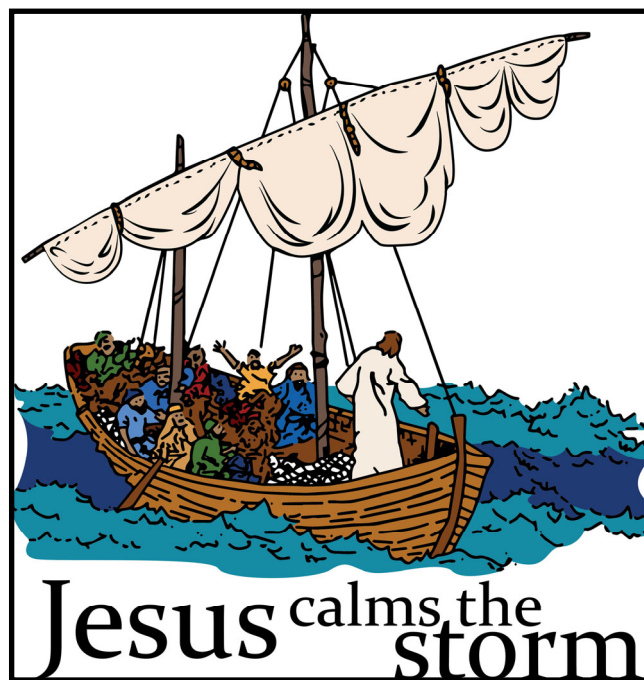


St. John's Lutheran Church
Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center
9 am Worship Service
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2026



Welcome!

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

Welcome to Worship!

PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG *“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”*

O soul are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Saviour,
And life more abundant and free

Refrain

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace*

Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there
Over us sin no more hath dominion
For more than conqu'rors we are. *Refrain*

His word shall not fail you He promised
Believe Him and all will be well.
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell. *Refrain*

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

"You Are My All in All"

You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all
Seeking You as a precious jewel
Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all

Jesus Lamb of God worthy is Your name
Jesus Lamb of God worthy is Your name

Taking my sin my cross my shame
Rising again I bless your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down you pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all

Jesus Lamb of God worthy is Your name (6x)

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: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

YOUTH MESSAGE

Adriana McMurphy



THE FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Psalm 85:8-13— *Read Responsively*

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

THE SECOND READING

Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation.

¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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 14:22-33

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

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

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Rachel Connelly



SONG OF RESPONSE

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.



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— Merciful God, **receive 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.

"Be Still and Know" (repeated in canon)

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God. *Repeat*

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

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
 and the day is . . . past and . . gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
 Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

THE DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

Serving Today



in Worship

Pastor:

Lay Assistant:

Lector:

Greeters:

Musicians:

Serving Today

The Rev. Dr. Rachel Connelly

Allen Harding

Lynn Pöde

Frieda Cobb & David Blakeney

Ray Burroughs, Tom Ward, Dave Devoe & Sadie Thatcher

Our Church Family

Andrea Carlson, surgery/healing
Stephanie Jackson, healing
Robert Smith (Dolly Johnson), healing
Sandy Yuda, healing
Gary Cabbage, healing
Chris Radford, healing
John Fallon, healing
Tina Barrett, healing
Andera Stroud, Foothills
Jerry Cobb, healing/home
Tiffany Chapman, healing
Katie Johns, home, healing
Charlie (health) & Debbie (lung cancer) Busch

Those Grieving

The family of Jeanne Welch
The family of Brock Jackson, (friends of Lattimore's)

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

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 earthquakes in Venezuela.
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

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)
Joe & Peggy Dilworth, healing (brother & sister-in-law of Barbara Wilson)
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)
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)
Barbara Cary, comfort (sister of Dave Devoe)
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



CHOIR PRACTICE

On **Wednesday, August 12** at 6pm, church choir practices are resuming. Youth and families are invited and strongly encouraged to come participate and learn to make joyful noises together for the glory of God, led by our choir director John Fallon.



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

On **Sunday, August 16** Sunday school classes for our elementary youth will resume at 10am.



CHURCH MOVIE NIGHT

On **Sunday, August 16** at 4pm, we will have a movie night at the church. We will be watching "*The Sheep Detectives*". Snacks will be provided. All are invited to come! Contact Adriana with any questions.



MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

On **Monday, August 24**, Monday Evening Bible study will begin again starting at 6pm at the church. Contact Adriana with any questions.

NOTICE - CONGREGATION MEETING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

5:30pm - Light Meal served

6:00pm - Meeting

Agenda

Updates on:

- Main Street Accessibility Project
- Biggerstaff Capital Project
- Recommendation from Council to sell the Ballenger House property.



WEDNESDAY LUNCH



Wednesday Lunch starts again on **August 26**. We know that means DELICIOUS! All are welcome to join us at 11:30am on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month for tasty food, fun and fellowship. We ask for a \$5 donation towards the meal. Sign-up on Information Alley so we can estimate attendance.

This year we will be looking for "Guest Chefs" to prepare our meals. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer to cook lunch for approx. 20 people on a Wednesday. Contact Joan Lewis with questions or if you would like to help.



CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Email: stjohnsadriana@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant—Melissa Rasley
(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
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.

