



# St. John's Lutheran Church

*Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love*

## Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2025

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 4, 6-7 pm

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, March 5 - two in-person services at noon and 7 pm

The noon service will also be livestreamed at [www.SJBft.org/Facebook](http://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: March 12, 19, and 26 - April 2 and 9

Soup Supper, 6:00 pm - Reflection & Prayer, 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: *Testing, Testing: the Testing of Jesus... and Jesus' Disciples*

Each week we look at the trials and temptations Jesus faced - and that we face still today!

**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! However, 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.

**Sign up to provide 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!

### Easter Egg Hunt with Storytime, Crafts, and Refreshments

Saturday, April 12, 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!*

(Continued on page 2)

# The Shepherd's Voice

March & April, 2025  
Volume 25, Issue 1

## Coming soon!

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Harold's County Club

March 15

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Congregation Annual  
Meeting and Pot-Luck

March 16, 11:30 am

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Easter Egg Hunt

April 12

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HOLY WEEK

Prayer Labyrinth

April 14, 15, & 16

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Maundy Thursday

April 17

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Good Friday

April 18

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The Vigil of Easter

April 19

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Easter Sunday

April 20

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## **Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion**

**Sunday, April 13**

**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, April 14, 9 am-5 pm + Tuesday, April 15, 9 am-5 pm + Wednesday, April 16, 9 am-7 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.

**PLEASE NOTE: the labyrinth will available for evening hours on Wednesday only.**

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## **Maundy Thursday**

**Thursday, April 17, 7 pm, in-person and livestreamed at [www.SJBft.org/Facebook](http://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, April 18, 7 pm, in-person and livestreamed at [www.SJBft.org/Facebook](http://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, April 19, 8 pm - in-person and livestreamed at [www.SJBft.org/Facebook](http://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, April 20, 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.

**Easter Breakfast Details:** if you are coming to the early service, plan to stay for breakfast afterwards. If you are coming to the later service, plan to come early for breakfast before worship!

*Volunteer to bring a breakfast casserole for the Easter breakfast in worship or by contacting the church office.*

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## **Harold's Country Club Outing**

**Saturday, March 15 - 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 are available in the Fellowship Books.

All checks or cash should be given to Pat Harvey-Palmer or dropped by the church office no later than Sunday, March 9.

***Please make checks payable to 'Harold's Country Club.'***

## Update: *Reconciling in Christ* Process

Late last year, St. John's entered into a *Reconciling in Christ (RIC)* conversation, which means that we are reflecting on the possibility of taking the step of strengthening our commitment to welcome and value all people with no exceptions by joining a Lutheran organization that maintains a list of congregations which are welcoming to persons in the LGBTQ community.

### So far:

- Provided six forum opportunities for discussion on three Sundays, covering topics related to what becoming an *RIC* congregation means, why we are considering *RIC* at this time, and conversations about relevant Biblical passages. Leaders and members of the congregation also shared personal stories at each forum.
- Provided an opportunity to read and discuss a book about the relevant Biblical passages. The book is *UnClobber*, by Colby Martin.
- Pastor Shannon has had one-on-one conversations with numerous members and households, over the phone, during home visits, and at the church.

### Next :

- The *RIC* task force has met to discuss congregation response to these events, opportunities, and conversations and is now preparing a report for the congregation. The report will focus on 1) lifting up questions and key elements from the conversation thus far, 2) provide more specific detail on how becoming an *RIC* congregation would impact St. John's, and 3) outline next steps. Each member of the team is writing part of the report, which will be integrated into one document. We hope to distribute this report in early March.
- We have scheduled a visit with the author of *UnClobber*, Colby Martin for March 13, 7 pm. If you have read his book, this is an opportunity to discuss it with him and ask questions. We encourage anyone who were planning to read the book but have not gotten around to it to start now and attend the discussion group.

### Invitation:

The task force encourages all members who have questions or concerns or who simply want a chance to talk more about this possibility to become a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation to please reach out to a team member. It is personally important to each person on this team that we provide an opportunity to everyone to reflect deeply on this possibility, as part of a group or one-on-one. We would say to all members of the congregation, please be a part of this conversation. The purpose of this process is to discern where we are as a family of faith, and the conversation is incomplete without your voice.

**Members of the team are:** Josh Ferguson, Kate Baskwell, Melinda Ellis, Susan Heim, and Pastor Shannon. You can get their contact information from the congregation directory or the church office.

Peace. Be well. Seek justice.

Pastor Shannon



Left: Ryan and Leah Murray with their family on the day of their baptism.  
Right: Pastor Shannon baptizing grandson, Arthur, with parents Justice & Paula.



## From Pastor Craig

The past few months have been especially chaotic for our country. I have worked hard to stay focused on what is important. I am watching less news these days. It's not that I don't care. I just refuse to be overly distressed. I am expressing my concerns to my congressional representatives. But then I need to focus on the good I can do and the faith that keeps reminding me that God is at work. I have found returning to the Psalms has been calming and reassuring. Psalm 91 is the basis for the modern song "On Eagle's Wings". Listen to verses 7-9:

*Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. <sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil. <sup>9</sup> For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.*

Psalm 46 was one of Martin Luther's favorites. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of trouble." Luther wrote the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God" in response to those words. I'm not wanting to be in denial of the concerns for everyday matters, but I want to keep it in perspective. I believe that ultimately God and good will prevail. I want to do what I can to spread good and gospel. That is not a denial of the evil around us-----I invite you to join me in whatever ways God has gifted you, to be light and grace and peace in a chaotic time. May the scriptures anchor us and help us focus.

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## From Deacon Katie

As we kick off the new year, we have lots of fun stuff planned for children, youth, and all families!

We have our Easter Egg Hunt in April, Youth Bowling Night in May, fellowship opportunities such as eating out, and St. Patrick's Day Bingo in March and April.

From March 4-27, I will be out for surgery recovery. I will be having a hysterectomy. My mom will be with me for a few days to take care of me. I will be back on Sunday, March 30. I have volunteers for Children's Church and Wednesday Nights Together in Lent. We will miss one night of youth in March (March 16), but we will have Youth Nights on Sunday, March 2 and Sunday, March 30. I will reach out if I need any help with anything during my recovery.

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### Young Adults - details at [www.SJBft.org](http://www.SJBft.org)

#### Next gatherings:

#### **March 21, 7ish pm - Campfire at St. John's Picnic Shelter**

Hot-dogs and smores to roast over the fire provided- bring your favorite beverage, plus something to share if you like.

#### **April 6, 7ish pm - CAPA Service Event - Dinner and Stealth Egg Hunt**

Mark your calendars now - contact Kristen Ferguson or Pastor Shannon to volunteer to help provide dinner.

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! We have several types of Young Adult Events.

#### **Friday night gatherings: we gather at the home of a member or in a restaurant for fellowship, typically 3rd Fridays.**

Interested in hosting a Young Adults gathering at your home? Reach out to Pastor Shannon & Kristen Ferguson.

Participants are asked to bring food and beverages to share, so hosting *does not mean preparing a meal for the group, just providing space!*

#### **Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA) service events provide "family holiday activities" for Youth at CAPA**

These four events are centered around the holidays Easter, Fourth of July, Halloween, and Christmas. Usually this service gathering takes the place of the regular Friday gathering. In the weeks before these events, conversation will be held about dividing responsibilities for food and activities.

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*Photos on facing page, clockwise from the top left: Theresa Bishop on a snowy Sunday; Montgomery-Selma group; Christmas Parade float; Adults and children in Christmas pageants; Halloween outing to Harold's; sleeping bags and blankets collected by St. John's and other congregations across SC for Hurricane Helene relief; Christmas float holy family with angel!*







## **St. John's Lutheran Women**

**2nd Tuesday of each month**

**next gatherings: March 11 & April 8, 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>**

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## **Sewing/Knitting/Crocheting/Quilting**

**1st, 2nd, and 3rd 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**

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## **Rubbish Rustlers**

**Next date - March 8, 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.

In order to be effective in covering our seven segments we need at least eight people to help. Please join us for another experience of fun and fellowship at St. John's. Contact Perry Dukes with questions.

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## **Lutheran Men in Mission**

**3rd Saturday of each month**

**next gatherings: March 15 & April 19, 9 am**

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!

## **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](http://www.SJBft.org/GiveToStJohns)
- Contact the church office by email or phone.

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## **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.

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## **Thanks!**

Dear St. John's,  
Thank you for your kind donation to the NC Disaster Relief Fund. We are beyond grateful for your generous spirit. Your donation went towards purchasing several hot tents for use by Rev. Elizabeth Rawlings for those affected by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina. With thanks and blessings,  
Rev. Emily Lemoine  
LDR Carolinas Administrator, NC Synod ELCA

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Dear St. John's,  
Thank you for your monetary gift donated to WAMY (Watauga, Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey counties) Community Action to be used for Hurricane Helene relief efforts.  
In Service, Allison Jennings, Director of Development

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Dear St. John's,  
Thank you for your monetary gift donated to the Franciscan Center. It will be used to provide food for families in need  
In Service,  
Sister Canice

# 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 also thankful for the staff Christmas gift. These signs of your love bring great joy. We are very thankful to be part of this church family!  
Peace, Pastor Shannon

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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

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Dear St. John's,  
Thank you so very much for your kindness! Peace be unto you!  
Rolanda Gilliard and Family

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Happy Holidays!  
We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the donated blankets and hats for our newborns. These items are passed along to the families and the mother's are often amazed by the talent and care that you put into these items for their precious new additions. We are forever grateful for your generosity.  
Sincerely, Tiffany Washington, Director  
Collins Birthing Center, Beaufort Memorial Hospital

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I want to thank the wonderful members of St. John's for your cards and words of condolence at the death of my father. When he turned 100 in August, the entire family celebrated him for most of a weekend. He knew he was loved. But he hurt and he was ready to go see my mom again in heaven. The Lord brought him home the day before what would have been their 80th wedding anniversary. We rest in the assurance that they celebrated together.  
Thanks, Georgia Boehlke

Dear St. John's,  
Thank you for your generosity in these gifts for our youth in care. We were able to give the Christmas gifts to foster children in our homes and our new program providing Day Services to youth without foster homes. Many blessings.  
Love, Julie Hood, Lutheran Services Carolina (LSC)

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Dear Gloria, Pastor Shannon, and all our friends at St. John's Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so, so much for all of the amazing gifts ya all got for our foster children! Your thoughtfulness and generosity are so appreciated by our staff, our foster parents, and our foster children. You all always go above and beyond, and it means so much to us all! I hope ya all have a wonderful New Year and thank you for all of your support!  
Love, Allison Sandis, Lutheran Services Foster Care Team

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Thank you so much for your thoughtful Christmas gifts and donations to the children in our day program. Your generosity makes a big difference, and we're deeply grateful for you support this holiday season. Thank you again,  
Upstate Day Program, Lutheran Service Carolina

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Thank you guys for all of the Christmas gifts you gave me. I love and appreciate them a lot.  
Forever grateful, Shamari (in foster care with LSC)

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Dear my new friends,  
Thank you so much for my new stuff. I love it so much!!  
Love Harmony (in foster care with LSC)

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Dear St. John's,  
Thank you for thinking of me with the ready meals while I was sick. It was deeply appreciated.  
Kind regards, Hannah English.

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Dear Pastor Shannon,  
Thank you immensely for your generous donation to the *Good Neighbor Medical Clinic of Beaufort*. We are deeply honored by your steadfast support of our mission! We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of quilts, hygiene kits, and the monetary donation to our clinic.  
With heartfelt appreciation and warm regards,  
Gloria Duryea, Executive Director



# 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

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### 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](mailto:info@StJohnsBeaufort.org)**

## OFFICIAL NOTICE: Congregation Annual Meeting

**Sunday, March 16 11:30 am - Hybrid Meeting - meet in-person OR via Zoom**

**Potluck Meal to follow the meeting**

The congregation will meet on Sunday, March 16 at 11:30 am to receive the Annual Report and conduct any other necessary congregation business. 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 Kris Cianci in advance at 843-218-2305 or [dogdocnj@icloud.com](mailto:dogdocnj@icloud.com).

All voting members are urged to attend. A voting member is defined as a baptized, confirmed, regular or seasonal member who has both contributed and communed in the current or past calendar year (2024-2025). Note that anyone received as an adult is automatically considered "confirmed."

Voting members can participate by gathering in-person, by Zoom video, or by Zoom conference call. 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.

**[www.StJohnsBeaufort.org](http://www.StJohnsBeaufort.org)**