



St. John's Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Fall Events at St. John's

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Rubbish Rustlers

September 12, 8:30 am

Please join us for another experience of fun and fellowship picking up trash along a section of Lady's Island Drive where the church is located. Contact Perry Dukes with questions.

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Churchwide Potluck, Forum, and Celebration of Service

Saturday, September 12, 4 pm

All are invited to enjoy an evening of food and fellowship! Pastor Sean will lead a forum as part of the call process, and everyone is encouraged to attend and take part. We will also celebrate Deacon Katie and give thanks for her six and a half years of dedicated service to St. John's.

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Youth Events for Grades 6-12

Sunday, September 13, 3:30 pm, Mission Building

Middle and high school youth and their parents are invited to this important meeting to help plan upcoming events and set goals for the remainder of the year. Your ideas and participation will help shape a meaningful and engaging year for our youth—please make plans to attend!

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Lunch and Fellowship

Tuesday, September 15, 11:30 am Bye Bye Birdie 2127 Boundary St.

Tuesday, October 20, 11:30 am 1711 Tap House 3668 Trask Pkwy

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Young Adults

September 18th, 7ish - Fellowship Night at Hop Dog downtown

All young adults are invited, members and friends along with their families!

October (date TBD) - CAPA Service Event - Dinner and carving pumpkins 5 pm at the church

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Gather in Grace

Monday September 21, 10 am, Mission Building,

Gathering on the third Monday of the month

St. John's members and friends are invited to a new opportunity to gather and socialize during the week! Come enjoy coffee, tea, refreshments, and fellowship. Stay to play cards or games, work on a craft, or simply sit and talk. This time is yours to spend however you'd like—we hope you'll join us!

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Movie Nights!

Wednesday, October 7, 6 pm Forrest Gump , Rated PG-13

All members and friends are invited to join us in the Mission Building for Movie Nights.

The Shepherd's Voice

September, October, 2026
Volume 26, Issue 3

Coming soon!

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Martha's Animals
Sept. 14 & Oct. 12

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LWR Quilters
Sept. 28 & Oct. 26

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St. Francis Food Pantry
Sept. 13 & Oct. 11

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Young Adults
Gathering
Sept. 18 & Oct. 16

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Rubbish Rustlers
Sept. 12, 8:30 am

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Lutheran Men in
Mission
Sept. 19 & Oct. 17

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Gather in Grace
Sept. 21 & Oct. 19

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Movie Night
Oct. 7

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Lutheran Women
Oct. 13+++

From the Desk of Pastor Sean

Grace and peace be with you from our Lord Jesus Christ!

First, thank you for welcoming me so warmly as your interim pastor. These last two months have certainly been an adjustment for my family and me, but we are all thankful for this congregation. I have certainly felt loved here!

Second, by now you are likely aware that Deacon Katie has submitted her resignation, and her final day with us will be September 13. I am saddened that she will be leaving St. John's, and I am praying vigorously that God would bless her with another call very soon. Of course, this means a lot of change for St. John's, especially in the youth and children's ministries. I have already been in conversation with Council, staff, parents, and even our new bishop, The Rev. Wade Roof, on how best to move forward. In the immediate future, I will be teaching the Confirmation class and assisting our lay leadership to oversee other activities. I hope to announce more future directions in the weeks to come.

I hope you will make plans to join us for our church potluck dinner on Saturday, September 12th at 4 pm. During this time, we will honor Deacon Katie's six and a half years of service to St. John's. In addition, we will discuss where this congregation has been and what attracted you to being a member here, plus we will dream together for the future.

I am excited about where the Holy Spirit will lead us in the coming weeks and months, and I hope and pray you are too! We are on a great journey together, the journey of sharing with one another and our community the love of Jesus Christ!

Peace and Comfort,
Pastor Sean



Pastor Sean with his wife Maria and son Ethan.

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Music This Fall at St. John's

A Note About Music at St. John's

Over the summer we heard beautiful vocal and instrumental music from five of our talented members. We are so thankful for their willingness to share their musical time and talents while the choir cut back to singing about once per month. Please share your thanks with these soloists the next time you see them.

The choir break also allowed us to patiently restart a handbell choir. I was so pleasantly surprised by the number of members willing to try ringing. Not only are they learning to ring a handbell, but also how to read handbell music. Over a couple of rehearsals, it has been fun and exciting to see their progression. We plan to ring during worship this fall. If you are interested, there is always room for you.

The choir will start to get back onto a more regular schedule this fall. Gloria and I brought back two choral pieces from Lutheridge Music Week this past July which we plan to introduce to the choir. Kris Cianci also joined us during Music Week. If you are interested in singing in the choir, even for short spurts of time, please come and join us.

I will finish with a thank you to our organists, Charlie Frost and Gloria Bockelman. Some congregations struggle to find organists. We are so fortunate with Charlie and Gloria's talent and ability to share the bench. They have already planned their 2027 St. John's organ schedule—that's dedication.

Make a Joyful Sound,
Tim Bockelman, Interim Choir Director

Welcome Amy Hamilton, Program Assistant

Amy is coming on board as Program Assistant to take over for Gloria Bockelman who is retiring. Amy has been a lifelong member of St. John's and has returned to Beaufort after living in High Point, NC for the past eight years. Amy had a 30-year career as a Catholic school teacher serving in various teaching capacities. She has a Bachelor's of Science in Physical Education from Newberry College and a Master's of Technology in Education from Lesley University. She and her husband Doug are excited to return to the area and especially to St. John's. Amy can be reached at amy@stjohnsbeaufort.org



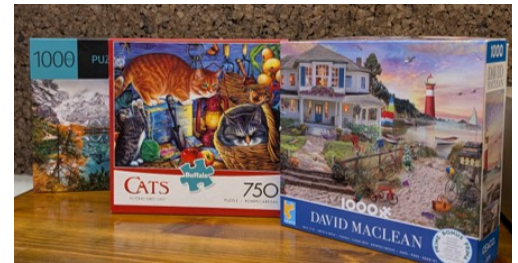
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What's New at the OASIS LIBRARY?



The response to the new Oasis Library has been very gratifying. People are coming in to look around and many are leaving with a checked out book. We were so happy to be able to retain the desert scene and the tent fabric on the back wall, reminders of the room's previous use as a children's nursery.

The collection has been updated, with more new materials to come. Books new to the collection will be displayed on the table or as shelf displays, ready for check out. You will find fiction and large print books on the back wall of the library. Nonfiction and biographies are on the side walls. The children have their own, lower bookcase to the right of the door. We are trying out a new collection of jigsaw puzzles that can be checked out. (Please don't deluge the library with donated puzzles. We have very limited space.)



We hope that you will get to know what is offered in our new library. Use the four drawer card catalog (a throw-back to the good old days of libraries) to look up materials in the collection. A benefit of having a church library is that you don't have to make a special trip out to the library (Sorry, Beaufort County Library), you are already there on Sunday mornings. See you at the Oasis.

Jane Pfarner, Librarian

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Thrivent Action Teams and Thrivent Choice

If you have an account with Thrivent Financial, you may have membership benefits you can share with over 50,000 nonprofit organizations, such as Lutheridge, NovusWay, Lutheran Services Carolinas, and Good Neighbor Clinic. Learn more at <https://www.thrivent.com/generosity>. Two benefits may be especially useful to St. John's.

Thrivent Choice® allows Thrivent members to direct annual grants to nonprofit organizations. Your annual allotment expires if you do not direct it by the end of the year. Although grant amounts vary by member, 100% of each directed dollar goes to the organization or organizations you choose. Under St. John's current policy, all Thrivent Choice dollars directed to the church are added to its operating funds.

Thrivent Action Teams provide seed funds of up to \$250 for a fundraiser, educational event, or service activity. These funds support group or team activities led by a Thrivent member that benefit the community. A recent St. John's Thrivent Action Team supported a summer water fun service project for CAPA kids. The children enjoyed the activity, and St. John's did not need to use mission plan funds to support it; we simply provided volunteers.

Thrivent members can log onto their account or talk to their Thrivent advisor to learn more about or initiate these benefits.

St. John's Lutheran Women

2nd Tuesday of each month

The women meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7pm in the Mission Building. For more information contact Robin Barone or the church office!

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Sewing/Crocheting/Knitting/Quilting

Mondays, 10 am

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

All members and friends are invited to gather for fellowship and serving others. No experience is required for any of these groups! Bring a bag lunch.

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Lutheran Men in Mission

September 19 and October 17, 9 am

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

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Annual Oktoberfest Picnic

Sunday, October 25, 11:30ish

Mark your calendars for our awesome, annual fall event, the Oktoberfest Picnic. The Oktoberfest Picnic will follow the 10:30 am service, celebrating with a German feast! Brats and burgers will be served. All are invited to bring a German (or not German!) side dish or dessert to share!

An opportunity to sign up will be offered in worship a few weeks prior to the event. Signup is not required to attend, but it helps with the planning.

Congratulations Graduate!

Congratulations to Heather Lynn Hamilton! Heather Lynn graduated from Bishop McGuinness High school in Kernersville, NC. She was accepted into the Capstone Scholars program at the University of South Carolina. She is in the Darla Moore School of Business majoring in Business Management.



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Thanks!

Dear St. John's

Deepest appreciation for the cards, meals, flowers, visits, phone calls and prayers in my recovery from hip replacement. I love my church family!

Susan Draves

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Dear Gloria and St John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the box of supplies you brought to the house after Mom's passing! They were greatly appreciated! Thanks also for the cards, prayers and kind words! St. John's has always been such a special part of my family's life and I will always carry wonderful memories of our times there! It will always be home to me!

In Christ,

Richard Riddle and family

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St John's Lutheran Church,

Thanks you so much for your thoughtfulness and kindness. We appreciate all that you've done for us and our mother, Ardith.

With much thanks,

Pam DeLar and the Holzmacher Family

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To the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation of used books and learning materials. They will be a blessing for many children and women in Liberia, West Africa. Thank you for remembering us and the communities we serve

In God's name, Solid Foundations Charity, Inc.

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To the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation of gift cards to Hopeful Horizons. With your help, we continue providing desperately needed services free of charge for victims of abuse.

Sincerely, Kristin Dubrowski, CEO Hopeful Horizons