

**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**

301 W. Main Street, Walhalla, SC

[www.stjohnswalhalla.org](http://www.stjohnswalhalla.org)

Facebook — St. John's Lutheran, Walhalla

**The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly**

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**Music Director, Carla Padgett**

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**Melissa Rasley, Administrative Assistant**

(864) 638-6363 or Email: [stjohnsluther@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsluther@gmail.com)

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm

Jesus ... said,  
"Take heart,  
daughter; your  
faith has made  
you well."



Matthew 9:22

**Additional St. John's Staff**

Ray Burroughs, Facilities Manager

Joan Lewis, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator

Greg Harris, Congregational President

Patty Shepard, Youth Director

Tiffany Chapman, Children's Ministry Coordinator

**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](http://www.stjohnswalhalla.org) and access the secure giving button.



**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**

Walhalla, South Carolina

9am Lakeside Worship



Second Sunday of Pentecost

June 11, 2023

Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center

# Welcome to Our Lakeside Worship

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

## PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING SONG "Morning Has Broken"

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

*Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965 Text © used by permission of David Higham Associates*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**People: Amen.**

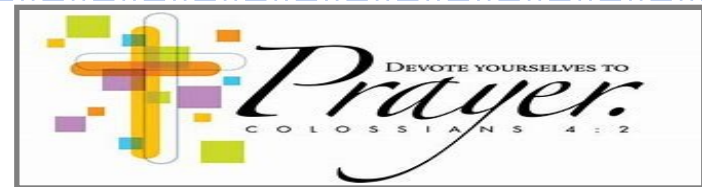
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Our Extended Family and Friends

Jane Finkenstadt, healing  
Family of Gladys Martin (died on 5/14, family to Nowell's)  
Joan Kramer, healing (friend of Scot and Linda Williams)  
Kevin Hathcock, viral meningitis, improving (Safrit's family)  
Evelyn Miller (Micky Ward's mother)  
Frank Guldner, healing  
Brad Eaton, Fredi Hallman's son in law—healing from heart issues  
Dan Huber, improving (Safrits)  
George Combes, healing and care (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)  
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)  
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)  
Dolorico Perez (father of Josie Perez)  
Eve Mills, cancer (niece of Francoise Fussell)  
Gina Daly, health (daughter of Bob Johnson)



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

### Our Church Family

Lynne Williams, healing  
Jan Day, healing  
Eddie Harper, colon cancer/healing  
Tiffany Chapman, healing  
Bob Beck, healing back injury  
Frieda Cobb, healing  
Robert Campbell, healing  
Judy Nelson, healing from sickness  
Lois Cooley, healing/comfort  
Annie Henry, recovery from hip surgery  
Baby Liam Plowden, continued growth

### Those grieving

Joan Lewis and family, loss of husband, Dave

### Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

Dottie Brandt, Lila Doyle, well-being  
Jenine Baldus, hospice/home care  
Ann Biemann, home  
Brenda Cantrell, home  
Linda Humphries, home, rehab Lila Doyle  
Doug Deane, hospice at home  
Betty Sosebee, Residence at Park Place  
Jeanne Welch, Rehab  
Jack Campbell, home  
Peg Turner, The Oaks  
Julie Corbett, home care  
Marie Palmatier, home  
Betty Wallace, Belvedere

### Other Prayer Concerns

For our country and for those grieving from recent mass shootings.  
For Syria and Turkey following the devastating earthquake.  
All military Personnel  
All those affected by Tornados and storms.  
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff and all voting members of the SC Synod as they gather in Columbia for assembly June 8-10.  
Voting members attending from St. John's are:  
Greg Harris  
Cathy Plowden  
Jan Long  
Vicar Emily Whitlow  
Pastor Rachel Connelly



Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **People: Amen.**

### OPENING SONG: "Lord, My Strength"

1 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark;  
2 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you a-lone:  
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, heal this wan-d'ring heart.  
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safe-ly home.  
Be my eyes, be my ears, be the on-  
Ev-ry step that I make, be the road  
- ly voice I hear; guide my soul, give me sight,  
I will take; be the thoughts that I keep  
help me walk with-in your light.  
and in ev-'ry word I speak.  
3 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark;  
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, heal this wan-d'ring heart.  
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you a-lone:  
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safe-ly home.

Text: Dean Krippaehne  
Music: LORD, MY STRENGTH, Dean Krippaehne

### 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

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **People: Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

Hosea 5:15-6:6

<sup>15</sup>I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor:

<sup>6:1</sup>“Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. <sup>2</sup>After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. <sup>3</sup>Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.” <sup>4</sup>What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. <sup>5</sup>Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. <sup>6</sup>For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

## Psalm: 50:7-15 — *Read Responsively*

<sup>7</sup>“Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you; for I am God, your God.

<sup>8</sup>**I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; your burnt offerings are always before me.**

<sup>9</sup>I will not accept a calf from your stalls, nor goats from your pens;

<sup>10</sup>**for all the wild animals of the forest are mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.**

<sup>11</sup>I know every bird of the mountains, and the creatures of the fields are mine.

<sup>12</sup>**If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**

<sup>13</sup>Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

<sup>14</sup>Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High. <sup>15</sup>Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

## THE SECOND READING

Romans 4:13-25

<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For 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, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of

# The Bell Tower—Ministry News



## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am at Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center  
10:00 am Sunday School at St. John’s Lutheran Church  
11:00am at St. John’s Lutheran Church



Pastor Rachel will be on vacation beginning Monday, June 12 through Wednesday, June 21. She will be back in the office on Thursday, June 22. During this time, if you have a pastoral care emergency, please call Vicar Emily at (803) 587-3113. If you have other concerns, call Melissa at the church office or Greg Harris, President, at (803) 364-0361.



By Sunday, June 18, please place all hygiene care kits and leftover items (in a separate labeled bag) in the box in the sacristy. These will be packed to take to SC WELCA Convention on June 23-24. Thanks to all who helped assemble personal care kits for LWF yesterday!



## St. John’s is hosting Lutheroad Day Camp at Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center

July 10-14, 2023

Camp runs 9am—4pm Monday—Thursday  
9am—12 pm on Friday

For children completing K—5th grade

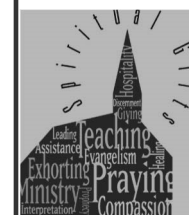
Cost is only \$140 for the week and scholarships are available.

Registration forms are available in the church office or on the church website <https://www.stjohnswalhalla.org/event-1/>



## Serving Today

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Rachel Connelly
Lay Assistant:	Cathy Plowden
Lector:	Cathy Plowden
Greeters/Ushers	Frieda Cobb/Anne Fogel
Musicians:	Carla Padgett, Tom Ward, Ray Burroughs, Dave Devoe





## THE BLESSING

Pastor: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✚ bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

SENDING SONG: *"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"*



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad  
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,  
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

People: Thanks be to God.



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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. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel*

## THE ALLELUIA VERSE

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

<sup>9</sup>As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup>And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup>But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

<sup>18</sup>While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” <sup>19</sup>And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup>Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, <sup>21</sup>for she said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” <sup>22</sup>Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. <sup>23</sup>When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, <sup>24</sup>he said, “Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup>But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. <sup>26</sup>And the report of this spread throughout that district.

## THE MESSAGE

*The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly*

### SONG OF RESPONSE: “*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*”



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.  
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 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— God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

## THE SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

### PRE-COMMUNION SONG: “*Sanctuary*”

Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary  
Pure and Holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for You.

Holy Spirit, fill this vessel  
Make my heart to, burn within  
Purify me, make my life be  
A sanctuary for You.

## THE MEAL

*All are welcome at the table of communion*

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN: “*Come to the Table*”

Come to the table of mercy,  
prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty,  
come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation;  
receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation;  
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

## THE PASTORAL BLESSING

### THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.  
With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.