

St. James Lutheran Church

*"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning,
Fellowship, and Service."*

Ring Out A Weekly Newsletter



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WEEK OF December 3, 2023

SUNDAY WORSHIP

4

The First Sunday in Advent

Introduction to Sunday's Worship

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the

suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Where Did That Come From? - The Advent Wreath Edition

There has long been debate about the origins of the Advent wreath. Some argue for a pre-Christian origin. Others place the beginning point among 16th-century Germans. Much of the debate focuses upon what exactly we mean by the term *Advent wreath*. The modern Advent wreath, however, is fairly well dated to 1839 and a certain Pr. Johann Hinrich Wichern, administrator of the the Rauhes Haus in Hamburg, Germany. Wichern, being daily pestered by the boys in his orphanage regarding the arrival of Christmas, set up a wagon wheel with candles on it as a way to mark the passage of time for his wards. That wheel not only had candles for each of the Sundays (white) but also for all the weekdays (red). Learn more about Wichern, the Rauhes Haus, and his Adventzkrantz at <https://www.rauheshaus.de/wir-fuer-sie/adventskranz/>. (Helps if you read German or have a browser that can translate for you.) The wreath migrated into the Protestant churches in Germany and eventually beyond. Its place in the sanctuary is relatively recent in terms of church history.

-courtesy wv-wmd.org

DOWNLOAD BULLETIN

ADVENT WORSHIP NOTE

HEADS UP!

For the four Sundays in Advent, we will try two changes. The first change is the bulletin. We will be using what we are calling a "seasonal bulletin." We will use the same bulletin for all four Sundays of Advent. At the close of worship, you may leave your bulletin in the pew or



Sunday Worship for will be live-streamed on YouTube beginning at 9:45 on Sunday morning. An email with the link will be sent on Sunday morning. You can also watch a recorded version later by visiting our [YouTube Page](#).

in the narthex. The second change will find us singing hymns from the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW), "the green book" that has been staring at you in the pew rack for years.

You can open or print the bulletin and follow along with the service.

[WATCH THE LIVESTREAM](#)



ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK & BEYOND

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 3

9:15 am Parish Choir
9:30 am Children's SS
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Evangelism
Comm - Parlor
11-3:00 pm 2nd Annual
Carole Grady Blood Drive
5:00 pm Make ornaments
6:00 pm Tree Lighting
Liturgy w/ snacks &
drinks to follow

Monday, December 4

10:30 am Quilting Group
6:30 pm Bible Study
(Birth Narratives)
6:30 pm Scouts

Tuesday, December 5

10:30 am Mary Magdalene
Circle
5:00 pm Executive Comm

Wednesday, December 6

5:30 pm WNT
6:00 pm Bella Voce Choir

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

03-Dec Christine Ruff
04-Dec Lauren Hoadley
Margaret Pruetto
06-Dec Marshall Cromer
Joyce Osborne
08-Dec Caden Guilfoyle
Lauren Yoos
09-Dec Bruce Rockenfield

PLEASE NOTE:

Salvation Army Ringing of the Bells at Sam's Club at Northlite Shopping Center in Kannapolis - Wednesday, December 13. Sign up times run from 10 am until 7 pm. The last shift ends at 8 pm sign up sheet is in Portico area.

7:00 pm Parish Choir

Thursday, December 7

6:00 pm Handbells

Saturday, December 9

8-12 noon Amazing Grace
Advocacy (F. Hall & Flex
Rm) *Cooking with Santa*

Sunday, December 10

9:15 am Parish Choir
9:30 am Children's SS
10:00 am Worship

**An Advent Journey -
The Birth Narratives of Luke
and Matthew
Mondays December 4, 11,
18 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Bring your bible, your sense of
humor and your questions.

We will go no more than an
hour. It's possible we'll finish
in less than four weeks. If we
go longer than four weeks,
you'll simply have to show up
on Monday, December 25th.

**HEY! "WE" NEED SOME
HELP**

Ok, I need some help. Do
you have experience in
public relations? Do you
have skills in helping
organizations to
communicate more
effectively and efficiently. Do
you have experience in
helping organizations
improve their ability to
communicate with its
members and the wider
community?

**Second Annual Blood
Drive in memory of Carole
Grady**

Sunday, December 3rd

Appointments are available
from 11 am until 3 pm in the
Fellowship Hall of St.
James.

Please use this link

<https://donorportal.oneblood.org/donate-now/donation-centers-list-select-time?driveID=1349825>

to reserve your donation
time. For more information,
please contact Anne Eury at
704-201-5070.

POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias can be ordered
by filling out this attached
form and mailing back to the
church office, drop in
offering plate, or you may
bring by the church office.

Deadline for ordering is
December 4th.

Click here for form

Lively Leisures

The next Lively Leisures

Does St. James need a communication team tasked with building more effective and efficient communication across the make up of our community? This is a worthy question, I think the answer is "yes, yes we do."

I am not asking for any individual to make an infinite commit from which you will never be paroled. I am seeking folks who would be willing to sit for a brief period of time around the question "ok, this is how you can get started and this is what you need to begin addressing this concern."

I hope that has a little more clarity than mud. Thanks!

Peace, *Pastor Bill*

luncheon and program will be Tuesday, December 12.

The program will be presented by Bella Voche Choir.

My Father's House

St. James and St. Johns Lutheran will be hosting My Father's House Ministry December 11 thru 13. There are presently 6 adults and 9 children in the ministry. If you can provide an item for the meal for December 11 and 12, please let Sylvia Corl (704-425-8621 - cell) know. She will be glad to pick up the item from your home and take it to the ministry. The meals will be taken to the MAC (Mother's and Children's) House. Sylvia thanks you so much for your help with this much needed ministry.

SUNDAY MINISTERS

LECTOR/INTERCESSORS

Dec 03 Kim Haberman
Dec 10 Beth Huss

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Dec 03 Elizabeth Hurley
Dec 10 Dianne Lambert

VIDEOGRAPHER

Dec 03 Chris Miller
Dec 10 Chris Miller

DECEMBER USHERS

Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin,
Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, and

ACOLYTES

Dec 03 Colin & Logan

Whisnant

Dec 10 Finley Stephens

GREETERS

Dec 03 Laura Overby

Dec 10 Nancy Faggart

Jason Pittard

FLOWERS

Dec 03 Ashley Cline and Jeff

Koenig

Dec 10 Jo Eng

CHURCH NEWS



Family and Friends

- Jerry Kiser (nephew of the Marlows)
- Linda and Paul Jones (family members of Barbara and Dale Merrell)

Members of St. James

- Patsy Black
- Tom Grady
- Tom Ridenhour
- Noah Clifton

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family-to-Family has two programs as well as resources available. Please click here for flyers for more information: [F2F Flyer for family & friends](#)
[F2F Flyer for family and family caregivers of children and adolescents](#)

CHURCH RESOURCES

You can manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions or make a one time contribution and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have

access to the Internet. In a few short minutes, you can make a one-time gift or set up a donation that will process automatically on a recurring basis. Recurring donations are convenient and provide our church with much needed consistent support throughout the year.



[Give Now](#)



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Use the link below to follow St. James on Instagram.

Instagram

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ST. JAMES STAFF

- Rev. Bill Ridenhour, *Pastor* [Email](#)
- Jill Irvin, *Financial Administrator* [Email](#)
- Scott Foppiano, *Organist / Director of Music* [Email](#)
- Kathryn Radcliffe, *Nursery Coordinator* [Email](#)
- Debbie Wilkinson, *Interim Parish Administrator* [Email](#)
- Teresa Honeycutt, *Custodian* [Email](#)
- Debbie Davis, *Congregation President* [Email](#)

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