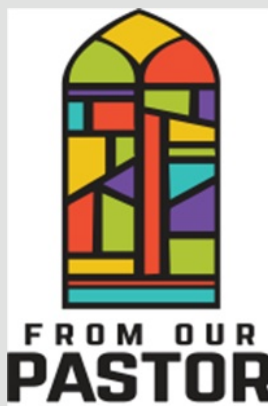




St. John's Monthly Chimes E-Newsletter April 2025



Pastoral News



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

*let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. . . Hebrews 12:1-2*

Last Saturday your council leadership met at the Ballenger house (rental property on Oak Street) for a day of renewal and group development. Our time started with a walk together around the neighborhood, stopping along the way at the Library, Westview Cemetery, the Law Enforcement Center, New Galilee Church, Magistrate's Office, the Courthouse and St. John's church and cemetery. At each stop, we listened to history and knowledge of these spaces, prayed for that place and the people, past and present, associated with them. We also looked at how God might be inviting us to take to reach out to our neighbors in the next years of our congregational life.

In our group time together, each council leader was asked to share one word that they felt describes St. John's at this time. Below are the words shared:

Emerging	Challenged	Vibrant	Serving
Hopeful	Open	In-Transition	Home
Senior/Mature	Unified	Embracing	Pregnant

You might ask a council member about their time together and how they would describe these words and our ministry. Please pray for your council leaders:

- Bill Brackett
- Jeremy Chapman
- Stan Gartner (Vice President)
- Greg Harris
- Cindy Honeycutt
- Shonda Mahler
- Bill Pickard
- Cathy Plowden (Secretary)
- Lynn Pode (President)
- Pilar Riddle
- Patty Shepard
- Keith Snelgrove

In the days and weeks ahead at St. John's we will complete our journey of Lent, recall and enter again into the sacred story of Holy Week and Jesus' last days and crucifixion, and then celebrate God's victory over death with the Easter Resurrection.

Moving into the great 50 days of Easter, we will begin our Capital Campaign for our strategic plan projects. The steering team and other members have been engaged in the planning and preparation for our campaign and have been imagining what God might do through our gifts and pledges.

We believe that God will show us the way forward and provide the resources needed to go there. We will continue to share in the stories of past and present, dwelling in the world as God connects us with the neighborhood, and leaning into the future that God is preparing for us as a faith community!

*In Christ,
Pastor Rachel*

Family Life Ministries



"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" (John 6:35)

April will be an exciting month full of new beginnings. On **Sunday April 6th**, we will be hosting a Communion Class for youth grades 3-6, from 12:15-2:30pm. This is an exciting milestone in their faith journey, as they learn the deeper meanings of what Holy Communion is and why followers of Christ across the world (and time) have participated in this sacrament.

We will be having a "Family Movie Night" at Premiere Cinemas in Seneca on **Saturday, April 12** at 7:05pm (gather at 6:35pm). We will be seeing "The King of Kings".

Then we will be jumping into Palm Sunday and Holy Week... but let's not get ahead of ourselves! We still have time for contemplation and reflection throughout this Lenten season.

Peace and Blessings,
Adriana



Music Notes

Organist/Choir Update

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing. Psalm 100:1-2*



We are thankful for Deb Blackmore who has been leading the Chancel Choir and Grace Lichtenwald's who has been playing the organ and accompanying the choir during our interim time!

Please continue to show them your appreciation!

Also – prayers for our Music Staff search Team who has begun the task of discerning and finding the right person(s) to lead us forward in our Music Ministry.

St. John's Praise Ringers

St. John's Praise Ringers are looking for new members. If you've ever wanted to learn how to play Handbells, this is your opportunity. No prior

music experience is necessary and you don't have to be able to read music; we will train you. Contact Deb Blackmore for more information at blackmoredm@icloud.com



Schedule for Lent

LENTEN SOUP & STUDY

Wednesday April 9 is our last Lenten Soup & Study. Come out and join us as we finish up our "Exploring Our Senses" program.

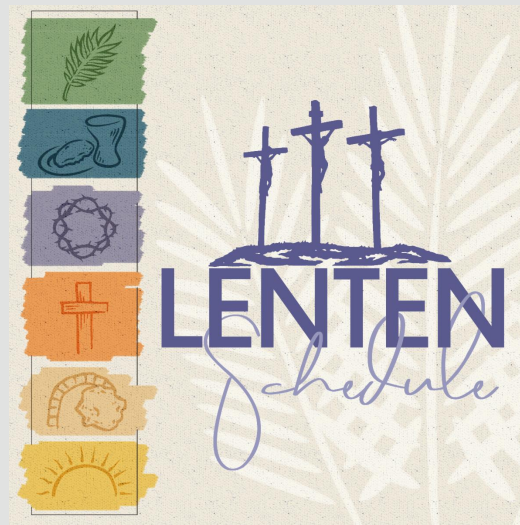
We gather at 5:45pm for soup supper. Lenten study and service will begin at 6:30.

A \$5 donation (\$10 max per family) will be collected.

Bread and drinks are provided- no desserts during Lent



Lenten Bible Study 1 & 2 Samuel Tuesdays at 11am



Sunday, April 6 5th Sunday in Lent	9am 11am	Blended Service in Fellowship Hall Traditional Service in Sanctuary
Wednesday, April 9	6pm	Lenten Soup Meal & Program
Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday	9am 11am	Palm Sunday Service in Fellowship Hall Palm Sunday Service in Sanctuary
Thursday, April 17	7pm	Maundy Thursday Service at St. Luke's Methodist

Friday, April 18

NOON
7pm

Good Friday Service in Sanctuary
Good Friday Service in Sanctuary

Sunday, April 20
Easter Sunday

7am
11am

Easter Sunrise Service at Biggerstaff
Easter Sunday Service in Sanctuary

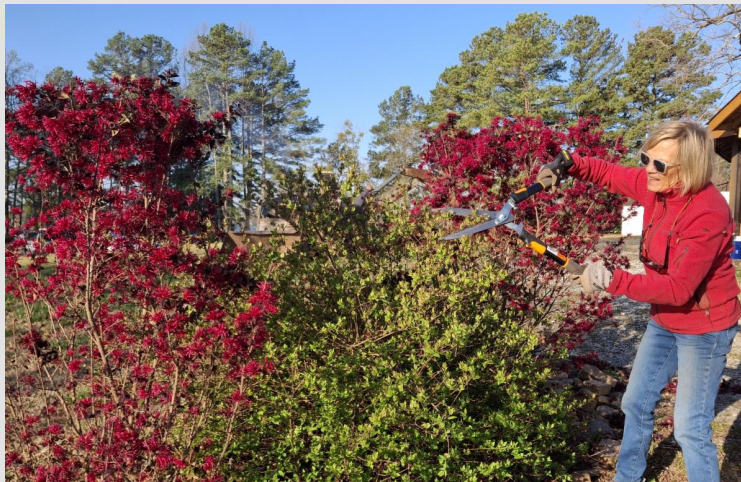
Ministry Updates

ISSAQUEENA BIKE RIDE RESULTS

Many thanks to all who participated in making the Issaqueena Bike Ride 2025 a success. We had 37 volunteers preparing soup, pasta salad, sandwiches, cookies, and purchasing the supplies and breakfast foods.

There were 24 shift workers who worked from 7am until 5pm. All together we logged in about 200 work hours. The cost of food and supplies was covered by a \$250 Thrivent gift card- thanks to Mark and Libby McLean for applying for the funds.

We had \$151 donated from the riders. All together we served 117 riders and 25 Issaqueena Ride staff. We were able to donate leftover sandwiches and pasta salad to Christ Central Ministries- serving approximately 25 men at that facility. St. John's will receive approximately \$1000 from the ride with proceeds donated to the Oconee County Backpack Lunch program.



Biggerstaff Happenings

Biggerstaff has been all a buzz preparing for the upcoming season. Board members and volunteers have been checking off maintenance to do lists. Repairs and upkeep tasks have been made to the worship area, the bathhouse cupolas have been repaired (squirrels will now have to build nests in trees), and gazebo roof leaks and repairs have been made.

A heartfelt "Thank You" to all the amazing volunteers who rolled up their sleeves, turned on their slow cookers, or offered support for the Biggerstaff workday. From the beauty of the spring day to the coming together of youth, seniors saints, and those in between, God's blessings were on full display. The workday checklist was completed and then much needed fellowship and

nourishment was enjoyed. Now, thanks to all the many ways contributions were made Biggerstaff is ready for a new season of worship and outreach.

The Biggerstaff Board is always looking for new volunteers. Whether you have one day to give or you're interested in continued volunteering, your help is needed and appreciated. The opportunities and types of volunteer needs are diverse. If you feel called to help at Biggerstaff please let us know by contacting the church office or one of the board members.

More Upcoming Events

Easter Lily Orders

This year Easter Lilies will be \$15 each. We only have 25 available, so it's first come, first served. Order forms are in "Information Alley" (next to the office). Please submit completed forms and payment to the office. Deadline to order is **Sunday, April 13**.



Wednesday Lunch

All are welcome to join us at 11:30am on **Wednesday, April 9 and 23rd**, for tasty food, fun and fellowship. We ask for a \$5 donation towards the meal (you can't eat anywhere for \$5 anymore). The sign up sheet is hanging in "Information Alley" (outside the office). Please sign up so we can estimate attendance.



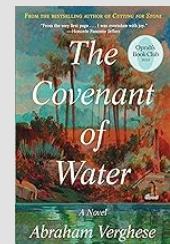
Property Committee Meeting

The Property Committee will be meeting on **Monday, April 14** at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Join Us for the St. John's Book Club

St. John's Book Group will meet on **Tuesday, April 15 at 7pm** and we will discuss *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. Barbara Gauderer will lead the group. We enjoyed a lively discussion of *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett last month.



One note: our meeting room may change, so look for a book club member at the Church Street entrance and he/she will direct you to our meeting space. As always, if you'd like to join us via zoom, let us know, and we will set up a link.

God's work. Our hands.



GOD'S WORK~OUR HANDS DAY Saturday, May 3

The 2025 Spring God's Work~Our Hands Day is scheduled for the week of May 3.

St. John's will be partnering with CenterWell Senior Primary Care to distribute fresh produce boxes at our Church Street entrance. A limited number of boxes will be distributed, first come, first serve. Plans are underway- more info to come on dates and times. The boxes will be available for those over 60 years old at St. John's and in the community.

On **Saturday, May 3**, St. John's members will meet at the church at 9am for a brief prayer send-off. They will then travel to Lakeview Assisted Living, (320 Camp Road, Walhalla) to spend the morning doing God's work! We will have a high stakes game of Bingo with the residents, visit with the residents, and do some much-needed front and side yard work spreading mulch, trimming some trees, bushes, and power washing the fence that St. John's installed almost 10 years ago. We will have a team of volunteers at the church preparing lunch to feed the residents and staff. It promises to be a busy morning which will be filled with lots of God moments.

We will be collecting some essential and much needed items for Lakeview including:

- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- All-purpose cleaners
- Adult diapers/men & women/size XL

More information to come soon contact Joan Lewis at joanlewissc@aol.com or (864) 710-1756 for more information.



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 deadline is June 10.**
- Same family multiple child discounts available.
- *Registration forms are available in the church office or click on the button below.*

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.

Day Camp Registration Form

From our Ministry Groups



WELCA News

2025 Officers: Jan Long, President, Frieda Cobb Treasurer, Cathy Plowden Secretary - we are looking for a Vice President, please contact Jan Long (864)247-6255 if you are willing to serve

2025 St John's WELCA meetings

June 21 at 10am at Biggerstaff, Lucy Klaren Circle Hosts

September 13 at Fellowship Hall, Knitters and Crocheters hosts

December 13 11 am at Cathy Plowden's Home 316 N Church St - ornament exchange bring a dish to share

April 5 Foothills Conference at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Greenwood please contact Jan Long if you plan to attend.

May 16-May 18 Isle of Palms Retreat. Deadline to register April 5. Please Contact Cathy Plowden if you are interested 864-723-5454.

August 15-16 SCWELCA Convention at St Paul Lutheran Church in Aiken please let Jan Long know if you are interested in attending.





Lucy Klaren Circle

Lucy Klaren Circle will not be meeting in April due to Holy Week. More details to follow for the May meeting.



Gloria Shealy Circle

Next meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 15** in the fellowship hall at 5pm.

If you are not a member of the Gloria Shealy Circle, but would like to know who we are and what we do, please know you are welcome to join us at any of our monthly meetings. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 5pm. Details will be provided in the monthly Chimes and weekly emails.





The Survivors Group

On March 25th, the Survivors spent the morning playing Bingo with the residents at Lakeview Assisted Living. As shown by the picture above, a good time was had by all.



In April the Survivors group has three outings planned. On **Monday, April 7** we will be going to Landrum to have lunch at Southern Manor and do some shopping.

Then on **Wednesday, April 16**, we will go to the Oasis in Seneca to play miniature golf.

On **Saturday, April 26**, we plan on going to the Azalea Festival in Pickens.

All widows/ widowers are welcome to attend any outing. For further information contact Jan Long or Shonda Mahler.



Knitters & Crocheters

Would you like to learn how to knit or crochet? Are you experienced and want to refresh your skills? If you want to learn one of these crafts or improve your skills, please join us for sharing patterns, helping each other, and participating in our outreach projects. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month.



We will meet on **Wednesday, April 9 and April 23** at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Council & Committee Updates

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting Minutes

Congregational Council Meeting Minutes from March 29, 2025.

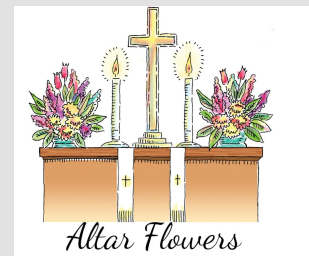


[Click to read more](#)

Other News

Altar Flowers

Reminder that there is a sign-up chart for Sunday altar flowers. Flower arrangements for the altar are \$40 for both arrangements and can be designated as you choose. Flowers are arranged by a member of our altar flower team and placed on the altar Sunday morning. You can take your arrangements home on Sunday after 11am worship or choose to give them to a shut-in. Sign-up today.



Thursday Meal Delivery

Through many generous member donations St John's has been fortunate to continue to provide meals to 15 of our members who are elderly, live alone or need a few extra meals per month. St. John's volunteers prepare and deliver over 1000 meals per year - this has become an amazing outreach.



Many thanks to the 30 volunteer drivers who deliver each week- without them we could not do our work. On the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Thursdays our established Chefs ministry prepares and delivers meals. On the 4th and 5th Thursdays we have partnered with the culinary arts students at the Hamilton Career Center. The students, under the direction of Rodney Quick, have been preparing the meals. This is a win-win ministry- we are supporting the students and they are helping us. In the words of Mr. Quick "the teaching tool of learning to give back is priceless". I speak for myself, our volunteers, and our recipients when I say thank you to all involved for your continuing support of this ministry.

As with all our ministries and outreach opportunities there is a turn-over of volunteers. We are always in need of men and ladies to prepare and/or deliver meals. We will work with your schedule and with your gifts. Please contact Joan Lewis at (864) 710-1756 or joanlewissc@aol.com if you can help in any way.



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
301 West Main St.
Walhalla, SC 29691
864-638-6363
stjohnsluther@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am - 1pm



Our tithes and offerings are an important part of our faith journey.
St. John's encourages its members and friends to be "Generous Givers" in providing consistent ongoing support of St. John's mission and ministry.

Give Now with Givelify

**Visit our
Website**



St. John's Lutheran Church | 301 West Main Street | Walhalla, SC 29691 US

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