

Let's connect faith and life *together*

“State of the Church” to be Held May 17

This year's State of the Church is a follow-up to last year's highly successful event. Held on Wednesday, May 17, at 5:30 pm, the event provides time for honest conversation about the “state” of St. John's, our opportunities and challenges.

“We want to be honest with one another,” says Pastor Rhodes. “The state of the church is very, very good, but we want to take the challenges we face with great seriousness.”

The dinner event is again being catered by Ott Pinkston. Although there is no charge, there will be a free will offering basket to help defray expenses.

Invitations will be mailed in early May, along with other attempts to reach out to every member of the congregation.

“The idea is that we gather around the table as a family,” adds Pastor Rhodes. “That's where we hear the family story. It's where we celebrate our joys and accept our challenges. But it's important that as much of the family as possible is present.”

The program includes three parts. The first is a follow-up to last year's conversation about stewardship, a conversation that set the stage for the congregation's largest increase in giving in years.

The second part of the program is the introduction to the newly implemented Sustainability Plan. The Plan was 2 1/2 years in the making and offers a roadmap for ministry as much as 25 years into the future.

The third part of the program includes some announcements about Phase 2 of the G2G Campaign. Members have been eager to hear about Phase 2. The G2G

Executive Committee will share an update about the timeline and scope of work.

Phase 1 of the G2G project was completed in the fall of 2015 and included the addition of the Faith Center, renovation of the education building, and acquisition of the Community Ministry Center (CMC).

Phase 2 focuses on the renovation of the sanctuary building, in particular the fellowship hall and kitchen and the addition of handicap accessible restrooms on the sanctuary level.

Join us on May 17!



Inside this *Eagle's View*

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From the pastor



Dear friends,

Every time I walk past our stairwell a tiny little “ding” is heard. It’s faint, and I’ve gotten used to it for the most part.

It comes from an antique telephone Krista brought from her mom’s house last month, the kind I first saw on the Waltons, with a crank and a separate ear piece. It’s classic.

Following the death of Krista’s dad last September, Krista’s mom, Joan, decided to move out of their spacious log home and into a two bedroom condo. She downsized, which meant that we now have a number of little treasures like that phone ... and a small chalkboard that hung in their basement ... and an old flintlock gun that looks like something Aaron Burr would have used in his fateful duel.

Although we’re proud to own these keepsakes, it’s hard for me to place them outside that old log house where they’ve lived these last 30 years. It’s where we’ve celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas ever since I met Krista. It’s that place of quiet retreat that always smelled like a combination of Roger’s workshop, a wood burning stove, and the warm, muskiness of barley and hops.

I’m not sure who will miss that house more, but I know my name is on that list. The night time was the best, with no ambient light or noise for miles around. Sleeping

in was assumed, as was a quiet walk down the stairs if you were the first one up.

There was nothing fancy about the house — or life in the house — although it was as sturdy and well built as you’ve ever seen. Krista’s dad built it from scratch, after all. Their dream home. A home for all of us.

But things change and life moves on. Families aren’t confined to four walls, after all, and the practical side of taking care of property and appliances and cleaning eventually wins out. It was time to move.

Joan is now finding a new normal as she transitions into a different home and a changed routine. The large picture window in her bedroom helps, perfectly placed so that she wakes up every morning to the sun rising over Lake Keowee. The dawn of a new day.

Which is precisely what all this is, for each of us: the dawn of a new day. Different, sure, but each day kissed with the beauty of newness and grace.

“I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made the heavens and the earth” (Psalm 121).

I have no idea where we’ll hang that old telephone, but we’ll find a place. And in time it will become part of its new home, a constant fixture whose “ding” seems to announce that “all is well.”

Blessings to you and yours,
Pastor Rhodes

Henry Trexler to Retire as Scoutmaster after 36 Years

By Susan Shinn Turner

Longtime Scoutmaster, Henry Trexler, retired from Troop 443 on April 30.

During his tenure at St. John's, some 120 young men attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Henry joined Troop 443 in 1959 as a Cub Scout. He earned his Eagle in 1968, the same year he became an adult leader. He has served as Scoutmaster since 1981.

"He has been a well-loved, appreciated member and friend of our troop and the Central NC Council," says Dee Ann Vincent, one of Troop 443's nine assistant Scoutmasters.

Henry's list of Scouting accomplishments is extensive. Among his awards: American Legion Scoutmaster of the Year, District Award of Merit, James E. West Award, Lutheran Church Lamb Award, two-time Scoutmaster of the Year, two-time Webelos Leader of the Year, William T. Hornaday Gold Adult Award

He has also camped more than 2,000 days and nights, although he stopped counting in 2010. He has completed 19 historic trail hikes, completed 22 Salisbury Historic Trail

hikes, received 14 50-mile hiking awards, attended the National Jamboree eight times, been whitewater canoeing as an adult leader 13 times and whitewater rafting 47 times. He attended summer camp at Camp John J. Barnhardt for 50 years.

Henry followed his parents, Lamar and Ellen, into scouting. Lamar was Scoutmaster at St. John's from 1970 to 1981.

"His mom and dad were some of the biggest and best Scouting people in the district, there's no doubt about that," says Dave Roof, St. John's Cubmaster. "Scouting's always been a part of their family. Henry's gonna leave a big hole at the troop, district and council level. He was always the go-to guy. If you needed something done, you'd call Henry, and he'd take care of it."

On April 22, Henry received the Outstanding Eagle Scout Award from the National Eagle Scout Association at the Eagle Conclave at Great Wolf Lodge.

St. John's and Troop 443 are planning a retirement celebration in Henry's honor on May 28 at the 11 am worship service. Congratulations, Henry, and best wishes in your retirement!



In 2016, Troop 443 celebrated its 90th anniversary and recognized 11 new Eagle Scouts, bringing the total number of Eagle Scouts to 150 in 90 years. Henry Trexler (front) stands with the new Eagle Scouts.

Children's and Youth Ministry

Kingdom Kids & EPIC

3 years old—5th grade youth group calendar

**Please note no Kingdom Kids or EPIC after April 12 until the Fall.*

The Well

6th-8th grade youth group calendar

May 7: Confirmation, 5:30 pm

May 21: Confirmation, 5:30 pm

FUEL

9th-12th grade youth group Calendar

May 7: Youth Group, 5:30 pm

May 21: Youth Sunday Worship, 8:30, 9:27, 11
Youth Group, 5:30 pm

5th Grade Milestone – First Communion

Since March, our fifth graders and their families have been gathering together for an in-home study about Communion. This is a special opportunity for Students and parents to learn about the sacrament and its central role in a Christian's life. On April 29 the families came together for First Communion Family Day, highlighted by a trip to Pottery 101 where they decorated the chalice they will use for their First Communion.



First Communion Sunday is May 7th at the 11am Worship Service. Please join us in praying for our fifth grade families as they prepare for their child's first communion.

VBS Registration Now Open!



July 31 to August 4

9 am—12:30 pm

Ages 3 years old to 5th grade

To register, visit stjohns-salisbury.org and click on the VBS home slider

At Maker Fun Factory VBS, kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God! Kids will have the opportunity to experience God – the ultimate Maker – in new and wildly creative ways! Sciency-Fun Gizmos™, games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since

everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings.

For more information or questions, please contact Lauren Thurow at lauren@stjohns-salisbury.org

Donation Request: We are in need of packing materials for a VBS activity that will fill lots of GUTSY Bears. Packing peanuts, shredded paper, etc, will go a long way! Donations can be dropped off at the church.

1st Grade Milestone

Students explore The Lord's Prayer

We were excited to celebrate a wonderful milestone with the first graders and their families at St John's – *Exploring the Lord's Prayer*. Milestones are special events that teach our children – and their parents – different faith practices in environments that are fun and memorable.

On April 6th, we learned the Lord's Prayer together through a "hexagon" shape. With the help of their families, our first graders made a hexagon pillow to help them remember the different parts of the Lord's

Prayer. We give a special thank you to GeoRene Jones who will be sewing their pillow together!

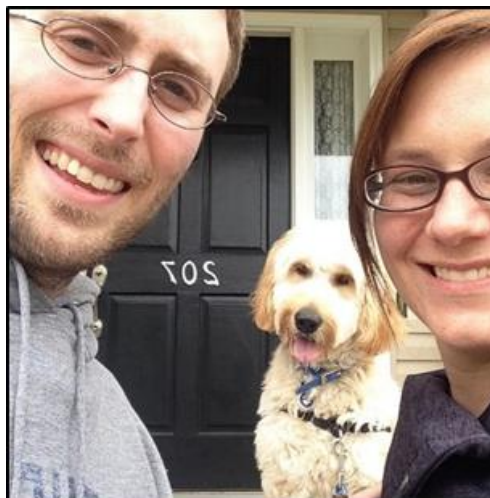
Our first graders are now working on memorizing the Lord's Prayer with their families. Once they have learned it, they will start leading the Lord's Prayer for worship in the fall! Please join us in praying for our first graders and their families as they walk together in Christ.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to the youth group, their families, and the congregation who have graciously supported and prayed for us as we purchased and moved into our first home. After renting small apartments for so long, we are thrilled to finally have a house that we can call our own. We feel so loved and greatly appreciate all of the house warming gifts!

We are truly blessed to be here and lucky to be part of this wonderful faith family!



A Reformation Primer

In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we will offer a special feature entitled “A Reformation Primer.”

In the monthly article we’ll take a look at some of the intriguing stories and personalities of the Reformation. Articles include:

February: A Reformation time-line

March: Little known stories of Martin Luther

April: Katie Luther, the nun who became Luther’s wife

May: The Luther family. Who were Martin and Katie Luther’s children?

June: Luther’s latter years — conflict and agony

July: The Reformation in context — Why is it considered one of the five most significant events of the millennia?

August: Philip Melancthon — Luther’s indispensable side-kick

September: The little town of Wittenberg — How an other-wise unknown town became the center of the Reformation

October: Luther’s year in exile — Luther’s year of hiding in Wartburg Castle changed the course of history.

November: “What makes a Lutheran a Lutheran?”

December: Luther’s Christmas traditions

A Brief History of the Luther Children

Luther and Katie had six children: Hans (June 7, 1526), Elizabeth (December 10, 1527), Magdalene (May 4, 1529), Martin (November 9, 1531), Paul (January 29, 1533, and Margaret (December 17, 1534). Elizabeth died as an infant in August 1528. Magdalene died in her early teens in 1542. Their home was noted for its liveliness and its happiness.

In addition to their own children, Luther and Katherine had numerous other people living in their home with them. Katherine’s aunt, Lena, lived with them for many years. They helped raise eight orphaned nieces and nephews and provided lodging for various tutors, exiled clergymen, escaped nuns, government officials and visitors, university colleagues and many students. Many meals were eaten with as many as twenty-five at the table! All visitors were expected to take part in family customs, devotions, and prayer.

For recreation the Luthers enjoyed a bowling lane of sorts in their garden, board games such as chess, and music. They had a pet dog. They grew much of their own food in a small garden at the Black Cloister and then later as a farm outside Wittenberg.

Luther and Katie were diligent parents, disciplining their children, but doing so in love. Luther commented once to Justus Jonas children were the “best gifts of God,” and lamented that so many parents seemed to overlook and ignore them.

Luther prepared his *Small Catechism* with parents and children in mind. He used it diligently within his own home. He also wrote hymns for his children to share with them the

wonders of the gospel. The well-known Christmas hymn, *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, was written by Luther for his children.

While away from Wittenberg at the time of the Diet of Augsburg, Luther wrote his son a charming letter describing heaven as a pleasant garden filled with delightful activities for faithful boys and girls.

Luther and Katherine provided a wonderful example of genuine love and biblical family life! For this we can be truly thankful!

By Pastor Paul D. Nolting, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minnesota



The Breakfast of Champions

SJ Benefits Guatemala Food Program

By Paula Bohland

Many children who attend La Escuela Integrada live in homes that are so impoverished, they do not have food to eat. In response to this issue, the school provides two meals and snacks for the children so that they may have overcome the long-lasting issues related to malnutrition and start the day better able to learn.



For several years, the children have received a meal called "Atol" for most breakfast meals. Atol is a hot beverage made from corn flour. The school supplemented this with a protein supplement. The children

then receive bread and a piece of fruit later in the morning. This breakfast is adequate but it certainly could be improved.

At this year's supporter's gathering in Guatemala, a decision was made to provide more food and a complete break-

fast for all the students.

The breakfast menus rotate and include items such as eggs, ham, tortillas, beans, oatmeal, fruit and milk for the children as they arrive to school.



Importantly, the parents of the students are taking turns preparing the meals for the students as part of their service to assist the school. This action allowed the school to provide augmented meals without the overhead of hiring additional staff.

Unfortunately items such as fruit, cereal, ham and milk are expensive in Antigua, Guatemala. However, the benefits far outweigh the costs. Both the children and the school staff are very excited that this change has occurred.

Paula is the Executive Director of La Escuela Integrada and a member of St. John's. For more information about the school and/or to contribute to the food program, visit wearegraces.org.

Food Program Fundraiser is May 6

On May 6th, Blowin Smoke (a company owned by St. John's member Jack Moore) will be using their renowned Blowing Smoke sauce to assist GRACES in putting on a BBQ fundraiser. Jack has personally offered to assist in cooking the BBQ, too (thanks, Jack!).

Children attending La Escuela Integrada are served two meals a day at school. Without this food, many of them would simply not have anything to eat. The funds raised from this event will go to support the children to continue to receive nutritious meals while attending school.

Plan to come and feed your family while you also feed some the kids in Guatemala! The fundraiser will be held in front of Mean Mug Coffee Company at 1024 S. Fulton Street. Plates will be \$8.00, we will start serving at 11 am and go until 4pm or when we run out so plan to come early! If you are interested in purchasing a butt, please text Paula Bohland so we can put you on the list at 704 640-6144.

Worship and Music Ministry

Rob Durocher: 704.636.3431
rob@stjohns-salisbury.org

Rosemary Kinard: 704.637.7584
rosemary@stjohns-salisbury.org

Kimberly Lentz: 704.637.6830
lentzke@carolina.rr.com

Bradley Chestnut: 843.465.2049
bradley@stjohns-salisbury.org

Chancel Choir

Rob Durocher

This 40 voice choir helps to lead worship at the 11:00 service each Sunday of the year. The choir rehearses each Wednesday evening from 7:15-8:45, with a well-deserved break during portions of the summer.

SJ Women's Ensemble

Rob Durocher

Our newest ensemble rehearses on Sunday afternoons and sings on occasion during the 11:00 worship service.

SJ Men's Chorus

Rosemary Kinard

The Men's Chorus 22nd Annual Spring Concert will be on Sunday, May 21st at 4:00 p.m. in the St. John's Sanctuary. If you would like to join The Men's Chorus, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Rosemary Kinard or Rob Durocher.

Chapel Singers

Deanna Boksleitner

The Chapel Singers will gather at 7:50 am on Sunday, May 7, in the chapel to rehearse that Sunday's anthem for that morning's 8:30 am chapel service. The Chapel Singers sing on the first Sunday of each month.

Handbells

Kimberly Lentz

Two handbell choirs perform throughout the year at the 11 am worship services. For more information about either choir, contact our director, Kimberly Lentz.

Trinity Singers and Ringers

Rosemary Kinard

The Singers and Ringers are rehearsing for the Ninth Annual Joint Y-Wonders- Trinity Oaks Concert on June 11 at 3:00 pm at Trinity Oaks. The Trinity Singers and Ringers will again join with the Y-Wonders, directed by Kathy Norris, to present a gala concert of music for choirs and hand chimes.

The Trinity Singers rehearse each Thursday morning at 10:15 am in the Special Events Room at Trinity Oaks. The Trinity Ringers rehearse each Thursday morning at 11 am. Anyone who is age 60 or older is cordially invited to join either (or both) of these groups.

St. John's Flute Group

Rosemary Kinard

The John's Flute Group will provide Prelude music for the 11:00 Worship Service on Mother's Day, May 14th. If you are interested in joining the group, or if you have questions, please contact Rosemary Kinard at 704-637-7584 or e-mail rosemary@stjohns-salisbury.org .

9:27 Worship Team

Bradley Chestnut

Rehearsals will continue in the Faith Center on Thursdays at 6 pm throughout the rest of the year.

Interested in being a part of the team? Contact our 9:27 worship leader, Bradley Chestnut, at Bradley@stjohns-salisbury.org.



Norman Sloop, Dennis Rogers, and Gary Taylor are part of the 40 voice Chancel Choir. The choir leads worship each Sunday at 11:00. Be sure to ask about their experience singing at Carnegie Hall!

Worship and Music Ministry

St. John's Men's Chorus Spring Concert

Honoring Rosemary Kinard upon her Retirement

The St. John's Lutheran Church Men's Chorus will present its 22nd Annual Spring Benefit Concert, **GRACE!!** on Sunday, May 21, 2017, at 4 pm in the sanctuary of St. John's Lutheran Church in downtown Salisbury. The Inner Voices (an auditioned ensemble of Men's Chorus members) will also perform.

The Men's Chorus was founded in 1994 by Rosemary C. Kinard, who has announced her retirement as Director of the group following this concert. She will continue in her position as Associate Parish Musician at St. John's Lutheran Church, working with Rob Durocher, Minister of Music, who will be featured as organist, synthesizer, and guest pianist in the concert. Janie R. Rollins, who has served as the Men's Chorus accompanist for many years, will again lend her inimitable pianistic skills to this concert. Instrumentalists will include Michelle Trivette, saxophone; Kevin Agner, cello; Daniel Trivette, percussion; a brass trio including Bill Lawing and Chris Fensom, trumpets, and Aleksandr Witt, trombone; and the Classic Ringers Handbell Choir, directed by Kimberly Lentz.

GRACE!! will feature many selections for male voices, celebrating the many ways in which grace is present in our lives. It will include many familiar spirituals and gospel songs, and will spotlight several innovative arrangements of "Amazing Grace," which happens to be the director's favorite gospel song! The audience will also join the Men's Chorus and instrumentalists in singing two favorite hymns: "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer," and in recognition of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, a new and powerful setting of Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress."



During the concert, the audience will be invited to contribute to a special offering for The Community Care Clinic. This benefit performance is free and open to the public, and a nursery for children will be provided.

Upcoming: *Mark your calendars now!*



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| May 21, 4 pm | The St. John's Men's Chorus Spring Concert |
| September 23, 7 pm | The Salisbury Symphony and Chorus will present Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony as part of the St. John's Reformation500 celebration. |
| October 18-24 | St. John's and the Piedmont Players present "In God's Own Country," a story of Henry Muhlenberg and the birth of the Lutheran church in America. The play is presented by a 20+ person professional theater company in Germany. |



The 78 member Salisbury Symphony will perform at St. John's on September 23 as part of our Reformation500 series.

Our Lutheran Institutions

Agape Camp is Coming to St. John's!



Agape is a Lutheran camp near Raleigh, but on Saturday, June 10, they're bringing camp to us! Agape is coming to St. John's for a one day camp for all 1st-5th graders on Saturday, June 10, from 9:00-3:00. And here's the best part: it's free! So bring your friends and get ready for a great day of fun and craziness! Register by contacting Kai Thurow, kai@stjohns-salisbury.org, or register online at stjohns-salisbury.org.

Agape is an overnight summer camp for kids in grades 1-12 with a wide variety of week-long programs to match any interest level. The camp also manages the Kure Beach retreat center, the Lutheran church's only beach front retreat facility, located in the beautiful Kure Beach area.

For more information about Agape, visit agapekurebeach.org.

Joy in the Journey: Celebrate LSC Senior Services



Bible studies, art and exercise classes, and group outings are just a few examples of the life-enriching activities that occur during a typical day at a senior living community or adult day program of Lutheran Services Carolinas. These activities bring joy to the lives of the older adults trusted to LSC's care. Caregivers also find joy through LSC in the moments of rest and support they receive from in-home care staff and care

management services.

Nearly 4,000 individuals benefited from LSC's senior services ministries in 2016. This would not have been possible without the continued prayers, donations, and volunteer work from congregations across North Carolina. Take time throughout the month of May to celebrate the LSC senior services ministry as well as the older adults within your own congregation. Thank you for your continued partnership in service and for sharing your joy with LSC!

Seniors Retreat at Lutheridge October 6-8



Lutheridge's 50Forward ministry is sponsoring its 2nd annual "Living Well" Retreat at Lutheridge October 6-8, 2017. The retreat is designed for folks 50+ who are eager for good fellowship, a beautifully restful time-away, and fun but challenging presentations. This year's LIVING WELL retreat focuses on humor. Workshops will include Editorial Cartoons, Tapping into the Healing of Humor, Laughter Yoga, Improv & Alzheimer's...and others. Gather a group of your 50Forward friends and come to explore the power and promise of this amazing gift of God. Visit lutheridge.com for more information.

Did you know that the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA partners with 6 Lutheran institutions: Lutheran Services Carolinas (senior care, family services, and immigrant/refugee resettlement), NovusWay (a camping and conference ministry with locations near Asheville, Boone, and Atlanta), Lenoir-Rhyne University, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Agape-Kure Beach Ministries, and the Twin Lakes Retirement Community in Burlington. The Synod, founded in 1802 at St. John's, is grouping of 199 Lutheran congregations throughout North Carolina. For more information, visit nclutheran.org.

Around the Congregation

Womens' recent GIFT event was a Big Hit!

Some thoughts from the GIFT Women's event in April:

"Attending the GIFT kick-off was a great way to meet and converse with new and old friends. I enjoyed spending the evening worshipping with one another. It was eye-opening to realize that there are so many women right around you that can connect with what is going on within your life -- you just have to ask and open up. I look forward to all the future GIFT events ... even if I didn't win a door prize!"

Molly Connell



Join Mike Connor in Palestine!

As reported in last month's Eagles View, Mike Connor is spending three months in Palestine as an international Ecumenical Accompanier. Because he has been asked not to post to social media, you can follow Mike's journeys by signing up to receive his emails filled with stories and an occasional picture.

Email Mike at mrconnor1982@gmail.com.

SJ's Environmental Sustainability Program takes next step: LED lighting

In our continued effort to be good stewards of our environment, the Property Committee has started replacing all conventional lighting with far more efficient LED lighting throughout the campus.

Improved product design and reduced costs gave the green light to the program, along with a cost savings initiative from Duke Energy. A recent energy audit shows that LED lighting offers savings of 80% per year over the existing setup.

"In all that we do with our facility decisions, we're trying to look through the lens of good environmental stewardship," says Jon Koppe, Facilities Manager. "It's just the right thing to do."

The LED lighting project joins two other sustainability projects recently implemented at St. John's: the solar panel project and the elimination of all Styrofoam on campus.

Donate to the St. John's Tent Village at Lutheridge

St. John's has been asked to raise \$50,000 to fund a new platform tent village at Lutheridge. The church has already received \$20,000 towards the project.

Adding the four elevated tree-house style platform tents will serve the camp's High School Outdoor Adventure Program in several ways:

- The Outdoor Adventure Program at Lutheridge has grown during the past 15 years, outgrowing the four platform tents already in place. The new tent village will give the program more room to grow in the coming summers.
- Adding the tent village will free up cottages to increase Lutheridge's growing adult and family programming.

- The new elevated tent village will have a "wow" factor, much like the new pool, attracting campers and helping retain current campers. Any commitments over \$50,000 will go toward remodeling restrooms in Lakeside Lodge.

A group of six St. John's members is serving as the steering team for the project. They are Mike and Sharon Edwards, Harrison Parrott, Dave Roof, Cora Shinn, and Anna Grace Woolly. Although a more formal campaign will be held later this year, donations can be directed to the project even now.

For more information about Lutheridge, visit their website, www.lutheridge.com.



Around the church and community

Cheerwine's 100th Birthday Party is May 20

Cheerwine's outdoor Centennial Celebration will celebrate "all things Carolina" with a NC BBQ competition, local food, independent bands and more. The celebration will be May 20 in downtown Salisbury.

Attendees can expect to enjoy free Cheerwine and commemorative coozies, limited edition Cheerwine merchandise, live music from Time Sawyer, Gyth Ridgon, Empire Strikes Brass, Acoustic Syndicate and Roomful of Blues, and a People's Choice BBQ Competition (noon-2pm).



LG Peeler, a member of St. John's, created Cheerwine in 1917 amid a sugar shortage in WW1. Cheerwine remains a family-owned business, with LG's great grandson, Cliff Ritchie, also a member of St. John's, currently leading the company.

8th Annual Sculpture Show Returns

St. John's is proud to host "Astral Projection" as part of the annual Salisbury Sculpture Show. To the right, artist Ray Katz from Michigan helps to install this year's piece at the corner of South Fulton and West Innes streets, next to our CDC.

The show has drawn interest from UNC-TV and *Our State* magazine and has helped to build Salisbury's reputation as a community of first class arts and culture.



Help Needed for South Sudan

Right now, more than seven million people need humanitarian assistance in South Sudan because of the ravages of civil war, drought, and government instability. The ELCA is poised to respond to this need. Through our long-standing relationships in the region, we are prepared to accompany communities through food distribution, water and sanitation, and psychosocial support.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response are critical to implementing this work. Together, we can provide life-saving aid to our brothers and sisters in South Sudan when they need it most. Because the ELCA covers all administrative costs, every dollar that you give will go to direct relief assistance. Give through your offering to St. John's (mark "South Sudan Relief") or give directly to LDR by googling "Lutheran Disaster Response."



Around the congregation

Pastor Danielle to Lead Lutheranism 101 beginning May 3

“What is a Lutheran?” “What distinguishes a Lutheran church from other Christian churches?”

If you’re having a hard time answering that question — and don’t feel left out because many are! — then you need to join us for Lutheranism 101: Basics of the Lutheran Church.

A larger and larger number of folks are joining the church from non-Lutheran backgrounds. Many others haven’t wrestled with basic Lutheran theology in years. That’s why

Lutheranism 101 matters. In this 3 week class, Pastor Danielle will unpack the basics of Lutheran theology and practice. The class will be held on May 3, 10, and 17 from 7:00-8:00.

Lutheranism 101 is the beginning course of our Lutherism series. Lutheranism 201 unpacks the Apostles Creed. In Lutheranism 301 we dive into the Ten Commandments.

Join us on May 3!

Senior Seasons Spring Gathering is May 9

Our Senior Adult ministry will host a spring gathering on Tuesday, May 9, from 11 am to 1 pm in the fellowship hall. Come enjoy fellowship, good food, and hear from former Salisbury Mayor, Susan Kluttz, who will share her recent experiences as Secretary of the NC Department of Cultural and Natural Resources. Mayor Kluttz is Salisbury’s longest serving mayor (1997-2011) and was recognized with the Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award from the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce.

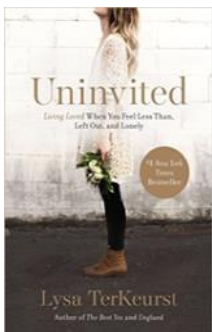
Contact Carolyn Byrd for more information about our ministry with senior adults: carolyn@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Health Care Ministry Team Says “Thank You”

The Health Care Ministry Team would like to thank all who participated in the 2017 walk ... Road to Reformation! We hope the 12 weeks of exercise helped you develop a good habit to continue through the year. A total of 61 participants collectively walked a total of 8,536.42 miles! Special thanks to Cyndii Owen for guiding us through Germany and inspiring us with facts about Martin Luther, and to Gerrie Blackwelder for the thought-provoking mid-week devotions.

Handicapped Parking Spaces Available

A reminder that the parking area between the sanctuary and education building is reserved for elderly and handicapped parking on Sunday mornings and for all other congregation-wide activities (Lenten worship, meals, etc).



Book of the Month

Uninvited, by Lysa TerKeurst

The enemy wants us to feel rejected . . . left out, lonely, and less than. In *Uninvited*, Lysa shares her own deeply personal experiences of rejection--from the perceived judgment of the perfectly toned woman one elliptical over to the incredibly painful childhood abandonment by her father. She leans in to honestly examine the roots of rejection, as well as rejection's ability to poison relationships from the inside out, including our relationship with God.

14 Families Participate in Financial Peace University

By Susan Shinn Turner

Financial Peace University, held January 26-March 23 at St. John's, was a resounding success for participants. At the conclusion of the nine-week course, 14 families had saved \$25,660, paid off \$21,358 in non-mortgage debt, and cut up 16 credit cards.

"We really enjoyed it," says Sandy Buechler, who took the course with her husband, Troy, and their two children, Abby, 16, and Ty, 12. "We have done a portion of Dave Ramsey before, but we hadn't done the Financial Peace workshop. We really wanted our children to go through it, and we wanted to reinforce and get a bigger picture of what we were already doing."

Now Ty asks his mom before purchases, "Are you sure that's in our budget?"

That's been the case with Stacey Shafer, too.

"I wanted to take the Financial Peace class because I was tired of being stressed about money all the time," she says. She and her husband, Aaron, have three children, Grace, Grant and Gabriel. "Now we do our budget more as a family. The money envelopes have really helped lessen the stress. They help give you a better idea of what you're spending and where."

The course suggests putting money in envelopes after payday for bills, meals, entertainment, incidentals, etc. The theory is that it's harder to spend actual cash than swiping a debit or credit card.

"Saving a little each month for vacation, clothes, and holidays has already been a huge success," Stacey says. "The kids ask all the time, 'Can we go out to eat?' That used to get on my nerves, but now I just say, 'If there's money in the envelope.' If not, we have to wait 'til payday. I can't wait to see where we are a year from now with what we learned from Dave Ramsey."

Dennis and Kathy Ingold came to the class with their daughter, Tiffany Kneip, who wants to pay down her student debt.

"It was awesome," Kathy says. "It made me more conscious of everything we spend, especially debits from our checking account. It made us go back and look at everything. We shopped our insurance and got a reduced rate."

The Ingolds also learned about the "snowballing effect," paying off the lowest amount owed on bills or loans, then moving to the next-lowest.

"You roll what you were paying into the next debt, which creates a snowballing effect. The incentive of seeing something paid off does keep you motivated."

Kathy said that one couple was able to save \$200 a week by taking their lunch to work and not eating dinner out so much.

"When you sit down and look at what you actually spend, it's alarming," she says.

Kathy noted that there were a variety of ages in the class, from single people to young married couples to couples



like them who are approaching retirement. “I don’t care what age you are, the program is excellent to go through. I hope our church does it again.”

Nathan Hough took the course with his fiancé, Danielle Jones. They will be married Sept. 30.

“There were a lot of good points, such as eliminating debt and unnecessary credit cards,” he says. “When you get married, it’s important that you’re not starting out in debt. You should put a 20 percent down payment on a house, and be on a plan to pay off a house in 15 years. If you can’t do that, you can’t afford it. The whole point of the class is staying out of debt. There are little things you can do early that pay off later.”

He adds, “If you do a budget every month, you can see where your money is going, and you can plan your budget accordingly for the next month.”

Nathan calls the class uplifting, encouraging and reassuring.

“We’re laying a good foundation for a happy, healthy marriage,” he says.

Wayne and Jill Nelson facilitated the class.

“It gave people permission to talk about money in a safe and informative setting,” Jill says. “We took the course about nine years ago, and for us, it was very affirming that we had done many things right along the way. We got back into the habit of discussing our financial decisions. It’s good to talk about money in your marriage and in your home.”

Jill says the course featured open and supportive discussions. “The program is built so that you celebrate when somebody accomplishes a goal.”

Have You Stopped by Seasons Gifts Lately?

Loaded with new spring and summer items!

Did you know that Seasons Gifts sells handcrafted items from Guatemala that support our ministry at La Escuela Integrada (right)? Jewelry, carved crosses, and Christmas ornaments are just some of the items on sale at Seasons Gifts. Stop by for your gift selections today.



Seasons Gifts supports the senior adult ministry of St. John’s. Items from our mission partners in Palestine and Guatemala also are on sale and serve to support these life-changing global ministry efforts.



Worship Leaders for May

indicates 8:30 a.m. worship service ^indicates front row

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

May 7 Gretchen Witt
May 14 Jonathan Williams
May 21 Youth Sunday
May 28 Dave Roof
June 4 Pastor Danielle DeNise
June 11 Randy Overcash

READERS

May 7 Mitch Siegel*, Melody Moxley
May 14 Acquawon Stallworth*, Dylan Carter
May 21 Youth (all services)
May 28 Ann Hatchett*, TBA
June 4 Lee Wagoner*, TBA

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

May 7 Dave Roof, Donna Weinhold, Eleanor Sifford^
May 14 Carol Beaver*
May 21 Youth, Eleanor Sifford^
May 28 Bob Loeblein*
June 4 Christine Mowery, Donna Beilfuss^

ALTAR GUILD

May Donna Beilfuss, captain; Kay Coltrain, Ann Hatchett, Sharon Kluttz, Cyndii Owen, Gretchen Witt

COMMUNION PREPARERS

May Carol and Kent Brown

GREETERS

May 7 Bradley and Laurie Stevens, Stan and Melanie Ferguson
May 14 Darrell and Gerrie Blackwelder, Jay and Meg Dees
May 21 Franco and Brenda Goodman, Stan and Sandy Jordan
May 28 James Bradshaw, Albanese Family
June 4 Kent and Carol Brown, Wymbbs Family

WELCOME PLACE GREETERS

May 7 Linda Phillips
May 14 Hen Henderlite
May 21 Linda Phillips
May 28 Carolyn Hood
June 4 Mimi Carlton

AFTER-SERVICE GREETERS

May 7 Nancy Shirley, Karen Rogers, Bill Safrin
May 14 Cory Gebhardt, Gary Rhodes, Donny Yost
May 21 Dennis Ingold, Frank Goodnight, Ron Smith
May 28 Bill Johnson, Karen Puckett, Norman Sloop

May 7
May 14
May 21
May 28

ACOLYTES

Katherine Sullivan, Sydney Hlavacek
Cali Proper, Julie Kenny
Youth Sunday
Hank Robins, Chad van der Poel

CRUCIFERS

May 7 Robert Sullivan
May 14 Anna Grace Woolly
May 21 Youth Sunday
May 28 Olivia Kyles

ELEMENT BEARERS

May 7 Reid Hlavacek

USHERS: Head Ushers

May Stan Ferguson, Ernie Kirchin

USHER TEAMS

May 7 Team 1E* Tom Childress, Mark Derrick
Team 4 Loyd Hill, captain
May 14 Team 2E* Tom Smith, Jeff Nelson
Team 5 Steve Puckett, captain
May 21 Team 3E* Bob Loeblein, Jeff Nelson
Team 6 Troop 443 Boy Scouts
May 28 Team 4E* Bob Rusher, Bobby Rusher
Team 7 Mickey Black, captain

PA OPERATORS

May 7 Darrell Blackwelder
May 14 Mike Agee
May 21 David Wilson
May 28 Roger Alexander

NURSERY

May 7 Annette Brown, Ebony Alexander
May 14 Annette Brown, Natalee Taylor
May 21 Natalee Taylor, Sandra Jiles
May 28 Natalee Taylor, Annette Brown

St. John's Leadership

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2017 President Karen South Jones
 Vice President Ben Goodman
 Secretary Jeanie Moore
 Treasurer Gary Rhodes

Term Expires 2017

Karen South Jones
 Norman Sloop
 Nancy Shirley
 Ronald Smith
 Donny Yost

Term Expires 2018

Ben Goodman
 Frank Goodnight
 Jeanie Moore
 Gary Rhodes
 Bill Safrit

Term Expires 2019

Cory Gebhardt
 Dennis Ingold
 Bill Johnson
 Karen Puckett
 Karen Rogers

Youth Members

Grace Faller and Victoria Plyler

MINISTRY GROUP CHAIRPERSONS

Worship Gretchen Witt and Randy Overcash
Outreach Geoffrey Hoy
Congregational Life
Discipleship, Adult David Hord
Discipleship, Youth Sandra Sullivan

9:27 HOSPITALITY TEAM

May 7 Angel Barber, Cammie Yarborough, Wayne Everhart, Irene Stewart, David and Julie Carr
 May 14 Dean and Tammy Safrit, Jenny Ryerson, Judy Klusman, Deb Miller, Lindsey Wineka
 May 21 Debbie Carter, Cheryl, Jack and Chad Van der Poel, Mike Jacobson, Cyndii Owen
 May 28 Rhonda and David Harrison, Jack and Jeanie Moore

9:27 USHER TEAM

May Missy and Anthony Weaver, Steve and Camille Butner

9:27 COFFEE VOLUNTEERS

May 7 David and Julie Carr
 May 14 Sharon Agee
 May 21 Cyndii Owen, Jill Nothstine
 May 28 Stan and Sandy Jordan

1st Quarter Financial Report

January 1 through March 31, 2017

St. John's Church	Actual	Budget
Revenue	\$279,213	\$249,299
Expenses	\$265,485	\$279,896
Child Development Center		
Revenue	\$338,059	\$330,800
Expenses	\$292,709	\$311,355
St. John's Kindergarten fiscal year August 2016—July 2017		
Revenue	\$72,513	\$69,360
Expenses	\$49,501	\$63,233

Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to our Octogenarians celebrating birthdays in May:

Jean Rufty, Marcus Smith, Bud Graeber, Barbara Rufty, Charles Harris, Joyce Beaver, Harold Deal, Jim Nichols, Cora Shinn, Diane Everhart, Walter Tatum, James Bradshaw

Worship Attendance

Apr 2 454
 Apr 9 563
 Apr 16 830
 Apr 23 387
 Apr 30 446

Eagle's View deadline

The June/July Eagle's View will be published in May. Please email stories and news to joy@stjohns-salisbury.org by **May 12**.

Buck-a-Meal Sunday

Sunday, May 7 (1st Sunday of each month)

Buck-A-Meal for April was \$402. Every dollar bill donated equals a meal at RHM.

You may bring non-perishable foods on the first Sunday of the month, or to the office anytime during May.

Announcements and Letters

Congratulations

Bailee and Ben Weisensel on the birth of a daughter, Charleigh Mae Weisensel, on March 26, 2017. Proud grandparents are Bill and Lydia Johnson.

Janie and Sonny Ali on the birth of twin daughters, Sarah and Hannah, on April 13, 2017.

George and Amy Safrit Almond, who were married on April 22, 2017, at St. John's.

Kevin Auten for receiving the Prevent Child Abuse Kathleen Russo "Friend of a Child" Award at its annual banquet on April 28, 2017. Kevin is the Rowan County sheriff.

Consolation

Shirley and Jim Trexler on the death of Shirley's sister, Janet Rhodes, who died on March 28, 2017. Funeral was March 31 at First United Church of Christ.

Lee and Bobby Wagoner, family and friends, on the death of Lee's mother, Mae Stinnett, on April 1, 2017.

Jeff and Kim Bowden, family and friends, on the death of Jeff's mother, Nancy Bowden, who died on April 10, 2017.

Pastoral Care and the Prayer Chain

A reminder to let us know if you will be in the hospital so that our pastoral care team and hospital visitors can join with you in presence and prayer. Also, names are added to the daily Prayer Chain by request and permission only. To honor your privacy, we only include those names that are shared with us and have been approved by the person added to the list.

Church Decorating Committee Seeks Members

The St. John's Decorating Committee is responsible for decorating our worship areas during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Our goal is to reflect the joy and celebration of each season while enriching the worship experience. We meet a few times a year for planning and gather each season to decorate. You do not have to have a talent for decorating.....just a desire to help.

We have three worship areas to decorate and would like to create teams for each area. If you are interested in serving, please contact Sandy Jordan at sjordan@fibrant.com or 704-202-9681.

Volunteers Needed for Greeters

If you are interested in being a Greeter at the 11 am worship service, please contact Linda Phillips, at 704-637-7464. Singles and couples are welcome. This is a great way to meet the members of St. John's.



Pastor Rhodes wanted to pass along the following letter from Ryan Lasker, who is currently in the Navy Boot Camp north of Chicago.

Receiving the letter you sent brightened my spirits a bit and was really cool because it was actually handed to me when I had just gotten back from the Lutheran service that is offered by Great Lakes. Thank you to you and the rest of the church for holding me in your prayers. I appreciate it very much. I don't know when I will be home, but I do know that when I am, I will be attending service with you all again. I miss you all, and I'm doing my best here.

Ryan Lasker

Thank you for the many acts of kindness shown to our family during the extended illness and death of our son, Chris. All your prayers, calls, cards and visits were greatly appreciated. We are so blessed to be part of this special Christian community.

Betty and Gary Pinkston, and family

I want to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, and meals. They truly mean more than you will ever know.

Barb Stauffer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2017	1 Monday Rembrandts 6p Cub Scout Den Mtg 7p Luther Ringers	2 7:45a Women's Bible Study 10a Senior Seasons Brainstorm Session 5:30p Outreach Team 6:30p CPR/First Aid 7p Worship Group	3 7:15a HS Breakfast @ Panera 10a Staff Meeting 4p Willi Beifuss Lifegroup 5:30p Classic Ringers 6:30p CPR/First Aid 7:30p Chancel Choir	4 7:30a Joshua Group 10:15a Trinity Singers/Ringers 1:30p Weekly Contemporary Walk-Thru 6p Contemporary Worship Rehearsal	5 All Day —Men's Beach Retreat	6 All Day Men's Beach Retreat
7 All Day Men's Beach Retreat 8:30a Chapel Worship 9:27a Contemporary Worship/HC 9:45-10a Sunday School/Centers 11a Sanctuary Worship/HC 4:30p Men's Chorus/ 5p Women's Ensemble 6p Inner Voices 7p Mesopotamia @ the Hull's	8 Monday Rembrandts 7p Luther Ringers	9 7:45a Women's Bible Study 11a Senior Seasons Gathering 4:30p Finance Committee 5:15p Health Care Ministry Team 7p Cub Scout Leader RndTble	10 7:15a HS Breakfast/Panera 10a Staff meeting 4p Willi Beifuss Lifegroup 5:30p Classic Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	11 7:30a Joshua Group 10:15a Trinity Singers/Ringers 1:30p Weekly Contemporary Walk-Thru 3p Junior Girl Scouts 5p Executive Committee 6p Contemporary Worship Rehearsal	12 All Day Cub Scout Family Camping / Graduation 1p St. John's Book Club EAGLE'S VIEW DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY ISSUE	13
14 Mother's Day 8:30a Chapel Worship/HC 9:27a Contemporary Worship 9:45-10a Sunday School/Centers 11a Sanctuary Worship 4p Men's Chorus w/instrumentalists 7p Mesopotamia @ the Hull's	15 Monday Rembrandts 7p Luther Ringers	16 7:45a Women's Bible Study 6p Troop Committee 7p Congregation Council	17 10a Staff meeting 4p Willi Beifuss Lifegroup 4:30p EPIC Bowling Day 5:30p State of the Church 7:30p Chancel Choir	18 7:30a Joshua Group 10:15a Trinity Singers/Ringers 1:30p Contemporary Walk-Thru 6p Contemporary Worship Rehearsal	19	20
21 Youth Sunday No Children's Worship/Centers/SS 8:30a Chapel Worship 9:27a Contemporary Worship 11a Sanctuary Worship/HC 4p Men's Chorus Spring Concert 5:30p Confirmation/HS-FUEL	22 Monday Rembrandts 4:15p Seasons Gifts Board 7p Luther Ringers	23 7:45a Women's Bible Study 2p Healthy Rowan 5:30p 9:27 Team	24 10a Staff meeting 4p Willi Beifuss Lifegroup 5:30p Classic Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir	25 7:30a Joshua Group 10:15a Trinity Singers/Ringers 12p Ascension Day Service 1:30p Contemporary Walk-Thru 5:30p Kindergarten Graduation 6p Contemporary Worship Rehearsal	26	27
28 No Children's Worship/Centers/SS 8:30a Chapel Worship/HC 9:27a Contemporary Worship 11a Sanctuary Worship 5p Women's Ensemble	29 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7p Luther Ringers	30	31 10a Staff meeting 4p Willi Beifuss Lifegroup 5:30p Classic Ringers 7:30p Chancel Choir			

St. John's Ministry Staff

Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....The Rev. Rhodes Woolly
 Pastor for Discipleship.....The Rev. Danielle Kosanovich DeNise
 Visitation.....Wade Rouzer

Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of MusicRob Durocher
 Associate Parish Musician.....Rosemary Kinard
 Assisting MusicianDaniel Trivette
 Director of Music EmeritusKarl Kinard
 Assisting Organist.....Deanna Boksleitner
 Media Specialist.....Taylor Hutchins
 Contemporary Worship Leader.....Bradley Chestnut

Program Ministry

Youth.....Kai Thurow
 Children / Office Assistant.....Lauren Thurow
 Senior AdultsCarolyn Byrd
 St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds)Teresa Stoner
 Child Development Center (infant -age 4 and after school).....Joanna Smith

Administrative Team

Business ManagerRuth Ann Diehl
 Office Manager.....Joy Chaffin
 Bookkeeper.....Toni Peeler
 Facility Manager.....Jon Koppe
 Maintenance.....Austin Oliver
 CustodianSandra Knox

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am — Chapel
 9:27 am — Contemporary
 11 am — Sanctuary

Holy Communion

Contemporary Worship: 1st Sunday of the month
 Chapel Worship: 2nd and 4th Sundays
 Sanctuary Worship: 1st and 3rd Sundays

Nursery provided for infants through age 5 during services.

*Listen to worship each Sunday morning at 11 am on
 stjohns-salisbury.org, and click Listen Live. Listen to
 previous week's service at 9 am Sunday on WSAT 1280 AM.*

Office hours — Monday-Thursday, 9 am-5 pm; Friday 9-12.
 Telephone 704.636.3431; Fax 704.636.4461

Extension # to leave message after hours:

Joy	200	Jon	207
Toni	202	Rob	208
Ruth Ann	203	Rosemary	218
Kai	204	Carolyn	220
Pastor Danielle	205	Bradley	222
Pastor Rhodes	206	Lauren	204

Staff Email: first name@stjohns-salisbury.org

Visit us on the web at stjohns-salisbury.org

Kindergarten 704.636.4404

Kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org

Child Development Center 704.636.6756

stjohnscdc@bellsouth.net

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On Call List

The list of ministers "on call" is also printed in the Sunday bulletin and updated as needed. Please refer to the bulletin if there is an emergency and you need pastoral assistance:

Pastor Rhodes Woolly
 Pastor Danielle K. DeNise
 Wade Rouzer

May 5-7	Pastor Danielle
May 12-14	Pastor Rhodes
May 19-21	Pastor Rhodes
May 26-28	Pastor Danielle
June 2-4	Wade Rouser

Prayer Chain. Our Prayer Chain is updated daily and emailed to interested persons Monday through Friday. To add or subtract a name, please contact Carolyn Byrd at carolyn@stjohns-salisbury.org. Also let Carolyn know if you would like to receive the daily Prayer Chain.

