



# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## *The Herald*

Volume LII Issue III

March 2025

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### Preparing for a Holy Lent

*Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.*

*As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline. - The Exhortation to Lenten Practice (LBW Altar Edition, p. 129)*

It is that time of the year again when we willingly enter into a period of deep reflection as we prepare our hearts and our minds to celebrate the Paschal Feast at Easter. We recognize God's redeeming love for us, but we also acknowledge that - as human beings - we often turn away from that love in our daily lives. Lent invites us to intensify our struggle against the powers of sin and death and consciously turn to our Lord.

The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word, *lencten*, which means Spring. Each Spring we see new life grow out of the dormancy of the winter. Colors explode around us, birds sing, and the world comes back to life. So it is with our spiritual selves: Lent is a springtime for our souls, a chance to make room for new growth in the Holy Spirit. It is a time set aside for change.

Some changes are obvious. Subtle shifts in the liturgy serve to remind us of this. On the First Sunday in Lent we will begin our service with The Great Litany as we did at Advent. For the remainder of the season, we will not sing the *Gloria* or say *Alleluia* during worship. Our Gospel verse becomes *Return to the Lord your God...* rather than *Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go...* Our Eucharist prayer changes to profess that we praise God, *not as we ought, but as we are able*. Our readings form a sequence that lead us from Christ's temptation in the desert to the Calvary's desolate hill.

There will be several opportunities outside of the Sunday Divine Service to assist us on this path to the Cross. We will gather for worship on Ash Wednesday, when we will confess our sins, receive ashes as a sign of our mortality, and receive the Sacrament of the Altar. On subsequent Wednesdays during Lent, we will have two worship opportunities. During the day we will gather with other historical downtown churches for a time of reflection on the wounds of Christ, followed by a time of fellowship at lunch. On Wednesday evenings, I will be available to hear private confessions beginning at 5:30 (and any other day by appointment). As a congregation we will join together in the parish hall for a light supper at 6:15, followed by a Service of the Word at 7:00.

I also encourage you to take time in your personal life to find opportunities for devotion and reflection. Lent is a great time to commit (or recommit) to our Bible reading challenge. It is a good time to commit to attending worship more regularly if you don't currently do so. You may wish to find a good devotional book to read during the season. Perhaps you might consider finding a way to volunteer, either through the church or in the community. You may decide to "give something up," as is traditional in Lent.

However you decide to keep Lent this year, my prayer is that it is a fruitful time for your spiritual growth. If you would like further suggestions for your Lenten practice, I am always available to help you develop a plan.

Peace,  
Pastor Robb

St. John's Lutheran Church  
5 Clifford Street, Charleston, SC 29401  
Church Office: 843-723-2426      [info@stjohnscharleston.org](mailto:info@stjohnscharleston.org)

### Join Pastor Robb on Facebook Live

each Wednesday at 8:30 AM for a short devotion.

You can access St. John's Facebook page via the app or any web browser at <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsLutheran>

### 2025 Bible Challenge

Lent is the perfect time to add a dose of scripture to your day. Join our 2025 Bible Challenge. Reading schedules may be found in the back of the church or in your weekly email update.



### "Front Porch Day" Sunday, March 9th, 2025 1-2 PM

Please join us for our "Front Porch Day" that coincides with Second Sunday on King. We are opening our doors to visitors for music, tours, and to learn more about who we are at St. John's.

We would like to have members present to welcome guests. Please reach out to Mike Lagonera if you are able to help on this day.

[mclags@hotmail.com](mailto:mclags@hotmail.com)

443-934-2662



### Altar Flowers/Greens

Please contact Susan at the church office to sponsor flowers or greens in 2025!

843-723-2426 or email: [info@stjohnscharleston.org](mailto:info@stjohnscharleston.org)

The cost is \$55 per vase.

Would you like to sponsor a vase on March 16, 23, or 30?

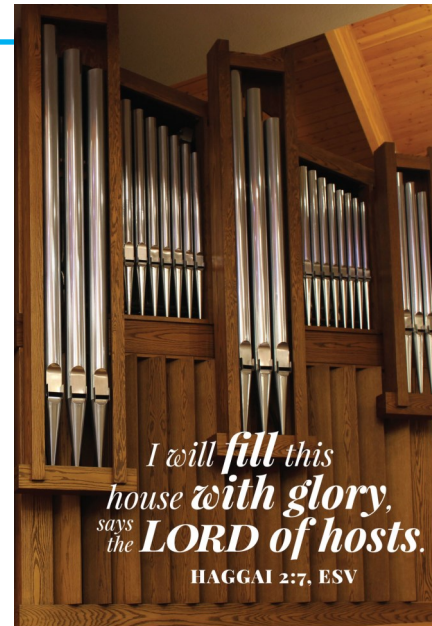
### Update on the organ from Colby Organ Company

The reservoirs are completed and the pouches are well underway. At this point, the organ will be arriving on March 31st to start the reinstallation. It is on the calendar to be completed, tuned, and ready to play by Friday, April 11th. We should be able to use it for service on Sunday the 13th!

### Easter Sunday

This year we will have brass on Easter.

We are looking forward to hearing the organ again!



### Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:30 AM -2:30 PM

843-723-2426    [info@stjohnscharleston.org](mailto:info@stjohnscharleston.org)



Please scan the QR code  
for easy online giving  
to St. John's!



### Lowcountry Mardi Gras Celebration

Saturday, March 1st, 2025

5-7pm

in the Parish Hall

Jambalaya, King Cake,  
and non-alcoholic drinks  
will be provided.

Please bring a salad, side  
or dessert to share.

(Remember your serving utensil.)  
BYOB beer and wine ONLY, please.

Please RSVP by dropping this into the offering plate  
OR click the link in the weekly e-news to sign up online.

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT IS THE LADIES SEWING SOCIETY OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?

On many occasions, when I have invited ladies to attend the Ladies Sewing Society Meetings, I have been told, "But I don't sew". Today, we don't sew either. This year in November 2025, the Ladies Sewing Society of St. John's Lutheran Church will celebrate its **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**.

In **1825**, a year after the SC Synod was organized, one of the main problems facing Lutheranism in SC was an adequate ordained ministry. John Bachman (1790-1874) who was the Pastor of St. John's from 1815 to 1871 was president of the SC Synod (an office he held for 10 years until he declined re-election in 1834). He pleaded for an educated clergy. He had strong support from the St. John's congregation. The Ladies Sewing Society of St. John's under the name of The Female Society of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded during this time period to give support to theological education. The ladies raised funds by selling hand-stitched garments and from gathering donations. These ladies were determined to support their pastor in his endeavors. In the minutes of the Synod in **1828** there is mention of a contribution from our society amounting to \$408.18. In **1829** the Synod thanked The Female Society for its contributions to the synodical fund for Education and Missions. An address made in **1832** by John Bachman alludes to "the importance of the work of The Female Society which had just sent another very liberal donation to the Synod for education."

In **1854**, a second society known as The Sunday School Missionary Society was founded by some of the young ladies connected with the Sunday School of St. John's Lutheran Church. This younger society continued to contribute aid to the SC Synod for the education of young men of the ministry until the War Between the States interrupted the work. In **1868**, with the view of strengthening The Female Society, an offer was made by the Sunday School Missionary Society to combine the two societies and to continue the work of the two organizations in contributing towards the education of young men for the ministry. The offer was accepted and the younger society adopted the name of The Female Society. Miss Kate Bachman, daughter of John Bachman, served as president of the merged organization for forty years until her death in 1908.

In **1870**, a new constitution was adopted and The Female Society changed the name to The Ladies Sewing Society, as the name "Female Society" had become obsolete.

In 1914, a Resolution was adopted establishing The Memorial Endowment Fund, the income of which was to be used for the general purpose of The Ladies Sewing Society. Today the balance in the Endowment Fund is over \$350,000. The total financial assistance granted to students studying for the ministry exceeds \$165,000.

Each fall The Ladies Sewing Society request a list of recommended candidates from the SC Synod. The candidates must be seminary students in the M.Div. Program. We also ask for short resumes for each student. From this list, the ladies select usually two students to receive grants. The students receive two grants each, one in the late fall and the other on Seminary Sunday in the spring.

The ladies in 1825 had no idea what would become of The Female Society of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church they began. Its mission has continued for 200 years, and we hope that it continues for many years to come.



### **“How can I serve my church?”**

We are in need of additional people to assist with worship. You will be guaranteed a seat near the altar and you gain the joy of serving in a very specific way in communion with others. Never served before? No worries! We will train you. Helpers are needed for Communion set-up before the 8:30 AM service, Communion clean-up after 11:00 AM service, filling candles, acolyte, crucifer, worship assistants, and lectors. Contact someone you see serving, or contact the church office: [info@stjohnscharleston.org](mailto:info@stjohnscharleston.org)

### **Tovey Circle**

The Tovey Circle will meet on March 6th, 11:00 AM at the home of Barbara Allen. Norma Luden will present the program. All ladies are invited to attend.



## **St. John's Ladies Sewing Society**

Established 1825

Requests the honor of your presence

At a brunch on

Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 9:45 a.m.

To honor our Seminary students

St. John's Ladies Sewing Society invites all members to join us in the Parish Building at 9:45 a.m. for a delicious brunch. We are asking early service members to remain after the service and the late service members to come earlier for fellowship and a chance to meet our two grant recipients, Jace Martinez and Zachary Lindler. Refreshments will include chicken salad croissants, hot ham and cheese sliders, deviled eggs, fruit, mini muffins, coffee and a refreshing punch. In 1825 the women of the congregation of St. John's formed the Female Society "organized for the purpose of contributing financial aid to worthy young men in their preparation for the Christian ministry." In its existence the Society has contributed to the education of more than 167 men and women in the Seminary. Two of St. John's pastors, Heyward Epting in 1937 and David Butler in 1986 were recipients of the grants.

## **WELCA Spring Coastal Conference**

Saturday, March 15, 2025

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 206 Central Avenue, Summerville, SC 29483

10:00 AM Registration 10:30 AM Meeting 11:30 AM Luncheon

Please RSVP for Luncheon no later than March 8th

[cpeterscma@gmail.com](mailto:cpeterscma@gmail.com)





### **Calling All Graduates!**

Are you graduating this year from High School or College?

The Christian Education Committee wants to honor you at our end-of-year graduates celebration!

Please send your name to Melissa Spaulding at [edistobluellc@gmail.com](mailto:edistobluellc@gmail.com)



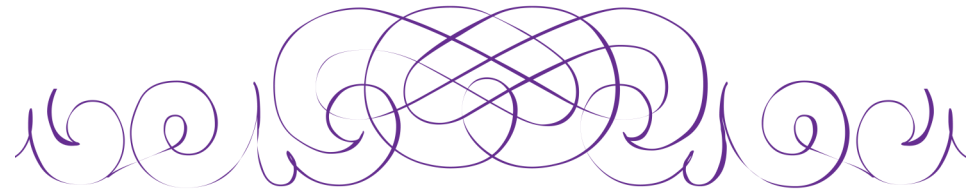
### **Lenten Soup Suppers - Meal Sign-Up**

The traditional Lenten Soup Suppers will be held again this year, preceding the Wednesday evening service in the Parish Hall for five Wednesdays in March and April. We need at least two volunteers per week to bring in a light meal; soup, chili, salad or other light meal. You can get together with a friend or two and cover the whole meal for a week or sign-up as an individual to provide one of the meal offerings for a week. This is a great time for fellowship during the week as we enjoy a light meal before our Lenten service. Please mark your calendars now to attend these meal gatherings and the service. If you can bring in a contribution of a meal, please sign up on the sheet in the office hallway, or email Susan at: [info@stjohnscharleston.org](mailto:info@stjohnscharleston.org)

(at least two people are needed to sign up per meal)

3/12 (Lewis Moore), 3/19,

3/26 (this one is catered, but helpers are needed), 4/2, 4/9



### **Midweek services at St. John's Lenten Worship**

#### **Ash Wednesday, March 5**

12:00 PM and 7:00 PM

A service with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

Theme: Law

#### **Light Supper at 6:15PM**

#### **Evening services at 7:00PM**

#### **Wednesday, March 12**

Theme: Chaos

#### **Wednesday, March 19**

Theme: Faith

#### **Wednesday, March 26**

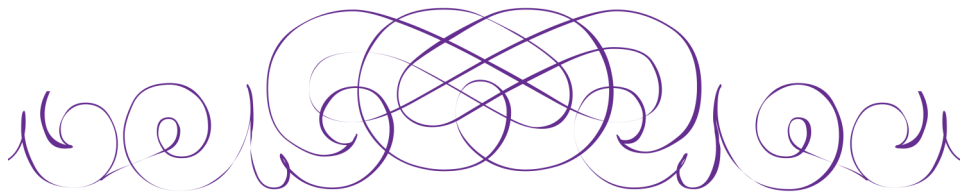
Theme: Repentance

#### **Wednesday, April 2**

Theme: Purification

#### **Wednesday, April 9**

Theme: Salvation



**Wednesday Noon Community Worship Services**  
**Theme: The Seven Wounds of Jesus:**  
**From Wounded to Risen**

**Wednesday, March 12**

12:00 PM at St. Michael's

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Marshall Blalock  
Senior Pastor, First Baptist

**Wednesday, March 19**

12:00 PM at First Scots

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Robert Harrell  
Senior Pastor, St. John's Lutheran

**Wednesday, March 26**

12:00 PM at St. John's Lutheran

Preacher: The Rev. Al Zadig  
Rector, St. Michael's

**Wednesday, April 2**

12:00 PM at First Baptist

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Holton Siegling  
Senior Pastor, First Scots

**Wednesday, April 9**

12:00 PM at St. Michael's Chapel  
Healing Service

All 12:00 PM Community Services  
are followed by a luncheon served by the host church.



**ORDER FORM**

It's time to order your Easter Lily!! Each lily is **\$20.00**. Please make your checks payable to St. John's and mark them for the Altar Fund. We must receive this form **and** your payment no later than **Monday, April 7th**. Thank you!

**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.**

**Continue on reverse, if needed.**

**Indicate: H = in honor of; M = in memory of;**  
**C = in celebration of**

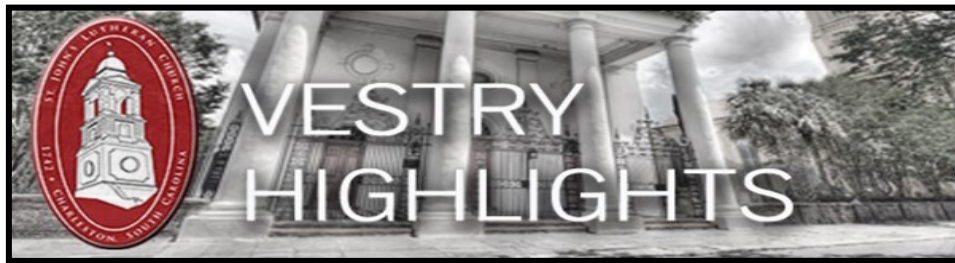
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Lilies may be picked up following the 11:00 Easter service or at the church office no later than **Sunday, April 27th**.**



The Vestry meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> by Vestry President William Dowd. The following represents the highlights of our Vestry meeting:

1. Noted in attendance were all members. Excused were Melissa Spaulding, Elizabeth Marchant, and Mike Lagonera.
2. Pastor Robb Harrell began the meeting with a prayer.
3. The January 2025 Vestry Minutes were approved.
4. Pastor Harrell gave his report during which the Vestry approved the requests for one wedding in June 2026. Pastor Harrell also informed the Vestry of the upcoming Synod Assembly to be held in North Charleston in June. More information will be forthcoming.
5. Vestry approved background checks for all Staff, Vestry, and volunteers as required for insurance.
6. Vestry approved the motion to allow the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired to use the parking lot for their annual dinner March 8, 2025.
7. Vestry approved the request from the Ladies Sewing Society to sell greeting cards during the next Front Porch Day.
8. Vestry approved the replacement of two 29-year-old HVAC units in the Parish Hall that have ceased functioning.
9. The various Committee Chairpersons provided an update on the activities and action occurring within their areas, mostly via written reports that were distributed to the Vestry in advance of the meeting. Upcoming events include:
  - Lowcountry Mardi Gras in the Parish Hall March 1
  - Wednesday Lenten Services beginning March 5.
  - Front Porch Sunday, March 9
10. The next regularly scheduled Vestry meeting will be Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. There being no further business, the Vestry meeting was adjourned.



**Weekly**  
**Sundays**

Children's Choir coincides with Sunday School at 9:30 AM, for children in grades 1 through 8!

**Wednesdays**

8:30 AM Facebook Live with Pastor Robb

5:30 PM Handbell Choir

6:15 PM Lenten Supper and 7:00 PM Lenten Service

7:50 PM St. John's Chorale

**March**

**Saturday, March 1**

5:00-7:00 PM - Lowcountry Mardi Gras Celebration

**Tuesday, March 4**

9:30 AM - Worship & Music Meeting

**Wednesday, March 5**

12:00 PM and 7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday services  
(no choir/handbell rehearsals)

**Thursday, March 6**

11:00 AM Tovey Circle

**Sunday, March 9**

Front Porch Day 1-2 PM

**Sunday, March 16**

Seminary Sunday

9:45 AM brunch

**Monday, March 24**

11:00 AM Special Projects meeting

**Tuesday, March 25**

Deadline for Herald Newsletter content

**April**

**Sunday, April 13**

Palm Sunday

1-2 PM Front Porch Day

**Saturday, April 19**

10 AM Easter Egg Hunt

**Sunday, April 20**

Easter Sunday

**Coming in June:**

Brewery Meet-up, on a Thursday, 5-7 PM, date TBD  
Stay tuned for details!

# MARCH Birthdays

3/2 Jackie Andersen  
 3/3 Elizabeth Marchant  
 3/3 Scott Counts  
 3/4 Sara Jane Foltz  
 3/4 Steve Trayte  
 3/5 Jim Lawton  
 3/7 Matt Carr  
 3/7 Jordan Hall  
 3/8 Diane Bean  
 3/8 Cindy Donahue  
 3/9 Gregory Pickard  
 3/13 Cas Siegling  
 3/13 Christy Hoffman  
 3/14 Bonnie Mefferd  
 3/15 Gracie Horger  
 3/16 Ella Grace Sines Thomasson  
 3/18 Glen Hoffman  
 3/18 Brian Wilson  
 3/19 Debbie Sellars  
 3/21 Martha Harken  
 3/22 Matthew Jordan  
 3/22 Hope Smith  
 3/23 Matt Harrell  
 3/25 Jared Snell  
 3/25 Allie Beecher  
 3/27 Kelly Donahue  
 3/28 Jenny Edwards  
 3/28 Benjamin Lang-Spittler  
 3/29 Lane Tuggle  
 3/29 Patti McCormack  
 3/30 Haagen Williams  
 3/30 Tom Springer  
 3/30 Jason Stuber

## Congregational Concerns & Prayers

We remember in our prayers:

Cathy Blalock  
 Rosene Brubaker  
 Deborah Bussey  
 Terry and Sandra Butler  
 Ted DeHart  
 Jerry Duck  
 Chere Edwards and Leslie Weikle  
 Peggy Flood  
 John Foltz  
 Christian Groff  
 Jason Hilton  
 Dan Marchant  
 Denny McKeever  
 Michele Meisten  
 Linda & Larry Mohr  
 Steve Phykitt  
 Peter Pickard  
 Paul Morris  
 Michael Rossetter  
 Barbara Siegling  
 Charlotte Smith  
 Betty Wieters  
 Allison Williams

and our members who have  
 experienced the loss of  
 loved ones, including  
 the family of Kay Williams.

## Our Loved Ones Away From Home

We remember members and  
 friends who are serving  
 in our military:  
 Charles T. Clark  
 Grant Hoel  
 Thomas McCarthy



## St. John's Lutheran Church 2025 Staff, Officers, Vestry & Committee Chairs

Staff at the Office: 843-723-2426

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Robb Harrell pastor@stjohnscharleston.org
Office Manager/ Church Administrator	Susan Messersmith info@stjohnscharleston.org
Director of Music	Allison Williams music@stjohnscharleston.org
Financial Administrator	Carole Jordan financialadmin@stjohnscharleston.org
Director of St. John's Chorale and Director of Digital Ministries	Brink Norton media@stjohnscharleston.org

## Vestry Officers

<b>President</b>	William Dowd	<b>Secretary</b>	Barbara Allen
<b>V- President</b>	Genevieve Lagonera	<b>Treasurer</b>	Martha Harken

## Vestry Members

Brenda Carr, Michael Lagonera, Elizabeth Marchant,  
 Chris McDonough, Lewis Moore, Melissa Spaulding,  
 Sheila Sines Thomasson, Marshall Wilson

## Committee Appointments

Christian Education	Melissa Spaulding
Communication	Sheila Sines Thomasson
Endowment	Frickie Martschink
Evangelism	Michael Lagonera
Finance	Dan Prickett
Archivist and History	Sallie Springer
Lutheran Men	open
Nursery	Christian Education Committee
Property	Lewis Moore
Social Ministry	Brenda Carr
Special Projects	Elizabeth Marchant
Stewardship	Chris McDonough
Women of the ELCA	Anita Mitchum