

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
Walhalla, South Carolina
9am Worship



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 2024

St. John's Fellowship Hall

Welcome to Worship!

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG *"Lord, Be Glorified"*

- 1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.
- 2 In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in our song, Lord, be glorified today.
- 3 In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in your church, Lord, be glorified today.
- 4 In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, creator of darkness and light,
word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

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

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not
always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against
you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each
of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of
grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority
of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

Amen.

OPENING SONG: *“Open the Eyes of My Heart”*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see you, I want to see You.

To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory;
Pour out Your pow’r and love,
As we sing, “Holy, holy, holy...

Holy, holy, holy;
holy, holy, holy...
Holy, holy, holy ...
I want to see You.

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: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”



Psalm 111— *Read Responsively*

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant
forever; holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this
have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

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

Mark 1:21-28

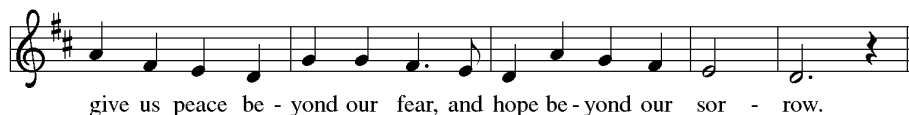
²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Rachel Connelly

SONG OF RESPONSE: *“Healer of Our Every Ill”*



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

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 of grace, **receive our prayer.**

THE SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

THE OFFERING

Our gifts and offerings are gathered for the mission of the church.
Plates are passed by the ushers.

OFFERTORY 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



THE MEAL

All are welcome at the table of communion

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: "Thy Word"

Refrain

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way
still you're there right beside me,
and nothing will I fear
as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end. *Refrain*

I will not forget your love for me,
and yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side,
and I will love you to the end. *Refrain*

Text: Psalm 119:105

THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are
Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to
your glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Pastor: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit
who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



SENDING SONG: “*Shout to the Lord*”

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength;
Let every breath, all that I am
never cease to worship You.

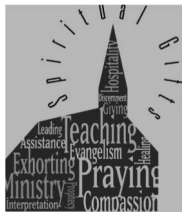
Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hand;
forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

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DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

People: Thanks be to God.



Serving Today

Pastor:	The Rev. Dr. Rachel Connelly
Lay Assistant:	Vicar Olga-Maria Cruz
Lector:	Cathy Plowden
Greeters:	Scot & Linda Williams
Musicians:	Carla Padgett, Tom Ward, Ray Burroughs, Dave Devoe

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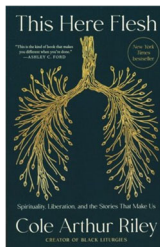
The Bell Tower—Ministry News



Vicar Olga-Maria's internship project is documenting impacts of the pandemic on our congregation and community. Please support her work by filling out her brief, anonymous survey, either on paper (on clipboards in the breezeway), follow this QR code:



On Saturday February 3, 2024, Rise Against Hunger will be organized by our friends at Walhalla Presbyterian Church. Local churches will be assembling meal kits for those in need around the world. 100 volunteers are needed and the goal is to package 20,000 meals in 2 hours. Sounds ambitious... *but it was done last year so it can happen!* Volunteers will be asked to help measure, seal, label and package meals of soy, rice, dehydrated vegetables and micro nutrient packets.



St. John's Book Club will meet **Tuesday, Feb 20th at 7pm** at the parsonage. February's book is **This Here Flesh**, by Cole Arthur Riley, available in hard or soft cover, audiobook or kindle e-book. Also, our monthly meetings will now be **hybrid events!** Please **RSVP** when you can, via email or text (502-644-0176) -- and be sure to let Vicar Olga-Maria know if you'll be attending in person or joining us via Zoom so she can send you a link.

Save the Date...the evening of **Saturday, February 24, 2024**, Lucy Klaren Circle will be hosting its annual Jubilee and Silent Auction at the Walhalla Depot. There will be lively music, tasty food, a variety of beverages, and lots of great items to be auctioned off. Childcare will be provided at the church. Tickets are \$25 each. All proceeds go towards scholarships for Walhalla High School seniors who demonstrate a passion for community service. If you're not able to attend and would like to be a sponsor, please contact Stephanie Champion at 864-710-2588 or any LKC member.



Our Church Family

Charlie (health) & Debbie (lung cancer) Busch
Risse Snelgrove, surgery/healing
Joezie White, safe travels
Gary Cabbage (& Marsha), Gary stroke 1/12 — healing
Martha Murtiashaw, recovery from heart procedure
Frieda Cobb, upcoming surgery
Brenda Safrit, healing
Anne Fogel, tests
Thelma Miller, healing
Lynne Williams, healing
Tiffany Chapman, healing
Robert Campbell, healing

**Those grieving**

The Family and Friends of Dottie Brandt
The Molden Family, loss of Julia's son, Sgt. Cade Wolfe

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

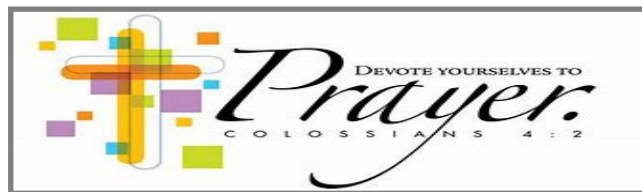
Jenine Baldus, hospice/home care
Ann Biemann, home
Jack Campbell, home
Brenda Cantrell, home
Julie Corbett, home care
Doug Deane, hospice at home
Linda Humphries, home, rehab Lila Doyle
Marie Palmatier, home
Peg Turner, The Oaks
Betty Wallace, Belvedere
Bill Watt, home
Jeanne Welch, home

Other Prayer Concerns

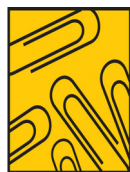
For Cpl. Lucas Watts and his family, and the Oconee County
Sheriff's Department.
For those dealing with loss and fear from gun violence.
For peace in the Middle East, and comfort to those impacted by the
violence there.
For those recovering and those who are providing care and disaster
response in the aftermath of recent natural disasters throughout the
world.
All military Personnel
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff

Our Extended Family and Friends

Kathy Quickel, recovery (Mike Goyne's mother)
Brandon Fong, loss of mother (friend of Carla)
Stephen Gilliam, (father of Allen Gilliam)
Larry Greene, lung cancer (brother-in-law of Patty Shepard)
Annette Vinson, surgery/recovery (friend of Ann Brackett)
Zach James (son-in-law of Heavner's)
John Rash, healing (son-in-law of Carolyn Brandt)
Kevin Hathcock, healing (Safrit's family)
Frank Guldner, healing
Dan Huber, improving (Safrits)
George Combes, healing (brother of Grace Lichtenwald)
Mark Vassey, failure of transplanted kidney (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)
Diane Rivers, cancer treatment (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)
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.*



CHURCH
OFFICE
STAFF

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Email: carla@carlasart.com

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(864) 638-6363 or Email: stjohnsluther@gmail.com
Office Hours Monday—Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm

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 the GIVELIFY app.
- You may also go to our website: www.stjohnswalhalla.org and click on the “Give Now With Givelify” button
- Another option is to scan this QR code to go directly to our Givelify page.

