

THE HERALD

Volume XLI, Issue IV

April 2015

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY: WORSHIP AT 7 PM

GOOD FRIDAY: WORSHIP AT 7 PM

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 AM	WORSHIP
9:00 AM	EASTER BREAKFAST
9:30 AM	ST. JOHN CHORALE
9:45 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 AM	HANDBELL CHOIR
10:15 AM	CHILDREN'S CHOIR
11:00 AM	WORSHIP

St. John's Lutheran Church

5 Clifford Street, Charleston SC 29401

Church Office: 843-723-2426

Fax: 843-577-2543

"What We See and What We Tell"

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." John 20:1-2

The season of Lent is quickly coming to a close and we will awaken soon to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday morning. The shift from Lent as we move through Maundy Thursday with its betrayal and denial of Jesus by his disciples and then into Good Friday where Jesus is crucified and dies is a stark and haunting conclusion to our period of reflection and penitence. And if it all ended there, we would be the most sad and forsaken of all people. But we know it doesn't end on Good Friday nor even on Saturday as the disciples are hiding in fear for their lives. I have heard it said, "It may be Friday, but Sunday's coming."

At the beginning of my article are the first two verses of John's gospel, chapter 20. The situation is this: Jesus has died, his body has been quickly prepared for burial and placed in a tomb. That tomb has been sealed and all his followers have scattered. And now we come to these verses. It is dawn of the first day of the week. It is dawn but still dark. And one lone follower, Mary Magdalene, comes to the tomb. She is the first to see that something has happened. She doesn't know exactly what but she knows something has happened. And then she is the first to go and tell someone. Imagine yourself in Mary's place, what would you have done? What would any of us do? Would we retreat back to where we had been hiding? Would we sit down and weep for the situation we find ourselves in? Or would we go tell someone and seek their help?

It is always interesting to consider such questions. In my study and research I am always reminding myself that as I read the scriptures I am reading them from the resurrection side of the cross. I know about the resurrection. I know who Jesus was and is. But I always ask myself, "would I have known if I had been on the other side of the cross?" I'd like to

think I would have recognized Jesus as the Christ. But I might have missed it, just like so many others did. Just like the disciples.

With that being said, we have the opportunity in our life to never miss the truth of Jesus as Lord and Savior again. Each and every day, and each and every Sunday, we have the opportunity to see and tell others about the gift of a Savior that God has given to us. I invite you to share what you have seen and experienced by telling others about your experiences. Tell them about what you know and what you believe. And I encourage you to invite someone to come worship with us. I hope and pray that you will invite others to join us this Easter Sunday as we proclaim what God has done and what we have seen. I hope and pray that you will help me as we embark on our mission to tell the world that something wonderful has happened - CHRIST IS RISEN! See you in church this Easter.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Butler +

Lutheran Book of Worship Hymnals

The Lutheran Book of Worship has been a familiar hymnal for us in worship for many years. First introduced in 1978 to Lutheran Churches in the United States, it has been a guide to worship for a long time. In our congregation quite a few of our LBWs are looking worn and ragged. Noting that, the Worship and Music Committee approached Vestry about replacing as many of the worn LBWs as possible. At the March 19 Vestry meeting, it was approved to approach the congregation about contributing a number of new hymnals to the church.

Beginning Thursday, April 2, there will be an insert sheet in the bulletin each week that allows anyone who desires to contribute a new hymnal to our church. You may contribute it "in honor of", "in memory of", or "in celebration of" a loved one, a friend, or an occasion. As hymnals are contributed, we will order them and begin to replace the older, worn out hymnals located in the church. Cost for a hymnal is \$30 each. Please make your check payable to St. John's Lutheran Church and mark it for "LBW."

Women of the Church

The Ladies Sewing Society

All are invited to attend



The Ladies' Sewing Society will hold their April meeting on April 12, 2015, at 3:45 pm in the afternoon in the church Social Hall. Evelyn Dolven will present the program and Elaine Ehmann will provide the refreshments.

Lee-Freyschmidt Circle

Wednesday, April 8

The Lee-Freyschmidt Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 11th, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Diane Bean (2945 Seabrook Island Road, Seabrook Island, SC).

Tovey Circle

Thursday, April 12

The Tovey Circle will meet on Thursday, February 12th, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Martha Ann Galante (600 Hamlet Square, Mt. Pleasant). Sally Davey will present the program.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated for Elijah William Lynn on Sunday, March 22, 2015 at the 11:00 AM worship service. Elijah is the infant son of Joshua and Kate Lynn. Godparents for Elijah are Paul and Marie Epstein. Please make an opportunity to celebrate Elijah's baptism with Joshua and Kate.



The Children's Easter Party will be held on **Saturday, April 4, at 10:00**. All children are invited to attend. All youth are invited to attend to hide Easter eggs. Lunch will be provided. Children are reminded to bring 6 boiled eggs for dyeing.

Easter Breakfast

The Easter Breakfast will be held between services on **Easter Sunday beginning at 9:00**. The breakfast will be prepared by Jimmy Lawton and helpers. A donation of \$5 per adult/ \$3 per child with a maximum total of \$15 per family is suggested. Following breakfast, the children of the church will decorate the cross with flowers. Children, make sure you bring flowers with you on Easter Sunday.



April 12 12:15 pm Planting of Easter Lilies in the church graveyard. Make sure to bring a change of clothes! Lunch will be provided. A \$4 donation per meal for lunch is suggested.



Music Notes...

Greetings!

I'd like to begin by thanking all St. John's members who helped prepare the reception and hosted students in their homes after the Hamilton College Choir concert on Monday, March 16. Under the baton of my mentor Dr. Rob Kolb, the 60-voice choir gave a wonderful concert of a sacred and secular cappella selections. It was such a joy for Jessica and me to have the choir from our tiny upstate New York alma mater down with us in Charleston for the third time (for those who haven't heard the story, Jessica and I met while singing in the Hamilton College Choir)! Thanks also to all those who attended the concert—your support of musical programs at St. John's is greatly appreciated!

I look forward to observing Holy Week and Easter with you once again. Our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are full of deep meaning, and our musical ensembles will do our best to add to the solemn reverence of these occasions. On Maundy Thursday, the Handbell Choir will play *O, How I Love Jesus* and the Chorale will sing the lovely Mozart classic motet *Ave verum corpus*. On Good Friday, we will feature Rosemary Serpa, our soprano section leader, singing *While You Prayed Beneath the Trees*, followed by the chorale singing the solemn Bach piece *Crucifixus*.

On Easter Sunday we leave the darkness of the grave behind as we celebrate with all our hearts Christ's Resurrection. A musical feast awaits for our 11AM service, including our annual Easter string quartet, the St. John's Children's choir, two pieces by our Handbell Choir, and four pieces from our Chorale, including Handel's rousing *Hallelujah Chorus*. Please join us for Easter services as I quite literally "pull out all the stops!"

I have begun making plans for the 8th Annual Summer at St. John's concert series. It's hard to believe the little series of summer concerts I started in 2008 is in its 8th year! Do you have an idea for a concert you'd like to see this summer in our beautiful church? Would you like to help coordinate a reception, serve as a greeter, or pass out programs? Do you have ideas about publicity, format, or feedback from past years to share? Please let me know—I want the series to be the best it can be! Best wishes for a joyful Easter season!

In music,

Todd

"Music in the soul can be heard by the universe." -Lao Tzu

John Bachman Society

On Sunday evening February 22, 2015 the Bachman Society held its first dinner to introduce the Society to our congregation. It was a wonderful evening. The Vestry hosted dinner with its members handling the set-up, serving as waiters and waitresses, helping in the kitchen and cleaning up afterward. David Thomasson, our chef-in-residence, prepared an outstanding dinner of prime rib, scalloped potatoes and winter vegetables. The highlight of the evening, however, was the presentation made by Rev. Dr. Ed Counts on the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. John Bachman. Bachman served our congregation for almost sixty years as pastor, while making numerous other significant contributions in the area of human rights and conservation.

The purpose of the Society is to encourage members to remember St. John's in their estate plans and final wishes. Our current endowment, which provides enough income each year to allow the church to offset the cost of our liability and property insurance, has grown over the years thanks to final gifts from many former members who have reached the Church Triumphant. The Vestry hopes many of us will consider continuing this tradition as part of our personal legacy to St. John's.

If you were unable to join us for dinner and would like to become a member of the Society, just call the church office and ask for the form that allows you to join the Society either in name or anonymously.

We ask that anyone interested turn their completed form into the office by April 30, so the founding members can be recognized. If you have any questions about the Society ask Dan Prickett, Vestry President, or Pastor David Butler. Either would be happy to provide you with more information.



2 Julian Monsell	12 Mary Muller
3 Jennifer Gnann	15 Joel Lake
4 Christy Smith	15 Lee Plate
5 Aline Smith	15 Tiffany Hoffman
5 Kenneth Nelson	19 Sheila Trayte
6 Denny McKeever	21 Chris Meany
6 Rick Fisher	23 Ellis Moore
6 Brooks Harken	24 Merrie Southgate
7 Ryan Tolley	25 Sheila Sines Thomasson
9 Jim Martin	25 Josh Littlejohn
9 Alexander Edwards	25 Parker Caldwell
10 Capers Poulnot	29 Tom Lackland
10 Peg McDowell	



Parking Consideration

Recently, Tom Springer spoke with the folks at Birlant's Antique Shop. Some of our members park in Birlant's lot on Sunday mornings. The owners of the lot welcome the congregants of St. John's use the lot on Sunday mornings. However, they ask that cars be moved immediately after the 11:00 service and to consider parking elsewhere on 2nd Sundays, in December, and during special community events when the store is open.

Organ Concert

Sunday, May 24, at 8 pm Michael Ging will hold an organ concert at Cathedral of St. John the Baptist as a part of L'organo Series of Piccolo Spoleto. No admission fee or reservation will be required. Michael served as a summer interim for St. John's Lutheran Church after Roy James Stewart left as our organist and choir director.



Congregational Concerns and Prayers

We remember in our prayers: Bobby Babson, Jack Doscher, Helen Gnann, Judy Greer, Nell Jones, Betty Lemacks, Joan Rigger, Margaret Stephens, 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 Hanson, John Lesemann, and Christopher Osgood.

Vestry Highlights

On Saturday, March 19, 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 February 2015 Minutes were approved as submitted.
- 3) The February 2015 Treasurer's Report was received as information.
- 4) Pastor Butler provided statistical data regarding the membership and attendance at St. John's and then recommended the Vestry approve a request from Jorie Ganser and Charles Reeves to hold their wedding at St. John's on November 21. Approved.
- 5) The Christian Education Committee reported on upcoming activities for the children and noted that first communion would be celebrated for five of our young people on Maundy Thursday.
- 6) The Finance Committee reported that the financial audit had been completed and we had received a clean audit with no items of concern or recommendations for change.
- 7) The Property Committee reported on a number of repairs that had been completed and that research was being done in regards to possibly replacing the oven/stove unit and the dishwasher.
- 8) The Social Ministry Committee provided the Vestry with the names of ministries and contribution amounts that had been disbursed during the first quarter of 2015.
- 9) The Worship and Music Committee reported on the condition of the Lutheran Book of Worship hymnals located in the church and requested permission to offer opportunity to the congregation to purchase new LBW for our use in worship. Cost is \$30 per hymnal. Approved.
- 10) The next Vestry Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16.

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

Committee Chairs		Vestry Officers	
Christian Education	Larry Kreyling Sheila Sines Thomasson	President	Dan Prickett
Endowment	Frickie Martschink	Vice President	Dan Lackland
Evangelism	Bryan Counts	Secretary	Gayle Hilton
Finance	Chris Antley	Treasurer	Anne Lake
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		

**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

Pastor	Rev. David Butler dbutler@stjohnscharleston.org	O: 843-723-2426 C: 843-810-8240
Office Manager	Carole 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	Jennifer Gnann jgnann@stjohnscharleston.org	O: 843-723-2426

**St. John's Lutheran Church
5 Clifford Street
Charleston, SC 29401**

Electronic Service Requested



Non-Profit Organ.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1288
Charleston, S.C.



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."