

St. John's Congregational Meeting - June 4, 2023 10:30am

Pastor Rachel welcomed all and began with prayer. Congregational President, Greg Harris, called the meeting to order at 10:30am.

Quorum declared by Greg Harris.

Greg referenced the 2 handout sheets given to everyone as they entered, detailing the items we are here to vote on (Biggerstaff trailer and Preschool items for sale/disposal as outlined). Recording Secretary, Lynn Pode, read the reasoning for requesting to sell/dispose of the house trailer currently at Biggerstaff and the Motion set before the congregation. Greg opened the floor for discussion. Keith Snelgrove (Biggerstaff Board), discussed that we had a buyer for the trailer expressing a desire to purchase it for its listed amount of \$12,000. If the congregation votes to sell/dispose of the trailer at this meeting, the broker will be advised and let the potential buyer know. Keith cautioned members that the deal isn't finalized until its ownership is signed over and we receive the check. Removing the wood decks on the trailer would be our responsibility, the broker will clean the site of tie downs, but if any concrete is found they will not remove that. Greg read the Motion before the congregation, additional discussion amended the Motion. The Motion was moved by Brenda Safrit and Cathy Plowden. Greg Harris read the **Motion presented, "Do you give Biggerstaff Board and the Congregational Council approval to sell or dispose of the house trailer, at the best deal that can be negotiated and that any proceeds from the sale be placed in the Capital Fund for the Biggerstaff Retreat Center?"** No further discussion was heard so President Harris called for a vote. The **Motion was approved.**

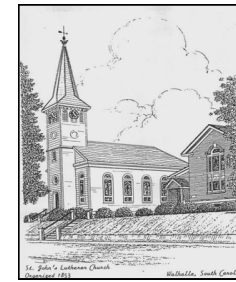
The Youth and Young Families committee have met with the Preschool task force. In the near term future, it was determined that we will not be re-opening the preschool. Focus instead will be on our goal of growing our ministry to youth and young families.

A discussion was held and a question asked about where the funds would be put if any sales of preschool items were made. Tom Ward suggested we could create a Youth/Young Families Fund. Bill Brackett offered that the Congregational Council has the authority to create such a fund if they so choose. Cathy Plowden and Chuck Rawlings moved the Motion be advanced. Greg Harris read the **Motion: The Congregation authorizes the Congregational Council to inventory, assess the need for preschool items and the sell or dispose of unwanted items, as it sees fit.**

No further discussion was heard. President Harris called for a vote. **Motion accepted.**
Meeting Adjourned at 10:50am. Lynn Pode, Congregation Recording Secretary

Strategic Planning Update from Greg Harris, Congregational Council President:

Since the Congregation approved the strategic plan, much organizing has taken place. Champion Teams for each of the four key ministry areas (Accessibility, Eldercare, Families with Youth & Children & Biggerstaff) have been formed and each has met at least once. They are currently working on the first steps towards the deliverables. Over the next weeks, the pace will quicken and the teams will no doubt be seeking more input from the Congregation. The Council will keep the Congregation apprised of the progress towards completion of the major strategic goals.



THE CHIMES — JULY 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

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

PLEASE NOTE: Office Hours: Monday—Friday 8:30am-1:00pm

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Dear Friends:

Excitement is in the air as we get ready for the arrival of our Lutheroad Day Camp counselors from Lutheridge this Sunday and prepare for the Day Campers to arrive at Biggerstaff on Monday morning at 9am. This week of Day Camp is an opportunity for St. John's to provide an intentional week of faith formation and enrichment for the children who attend. The days will be filled with group-sharing, bible stories, singing, games, and crafts in the beautiful outdoor retreat setting at Biggerstaff. The young college-aged adults who come from Lutheridge are well-trained and joy-filled providing wonderful examples of faith in action for the children.

Pastor Drew Yoos, one of the Lutheridge program directors, recently shared with congregations and leaders the Bible study curriculum that Lutheran Outdoor ministries are using this summer. It is called, "Beloved: Be Loved." At its core, the curriculum will explore our belovedness through the lens of the Holy Trinity with the five-day themes as:

Who am I?
Who is God?
Who is Jesus?
Who is the Holy Spirit?
Who are we?

These basic questions surrounding our Christian faith are appropriate for us all to review as we seek to remain faithful to the gospel amidst the clamor of so much noise in the world.

Please pray for our counselors, campers, staff and volunteers for a safe and enriching experience!

In Christ's Joy and Peace,

Pastor Rachel Connelly



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S

- Cook part of a meal and/or deliver on Thursdays between 10:30 and 12 noon.
- Prepare a meal or part of a meal on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.
- Serve as a Lector, Greeter or 11am Communion Usher.
- Transport our senior members who need rides to doctor appointments, etc.

Contact Joan Lewis at 864-710-1756 or joanlewissc@aol.com if you're interested.



FAREWELL DINNER AND ROASTING FOR VICAR EMILY

Saturday, the 12th of August from 6:00—8:00pm at Biggerstaff Retreat
Vicar Emily's internship year with us will be coming to a close all too soon. The Internship Committee and St. John's staff are hosting a Farewell Dinner and "Roasting" for Saturday, August the 12th at Biggerstaff. Stay tuned for more information and a sign-up sheet in the coming weeks.

Friends,

From the
Vicar



Similar to Pastor Rachel's article in Chimes last month, the people of St. John's are certainly not having the "lazy days" of summer!

June was a very busy month and July is shaping up to be pretty busy as well, especially with our upcoming Lutheroad Day Camp. During the summer, we see so much outdoor ministry happening: worship at Biggerstaff, camp happenings at the various NovusWay Camp locations, and outreach ministries. Recently, I attended a day of confirmation Camp at Lutheridge, alongside Pastor Rachel and Ava Riddle-Perras, who attended as a camper. One of my favorite parts of camp are the joyful praises we get to offer up in the form of camp songs, but I also enjoyed this year, getting to witness these teens growing in their faith life through new connections with one another, nature, visits at a local senior living facility, and more.

Seeing one another grow in our faith can be encouraging and inspiring for our own faith lives and that's one reason why community is so important. We'll see that in the upcoming week of Lutheroad day camp and we'll see it in visitors attending our worship services this summer, especially out at Biggerstaff which continues to be a huge outreach ministry for St. John's. We also see it in the, maybe, not-so-new connections that already live and thrive at St. John's. The outpouring of love and support that we see in our church community when a loved one enters God's eternal kingdom, when a loved one or friend receives a diagnosis, and in all of life's in-between-moments goes to show how strong and important this community is.

In the days ahead, especially as we start to look ahead to upcoming ministries for St. John's, I urge you to continue welcoming: welcoming others into this community, welcoming others into knowing God's love, and welcoming your own growth in your faith life. Continued blessings upon your travels and journeys this month: whether those journeys be to visit with friends and family, new places, or journeys in your faith life.

Grace and Peace,

Vicar Emily Whitlow

Dear Friends,

As you may have noticed, the choir is taking a break for the month of July. We are still working behind the scenes though, on music for our upcoming concert. The concert will be at St. John's on Sunday, September 17, 2023, at 5 pm. We will premiere some of my new compositions for choir and various instruments, including our pipe organ, in celebration of it's 20th anniversary. We hope you will join us for this event and invite your friends and neighbors too. The event is free, so be sure to mark your calendars and plan to come!

Sending Summer blessings to all,

Carla Padgett
Director of Music
864.561.0822



Just a reminder, if you're having a function or a meeting at the church, please fill out a work request for Ray. The simple form is located on Joan's table outside the office. Fill out and return to Melissa or Ray. Thank you!



WELCA REPORT

Congratulations to Risse Snelgrove who was re-elected to President of SC WELCA on June 24 at the convention in Lexington!! And thanks to voting delegates Lynn Pode and Tina Barrett, guest "helper" Jan Long, and co-chaplains Vicar Emily and Pastor Rachel. Thanks to our congregation for sending 25 hygiene care kits for Tanzania, \$10 for Camp Kinard project, and \$500+ for Joy Offering for outreach.

On August 19, WELCA is planning our enjoyable Tour of Tables. Sign up sheets for table decorations (10) by you/friends and door prizes (20) are on Joan's table in the sacristy. Guidelines will be provided. Energetic Rev. Jackie Utley will be our guest speaker. Tickets, food, etc. will be shared later this month. Net proceeds will go to Backpack program of Oconee County Schools. Contact Barbara Wilson for questions (864-723-3376 or hickoryhollowbw@bellsouth.net)

KNITTERS & CROCHETERS

Would you like to learn how to knit or crochet? Do you need help to revive your skills? One-on-one teaching is available. The group meets on Wednesday July 12th and 26th at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us!

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



THE GLORIA SHEALY CIRCLE

Gloria Shealy Circle



The Gloria Shealy Circle will once again be collecting school supplies for their summer project. Please bring any donations to the church and place them in the marked box for this located next to the gathering space table. Needs include pens, pencils, pencil holders, binders, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, rulers, index cards, crayons, colored pencils, highlighters, 3 prong folders, glue sticks, scissors, binder dividers. These items will be collected through the **first week in August**. We want to thank the congregation for supporting the Gloria Shealy Circle with this project to help the students of Oconee County with these needs.

THE SURVIVORS GROUP

The Survivors group will be going to Blue Bay in Easley for lunch on **Friday July 14**. After lunch those who want, will do some shopping. **On Sunday July 23**, the group will go to Carson's in Anderson for lunch after worship. All widows/ widowers are invited to join us for any event.



Survivors Group

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO CARE FOR OUR CREMAINS GARDEN



Do you have a green thumb or enjoy gardening? Or maybe you have a desire to give care to those who saints who have gone before us? We need a volunteer to help care for our **Cremains Garden**. If you are interested in share your time and talents in this area, please call or talk to Greg Harris or Pastor Rachel.



Nancy Carter would like to thank the members of St. John's for their love and support during this difficult time. The cards, visits, calls and meals were all very much appreciated. Her daughter, Suzanna Foley, appreciated the thoughts and prayers as well.

Jeanne Welch appreciates the cards and messages sent to her. She misses worshipping here and the messages keep her uplifted and close to God.

