

St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Walhalla, South Carolina

11 am Worship Service

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 7, 2026



Welcome!

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

Welcome to Worship!

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER

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 HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

ELW 836

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, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN/YOUTH MESSAGE

Adriana McMurphy

TEMPLE TALK

Libby McLean

THE FIRST READING

Hosea 5:15-6:6

¹⁵ I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor: ^{6:1} “Come, let us return to the LORD, for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. ³ Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.” ⁴ What shall I do with you, Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. ⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. ⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Psalm 50:7-15— *Read Responsively*

⁷ “Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you; for I am God, your God.

⁸ **I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;
your burnt offerings are always before me.**

⁹ I will not accept a calf from your stalls, nor goats from your pens;

¹⁰ **for all the wild animals of the forest are mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.**

¹¹ I know every bird of the mountains, and the creatures of the fields are mine.

¹² **If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**

¹³ Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High.

¹⁵ Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.



THE SECOND READING

Romans 4:13-25

¹³ The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. ¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³ Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the treble clef and the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is written on a five-line staff. The first staff has a final note on a quarter rest, while the second staff ends with a double bar line. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes of both staves.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. ²³ When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the report of this spread through all of that district.

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

THE SERMON

Guest Pastor Emily Whitlow Stolba

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

ELW 588



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 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

*"I Love You Lord"
Soloist: Olivia Klaren*

by: Laurie Klein

THE OFFERTORY SONG

"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: 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

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 PROPER PREFACE

THE SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW pg. 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 154

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.

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.*

Please join us in singing the communion hymns.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

ELW pg. 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"

ELW 494

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.

THE SENDING HYMN *“Will You Come and Follow Me”* *ELW 798*

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



Today we welcome Guest Pastor Emily Whitlow Stolba. Thank you, Emily, for sharing your talents with us while Pastor Rachel is away.

Serving Today



in Worship

Serving Today in Worship

Guest Pastor: The Reverend Emily Whitlow Stolba
Assisting: Brenda Safrit
Lector: Barbara Wilson
Interim Organist: Grace Lichtenwald
Choir Director: John Fallon
Greeters/Ushers: Bill & Ann Brackett
Altar Guild: Cindy & Frank Honeycutt

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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
John Champion, healing
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, Terra Bella Summit, Greenville
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)
Bob Lidwin, (nephew of Bill Pickard)
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.



Biggerstaff Beach Clean Up - Volunteers Needed

We're 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 in Information Alley.



Peg Turner Memorial Service

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

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.

For any questions, please call Alan Boggs: 864-499-4533



Columbarium Dedication

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



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.



**CHURCH
OFFICE
STAFF**

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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.

