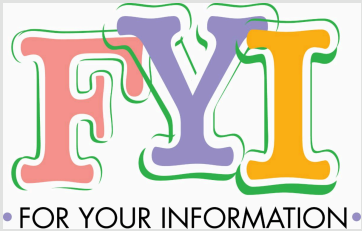




**St. John's Monthly Chimes E-Newsletter
June 2026**



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.



Pastor's Notes

Dear Church Family,

As we move into June, we celebrate Trinity Sunday, a mystery that reminds us God is community—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—interwoven in love. This June, I encourage you to find that same divine love in the "in-between" moments: in the joy of summer vacations, in the beauty of creation, and gatherings of God's people – in worship, in-community, in family. At St. John's, we will also be celebrating Lutheridge Camp and the faith formation and nurture that takes place through Lutheran Outdoor Ministries camps.

**Embracing Holy Community-Trinity Sunday-May 31, 2026
Guest presenter, Scott Sprouse**

Trinity Sunday reminds us we are not called to live in isolation. Just as the Three-in-One exist in perfect relationship, we are called into community with God and each other. Whether you are in the pews or watching online this month, remember that you are baptized into this living, relational

God. As we hear in Scripture, we are made in God's image, intended for community, connection, and grace. Special Note: This Sunday Scott Sprouse, beloved Adult Sunday School teacher at St John's and Circuit Court Judge, will share a lesson on **the Athanasian Creed**. And, at Biggerstaff, the Reverend Bruce Booher will be preaching and presiding at worship.

Vacation as a Sabbath vocation. (Pastor Rachel will be on vacation May 26- June 9)

Summer brings vacation season. While this is a time for rest, it is also a time to remember that God is everywhere. Whether you are traveling or staying home, take time to see God in creation and in the faces of neighbors and family far from home. A vacation is a "vocation"—a calling—to pause, breathe, and remember that our worth is not measured by our productivity, but by our identity as beloved children of God.

Faith Formed through Outdoor Ministry—celebrating 75 years of Lutheridge Camp in Arden, NC

During the weeks of June we will have an opportunity to hear about the work of Lutheridge Camp—Giving God thanks for 75 years of ministry in that holy place a part. Time and again, we see how Lutheran Outdoor Ministries help young people build, grow, and see how God is moving in them. The bonds formed at camp, the unplugging from technology, and the experience of worship under the sky offer a profound, lifelong, and spiritual formation that we cannot fully replicate inside our church walls.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rachel Connelly

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!!

Family Life Ministries



Goodbye school, hello summer!

May is when our children and youth are getting out of school and getting ready to go on vacation, start summer jobs, or better yet: sleeping in! May also had two important events in the lives of our church.



On Sunday, May 17, our own Merada Jackson was Confirmed after several months of pulling double-duty studies with me, Mark McLean, and Pastor Rachel. She demonstrated much spiritual growth and knowledge during the process, as evidenced when she stood before the congregation and shared her favorite Bible verse and desire to shine God's light in the world.

During this service, we also recognized Merada and Campbell Parris' graduation from Walhalla High School! Both girls were showered with gifts, including blankets prayerfully made by our Knitters & Crocheters. Merada and Campbell are graduating with flying colors and will be going to colleges as they begin the next chapters of their lives. God is using these young women in big ways!

In June many activities will be taking a break. Monday Evening Bible Study, Confirmation class, and children's Sunday School will be taking a break in June and July. Take-home packets will be sent out each week with Bible readings and discussion questions for families to do together.

The biggest event in June for our families is **Lutherod Day Camp from June 22-26**. Our theme this year is based around Romans 1:20, and the kids will be learning about God through outdoor experiences, worship, games, crafts, and more. We are looking forward to a great summer!

"Ever since the creation of the world God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been seen and understood through the things God has made." - Romans 1:20

Peace,
Ms. Adriana



Music Notes

From our Choir Director

St. John's Congregation and Choir... Since my first Wednesday/Sunday on April 15/19, I can't remember when I've felt as comfortable joining a new church family as I have at St. John's Lutheran. I've got some big shoes to fill in taking over Deb Blackmore's position so it may take me awhile to get comfortable with my new responsibilities and procedures. Concerning my work over the past few weeks, I appreciate all your support and kind words.

Right from the first Wednesday night rehearsal, I've discovered that this is a wonderful and talented choir to work with. I'm looking forward growing the program even further with your help. When we return from "summer vacation", we will begin our Wednesday night rehearsals and would love to see more singers joining us from the congregation. I've spent the last 48 years in various denominations and Walhalla area schools instructing people on how to sing. I'm sure I can make a difference with you if you just give me the chance. Just remember, when August comes and rehearsals begin again, we have a seat with your name on it in the choir loft. We all... look forward to your joining us.

One more thing... I have a current student at Walhalla Middle School, Catalina Underwood, who is facing significant health issues and is in need of some financial assistance. Please find a copy of her flyer with my first "Music Note" to learn more about her situation and how you could help. My many thanks.

Until next time...

John Fallon,
Choir Director

HELP SUPPORT CATALINA

Every Donation. Every Share. Every Prayer. MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

CATALINA IS 13 YEARS OLD and has been battling Chiari I Malformation. She travels to MUSC in Charleston for specialists, MRIs, and ongoing testing.

ADDITIONAL TESTING Catalina is undergoing further testing, and doctors believe she may also be facing a diagnosis of MS.

FINANCIAL BURDEN The family recently lost their secondary insurance and is now responsible for 20% of all medical expenses, specialist copies, travel, lodging, and testing costs.

These costs are OVERWHELMING. Any help makes a BIG difference.

Please consider donating, sharing, and keeping Catalina and her family in your prayers.

SCAN TO DONATE **VENMO** **CASH APP**

Thank you! *Thank you!* *Thank you!*

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS THE WORLD TO CATALINA AND HER FAMILY.
Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Summer Break

St. John's Chancel Choir and The Praise Ringers will be taking a **Summer Break for the months of June and July.**



Praise Band

We are thankful and blessed to have member-volunteers leading our 9am worship. Special thanks to Ray Burroughs, Dave Devoe, and Tom Ward who continue to share their musical talents!

Note: The 9am worship is now at Biggerstaff until mid October.





GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. Spring 2026 at Lakeview Assisted Living

Kudos to 36 volunteers of St. John's for the outstanding mission work they performed on May 16th at Lakeview Assisted Living.

St. John's had a team of 15 who worked outside on the front lawn area. They were able to power wash the fence, spread a load of mulch, plant flowers in raised planters and inside the fence line remove unwanted shrubs and do a general cleanup of the area. Inside we had a team of 7 who managed a popsicle stick picture frame craft, directed a game of Bingo and had a sing along with 14 of the residents. It was amazing and very full of God moments. Special thanks to Alan and Mary Boggs for directing the craft and Grace Lichtenwald for directing the sing along. Another team of 4, led by Bill Pickard, was at the church preparing a delicious lunch for the residents and staff. Thank you to all who donated food for the lunch. All our volunteers were busy using their hands, doing God's work, and building relationships with the staff and residents. It was a WIN-WIN for them and us! We also collected and donated 10 large laundry detergents, 400 pieces of cutlery, 730 cups, 1560 napkins and over 600 plates to be used at Lakeview. *To answer your questions/concerns about the use of disposable paper products- these are used on weekend only when Lakeview operates with limited staff.*

A big shout out to Lois and Jeff Sharpe for using their Thrivent associate membership to apply for a Community Action Team and provide the needed \$250 in Thrivent money to offset our expenses. With these funds we were able to purchase flowers, weed killer, fence cleaner, fertilizer and lunch food. St. John's encourages all members to apply for a Thrivent associate membership (\$20 yearly membership cost) and be eligible to lead an action team and receive a \$250 gift card to offset expenses. This is a tremendous help to our outreach missions.



Biggerstaff Happenings

This May was a very busy month at Biggerstaff. So much joy with graduation parties, end of school celebrations, anniversaries, and a wedding.

In June, for now, there are two weekends with availability as well as weekday. So, if you, or someone you know in the greater community, is looking for somewhere to hold an event, big or small, contact church office or visit St. John's website.

If you feel called to help at Biggerstaff please let us know by contacting the church office or one of the board members. Whether you have one day to give or you're interested in continued volunteering your help is needed and appreciated.

Biggerstaff Beach Clean Up - Volunteers Needed

Did you know Biggerstaff has a beach area?
Did you know we could be using this beach for our Lutheroad Day Camp the end of June?
Did you know the beach has to be cleaned up before we can use it?



Looking for a few good volunteers to help clean debris from the beach and clear a path to the beach.

Date: **Saturday, June 13**

Time: **8am - 12 noon**

Bring: rakes, tarp, shovels, saws, gloves, sunscreen and water

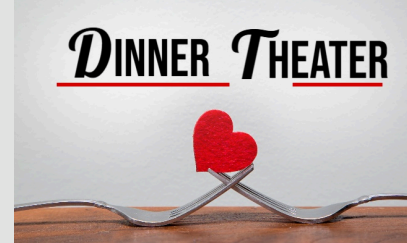
Contact David Blakeney with questions- dbtiger1@yahoo.com
Sign up at Information Alley or click the button below:

[Click to Sign Up](#)

Upcoming Events

DINNER THEATER TRIP

St. John's Survivors Group have organized a trip to the Wohlfahrt Haus in Wytheville, Virginia to attend a dinner theater production on **Friday, June 12**. All St. John's members are invited to join.



The show is: "A Gospel Jubilee".

The dinner menu is: pita chips with spicy cheese dip, tender roast beef, creamy white cheddar mashed potatoes, tender broccoli casserole, and a decadent butterscotch pecan delight.

The cost is: \$60 per person.

For further information contact Shonda Mahler at 864-494-1107 or Smlake14@yahoo.com. You can check out the venue at <https://www.wohlfahrtHaus.com/>

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 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 or click on the button below. For any questions, please call Alan Boggs: 864-499-4533



[Click to Sign Up](#)

Columbarium Dedication

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



Wednesday Lunch

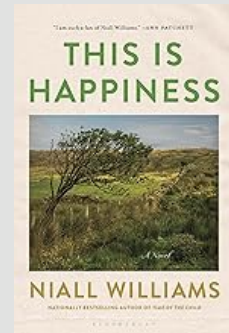
Wednesday lunch will be taking a Summer Break during June and July.



St. John's Book Club News

After a spirited discussion of James McBride's layered and vibrant novel, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* in May, **our group will take a furlough for the months of June and July.**

We will reconvene on **Tuesday, August 18** to discuss the novel *This is Happiness*, by Niall Williams. Niall Williams was born in Dublin in 1958. His critically acclaimed and bestselling fiction has been shortlisted for the *Irish Times* Literature Prize and longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the IMPAC Award.



His novel takes place in the village of Faha that is on the very brink of the coming of electricity. It is about the joy of reminiscing and the joy of first love.

St. John's Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00. Our September meeting is always an organizational meeting where we meet together to suggest books for the eight months to come. The facilitator roll changes as well so, if you've read a book you'd like to discuss or join our group for any of the books we are discussing, please join us.

For more information contact Cindy Honeycutt (cindychoney@gmail.com) Martha Murtiashaw (murtiashawm@bellsouth.net), or Cathy Plowden (ceplowden59@gmail.com) for more information about our group.
We'd love to have you!

ST. LUKE FOOD PANTRY- Volunteers needed!

Come join your friends at St. John's and St. Luke Methodist on the 4th Wednesday of each month as we help distribute grocery boxes to over 200 people in need in the community.



St. Luke Food Pantry has been distributing meals to those in need in our community since 2011. Since COVID, meals have been distributed outside in the driveway. Clients drive up and volunteers load a box(es) into their vehicle. It is fast and efficient- a well-oiled machine! Distribution takes place from 4:30-5:30, volunteers are asked to be at the St. Luke lower-level parking area by 3:30pm. They will begin distribution earlier if there are cars in line.

This ministry is open to all ages- our younger youth will need a parent with them. **Sign-ups through August** are on Information Alley or click the button below.

[Click to Sign Up](#)



2026 LUTHER ROAD DAY CAMP

St. John's is hosting Luther Road Day Camp at Biggerstaff Christian Retreat Center on **June 22-26, 2026**

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.

- Camp runs 9am - 4pm Monday - Thursday, 9am - 12 pm on Friday
- For children completing Kindergarten through 5th grade
- Cost is only \$175 (\$150 Early Bird Special) 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 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.

[Click for Registration Form](#)

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 or click the button below.



[Click to Sign Up](#)

From our Ministry Groups



WELCA News

Please join us at the St. John's Women's Ministry Meeting **Saturday, June 6** at the church for our quarterly joint WELCA meeting. We will meet at the church starting at 9:30 am for fellowship and breakfast. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am. The meeting will be hosted by the Gloria Shealy Circle. All women are invited to attend this informative meeting. What to know more about St. John's Women's Ministry? This is the place to be! Your support will be appreciated.

Your Officers:

Risse Snelgrove (President) 803-378-7696 snelgroverisse@gmail.com

Anne Fogle (Vice President)

Jan Long (Secretary)

Frieda Cobb (Treasurer)

WELCA Meetings for 2026

Saturday, June 6 at 10am in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 26 at 10am location to be determined

Saturday, December 5 at 11am location to be determined

(Christmas party with lunch and gift exchange)

2026 WELCA opportunities:

SC WELCA CONVENTION

June 19-20, 2026 held at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry

2026 WELCA Triennial held in Des Moines, Iowa July 16-19, 2026





Lucy Klaren Circle

The Lucy Klaren Circle completed a church beautification project in May at St. John's Lutheran Church. Using a Thrivent Action Team grant, members planted new annual flowers and refreshed the mulch around the church sign to help create a welcoming and beautiful entrance for all who visit. We are grateful for the opportunity to care for and enhance our church grounds together.



Tentatively, LKC will have its summer celebration at the Whitewater lake home of John and Stephanie Champion on **Saturday, June 20**. More details to follow.

LKC summer break will be in July & August.

The Lucy Klaren Circle is still collecting feminine hygiene products for the St. Luke's share box. The collection bin is near the television in the gathering area. A collection box will also be at Biggerstaff for the 9am service.



Gloria Shealy Circle

JUNE MEETING REVISED DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

Revised date: **Tuesday, June 9**
Time: **11:00 AM**



Location: **End of the Road Studio (255 E. Bear Swamp Rd, Walhalla)**

We will be painting ceramic flowers to be placed in the front yard at Lakeview Assisted Living. Boxed lunches will be provided. Each lunch will be \$10.00. Drinks will be provided by hosts Joan Lewis and Libby McLean. The meeting will begin with lunch at 11:00 followed by flower painting.

Thrivent will pay for the first 13 flowers. If you want one for your personal garden it will be \$20.00 per flower. Please let Joan or Libby know by June 1st, so we can let the potter know how many to make. Flowers will have been fired once, made ready for ladies to paint at the meeting.

Visitors are welcome. Come join us for a fun day.



The Survivors Group

The Survivors group will be busy in June.

On **Thursday, June 4** we will have dinner at Paesano's.

On **Friday June 12**, the group will travel to Wytheville, Virginia to the Wohlfahrt Haus to attend a dinner theater.

On **Wednesday June 17** we are planning on going to Lakeview Assisted Living to play bingo with the residents.

Then on **Friday, June 26** the group will travel to Dillard Georgia to have lunch at the Cupboard. All widows and widowers are invited to any outing.

For information on any event, contact Jan Long or Shonda Mahler.

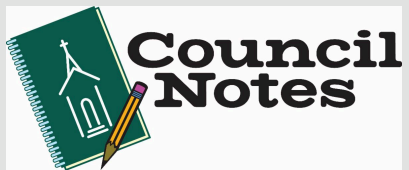


Knitters & Crocheters

The Knitters & Crocheters will be taking a Summer Break for June and July.



Council & Committee Updates



St. John's Congregational Council Meeting Minutes

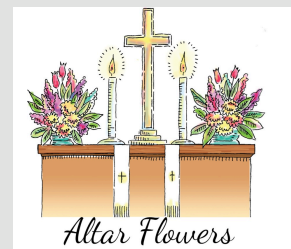
Please click on the button below to read the Council Meeting Minutes from **May 11, 2026**.

[Click to read more](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

Altar Flowers

Reminder that there is a sign-up chart for Sunday altar flowers at the side entrance of the sanctuary. 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.



Worship Assistants Needed

We are in need of Ushers and Lay Assistants at both Biggerstaff and Sanctuary service. These volunteers are needed:

Ushers to greet and to collect offering and to direct people to the communion rail (11am only).

Lay Assistants to help with Communion, the Creed and Prayers.

If interested, please contact Joan Lewis. **Training will be provided.** Worship assistants are an essential part of the worship experience. Please help!



Thursday Meal Delivery Volunteers Needed



Through many generous member donations, and the ceaseless efforts of our volunteers, St John's has been fortunate to continue to provide meals to 20 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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