

Let's connect faith and life *together*

Salisbury Symphony to Perform at St. John's on September 23

By Susan Shinn Turner

The Salisbury Symphony joins in the 500th anniversary celebration by performing in the historic St. John's sanctuary on September 23 at 7:00 pm. Tickets are on sale through the Symphony website and at Seasons Gifts.

In addition to performing Mendelsohn's Reformation Symphony and JS Bach's cantata on "A Mighty Fortress," the symphony will premiere Davis Brown's Symphony No. 1 in D Major at its September 23 concert.

"A milestone of this magnitude deserves a performance of this magnitude," Pastor Rhodes says. "Mendelsohn's Reformation Symphony is stunning, and Davis's composition sits beautifully right next to it."

Davis, 50, has been composing music for 40 years, and is keyboardist with the 9:27 worship team. He says the first draft of Symphony No. 1 was in celebration of the unification of Germany after the fall of communism in 1990. He

eventually laid the work aside, and got to know the director of a community orchestra in St. Louis, where he was teaching. A professor of political science, he at present is conducting research work for a couple of organizations. He has a PhD in international relations but no formal degree in composition.

"The director asked me to re-orchestrate the piece a little to accommodate the orchestra," he says. "Later, I thought, why not redraft it entirely as a tribute to the 500th year of the Reformation. It sits very well with a piece already with a German theme. So that is what I did."

He showed the work to Rob Durocher and then the two of them showed it to Maestro David Hagy as a possibility for the upcoming concert.

"Rob and David agreed to perform the third movement," Davis says, "which is how it got on the program."

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This is the Salisbury Symphony's first performance in a church. "We are honored to be a part of this collaboration," says James Harvey, executive director.

Wednesdays are getting busy, and we can't wait!

Check out Wednesday Meals (page 19), Kingdom Kids (page 4), and DISCIPLE FastTrack (page 26)

Pastor's Letter



Dear friends,

I'm in the early stages of study for our upcoming sermon series entitled "We Can't Stay Here: the life and times of Moses." I've always loved the book of Exodus, and this series gives us another chance to dive deeply into a story that is of immeasurable importance in our journey of faith.

One of the themes we'll

wrestle with is the remarkable sense of irony throughout the book of Exodus — the ways God the most unlikely people to bring about radical change. Think about the first two chapters alone, when God uses five women to save Israel from the brutality of Pharaoh.

God then uses Moses, a slave's baby who faced sure and certain death ... and his young sister, Miriam, who went to the river that day armed with a plan that would deliver all of Israel.

Irony and surprise is everywhere.

We're facing some challenges these days, aren't we. Nationally, sure; but I'm thinking mostly about the challenges we face as a community.

Last Friday night I had dinner with the retired police commander of Hickory who asked, "What's going on in Salisbury?"

There's no doubt that Salisbury has elements of being that quintessential Southern town described in a "Bury Home Companion." The lovely sense of home, the rich appreciation of history, and the beauty of culture surround us in Salisbury.

But so does the sound of gunfire and the daily reminder that local drug addiction has taken a heavy, heavy toll.

Irony.

One of the things I love most about Exodus is the way God surprises us over and over again, using the most unexpected of people to do remarkably liberating things.

Who are we to suggest that God might not be ready to do the same thing here in Salisbury? Might God be preparing unexpected persons to rise up and be messengers of liberation and peace? One never knows.

One thing I've noticed about Salisbury is that we tend to go to the same people over and over again for answers, contributions, and leadership. No doubt, many of these folks have been incredibly wise and generous over the years.

But as I look into the future, I find myself praying that God might be preparing someone like Miriam to be the next source of inspiration.

I wonder who that could be. Might it be you? Might it be someone you currently mentor? One never knows.

Another thing I've learned over the years: don't underestimate the power of young people. And don't question God's use of Divine Irony to bring hope and inspiration to people living in darkness.

So, what do we do in challenging times like these?

Here's a suggestion: like Miriam, let's imagine a future that is filled with hope and possibility for all, not just a few.

And like Miriam, let's dare to let God use us — yes, us — as his agents of hope for this weary world. As ironic and surprising as that may be.

Thanks for your partnership, friends. I'll see you in church.

Pastor Rhodes

Mark Your Calendar for October

Encounter: A class for new members — Oct 6

Whether you have questions about baptism, learning more on Lutheranism, or transferring membership, we want to help you with your next step. Please join us on Sunday, October 6, from 6 to 8 pm in Peeler Hall. Dinner will be provided.

Gator Reading Club — Begins early October

We are entering into our 3rd year serving as reading mentors to at risk 3rd graders at Isenberg Elementary School, something we call "The Gator Reading Club." Volunteers are being recruited to mentor a student once or twice a week for 45 minutes each. Contact the church office if you'd like to help. Begins early October.

Congregation-wide Work Project at Salisbury High, Sept 9-10

By Susan Shinn Turner

After completing projects at elementary and middle schools, St. John's Serves this year will be working at Salisbury High School. The event is set for two days, 9 am to noon on Saturday, Sept. 9, and noon-3 pm on Sunday, Sept. 10. A sub lunch will be served on Sunday.

"We want to continually support our public schools," says Pastor Danielle DeNise, St. John's former pastor for discipleship, who led the community outreach project since its inception. "We thought that the high school was a nice next step. Salisbury High's principal, Luke Brown, recently joined St. John's, so it is a nice partnership between our church and the school."

Sandra Sullivan, a teacher at Salisbury High School, says the project received \$1,000 from St. John's, plus an additional \$250 from Elizabeth Derrick, who applied for a Thrivent community grant.

Over two days, volunteers will landscape a student picnic area, which includes leveling the area, setting railroad ties, and mulching. Volunteers will also paint two art rooms which have moved to a new location, plant flowers, and pack teacher gift bags.

As usual, Sandra notes, there is something for every skill and ability level. She adds, "And it's fine to come to church on Sunday morning dressed for work!"

As an extra bonus, the school's technology facilitator will be on hand to give members a tour of the technology and engineering departments. "We want our members to see what we are doing at Salisbury High School," Sandra says.

Sandra was thrilled to know that her school — she's taught there for 28 years, spending only one year away with her husband's work — was chosen for St. John's Serves.

"It was an immediate yes to participate on my part," she says. "We have so many members of St. John's in the Salisbury High School community. My parents went there, and my brother and I went there. To support this school is extremely important to me. We'd love to have people come out and see what our school is about, and all the good things we are doing."

To sign up for St. John's Serves, visit stjohns-salisbury.org.



God's Work. Our Hands.

Children's Ministry

Kingdom Kids and EPIC Kick-off on Sept 13!

We are excited for a new school year, but we are even *more* excited about a new year of Kingdom Kids and EPIC! Kingdom Kids is for our children 3 years to 2nd grade. EPIC is our "junior youth group" for all 3rd to 5th graders.

Below is the Fall schedule for both groups. We'll begin meeting on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30-5:45 pm. It's going to be awesome!

— Kai Thurow, Youth and Family Minister

Elementary School Calendar (Fall 2017)

September

6 – 4 th Grade Milestone: Baptismal Partners	6-7pm
13 – KK & EPIC Kick-Off	4:30-5:45pm
20 – KK & EPIC — Moses, Hero of Faith	4:30-5:45pm
24 – 3 rd Grade Milestone: Good News, God News	12:30-1:30pm
27 – KK & EPIC — Moses, Hero of Faith	4:30-5:45pm

October

4 – KK & EPIC — Moses, Hero of Faith	4:30-5:45pm
11 – KK & EPIC — Moses, Hero of Faith	4:30-5:45pm
21 – YouthQuake	
25 – KK & EPIC Reformation Party	4:30-5:45pm
29 – Reformation Sunday	
31 – Halloween	
*note no KK or EPIC on Oct 18	

November

1 - KK & EPIC	4:30-5:45pm
8 – KK & EPIC	4:30-5:45pm
15 – KK & EPIC	4:30-5:45pm
19 – 3 YR Old Milestone: Thank You God for Food	12:30-1:30pm
23 – Thanksgiving Day	
29 – KK & EPIC — The Christmas story	4:30-5:45pm
29 – Kindergarten Milestone: Seasons of the Church Year, 6-7pm	
*note no KK or EPIC on Nov. 22	

December

6 – KK & EPIC — The Christmas story	4:30-5:45pm
13 – Christmas Play	4:30-6:15pm
(Christmas Play starts at 5:30pm)	
*note no KK or EPIC on Dec 20 or 27	



Youth Ministry

The WELL: Middle School Youth Kicks off on Sept 10

We are excited for a new season of youth ministry! We have some changes coming in the Fall 2017 school year, so please pay careful attention to the schedule below and join us for Confirmation Orientation on Sept 10 — even if your child is a 2nd year confirmation student.

Our Middle School Youth Ministry can sometimes be confusing, in that our Youth Group consists of 6th-8th grade youth, and our Confirmation Class consists of our 7th-8th grade youth.

Please understand that all dates and times are subject to change, and watch for new additions! We might start to try new things. As we do, we'll figure out what works and what doesn't — and we'll be adjusting accordingly. If you have any questions about the schedule please contact kai@stjohns-salisbury.org

The WELL – Youth Group & Confirmation (Fall 2017)

September

3 – Labor Day Weekend	
10 – The WELL Youth Group Kick-Off	5:30-7:30pm
10 – Confirmation Parent Orientation	6pm
20 – The WELL Confirmation	6:30-7:30pm
23 – Reformation Symphony	
24 – The WELL Youth Group	5:30-7:30pm
27 – The WELL Confirmation	6:30-7:30pm

October

1 – Consecration Sunday	
4 – The WELL Confirmation	6:30-7:30pm
11 – The WELL Confirmation	6:30-7:30pm
15 – The WELL Youth Group	5:30-7:30pm
22 – The WELL Youth Group	5:30-7:30pm
29 – Reformation Sunday	
29 – The WELL Youth Group	5:30-7:30pm
31 – Halloween	

November

1 – The WELL Confirmation	6:30-7:30pm
8 – The WELL Confirmation	6:30-7:30pm
12 – Veterans Day Weekend	
12 – The WELL Youth Group	5:30-7:30pm
15 – The WELL Confirmation	6:30-7:30pm
23 – Thanksgiving Day	
26 – The WELL Youth Group	5:30-7:30pm
29 – The WELL Confirmation	5:30-7:30pm

December

3 – The WELL Youth Group	5:30-7:30pm
8-9 – The WELL Confirmation @ Lake Lure	
17 – Youth Group Christmas Party	5:30-7:30pm



Youth Ministry

FUEL: High School Youth Kicks Off Sept 10

We are pumped for the fall of 2017 for “FUEL” High School Youth Group! This group meets most Sundays from 5:30-7:30pm, with a dinner starting at 5:30pm. We can already tell this new school year will be awesome!

Please understand that all dates and times are subject to change, and be sure to keep an eye out for new additions! We might start to try new things. As we do, we’ll figure out what works and what doesn’t – and we’ll be adjusting accordingly. Contact me with any and all questions!

— Kai Thurow, Youth and Family Minister

FUEL – Youth Group (Fall 2017)

September

- 3 – Labor Day Weekend
- 9 – God’s Work, Our Hands @ Salisbury High 9am-12noon
- 10 – God’s Work, Our Hands @ Salisbury High 12noon-3pm
- 10 – FUEL Youth Group Kick-Off 5:30-7:30pm
- 17 – FUEL Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm
- 23 – Reformation Symphony/Service
- 24 – FUEL Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm

October

- 1 – Consecration Sunday
- 1 – FUEL Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm
- 8 – FUEL Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm
- 15 – FUEL Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm
- 22 – FUEL Youth Group 5:30-7:30p
- 27-28 – FUEL Lock-In 7pm-10am
- 29 – Reformation Celebration Sunday
- 31 – Halloween

November

- 5 – FUEL Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm
- 12 – Veterans Day Weekend
- 12 – FUEL Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm
- 23 – Thanksgiving Day
- 26 – FUEL Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm

December

- 3 – FUEL Angel Tree Shopping 5:30-7:30pm
- 10 – FUEL Angel Tree Wrapping 5:30-7:30pm
- 17 – Youth Group Christmas Party 5:30-7:30pm



Looking forward to Spring!



February 23-25 – LYO Statewide Retreat
(Friday – Sunday)



Ten Youth Confirmed on August 27



10 of our youth were confirmed during a Unity Service on August 27. A highlight was the sharing of their faith statements, excerpts of which are printed below.

For the complete faith statements, please visit our website at stjohns-salisbury.org.

Confirmation is a two year journey during 7th and 8th grade in which students study the basics of faith and the Christian life. The journey ends with a week long confirmation camp at Lutheridge, always considered a high point of their two year experience.



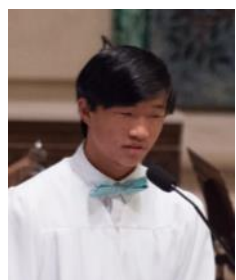
“This year [at our mission trip in Knoxville], we focused on brokenness which gave us a chance to think about all of the broken places in our lives. At the end of the night, we had a worship service where everyone got a candle and we sang a song about how we are the light of the world. I could feel God’s presence through all of my friends who were there with me. They gave us a chance to share our broken places and they gave us time to think through them. This time gave me a chance to think about how even in my broken places, God never left my side.”

Anna Everhart



“I need God in my life to help me get through each day. He gives me strength and courage, and I know that I am not alone because he walks by my side. I am a child of God and Jesus loves me. This is why I want to be confirmed. I want to be more deeply involved. This is a great opportunity; there’s more in store. Confirmation is not the end, it’s just another step closer to God.”

Hannah Greene



“When I was in China I did not know of God. When I was in the orphanage no one talked to me about God. To me, there was no God. When I was 14, I came to America. I felt a little bit sad and scared to go to another country. But I go and have brothers and sisters and a mom and a dad so I have a family. My family tells me about God. I learned about God once I came here...I think God knows my future.”

Aaron Yang

Confirmation



“When June came around my family went up to Wisconsin to see our distant family, I was really excited since I knew we were stopping at my Grandpa Sachse’s house first. I knew that in his yard he had a bench in front of a little water fountain with a Jesus statue right in front of it. Whenever we arrived I went to go sit down on that bench and I just sat and prayed to God, that was my first time praying in 6 months. I felt God’s presence and I knew the whole time I didn’t believe in him, he believed in me... God helped me out of my time of sadness and brought me into the light. I’ll give him everything I have, he never gave up on me when I gave up on him. In the future I know I can help and relate to anyone who is going through the same experience as I did. I’ll also be able to look back on this time and remember how God has helped me through hard times and encourage others not to give up. This is why I am ready to say I believe and surrender myself to God. “

Kayla Sachse



“I know that God has been with me the whole time and has taught me how to help out others and not to give up. God has helped me to know that softball is just not about winning or losing but it’s about how you handle yourself through the highs and the lows. I try to be like God when playing with people who don’t know the game of softball by encouraging and helping them out.”

Ellen Yang



“Jesus is central in my life because whenever something unexpected happens and things get tough I know he’s always there for me which is very comforting. For example, when me and my mom and sister were traveling up onto Grandfather Mountain, there were many twists, turns, and curves and that made me very worried. There was also no rail protectors to comfort me on the drive. If that isn’t scary enough I had a glorious view of about 50 feet off the side of the mountain. My mom who doesn’t like heights was praying enough for all of us on the drive up. Thanks to God we were able to make it halfway up the mountain with no problems. Now the next obstacle was hiking straight up a 2-3 mile pathway of just rocks, sticks, and wilderness.... I was so happy that I accomplished it. I felt that God was with me the whole time during that process. I will always remember that feeling of “I made it. “

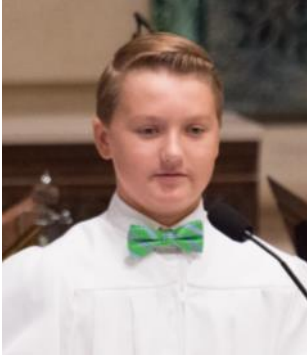
Sam Wood



“I live the lessons of Jesus through service. Connecting with Maria on the [mission trip to Guatemala] made me realize how much I love working with children. I wanted to help as much as I can, so my family and I decided to sponsor a child named Karen Daniela. I can live a life of Christ by showing love to Karen, and I am so excited to start my journey with her. By sponsoring Karen Daniela my family is helping to ensure her education at Escuela Integrada and we are providing love, hope and support to her. This gift is God’s love and I feel blessed to be able to serve Jesus in this way.”

Maggie Dees

Confirmation



Landon Mesimer

“To my doubtful friends I explain that Jesus does not plan the evil in the world but His power overcomes it and no matter what happens we are called upon to help other people. Jesus has the power to heal us, to save us and give us eternal life. That is why we believe in baptism to start our journey with Him. Jesus is central in my life because He provides hope and eternal life so we can spread his story and his teachings.”



Lillie Rusher

“For my birthday, mom gave me the “God Winks” book, [*When God Winks at You*]. I would try to read one Godwink story every night, and every night I prayed that God would just show me he was with me. About a month or two later, I was in the school cafeteria line and I looked up and all of the lights in the cafeteria were lit except one. So I said a little prayer and prayed, and said if God is truly here, he will make another light go out. And then I looked up, and no other lights were out. I had felt so stupid for praying that because in my heart I knew that another light would've never gone out. Our teacher would let us take our lunch back to the classroom and eat, and as I was sitting down eating lunch there sounded like there was a big explosion. I looked at my friends and all of a sudden, all of the lights and power went out. As I sat there in the dark with the lights flickering, I knew that God had answered my prayers. God didn't make one light go out, he made them all go out! “



Grace Shafer

“On the last night we were in Knoxville, we had a time of reflection. Most people were reflecting on the week, but I reflected on the past 4 years that God has blessed me with being able to go to Knoxville. Even though the work might have been hard and tiring I knew that God was with me and would give me the strength and perseverance to push through it. I am so thankful that for the past 4 summers I have been able to serve God and the people of Knoxville, Tennessee in simple but yet in ways that they can leave an impact on not just me but the people in that community. Now I am ready to continue to serve people following the example of Jesus Christ and to live in his ways.”

Read all of our confirmands' faith statements on stjohns-salisbury.org.



Senior Seasons Academy Kick-off

with former Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz

Tuesday, September 5 at 10 am



Join us for our Senior Seasons Kick-off! We will hear from former Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz, who will share her perspective on our community and her years as a public servant at both the local and state level. Mayor Kluttz served two years in Governor Pat McCrory's administration as Secretary of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. She was honored to receive Duke Energy's Citizenship and Service Award in January 2017 at the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Gala.

Upcoming Senior Seasons Events

Nov 5 - 8 — Join us for our annual trip to the Isle of Palms. We look forward to great fellowship, delicious food, time to walk around in downtown Charleston and an eco tour by boat to an uninhabited island. Cost for the trip is \$190 per person/double occupancy.

Oct 8 — Octogenarian Luncheon at 12:15

Dec 5 — Annual Christmas Gathering.

Dec 12 — Christmas at the Cove: Cost is \$35/person. We have a limited number of tickets available, so please register early.

Senior Seasons Academy Fall Term begins September 12

Academy classes begin Tuesday, September 12, 2017, for the six-week fall term. Register online or by filling out the registration form in the brochure. Invite a friend!

Lutheranism in America *Pastor Rhodes*

In preparation for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Pastor Rhodes will lead an intensive study of Lutheranism in North America that will inform and challenge participants. This comprehensive course will have weekly readings to facilitate in depth discussion and learning regarding this important period in the life of the church. The course is a perfect compliment to "In God's Own Country," which explores the birth of the Lutheran church in America.

Wow! Math and Science

Join us for math and science fun that any senior can do! Focusing on the science and mathematics that exists in the world around you, you will do simple experiments, play games, and simulate scientific phenomena. Yes, you can relive the solar eclipse from August, make a Mobius strip, complete an experiment to calculate Pi, and make your own goo (which will be a hit with your grandchildren). Join the excitement, led by two local, long-time educators who are teaming up to share their enthusiasm for science and math!

One Day Honey, One Day Onions—

Life in Palestine *Mike Connor*

When faced with the daily struggles and frustrations of living in the West Bank, many Palestinians simply respond, "This is our life." You're invited to explore what life is like for Muslims, Christians and Jews currently living in both the West Bank and Israel. We will discuss their perspectives of each other, interactions and future hopes. Learn more about the conflicting narratives as well as human rights and civil liberty injustices.

Bonus Course:

Stretch, Balance & Breathe with Judy!

To end your day with us, enjoy yoga class. Bring a yoga mat or blanket. Adaptive poses available for beginners. Everyone welcome!

Around the Community

St. John's: *The Place for Teachers*

By Susan Shinn Turner

You might have noticed over the years that St. John's has perhaps more than its share of teachers. So much so that Pastor Rhodes is fond of saying, "St. John's is the place for teachers!"

Kelly Everhart adds, "St. John's is also the place to be if you want to be a principal."

He points out that four of the county's seven high school principals are St. John's members. Luke Brown is at Salisbury High School, Meredith Williams is at North Rowan High School, Maria Lowder is the executive director is at North Hills Christian School, and Tonya Brinegar-German has recently been tagged as the new principal at East Rowan High School.

"St. John's has been a real big supporter of the school system, public education and educators in Rowan County," says Kelly, a longtime coach and teacher at North Rowan. "And we absolutely appreciate it."

The principals concur.



Tonya German

"Each day as I enter my school building, I am reminded of the importance of the connection between our faith life and our daily actions," Tonya says. "St. John's helps me to connect the reason why I do the work each day in my school and my daily work. I know I always have my faith family at St. John's that I can call on when I need assistance in doing my work at East Rowan. Whether it be through

collection of supplies, providing helping hands for a campus clean-up, or lifting our schools in prayers, our church has become a vital faith-based partner for our local schools."

"Personally, St. John's has been a place where I am challenged to work for God's kingdom in every aspect of my life, including my work-life," Meredith says. "From worship to small groups, I find members who support my calling and provide both wisdom and encouragement through the tough patches. I consider

the work that teachers, administrators, staff, and coaches carry out in schools to be mission work serving the students in community in a very Christ-like way of teaching, loving, and sometimes even witnessing miracles!"

Meredith continues, "St. John's Benevolent Foundation has supported North Middle School specifically by funding a day where every student in the school got to visit a college campus. It was a fantastic experience to have a completely empty school and be able to report, at the end of the school day, that North Rowan had gotten every student to college! Recently, a theater program has blossomed at North Middle. The Benevolent Foundation also supported their first production of Aladdin Junior. This show opened the eyes of our community to the talent and passions of our students in ways that aren't typically witnessed in the classroom. St. John's love and generosity made all of these enriching activities possible for our students and teachers."

And Salisbury High School will benefit from the St. John's Serves project, set for Sept. 9-10 (see article on page 3)

"It's so nice to see my church and school communities intertwined and embrace each other," says Sandra Sullivan, who teaches at Salisbury High. "It just makes my heart full."

For the past several years, Melissa Rhyne has led Vacation Bible School with a hardworking team of dozens of volunteers.

"I believe the role of a teacher is not only to educate but also to create an environment where God can transform us into the people God wants us to be," says Melissa, who teaches kindergarten at North Rowan Elementary School. "St. John's helped me understand how God wants to use me in my classroom and gives me a purpose. VBS at St. John's has helped inspire me to be a better teacher. I have always felt great support from St. John's for helping lead VBS and my job as a teacher."

The old saying goes, "If you can read this, thank a teacher!" Be sure and thank the many teachers and administrators in our congregation for all they do in serving Rowan County's students!

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 Martin Luther’s wife

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

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

August: Philipp 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

The little town of Wittenberg:

How an otherwise unknown town became the center of the Reformation

Known as the "Birthplace of the Reformation", Martin Luther played the most important roles of his life in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, from monk, student, professor, and priest to husband, father, author, and reformer. Legend has it that Luther nailed his 95 Theses to Wittenberg's Castle Church door, an act that would go down in history as the beginning of the Reformation. While the original wooden door no longer stands, a massive bronze memorial door marks the spot that changed the course of history.

The city's renowned university also has close ties to the Great Reformer. Martin Luther received his doctorate in theology from Wittenberg University in 1512, where he studied side-by-side with some of the greatest intellectuals of his time – including his good friend, Philipp Melancthon. After graduating, he went on to serve as professor of Bible studies at his beloved alma mater. The Augusteum, which was built in 1580 as an addition to the university, is now one of Germany's oldest university buildings and the gateway to the famous Luther House.

Appropriately, Luther is buried underneath the pulpit of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.



—from visit-luther.com, an introduction to the land and people of the Reformation.



September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17 — Senior Seasons Academy presents “Lutheranism in America”

The Academy for our senior adults will be studying the spread of Lutheranism in North America. Led by Pastor Rhodes, the class will explore the history of Lutheranism through key leaders – and especially highlight the history right here in Rowan County. The class will include teaching, discussion as well as follow-up reading each week. For more details and to register visit the website or Senior Seasons brochure.

September 15-16 — Rowan Museum’s Germanfest

Bigger and better this year! Come to the Old Stone House, 770 Old Stone House Road, Salisbury, Friday evening from 6 -9 pm September 15 for a German feast, German music, and Dr. Gary Freeze talking about the 500th anniversary of the Reformation! Advanced registration required, \$35. Come on Saturday, September 16, for a 9 am volksmarch, a German festival, brats, pastries, and New Sarum specially brewed beverages. Dr. Freeze will speak twice on the Reformation and several local Lutheran and Reformed churches will share some of their history and artifacts. Theo Buerbaum's photographs of early Rowan County will be displayed also. \$5 for adults \$3 for students. For more information call Rowan Museum 704-633-5946

September 23 at 2 pm — NC and SC Synod Reformation Worship

Lutherans in both the North and South Carolina Synods are encouraged to attend the capstone worship at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte on Saturday, September 23, at 2 pm. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton will preach. Choirs and other musical groups from Newberry College and Lenoir-Rhyne University will participate, as well as a choir of volunteer singers from congregations in both Carolinas.

September 23 at 7 pm — Reformation Symphony

See page 1 for more information.

October 12-15, 18-21 — In God’s Own Country

See page 20 for more information.

October 26 — *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World* movie screening

Join us at Tinseltown Cinemark Theater for the movie *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World*, October 26 at 1:30 and again at 6:30 pm. This entertaining new film follows the great adventure story of Luther’s life, packed with political intrigue, kidnappings, and life-or-death showdowns. At the same time, it’s a story about the most important questions of life, including "Who am I?" and "What is my purpose?" This is the first time in more than 60 years that Lutherans have made a feature-length film about Martin Luther and the Reformation. Filmed in historic locations across Europe, the movie brings Luther’s story to life with exquisite attention to detail. It’s a chance to strengthen your faith by revisiting the birth of the Protestant Reformation and to share that experience with others. **Please note: tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets cost \$10. Tickets can be purchased online.**

October 29 — Reformation Worship at St. John’s

We culminate our Reformation 500 celebration with a festival worship service at St. John’s, featuring a variety of St. John’s musicians, brass, and special guests. 9:27 and 11:00 services only. No 8:30 service.

Nov 14, Dec 5, Jan 9— Lutheran & Catholic Conversations

Join us as we study together and engage in conversation with our Catholic sisters and brothers from Sacred Heart. Led by Father John Eckerd and Pastor Rhodes Woolly, we will discuss the *Declaration on the Way*. The Declaration is the culmination of 50 years of ecumenical conversation between Lutherans and Catholics. It draws together a litany of 32 consensus statements and 5 general categories where we share common ground. We will gather on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm. Location TBD. Childcare available.

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 am service each Sunday of the year. During the month of September, the choir will rehearse each Wednesday evening at 8pm. A highlight this year will be in singing with the Salisbury Symphony at the Reformation concert on September 23.

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.

SJ Women's Ensemble

Rob Durocher

The Women's Ensemble will begin on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 5 pm in the Youth Choir Room. Rehearsal schedule will be discussed in the first rehearsal, and all current members and new singers, Middle School - Adult, are warmly invited to sing with us!

SJ Men's Chorus

Jason Harwood

The Men's Chorus will begin their 24th season of rehearsals under the new director, Jason Harwood, on Sunday, September 7, 2017 at 4 pm in the Choir Room. The Men's Chorus will rehearse for their singing engagement for the Salisbury Symphony's Reformation Concert at St. John's (September 23rd!) as well as to prepare for the Men's Chorus Christmas Concert in December. Also returning will be Janie Rollins as accompanist. Jason warmly invites all Men's Chorus members and new singers, High School - Adult to join him in an exciting new season of singing!

Chapel Singers

Deanna Boksleitner

After the summer's break, the 8:30 Chapel Choir is scheduled to resume singing on the first Sunday of the month September 3. We have two rehearsal options: The preceding Wednesday at 7 pm in the St. John's Choir Room (before Chancel Choir) and Thursday at 9:45 am in Trinity Oaks SER for residents (before T. O. Choir). Final rehearsals for all will be held at 7:55 in the Chapel. Additional voices are welcome. All scheduled special music and choir Sundays are appreciated by early worshipers. Please call Deanna Boksleitner if interested at 704.647.9774

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 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.



Worship and Music Ministry

Jason Harwood Named New Men's Chorus Director

By Susan Shinn Turner

Jason Harwood is the new director of the St. John's Men's Chorus. He succeeds founding director, Rosemary Kinard, who retired from the chorus but continues her duties as associate parish musician.

Jason, 35, who lives in Rockwell with his wife, Chrissy, 34, and their sons, Levi, 7, and Davis, 3, is an elementary music teacher who will be at Shive and Koontz this year. He will continue his duties as director of music at Mount Zion United Church of Christ, China Grove.

"I was absolutely surprised that they decided to go with me," Jason says of his selection. "This is a group I've obviously heard about for a long time. When I heard Rosemary was retiring as director, I was curious about how they would go forward, if they would go forward."

St. John's members Frank and Diane Goodnight have sung with Jason for years in the Faith Fourth chorus, and Frank encouraged Jason —several times, in fact— to apply.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Jason says, "and I honestly thought it was a shot in the dark. But with some prodding from Frank, I knew I couldn't pass it up. I wanted to try."

"Jason is a talented director and even-tempered individual who never lets anything get under his skin," Frank says. "He's just a nice young man. I never had any doubts he was the right choice for our new director. I am extremely pleased, and we're all looking forward to him being with us."

"I have heard many good things about Jason from those who have sung under his direction," Rosemary says. "It is wonderful to know that the Men's Chorus will be in such good hands as it moves into this new season with a new director."

"After interviewing several promising candidates for the Men's Chorus director position I felt that Jason was someone that I wanted the Men's Chorus Director's Interview Team to have a deeper conversation with," says Rob Durocher, minister of music. "I've been somewhat familiar with Jason and his work for several years through his Lutheran/musical connection to this community as well

as his work as a handbell clinician at Lutheridge. He hit all of the right buttons with the interview team by sharing his background, faith and family story. We were also very pleased by his sincerity, and his pleasant, warm and relaxed engagement.

"He understands the impact that the Men's Chorus has in this community and the very strong foundation and creative vision that Rosemary's faithful leadership helped build for them these last 23 years. Jason found Rosemary's leadership and vision to be exciting, challenging and something that he would be honored to continue! With fresh perspective and a 'ready-to-go' attitude, Jason is ready to begin the 24th season of St. John's Men's Chorus, and we look forward to his work and to working with him in this wonderful music ministry."

Following a "music legend" is intimidating, Jason admits. "But with the guidance of the Men's Chorus council and my own personal philosophy, I think it's going to be a good thing we can continue. Music is something that speaks to every person. Music, in its own special way, has the ability to transform our everyday experience. Making music as a group is very powerful."

Jason invites veteran Men's Chorus members to return to sing with him, as well as any male high school age and up who is interested in becoming part of the group.



Our Lutheran Institutions

New OT Program opens on LTSS campus in Columbia



Southern Seminary (LTSS) is home to a growing graduate school in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Human Services, and now Occupational Therapy. A new 24,000 square foot building welcomed students to the OT program, which began in the fall of 2016. The building includes a state-of-the-art laboratory, classrooms and student work space, as well as faculty and administrative offices. The OT program in Columbia is an expansion of the program offered on Lenoir-Rhyne's campus in Hickory, which combines comprehensive classroom instruction with extensive laboratory experience. Through the

27-month program, students receive invaluable hands-on clinical practice, including two 12-week, full-time fieldwork experiences.

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.

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



St. John's has been asked to raise \$50,000 to fund the new St. John's 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. Any commitments over \$50,000 will go toward remodeling restrooms in Lakeside Lodge.

On August 28-29, a group of men from St. John's helped to clear the land for the new tent village. The first two platform tents will be constructed this fall. Two additional platforms will be built in the spring, pending fundraising efforts.

Around the Congregation

Council Nominations Due

The deadline for Council Nominations is Friday, September 15th at 5 pm. Please view this as your opportunity to offer guidance and direction for our future, either by nominating yourself or someone else. If you cannot locate the forms that were mailed to you the first of August, please contact the church office or Nancy Shirley at nancyruffshirley@gmail.com or 704-754-0194. We look forward to hearing from you ASAP

Reformation 500 Altar Parament

In celebration of the 500th year of the Reformation, St. John's will create an altar parament reminiscent of the one given by the Queen of Denmark to Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

We would like anyone with skills in sewing/applique to join our group to prepare the altar frontal. For any questions or to help out, contact Gretchen Witt.



Welcome New Members!

The Roseman Family



Micah, Stephanie, Cohen and Eden Roseman joined St. John's on August 13 during the 9:27 worship service, where Edén was also baptized. Micah grew up in Salisbury and his great grandfather, Fred Roseman was a member of St. John's. The Roseman's are passionate about education, history, and helping others.

"We are both very active with our school community through various volunteer activities, and we look forward to serving locally with St. John's."

Dear Women of St. John's,

All it took was one e-mail expressing the need for baby items and the donations came rolling in! I can't thank you enough for all the diapers, wipes, blankets, pacifiers, towels, teething toys and clothes you so generously provided. You made it possible for me to make Baby Welcome Baskets for St. John's 5 spring and summer newborns. What blessings!

Over the past several years, I have joyfully presented baskets to the families of new babies. In the center of each basket I place a sweet Story Bible written especially for little ones and signed "With prayers and love from the Women of St. John's."

I acknowledge the fact that none of this would have been possible without the donations from you; the caring and loving women of our congregation. Please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,
Sally Taylor



Around the church and community

PRAYER WALK

September 24

Please join us between 4 - 5 pm at 215 N. Jackson Street for a prayer walk on the outdoor Labyrinth located behind the Blanton's law office on Council Street.

The Labyrinth is an ancient symbol for our life journey... our journey with and towards God. It is a tool for walking meditation and prayer. Following the winding path with intention can quiet the mind and provide a contemplative experience for the walker.

There is only one path entering and exiting the Labyrinth so there are no tricks or dead ends along the way, however, the complex pattern makes it difficult to see how one will get to the center. Each walker continues in faith to put one foot in front of the other trusting that the center will be reached. What a metaphor for life!

There are 3 stages of the Labyrinth walk. The first is moving in toward the center. This can be experienced as a path of shedding, emptying, releasing and moving inward. The second stage is time spent being still in the center where one may experience illumination, centering, receiving and accepting the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The final stage is exiting the Labyrinth when one may feel a sense of union, connection, integration, and moving outward into the world renewed.



Faith Center Chair Campaign:

The product of "Disciple -Making"

By Bradley Chestnut

We kicked off our "Making Room for More" Chair Campaign at the beginning of the summer, and I am proud to announce that we have purchased 23 more chairs for our Faith Center!

What excites me the most about 23 chairs is that 23 represents 23 people, 23 hearts, and 23 brothers and sisters, all of whom now have a place to come and worship with us.

23 lives can be changed thanks to the gifts given by those who contributed to this campaign. As we continue to grow, the demand for more chairs will come. Though the campaign is over, you can still have a chance to help us grow. If you would like to purchase a chair so space is made for another life to be changed, please contact Bradley Chestnut at Bradley@stjohns-salisbury.org for more information.

GIFT Fall Circle



GIFT Fall Circle book study will be held at both 10 am and 7 pm on October 4, 11, 18, and 25. We will gather for conversation and encouragement as we discuss the book *Present Over Perfect* by Shauna Niequist, now available for purchase in Seasons Gifts.

The women will tackle what it means to love who you are – and not just what you do – to know that you are loved and precious to our God. Childcare will be available.

Around the church and community

Wednesday Meals begins September 6!

Season passes available!

Wednesday Meals

What's on the menu?

September 6

Meatloaf served with mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable medley, cucumbers and onions, roll and dessert

September 13

Chicken Tetraxini with green beans, Caesar salad, Texas toast and dessert

September 20

Lasagna served with crunchy romaine salad, Texas toast and dessert

September 27

Chicken Supreme served with rice with mushrooms, peas and carrots, garden salad, roll and dessert

Welcome Angel!



Angel Owens joined St. John's staff July 31 as communications specialist/office assistant.

A native of Lexington, Angel continues to live there with her mom and stepdad, Lisa and Charlie Michael. She's a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro

with a double major in communications and religious studies. Away from work, Angel enjoys spending time with her family and friends, listening to music, and playing her guitar.

At St. John's, she's responsible for producing the Eagle's View newsletter and weekly bulletin inserts, as well as updates to the St. John's Web site and social media posts. Angel also serves as a support person to Joy and Kai.

Don't forget:

Blood pressure screenings are conducted each week by members of our Health Care Ministry Team.

Chapel Open for Prayer

In an effort to provide a peaceful place for our community to pray throughout the day, our chapel is open Monday through Thursday from 10 am – 3 pm. Entrance is through the breezeway.

Thanks for not propping doors

A reminder not to prop open doors for special events or activities. When doors are propped open, our Access Control System cannot operate properly and the facility is left unsecured. For more information, please contact our facilities manager, Jon Koppe, at jon@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Parking at St. John's

The parking lot across the street from St. John's has been closed in preparation for phase 1 of the new park on the former Maxwell Chambers lot. There is still plenty of Sunday morning parking available, although you might have to consider a new location. A special team is exploring other options, as well. Visit our website for a map of parking options.

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.

SYMPHONY, *continued from page 1*

Like other pieces in the concert, his piece includes Martin Luther's famous hymn, "A Mighty Fortress."

"It's not the main theme," Davis notes, "but it does appear recognizably in the middle, and then is quoted at the end."

When composing, Davis says he usually has a pretty good idea of where he wants to go with a piece, constructing it from the beginning to the end. "Sometimes I will write something and it looks like on paper it would work. Then I do a mini-recording and it doesn't sound right, or it sounds emptier than I thought. So then I tweak the orchestration, changing a note here or there to get the effect I want. But my first path through, I usually get about 97 percent of its final form."

What makes that possible, he explains, is thinking through a piece before he puts notes on paper — or the computer.

As for the symphony premiere, he says, "obviously it's going to be exciting. It's exciting for any composer to have a premiere in the place where he lives. This is the first time that a work of mine has been performed by the Salisbury Symphony. So it's rather fortuitous."

For the symphony, it's a chance for its musicians to leave the concert hall and go out in the community, says James Harvey, executive director of the Salisbury Symphony. "We are honored to be asked to take part in the collaboration with St. John's. It's outside our regular season, but it's a key event in our calendar. St. John's is a wonderful church that strives to make our community an artistically vibrant place."

If you'd like to volunteer to help with this exciting event, please call the church office at 704-636-3431.

"In God's Own Country"

Get your tickets now!

The North American Premier of "In God's Own Country" is fast approaching! Be sure to get your tickets soon ... and bring a friend!

The play opened in Germany to rave reviews. It tells the story of Muhlenberg's struggle to establish the Lutheran church in America, but also focuses on the plight of those immigrants who came to the colonies in search of religious and political freedom. A part of the Reformation's 500th anniversary celebration, this exciting drama is a collaboration between Salisbury's Piedmont Players, The Landesbühnen Sachsen from Germany, and St. John's.

BUY TICKETS NOW at the Piedmont Players website, piedmontplayers.com.

Show dates are October 12-14 & 18-21 at 7:30 pm. Sunday matinee October 15 at 2:30 pm.



Are you or your friends travelling to see the play?

Receive 2 **FREE** tickets to "In God's Own Country" when you book an overnight stay at a Rowan County hotel or B&B. For group bookings of 10 or more room nights, receive a \$100 Visa gift card.

Sign up for this incredible deal at visitsalisburync.com/packages/. The offer is available until October 6.

Mark your Calendar

Special, Called Meeting on Sept 17

There will be a special, called meeting of the congregation on Sunday, Sept 17 at 10:40 am in the sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the sale of a piece of property which was donated to the church. This property, located at 750 S. Salisbury Avenue in Spencer, has been listed for sale for nearly 10 years with only a handful of inquiries and no offers until now. The property lacks strategic value to the church and is situated in an area with limited commercial growth (historic and potential). For these reasons, the Congregation Council concurred with the Property Committee recommendation to request congregation approval of the current purchase offer in the amount of \$5,000. Please make every effort to attend this special, called meeting.

Congratulations

We celebrate with Jane and Gerald Jones in the birth of twin grandsons, Owen Jones and William Michael Burris on July 11, 2017 in Richmond, Virginia. Proud parents are Bryan and Jessica Jones Burris

Consolation

Scott and Gary Rhodes in the death of Scott's father, Eugene Putnam, August 12, 2017 in Lexington, N.C.

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.

Words of Thanks from Linda Voelker

Thank you for the prayers, cards, emails, and visits I received during my recent back surgery. I know my successful surgery and gradual healing have been affected by your love and care for me. How blessed we are to belong to such a loving Christian family!

Consecration Sunday is October 1

It's Coming!! Consecration Sunday will be October 1st, when we gather as a fellowship of believers to bring forth our tithes and offerings to be consecrated to our Lord's Ministries here at St. Johns. Last year's Consecration Services were filled with the Holy Spirit and we had a tremendous congregational response! This year's program will be similar in that we will be hosting a brunch in the fellowship hall after each service. In weeks leading up to Consecration Sunday, we will have fellow congregation members sharing their family's response to God's calling in our ministry together. We will be handing out and collecting RSVP cards from attendees at all 3 services on September 17 and 24, as Trinity Oaks is preparing a catered meal and we will need reservations to property plan.

Last year we established a baseline for all pledgers based on their weekly gifts. This year we are asking members to

prayerfully consider moving up to the "next step." I will share more with worshippers on September 17 on what that next step might be.

We are excited to announce Bishop Emeritus Leonard Bolick will be our guest preacher on Consecration Sunday. He will share his thoughts and experiences with us at all 3 services and I know you will be blessed by your attendance. Please make plans to join us that day as we welcome Leonard back to our church family and consecrate our gifts to God's divine purpose.



Worship Leaders for September

*indicates 8:30 am worship service ^indicates front row

LAY ASSISTING MINISTERS

Sept 3 Judy Klusman
Sept 10 Gretchen Witt
Sept 17 Randy Overcash
Sep 24 Dave Roof

READERS

Sept 3 *Anne Hatchett, Dave Foreman
Sept 10 * Acquawon Stalworth, Gerrie Blackwelder
Sept 17 *Anne Loeblein, Susan Myers
Sept 24 *Judy Childress, John Henderlite
Oct 1 *Mitch Siegel, Anne Steele

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Sept 3 Geoffrey Hoy, Wesley Rhyne, Perry Hood,
^Eleanor Sifford,
Sept 10 *Parker Hatchett
Sept 17 Geoffrey Hoy, Marilyn Smith, ^Eleanor Sifford
Sept 24 *Carol Beaver
Oct 1 Elaine Gerst, ^Dennis Rogers

ALTAR GUILD

Sept Judy Trexler, captain; Donna Weinhold,
Cheryl Sjoblom, Angela Greene

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Sept Fran and Jerry Lawson

GREETERS

Sept 3 Stan and Melanie Ferguson, Kent and Carol
Brown
Sept 10 Bryan and Mary Wymbs, Ron and Janice Raper
Sept 17 Franco and Brenda Goodman, Jay and Meg Dees
Sept 24 Harold and Judy Ann Deal, Dottie Hoy
Oct 1 Darrell and Gerrie Blackwelder, Stan and Sandy
Jordan

WELCOME PLACE GREETERS

Sept 3 Mimi Carlton
Sept 10 Barbara Waggoner
Sept 17 Hen Henderlite
Sept 24 Linda Phillips
Oct 1 Carolyn Hood

AFTER-SERVICE GREETERS

Sept 3 Nancy Shirley, Karen Rogers, Bill Safrin
Sept 10 Cory Gebhardt, Gary Rhodes, Donny Yost
Sept 17 Dennis Ingold, Frank Goodnight, Ron Smith
Sept 24 Bill Johnson, Karen Puckett, Norman Sloop
Oct 1 Nancy Shirley, Karen Rogers, Bill Safrin

ACOLYTES

Sept 3 Sam & Sascha Medina
Sept 10 Grant & Grace Shafer
Sept 17 Ty Buechler & Wade Robins
Sept 24 Sydney Hlavacek & Margaret Thurman

CRUCIFERS

Sept 3 Hannah Greene
Sept 10 Elizabeth Jones
Sept 17 Hank Robins
Sept 24 Landon Mesimer

ELEMENT BEARERS

Sept 3 Millie Wymbs
Sept 10 Joe Bohland

Eagle's View deadline

The October Eagle's View will be published in September
Please email stories and news to
angel@stjohns-salisbury.org by **September 15**.

Happy Birthday!

*Congratulations to our Octogenarians
celebrating:*

September Birthdays

Jim Epting, Shirley Smith, Jewel Ziprik, Pat O'Neal,
Joyce Brady, Dave Foreman, Fran Tannehill, William
Cline, Charles Heilig

USHERS: Head Ushers

Sept Stan Ferguson, Ernie Kirchin

USHER TEAMS

Sept 3 Team 1E* Tom Childress, Jim Boger
Team 1 Mark Derrick, captain
Sept 10 Team 2E* Tom Smith, Jim Boger
Team 2 Scott Roberson, captain
Sept 17 Team 3E* Bob Loeblein, Jeff Nelson
Team 3 Carole Parrott, captain
Sept 24 Team 4E* Bob Rusher, Bobby Rusher
Team 4 Loyd Hill, captain

NURSERY

Sept 3 Annette Brown, Ebony Alexander
Sept 10 Annette Brown, Natalee Taylor
Sept 17 Natalee Taylor, Sandra Jiles
Sept 24 Natalee Taylor, Annette Brown

9:27 COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Sept 3 Kathy Peeler, David and Julie Carr, Caitlin
Holman, Cammie Yarborough, Donna Groce
Oct 1 Bill Johnson, Vernon Davis, Christin Mowery,
Scott Robinson, Dennis Ingold, Tiffany Kneip

9:27 HOSPITALITY TEAM

Sept 3 Angel Barber, Cammie Yarborough, Wayne
Everhart, Irene Stewart, David and Julie Carr
Sept 10 Dean and Tammy Safrit, Jenny Ryerson, Judy
Klusman, Deb Miller, Lindsey Wineka
Sept 17 Debbie Carter, Jack and Chad Van der Poel,
Mike Jacobson, Cyndii Owen
Sept 24 Rhonda and David Harrison, Jack and Jeanie
Moore, Adam and Crystal Ryerson

9:27 USHER TEAM

Sept Anthony Weaver, Missie Weaver, Steve Butner,
Camille Butner, David Carr

PA OPERATORS

Sept 3 Darrell Blackwelder
Sept 10 Mike Agee
Sept 17 David Wilson
Sept 24 Roger Alexander



**Do you like to take
pictures at St. John's
services or events?**

Send your photos to
angel@stjohns-salisbury.org

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 Carolyn Byrd, staff liaison
Discipleship, Adult David Hord
Discipleship, Youth Sandra Sullivan

Worship Attendance

July 30	521
August 6	403
August 13	445
August 20	438
August 27	410 — one service

Buck-a-Meal Sunday

Sunday, September 3 (1st Sunday of each month)

Buck-A-Meal for August was \$488. Every dollar bill donated equals a meal at Rowan Helping Ministries.

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



Did you know: *St. John's passed out 250+ water bottles during Salisbury's College Night Out on August 25. The downtown event welcomes all college students from throughout the area.*

Hurricane Harvey Relief Needs Your Help

St. John's is working with Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) to aid in the relief effort for victims of Hurricane Harvey. LDR is currently on-site offering assistance, counseling, relocation, and basic necessities.

At this time, financial gifts are most beneficial. Because the ELCA covers all of LDR's administrative costs, all gifts designated for "Hurricane Response- United States" will be used in full (100%) until the response is complete to help disaster survivors recover and rebuild.

Learn more on the Lutheran Disaster Response Facebook.
<https://www.facebook.com/ELCALDR/>



Ministry Opportunity: MEALS ON WHEELS

St. John's Meals on Wheels needs substitute drivers; our runs are on the first and second Wednesday of each month.

A run takes approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes to complete. We will train you by going on the first run with you. Meals on Wheels provides directions to each client home. So even if you are new to the Salisbury area, rest assured this is something that you can do.



Interested? Contact Amy Richie at (704) 638-0535 or Elaine Gerst at (704) 431-6115

Oprah Winfrey Donates Items to Quetzal Gala Auction

By Susan Shinn

Oprah Winfrey has donated two items for auction at an upcoming gala next month in Salisbury.

A pair of Nicholas Kirkwood pumps and a pair of Dita designer sunglasses will be up for grabs during the Quetzal Gala on Sept. 16 at the Country Club of Salisbury. This event raises money for the students of Escuela Integrada, a school in Antigua, Guatemala.

GRACES is the Salisbury-based non-profit organization that oversees and raises funds for the school. A connection with GRACES brought about the donation from Winfrey, the entertainment mogul consistently ranked as one of the world's wealthiest women.



One of GRACES' supporters has a friend who worked for Winfrey at Harpo Studios, her former production company. The friend put Paula Bohland, GRACES' executive director, in touch with Winfrey's staff.

"I wrote the email of my life," Bohland said Thursday morning. "I sent information about our organization and a request for a donation for our gala. I had to keep it short enough and interesting enough to hold their attention. We sent it, and very quickly, we heard back that they were considering it."

With the items came a printed copy of Bohland's email, with a handwritten greeting across the top: "Best wishes for a great event!" Winfrey signed the inside of the shoes and the temple and case of the sunglasses. The shoes are a European size 41, equivalent to size 9½ to 10.



"Our organization is a good quality organization," Bohland said. "The fact that Oprah Winfrey gave this donation affirms for me the good work we're doing. She's been a person in my life who inspires me, and to have her give us these items is amazing. It shows me how abundant our God is."

Bohland posted the good news on Facebook Wednesday evening, she said. "We sold a lot of tickets that night."

Interest in the event has soared, she said. "I'm honored that Oprah looked at our organization and helped us out. This gives our event credibility and generates additional excitement. Supporters will be coming to Salisbury from all over the country, and Oprah's spirit will be right there with us."

The Quetzal Gala is set for 6:30 pm Sept. 16. Tickets are \$75 per person (cocktail attire). Please visit wearegraces.org to register. Contact Paula Bohland at paulabohland1006@gmail.com for sponsorship opportunities.



Reminder: *La Escuela Integrada Coffee* is available in the church office for \$13 a bag.

Disciple Bible Study Begins

By Susan Shinn Turner

The popular Disciple Bible Study will be offered again this fall. Pastor Rhodes will teach the 24-week class beginning September 20. An introduction to the course will be on September 13 for all those who might be interested.

The course is limited to 12 participants and provides a survey of the Bible — teaching not only scripture but studying the historical context of the time. Past participants have found it a challenging but deeply meaningful class.

“I spent years in Sunday School as both student and teacher and I am usually intentional in Bible study,” David Hord says. “I certainly have had my crests and troughs in being diligent. Bonnie and I participated in the Disciple 1 class in 2014-2015, not long after coming to St. John’s. Pastor Rhodes led a great class with probably 30 participants. This class helped me to better understand much of what I had been reading for years. We also made great connections with our classmates and have developed some fine friendships. I am very grateful to St. John’s for offering an array of classes to help us all grow in the faith. I recommend Disciple to all of our church family.”

“The Disciple Bible Study has helped me to grow in my understanding of the Bible more than any other religion class I ever took,” Brenda Munday says. “Pastor Rhodes excels in explaining the background and time of the writings, giving a new meaning to the words. I loved it so much, I volunteered to be a leader in the class the following year!”

Franco Goodman says that Disciple was a class he always wanted to take, but never felt he had the time to do so. “It was worth every meeting,” he says. “It was informative, but the best part was the relationships we developed as a

group. Reading the Bible together weekly gave us a new perspective on the Bible. I would certainly highly recommend it to anyone who wants to learn and discern the Bible better. In church many Sundays, I’ll hear a scripture reading that I understand even more having taken the class. It was a sacrifice that was well worth it.”

I had the privilege of taking the class with two of my co-workers at the time, Ruth Ann Diehl, who remains our business manager, and Karen Goodman.

“The Bible stories I knew became so much more meaningful and rich as we studied them together,” Ruth Ann says. “The experience stays with you long after the classes have been completed.”

I agree with Ruth Ann. I’ve pulled out my class materials several times over the years. It’s a lot of reading and writing — both of which I love — but it’s well worth the investment in time and effort to better connect faith and life together.

To sign up for Disciple, please call the church office at 704-636-3431.

New This Fall

Disciple Fast Track

The two hour classes have now been reduced to 1 hour and 15 minutes without reducing content or quality. The new format makes the course much more accessible to folks with busy lives.

Might that be you?

DISCIPLE



September 2017

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

<p>3 8:30a Chapel Worship 9:27a Contemporary Worship/HC 9:45a Children's Sunday School 10a Adult Sunday School 11a Sanctuary Worship/HC 11:15a Children's Worship</p>	<p>4 Labor Day- Office Closed</p>	<p>5 7:45a Women's Bible Study 10a Seasons Academy Kick-off 12p Centering Prayer 5:30p Outreach Team Meeting 7p Worship Group</p>	<p>6 10a Staff meeting 5:45p Wednesday Meals Kickoff 6p Milestone- Baptismal Partners 7:15p In God's Own Country Rehearsal 8p Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 7:30a Men's Bible Study 10:15a Trinity Singers Rehearsal 11a Trinity Ringers Rehearsal 3:30p Contemporary Worship Walk-thru 6p Contemporary Worship Rehearsal</p>	<p>8 1p St. John's Book Club</p>	<p>9 9a- 12p God's Work. Our Hands.</p>
<p>10 8:30a Chapel Worship Service/HC 9:27a Contemporary Worship 9:45a Children's Sunday School 10a Adult Sunday School 11a Sanctuary Worship/HC 12p-3p God's Work. Our Hands. 4:45p Men's Chorus 5:30p FUEL Youth Group</p>	<p>11 10a Staff Calendar Meeting 1p Monday Rembrandts 1:45p Contemporary Worship Meeting 5p Rowan Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours</p>	<p>12 7:45a Women's Bible Study 9:30a Senior Seasons Academy 12p Centering Prayer 3:30p Personnel Meeting 4:30p Finance Committee Meeting 6:30p Symphony Chorus Rehearsal 7p Sapona District Round Table Meeting</p>	<p>13 4:30p Disciple 1 4:30p Kingdom Kids/EPIC-Kickoff 5:45p Wednesday Night Meals 7:15p In God's Own Country Rehearsal 8p Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 7:30a Men's Bible Study 10:15a Trinity Singers Rehearsal 10:45a Bible Study- Carolyn Byrd 11a Trinity Ringers Rehearsal 3:30p Contemporary Wrorship Walk-thru 5p Executive Committee Meeting 6p Contemporary Worship Rehearsal</p>	<p>15 Confirmation Retreat NC MOM Clinic EAGLES VIEW DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 8:30a Chapel Worship 9:27a Contemporary Worship 9:45a Children's Sunday School 10a Adult Sunday School 10:40a Called Meeting 11a Sanctuary Worship/HC 11:15a Children's Worship 5:30p Confirmation Class 5:30p FUEL Youth Group</p>	<p>18 10a Staff Meeting 1p Monday Rembrandts 1:45p Contemporary Worship Meeting 6:30p Symphony Chorus Rehearsals</p>	<p>19 7:45 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Senior Seasons Academy 12p Centering Prayer 5:45p Adult Discipleship Team 7p Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>20 4:30p Discipleship Team 4:30p Disciple 1 4:30p Kingdom Kids/EPIC 5:45p Wednesday Night Meals 7:15p In God's Own Country Rehearsal 8p Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 7:30a Men's Bible Study 10:15a Trinity Singers Rehearsal 11a Trinity Ringers Rehearsal 12p Next Chapter 5p Reformation Symphony Rehearsal 6p Contemporary Worship Rehearsal 6:30p Symphony Chorus</p>	<p>22 4p Symphony Reformation Concert Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 2p NC & SC Synod Worship 5p Salisbury Symphony Door Ticket Sales 7p Reformation Symphony Concert</p>
<p>24 8:30a Chapel Worship/HC 9:27a Contemporary Worship 9:45a Children's Sunday School 10a Adult Sunday School 11a Sanctuary Worship 11:15a Children's Worship 12:30p Milestone- 3rd grade: Good news/ God News 4:45 Men's Chorus 5p Women's Ensemble 5:30p Confirmation Class 5:30p FUEL Youth Group</p>	<p>25 10a Staff Meeting 1p Monday Rembrandts 1:45p Contemporary Worship Meeting 4:15p Seasons Gifts Board Meeting 6p GIFT @ FFT</p>	<p>26 7:45a Women's Bible Study 9:30a Senior Seasons Academy 12p Centering Prayer 2p Healthy Rowan Meeting 6p 927 Worship Team Meeting</p>	<p>27 4:30 Disciple 1 4:30 Kingdom Kids/EPIC 5:45 Wednesday Night Meals 7:15p In God's Own Country Rehearsal 8p Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 7:30a Men's Bible Study 10:15a Trinity Singers Rehearsal 10:45a Bible Study- Carolyn Byrd 11a Trinity Ringers Rehearsal 6p Contemporary Worship Rehearsal</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

St. John's Ministry Staff

Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....The Rev. Rhodes Woolly
 Visitation.....Wade Rouzer

Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Music, Deacon.....Rob Durocher
 Associate Parish Musician.....Rosemary Kinard
 Assisting MusicianDaniel Trivette
 Director of Music Emeritus , Deacon.....Karl Kinard
 Assisting Organist.....Deanna Boksleitner
 Media Specialist.....Taylor Hutchins
 Contemporary Worship Leader.....Bradley Chestnut

Program Ministry

Youth.....Kai Thurow
 Senior AdultsCarolyn Byrd
 St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds)Teresa Stoner
 Child Development Center (infant –age 4 and after school)....Courtney Bost

Administrative Team

Business ManagerRuth Ann Diehl
 Office Manager.....Joy Chaffin
 Bookkeeper.....Toni Peeler
 Office Assistant/Communications Specialist Angel Owens
 WriterSusan Shinn Turner
 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	Rob	208
Toni	202	Rosemary	218
Ruth Ann	203	Carolyn	220
Kai	204	Bradley	222
Pastor Rhodes	206		
Jon	207		

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

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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	Cell 704.754.2250
Wade Rouzer	Cell 980.234.0699

Sep 1-3	Pastor Rhodes Woolly
Sep 8-10	Pastor Rhodes Woolly
Sep 15-17	Pastor Rhodes Woolly
Sep 22-24	Pastor Rhodes Woolly
Sep 29– Oct 1	Pastor Rhodes Woolly

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.