

THE HERALD

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Established 1742 as The Lutheran Church of the German Protestant

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"Did You Know?"

It's always interesting when we get together for a class, whether a Bible study or a book review. St. John's is blessed to be filled with members from such diverse backgrounds and experiences that it is always enlightening for all of us as we share thoughts and feelings. Recently I met with a number of our adult members during Vacation Bible School as I taught the Adult Class. As usual, the conversation was great and I learned as much from the class members as they did from me. During classes, on a number of occasions we realized that the Lutheran Church has some ministries with which we were unfamiliar. My September column will look at just one of those ministries that came up during our class. The resource for much of what I write comes from *Commentary on the Occasional Services* by Philip Pfatteicher (Fortress Press, Philadelphia, 1983). Interesting sidenote: Dr. Pfatteicher was a pastor to our daughter Samantha in Pittsburgh.

During VBS, one topic that came up was "confession." We are familiar with the every Sunday use of "Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness," for this is how we begin our worship services. We participate in what is known as corporate confession and then hear the pastor pronounce absolution upon us. But within Lutheranism, there is also an "Order for Private Confession and Absolution" where an individual may meet with the pastor for private confession and the pronouncement of absolution. Many in the class found this an unfamiliar offering. It seemed strange to think that we still have a service or occasion where we would meet privately with the pastor to confess our sins, perhaps even naming them outloud. Quoting from Pfatteicher, "Individual Confession and Forgiveness is intended for use as a personal application of the gospel of the forgiveness of sins. It is a traditional use of what the Lutheran confessions call 'the power (or office) of the keys,' to disclose 'a sure and firm consolation for the conscience.'"

In my ministry I have found this service helpful for many people but especially beneficial for those who are troubled with a particularly bothersome sin which they feel a need to share out loud with one in a position to pronounce the forgiveness of God. Basically, the form for Individual Confession and Forgiveness includes a greeting, a prayer of confession which may include an enumeration of particular sins, and a statement of absolution. The Commentary suggests it be used in the Church's Ministry of Healing as well as in counseling the separated or divorced.

Again, relying on Pfatteicher, "Luther intended confession and absolution especially for those who were about to receive Holy Communion, and the Lutheran Churches have maintained that connection. The initial rubric (rule) in the Church Book regarding private confession relates first to the reception of Holy Communion and then secondly to spiritual growth. Regardless of the occasion where this 'Order' may be used, the issue is always that "Confession is to be genuine, and it is to be free. *Absolution is to be given only to such persons as are truly penitent, and sincerely determined to amend their ways; for without genuine repentance there is no forgiveness.*"

Some may struggle to believe they need to share their deepest, darkest secrets (sins) with another living soul, although they feel very comfortable sharing them with God directly. Others, however, do find great comfort in sharing the darkness in their soul with their pastor and hearing their pastor pronounce absolution to them individually. Personally, I find it comforting that our Lutheran Church has kept this "Order" available for any of us who feel that we might be helped by it.

Please feel free to catch up with me to discuss the "Order for Individual Confession and Forgiveness" and what it means. Perhaps when we finish that conversation, we can continue on to discuss some of the other Occasional Services that are available to help us in our spiritual growth and relationship to God through Jesus Christ. May we all be aware of God's blessings and our hope.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Butler +

Lee-Freyschmidt Circle

The Lee-Freyschmidt Circle will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 10th, at the home of Barbara Lee (3349 Ethan Street, Mt. Pleasant).

Tovey Circle Annual Picnic

The Tovey Circle will enjoy their annual picnic at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 11th, at the James Island Yacht Club. Meet at the home of Dan and Lynda Marchant (723 Wildwood Road, James Island) to caravan to the JIYC.



The Ladies Sewing Society

Sunday, September 21, 2014

4:00 p.m.

(Fellowship Hall)

Organizational Meeting and Salad Supper

We warmly welcome guests

All ladies of St. John's are invited to join us for our Fall "kick-off" Meeting and learn more about this historic society, organized in 1825. Each member is asked to bring a salad to share! Beverages, dessert, and bread will be provided. Please call Anita Mitchum at 795-2386 if you will be attending.



St. John's Women of the ELCA

The MISSION of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. We carry out this life-changing mission with women and girls of all ages, both within the ELCA and among those we serve in Jesus' name.

Trident Conference Fall Meeting

September 27, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 206 Central Avenue, Summerville

Please RSVP by 9/15/14 via email to Charlene@slc.org if you will be attending.
The guest speaker will be Elmire Raven from My Sister's House

If you will need a nursery, please let Charlene know in advance.



September 14 — 11:00 a.m. Palmetto Island County Park - Mt. Pleasant The Big Oak Shelter

Join us for the Annual Congregational Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic on September 14th. We'll be at Palmetto Island County Park and The Big Oak Shelter again this year. We will 'congregate' for worship at 11:00 a.m. (Entrance fee is \$1.00 per carload unless you have a pass.) Bug-free worship and food are provided, thanks to the 'gnat scat' that keeps the pests from making us *their* meal! Please bring a covered dish or dessert that you would like to share. If a serving utensil is needed for your "covered dish," please provide this also. Also, you might want to bring a lawn chair in case the benches get too hard. The Chorale will have some wonderful music to share, and we will have a joyous time in God's outdoor venue! Sign up below and return to the church office no later than September 8th.

Picnic Reservation Form

Name(s) _____

Number Attending: Adults _____ Children (under 12) _____

To help us plan, we ask that you please let us know what food item you will bring:

Covered Dish _____ Dessert _____

Remember to bring enough to share with others!

***Clean up: if you are willing to help clean up after the picnic,
please let us know by checking the box below.***

Yes, I can help clean up



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

On Thursday, August 21, 2014, the Vestry met to discuss and conduct the business of the church. The highlights of the Vestry Meeting follow.

- 1) The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer offered by Pastor Butler.
- 2) The June 2014 Minutes were approved as submitted.
- 3) The July Treasurer's Report was received as information.
- 4) Pastor Butler reported on the attendance averages for the month of June and for our single service month of July. Pastor then recommended for membership Garrett Altvater, and Jason and Kristine Cherry. All were approved for membership. Pastor Butler brought a recommendation that Ashley West and Gregory Beamon be granted permission to hold their wedding ceremony at St. John's on May 30, 2015. Approved.
- 5) The Christian Education Committee reported that Vacation Bible School had gone well and that both children and adults had a wonderful time and superb meals. Sheila shared with Vestry that we are in great need of volunteers for our Sunday School program. We need both teachers and assistants.
- 6) The Evangelism Committee reported on their sales of t-shirts, the updated History Brochure, and that AED training had been completed. Additional AED trainings will be scheduled for the near future.
- 7) The Finance Committee provided information on the upcoming Church Budget process that will be followed. Budget requests from Committees are due by the September Vestry meeting.
- 8) The Property Committee reported on the items from their detailed property items report that have been completed. Again, they requested that, as we see items needing repair or attention, that we let the Committee know so that repairs can be scheduled.
- 9) The Social Ministry Committee is working to schedule their projects for the fall and winter. Several new ministries are being considered. These will be brought back to the Vestry at the September meeting. The school supplies donated by the congregation have been delivered.
- 10) The Stewardship Committee is working on the Fall 2014 Stewardship Campaign.
- 11) The Worship and Music Committee provided a report on the upcoming Outdoor Worship Service and picnic. The Vestry approved the recommendation that the Charleston Chapter of the AGO hold their meeting here on November 17.
- 12) The Vestry goals established as a result of the 2014 Retreat were revisited and progress reports were provided by various Committee members.
- 13) The next Vestry Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2014.

St. John's T-Shirts for Sale

A member of the Evangelism Committee will be available during the annual church picnic on Sunday September 14th to take St John's t-shirt orders. Please submit payment by check at the time you place your order. T-shirts are available in long sleeve or short sleeve, gray or white, with or without pocket, and adult and youth sizes.



RALLY DAY

Rally Day will be held on September 14 at the church picnic at Palmetto Islands County Park after the service held at 11:00. We invite all children and their families to attend. If you have soccer balls, kick balls, volleyballs, or bases please bring them so that we can all enjoy a game or two! Hope to see you all there!

Please note there will be no nursery at either service on September 14 due to the church picnic.

Treats with Teachers

Help us kick off the Sunday School year!

Join us for treats in the Parish Hall on September 7th during the Sunday School hour beginning after Children's Choir, to meet your 2014-2015 Sunday School teachers. This is a time for informal meeting and a chance to get to know each other. We hope to see you there!



Could You Be The "Legend" We Need?

Almost every church has a "legend." With that being said, you might wonder "what is a church legend?" In my experience the church "legend" is the person who volunteers their time and talent to make a difference in the church where they worship and in the lives of the people who attend that church. Most often, you will find the "legends" in the Sunday School Department. Every church I have ever been associated with had a "legend" as a Sunday School teacher. The "legend" didn't have to be the smartest person in the church; it was simply that they saw a need for children to have a teacher who loved them and they were willing to share their life and faith with those children. And as they did it, they felt the hand of God tugging at them to continue teaching children about God's love and God's gift of a Savior.

St. John's needs a "legend" or two or three. Our Sunday School classes need teachers. Every one of us needs to prayerfully consider how we can help our children learn the faith we know, and then commit to get involved. What we do today will have a direct effect on the way our young children remember their church, their Savior, and the "legends" who lived here. You might be the "legend" we need. Volunteer and see the difference you will make.

Financial Update

The Finance Committee provides each month an update of the contributions received in the current year as compared to the amount in the budget adopted by the congregation. The following is the budget to actual comparison through July 31, 2014.

Contributions received	\$ 188,862
Contributions per budget	<u>171,837</u>
Receipts over (under) budget	<u>\$ 17,025</u>

Congregational Concerns and Prayers

We remember in our prayers: Ed Andersen, John Anderson, Bobby Babson, Dick Fulmer, Judy Greer, Warren Hilton, Nell Jones, Geneva Kahrs, Betty Lemacks, Eleanor Luden, Billie Jean Roble, Ed Rugheimer, Margaret Stephens, Susan Spoon, Cele West, 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 Han-son, John Lesemann, and Christopher Osgood.



- September 2 Caroline Kinnett
- September 3 Carl Beckmann
Tommy McIntosh
- September 8 Lauren Meany
Thomas Meany
- September 10 Charles McKeever
- September 11 Abigail Hoffmann
Baxter Littlejohn
Jane Siegling
Kenneth Snell
- September 12 Joy Cornwell
Shannon Haltiwanger
Bobby McClary
- September 15 Peter Poulnot
- September 16 Evelyn Dolven
- September 17 Harold Haltiwanger
- September 18 Betty Hasty
Jameson Hoffman
- September 19 Greg Edwards
- September 20 Claudia Morton
- September 21 Elizabeth Spaulding
- September 24 Alan Gosnell
Don Toussaint
- September 25 Kristina Ravenel
- September 26 Brandt Allen
- September 27 Jody Leverknight
- September 28 Rachel Stelling
Ester Williams
- September 29 John Gamble
Gayle Hilton
- September 30 Ilene Lackland

Order of St. John Training

Members of the Order of St. John will have training on two Sundays in September. All **Crucifers** will receive training on Sunday, September 21st, at 10:10. The training will take place in the church. All **Acolytes** will receive training on Sunday, September 28th, at 10:10 AM. This training will also take place in the church.

This training is being provided as both new training and/or refresher training for this year. All members of the Order of St. John are encouraged to attend so that we can make certain we are all up-to-date with our duties and responsibilities. Thank you!

Lector / Worship Assistant Training

There will be refresher training provided for Lectors and Worship Assistants on Sunday, September 21, at 9:45 AM. We will meet in the church. This training will provide us opportunity to provide additional information about being a Lector and/or Worship Assistant as well as answer questions anyone may have. Also, we will be discussing the cassocks we wear and taking size measurements to determine if we need to order additional robes or robes in different sizes. Everyone is encouraged to be present. Thank you!



Memorial Gifts were given in loving memory of:

Ruth Butler

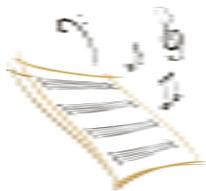
by

John and Sara Jane Foltz, Jerry Koon, Larry and Shirley Kreyling, Dan and Ilene Lackland, Joel and Anne Lake, Betty Lemacks, Bill and Anita Mitchum, Lewis and Karen Moore, Dolores Nelson, Anne Poulnot, Billie Jean Roble, Hubert and Joye Shuler

Lena Doscher

by

Bob and Sue Adden, John and Sara Jane Foltz, Ron Fulmer, John and Caroline Gamble, Mark and Carole Jordan, Louie Koester, Deanne Lucas, Frickie and Linda Martschink, Philip and Patty Minges, Miriam Parris, MUCS Laboratory Animal Resources and Department of Comparative Medicine, Glen and Angie Paul, Anne Poulnot, Capers and Sandra Poulnot, Michael and Gayle Ratcliff, Joel and Joan Rigter, Hubert and Joy Shuler, Barbara Tamsberg, Cele West, Carolyn Yarbrough



MUSIC NOTES

Greetings!

Is this the slightest of chills in the air I feel this morning? Fall is indeed on the way!

Another successful season of the Summer at St. John's concert series has come and gone, and I would like to heartily thank the many folks who donated their time and talents to make our 7th season of summer concerts a success. **Martha Harken** designed a lovely 2-sided brochure, which you probably saw posted around the church and parish hall, to promote the series. **Barbara Tamsberg** greeted concertgoers and passed out programs. Delicious receptions were planned and orchestrated by a long list of volunteers, including **Brenda and Vernon Brannen, Kathryn Tolley, Salley Fulmer, Diane and Lynn Bean, Norma Luden, Sara Jane Foltz, and Cindy Donahue**. It was always such a pleasure to see guests mingle with the performers and enjoy delicious treats on our beautiful portico. Thanks again to all these wonderful volunteers without whom this concert series could not take place!

I hope you enjoyed the special music presented during August as the Chorale enjoyed its annual summer vacation. The month of special music included USC oboist Claire Bogdan, tenor Brink Norton, a Sunday of jazz piano selections, the Charlestons, and French horn player Anne Holmi. I thank these talented performers, most who come from our own congregation, for lending their talents with us throughout the month.

The St. John Chorale and Handbell Choir begin rehearsals on **Wednesday, 9/3**. New members are always welcome! The Handbell Choir rehearses from 5:30-6:10 each Wednesday in the church balcony, and the St. John Chorale follows in the Choir Room from 6:15-8. Come sing and ring with us!

It's a joy for me to announce that the St. John's Children's Choir had its inaugural rehearsal on Sunday, August 24, at 9:40 A.M. Let the record show that there were NINETEEN children in attendance! I cannot be more thrilled with this turnout of eager young voices ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade, and I am very excited about the future of our youth music program at St. John's! Sincere thanks are due to Pastor Butler, whose wholehearted support and vision for this choir enabled this wonderful beginning. You can look forward to hearing our new choir sing roughly once per month. Their first performance will be at the outdoor service on September 14. We hope to see you there!

In music,

Todd

Music Quotation of the Month:

"Music is the wine that fills the cup of silence." -Robert Fripp