



St. John's Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Were You There?

We all know the old favorite Lenten hymn - *Were You There when they Crucified my Lord?* And probably most of us at one time or another have heard a sermon explaining that the correct answer to that question is "Yes, because I too am a broken and sinful person in need of God's grace!"

But that is not really what this article is about. This song just popped into my head when I was thinking about how I should title this article! What I am writing about is something different to which the question applies! *Were you there?*

By which I mean, were you in church last Sunday? Did you attend either online or in person?

There are two reasons I am asking this question. I'll start with the less obvious one. The church office needs help knowing whether or not you were in worship! Our Administrative Assistant Anne Marcengill records attendance in the church database each week, but if you attended and did not fill out the fellowship books that are passed down the row, she has no way of knowing you were there!

Unlike some pastors, I cannot remember every person who was in church on Sunday. What goes through my scattered mind is, "I remember that I have seen you lately, but was that last week - or the week before? Or a month ago?" In addition of course, I am not here every Sunday, so on the weeks that Pastor Craig leads worship or that our occasional substitute Pastor Becky Albright leads, it is even harder for Anne to know if you were in worship.

Which leads to the second reason I am asking, *Were you there?* This is the reason that you were probably guessing I was heading toward. Not whether your attendance was recorded or not, but were you in worship - at all?

We all know the world is different. We are all so busy with so many things. Fewer people attend worship every Sunday than in the past. I understand that sometimes you just might feel like all you can do on a given Sunday is simply stay at home and rest. We all understand that feeling.

So this is not an attempt to chastise you or try to make you feel guilty for missing church. I just want you to know that when you are not in worship, others miss you! Without all the members coming and going, the church is less than it could be. The fellowship, the song, the service, the spirit that brings us hope - so many aspects of church is diminished without all of Jesus' followers as part of the life of our community.

Additionally, I believe, when we miss worship, we are missing an opportunity to be renewed in our faith. Yes, we can grow through personal devotion, prayer, and scripture reading. Yes, we can grow by watching a worship service online. But our faith is nourished most fully in community. Our discipleship grows in being together. Our impact - our ability to do the work of sharing the Good News of God's Love which we are called to do as followers of Jesus is multiplied when we support one another in doing it together.

To be honest, the reason that I think participating in the St. John's livestream is different than watching some random televangelist on TV is because most who participate in our livestream are already a part of the St. John's community - are already in relationship with the members of

Coming soon!

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**St. Francis Center
Food Drive**
 October 8
 November 12
 December 10

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Rubbish Rustlers
 November 11

+++

**Family Time at the
Church**
 October 10
 November 14
 December 12

+++

**Wednesday Nights
Together**
 October 11 & 25
 November 8
 December 6, 13, & 20

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**Grocery Drop Off for
Salvation Army Pantry
HELP of Beaufort**
 Anytime

the congregation. Joining the livestream therefore keeps members connected to what they are already a part of. This is why we will not stop streaming. We have learned its value for those who are homebound or sick or traveling or for whatever reason simply could not make it on a given Sunday. But we also know that relationships are best nourished by being together with our beloved.

Were you there? I invite you to hear this as an invitation. If you fall into the group that still just hasn't gotten around to coming back to worship since the worst of the pandemic passed, we miss you! If you fall into the group that has gotten into the habit of mostly sitting at home in your pajamas with your coffee, watching the stream, your friends miss passing the peace with you and catching up on life before and after the service! If you are one of the millions of people who simply don't go as often as you used to, hear this as an invitation – an encouragement – an appeal – don't let go of that which brings joy! Don't let go of that through which Jesus warms your heart and opens your eyes to the calling which God has for you!

Worship is about community. Community is about relationship. Relationship is about Love. And Love is what transforms everything. Were you there? If not, put it on your calendar for next Sunday!

Peace. Be well. Seek justice.

Pastor Shannon

From the desk of Pastor Craig

I keep hearing that we Americans are more divided than ever. The news keeps portraying the huge gulf between Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, racial tensions, and even mainline Christians being pitted against evangelicals. I'm afraid that these characterizations take on a life of their own. While I know firsthand the challenges of talking political issues with some of those who have differing views, I also believe that many of our leaders are doing us a disservice by trying to exploit those differences. Some of our political figures and media personalities seem to thrive on seeing how outrageous they can be and how much they can rile up the populous. Exploiting latent anger is a devious and destructive strategy which ultimately leads to nothing positive.

One of the hallmarks of our democracy in the past has been how we can hold opposing views but still treat each other with respect and come together for the sake of the common good. This is also true for people of faith. We may see our mission differently, but we come together in worship, prayer, and commitment to a common creed. Mature people understand that we will not always agree, but we need to move forward. Name calling, belittling others, demonizing those who disagree gets us into the kind of situation we find ourselves in now.

We need to do better. We need to expect-I think even demand better from ourselves and especially from those who would want to lead us. It begins with that great image from the psalmist-"Guard the door of your lips!" Martin Luther encouraged us not only to not bear false witness against our neighbor, but to put the best construction on the motives of the other. If God sees us as sisters and brothers in Christ, then let's try our best to live into that vision.

Of course, we know the realities of sin, beginning with our own shortcomings. But let's see if we can lower the temperature in the current public discourse. As that wonderful song goes, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." I choose to believe there are better days ahead. I hope you will join me in both praying and acting to move us in that direction.

Finally, I give thanks that the tensions and rancor in society have not spilled over into our church. It is such a pleasure to worship and serve in a healthy and generous church community. Your leadership works very hard at maintaining transparency and being faithful to our callings. We're far from perfect, but your gracious encouragement and willingness to be involved are greatly appreciated.

Pastor Craig

Youth and Deacon Katie

Our youth have had a busy summer. We attended church camp at Lutheridge, June 18-24, and went on a servant-learning trip to *The Dwelling*. June 25-30. Our youth learn so much when they go to *The Dwelling*, a Lutheran congregation in Winston-Salem NC which is made up almost entirely of persons who are experienced or have experienced homelessness. I am grateful for their servant's hearts. *The Dwelling* impacted them in new ways that were different from last year.

We have a new playground at the church, and I am excited to share that we have moved family time at the park from Pigeon Point Park to our church playground. Please join us. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

Family Time: Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 pm, church playground, October 10, November 14, and December 12

Youth Grades 6-12: Sundays, 5-7 pm, Mission Building, October 1, 15, and 29

Youth Grades 6-12 Friendsgiving: Sunday, November 19, 5-7 pm, Mission Building

Christmas Parade: Sunday, December 3, 3 pm

Young Adult Events in October to December

Details available at: SJBft.org/YoungAdultInfo

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

October 29, 6:30-8:30 pm - CAPA Service Project - Pumpkin Carving - we will provide dinner and an evening of Halloween fun for youth in the home at CAPA.

November 3-5 - Trip to the NC mountains - details below

December 10, 6:30-8:30 pm - CAPA service - we will serve dinner and host a Christmas Party for youth at CAPA.

December 15, 7ish - Ornament Exchange (and ugly Xmas sweater Party?) - host needed for this annual event!

Fall Trip, November 3-5 - the North Carolina mountains: this year the group will head to the mountains for a weekend of fun and fellowship! "Home base" will be Pastor Shanon's grandfather's "cabin," located in Elk Park, NC.

Possible activities include an easy hike to the top of bald mountain with a 360 degree view of the surrounding Appalachian mountains - visits to the Elk River Falls, a local winery, and an alpine coaster - a trip to the original Mast General store - lots of time relaxing, laughing, and enjoying the time together.

Mark your calendars, make plans for your kids, reach out to ask questions, and contact Pastor Shannon or Deacon Katie to add yourself to the list. Please sign up as soon as possible to help determine lodging requirements.

Special Contributions

Given in Memory of Mary Bishop

*Jerry & Sarah Anderson**

Tim & Gloria Bockelman

Melinda Ellis

*Chuck & Claria Gorgen**

Roy & Pat Hudson

Ashley Ingram (Carol)

Dianne McCarty

Don & Bonnie Miller

*Larry & Eve Roane**

*Tony and Dorinda Selby**

Melody Trimble

Edward Wise

Given in Memory of Ruth Bockelman

Renate Moser

Given in Memory of Joe Dudding

Chuck & Claria Gorgen

Given in Memory of Leola Fanning

Ron & Susie Braiden

Given in Memory of Ed Moser

Renate Moser

Given in Memory of Phil Ray

*Melinda Ellis**

*Chuck & Claria Gorgen**

*Larry & Eve Roane**

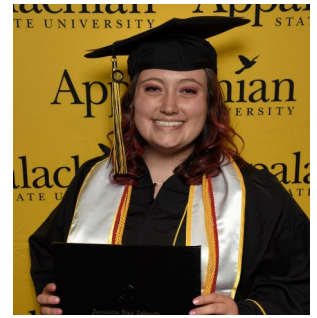
**Endowment*

2023 High School, College, and Boot Camp Graduates

Cameron Hussmann graduated from the US Marine Corps in May. Following a two-week home visit, Cameron reported to Camp Fort Gregg-Adams in Virginia for training as an electro-optical ordnance repairer.



Corinne Mullen graduated from Appalachian State University with honors and a major in Art Education. She is teaching art in Fayetteville, NC. This past summer Corrine served again as Area Director at Lutheridge.



Grace Burvenich graduated from Whale Branch High School and from TCL with an associate in Arts in May. She is attending Coastal Carolina University majoring in graphic design.

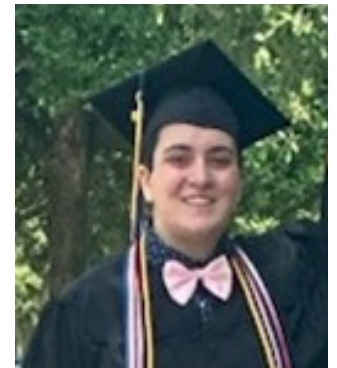


Anne McKenzie completed her Physical Therapy course studies at MUSC. She was presented with her White Coat in a Ceremony in May.

Kaydence Collins graduated from Battery Creek High School. She is the granddaughter of Pat Collins.



Katie Innes graduated from Georgia Southern University. Katie worked at Lutheridge this past summer with OAP. She is currently in the Masters program at Georgia Southern in History and will TA for the history department while working on her Masters.



Emily Moellenhoff, (not pictured) granddaughter of Arno & Jane Moellenhoff, graduated from Battery Creek High School.



Michael Ranly, great grandson of Wilma Goertz and grandson of Linda Bloomer, graduated from Summerville High School. He is attending USC Columbia. Michael was on staff this past summer at Lutheridge. He is the son of Teri & Ben Ranly.



Bethany Johnson, daughter of Amy Hamilton, graduated from Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany with a Bachelor in Economics. She interned this past summer with Nestles.

Georgia Filter, daughter of Douglas Filter graduated from the University of South Carolina with a BS in Retail with a concentration in Fashion Merchandising and Digital Innovations and also a minor in Event Management.



Wedding Announcement

Jerry Hutchins & Carolyn Jenkins announce the marriage of their daughter, Emily to Justin George in San Antonio on June 16, 2023. The couple is planning a blessing of their marriage and a celebration with family and friends upon Justin's return from his tour of duty overseas with the USAF.

Congratulations may be sent to:
Emily & Justin George
 842 Browning Bluff
 San Antonio Texas 78245



Our Church In Photos



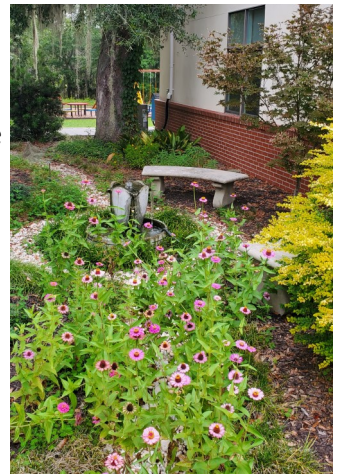
The joy of listening to a story being read by Deacon Katie and finding an Easter Egg at the annual egg hunt.



Children at the new playground dedication. Family time is now being held at the church playground on the second Tuesday of each month.



A beautiful reminder of the memory garden that is located between the admin wing and the Mission Building. Need a quiet place to reflect?



Deacon Katie and youth on their mission trip to *The Dwelling*.



Thank you Jordan Plair for your time and talent of leading us in song.

Confirmation Day!
Deacon Katie,
Abigail Baron,
Grace Burvenich,
Leansy Smith,
Mary Ruff



Congratulations to Josh Ferguson, who was named *Teacher of the Year* for Whale Branch Early College High School! He is one of five teachers named as finalists for the Beaufort County's School District Teacher of the Year. Josh teaches Sports Medicine and is Career & Technology Education Department Head.



Josh Overby, our music director is looking for any one who would like to join the choir, play handbells, or any other musical instrument. Choir rehearses between services on Sunday.

Author Jacqueline Bussie at the *Outlaw Christians* book discussion at the home of the Gorgens.



Crocheters and Knitters

First Monday of each month, 10 am

All members and friends are invited to join this group, which meets in the Mission Building. We work on our own projects or an outreach project, which is currently knitting small blankets and preemie hats for the neonatal unit at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. Knitters and crocheters of all levels are welcome to participate. For more information contact Jane Pfarner.

Martha's Animals Sewing Group

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Quilters

Martha's Animals & Small Quilts: 2nd Mondays, 10 am

LWR quilters: 4th Mondays, 10 am

Mission Building - All are welcome - Bring a bag lunch!

Martha's Animals - This group stuffs small animals for children who are hospitalized. No sewing skills needed.

LWR Quilters - This group makes quilts for LWR to be sent to disaster zones around the world. We make at least 10 quilts per month in support of this powerful ministry. On a rotating basis, one of the quilts is hanging in the office lobby.

An invitation to all: often the quilters purchase supplies for quilts using Thrivent Action Team cards or by making personal donations. Supplies include the batting which goes inside the quilts (approximately \$250 per 20 quilts) and clean colored twin size sheets (about \$10 per sheet). Fabric for the quilt tops is donated. If you would like to help support this ministry, contact Pat Bennett at 216-269-3519.

Lydia Circle/Lutheran Women

October 10, November 14, and December 12, 7 pm

The St. John's Lutheran Women group meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Mission Building for fellowship and devotions. All women are welcome and invited. Contact Robin Barone for additional information at 843-470-1738

Lutheran Men in Mission

October 21, November 18, and December 16, 9 am

The Lutheran Men in Mission generally meet the third Saturday of each month for fellowship and Bible study. All men are invited to attend! Contact Marvin Morrison for additional information at 843-521-7867.

Rubbish Rustlers

Saturday, November 11, 8:30 am

All are encouraged to help with Rubbish Rustlers. This group picks up trash along the highway in front of the church 6 times per year.

In March, Rubbish Rustlers pick up volunteers included Larry Barone, Rhoda Moore, Jim Palmer, Deacon Katie and youth: Mary V. Ruff, Leansy Smith, and Carlos Smith. In May, pickers included Rhoda Moore, Sona Lyttle, Jim Palmer, Mike & Helen Masters, and Bill Libert. Thanks so much to all of you for taking part in this ministry of St. John's. Contact Mike Masters, coordinator, for additional information. 843-522-9199

Family Promise Meals

Tuesday, October 31 and Friday, November 3

Family Promise is a ministry which provides support for families who have lost their homes and are working to get back on track. St. John's is assigned weeks to work with our sister congregations (St. Mark's Episcopal, St. Peter's Catholic, and Lady's Island Baptist) to provide meals which are delivered to the Family Promise Day Center. If you would be willing to help with this ministry, contact Gloria in the church office at 843.524.3461 or at gloria@stjohnsbeaufort.org.

Good Neighbor Clinic Bags

October: Disposable Razors

November: Individual Packages of Kleenex & Wipes

December: Deodorant

Providing hygiene bags for patients at the Good Neighbor Medical Clinic is an ongoing project of St. John's. The toiletry items that are collected are put in bags made by St. John's members.

Members are invited to purchase and drop off items for these bags on a rotating basis:

October: disposable razors, any type

November: individual packages of Kleenex and wipes

December: deodorant.

There is a basket in the Narthex for these items. Note that all of these items are available at Dollar Tree and other discount locations.

Contact Melinda Ellis for additional information at 843-252-6450



Thanks!

Thank you so much for your generous donation of baby blankets and hats. They are beautiful. The mother's are very excited about having these gifts for their babies. Knowing they were made with love and touched by angels here on earth, these donations serve as a personal gift from members of our community. This is what makes living in this community so wonderful...it's organizations like yours.
OB Nursery, Beaufort Memorial Hospital

Dear St. John's family, I would like to thank everyone who has sent me cards, texts and messages wishing me well. All the margins and lymph nodes were cancer free so no further treatment. I will be following up with Dr. Gibney for two years. Thank you all for your prayers and support.
Sam Cowan

St. John's, Thank you for allowing us to use your church for our play and dinner. Mercy Me Sober Living for Women benefits from the money we raised and we all appreciate it so much! It means a lot to know someone cares!
Lucy & James Fordham, Mercy Me Sober Living

Dear St. John's Family, On behalf of June Rourk I have been asked to express her appreciation for the birthday wishes. She is truly thankful for your touching thoughts. She wants you to know how grateful she is to have received your gift of remembrance and affection. I thank each of you for being such an important part of her life.
May the Grace of the Lord be with you all,
Julie Rourk

The wreaths on the church doors at Christmas were given to the glory of God and in memory of their loved ones by the Ellis and Moore families. Many thanks to these families for their generosity in providing these beautiful and welcoming additions to our Christmas season.

Dear Friends, Thank you so very much for your kind donation of stuffed animals to Hopeful Horizons. With your help, we continue providing needed services for victims of abuse. Thank you so much for making a difference.
Kiersty Dubrowski, MNM CEO, Hopeful Horizons

Members of St. John's Lutheran,
Your partnership means so much to us here at The Dwelling! Thank you for your generous donation and continued prayers. Thank you SO MUCH for the many ways you continue to love and support the beautiful humans and ministry at The Dwelling.
Deacon Brittany and The Dwelling Community
With deep love and gratitude, Pastor Emily

To the Congregation, Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers. It was really a comfort knowing that all of you, our church family, were praying for us and thinking about us daily. It makes the journey that much easier. We thank God for you all everyday and know God put us with you all for a reason.
Thank you and God Bless you all,
Love the Collins family.

Office Notes

The church office will be closed for:

Reformation Day - Tuesday, October 31

Thanksgiving - November 22-23

Christmas - December 24, 2023 through January 1, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve Worship

This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve. The schedule for the day will be:

4th Advent: one service at 8:15 am (in-person and livestreamed)

Christmas Eve: two services at 3 and 7 pm

(both services will be in-person - 3 pm will also be livestreamed)

Fax Number Discontinued - Every five years our office copy machine lease is renegotiated and the machine is upgraded. Based on a lack of use and need, it was decided not to pay an additional monthly fee to add fax capability to our newest copier. The number that was previously posted as our fax number is being canceled.

Upcoming Concerts at St. John's!

St. John's is pleased to be able to act as host for concerts by so many local musical groups. We encourage you to consider these opportunities.

October 28, 3 pm - Newberry College Choir

We are pleased to host and promote this first performance at St. John's by our own ELCA South Carolina Lutheran College.

November 5, 4 pm - Lowcountry Wind Symphony

November 9, 7 pm - Beaufort Youth Orchestra

November 19, 4 pm - Sea Island Chamber Singers

December 2, 3 pm & 7:30 pm - Beaufort Symphony
(requires ticket purchased from the symphony)

December 8, 7 pm - Lowcountry Chorale

December 14, 7 pm - Taylor Festival Choir



St. John's Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

157 Lady's Island Drive
Beaufort, SC 29907

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Mission Statement:

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Core Values:

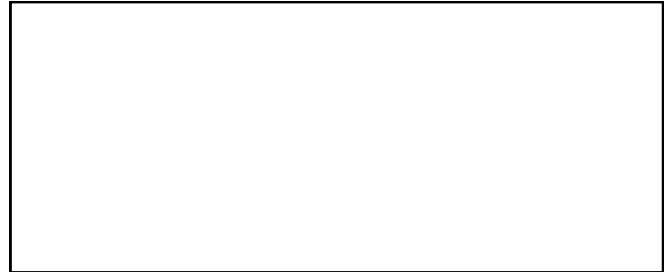
We hear the Good News of God's Love in worship and scripture.

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

OFFICIAL NOTICE: Congregation Meeting Sunday, November 19 - 11:30 am

The purpose of this Congregation Meeting is to adopt a *Plan for Mission 2024*, to elect Congregation Council members for 2024-25 terms, and to elect Endowment Fund Team members for 2024-2025 terms. No other business will be brought to the floor. All voting members are urged to attend this important meeting.

A voting member is defined as a baptized, confirmed, member (or seasonal member) who has both contributed and communed in the current or past calendar year (2021-2022). Note that anyone received as an adult is automatically considered "confirmed."

Everyone is invited to stay for a potluck lunch following the meeting. Bring a dish or two to share if you are able!

2023 Congregation Council and Endowment

Congregation Council Members and Officers

Josh Ferguson, President + Perry Dukes, Vice-President + Tammy Verheyden, Secretary + Mike Masters, Treasurer
Susie Braiden + Ellen Burnette + Laird Griffin + Susan Heim + Carl Kilpatrick + Heidi Peeples + Carol Ruff + Ryan Smith

Endowment Team

Curt Cianci + Carl Kilpatrick + Bill Liebert + Gerald Pfarner

www.StJohnsBeaufort.org