

“AND THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH” (Habakkuk 2:4)

“AND THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH” (Romans 1:17)

Voices of Faith at Faith

Volume 28: April 09, 2026

To the beloved Faithful Islanders and beyond. **Now the strife is over and the battle is won and done, we rejoice at the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. We thank our Lord for the new hope He brings into our lives amid our situations, joyful or challenging/joyful and challenging. As Jesus met Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, where they were and not where they were supposed to be, on Easter Sunday, He also meets us where we are to infuse HOPE. Let us rejoice in HOPE!!!**

We have come this far by faith, even if it's the size of a mustard seed, the smallest of plant seeds.

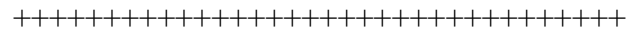
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Thank you to all the Saints who blessed us with Easter lilies. Many blessings upon you!!! Please remember to take your lilies home after worship on Sunday (04/12/2026).



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CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026. What a powerful and enriching time together with the Saints. Special thanks to Emma and Henry Summers for the duet on this day. Thank you Mandy, mom, for working with the kids on this gift to the congregation. Let us continue to make memories for children in our worship space.



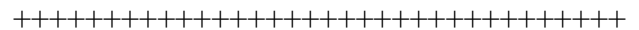
Thank you to the Saints who serve in many quiet ways. May God bless you abundantly.



CELEBRATING THE APRIL BIRTHDAY SAINTS:



- 04/03 Holden Ammons
- 04/06 Trish Bradley
- 04/10 Robert Bellah Jr.
- 04/11 Dave Lee
- 04/16 Cheryl Herns
- 04/17 Rick Brisbin
- 04/18 Maggie Gainey
- 04/22 Jamie Bellah



REMEMBERING IN OUR PRAYERS:

Mrs. Dukes, Andrea Brisbin, Trish Bradley's family at the passing of her father Carl Simmons, Roy Kimbrell, Bobby Bellah, Stephen Bellah, Nettie Poulnot's family and loved ones, Jimmy Farr's family, Pastor Josh Knutson's family and his congregations (Christ Community Church, North Charleston and St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Moncks Corner) after his untimely death, Bishop Ginny Aebischer, Mike Shuey, Mikie Floyd, Ken HERNs, Rick Hartley, Bobby Webb, Patricia Beruf, Reid Melton, Jay O'Neill, Phil Ammons, Pat Lane, Helena Bradford, Donna Porritt, Nettie Poulnot, Dolores Dukes, Matthew Sharbrough, Trisha Melton, Harry Rakowski.

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SERVING – Sunday, April 12, 2026
Lector & Prayer Leader Rick Beruf
Acolyte Simon Gainey
Ushers Rick Brisbin & Jim Jones
Communion Assistant Anthony Gainey
Communion Prep Debbie Jones

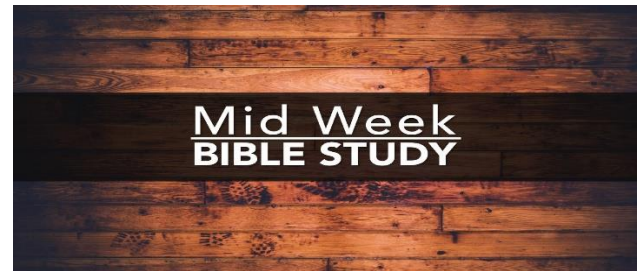
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This coming Saturday (April 11, 2026) is the Taste of the Islands' Churches Fundraiser to raise money for "Feeding the Multitude." Last year they raised \$4,000.00 on this kind of event. The event will be from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Wadmalaw Island Community Center. Come one, come all!!!!



WE ARE STARTING A KID'S CHOIR

We welcome children to join the choir. To qualify for the choir, each kid has to have a pulse and be ready to sing to the Lord for the sake of His world. Please let Pastor Thulie or Mandy Summers know if your youngie is in!!!
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Midweek Bible Study will start back in May 2026. We will go back to meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. At this point I am concentrating more on pastoral care. The call is a 15 hours per week call and I have been, on many weeks, working between 25-30 hours per week and it's exhausting because I have two other hourly jobs. In the meantime, I will be attending to every emergency. My phone number and email address are published in the bulletin.

The truth that Church Bodies are trying to avoid or sugarcoat with their members is that Christianity has been on the decline for a long period of time. I did research work on the decline, about 10 years ago, and the Mainline Church Bodies, including the ELCA, would not allow me to get figures on church membership in their denominations. I was working with mainly Mainline Churches (Lutheran/Presbyterian/Episcopal/United Methodist- these were the main ones). Though they refused to share the statistics, the statistics was obvious in the pews.

Unless the Christian Churches grow again, the statistics will continue to paint a scary picture. When I was going to seminary in the 1990s, we had over 200 students in my seminary. Today my seminary has 5 students. Seminary is

expensive, many congregations cannot afford a full-time pastor and how will the pastor pay back the student loans on a part-time call? And so synods are working hard to encourage yoking to congregations which are in the same geographic area. In the Lowcountry we have two sets of yoked congregations. They all have their congregational cultures and share a pastor. There was a time in the Lowcountry when we had Pulpit Supply pastors, a dime a dozen, now we only have two and most of the supply pastors are in the Columbia area. When a congregation in the Lowcountry is looking for a pulpit supply they must pay higher mileage fees because of the distance.

If you ask me why are we not able to bring in people in big numbers in our Christian Churches, it's because we have, in recent years used a political lens instead of a Gospel lens in our churches. We listen more to our politicians than to the Gospel of Christ which calls us to love God and neighbor.

The South Carolina Synod, ELCA figures. **The synod says we have 5,479,000 people living within the synod territory. We have 139 congregations and worshipping communities in the synod. We have 36,655 baptized Lutherans in the synod. SO ELCA LUTHERANS IN THE SYNOD MAKE UP 0.0067%.**

THE GOOD NEWS AT FAITH AND ABOUT FAITH:

We have plenty enough to carry us for many years to come. Your commitment and dedication and gifts to the ministry are admirable. You Saints give of your time and possessions to the ministry. We have Saints from all age groups excited about the ministry and are continuously serving. We are in a better place financially and spiritually and we will continue to extend our prayers to the wider church while we faithfully do our ministry here.

WORDS TO LIVE BY...LOL, SOURCES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

“We owe our parents an apology for not believing them when they said they don't have money even on payday.”

“Wife is CUTE when she is MUTE and Husband is HONEY when he gives MONEY.”

“My Attitude in Exams. They give me Questions I don't know. I give them Answers they don't know.”

“Dear Math. I am sick and tired of finding your X. Just accept the fact that she is gone. Move on dude.”

“95% of the teachers act FAKE when the principal enters the classroom”!!!

“Teacher: Why is your paper blank? Student: Sometimes silence is the best answer.”

“My last 10 minutes answers on the exam: What is a heart attack? A heart attack is the attack on the heart. What is blood pressure? Blood pressure is the pressure of the blood.”

“People change completely when they start using iPhone. It must be the apple; it changed Eve too.”

“Our moms used to tell us not to take food from strangers but now we order food online without knowing who cooked it.”

“Ever spent money so fast you thought you lost some”?

May the HOPE of the Easter Season be your constant companion this day and all of your days.

Peace, Pastor Thulie