

THE HERALD

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Watercolor "Sunday Morning" by Mary Ingalls Cote

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I wonder how many of us know what our "Faith Potential or Faith Factor" really is. These terms address the importance our faith plays in all our decisions and in the daily living of our lives as Christians and followers of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. When there is a decision that needs to be made, do we involve our faith as one of the factors that help us make the decision? When something happens in our lives, do we call upon our faith to help us handle the situation? When we begin the day or end the day, do we begin and end with prayers that praise God for His goodness and presence with us throughout our day? "Faith Factor" is the importance faith plays in all aspects of our life. Is our "Faith Factor" active?

One of my favorite stories is the one where the lumberjack comes into the hardware store to buy a new ax and saw to help him cut down trees and chop wood. The salesman persuades the lumberjack to consider a chainsaw. The chainsaw, he says, will help him cut more wood than he has ever been able to previously imagine. So out the door he goes carrying a brand new chainsaw. Four days later he comes back to the hardware store demanding a refund. The salesman wants to know "Why? Didn't it help?" The dissatisfied lumberjack complains it didn't help him a bit. The first day he was only able to cut down one tree and one cord of wood. The second day he was only able to cut down one tree. And the third day he could only cut one cord of wood. He concludes by saying there must be something wrong with the saw. The salesman asks to see the saw. Taking the saw in his hands, he pulls on the cord and it starts right up. The lumberjack looks at the salesman and says, "Oh, I didn't know it cranked up."

I love that story because in so many ways it points out the limits we place on our lives and on the power of our faith by not allowing our faith and our Lord to do the things they promise to do for us. All too often we are trying to handle life and everything that comes with life without ever permitting our faith to guide and support us. The gift of faith is the gift of knowing that we have a God who loves us and promises always to be with us, even to the end of the ages. Faith assures us that

nothing can ever separate us from the God who created us and all that exists. Faith celebrates the joys of life with us and comforts us in our moments of sadness or fear or even doubt. Sometimes our faith is strong - sometimes it is not. But regardless of where your faith is at the moment, the best advice there is, is this: Just believe!

If any of us would like to start the engine of our faith, then we need to increase the “Faith Factor” that is a part of our lives. In theory it is not so hard, but in practice it might be a bit more difficult. If you want to increase your “Faith Factor,” increase the time you spend in prayer and praise of God and allow God to guide you through the seconds, moments, hours and days of your life. A simple beginning to increasing our “Faith Factor” would involve: beginning and ending your day in prayer; thinking through the events in your life within a framework that asks how God is present in the midst of this moment; taking your decisions (both large and small) to God, allowing Him to help you finalize them; and trusting God to keep His promises to always be present with you. You see, it doesn’t appear to be that difficult and it’s not - if you recognize your need to crank the engine of your faith and let it roar to your rescue. I hope each of us will consider growing our “Faith Factor” as we enjoy this life that God has blessed us with.

In Christ,
Pastor Butler +

St. John's is on Facebook!

Social Media. Everybody uses it. It's how we stay connected all the time and share updates about events and happenings in our life. And St. John's is on Facebook.

Check us out at: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsLutheran>

Catch up on the latest happenings, events and pictures by joining us on Facebook and becoming a follower. See you there.

MUSIC NOTES

Greetings!

I am just back from a week of professional development opportunities, which included a workshop for church musicians in Columbia. What a thrill to meet some of my favorite composers of organ and choral music, to participate in a hymn festival with John Ferguson (St. Olaf), to sing under the baton of Eric Nelson (Atlanta Master Chorale), and to meet church musicians from all over the Southeast!

In August the St. John Chorale will be enjoying its annual summer break. Please thank a Chorale member for his/her hard work and dedication in providing powerful, prayerful, and beautiful choral music for our services all year long—not to mention a wonderful concert at the end of July! During the Chorale’s break, congregation members can look forward to some special music each Sunday, featuring instrumentalists and vocalists alike.

The St. John’s Children’s Choir is reconvening for its second year! This group of St. John’s children in grades K-6 will begin on **Sunday August 23rd**, with weekly rehearsals Sunday mornings from 9:40-10:00 and performances in church every 4-6 weeks during the school year. At the first rehearsal on 8/23 all participating members and their parents will receive a schedule for the entire year to help with planning and also a learning CD which will contain every piece the group will be singing through May. I am looking forward to another wonderful year with these talented young singers!

The St. John Handbell Choir will resume on Wednesday, September 2, at 5:30 in the church balcony. This dedicated group of ringers performs at the 11AM service roughly once a month from September through April. This figures to be a great year as we will once again participate in the Lowcountry Handbell Workshop in Mt. Pleasant (early 2016). New members are warmly encouraged to join--with our scores colorfully marked,

the ability to read music is not a requirement! Please contact me if you wish to join!

The St. John Chorale will also resume on Wednesday, September 2, beginning right after handbells at 6:15 in the choir room. All those who love to sing and “make a joyful noise to the Lord” are welcome—please contact me if you wish to join us! Best wishes for an enjoyable end to your summer!

In music,

Todd

toddmonsell@gmail.com

Music Quotation of the Month:

“If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music.” --Albert Einstein

Congregational Concerns and Prayers

We remember in our prayers: Jack Doscher, Natalie Fisher, Betty Lemacks, Bessie Lesemann (Franke), Jeff Nadzak, Peggy Rugheimer, Gina Snell, Margaret Stephens, Cele West, all those who are infirm and recovering from illnesses and our members who have experienced losses of loved ones. We especially remember those murdered at Emmanuel AME church and that congregation as they grieve this terrible loss.

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. 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, Joseph Gibbons Clark, Mark Evans, Ryan Hanson, John Lesemann, and Christopher Osgood.

Updating and Re-Publishing the St. John’s Lutheran Church Membership Directory

Directory Entry Name and Contact Information

On designated Sundays in May, the Evangelism Committee displayed hard copies of the current St. John’s Church Membership Directory in the church and Parish Hall and directed members to update their address and contact information as needed. If you did not have an opportunity to review and update your entry, please contact the church office to provide any updates, or otherwise, verify that the current information is correct. Also, if you are a newer church member and unsure if your information has been added to the directory, contact the church office to verify. The church office can be contacted via email at: info@stjohnscharleston.org or by calling Carole Jordan at 723-2426. Information that may be included in the directory: name(s) including children in the household, address, home phone number, cell phone number(s) and email address(es).

Directory Photographs

Photograph Opportunity Schedule

Before and after church services in July, the Evangelism Committee initiated the process of taking new photographs of church members to use in our updated St. John’s Church Membership Directory. If you / your family have not had a chance to have a new picture taken, we will continue to take pictures each Sunday during August. Pictures will be taken **after** the 8:30 am service and **before** the 11:00 am service. Also, if you are “shutter bug” and can assist with taking pictures at either service, please contact Bryan Counts: countsbc@musc.edu or 843-860-6470.



August 1	Will Meany	August 11	Angela Dalton
August 2	Caroline Gamble	August 12	Marie Tabor
August 2	Brianna Greer	August 18	Jim Hoffman
August 2	Cameron Monsell	August 20	Richard Luden
August 3	Derek Counts	August 23	Marc Marchant
August 3	Lynn Haltiwanger	August 24	Kristen Clasen
August 5	Judy Burges	August 24	Kimberley Wertan
August 5	Stephen Spaulding	August 25	John Thomas
August 5	Analia Williams	August 26	Heyward Fisher
August 6	Owen Antley	August 26	Cheryl Kostanesky
August 6	Kate Lynn	August 27	Tate Mikell
August 6	Jane Pelland	August 28	Bob Greer
August 6	Henry Siegling, Jr.	August 29	Garrett Altvater
August 8	Shirley Kreyling	August 29	Van Kinnett
August 9	Erica Lybrand	August 30	Carl Ehmann
August 10	Kelly Gosnell Hund	August 31	Christine Kinnett



South Carolina Lutheran Youth Convention News

On June 18, 2015 the Youth Ministry Cabinet met at Newberry College to prepare for the LCY Convention. The young leaders wanted to do something in response to the shooting at Emanuel AME Church. The following resolution was passed:

Resolution Against Racial Injustice

WHEREAS the population in South Carolina is approximately 65% white and 35% other races/ethnic groups;

AND WHEREAS ON June 17, 2015, 9 people were martyred at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC because of the color of their skin;

AND WHEREAS we, as children of God, are called to Rise Up Together and befriend ALL of our neighbors in their every need...

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lutheran Church Youth organization of the South Carolina Synod, ELCA urges all of its members to continue to

- Stand in support of inclusiveness, embracing diversity, and loving all through Christ;
- Participate with leaders in our schools and communities to enact and enforce policies of equality without regard to race or ethnicity;
- Reach out to and pray for the victims AND wrongdoers to show them the love of Christ is everlasting; and
- Look for outreach opportunities in all Christian churches to grow together in the body of Christ.

Drafted by the following youth at the 2015 LCY Convention:

- + Peri Baker, 2015 LCY Convention Voting Member
- + David Cook, 2015 LCY Convention Participant
- + Cherilyn Heintz, 2015-2016 LCY Chaplain, SCLCY Executive Council
- + Ally McDonough, 2015-2016 9th & 10th Grade Representative, SCLCY Executive Council
- + Ryan Welsh, 2015 LCY Convention Voting Member

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Resolution Against Racial Injustice was passed by the Voting Members of the 2015 Annual Convention of the Lutheran Church Youth of the South Carolina Synod, ELCA, this 20th day of June by unanimous decision.

It is the further will of this body that this resolution be used to promote racial justice, diversity, and equality by disseminating it to the SC Synod of the ELCA and its congregations, the ELCA, the SC state legislative bodies, and other bodies where it may have a positive impact on discussions and calls to action

Rally Day, Promotion Sunday, Guest Choir

Wow! Can you believe it's time for a new Sunday School year? Believe it or not, it's that time! On August 30th join us in the social hall at 9:45 AM for a light breakfast and an exciting visit from a renowned guest choir that will help us kick off our new classes and new year. This choir is composed of quite a few characters that will bring to us a new way to see and enjoy music, even as they share their comments and thoughts on how exciting and cool Sunday School really can be. Don't miss this exciting beginning to a new year as we learn about God's love for us and all His children around the world.

Remember: food, fun, music and excitement!

Join us Sunday, August 30 at 9:45 AM

Church Bells Rang on June 21st

Dear Members,

Thank you for your participation in the chime of solidarity for those who lost their lives at Mother Emanuel AME church. Uniting our community during this difficult time with the ringing of the bells brought a message of hope to so many. The Charleston area is a special place indeed.

Respectfully,

The Thankful Members and Staff
at the Charleston Area Convention And Visitor Bureau

Social Ministry News!

St. John's Social Ministry Committee will soon begin working with Star Gospel Mission. On August 12 the Committee will prepare an evening meal on-site at Star Gospel Mission. Then, future dates will be established and other groups and individuals at St. John's will have the opportunity to meet the men who reside there as we share a meal with them. This ministry is a replacement for the ministry we once shared with Crisis Ministries Center. Contact Dan Marchant, George Galante, or Karen Moore for additional information.



Memorials for Richard Fulmer

Ted and Becky Boland

Memorials for Frank Gerard, Sr.

Doris Gerard

Memorials for Nell Jones

Lynn and Diane Bean, Billy and Joy Cornwell, Ronald Fulmer, Sr., Tom and Sally Fulmer, Doris Gerard, Mark and Carole Jordan, Barbara Tamsberg

Memorials for Armee Sadler

Tommy and Martha Harken

Memorials for Jane Siegling

Fred and Gail Auld, III, Lynn and Diane Bean, Solomon Blatt, Jr., Richard and Missy Blocker, Vincent and Sharon Bouronich, Vernon and Brenda Brannen, Deborah Bussey, Earl Butler, Dolly Cannon, Fletcher and Bosie Carter, Billy and Joy Cornwell, James Duckett, Jr., Jervy and Ann Dupré, Carl and Elaine Ehmann, Joseph Eigner, Jr., Ronald Fulmer, Sr., Tom and Sally Fulmer, Doris Gerard, Robert Henderson, Mark and Carole Jordan, Eddie and Fiona Kornahrens, John and Jan Kyle, James Lockemy, Dan and Lynda Marchant, Tommy and Margaret McIntosh, Dolores Nelson, Old Guard of the City of New York, Lonnie and Carolyn Parler, John Perrill, Capers and Sandra Poulnot, Joel and Joan Rigter, Jon and Jane Scott, William and Charlotte Shackelford, Hubert and Joye Shuler, Barbara Siegling, David and Sheila Sines Thomasson, Johnny and Cameron Stuhr, Barbara Tamsberg, Paul and Weegie Taylor, James and Mary Ellen Towles, Earl and Susan Walker, Wells Fargo Bank/Meeting Street, Wilbur Wise

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

Staff

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	C: 843-513-3050
Director of Christian Education/Youth	Vacant	

Vestry Officers

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

Vestry Members

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

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