



ST. ANDREW'S Lutheran Church

May 2024

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS PENTECOST



Art by JOHN SWANSON

"AND EVERYONE WHO CALLS UPON
THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED"



PASTOR'S CORNER

In an article in the April Atlantic titled: “The Cost of the Church Going Bust,” Derek Thompson wrote:

“As an agnostic, I have spent most of my life thinking about the decline of faith in America in mostly positive terms. Organized religion seems, to me, beset by scandal and entangled in noxious politics. So, I thought, what is there really to mourn? Only in the past few years have I come to a different view. Maybe religion, for all its faults, works a bit like a retaining wall to hold back the destabilizing pressure of American hyper-individualism, which threatens to swell and spill over in its absence.”

We know that in the past 25 years, an estimated 40 million people – one in eight Americans – stopped going to church making it the largest concentrated change in church attendance in American history.

Think about that. We bemoan the fact that our pews are not as full as they once were, but when you consider about this change in our society, plus the radical alterations in the

immediate neighborhood around St. Andrew’s and the fact that the churches hit hardest are the “traditional mainline churches” such as the ELCA, St. Andrew’s is doing great! You are very faithful. You come to hear God’s living and saving word.

However, this article reminds us that organized religion provides not only a connection to the divine, but also a historical narrative of identity, a set of rituals to organize the week and year, and a community of families. We need these things. We are not meant to live in isolation or chaos. Most critically, electronics and online outlets will not, cannot do the same. This is why I get somewhat distressed when I see people around the church, sitting near one another, but engrossed in a phone instead of each other!

Let me give one concrete example. The other day we had a wonderful Lutheran Men gathering. We ate a great meal and then shared.

CONTINUED...

PASTOR'S CORNER, cont.

Everyone took a piece of paper and put on it what their grandparents and parents did for a living or something else interesting about them. They then handed them in to me, and I read beginning with the grandparents what each person wrote down and we tried to guess who's was who's. Fascinating were the things we learned about each other and the threads of our lives that were shared. There were many different paths that brought us there. The point is, we shared.

You don't need a formal program to do this. Anyone can turn to someone else and say: "I don't think I know you, but I see you in church." Or "I noticed you at this, or that" And start a conversation. This is what builds community and community feeds us and sustains us.

Finally, the author also noted that in failing to go to worship the other thing that we lose is shared ritual. Again, the issue of the smartphone came up. He wrote: "And America didn't simply lose its religion without finding a communal replacement. Just as America's churches were depopulated, Americans developed a new relationship with a technology that, in many ways, is the diabolical opposite of a religious ritual: the smartphone. As the social psychologist Jonathan Haidt writes in his book, *The Anxious Generation*, to stare into a piece of glass in our hands is to be removed from our bodies, to float placelessly (sic) in a content cosmos, to skim our attention from one piece of ephemera to the next. The internet is timeless in the best and the worst of ways – an everything store with no opening or closing times. 'In the virtual world, there is no daily, weekly, or annual calendar that structures when people can and cannot do things,' Haidt writes. In other words, digital life is disembodied, asynchronous, shallow, and solitary. Religious rituals are the opposite in almost every respect. They put us in our body, Haidt writes, many of them requiring 'some kind of movement that marks the activity as devotional.' In other words, the religious ritual is typically embodied, synchronous, deep, and collective."

Let us stand, kneel, sing, bow, come to the altar...Phones down. Eyes up. Ears open. Together.

Peace,
PT

I realize that little I will say in this article will change people's habits and I am sorry, I really am, if anyone takes encouragement as guilt. I have been forced to take some Ubers of late and all of them, I kid you not, all of them have brought up religion, church, and the bible without my encouragement. Let me tell you, there are some interesting ways people understand – or I should say don't understand – scripture. My doctor has a mug that I like pictured here.

I want one that says: Please do not confuse your Google search or study Bible with my Divinity degree. Join us for Bible study. No guilt. Just an invitation.

Monday at 11:00 in person.

Wednesdays at 5:45 in person and via Zoom.

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 11:00 in person.






Children and Families

LUTHER LEAGUE

Luther League will meet on Sunday, May 19 at 12: 30 p.m. for a picnic and games at the Riverwalk by the zoo. If you are in 3rd-5th grades, plan to join us and watch for more details.

LITTLE LUTHERAN FAMILY NIGHT

Please join us in the fellowship hall on Sunday, May 5, 5:00-6:30 p.m. for supper and fellowship. This will be the last Family Night of the school year for those with children in 2nd grade and younger. Please join us! See Deacon Sandra for details.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

If someone in your family is graduating this spring from college or graduate school, please let the church office know so we can celebrate them in the next newsletter.

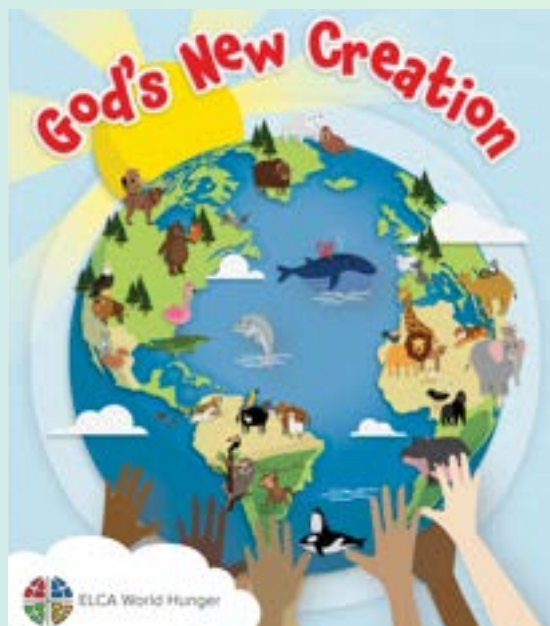
ELEMENTARY MUSIC

Calling all 1st-5th graders! Join Paige for music on select Sundays this Spring! We will explore lots of different types of music and instruments and prepare some music for worship!

Important Dates:
 May 5: Rehearsal 11:45-12:30
 May 12: Children's Music in 10:30 Worship

REGISTER NOW FOR VBS

JUNE 16-20, 2024



Please join us as we learn about farming all over the world and how we can join together to help be good stewards of God's New Creation! Please register your children (age 3 – 5th grade) and also volunteer to help with the most fun week of the year! Questions? See Deacon Sandra, Deb Varco or Georgia Godfrey.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Myra's Big Debut

Our own St. Andrew's puppet, Myra, was recently cast in the Newberry College Theatre production of "Nunsense." Myra spent most of March in Newberry with the show's costume designer and at rehearsals, culminating in performances the first weekend in April.





END OF SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

When: Sunday, May 26, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Join us as we celebrate the end of the school year by painting our bricks on the youth room wall, having some pizza, playing some games, and doing a devotional. All 6th-12th graders are welcome to join!

RSVP [here](#) by May 22.



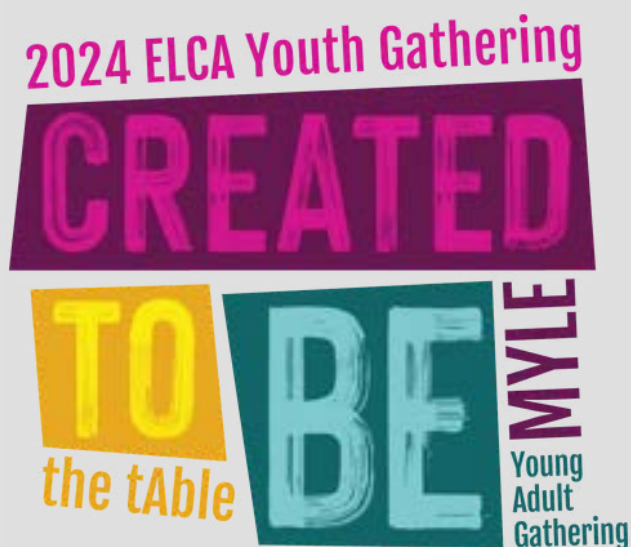
table talks with PT



A wonderful discussion was shared by all the other Sunday as about 20 adults and youth gathered for supper and sharing. We began by dividing into groups of youth and adults and drawing our own sketches of angels and demons and also answering the question: What do angels and demons do? After sharing (and watching the Monty Python “She’s a Witch” scene) PT talked about how the ideas of demons and angels “developed” later in the Bible, and became much more common during the very, very late period right before the time of Christ.

Clearly, Jesus encountered demons. Clearly, angels visited Mary and Joseph and ministered to Jesus in the wilderness. The reality, however, is that we just don’t know what they looked like and we can rest assured that the cartoon images we have today are probably not accurate. A good and important conversation was shared about how we might encounter or experience evil and “angels” (maybe in the form of the Holy Spirit) in our lives today. All agreed that while we may experience evil, and be tempted by “demons” we are in true essence children of God, made in God’s image.

This July, St. Andrew's will be sending 3 youth and 2 adults to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We have begun our preparations and are getting excited about this incredible faith-building opportunity that our youth get to take part in. This trip has been made possible by the generous contributions made to the Youth Mission Fund. Thank you to all who have contributed to this fund. We can't wait to share about our trip!



Your Formation Co-Op Team has been hard at work compiling everything we learned from our listening sessions, writing a vision statement for the youth group, and developing ministry plans for the youth group moving forward. We are looking forward to sharing a visit with our guide, Judy, this month and continuing our work together! Our journey with the Co-Op runs through July 2025.

Quilts for Seniors – Sunday, May 19

Join us at the 10:30 a.m. worship service as we honor the following students:

Hailey Armstrong

Peter Egan

Rebecca LaSalle

Not all of these students are able to attend on May 19 so they will be receiving their quilt another Sunday.



FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



Lutheran Women will meet on May 1, 2024 in the conference room at 10:30 a.m.
All women are invited.



Lutheran Men is meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14. We're hosting the quarterly meeting of the Midlands District of Lutheran Men. We planning on having a pig roast (that means half a hog) with all the sides. There will be a special speaker from Lighthouse for Life to speak about human trafficking in South Carolina.



Young at Heart will be meeting on May 16, 2024 to travel to the Antique Mall in Little Mountain with lunch at their cafe. Watch the announcements for a time to meet at the church to carpool.

All are invited to join this group.

RETIRED AND RESTLESS BIBLE STUDY

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.
Join Pastor Trump and many others as they examine the texts for upcoming Sundays.

DISCIPLES BIBLE STUDY

Our wonderful Bible study meets on Monday at 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. both in the Conference Room. The Wednesday session is also available via ZOOM at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88529105196>
You can come once just to check it out. We are a friendly group, and you are not expected to be a Bible expert to join.



Women's Book Club will meet on Friday, May 17. For our final meeting before taking a summer break, we will be sharing our favorite books with each other. If you have a "beach read" or favorite book you'd like to lend or give to someone, please bring it and if you are an audiobook listener or Kindle reader, please just bring the title to suggest. The location will be announced closer to the time. Please contact Deacon Sandra with questions.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Second Saturday Event at the Welcome House

Last month, we highlighted the new roof that was installed on the Welcome House and the work continues to make this a safe and inviting place for the guests that will live there. We are excited to partner with 2nd Saturdays and Team Depot to continue much-needed updates such as installing vinyl flooring in the entranceway for front and rear doors, installing porch lights, installing a new dryer, washer, microwave, and stove, and SO much more.



This work will take place on Saturday, May 11 from 8:30 a.m. - noon. There are lots of ways to help and all skill levels are needed. Lunch will be provided.

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring back in February. St. Andrew's was able to contribute \$726.69 to the Virginia Wingard Memorial United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

Your generosity helps the Food Pantry with their mission to provide each client household they serve with a generous supply of food. Each client that uses the Food Pantry receives a bag of non-perishable food items such as canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup, pasta, peanut butter, cereal, and snack items. Each client also receives perishable food items as they are available.

“Our Food Pantry would not be able to operate without the support we receive from other churches and community organizations in this area.”

JIM BROWNING
CHAIR, MISSIONS COMMITTEE
VIRGINIA WINGARD MEMORIAL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Christ Central

Thank you, thank you to the church. No matter who actually cooked and dished up the food, we all are one, and all helped provide a meal on Saturday, April 13, for over 130 people who struggle to provide for themselves, often who live on the street. The baked spaghetti, Greek salad, bread, and a variety of desserts were gobbled up. People came back for seconds. Joy was shared. There will be another chance to serve soon, so keep your eyes open and join us.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

April 18, 2024

Deb Varco brought the meeting to order at approximately 6:30pm. Devotions were led by Brian Teusink. Brian Teusink moved to approve the minutes from the March 14 meeting. Deb Varco seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Capital Campaign: (Please see article in this newsletter)

- Pastor Trump noted that there were no current concerns about needing any stop gap funding, but that the committee would review this again to be sure.
- The issue of punch list items for all projects was discussed with the Council generally agreeing that final payment of a residual amount should be delayed until all such punch list items were completed.

Officer and Staff Reports:

- No questions were asked about the Pastor's Report. Sandra was not here so the Deacon's report was not discussed.

Team Reports:

- The finance report was discussed with Brian noting that March was a good month and that we cut into the year's funding gap even though March's expenses were higher than typical.
- The Social Ministry, Fellowship, and Children's ministry team reports were noted with no significant questions or issues needing discussion.

Old/New Business:

- Deb Varco noted that Mutual Ministry continues to search for Mari's replacement. An offer was made to another candidate, but it was not accepted. Tom Henry is exploring the potential use of a temp agency. The notion of sharing a position with other church's was discussed, but rejected for the time being in favor of continuing the effort to have someone dedicated to our church only.
- Pastor Trump noted that temporary solutions are in place to deal with the workload for the time being. The e-news has been moved to Paige, who will be paid at Mari's rate for this activity. The bulletin responsibility has been completely moved to Jenny, and Sandra is currently updating the website. Pastor Trump noted that Jenny and Paige appear to be happy with their new duties and that the office is fine with continuing our hybrid solution for now. These issues will continue to be discussed by the Mutual Ministry committee.
- Jason Bradley noted that, before we place a temp in the office manager position, we may want to look at some of our security procedures to ensure they are sufficient.
- Per a Mutual Ministry motion the Director of Music Ministries salary was increased to cover the extra time due to her responsibility for the bulletin start to finish. A \$50 a week increase was approved.
- Mutual Ministry asked that council review the cap on the per diem pay for the Youth Worker (Paige) when she travels overnight with youth. The amount is \$100 per night, but with a \$300 cap. The council voted to remove the cap.
- Council discussed ratification of its prior email vote to approve expenditures to repair the roof of the Welcome House. Specifically, Brian Teusink made an initial motion to approve spending of \$8,000 (split \$3,000 from the Refugee Fund and \$5,000 from the Building Fund) be amended to move for approval to spend up to \$8,000 split 50% each between the Refugee Fund and the Building Fund. Darrick Williams seconded Brian's amended motion, which then passed.
- Council approved delegates for the upcoming Synod Meeting (via Zoom). After discussing the issue, the general consensus was that approving Jessie Caniff-Kuhn, Beth Trump, and Sandra Holland as delegates would be appropriate. Brian Teusink moved that these names be approved as church delegates to the Synod Meeting and Darrick Williams seconded. The motion passed.

Prayer Concerns:

- Various prayer concerns throughout the Church community were discussed. Pastor Trump concluded with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

NEWBERRY WINS SPEECH & THEATRE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

One of our own, Pat Gagliano, directed Newberry College speech, debate, and theatre students at the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association's annual State College Festival Competition. The event was held on April 6 and welcomed representatives from six colleges and universities, including the University of South Carolina at Columbia, Lander University, and USC Lancaster.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

Congratulations to Pat and all of the students involved!

The Greater Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
invites you to a



Great Hymns of the Faith

Friday, May 10, 2024
7:00 p.m.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
1416 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29210

We'll join our voices in singing of some of the great hymns of the faith that have withstood the test of time. AGO Chapter members will inspire our singing with creative organ accompaniments and improvisations. Please join us for an evening that is sure to lift everyone's spirits.

This event is open to the public free of charge.

For further information, call Huger Caughman at (803) 924-7619 .

FINANCE

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
Statement of Income and Expense
March of Fiscal Year 2024
Fund: 01 - General**

	March Actual	2024 YTD Actual
Current and Benevolence Giving	\$ 55,918.06	\$ 134,310.51
Expenses	\$ 52,287.24	\$ 135,556.91
Expenses under (over) Giving	\$ 3,630.82	\$ (1,246.40)
Current and Benevolence Giving	\$ 55,918.06	\$ 134,310.51
Budget	\$ 54,103.83	\$ 139,497.49
Giving (under) over Budget	\$ 1,814.23	\$ (5,186.98)

After the presentation of the offering and the receiving of the bread and wine at the altar last Sunday, the offertory prayer began, "Generous God." God is amazingly generous. God shares himself with us. As we follow our Lord, we begin to be generous people as we contribute our time, share our abilities, and give our offerings in a variety of ways in our families, our communities, and our church. The offerings shared above are not just a part of our generosity but a vital part that helps make a difference through our church.

Thank you for the ministry you enable through your gifts here and thank you for the wonderful things you do that we just don't know about. May God continue to provide you with opportunities to give and share your generosity.

- Pastor John Wertz

We Gather



A Capital Funds Campaign for
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

Celebration of the We Gather Capital Campaign

The We Gather Campaign has been a tremendous opportunity for us to work together as stewards of our facility and the community it serves! We are excited to gather in an open and welcoming Narthex, worship in a fresh and inviting sanctuary, and prepare meals in an updated, user-friendly kitchen. These spaces nourish our community when we come together to hear God's word and be fed, grow in our faith, and share our lives in fellowship.

When we launched the We Gather Campaign in the Fall of 2022, most agreed we needed to revive our 50+ year-old spaces, however, some believed our goal of raising \$500,000 was quite ambitious. We are thrilled to share the news that we will surpass our goal by nearly \$150,000!

This is a testament of the Holy Spirit at work through you, our faithful and generous congregation.

What's left? Springhill Construction is addressing our punch list items and the new Narthex furniture will be delivered in the next few weeks. Our parking lots are scheduled to be repaved in early May. We look forward to a congregational celebration in the Narthex later in May. Be on the lookout for more details and make plans to join us.

What's next? Based on gifts and pledges as of mid-April, we should have approximately \$50,000 remaining in the Capital Campaign Fund. There have been unanticipated costs with us being required to renovate the bathrooms in the Narthex. We hope there will be no additional surprises as we complete our parking lot project. Church Council identified areas throughout the church in need of refurbishment during its retreat in January. The Capital Campaign Steering Team and Church Council will be prioritizing this list and determining which areas to address next.

Thank you for your generosity and dedication to this campaign. We continue to ask for your prayers as we approach this time of celebration. Any additional gifts you may be able to give will help finance work on other parts of our church that need our care. A primary objective of the We Gather Campaign is to transform these spaces in a way that will bring us together in faith and fellowship now and for generations to come. As we see the physical projects nearing completion, we encourage all of you to find new ways to gather in our welcoming spaces to share God's love.

- Capital Campaign Steering Team

EASTER AT ST. A'S





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 2	Pat Ceresoli	May 16	Brian Teusink
May 2	Paul Osmundson	May 16	Caroline Varco
May 4	Robin Semones	May 18	Sean Glowacki
May 5	Cindy Bane	May 19	George Metts
May 6	Josh Cruse	May 20	Joel Lucas
May 9	Elijah Ray	May 20	Sara Von Schweinitz
May 9	Evren Ray	May 21	Benjamin Godfrey
May 10	Vern Free	May 24	Sarah Potts
May 10	Alyssa Gagliano	May 25	Brenda Paschal
May 10	Hank Ray	May 26	Joanne Taylor
May 11	Reagan Bouknight	May 27	Abby Armstrong
May 11	M. Ryan Coleman	May 27	Jason Bradley
May 12	Kevin Althoff	May 27	Brendon Kelly
May 14	Amy Thomasson	May 28	Jeanne Thompson
May 14	Damian Wanek	May 31	Sarah Venturella
May 16	Ellie Brown		

PRAYERS AND MEMORIALS

IN OUR PRAYERS

Aaron Brown, Lexington Hospital

Jada Mitchell, cancer treatments

Lee and Judy Bowling

Family and Friends of Dr. Jim Chapman

HOMEBOUND

Doris Oldham

Joe Meador

June Steadman

Robbie Wright

Sarah Cook

Sharon Guest

Shirley Sanders

MEMBERS IN EXTENDED CARE

Adrian Trexler, The Brian Center

Betty Dawkins, Presbyterian Home

Christine Metts, Westminster Memory Care

Miller Shealy, Wellmore

Mitch Mayer, Lexington Extended Care

Vern Free, Generations, Chapin

FRIENDS & RELATIVES

Nancy Hulon, daughter of Jean Lail

Katie, Tom and Theresa Henry's niece

Corbett Anderson, nephew of Amy Vikers and grandchild of Mike and Susan Beeler

Stephen Finger, friend of Jan Bass

Sandra Ouzts, sister of Debra Ouzts

Ed Canon, cousin of Joyce Shealy

Ernie Davis, friend of Lee Bowling

Jimmy Asbill, son of Shirley Swanson

Bonnie Seibert, cousin of Jada Mitchell

Frances Dyches, sister of Bobbie Bell

Edna Wheeler's granddaughter

Davis Bowling, son of Judy and Lee Bowling

Kelsey Baird, friend of Paige Gibbons

Moving forward, we will keep your prayer requests for friends and relatives in the newsletter for 2 months unless otherwise informed by you. After 8 weeks the request will be removed from publications. Please let the office know if you'd like your request extended beyond 8 weeks or removed early.

MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

5/5/24

Assisting Minister Rick Gibbons

8:30 Service

Reader Linda Hughes

Ushers Robert Luther, Paul Osmundson

10:30 Service

Reader Beth Mullins

Communion Assistant Lillie O.

Acolyte Nina Skillman

Crucifer Maya Skillman

Ushers Layne Birdsong, Steve Metze, Justin Vareo

Grounds Potts/Luther

Council Collections Beth Mullins, Jill Areheart, Darrick Williams

Recycling Bobbie Bell

Altar Guild Sharon Berger

Counters Bobbie Bell, Anita Murphy

Flowers

5/12/24

Assisting Minister Tom Henry

8:30 Service

Reader Tom Bane

Ushers Layne Birdsong, Curtis Amick

10:30 Service

Reader Phillip Jenkins

Communion Assistant Rick Gibbons

Acolyte Caroline Varco

Crucifer Ben Godfrey

Ushers Robert Luther, Paul Osmundson

Grounds Osmundson/Brian Teusink

Council Collections Beth Mullins, Jill Areheart, Darrick Williams

Recycling Bobbie Bell

Altar Guild Sharon Berger

Counters Bobbie Bell, Barbara Weaver

Flowers The Lands

5/19/24

Assisting Minister Mandy Glowacki

8:30 Service

Reader Becca Kelly

Ushers Mari Frye, Brian Haley

10:30 Service

Reader Kristino Thompson

Communion Assistant Beth Trump

Acolyte William Thomasson

Crucifer Sean Egan

Ushers Layne Birdsong, Curtis Amick

Grounds Walrath/Kloot

Council Collections Beth Mullins, Jill Areheart, Darrick Williams

Recycling Bobbie Bell

Altar Guild Sharon Berger

Counters Sharon Berger, Mary Ann Jacobs

Flowers Areheart/Marsh

5/26/24

Assisting Minister Ron Walrath

8:30 Service

Reader Sharon Berger

Ushers Layne Birdsong

10:30 Service

Reader Darrick Williams

Communion Assistant Jay Folk

Acolyte Madelyn Loschiaro

Crucifer Addison Connaker

Ushers Mari Frye, Brian Haley

Grounds Folk/Walrath

Council Collections Beth Mullins, Jill Areheart, Darrick Williams

Recycling Bobbie Bell

Altar Guild Sharon Berger

Counters Bobbie Bell, Susan Beeler

Flowers LaSalle



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
1416 Broad River Rd.
Columbia, SC 29210

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To Reach Us
Telephone: 803-772-6034
Email: officemgr@salutheran.com
Website: www.salutheran.com

Pastor

The Rev. John P. Trump

Deacon

Sandra Holland

Director of Music Ministries

Jenny Walrath

Choir and Ensemble Director

Nancy Gibbons

Office Administrator

Mari Frye

Children's Music and Youth Ministry Associate

Paige Gibbons

Congregational Council

President: Deb Varco

Vice President: Darrick Williams

Secretary: Jason Bradley

Treasurer: Judy Venturella

Financial Secretary: Sharon Berger

Council Members: Jill Areheart

Anna Berger

Lindsay Canniff-Kuhn

Cathi Cooper

Pat Gagliano

Beth Mullins

Debra Ouzts

Jim Tener

Brian Teusink