

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center  
9 am Worship Service  
The Holy Trinity Sunday  
May 31, 2026



## Welcome!

Though the word *trinity* is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

***Welcome to Worship!***

PRE-GATHERING MUSIC/WELCOME

GATHERING SONG            *“Glorify Thy Name” (2x)*

Father, we love You. We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth. Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy Name in All the Earth

Jesus, we love You. We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth. Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Spirit, we love You. We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth. Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

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

*“Holy, Holy”*

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty;  
and we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love,  
holy, holy, holy, holy.

Gracious Father, gracious Father, we’re so blest to be your children,  
gracious Father; and we lift our heads before you as a token of our love,  
gracious father, gracious Father.

Precious Jesus, precious Jesus, we’re so glad that you’ve deemed us,  
precious Jesus; and we lift our hands before you as a token of our love,  
precious Jesus, precious Jesus.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, come and fill our hearts anew,  
Holy Spirit; and we lift our voice before you as a token of our love,  
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, and we lift our hearts  
before you as a token of our love hallelujah, hallelujah.

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: Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

YOUTH MESSAGE

*Adriana McMurphy*

THE FIRST READING

**Genesis 1:1-2:4a**

<sup>1</sup> When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup> On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. <sup>4a</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Psalm 8— *Read Responsively*

<sup>1</sup> O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup> **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

<sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

<sup>4</sup> **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,  
human beings that you should care for them?**

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

<sup>6</sup> **You have made them rule over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet:**

<sup>7</sup> all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup> **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

<sup>9</sup> O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

THE SECOND READING

**2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

[Paul writes:] <sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. <sup>13</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

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

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

THE ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia;  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

**Matthew 28:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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

THE MESSAGE

*The Reverend Bruce Booher*

SONG OF RESPONSE

*“Come Join the Dance of the Trinity”*



1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—  
2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;  
3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame  
4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter - weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.  
then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.  
set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.  
we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,  
The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;  
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;  
Let voic - es rise and in - ter - weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.  
when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.  
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!  
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

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

*"You, Lord"*

We stand here in awe before you, Lord. We kneel here and honor you, Lord.  
For love never ending, for grace freely giving. We come here to thank you, Lord.

It's you, Lord, only you, Lord. To you we bring this offering of praise.  
It's you, Lord, only you, Lord. Everything I give; my life I want to live for you, Lord

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



THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

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

SENDING SONG

*“Go In Peace and Serve the Lord” (sing 2x)*

Go in peace and serve the Lord.  
God is calling you today.  
Go and tell gospel news ev’rywhere.  
Go in peace and serve the Lord.  
God is calling you today  
to bring truth and love to ev’ry nation.

THE DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!  
**Thanks be to God.**



Today we welcome as guest Pastor at 9am worship, The Reverend Bruce Booher. Thanks Pastor Bruce, for sharing in worship leadership while Pastor Rachel is away.

Serving Today	<u>Serving Today</u>
Guest Pastor:	The Rev. Bruce Booher
Lay Assistant:	Jan Long
Lector:	Merada Jackson
Greeters:	Gary & Barb Bowman
Musicians:	Tom Ward, Ray Burroughs & Dave Devoe

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**Our Church Family**

Gary Cabbage, rehab & healing (knee surgery)  
 Andera Stroud, healing-home  
 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**

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



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Pastor Rachel is on vacation from May 26-June 9. She will be back in the office on Wednesday, June 10. During this time, if you have a pastoral care emergency, please call Melissa at the church office at 864-638-6363 or Cathy Plowden, congregation President at 864-723-5454.



### 2026 LUTHER ROAD DAY CAMP

St. John's is hosting Luther Road Day Camp at Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center on **June 22-26, 2026**. Camp runs 9am - 4pm Monday - Thursday, 9am - 12 pm on Friday For children completing Kindergarten through 5th grade. Cost is only \$175 for the week and scholarships are available.

**Registration deadline is June 1.** 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.



### Special Note for Worship on June 7, 2026 PASTOR EMILY WHITLOW STOLBA

Pastor Emily Whitlow Stolba will be preaching and presiding at Holy Communion at both services on Sunday, June 7. Pastor Emily served as seminary intern at St. John's during the 2023-2024 school year and was ordained in November 2024. She is married to Frank Stolba, who is an attorney in Columbia. Currently, Pastor Emily is in the call-process with the SC Synod. She most recently served as pastor at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Johnston, SC. We welcome Pastor Emily and Frank back to St. John's!!



### Peg Turner Memorial Service

There will be a Memorial Service for Peg Turner on **Sunday, June 14 at 2pm** in the sanctuary.



### ST. JOHN'S MEET UP AND CONNECT CRAFT DAY Friday, June 16, 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



CHURCH  
OFFICE  
STAFF

**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
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**Director of Family Life Ministry—Adriana McMurphy**  
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**Administrative Assistant—Melissa Rasley**  
(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.

