



St. John's Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Summer Events at St. John's

Wednesday Nights Together

June 10, July 8, and August 12

Supper and Fellowship, 6:00 pm - Program, 6:30-7 pm

All are invited to for dinner and fellowship followed by a short program for adults and story time with Deacon Katie for children.

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Movie Nights!

Wednesday, June 3, 6 pm *The Green Mile*, Rated R

Wednesday, July 1, 6 pm *Cool Runnings*, Rated PG

Wednesday, August 5, 6 pm Movie to be determined

All members and friends are invited to join us in the Mission Building for Movie Nights. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Have a favorite treat? Bring something to share! Invite friends. If you need transportation call Pat Harvey-Palmer, Deacon Katie or the church office!

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Lunch and Fellowship

Wednesday, July 22, 11:30 am, Jim 'N Nick's BBQ, Bluffton

Wednesday, August 19, 11:30 am, Ryan's Pizza and Hibachi, Lady's Island

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Game Day

Tuesday, July 28, noon

All members and friends are invited to the Mission Building to play games. Games will be provided, and you may also bring games from home.

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Craft Day

Tuesday, August 4, noon

We will be decorating Mason Jars for organization or as home décor in the Mission Building.

Family Time

Alvin Settles (Greene Street) Pool, Saturday, July 11, 11 am

All members and friends are invited to enjoy family time at the pool. Admission costs may be found at <https://www.bcscrec.com/pool-fees>.

Southside Park, Saturday, August 8, 10 am

All members and friends are invited. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Saturday, September 12, 10 am

All members and friends are invited to family game day. Games will be provided, but please bring games from home as well. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

(Events continued on page 2)

The Shepherd's Voice
 June, July, & August 2026
 Volume 26, Issue 2

Coming soon!

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Crocheters and Knitters

June 1, July 6 and

August 3

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Martha's Animals

July 13 and August 10

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LWR Quilters

July 27 and August 24

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Movie Night

June 3, July 1, and

August 5

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Wednesday Nights

Together

June 10, July 8, and

August 12

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St. Francis Trailer

June 14, July 12, and

August 9

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Young Adults

Gathering

June 19 and July 12

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Lutheran Men in

Mission

June 20

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Rubbish Rustlers

July 11

Youth Events for Grades 6-12

Pool Party, Tuesday, July 11, 11:30 am

At the home of Melinda Ellis, 1573 Sea Island Pkwy, St. Helena Island

All youth and their friends are invited to the pool party. Food will be provided. Any one needing a ride or wanting to car pool, meet Deacon Katie at the church at 11 am.

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Luncheon at Piace Pizza, Saturday, July 18, noon

1 Merchants Lane #8005, Beaufort

Deacon Katie will buy pizza and drinks. Other menu items will be the responsibility of the youth. Meet at Piace Pizza.

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Volunteer at HELP of Beaufort, Wednesday, July 22, 9:30 am, arrive by 9 am

1600 Ribaut Rd. Port Royal

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Bowling, Sunday, August 9, 5 pm

Station 300, 25 Innovation Dr, Bluffton

The cost is \$25.00 per person for bowling. Meet at the church by 4:15 pm.

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Beach day, Saturday, August 22, 9:30 am

Sands Beach Road, Port Royal

We will meet at The Sands Beach in Port Royal. Parents and siblings are invited!

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Youth Game Night, Friday, August 28, 7 pm

At the home of Ryan and Marta Smith, 1 Brickyard Ct. Beaufort.

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The Dwelling, Winston-Salem, NC, June 14-19

Four youth and two adults will be travelling to Winston-Salem for a week of service! Please keep them in your prayers for safe travels.

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Lutheridge

St John's has eight youth and four adults attending various camps at Lutheridge this summer. Prayers for safe travels for all of our members and friends going to camp.

Young Adults

All young adults are invited to be a part of this gathering for fellowship, fun, and service. Members are encouraged to invite friends! There is no set age for "young" adults. If it sounds right to you, you are probably the right age!

Fellowship Night, June 19, 7ish pm

At the home of Josh & Kristen Ferguson, 7 Peyton's Way

All young adults are invited, members and friends! Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, if you like.

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CAPA Picnic/Water Fun, Sunday, July 12, 5 pm

Young adults will provide an evening of fun here at the church for youth from CAPA. All young adults - members and friends - are asked to help with this service project. Contact Kristen Ferguson to volunteer to help with the picnic. Children of elementary age or younger are welcome to attend with their parents.

From the Desk of Deacon Katie

As I've been thinking ahead, I realize that the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering is around the corner. It will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from June 28 to July 2, 2027. I have never been there, but I do have friends who live there, and I will be asking them all about what local restaurants to eat at and how to get to the Mall of America. Also, Prince is from there, so I think it would be cool for the youth to see his statue and learn how he made history in music.

The ELCA Youth Gathering is a big event where youth from all over the United States, the Bahamas, and Puerto Rico come together to share God's love in action by volunteering with various nonprofits in the area, to hear speakers share their stories of faith, and to worship together as one big church. It is a beautiful experience to witness kids worship together, especially when they have no idea who one another are.

As we prepare for fundraising, registration, and planning activities in Minneapolis during downtime, please keep the youth in your prayers so their hearts are open to hearing and seeing God's love. Pray that they see God in a different way and that their faith grows as they share God's love in action with others.

Welcome to the OASIS LIBRARY!

The existing desert mural on the wall in the new location of the St. John's Lending Library inspired it's new name. According to Librarian Jane Pfarner, books and reading provide an oasis in our busy lives, as well as information.

Currently readers will find fiction books on the back wall. The non-fiction books cover a wide variety of topics including humorous titles! There is also a section of Large Print books (with red labels) for easier reading. There are children's books for the very young, future readers that parents can share with their children, as well as books for elementary school readers through young adult titles.

Come into the Library and browse the shelves. You may find that book you had intended to read but never got to it. There is an up to date four-drawer card catalog of the collection in which you can search for a book by author, title, or subject. Sign out the book for a month and enjoy. See you in the Library.



Jane Pfarner and Rhoda Moore in the Oasis Library.

Construction Update

Work is moving along inside the church building. The new ADA compliant bathroom will provide a safe and easily accessible bathroom off the narthex. A wall to divide the nursery into a nursery and classroom will better support our Sunday morning children's worship. A new ground level storage area will keep us from moving bulky and heavy items up to and down from the attic. And the live streaming platform will bring a dedicated space to support that ministry. By the time of publication of this newsletter, the work should be nearly, if not completely, finished.

Music This Summer at St. John's

Music during worship this summer will focus more on solos, duets, and small ensembles using our voices and instruments. If you'd like to share your musical talent this summer, please let Tim or Gloria Bockelman know. We'd love to get you scheduled for a Sunday. Your church family is the easiest group to sing and play for.



Youth Nights: Youth playing a game of Throw Throw Burrito!



Deacon Katie telling a great story during the Children's Message on a Sunday morning.



Family time at Southside Park on a Saturday morning. Grayson and Vivian had a great time.



Acts of Love: Pastor Shannon giving Sister Canice of the St. Francis Center on St Helena the gift cards that were collected during Lent



Carlos, Marta, and David Smith setting up the welcome table to celebrate Send a Kid to Camp Sunday.

YMCA Migrant Education Program

June 8-July 3

St. John's will be hosting the YMCA Migrant Education Program again this year! If you stop by the church don't be surprised to see all sorts of activities going on in the sanctuary and Mission Building!

St. John's Lutheran Women

2nd Tuesday of each month

St. John's Lutheran Women will be taking a summer break. They will reconvene on September 8 at 7pm in the Mission Building. For more information call Robin Barone or the church office!

Sewing/Crocheting/Knitting/Quilting

1st, 2nd, and 4th Mondays, 10 am-1 pm

These groups will NOT meet in June

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

July 11, 8:30 am

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. Please join us for another experience of fun and fellowship at St. John's. Contact Perry Dukes with questions.

Lutheran Men in Mission

3rd Saturday of each month

June 20, 9 am

LMM will not meet in July and August

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

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to both Garrett Smith and Sergio Smith for graduating from Georgia Southern!



Thanks!

Gloria and St. John's Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for the thoughtful bereavement box. Your kindness, prayers, and support brought so much comfort to our family.

With love, Paul Hamilton and Family

We are extremely thankful for the gift you sent our community. The underwear, socks, and undergarments really helped replenish our dwindling supply and our neighbors are so grateful. Thank you so much for encouraging us with your partnership and friendship. Sarah and all of us at The Dwelling

Hi Friends,

On behalf of everyone at Family Promise of Beaufort County, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your very generous donation of \$5,029 from the Chili Cookoff. Your support means the world to us, and we are truly grateful for your commitment to our mission. Thank you,

John Turner, Executive Director

Dear Shannon:

Thank you for your donation of baby items to Hopeful Horizons. With your help, we continue providing desperately needed services free of charge for victims of abuse. Your investment helps to provide safety, hope and healing to survivors through evidence-based practices, outreach and prevention and education.

Sincerely,

Kristin Dubrowski, MNM
Chief Executive Officer

Oktoberfest in April Celebration



Clara & Chuck Gorgen ready to celebrate the day.



Denny Skogland and Jim Palmer grilling brats and burgers for the Oktoberfest in April Celebration.



Tony & Dorinda Selby showing the true spirit of Oktoberfest.



Pastor Shannon with some help from Renée Park enjoying the quilt that was made by the sewing ladies and presented by Pat Bennett



Arthur able to see better on top of his Aunt Corinne's shoulders.



Arthur found the pinwheels to help celebrate his Pa P's retirement from the ministry.



Tim Bockelman telling Pastor Shannon, we have the word, you are now retired.

Thanks from the Mountains!

Dear members and friends,

Kami and I want to thank you so very much for the wonderful kindness, generosity, and love which you showed to us through our last weeks at St. John's, leading up to my retirement. So many people shared so many kind words, offered congratulations, and shared stories from our twenty years together. It was so uplifting to feel your appreciation, and it made the last days wonderful, despite the hectic and exhausting work of packing and tying up all the loose ends.

Please know that we appreciate all that you have been to us just as deeply. We look back over twenty years and it is amazing how much grace we shared with one another and how well we served our neighbors in love. Throughout all that time, whether facing struggles or responding to opportunities, we always worked together as God's people. I always felt I was working with the congregation, never struggling against it. I can tell you, that is rare.

We are grateful for all the cards and gifts which you shared with us. We would like to thank the Council for their gift to me of a lovely plaque commemorating our years together and their gift to Kami of a beautiful planter and a garden shop gift certificate. I would like to thank the sewing ladies for their amazing quilt. It will always be a special gift because it is filled with love and brings back so many memories. We would like to thank the entire congregation for the very generous gift of \$4500. This is a tremendously helpful gift as we make this transition into retirement. I used a portion for a wood turning class and some new wood turning tools. The included picture is from the class.

We are grateful to all who worked so hard to put together the Oktoberfest in April for our last Sunday. It was a wonderful day. So many of you offered so many kind words and cards and gifts. Some traveled great distances to be there. We are grateful to all of you.

A special thank you to Gloria Bockelman, Jenny Stoddard, and Melinda Ellis and their teams for all they did to coordinate the events of that special day. Thank you to Pastor Joyce Gulliford for offering prayers of thanksgiving. Thank you to Mike Masters, Tim Bockelman, and Darryl Poovey, who joined me for one last rendition of *Fourth Man in the Fire*. Thanks to Perry Dukes, Sue Mannheim, Kris Cianci, and Robin Barone for sharing heartfelt words and memories. And thank you to Tim Bockelman, who touched my heart deeply with his adaptation of the military tradition of a "retirement watch" to officially announce my retirement from the call to ordained ministry and twenty years at St. John's.

The words with which I closed so many letters over the years at St. John's developed slowly. I began by using a simple *Peace* as my closing. When the pandemic came, I added, *Be well*. When St. John's began to reflect on the injustice of the world with which so many of our neighbors struggle, I added the final phrase, *Seek justice*. To be honest, I never knew if anyone ever noticed. Ending my time at St. John's with those words was deeply moving because the last weeks and last Sunday all together affirmed to me that God was indeed working through what I said and did and even more, through what we did together. And so, we close with them, once more.

Peace. Be well. Seek justice.

Pastor Shannon & Kami



Shannon enjoying his woodworking class that he could take because he is retired!

Pastor Shannon & Kami expressing their thanks to the members and friends of St. John's.





St. John's Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

157 Lady's Island Drive
Beaufort, SC 29907

Non Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
St. Helena Island, SC
Permit No. 7

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Mission Statement:

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Core Values:

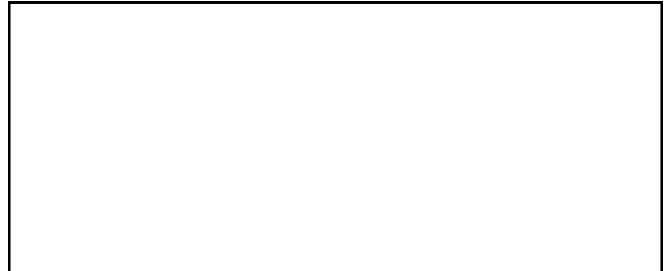
We hear the Good News of God's Love in worship and scripture.

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

Deacon Katie Justice

Phone: 843-524-3461

Email: info@StJohnsBeaufort.org

2026 Congregation Council, Officers, and Committee/Organization/Team Leaders

Congregation Council Members and Officers

Kris Cianci, President + Susan Heim Vice-President + Fred Park, Secretary + Ann Nizzi, Treasurer

Robin Barone+ Darlene Bessinger + Laird Griffin + Victoria Bishop

Lori Libert+ Sue Mannheim+ Jill Merchant + Denny Skoglund

Endowment Committee Members

Bill Libert + Gerald Pfarner +Pat Harvey Palmer+ Carol Ruff

Table Coordinators & Team Leaders

Church SupportBill Libert & Sarah Anderson

Community Engagement.....Melinda Ellis & Perry Dukes

Congregation Engagement .Tim Bockelman & Kristen Ferguson

Financial Secretary.....Denny Skoglund

LibrarianJane Pfarner

Lutheran Men in MissionCurt Cianci, Tim Bockelman,

.....and Denny Skoglund

Lutheran Women.....Robin Barone

Staff

Administrative Assistant..... Jenny Stoddard

Program Assistant..... Gloria Bockelman

Youth LeaderDeacon Katie Justice

Interim Choir Director Tim Bockelman

Custodian.....On Point Cleaning

www.StJohnsBeaufort.org