



St. John's Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2026

Wednesday Nights Together in Lent

March 4, 11, 18, 25

Soup Supper, 6:00 pm - Reflection & Prayer, 6:30-7 pm

Dinner: traditional Lenten Soup Supper

Each week we will share a simple meal of several homemade soups and bread.

Lenten Program: *Foundations for My Faith* - Pastor Shannon will lead a Bible study focused on scripture passages that are impactful to his understanding of scripture. Deacon Katie will lead story time for children.

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!

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Easter Egg Hunt with Storytime, Crafts, and Refreshments

Saturday, March 28, 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!*

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Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

Sunday, March 29

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, March 30, 9 am-5 pm + Tuesday, March 31, 9 am-5 pm + Wednesday, April 1, 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.

Coming soon!

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Harold's County Club

March 14

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Congregation Annual Meeting and Pot-Luck

March 29, 11:30 am

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Easter Egg Hunt

March 28

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Palm Sunday

March 29

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HOLYWEEK

Prayer Labyrinth

March 30, 31 April 1

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Mundy Thursday

April 2

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Good Friday

April 3

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The Vigil of Easter

April 4

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Easter Sunday

April 5

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2, 7 pm, in-person and livestreamed at 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 3, 7 pm, in-person and livestreamed at 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 4, 8 pm - in-person and livestreamed at 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 5, 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.

Harold's Country Club Outing

Saturday, March 14- 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 \$27.50 . 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 8. *Please make checks payable to 'Harold's Country Club.'*

Aluminum Can Tabs - for the Ronald McDonald House

There is no way for me to get a good pictures of the tab collection to date. I dare say we should beat our 64 pounds from last year. The participation has been TOP NOTCH!!

You should all feel deeply satisfied knowing that you are helping the Ronald McDonald House take care of parents of seriously injured or extremely sick children. A million thanks to all of you for helping make this possible!

Pat Harvey-Palmer



Worship Music Plays On

While we are sad Josh Overby has taken a position in Charleston, we can definitely celebrate his nearly 3 years with us as part of St. John's Music Ministry.

As we discern what music leadership is needed at St. John's, we have entered a transition period. For this interim period, Gloria and I will take the baton and strive to continue providing meaningful and beautiful music during worship. Choral, vocal solo and duet, and instrumental music are being planned through Easter. Of course, we continue to be blessed with Charlie Frost and Gloria sharing time on the organ. Their musical support of worship offers bountiful blessings!

If you would like to sing with us, especially through Lent and Easter, please reach out to us and we'll gladly work to include you.

With a melody in our hearts and words on our lips, we serve,
Gloria and Tim Bockelman



Facing page, L to R: Soda tabs for Ronald McDonald house; Pastor Shannon in parade; Pat Harvey-Palmer, parade organizer.

This page, clockwise, starting top left: Ann Hollaway, on the day of her baptism, with sponsor George Holden; Christmas carolers; Justice & Paula Mullen with Arthur in pageant; first service pageant; St. John's parade float; Lutheran Services Carolinas staff receiving quilts made by St. John's quilters!



From Deacon Katie

Lent is here, and Easter will be here before you know it. This year, Lent feels a bit different to me. I've been reading Kate Bowler's Lenten Devotional on Substack, a website where many well-known authors and writers post blogs on religious issues or current events. A post she wrote last month about limited agency got me thinking about how we try to accomplish so much in so little time. We try to achieve our to-do list or goals that we set each day, or for those pesky New Year's Resolutions. However, we end up not completing the list or goals, and we feel bad for not doing what we said we would do.

Lent is a time when we give things up, add things to our spiritual journey, and do a bit of self-reflection. We may think this is the time to pursue perfection. However, Lent doesn't ask for perfection. Lent asks us to look at ourselves and understand that we are not perfect. Lent asks us to recognize our limits and know that it's okay, we can't do everything. We are allowed not to be perfect.

Maybe for Lent, you decide to give up perfection in every part of your life. Maybe you decide to add things you know you can do and let go of things you can't. Whatever you decide, know that you are still loved and accepted as you are.

Young Adults

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 two types of Young Adult Events - Friday night gatherings and service events with Youth from CAPA

NEXT GATHERINGS:

March 20, 6:30ish 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.

March 29, 6:30 pm - CAPA Service Event - Dinner and Stealth Egg Hunt

All young adult members and friends are invited to host youth from CAPA for dinner and an after-dark egg hunt. At 6:30 we hide eggs and organize dinner and crafts before the youth arrive at 7. Contact Pastor Shannon or Kristen Ferguson to volunteer to provide part of dinner.

April 24, 7ish - Young Adult Gathering - Young Adults with Shannon & Kami - location to be announced

All young adults are invited, members and friends! Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, if you like.

Children, Youth, and Adult Events

For Families with Children: In March and April, we have fun things planned for everyone. Warmer weather will be coming, and I'm sure everyone will be looking forward to celebrating the Spring weather and Easter with their families.

For children, we have the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, at 1:30 pm. Please invite friends to come and bring their kids! Also, ask neighbors to bring their kids! We will have refreshments and gift bags for everyone.

On Saturday, April 11, at 10 am, we will have a beach day at Hunting Island State Park. We will also have a picnic. Please bring a dish to share with everyone!

For Youth: The youth will help hide Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28. They need to be at church at 11:45 am. On Saturday, April 25, we will go to the Bluffton Cinemark Theater to watch a movie. Movies and time to be determined when close to the day.

For Adults: *Lunch and Fellowship* will be Wednesday, March 18, at 11:30 am at Plantation Café in Bluffton, off Buckwalter Parkway. On Tuesday, March 24, at 1 pm, we will have a Craft Day in the mission building at church. We will be making Spring Wreaths. On Wednesday, April 8, at 11:30 am, we will have Lunch and Fellowship at One Hot Mama's in Bluffton, off Buckwalter Parkway. On Tuesday, April 28, at 1 pm, we will have Bingo Day in the mission building at church.

From Pastor Shannon

Below is the letter announcing my retirement which was emailed to the congregation on February 21. I am so thankful for the 20 years of *Sharing God's grace and Serving Through Love* which we have had together!

Many have said they are "happy for my family, but sad for St. John's." However, I believe that you will find that this time of transition is also positive for the congregation. Every leadership transition is a time for renewal in vision and mission and I know that will be true for St. John's following my retirement.

So while there is always sadness in parting, God will continue to go with each of us - and the Love that God shared in, with, under, and through us as we journeyed together will be a part of who we are!

With much love, Pastor Shannon

February 21, 2026

Dear St. John's members and friends,

For many years I have started my annual report in nearly the same way: "I cannot believe another year has gone by so quickly." Again and again, I have marveled at how we leap from one year to the next.

But in the last year, my thirtieth in ministry and my twentieth serving at St. John's, things have felt different. Rather than marveling at how quickly time is passing, I found myself reflecting in amazement upon God's faithful leading and how much God has accomplished in the two decades we have joyfully journeyed together, sharing the Good News of God's Love, welcoming all people, caring for one another, serving our neighbors, and living generously.

This season of reflection led to much prayerful conversation with my family and with respected advisors, seeking discernment about congregation leadership, the completion of journeys, and how to choose the right time for transition. Eventually, I came to the decision that I would announce my retirement from full time ministry.

Following a timeline advised by Bishop Ginny Aebischer, my last Sunday as pastor at St. John's will be the last Sunday of April. I shared this decision with the Council on Thursday evening. I am sorry it is not possible to share this news with each of you in person.

Ever since Kami and I met in western North Carolina, we have planned eventually to head back to those mountains. We will be moving to Hendersonville, which is where Justice & Paula live with grandson Arthur, and is also near Corinne. We will be much closer to my parents and a little closer to Kami's mom. We are very excited about the opportunity to spend more time with family.

In Hendersonville, I will return to making art, something I have not spent much time on since majoring in studio art in college. I plan to set up a wood shop and a stained glass fusing studio, as well as try my hand at plasma torch sculpting and printmaking.

In the meantime, I will focus on leaving everything running as smoothly at St. John's as I can. I am confident that the members and staff of St. John's together will continue sharing God's grace and serving through love very well! The Bishop's office will work with the Congregation Council to plan for interim ministry, including worship leadership, pastoral care, and pastoral acts such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals. In the ELCA, a pastor is not permitted to return for these things after a call has ended. The Bishop's office will also work with St. John's to coordinate a time of congregation self-study and discernment that leads to a pastoral call process.

This is a time of so many feelings for both Kami and me. We are at the same time very excited to see what the future holds for our family and sad that our chapter as your partners in ministry is coming to an end. But we believe this is the right time for us and for St. John's. There are so many more things I want to say - more than this letter can possibly hold - but I look forward to sharing more as we celebrate all that God has done among us between now and the end of April!

With much love for all of you,



Pastor P. Shannon Mullen

St. John's Lutheran Women

2nd Tuesday of each month

next gatherings: March 10 & April 14, 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>

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**

Rubbish Rustlers

Next date - March 14, 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.

Lutheran Men in Mission

3rd Saturday of each month

next gatherings: March 21 & April 18, 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 \$18.

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
- Contact the church office by email or phone.

Easter Egg Hunt Candy Needed

Please deliver to the church by March 15

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.

Thanks!

On behalf of St. Mark's Episcopal church I want to show how very appreciative we are for generously allowing us to use your beautiful facilities on Feb 14th and 15th. While we love our cozy historic church we will "luxuriate" in your beautiful expansive facilities!

Thank you ever so much!

Dr. Carol Hyde

Music Minister, St. Mark's

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for the unexpected generous gift. I greatly appreciate it. I am enjoying my time at St. John's. The congregation is very affirming. The staff is a joy. I look forward to our future together.

Again, Many thanks. Charlie Frost

Dear St. John's,

On behalf of our foster kids, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful Christmas gifts you provided. Your generosity and kindness have truly make a significant impact on the lives of these children.

Warm Regards, July Hood

Lutheran Services Carolinas

Thanks!

Dear friends,
Kami and I would like to thank you for the many thoughtful Christmas gifts we received. In addition to the generous Christmas gift from the whole congregation, so many sent cards and dropped off Christmas treats and other little surcees! We are very thankful (Yep, first time I ever used surcee in print - my Grandy would be proud!)
Peace, Pastor Shannon & Kami

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's,
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

To each of you that shared a Christmas gift; I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart! Having so many classes and work to do, I really did not have time to plan a traditional Christmas with baked goods and other festive treats. Carl and I really enjoyed your thoughtful contributions. In addition, we want to thank those of you that prayed for Carl, sent cards, and inquired of him during his recent illness. We truly appreciated all of the kindness and love. May the Good Lord always be with you.
Sincerely, Rolanda Gilliard, Seminarian - Field Worker

Dear St. John's friends,
Thank you for the generous Staff Christmas gift, cards, packages, and treats you shared this season. You made my holiday so merry and bright!
Thank you, Jenny Stoddard

Hello St John's Family,
Thank You, two words that mean so much. Text messages, prayers, cards, phone calls and much, much more has made this journey with Mandy easier.
Peace and Blessings, Rhoda

Pastor Shannon,
Please extend to your congregation a big thank you for the \$1,925 donation to the St. Francis Center. We used the money to buy food for those in need.
Sister Canice

Dear Pastor Shannon, Gloria, Katie, and all other St. John's friends,
Thanks you so very much for your generosity again this Christmas season! The gifts you all got for our foster children were so thoughtful and very appreciated! It means so much to all of us at Lutheran Services, and we cannot thank you all enough!
Love, Allison Sanders and Lutheran Services Team

I want to thank you all for your generosity, love, and support. A big thank you for your generosity towards the staff gift. It was very helpful for me, and Bandit (my cat) got to enjoy some new cat toys! I love you all and thank you again!
Deacon Katie

Dear St. John's,
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 your gift of \$1,925 received on November 7, 2025. Your contribution plays a pivotal role in enabling the Clinic to offer free, compassionate medical care to the very low-income, uninsured adults in Beaufort County.
With heartfelt appreciation and warm regards,
Gloria Duryea
Executive Director

Dear St. John's Family,
Dan and I are extremely grateful to members of the church who sponsor the Nuru Daycare in Kenya via online donations, donating items for sale, and by sponsoring children for school. We are moving mountains one spoonful at a time and we thank you for your help!
Sincerely, Jenny and Dan Stoddard



St. John's Lutheran Church
Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

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Beaufort, SC 29907

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Mission Statement:

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Core Values:

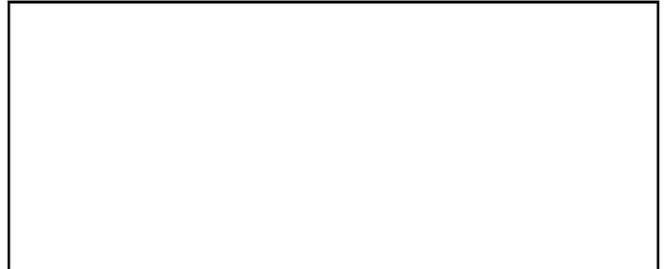
We hear the Good News of God's Love in worship and scripture.

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

Phone: 843-524-3461

Email: info@StJohnsBeaufort.org

OFFICIAL NOTICE: Congregation Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 29 11:30 am - Hybrid Meeting - meet in-person OR via Zoom

Potluck Meal to follow the meeting

The congregation will meet on Sunday, March 29 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.

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 (2025-2026). 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. Instructions for meeting by Zoom will be emailed to members and will be available in the church office.

www.StJohnsBeaufort.org