



St. John's Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2024

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 13, 6-7 pm

Prepared by the Lutheran Men in Mission to raise camp scholarships for our youth and children. Shrove Tuesday is the last day before the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. This day is also known as Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday. Churches traditionally serve pancakes because in days past this dish used up "extravagant" ingredients such as eggs, sugar, and milk. This meal celebration reminds us that the following day we begin a Lenten journey of reflection toward Easter.

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Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 14 - two in-person services at noon and 7 pm

The noon service will be livestreamed at www.SJBft.org/Facebook

We observe the beginning of Lent with the mark of the cross traced upon our foreheads. This is the first day of the traditional "forty day journey" through the season of Lent, a time of reflection and growth in discipleship.

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Wednesday Nights Together in Lent

Five weeks: February 21 and 28 - March 6, 13, and 20

Soup Supper, 6:00 pm - Reflection & Vespers, 6:30-7 pm

Dinner: traditional Lenten Soup Supper

Each week we will share a simple, hearty meal of several homemade soups and bread.

Program: Music - a Foundation for our Faith

Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue.

Do you know this traditional poem from late 19th century England about what a bride should wear in a wedding to bring good luck? Pastor Shannon and Music Director Josh will use this saying as a playful guide for our Lenten Wednesday Night series. Each week will include some discussion and some music, then end with prayer. One week we will do old favorites and one week newer additions to church hymnody. We will have a night about music that is blue, that is African American Spirituals and Jazz. There will be a night reflecting on how music of other cultures comes together in our tradition. Finally, there will be a drum circle. Why? Because the last drum circle was so much fun and the old poem only has four lines!

Note: the order of these weeks has not been set yet. We may not do them in the poem's order.

For children: Story-time with Deacon Katie in the Nursery.

Registration and Providing Soup/Bread

Registration is not required and you can always decide to attend at the last minute! If you know you are coming in advance, to help with planning you can sign up on Sunday morning using the fellowship pad or call the church office by Tuesday during the week.

You can sign up to bring soup or bread on a Sunday morning in the fellowship pad or by calling the church office. Bring out your old family favorite or cook something new - search the internet for "quick and easy soup recipes" or show off your fanciest recipe!

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The Shepherd's Voice

February & March, 2024
Volume 24, Issue 1

Coming soon!

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Called Congregation Meeting to amend the constitution

February 18, 9:45 am

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Congregation Annual Meeting and Pot-Luck

March 17, 11:30 am

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Harold's County Club

March 16

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Easter Egg Hunt

March 23

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HOLYWEEK

Prayer Labyrinth

March 25, 26, & 27

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Maundy Thursday

March 28

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Good Friday

March 29

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The Vigil of Easter

March 30

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Easter Sunday

March 31

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Easter Egg Hunt with Storytime, Crafts, and Refreshments

Saturday, March 23, 1:30-2:30 pm

All children are invited - members, friends, and neighbors! Games, egg hunting, story time, crafts, and refreshments. Every child will be given a story book about Jesus to take home. In the weeks leading up to the Egg Hunt, invitation cards will be provided for members to share with friends and neighbors. *Please invite friends!*

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Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

Sunday, March 24

8:15 in-person and livestreamed - 10:30 am in-person

We begin worship with a procession of palms, remembering the Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, then hear the story of his arrest, trial, and crucifixion, through which he revealed the ultimate love of God for humanity.

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Prayer Labyrinth

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 25-27, 9 am-6 pm

All are invited to observe Holy Week by walking the labyrinth, an experience many find deeply prayerful. The beautiful labyrinth covers the floor of the sanctuary. Quiet music will accompany your journey of prayer as you slowly walk to and from the heart of the labyrinth.

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Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28, 7 pm, in-person and livestreamed at www.SJBft.org/Facebook

We remember the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment that we love one another. Individual absolution of sin is offered as we end the season of Lent. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

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Good Friday

Friday, March 29, 7 pm, in-person and livestreamed at www.SJBft.org/Facebook

We share scripture, song, and images - a powerful reflection on God who dies to defeat the power of death.

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The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, March 30, 8 pm - in-person and livestreamed at www.SJBft.org/Facebook

The pageant of Holy Saturday celebrates our passage with Christ from darkness into light, from the cross of Good Friday to the empty tomb of Easter. We start in darkness outdoors at the new fire of Easter and end with the sanctuary dressed for Easter! Holy Communion will be celebrated.

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The Festival of the Resurrection - Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, March 31, 8:15 in-person and livestreamed - 10:30 am in-person

Breakfast will be served between services, 9:30-10:15 am

We gather on this most glorious day in the church year to lift our Alleluias in celebration of the promise of Resurrection that is ours in Jesus Christ! Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Harold's Country Club Outing

Saturday, March 16 - arrive at Harold's by 6:15 pm

Mark your calendar for a trip to Harold's Country Club in Yemassee for a steak dinner. The cost is \$25. Sign-up slips will be available in the Fellowship Books in late February.

All checks or cash should be given to Pat Harvey-Palmer or dropped by the church office no later than Sunday, March 10. ***Please make checks payable to 'Harold's Country Club.'***

Constitution Updates - from Pastor Shannon

The congregation constitution may seem to have little effect on the daily work of the church. However, it is an important document that outlines St. John's faith tradition, describes our relationship to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the South Carolina Synod, and provides a framework for doing many tasks in the work of the congregation.

The creation and maintenance of the constitution is a joint effort of the ELCA and St. John's because our constitution is based on an official ELCA model constitution for congregations. Some parts of it are required for every congregation in order to provide consistency across the ELCA. Other parts of the model are not required but are recommended, and can be adopted "as is" or customized.

In February and March we will be looking at two constitutional amendments which the Congregation Council is recommending for adoption. The first is to amend the paragraph which describes who is a member of the Congregation Council to include deacons who are serving a call to the congregation. Currently our constitution says that the members of the Council are *...the pastor(s) and twelve persons elected from the congregation...* We will be adding two commas and two word words, so that it reads *the pastors, the deacon(s), and twelve persons...*

As simple as that change is, it requires *two* meetings of the congregation. Why? Because as the governing document, the constitution is not supposed to be easy to change, especially when it comes to sections which are customized for the congregation, like the one which describes Council membership.

On Sunday, February 18, at 9:45 am we will have the first meeting to discuss and vote on just that one thing, adding two commas and two words, so that Deacon Katie, as a rostered minister called to serve at St. John's will be a voting member of the Council. Then, at the Annual Meeting which we hold in March, we will vote again to ratify that change and it will become effective.

The second recommended change is a whole package of amendments designed to bring St. John's constitution into conformity with the most recent model constitution of the ELCA. When you look at the document detailing this, it may look like a bafflingly complicated document, filled with lots of red words, just like your old red-letter Bible! To make sense of this, you need to know that regular words in red are words that are being added to our current constitution and the words in red with strikethrough marks are words that are being removed, all to make it match the official model constitution.

Some of these changes were made to the model for legal reasons. For example, explicit stating that it is okay to use an online meeting format such as Zoom for a congregation meeting. Some of the changes were made to clarify points which experience had shown to be confusing. For example, there is a new section defining the phrase *ex officio*, a phrase which is in the constitution. Apparently people had disagreements about what that phrase means, so this section was added. Some of the changes were made to help congregations avoid difficulties which other congregations have faced when dealing with certain complicated legal issues. I realize that none of this likely sounds exciting, but hopefully you can see that it is important.

Unlike the vote to amend a customized section of the constitution, like the one which states who is a member of the Council, this set of amendments only requires *one* vote. Why? Because in each case, we are simply bringing our constitution into conformity with the official model constitution and the rules make it a bit easier to do that so that congregations will stay up to date.

To be honest, St. John's is actually behind in doing this. The updates being put before you are from the Churchwide Assemblies of 2019 and 2022. The next time we will need to do this will be after the August 2025 Assembly in Phoenix.

SO, what does it mean for you?

Read the overview document. Recently you were emailed two documents about all of this. The first document is a one-and-a-half page overview of the process. Please read it through right away.

Read the first page of the details document before February 18. The second document is all the details about all the

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changes. Please read the *first page* of this document right away. That's the part about the meeting to vote on adding words which make Deacon Katie a member of the Council.

Show up February 18, 9:45 am – Special Called Congregation Meeting. We need you for this brief but important meeting so we will have the quorum needed to have an official meeting (about 35 people). We will make sure there is plenty of Welcome Table food that day both for those who have to stay late after the early service and those who have to come early!

Show up March 17, 11:30 am – Annual Congregation Meeting. At this meeting we will vote for the second time amendment which states that deacons are on the Council and for the first and only time on the collection of amendments which will make our constitution up to date! Bring a dish for a pot luck lunch to follow the meeting!

Thanks so much for reading this. If you made it through this whole article, I am very proud of you! Please rest assured that when I am speaking about all of this on Sunday mornings, I am talking to the people who didn't read it. You can feel free to lean back in your chair and smile, thinking to yourself, I already know all of this!

Peace. Be well. Seek justice. Pastor Shannon

From Pastor Craig

I really appreciate being part of a church that has a variety of vibrant ministries going. This morning in staff meeting we talked about member care, study and growth themes, children's and youth activities, planning ahead for social events, and generally how we worship and serve. We also took time to review the recent Advent and Christmas seasons, making notes on what went well and what needs to be adjusted. This was a shorter staff time, but our agenda was 5 full pages long!

One thing we didn't need to dwell on was shortages of funds to do the ministries of the church. Your generosity has been a huge blessing. It is also an indication of a healthy partnership between members and their lay and professional leaders.

These past few years I've had the privilege of serving two really wonderful congregations. Most of you know that the South Carolina Synod Bishop asked me to do the interim pastorate at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Walterboro in addition to serving here. A typical interim is about 9-12 months. That was 4 years and three months ago. That church is finally close to getting their full-time pastor and I will end my service with them the end of January. Like St. John's, that church has exceeded their budget and even made extra contributions to the synod. While I'm saddened to leave those good people, I'm delighted to be continuing at St. John's. As I typically have told your leadership, I hope I'll choose to fully retire about two years before you wished I would have!

In the meantime, we have work to do. Our children and youth will have summer camp, The National Youth Gathering, and another project with the Dwelling. While we have some fun things like the Oyster Roast and Harold's coming up, I'd like to generate some new ideas for adults and seniors. Your suggestions are welcome to any of us as staff. Being a vibrant congregation is one that worships, serves, and has fun together as we seek to be God's people in this magnificent Low Country area.

One final note. As always, Georgia and I are appreciative of your well wishes and generosity in this past holiday season. Words are inadequate to share how you have warmed our hearts. Thanks be to God for each and every one of you.



From Deacon Katie

This year is going to be a busy year for youth. We will be going to the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans. We are also planning to go to The Dwelling for a service learning trip and Lutheridge for camp this summer as well.

The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans this summer (July 16-20). This faith formation event helps our youth connect with other Lutheran youth from all over the United States. There will be a mass gathering where our youth will hear speakers and live music, as well as interactive learning, service projects, and advocacy awareness. This gathering will be a life-changing experience for our youth, and I am so thankful for how St. John's supports our youth to do events that impact their faith.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have already done the Youth Gathering Fundraiser Kickoff. Be on the lookout for our fun signs that the youth made and decorated to show up in your yard, and you will hear more from us about the final fundraiser that we will be doing in May. Thank you for supporting our youth!

Young Adults

Next gathering: February 23, 7ish pm - Home of Josh & Kristen Ferguson, 7 Peytons Way

All young adult members and friends are invited to gather on February 23. Bring an appetizer and/or dessert to share. This gathering is for fellowship and fun. We purposely don't set an "age limit." If you are interested in young adult fellowship, you are just the right age!

Schedule of Events for 2023

A schedule of most Young Adult events for 2024 will be posted on the group page before month's end. These include fellowship events and service projects, providing "holiday home activities" for youth who are currently living at CAPA.

Details available at www.SJBft.org/YoungAdultInfo

OFFICIAL NOTICE: of TWO Congregation Meetings

Sunday, February 18, 9:45 am - Hybrid Meeting - meet in-person OR via Zoom

Sunday, March 17 11:30 am - Hybrid Meeting - meet in-person OR via Zoom

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING: The congregation will meet Sunday, February 18 at 9:45 am to consider one item of business, to amend the congregation constitution, section C12.01. so that any deacon called to serve the congregation will be a member of the Congregation Council. No other item of business will be considered. Details about this constitutional change have been emailed and are available in the narthex or from the church office.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING: The congregation will meet on Sunday, March 17 at 11:30 am to (1) receive the Annual Report, (2) ratify the constitutional amendment of section C12.01. of the constitution if passed at the Special Called Meeting on February 18, (3) consider a package of amendments which will bring the congregation constitution into conformity with the ELCA model constitution for congregations, and (4) conduct any other necessary congregation business. Details about the constitutional changes named in item (3) have been emailed and are available in the narthex or from the church office. The Annual Meeting is the only constitutionally designated meeting in which items of business may come from the floor. If you plan to bring an item of business from the floor, we ask that you please notify President Josh Ferguson in advance at 843-271-8180 or jferguson86@yahoo.com. Following the meeting we will share a pot luck luncheon.

All voting members are urged to attend BOTH meetings. A voting member is defined as a baptized, confirmed, or seasonal member who has both contributed and communed in the current or past calendar year (2023 or 2024). Note that anyone received as an adult is automatically considered "confirmed."

Voting members can participate by gathering in person or by Zoom video. We would encourage as many as possible to attend in person. A set of detailed instructions for meeting by Zoom will be emailed to members and will be available in the church office.

St. John's Lutheran Women

2nd Tuesday of each month
February 13 & March 12, 7 pm

All women, members and friends, are invited to the hybrid St. John's Lutheran Women monthly fellowship and devotion in the Mission Building. St. John's Lutheran Women meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

The Zoom link for the monthly gathering is listed below. It can also be easily accessed by going to the church calendar on the church website and clicking on the calendar item.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85207647939>

Sewing/Knitting/Crocheting/Quilting

Mondays, 10 am-1 pm

All members and friends are invited to gather for fellowship and serving others. These groups work on various projects to help others, as well as working on personal projects. No experience is required for any of these groups, because experienced members are happy to teach others! Bring a bag lunch.

- 1st Mondays: Knitters/Crocheters
- 2nd Mondays: Sewing Group/Martha's Animals
- 4th Mondays: Lutheran World Relief Quilters

Rubbish Rustlers

Next date - March 9, 8:30 am

MAJOR UPDATE! St. John's has been a part of South Carolina's Adopt-a-Highway Program for more than 20 years! Six times a year volunteers have walked the section of Lady's Island Road where the church is located and picked up countless bags of trash.

For many years Larry Roane was the coordinator for St. John's team, referred to as the Rubbish Rustlers! Then the coordinator baton was passed to Mike Masters. While many have participated in the work, Mike & Helen have been among the most faithful!

Now that Mike & Helen are taking up residence in western North Carolina, it is time for the baton to pass again. Anyone who is interested in being the St. John's Rubbish Rustler's Coordinator, please contact the Church Office to find out more about the responsibilities.

Thanks to all who helped in January. The next pick-up day, with or without a new coordinator, is Saturday, March 9. Please join us!

Easter Lilies

to Decorate the Sanctuary in Honor or Memory of Loved Ones

You are invited to donate an Easter Lily to decorate the sanctuary at Easter in memory or honor of a loved one. The cost of each Easter Lily is \$15.

There are three ways to submit a donation:

- When in worship, use a special Lily envelope found in the narthex.
- Use the online giving page which is found at www.SJBft.org/GiveToStJohns
- Contact the church office by email or phone.

Easter Egg Hunt Candy Needed

Start shopping for candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. We need individually wrapped candies small enough to fit in a plastic Easter Egg. No chocolate, please, as it melts in the eggs. Donations can be left in the narthex.

Lutheran Men in Mission

3rd Saturday of each month, 9 am

Next meeting March 16, 9 am

Note: the Oyster Roast will take the place of the regular February meeting - see details below!

All men in the congregation are invited to attend the monthly gathering of the Lutheran Men in Mission. They meet in the sanctuary for breakfast, Bible study, and fellowship! Please join us!

Lutheridge Scholarship Oyster Roast by Lutheran Men In Mission

NEW DATE: Saturday, February 24, 3-6 pm

Oysters served 3:30-5 pm

Chili and Hotdogs will also be served

Church Picnic Shelter

All are invited to 2024 Lutheridge Scholarship Oyster Roast. Oysters, hot dogs, chili, chips, cookies, and drinks will be available. Tickets are \$35 per person, \$10 for children 5-10 years old, and free for children 4 & under and may be purchased from any member of LMM. Tickets will be available at the event, but pre-purchasing helps with planning. Those who are unable to attend are invited to make a donation. Just drop off a check or cash at the church designated LMM. *Please make checks payable to Lutheran Men in Mission.*

Thanks!

Dear friends,
Kami and I would like to thank you for the cards, treats, and gifts that so many of you shared with us in the Christmas season. We are thankful for the staff Christmas gift that you so generously give each year. These signs of your love bring much joy. We are very thankful to be part of such a warm and caring church family!

Peace, Pastor Shannon

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's,
"What you are is God's gift to you. What you become is your gift to God". During the twelve days of Christmas is when I am able to reflect upon the many gifts that St. John's has to offer each other and our community. It is those same gifts that have been bestowed on the staff, my family, and myself this past year. Thank you for the many cards, Christmas goodies, and the generous staff gift. May God be with you as you stay well and share your many gifts with God and others throughout the new year.

Peace & Joy, Gloria & Tim Bockelman

Dear St. John's,
Wow! How I managed to become a part of St. John's is a wonderous blessing that keeps on giving. St. John's is the perfect example of how to live, how to enjoy, how to love, and how to give. I continue to learn in my job and I learn from each one of you how to spend each day giving and loving. Thank you so much for the generous staff Christmas gift, the cards, and the delicious goodies that have added to the making of a resolution to lose some pounds. My prayers are that we all continue to grow in our love for God and each other.

Love and Blessings, Anne Marcengill

Dear St. John's family,
Thank you so much for your generosity, support, and encouragement this past year. I am thankful to have caring, supportive people like you all in my life. You all truly bring joy to my heart, and I cannot wait to see how we continue to grow at St. John's

Love, Deacon Katie

Dear Friends of St. John's,
Our sincere thanks go out to the St. John's Women Sewing Group for providing the beautiful bibs for our residents. We are so grateful to the church for its continued kindness toward Helena Square residents. We wish you a happy and prosperous new year from our community to yours!

Maria Sawyer, Helena Square

Dear Friends,

Thank for your generous donation to Family Promise. You are truly making a difference and Family Promise of Beaufort County values your support tremendously. Your gift will go towards assisting our families in their journey to a better tomorrow. We are now one step closer to accomplishing our goal of "Every Child Will Have a Home."

Thank you, Tamika W. Blake, Executive Director

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for your continued generosity! It is my favorite time of the year coming to your church to do my "Elf" duties. It always warms my heart to see all the beautiful gifts.

Love, Julie Hood, Lutheran Services Carolina

Dear Gloria, Pastor Shannon, and St. John's Family, Lutheran Services wants to thank you all so much for once again providing Christmas gifts for all of our clients. You all went above and beyond as usual, and the thoughtfulness and time you put into the children's gifts are so appreciated by our staff, the foster parents, and these (very excited!) Children! We hope you all have a very wonderful New Year! Thank you so much for all you do! You all are so wonderful and so very appreciated!

Love, Allison Sandis of Lutheran Services Foster Care Team

Dear "Crochet Ladies" of St. John's Lutheran,
Your beautiful scarves have already made several of our community members very happy. We are so grateful for your continued partnership and generous donation! Thank you so much for loving our people as much as we do.

With peace, Deacon Brittany and The Dwelling Community

Dear Pat,

Please thank everyone in the Quilting Circle for the beautiful quilts. We all were in awe of their beauty. Your work is amazing. The youth will be so happy to have these quilts and be able to carry them throughout their lives and know they were made with love.

Blessings, Julie, Lutheran Services Carolina



St. John's Lutheran Church
Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

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Beaufort, SC 29907

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Mission Statement:

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Core Values:

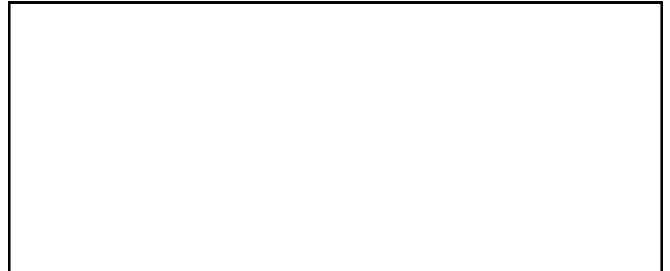
We hear the Good News of God's Love in worship and scripture.

All are welcome and valued, with no exceptions.

We serve and help our neighbors, community, and those who are in need.

We love, care for, nourish, and support one another.

We are boldly generous with time, talents, space, and resources.



Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Pastor P. Shannon Mullen

Deacon Katie Justice

Pastor Craig Boehlke, part time assisting pastor

Phone: 843-524-3461

Email: info@StJohnsBeaufort.org

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