

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center  
9 am Worship Service  
Third Sunday after Pentecost  
June 14, 2026



Welcome!

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

## *Welcome to Worship!*

PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG            *“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”*

*Refrain*

*Come now is the time to worship*

*Come now is the time to give your heart*

*Come just as you are to worship*

*Come just as you are before your God. Come.*

One day every tongue

Will confess You are God

One day every knee will bow

Still the greatest treasure remains

For those who gladly choose You now *Refrain*

*Ending*

Come come just as you are come come

Brian Doerksen  
CCLI Song #2430948  
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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,

**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God’s love.

**Amen.**

OPENING SONG

*“I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord”*

I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will  
sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mer - cies of the *Fine*  
Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord.  
With my mouth will I make known thy  
faith - ful - ness, thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make  
*D.C. al fine*  
known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions.

THE APOSTOLIC 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 PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

YOUTH MESSAGE

*Adriana McMurphy*

LUTHERIDGE TEMPLE TALK

*Mark McLean*

THE FIRST READING

**Exodus 19:2-8a**

<sup>2</sup> [The Israelites] journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.<sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: <sup>4</sup> ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”<sup>7</sup> So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8a</sup> The people all answered as one, “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

Psalm 100— *Read Responsively*

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

<sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God’s presence with a song.

<sup>3</sup> **Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;  
we are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.**

<sup>4</sup> Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;  
give thanks and bless God’s holy name.

<sup>5</sup> **Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

THE SECOND READING

**Romans 5:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*“Thy Word” (2x)*

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

## THE GOSPEL

## Matthew 9:35-10:14

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

<sup>10:1</sup> Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’

<sup>8</sup> Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [<sup>9</sup> Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup> no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. <sup>11</sup> Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup> If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.

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

## THE MESSAGE

*Pastor Rachel Connelly*



SONG OF RESPONSE

*“Here I Am Lord”*

"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

*Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946; Music: Daniel L Schutte  
Text and music c 1981 OCP Publications, Inc.*

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 of grace, **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.*

### THE 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

Assisting: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**



### 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 SONGS

*“Sanctuary/I Exalt Thee Medley”*

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

I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee O Lord,  
I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee O Lord

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

## THE PASTORAL BLESSING

### THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

### THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.  
**Amen.**



## SENDING SONG

### *"I Love to Tell the Story"*

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

#### *Refrain*

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. *Refrain*


I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

*Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911; Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936  
Public Domain*

## THE DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

 <p>Serving Today in Worship</p>	<u>Serving Today</u>
	Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rachel Connelly
	Lay Assistant: Allen Harding
	Lector: Patty Shepard
	Greeters: David Blakeney & Anne Fogel
	Musicians: Ray Burroughs, Tom Ward, Dave Devoe & Sadie Thatcher

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### **Our Church Family**

Gary Cabbage, rehab & healing (knee surgery)  
Andera Stroud, healing at Foothills Manor  
Jerry Cobb, healing/home  
Joe Kent, healing  
Polly Kent, healing  
Jana Snelgrove, baby Jocassee born 3/20/2026  
Beth Davis, health/healing  
Tom Ward, treatment of a neurological disease  
Tiffany Chapman, healing  
Katie Johns, home, healing  
Charlie (health) & Debbie (lung cancer) Busch

### **Those Grieving**

The family and friends of Peg Turner  
Grace Lichtenwald, death of her brother, George Combes  
The family and friends of Barbara Dahlquist

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

Jeanne Welch, healing/rehab Lila Doyle  
Betty Mantell, The Residences (Wells Highway)  
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 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 Ginny Aebischer and Synod staff  
All military Personnel

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

Barbara Williams, hospice (mother of Cathy Plowden)  
Jon Fowler, brain cancer (cousin of Wilson's)  
Jean Deal, healing (sister-in-law of McLean's)  
Tina Sanders, knee replacement 5/21 (friend of Jan Long)  
Joan Kramer, successful treatment (friend of Williams')  
Riley Medlin, cancer diagnosis (WHS student)  
Stetson Underwood in NICU in Greenville (infant grandson of Kathy Radford)  
The family of Doug Wilson and his wife Elaine  
Kathy Quickel, healing (mother of Mike Goyne)  
Doug Scanlon, healing (friend of Grace Schmeelcke)  
Maggie Ormes, healing (friend of Mary Sprouse)  
Billy Joe Lindley, healing (friend of Kents)  
The family of Ruby Hendrix (grandmother of Travis Tilson)  
Barbara Cary, comfort (sister of Dave Devoe)  
Karen Connelly Pierce, healing (Pastor Rachel's sister)  
Teresa Newton, healing (friend of Kents)  
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 Amick, hospice (Stephanie Champion, step dad)  
Danny Childress, comfort (nephew of Safrit's)  
Larry Smith, (friend of Jane Harris)  
Bonnie Blanchett, healing (mother of Ryan Raab)  
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)  
George Rogers, lung cancer (half brother of Micky)  
Kelsey Bowman, healing (daughter-in-law of Bowmans)  
Lauren Bowman, Lyme disease (daughter of Gary and Barb Bowman)  
Jacquelyn 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)

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



# The Bell Tower— Ministry News



## Peg Turner Memorial Service

There will be a Memorial Service for Peg Turner on **TODAY at 2pm** in the sanctuary. There will be a reception to follow.



## ST. JOHN'S MEET UP AND CONNECT CRAFT DAY Friday, June 19, 2026

Create a festive July 4th table decoration using sustainable materials. Craft will involve painting and using hot glue. **What to bring:** 3-14.5 oz cans. Cans should be clean, label and glue removed ready to paint. All other material will be provided. **Craft Leaders:** Alan and Mary Boggs **Class size:** To ensure adequate materials are available and time to complete the craft 20 seats are available. Sign up in Information Alley. For any questions, please call Alan Boggs: 864-499-4533



## Columbarium Dedication

There will be a dedication ceremony for the Columbarium at St. John's Cemetery on **Sunday, June 21** at 12:30pm



## LUTHEROAD DAY CAMP—JUNE 22 TO JUNE 26

We are excited to start Day Camp on **Monday, June 22**. Our kids will be learning about God through worship, games, crafts and fellowship. Thank you to all who are supporting Day Camp this year.



## CHURCH RENOVATIONS STARTING SOON

Renovations to the Main Street campus will be starting during the Summer. All activities that normally use the Fellowship Hall will need to relocate to the Education Building. If you would like to use Biggerstaff for your group meeting, please contact Melissa to schedule.

## SAVE THE DATE...SUNDAY JULY 5th



Let's celebrate 250 years of independence! On **Sunday, July 5** we will have **ONE worship service at Biggerstaff beginning at 10:30am** followed by a congregation picnic. Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Sign up on Information Alley.



CHURCH  
OFFICE  
STAFF

**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
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(864) 638-6363 or Email: stjohsluther@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  
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](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.

