

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA  
Walhalla, South Carolina  
11 am Worship Service  
Second Sunday of Easter  
April 27, 2025



In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days. Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

Welcome to Worship at St. John's!

We are glad that you are with us today as we worship our Lord Jesus Christ!

++Please be courteous and respectful. Please turn off all electronic devices during worship.++

## *Welcome to Worship!*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **WE GATHER**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN      *"Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"*

*ELW 389*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

*ELW pg. 147*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*"This is the Feast"**ELW pg. 149*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MESSAGE

*Adriana McMurphy*

## THE FIRST READING

**Acts 5:27-32**

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Psalms 118:14-29— *Read Responsively*

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

**"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> "This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup> **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> **Hosanna! O LORD, save us! We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;

we bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> **The LORD is God and has given us light.**

**Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

<sup>29</sup> **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.**

## THE SECOND READING

**Revelation 1:4-8**

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*ELW pg. 151*



THE HOLY GOSPEL

**John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

THE SERMON

*Pastor Rachel Connelly*

HYMN OF RESPONSE      *“We Walk by Faith”*

*ELW 635*

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 prayer petition—* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**Congregation: And also with you.**



THE OFFERING

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

OFFERING ANTHEM

THE OFFERTORY

*“The Doxology”*

*ELW 884*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise him all creatures here below, praise him above ye  
heavn’ly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

## THE MEAL

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*ELW pg. 152*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## THE PROPER PREFACE

### THE SANCTUS

*“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

*ELW pg. 153*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

pg. 154

**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.**

### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

#### COMMUNION HYMNS     *"Lamb of God"*

pg. 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"*

ELW 362

### THE PASTORAL BLESSING

#### THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**



### THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

### THE SENDING HYMN

*"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"*

*ELW 384*

### THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE



Serving Today



in Worship

Serving Today in Worship

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly

Assisting: Andrea Carlson

Lector: Merada Moffitt

Supply Organist: Grace Lichtenwald

Guest Choir Director: Deb Blackmore

Cantor: Tina Barrett

Greeters/Ushers: Shonda Mahler & Bill Pickard

Altar Guild: Jan Day

### **Our Church Family**

Frieda Cobb, healing from surgery  
Andera Stroud, healing  
Kevin Newell, healing  
Tiffany Chapman, healing after surgery  
Wilma Cobb, upcoming surgery  
Nancy Carter, recovery & rehab  
PJ Daniels, recovery/healing  
Danny Daniels, healing from surgery  
Robert Smith, healing  
Thelma Miller, healing  
Katie Johns, home, healing  
Beverly Hardin, recovery  
Charlie (health) & Debbie (lung cancer) Busch

### **Those grieving**

The Family of Jordan Davis

### **Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living**

Marsha Cabbage, home  
Ann Biemann, home  
Brenda Cantrell, home  
Linda Humphries, home  
Marie Palmatier, home  
Peg Turner, The Oaks  
Betty Wallace, Belvedere  
Bill Watt, home  
Jeanne Welch, home  
Jack & Lynn Williams (Pawleys Island)

### **Other Prayer Concerns**

For the Roman Catholic Church following the death of Pope Francis.  
For those dealing with loss from recent natural disasters.  
For all those who have lost their jobs due to recent government changes.  
For peace for our country and protection for our government officials.  
For the Israeli hostages and their families.  
For colleges & universities across our country.  
For those dealing with loss and fear from gun violence.  
For peace in the Middle East, and comfort to those impacted by violence.  
All military Personnel  
Bishop Ginny Aebischer and our Synod Staff



### **Our Extended Family and Friends**

The family of Debbie (Tony) Stapleton (friend of Snelgrove's)  
The family of Kristen Antley (friend of Pastor Rachel)  
Pastor Jason Antley & daughters (friend of Pastor Rachel)  
Gabino Vivaldo, healing from chemo  
The family of John Gerber (family of Bobbie Duncan)  
The family of Chelsea Cliborne (friends of Lattimore's)  
Hubert Barrett, stroke (brother-in-law of Tina Barrett)  
Larry Smith, (friend of Jane Harris)  
The family of Tim Barnes (friend of Tom Ward)  
Chloe Bestawros, healing (cousin of Cathy Plowden)  
Barbara Williams, healing (mother of Cathy Plowden)  
Bonnie Blanchett, healing (mother of Ryan Raab)  
Cheryle Hurley, cancer & chemo (friend of Pastor Rachel)  
Dan Fogel, healing (son of Fogel's)  
E. Christian Gauderer, hospitalized in Lisbon, Portugal (brother of Michael)  
Sandy & Ron Fulton, cancer (friends of Scot & Linda Williams)  
Brian Hollen, kidney surgery (friend of Dolores Krueger)  
Delaine Hollandsworth, testing (daughter of Millie Hawbecker)  
Nancy Coleman, healing (friend of the Williams)  
Risaline Sioson, breast cancer (Sister of Josie Busch)  
Janelle Gibson, healing (Aunt of Jan Day)  
Bob Lidwin, (nephew of Bill Pickard)  
Erica McKee Skinner, healing (friend of Tina Barrett)  
Ben Harding, healing (brother of Allen Harding)  
Chad Cobb (son of Wilma)  
Ernestine Addis, healing (sister-in-law of Richard & Connie Addis)  
Kay Davis, recovery (mother of Stephanie Champion)  
Pam Hester, (cousin of Ann Brackett)  
Ruth Williams, cancer (sister of Grace Schmeelcke)  
George Rogers, lung cancer (half brother of Micky)  
Kelsey Bowman, healing (daughter-in-law of Bowmans)  
Larry Greene, lung cancer (brother-in-law of Patty Shepard)  
George Combes, (brother of Grace Lichtenwald)  
Lauren Bowman, Lyme disease (daughter of Gary and Barb Bowman)  
Jacquelyn Moore, (niece of Kathy Scherter)  
Bennie Smith, health (nephew of Wards)  
John Heasley, diabetes (son-in-law of Johnsons)  
Dohnvan (grandson of Kathy Scherter)  
Dolorico Perez (father of Josie Perez)  
Gina Daly, health (daughter of Bob Johnson)



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

# The Bell Tower— Ministry News

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**Easter Bible Study on 1 & 2 Samuel  
Tuesdays at 11am**

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## **God's Work ~ Our Hands Day**

On **Saturday, May 3rd** we will be holding our annual Spring God's Work ~ Our Hands Day. Please join us at Lakeview Assisted Living on 320 Camp Road, Walhalla as we continue our partnership with the staff and residents there.

Lakeview is a county owned facility, managed by Senior Solutions. We have worked with Lakeview for 10+ years doing a variety of projects at the facility and with the residents.

We will meet at the church at 9am for a time of prayer. We will then travel to Lakeview. All ages are welcome. Those preparing lunch will work at the church with Bill Pickard and deliver lunch to Lakeview by 11:30am.

Sign-up for all projects and for food donations is located on Information Alley (next to office).

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## **2025 LUTHEROAD DAY CAMP**

St. John's is hosting Lutheroad Day Camp at Biggerstaff  
Christian Retreat Center on  
**June 23-27, 2025**



**WHAT IS DAY CAMP?** It is a five-day program where many of the benefits of Camp Lutheridge come right to the local church. Trained counselors come for the week and share in a program that includes fun, worship, games, Bible study, fellowship, crafts, sharing and prayer.

- **Deadline for Early Registration is May 1st.**
- Camp runs 9am - 4pm Monday - Thursday, 9am - 12 pm on Friday
- For children completing Kindergarten through 5th grade
- Cost is only \$160 (\$135 Early Bird Special) for the week and scholarships are available. Registration ends June 10. Same family multiple child discounts available.
- *Registration forms are available in the church office.*

Join us for a great week of fun for children of our church, grandkids, friends, and kids from the community!! For more information, contact the church office at 864-638-6363.



## CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
**301 W. Main Street, Walhalla, SC**  
[www.stjohnswalhalla.org](http://www.stjohnswalhalla.org)  
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**Pastor—The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly**  
Cell: (910) 515-0897 or Email: [stjohnspastorrachel@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnspastorrachel@gmail.com)

**Director of Family Life Ministry—Adriana McMurphy**  
Email: [stjohnsadriana@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsadriana@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant—Melissa Rasley**  
(864) 638-6363 or Email: [stjohnsluther@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Lynn Pode, Congregational President

WELCOME TO  
*church*

**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](http://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.

