



St. John's Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Advent and Christmas Events!

Advent Wreath Workshops

Sunday, November 28 + two times

9:30 am (between services) AND after the 10:30 am service

You are invited to make an Advent wreath for your home with fresh greenery and four blue candles! All wreath materials will be provided, but bring a pair of clippers and gloves if you have them. *The first session starts at 9:30 am SHARP so you can finish between services!*

+ + +

Dressing the Sanctuary for Advent & Christmas - with Lunch

Sunday, November 28 + after the 10:30 am service

This gathering to prepare for Advent is a meaningful way to begin this season of Waiting and Hoping. All are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for the season - hanging wreaths, placing greenery, and trimming the tree, accompanied by joyful music. Lunch will be served.

Note: this event takes place simultaneously with the second wreath workshop. Participants will be able to do both.

+ + +

Wednesday Nights Together in Advent + Christmas Float Stuffing

December 1 + Dinner, 6 pm + stuffing the float, 6:30 pm until...

We gather for an evening of fellowship, stuffing the float for the Beaufort Christmas Parade. Lots of laughter, fun, music, and fellowship. Children are encouraged to participate! If you have not participated before, stuffing the float involves poking small pieces of colorful plastic into chicken wire - anyone can do it!

+ + +

Beaufort Christmas Parade

Sunday December 5, 3 pm + Carolers needed to sing on the float!

St. John's will enter a float in the downtown Christmas Parade. Members are invited to participate by caroling on the float. If you would like to participate, contact Pastor Shannon.

The group will meet at 1:45 pm in downtown Beaufort - the exact location will not be given to us by parade directors until the day before the parade.

+ + +

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 5 + 5-7 pm + at the home of Ryan & Marta Smith, 1 Brickyard Hills Drive

www.SJBft.org/YouthInfo

All youth, members and friends, grades 6-12 are invited to a Christmas Party following the parade! Food, fun, games, and a gift exchange. Two things to bring: a fun gift (maximum \$15) to exchange and, if you wish, party food to share! Those who participate in the Beaufort Christmas parade will be taken directly from parade to party. Invite friends!

+ + +

Wednesday Nights Together in Advent + Advent Services

December 8, 15, and 22 + Dinner, 6:00 pm + Vespers , 6:30 pm

Yes, Wednesday Nights Together are finally returning! We gather for dinner, fellowship,

Coming soon!

+++

**St. Francis Food
Pantry Trailer on-site**

December 12
January 9

+++

**HELP of Beaufort and
Salvation Army
Pantry Collection**

Continuous

+++

**Congregation
Meeting**

December 19

+++

**Advent & Christmas
Activities for all ages -
Including a return to
Wednesday Nights
Together!**

details pages 1 & 2

+++

Rubbish Rustlers

January 8

+++

Advent and Christmas Events, continued...

(Continued from page 1)

prayer, and Advent vespers (evening worship). Tables will be spaced out more than in the past and, weather permitting, seating will be available outdoors for those who prefer. Worship will be a simple service of reflection and song on the Advent theme of waiting and hoping!

+ + +

Christmas Video Pageant Filming

Youth, children, families, adults - everyone is invited to participate in this year's video pageant! Any who have not yet filmed scenes are invited to come to film themselves before or after worship on any Sunday or Wednesday until December 12. Costumes are available in the narthex. Contact Deacon Katie if you have questions!

We have already filmed scenes for the pageant at local farms owned by Dan & Margaret Saltrick and Rudy & Denise Bishop. Thank you to all who participated!

+ + +

Young Adult Christmas Ornament Exchange Party

Friday, December 10, 7 pm + Home of Jordan & Nick Plair + 50 Wade Hampton Drive

www.SJBft.org/YoungAdultInfo

All young adults - members and friends - are invited! Bring a Christmas ornament (maximum \$15) for a gift exchange. If you wish, bring an appetizer or dessert to share. There is no set age limit for this group - if it sounds like you, come! Members are encouraged to invite friends!

+ + +

Young Adult CAPA Christmas Event

Sunday, December 12, 6-8 pm + at St. John's

www.SJBft.org/YoungAdultInfo

St. John's Young Adult group will be serving our community by doing an event for youth from CAPA. We will be providing dinner and leading these teens in making Christmas treats. If you would like to help, contact Jordan Plair to find out what you can bring!

+ + +

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 19 - both services

The Children's Christmas Pageant will be presented via video in the online Facebook stream AND both in-person services. This retelling of the birth of Jesus, featuring our youngest as angels, shepherds, magi, and holy family is always a blessing!

+ + +

Christmas Eve Candlelight with Holy Communion

Friday, December 24 + three opportunities for worship

In person + 1 pm

Streamed on Facebook - live at 1 pm, or available at any time following the livestream

In person + 7 pm

We worship on the eve of Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Join us for a service of candlelight, special music, and Holy Communion.

Masks will be required at the 1 pm service. They will be optional for vaccinated persons at the 7 pm service.

+ + +

Poinsettias for Christmas

If you would like to donate a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary at Christmas in memory or honor of a loved one, fill out a special envelope found in the narthex, online at www.stjohnsbeaufort.org, or contact the church office. The cost of purchasing a poinsettia is \$12

From the desk of Pastor Craig

Heading into the darkest part of the year, including the winter solstice (the shortest daylight of all the year) we're delighted to welcome the rich holiday traditions of Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Year's, and MLK day. Each month offers multiple opportunities to gather with family and friends as we renew our commitments to each of these themed celebrations. For the second year now we gather under the lingering cloud of the COVID-19 virus. There is fatigue with the various precautions, yet most of us have simply adapted to a more vigilant regiment for keeping safe - something that may actually become a new normal in many aspects of our living.

Thanksgiving offers the opportunity for more than a huge meal. We can renew our appreciation for our heritage and examine all the blessings before us in our current lives. Despite the imperfections of our nation, Thanksgiving provides a time to come together in peace as those early settlers and their native allies did. It's probably too optimistic to wish that all our internal tensions would ease, but it certainly is the substance for a hearty prayer.

The Advent and Christmas season invites us into anticipation and hope for the future, but also into joy, peace, and generosity in the present. St. John's has some wonderful holiday traditions that will be available again this year. Be sure to make an advent wreath for your home and journey through the four Sundays of Advent and midweek services. This year Christmas Eve will include an early afternoon service for those with later family events and those not wanting to be out after dark, as well as the traditional evening service. We pray that the wonder of God coming in the incarnation will fill your heart and refresh your life.

Many people don't think of New Years as a religious occasion, but this year the first Sunday of 2022 falls on January 2. Consider the beginning of the year as a time of new and renewed commitments which we will celebrate that day. Then just two weeks later, on MLK weekend, some from our congregation will go on retreat to Lutherock while others of us will commemorate the remarkable contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, a black clergyman who so dramatically influenced the movement toward full equality in the United States.

So, we may be entering the darkest days of the year in terms of daylight, but certainly not in emotion and activity. Fill these next months with the richness of this season, with the profound faith that undergirds all of these holidays, and the opportunities your church provides to celebrate in faith. Pastor Craig

From Pastor Shannon

St. John's members and friends, I hope that you are all well, especially those whom I have not seen in so long! It has been so wonderful to see so many of you back in worship over the past couple of months. We have lately had about 80 people in the two services together, which is amazing!

We are very excited that because of the declining number of COVID-19 cases in our community, we can again offer a mask optional service at 10:30 am. We will continue for a time to offer a mask-required service for the sake of those who need to take extra care for health reasons. As you will read in this newsletter, we are also offering many in-person Advent and Christmas events!

While I know there are some who need to continue to be

(Continued on page 6)

Youth Updates

www.SJBft.org/YouthInfo for activities and events!

While Summer was an opportunity for us to spend time with our families, vacation, go on a service trip, go to camp, and hopefully swim, we slowly got back into the flow of being back in school. Now fall is nearly past and we are getting ready for the upcoming holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Youth have been meeting weekly on Sunday nights at the church since Sunday, September 12. We always have a great time. What really gathers the youth is having food and being able to catch up with one another. We have Bible study and we also have added some creativity to youth. A huge thank you to the volunteers providing food and staying to spend time with our youth.

The first two weeks of November we made care packages for college students and college-age military members as our group service project.



Above: care packages
Left: creating a group "meaning of wisdom" poster for use during Bible study time.

Leaning on Jesus, Appeal 2022

The St. John's congregation is blessed with amazingly generous members and friends! The response to our annual appeal thus far has been amazing. We hope that those who have not yet responded will join those who are working together to prepare for the coming year!

AMAZING AND WONDERFUL UPDATES:

Our basic goal for new giving of about \$900 per week: *We have SURPASSED this goal!*

Our challenge goal for new giving of \$1200 per week: *We are closing in on meeting this goal!*

We still need about \$100 in new weekly giving to create a Plan for Mission 2022 that makes all our goals for supporting ongoing and growing new ministry!

\$20,000 Challenge Gift Update: *We still need 3 households that show increased generosity to net the 55 needed to receive this special above and beyond gift!*

If you have not yet turned in a Statement of Intention for 2022, please do so as soon as possible.

Immediately after Thanksgiving, we will begin finalizing details of the Plan for Mission 2022 so that the Congregation Council can finalize it for the Congregation. The Congregation will adopt the Plan for Mission 2022 on December 19. The more intentions statements that are shared, the less we have to estimate and guess!

2021 Year-End Giving

Thanks be to God for all who faithfully support the ministry and mission that we do together as the people of God at St. John's. In this difficult time, we are extremely grateful for members and friends who have made an extra effort to be faithfully generous, despite the challenges of the pandemic.

All are encouraged to help us end 2021 well!

- + **If you made a commitment for 2021, please try to meet your full commitment if possible before year end.**
- + **If you give regularly but did not make a 2021 Commitment, please continue your regular support of our mission.**
- + **All supporters - if it would be possible to make a special above and beyond year end gift to help ensure we meet all our goals, please do so!**

You should be receiving a statement of giving from Financial Secretary Curt Cianci in early December. Please do not hesitate to contact him if you have questions about your records. Contact the church office for his contact info.

Notes about end of the year donations: All 2021 donations must be received or postmarked by December 31. You may:

- + Make a final donation on Christmas Eve, December 24, or on Sunday, December 26, at either service.
- + Make an online donation at SJBft.org/GiveToStJohns or StJohnsBeaufort.org on or before December 31.
- + Mail a check to the church with a postmark of 12/31/21 or earlier.

Children's Updates

Children's Storytime Children meet for story time with Spark Story Bibles via zoom on Wednesdays! Children ages 3-7 meet at 6:30 pm. Children ages 8-10 years meet at 6:45 pm. The zoom link for story time is available on the church website. If you would like a Spark Story Bible, contact Deacon Katie.

Family Time at the Park - NEW! St. John's families with kids and grandkids, age 3-10, are invited for family time together at the Pigeon Point Park on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 pm. The park is located at 1521 Pigeon Point Road.

Snacks are provided. For questions, contact Deacon Katie. Next time to meet will be Tuesday, December 14, 4:30 pm

Contact info: katie@stjohnsbeaufort.org or at the church office, 843-524-3461, or at her cell phone.

Christmas Gifts for Children

**Providing Christmas gifts for foster children with Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC)
AND for children of SC coastal farm workers being served by SC MEP
AND for youth served by CAPA's Open Arms home**

St. John's is blessed to be able to provide Christmas gifts for children in three programs this year. Tags for specific gift requests have been available in the sanctuary and most have already been chosen by members and friends!

If you have taken a gift tag for a foster child served by LSC:

Purchase a gift or gifts (there is generally more than one toy/clothing idea listed) Our target per TAG is \$35-45. Wrap the gift and tape the tag to the gift – it is okay that the tag describes the gift – we will remove it after checking our lists (twice!)

Return the wrapped and tagged gift(s) to St. John's by Sunday, December 5 - SOONER if possible!

For children with SC MEP and youth with CAPA, we are providing WalMart gift cards for \$25.

Nearly 100 cards are needed. If you would like to purchase gift cards, please return them to the church by December 5 - SOONER if possible! If you would like to provide funds to purchase gift cards, please deliver a check or make an online donation on or before December 1.

The Giving - Community Thanksgiving Worship & Food Distribution **Over 500 families served!**

The Giving is a gathering of Beaufort churches working together to share the love of God by providing everything needed to cook a Thanksgiving meal to families in need. This year 530 families were served. These families were registered by churches and social service agencies. We are so thankful to have an opportunity to share God's love in this way and to do it together with other congregations!

More details about this year's event:

- St. John's members and friends collected 630 cans of yams!
- St. John's loaned tables and traffic cones for use during the event.
- St. John's volunteers helped prepare bags of groceries, unload turkeys, and distribute food to members of the community. We also provided lunch for the Saturday distribution volunteers.
- About twenty turkeys and a significant number of cans and packages of sides were left over. All these items were taken by HELP of Beaufort, so they will also be distributed in the community!
- Our congregation also provided \$1500 to help purchase turkeys. These funds came from St. John's outreach funds and the Love Fund.

Each congregation usually provides \$400 to help cover the cost of turkeys. This year, because of shortages, however, turkeys were selling for over \$2 per pound and local grocery stores were not able to guarantee providing the 500+ turkeys needed. So turkeys were procured by going directly to a producer in the upstate. Our congregation, along with several others, provided additional funds this year.

You may be thinking "I didn't pay \$2 per pound for my Thanksgiving turkey." What you may not know is that the turkey you buy on special is actually being sold for a loss, just to get you in the store! Stores make up this loss and make a profit on all the other items you buy. *The Giving* typically pays store cost, which most years is about \$1 per pound, but this year was over \$2 per pound.

- Other congregations involved include: Tidal Creek Fellowship, The LINK Church, Decibel Church, Water's Edge United Methodist Church, St. Mark's Episcopal, Spoken Word Ministries, and Love House Ministries.



St. John's volunteers at *The Giving* included Curt Cianci, Tammy Verheyden, and Carol Ruff.

Winter Youth Retreat 2022 at Lutherock

Saturday-Monday, January 15-17, 2022

Register NOW!

Information and link to registration available at:

www.SJBft.org/WinterRetreatInfo

All St. John's youth grades 6-12 and St. John's friends are invited to participate. We will be staying in the Crow's Nest at Lutherock in North Carolina. This year youth from two other congregations, one from SC and one from NC, will be joining us. Activities include skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, and ice skating, along with fellowship, Bible study, games, and so much more fun.

Rubbish Rustlers

Next date- January 8, 8:30 am

Thank you to those who helped pick up trash in November! Unfortunately, we only had four individuals again. **We really need more pickers to lighten the load.** We encourage you to join us in the new year. Hope to see you there!

2022 SC LMM Annual Convention

Saturday, February 19, 10 am-4 pm - at St. John's

This year's synod-wide SC Lutheran Men in Mission Convention will be hosted by St. John's. The theme for this year is *Fruits of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23* "Love, Joy, Peace, Forbearance, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control." All St. John's men are encouraged to join in hosting men from across the state. More information at www.SCLMM.org

(Continued from page 3)

very cautious and stay away from indoor public spaces, I would invite those of you for whom that is not the case to come on back to in-person worship! We miss you! Most weeks we have been seeing new returning faces and it has been powerful for lifting our spirits!

One last word of encouragement: the research data is very strong that COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of contracting and spreading the virus and, more significantly, greatly reduce the risk of dying from it. I continue to urge you to get vaccinated, not only to protect yourself, but also to protect your neighbor. For a follower of Jesus, caring for our neighbor actually comes as high, if not higher, than caring for self - I believe that is what Jesus meant by taking up our cross and following him!

Peace. Be well. Seek justice. Pastor Shannon

One Blood - Blood Drive

Sunday, December 12 from 8 am-1 pm

Blood donations often decline during the holidays, but the demand is still the same. Thank you for helping save lives in our community and giving a priceless gift. Email Anne at anne@stjohnsbeaufort.org to sign up. Please consider giving the gift of life - donate blood to help your neighbors who are in need of blood!

St John's Lutheran Women

Second Tuesdays at 7 pm

Meeting via Zoom through 2021

Link available on church website

All women in the congregation are invited to join for monthly fellowship and Bible study. This time of gathering provides an opportunity not only to strengthen faith, but to love and care for one another! You are encouraged to invite friends.

December 14 - Kami Kinard will be Bible study leader for a holiday study.

Annual Chili Cookoff 2022

Mark your calendars now: Saturday, February 5

Chili Time is BACK! St. John's annual community chili cookoff supporting local agencies caring for members of our community WILL happen in 2022. Mark your calendars now and plan to be there. We want this comeback cookoff to be bigger than ever. Details about entering the cookoff and volunteering to help will be shared in January!

Quilters Update

A big thank you to all who contributed small quilts in the last four months. Eleven quilts were shipped to Arkansas Children's Hospital!

Quilts are also needed for Lutheran Services Carolinas. Quilts should be crib size, lap or twin size for teenagers, boys and girls. All donations are appreciated.

We have ten quilts in process for Lutheran World Relief to be sent to disaster zones around the world. At this time we need 2 more to complete a box for shipment. If anyone has finished a top, please inform Pat Bennett. There are plenty of kits in the quilting drop-off box located outside the church office. Please help yourself!

On behalf of all the kids and those in need, thank you for volunteering your time and talents.

Thanks!

St. John's Lutheran Family,
Your kindness and caring mean so much to Rick & I and our family. Rick's eye surgeries have been successful. So many blessings! We appreciate the thoughts, prayers, calls, and cards. They helped to brighten and bring comfort more than we can say. Thanks again for being answers to our prayers and God's Lord and love in action. God Bless, Rick & Pat Cooler and Family

On the behalf of our son, Trey Middleton, we would like to express a warm hearted thank you during a difficult time. May God continue to bless everyone.
The Lawyer Family

Dear Pastor Shannon and St. John's members,
Thank you all so much for your prayers for Dennis, for the thoughtful "Get Well" cards and messages, and for the delicious dinners. It is comforting to us both to know so many are thinking of him during this challenging time. Sincerely, Carmen

Greetings Community of St. John's Lutheran Church!
As a volunteer pharmacist and board member of Good Neighbor Medical Clinic (GNMC) I can attest to phenomenal medical care we provide to our community. Your generous donation will help us to continue quality care to the least of these (Matthew 25:40). Thank you, the Rev. Dr. E. A. Noble

Thank you so much for your endless support! So proud to call you my church family!
Love, Cassi Kilpatrick, GNMC Director

It is with great sadness but also deep happiness and excitement that we share that we are moving back to Pennsylvania. Missing family has now become a burden we don't want. We are so deeply grateful for the family we have here in South Carolina. You have truly had a great impact on our time here and we love you all. It was a difficult decision to make but a good one in the end. Our memories here have our hearts overflowing with respect, admiration and love for all who have entered our lives. We will have all in our prayers that each and everyone of you stay safe and healthy. Wishing all Gods love, Roy and Holly Hornback

Dear St. John's,
On behalf of our patients at Arkansas Children's thank you for your kind and thoughtful donation in support of children's health. You have undoubtedly brightened a patient's day by sharing your time and talents through these beautiful handmade gifts. Sincerely, Erica Phillips, Executive Director of Volunteer Engagement, Arkansas Children's

This service you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God! 11 Corinthians 9:12 We are so thankful for your generous donation to help repair the damage done to our Church during a storm. Your willingness to help was greatly appreciated and our hearts are filled with much gratitude. May God continue to bless and keep you. Thank you again with love,
Pastor Michael Dantzler & The Union Baptist Church Family

Special Contributions Received - June 1 2021 through October 17, 2021

Given in memory of Dorothy Zinser:
Tim & Gloria Bockelman
Charles & Mary Ann Bormann
Kelly Bugg
Donna Carson
Peter & Mary Dickerson
Melinda Ellis*
Claria & Charles Gorgen*
Thomas & Charlotte Hurley
Alfred & Gertrude Korndoerfer, Sr.
Paul & Sue Mannheim
Rhoda Moore
Keith Neil
Larry & Eve Roane*
Janet Nowatzky

Given in memory of Ed Moser:
Renate Moser

Given in memory of
Caroline and Karla Peterson
Renate Moser

Given in memory of Marie Lawson:
Renate Moser

Given in memory of Betty Moore:
Renate Moser
Melinda Ellis
Rhoda Moore
Lucky Moore

Given in memory of Dottie Wilson:
Renate Moser

Given in memory of Wayne Young:
Renate Moser

Given In memory of Rick Gwin:
Timothy & Gloria Bockelman

Given in memory of Jackie Borque:
James & Pat Palmer

Given in memory of
Marylee McLeod:
Carolyn Jenkins & Jerry Hutchins

*Designated for the Endowment Fund



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:

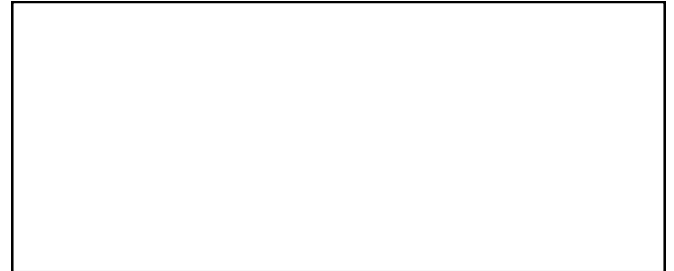
We hear the Good News of God's Love in worship and scripture.

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

Church Office Holiday Closings:

Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday, November 24 & Thursday, November 25

Christmas and New Years Holiday

Friday, December 24 - Sunday, January 2

Pastor P. Shannon Mullen

Deacon Katie Justice

Pastor Craig Boehlke, part time assisting pastor

Phone: 843-524-3461

Fax: 843-524-5950

Email: info@StJohnsBeaufort.org

OFFICIAL NOTICE: Congregation Meeting

Sunday, December 19 - 11:45 am - Hybrid Meeting - meet in-person OR via Zoom

The purpose of this Congregation Meeting is to adopt a *Plan for Mission 2022*, to elect Congregation Council members for 2022-23 terms, and to elect Endowment Committee members for 2022-2023 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 (2020-2021). Note that anyone received as an adult is automatically considered "confirmed."

Similar to the last two meetings, 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