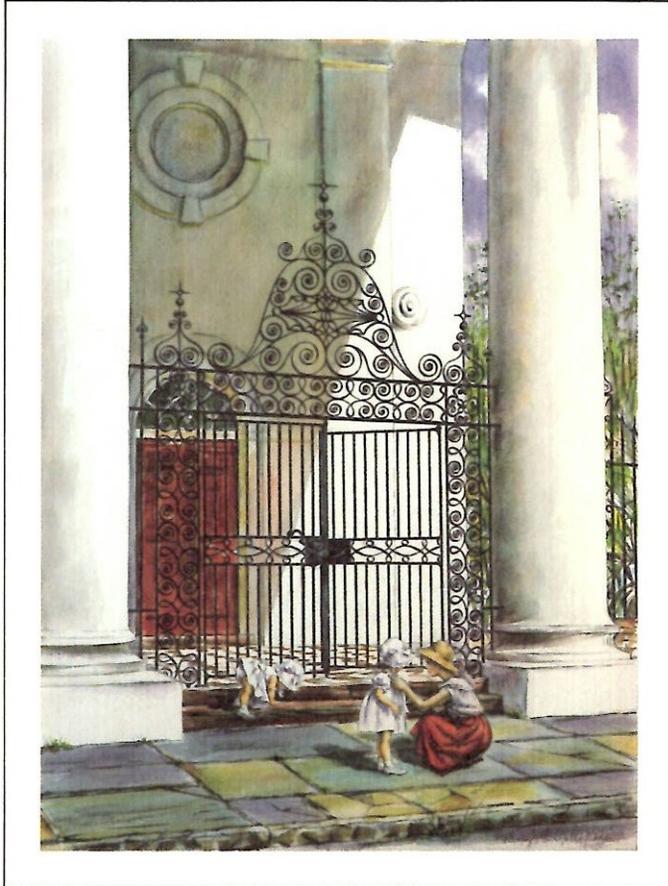


THE HERALD

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Watercolor "Sunday Morning" by Mary Ingalls Cote

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A Summer To Remember

Recently we celebrated the Day of Pentecost in worship. That Sunday is the time we hear about the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and the church. We remember how the Apostles shared the gospel and everyone heard what the Apostles were saying in their own natural language. This biblical recounting of the events of that Pentecost Day is a great reminder to us of what can happen when the Holy Spirit visits us and our loves.

I suspect few of us experience the power of the Holy Spirit as "the rush of a mighty wind" or see the Holy Spirit as "divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them." Rather, my experience has more frequently been of the quiet type. I feel the power of the Holy Spirit directing my life by internal nudging, by thoughts that seem as if to come from out of the blue, by the recognition that not only am I not alone in the moment, but the presence of God is with me in that moment. Sometimes this happens during periods of prayer, while often it happens when a spiritual hurdle confronts me. Over the years, I have learned to recognize and cherish these moments of spiritual presence and guidance.

Perhaps you too, know the ways in which God's Holy Spirit comes and speaks words of strength and guidance. I suspect it is different from the way I experience it, because even while we are all children of God, we are individual children of God - each created differently. What speaks to me does not necessary speak to you and what speaks to you does not necessary speak to me. However, we all have this in common: when God's Holy Spirit speaks to us, it is the Word of God coming to be helpful as it leads us in the direction God would have us go.

As the Summer months approach there will many occasions for us to hear the Holy Spirit speak to us in new and different ways and in unusual places. Of course, I believe the Holy Spirit always speaks to us through worship and in prayer, and the Spirit can speak to us when we see new things while on vacation; while we are traveling to visit family and friends; while we run the lawn mower over green grass or trim the shrubbery. All that it takes for us to hear God's Holy Spirit speaking is to be open and to pay attention.

This Summer let's be mindful that God's Spirit is always with us and while we may be doing different things in different places, God's Spirit is the one constant in our lives that helps us stay attuned to what God would share with us in this life. While we are all looking forward to a vacation or time off from the daily routine, make certain you provide time for the Holy Spirit to be your guide and companion. And perhaps, as I suggested on Pentecost Day, you could offer three minutes each day to be still, be quiet, and be focused so you can hear and feel the presence of God around you.

If you do, this Summer will be one to remember.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Butler +

From Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is looking for one or two volunteers to help with writing thank you cards in December. Please let Peter Holmi or Tom Springer know. We appreciate your help! Thank you.

Assistance Requested! Please Help!

Often times a mother or a wife will tell us “if you used it, replace it! If you moved it, put it back!” Well, that’s pretty good advice, that when we follow it, makes everyone happy as well as making certain that everything that has a place is always in its place. Well, the church needs your help. We have lots of people but no church mom or wife. So often we go get something, use it, but then don’t put it back in the place where we got it from. Other times we’ll use something until it’s gone, but we forget to tell the proper person so we can get more of it for the next time we need it.

With all that being said, would you please help us make certain that everything has a place and everything is always in its place when we finish with it? If we would all help out, we can get everything back where it belongs. Thank you.

From Worship and Music

Are you in need of a worship assistant/choir robe? In the upstairs Clifford Street side of the church, an assortment of robes are hanging. The robes have numbers on them with some names of individuals that the robes might fit. Please check the robes to see if there is a size that would work for you. There is a “sign up” sheet for you to indicate your name and the number of the robe. We are also looking at surplices. If there is not anything in your size, please indicate as well so when it is determined what is needed, we will be able to place an order.



St. John's

Women of the ELCA

2015 Convention Project – Lutheran Services Carolinas

We are collecting Hygiene Kits for adults and children. The following items are needed for the kits: an adult kit consists of shampoo, bar soap, toothbrush and paste, lotion, deodorant, hair brush/comb, razors, shaving cream, nail clippers, wash cloth, hand towel; a child kit consists of children's shampoo, small toothbrush and paste, deodorant, small hair brush/comb, wash cloth, hand towel. Each kit should be packed in a gallon size Ziploc bag and labeled "Adult" or "Child" with the contents listed on the label. Also, St. John's Lutheran Church, Charleston, SC should be listed on each kit. Gift cards and monetary donations are also being collected. Checks should be made payable to SCWELCA.



Please leave your finished kit(s) in the designated area in the Parish Hall by **June 7, 2015**.

Celebrate Reverend Dr. Edward L. Counts 50th Ordination Anniversary

The Reverend Dr. Edward L. Counts will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of his ordination during June this year. The Vestry will host a cake and punch reception on Sunday, June 28 at 9:45 AM to celebrate this wonderful event in the life of Dr. Counts. We hope you will join us in the social hall to congratulate Dr. and Mrs. Counts on his years of service to the Church.

At the SC Synod Assembly Dr. Counts, along with other clergy celebrating their 50th Anniversary, will receive a certificate of appreciation for their service to the Church through Word and Sacrament ministry. We have asked Dr. Counts to bring his certificate to place on display during the reception, as well as pictures and mementoes from his ministry at each church he has served. We look forward to celebrating his ministry to the whole Church as well as St. John's.

Greetings!

It was a busy May for music at St. John's! On May 3, our St. John's Children's Choir sang for the final time prior to the summer break. Taking the place of the adult Chorale at the 11AM service, these young vocalists sang three times throughout the service, raising their voices to the Lord with energy and spirit! Then on May 10, the Charlestons brought the harmony to the 11AM services, singing spirited hymns and spirituals for four voices. Finally, on Pentecost/Memorial Day Sunday, trumpeter Susan Messersmith joined us to provide a beautifully somber rendition of Taps as part of Pastor Butler's Memorial Moment honoring those who served, also playing some rousing trumpet/organ duets and hymn descants. It was a busy month indeed!

We opened the 8th Annual Summer at St. John's concert series yesterday afternoon and I'm pleased to say we had our biggest crowd ever! The Charlestons performed a concert that was also part of the Piccolo Spoleto Festival and our church was packed with roughly 300 people! William, Brink, Stephen, and I had a wonderful time performing barbershop, sacred, musical theatre, and pop selections for the large, enthusiastic crowd that included many St. John's members. Sincere thanks to Sara Jane Foltz, Rose Serpa, and Kathryn Tolley who organized a reception on the portico following the concert. What a great way to start our 8th year!

Here are the other two concerts that will be taking place this summer. Both should be wonderful; please mark your calendars!

Saturday, Saturday, June 27 @ 6PM

Vintage Voices: An Evening of Acoustic Jazz

Vocalists Kim Pacheco and Jessica Minahan White and pianist Richard White

My friend and performer Jessica describes the concert in this way: *Vintage Voices* is a musical journey spanning 5 decades of various genres, including traditional jazz, show-tune, gospel, and groove music. The show boasts to shadow the greatest renderings of music of all time including Julie Andrews, Bette Midler, Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald and more, all while bridging genres and creating an atmosphere to fully appreciate the present day artistry of the cast!

Saturday, July 25 @ 6PM

The St. John Chorale

Our very own St. John Chorale presents some of our favorite pieces, sacred choral selections spanning centuries and styles, including works by Bach, Fauré, Rutter, Hayes, Forrest, and others. Brink Norton and I will conduct, and Jessica Minahan White will accompany on piano. glorious choral music throughout the year!

Please plan to attend to support *your* singers, who so generously give of their time and talents to provide our services with prayerful, joyful, and Both Summer at St. John's concerts are free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception on the portico. We hope to see you this summer for some wonderful music!

In music,

Todd

Music Quotation of the Month: "If I cannot fly, let me sing." -- Stephen Sondheim



Time to Register!

Vacation Bible School will be held at St. John's the week of July 26-29 from 6:15 pm -8:00 pm with dinner beginning at 5:45. Join us as we explore the Proverbs. There will be music, crafts, African drumming, and FUN! Make sure you don't miss out! Children of all ages 4 and up and adults are invited to attend! A nursery will be provided. Please complete the form in the bulletin and submit to the church office.



We need your help!

We need cooks, teachers, set up, and clean up help. If you can help, please complete the form in the bulletin and submit to the church office.

Little Luther League

We will meet after the 11:00 service on June 28 for a tour of St. John's steeple. Bring a change of clothes: you'll get dirty! Randy Lesemann will be guiding the tour. Hope to see you there!



June 1	Bessie Lesemann	June 21	Jaden Andersen
June 2	Melissa Spaulding	June 22	Thomas Stelling
June 3	Dolores Nelson	June 23	Norma Luden
June 5	Madeline Hoffmann	June 23	Eddie Stelling
June 8	Beth Martschink	June 25	Hugh Tant
June 8	Eric Holmi	June 25	Virginia Counts
June 9	Joe Clark	June 26	Dan Lackland
June 9	Glenn Albrecht	June 26	Virginia Moore
June 11	Anne Holmi	June 27	Martha Ann Galante
June 11	Anna Eller	June 27	Linda Stephens
June 15	David Sikes	June 27	Rudolph Thomas
June 17	Nancy Prickett	June 27	Michael Refieuna
June 17	Christi Kunkle	June 27	Staci Pelland
June 18	Brenda Brannen	June 28	Barbara Siegling
June 19	Laura Holmi	June 28	Carole Campbell
June 20	Sophie Pelland	June 28	Charles McIntosh
June 21	George Galante	June 29	Allison Hoffmann
June 21	Karen Moore	June 29	Jaelyn Trayte
June 21	Parker Hoffman		





Memorials for Armee Sadler:

Lee-Freyschmidt Circle

Miles Martschink, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Capers Poulnot

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Gibbs

Memorial for June Schirmer

Mr. Ronald Fulmer

Congregational Concerns and Prayers

We remember in our prayers: Mary Adden, Jack Doscher, Natalie Fisher, Mike Joyner, Betty Lemacks, Jeff Nadzak, Peggy Rugheimer, Margaret Stephens, all those who are infirm and recovering from illnesses and our members who have experienced losses of loved ones.

Our Loved Ones

Away From Home

We have a prayer list of those members of St. John's and our extended family who are in the military and/or involved in this current military situation. When filling out your blue attendance card, please add the names to it and indicate "military," and we will include your loved ones on our prayer list. Presently included are: Derek Bean, Alex Bedenbaugh, Lt. Joseph Gibbons Clark, Mark Evans, Ryan Hanson, John Lesemann, and Christopher Osgood.

Vestry Highlights

On Thursday evening, May 21, 2015 the Vestry met to discuss and conduct the business of the church. The highlights of that Vestry Meeting follow:

- 1) The Meeting was called to order by Vestry President Dan Prickett and opened with prayer offered by Pastor Butler.
- 2) The April 2015 Minutes were approved as submitted.
- 3) The April 2015 Treasurer's Report was received as information.
- 4) Pastor Butler provided the membership and attendance statistics at St. John's, adding that the average attendance for the month of April was 228 (57/171). Additionally, Pastor shared highlights of upcoming activities at the church, and spoke about the Memorial Moment that would be observed on Memorial Day. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Allie Elizabeth Beecher on May 24.
- 5) The Christian Education Committee noted that Jennifer Gnann had offered her resignation effective May 31, 2015. Jennifer has resigned due to increased responsibilities with her other job. Also noted were upcoming plans for our Summer Sunday School, and events for the Little Luther League.
- 6) The Evangelism Committee shared information about a church ad to be placed in the "My Charleston" magazine, and provided updates on forward movement with a new pictorial directory.
- 7) The Property Committee is continuing to make necessary repairs on both buildings. Highlights are the replacement of the dishwasher and stove oven unit. They have been delivered and will be installed on Tuesday, May 26.
- 8) The Social Ministry Committee is seeking to have included in the SC Lutheran articles about the many activities taking place here at St. John's and our outreach ministries.
- 9) The Stewardship Committee is working on the production of "Welcome Bags" for new members.
- 10) The Worship and Music Committee reported that 99 new hymnals have been purchased and we are in process of adding the designations on the inside cover of the hymnals. The first Summer at St. John's Concert will take place on Sunday, May 24 and it will also be a Spoleto event. The performers are our own "Charlestonses."
- 11) Further conversation was held regarding the artwork normally hanging on the back walls of the church. Final plans were put in place to recognize the 50th Ordination Anniversary for the Reverend Dr. Edward Counts on Sunday, June 28. Highlights of the Vestry Visioning statements were reviewed and will be discussed further at our June meeting.
- 12) The next Vestry Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18.

St. John's Lutheran Church
2015 Staff, Officers, Vestry, &
Committee Chairs

Committee Chairs

Christian Education	Larry Kreyling
Communication	Sheila Sines Thomasson
Endowment	Frickie Martschink
Evangelism	Bryan Counts
Finance	Chris Antley
History	Edward Counts
Lutheran Men	Bill Lesemann
Nursery	Jennifer Gnann
Property Committee	Randy Lesemann
Shepherd Program	Marianne Albrecht
	Diane Bean
	Brenda Brannen
	Martha Clark
Social Ministry	George Galante
	Dan Marchant
Special Projects	Becky Courtney
Stewardship	Peter Holmi
	Tom Springer
Strategic Plan	Carl Ehmann
Women of the ELCA	TBA
Worship & Music	Deborah Bussey
	William Dowd

Vestry Officers

President	Dan Prickett
Vice President	Dan Lackland
Secretary	Gayle Hilton
Treasurer	Anne Lake

Members of the Vestry

Chris Antley, Deborah Bussey, Bryan Counts, Becky Courtney, William Dowd, George Galante, Peter Holmi, Gayle Hilton, Larry Kreyling, Dan Lackland, Anne Lake, Randy Lesemann, Dan Marchant, Dan Prickett, Tom Springer, Sheila Sines Thomasson

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Office Manager	Carol Jordan info@stjohnscharleston.org	O:843-723-2426
Director of Music	Todd Monsell toddmonsell@gmail.com	C: 843-513-3050
Director of Christian Education/Youth	Vacant	

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St. John's Lutheran Church was established in 1742 as The Lutheran Church of the German Protestants. St. John's is considered the "Mother Church of Lutheranism in South Carolina."