



## CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
301 W. Main Street, Walhalla, SC  
www.stjohnswalhalla.org  
Facebook — St. John's Lutheran, Walhalla

**Pastor—The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly**  
Cell: (910) 515-0897 or Email: stjohnspastorrachel@gmail.com

**Director of Family Life Ministry—Adriana McMurphy**  
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.



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA  
Walhalla, South Carolina  
10:30 am Worship Service  
Reformation Sunday  
October 25, 2026



## Welcome!

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

*Welcome to Worship!*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE GATHER**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.  
Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.  
**Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

*“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*

*ELW 504*

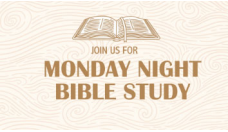
GREETING

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 Bell Tower— Ministry News

## MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY



Monday Evening Bible study is at 6pm. we are doing an, "All Saints' Study!" We will be looking at a variety of Christian figures ("saints") throughout the history of the church, from ancient times to modern day, and their impacts on the world. This study will be for the month of October, leading up to All Saints' Day in the church's liturgical calendar. Contact Adriana with any questions.

## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Tuesday Bible Study: A 6 week Study on Luther and the Small Catechism at 11am in the Sanctuary. Led by Pastor Rachel.

## WEDNESDAY LUNCH



Wednesday Lunch will be on **October 28**. All are welcome to join us at 11:30am for tasty food, fun and fellowship. We ask for a \$5 donation towards the meal (you can't eat anywhere for \$5 anymore). Sign-up on Information Alley so we can estimate attendance.



The altar flowers this week are given by Deb Blackmore to the glory of God, in celebration of the Reformation and in memory of her husband, Ronald Blackmore.

## MEETUP & CONNECT



Please join St. John's Meetup and Connect on **Friday, October 30 at 6pm** for a fun outing to Oasis Ranch Mini Golf. If you have any questions or need further information, please email [meetupandconnect@gmail.com](mailto:meetupandconnect@gmail.com) or text the host, Angela Veronda at 843-991-1404.

## "TRUNK OR TREAT" - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31



This year St. John's is once again joining St. Luke UMC for "Trunk or Treat" on **Saturday, October 31 from 5pm-7pm**. You are invited to sign up to host a trunk. Contact Adriana if you would like to participate. You are encouraged, but not required, to dress up and decorate for this event.

## SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 10am**



The Annual Congregation meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 10:00am in the fellowship hall. Key action items include: adoption of the 2027 Ministry Budget and election of Council Members. At this meeting we will also be voting to accept proposed changes to St. John's Congregation Constitution and Bylaws.

Our Church Family

Nora Field, hospitalized  
Jeri Klaren, healing  
Tom Ward, healing, recovery  
Bill Brackett, healing  
Sandy Yuda, healing (AnMed Rehab)  
Wilma Cobb, healing  
Gary Cabbage, healing  
Michael Pode, healing  
Deb Blackmore, healing  
Tina Barrett, healing  
Tiffany Chapman, healing  
Charlie (health) & Debbie (lung cancer) Busch

Those Grieving

The family of Betty Mantell  
The family of George Rogers (brother of Micky Ward)

Our Elders at Home or Assisted Living

Andera Stroud, Foothills  
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 the fire in Walhalla.  
For those affected by the flooding in Nepal & China and in the Grand Canyon.  
For those affected by earthquakes in Japan & Columbia.  
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 Wade Roof and Synod staff  
All military Personnel

Our Extended Family and Friends

Nancy Deal, hospice (sister-in-law of McLeans's)  
Kristen, healing (daughter of Robert Smith)  
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)  
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)  
Barbara Cary, comfort (sister of Dave Devoe)  
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 Amic k, 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)  
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)



KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN & YOUTH MESSAGE

Adriana McMurphy

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Psalm 46— *Read Responsively*

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup> **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.
- <sup>6</sup> **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- <sup>8</sup> **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
- <sup>9</sup> behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
- <sup>10</sup> **“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**  
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**  
The God of grace ☩ you now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW 660

THE DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



Serving Today



in Worship

Serving Today in Worship

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly  
Assisting: James Hoadley  
Lector: Tina Barrett  
Choir Director/Accompanist: John Fallon  
Interim Organist: Grace Lichtenwald  
Greeters/Ushers: Dave Blakeney and Joan Lewis  
Altar Guild: Frank and Cindy Honeycutt

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*Please join us in singing the communion hymns.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

*“Lamb of God”*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,

*Final time:*

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

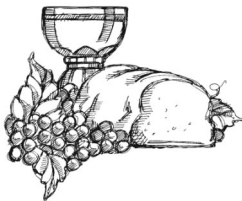
*“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”*

*ELW 779*

THE PASTORAL BLESSING

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**



THE SECOND READING

**Romans 3:19-28**

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup> But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup> since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup> they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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 HOLY GOSPEL

**John 8:31-36**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup> They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

THE SERMON

Pastor Rachel Connelly

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“The Church of Christ, in Every Age” ELW 729

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— Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

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.

ANTHEM

“Eine Feste Burg” arr by: Michael Helman  
St. John’s Praise Ringers

THE OFFERTORY

“The Doxology” ELW 884  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise him all creatures here below, praise him above ye  
heavn’ly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.  
Amen.

THE MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW pg. 152

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/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

All of God’s people who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord are invited to His table for Holy Communion. Those who are not communing are invited to receive a blessing from the Pastor; please indicate this with folded hands. We have gluten-free wafers available.  
Please let Pastor Rachel know your preference.  
The ushers will guide you as we practice continuous communion  
We kneel or stand at the communion rail.

