all-suf-fi-cient, shall be your sup-ply.
 my sov-er-ign, e-ter-nal, un-change-a-ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength-en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on-ly de-sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem-ples a-dorn,



who un-to the Sav-ior for ref-uge have fled?
 up-held by my righ-teous, om-ni-potent hand.”
 your dress to con-sume and your gold to re-fine.”
 like lambs they shall still in my bo-som be borne.”

Text: J. Rippon. *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, early American

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

“God So Loved the World”

By John Stainer

DOXOLOGY

ELW 885

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meals you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **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. 107

THE PROPER PREFACE

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION AT THE ALTAR/IN SEATS

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p.112

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 Grant us peace, grant us peace.*