CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
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www.stjohnswalhalla.org
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Office Hours: Monday—Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm

Additional St. John's Staff
Ray Burroughs, Facilities Manager
Joan Lewis, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator
Cathy Plowden, 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** and click on the "Give Now With Givelify" button
- Another option is to scan this QR code to go directly to our Givelify page.

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Walhalla, South Carolina

11 am Worship Service

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026



Welcome!

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Welcome to Worship!

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Holy God,

we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN *"Come, We That Love the Lord"* *ELW 625*

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.

The Bell Tower— Ministry News



MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

For the month of November Evening Bible Study will be studying the Gospel of John. Everyone is welcome to come learn and engage in deep, faith-forming conversations. Led by Adriana.



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: A 6 week Study on Luther and the Small Catechism at 11am in the Sanctuary. Led by Pastor Rachel.



NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE

Each week in November, St. John's will be taking food donations for St. Luke Food Pantry. For the **week of November 8** we need: **CANNED MEATS** (any kind). Please bring your donations to the Gathering Area.



WEDNESDAY LUNCH

This week Wednesday Lunch will be on **November 11**. All are welcome to join us at 11:30am for tasty food, fun and fellowship. We ask for a $5 donation towards the meal (you can't eat anywhere for $5 anymore). Sign-up on Information Alley so we can estimate attendance.

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 10am



The Annual Congregation meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 10:00am in the fellowship hall. Key action items include: adoption of the 2027 Ministry Budget and election of Council Members. At this meeting we will also be voting to accept proposed changes to St. John's Congregation Constitution and Bylaws.



YOUTH GROUP MEETING

On **Sunday, November 15**, middle and high school youth group will meet at noon after worship for fun and fellowship. Lunch will be provided, please bring your favorite snack or dessert to share.

Our Church Family
Tom Ward, healing, recovery
Bill Brackett, healing
Sandy Yuda, healing (AnMed Rehab)
Wilma Cobb, healing
Gary Cabbage, healing
Michael Pode, healing
Deb Blackmore, healing
Tina Barrett, healing
Tiffany Chapman, healing
Charlie (health) & Debbie (lung cancer) Busch

Those Grieving
The family of Nora Rooche Fields following her death.
Anne Craig and family (death of her brother, John)
Millie Hawbecker (death of her sister, Betty Alexander)
Ryan Rabb and family (death of his mother Bonnie Blanchett)

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living
Andera Stroud, Foothills
Thelma Miller, The Residences (Wells Highway)
Brenda Cantrell, home
Linda Humphries, home
Frances Carter, home/hospice
Marie Palmatier, home
Lynne Williams (Pawleys Island)

Other Prayer Concerns
For those affected after recent school shootings.
For those affected by the fire in Walhalla.
For those affected by military actions in the Middle East..
For our country amidst on-going nationwide violence.
For wisdom for military leaders involved in the events unfolding in the Middle East.
For those dealing with loss from recent natural disasters and severe weather.
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 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.
For Bishop Wade Roof and Synod staff
All military Personnel

Our Extended Family and Friends
Linda Zygmont, healing (friend of Jan Long)
Nancy Deal, hospice (sister-in-law of McLeans's)
Kristen, healing (daughter of Robert Smith)
Archie Yusef, tests (great nephew of Sandra Pruitt)
Kyle Hollandsworth, job search (grandson of Millie)
Charlotte Eaker, breast cancer (sister-in-law of Ann Brackett)
Valarie Bentley (infant) hole in heart (Tina Barrett)
Mary Jane Rees, healing (mother of Rod Rees)
Bobbie Williams, hospice (aunt of Jan Day)
Susan Ward, cancer (daughter of Joan Lewis)
Barbara Williams, hospice (mother of Cathy Plowden)
Jon Fowler, brain cancer (cousin of Wilson's)
Jean Deal, healing (sister-in-law of McLean's)
Joan Kramer, successful treatment (friend of Williams')
Riley Medlin, cancer diagnosis (WHS student)
Doug Scanlon, healing (friend of Grace Schmeelcke)
Maggie Ormes, healing (friend of Mary Sprouse)
Barbara Cary, comfort (sister of Dave Devoe)
Buffy McCarthy, healing (daughter-in-law Kathy Scherter)
Stephanie Williams, cancer/chemo (cousin/ Pastor Rachel)
Kathy Smith, liver cancer (cousin of Cathy Plowden)
Isabel Fogel, healing (granddaughter of Fogel's)
Dwight Amic k, hospice (Stephanie Champion, step dad)
Danny Childress, comfort (nephew of Safrit's)
Larry Smith, (friend of Jane Harris)
E. Christian Gauderer, hospitalized in Lisbon, Portugal (brother of Michael)
Janelle Gibson, healing (aunt of Jan Day)
Erica McKee Skinner, healing (friend of Tina Barrett)
Ben Harding, healing (brother of Allen Harding)
Chad Cobb (son of Wilma)
Kay Davis, recovery (mother of Stephanie Champion)
Kelsey Bowman, healing (daughter-in-law of Bowmans)
Lauren Bowman, Lyme disease (daughter of Gary and Barb Bowman)
Jacqulyn Moore, (niece of Kathy Scherter)
Bennie Smith, health (nephew of Wards)
Dohnvan (grandson of Kathy Scherter)
Dolorico Perez (father of Josie Perez)
Gina Daly, health (daughter of Bob Johnson)



KYRIE *ELW 157*



THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

YOUTH MESSAGE *Adriana McMurphy*

TEMPLE TALK *"Cultivating Our Roots"*

THE FIRST READING **Amos 5:18-24**

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is
darkness, not light, 19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house
and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. 20 Is not the day of the LORD
darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? 21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take
no delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain
offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not
look upon. 23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your
harps. 24 But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Psalm 70— ***Read Responsively***

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

THE SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that
you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and
rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we
declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the
Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of
command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from
heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be
caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the
Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN *"Blessed Assurance"* *ELW 638*

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE





This week we welcome The Reverend Bruce Booher as our guest Pastor. Thank you Pastor Booher for sharing your time and talents with us while Pastor Rachel is away.

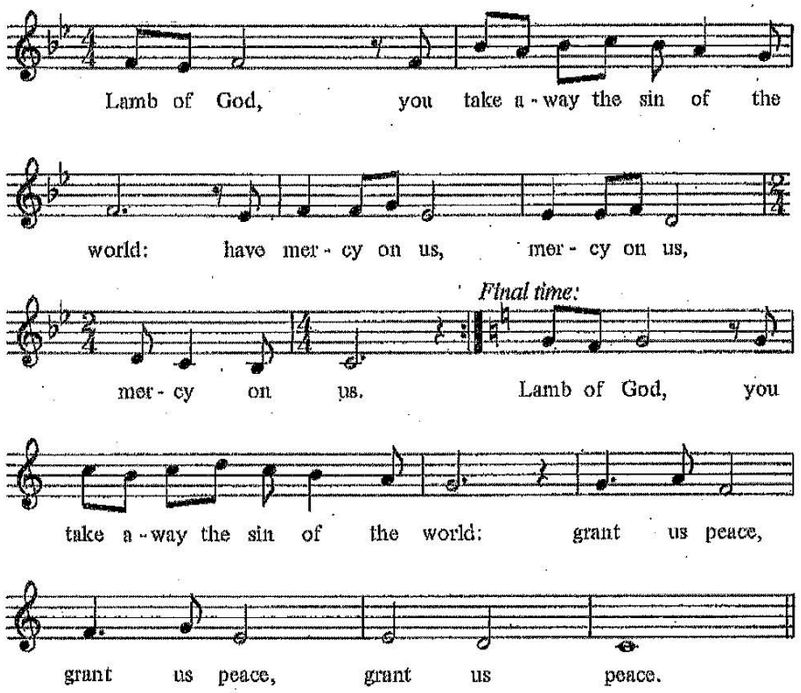


Serving Today in Worship
Guest Pastor: The Reverend Bruce Booher
Assisting: Cathy Plowden
Lector: James Hoadley
Choir Director/Accompanist: John Fallon
Interim Organist: Grace Lichtenwald
Greeters/Ushers: Ryan & Christy Raab
Altar Guild: Martha Murtiashaw

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Please join us in singing the communion hymns.

COMMUNION HYMNS *"Lamb of God"*



"When Peace Like a River" *ELW 785*

THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL **Matthew 25:1-13**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

THE SERMON *Guest Pastor The Reverend Bruce Booher*

HYMN OF RESPONSE *"Be Thou My Vision"* *ELW 793*



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— God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE SHARING OF CHRIST'S 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.

ANTHEM: *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"* *by:Jerrad McKenna*
Piano Soloist: John Fallon

THE OFFERTORY SONG *"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: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *ELW 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

All of God's people who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord are invited to His table for Holy Communion. Those who are not communing are invited to receive a blessing from the Pastor; please indicate this with folded hands. We have gluten-free wafers available. Please let Pastor Rachel know your preference.
The ushers will guide you as we practice continuous communion
We kneel or stand at the communion rail.

