

# Welcome!

St. James is a house of prayer where all people can come to know the compassionate heart of Jesus. We are a community of Christians where you can belong before you believe. At Saint James the beauty of worship ancient and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. together Join us as discover the sacred in the heart of the city. Our worship includes ancient and contemporary symbols and practices along with preaching and music to inspire you to follow Jesus in your daily life. We welcome both the spiritual seeker and seasoned disciple to find their home in God with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home or exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

# Saint James Lutheran Church

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A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 23, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

# Welcome!

**Newcomers and visitors,** we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

**Although there are customary postures** (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

**Children are most welcome in worship** at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building.

The First Aid Kit and the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

If you are interested in membership to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

Restrooms are available on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

**Pew Pads** are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

# St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups

Send Joseph Beasley any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com @stjamesnc

**St. James YouTube Channel** Go to <u>www.youtube.com</u> search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

**NEW MEMBER RECEPTION:** Immediately following worship today join us in the fellowship hall to welcome the newest members into the St. James family. Light refreshments will be served. Thank you to our Parish Fellowship Committee.

**WELCOME:** Welcome to our newest members of St. James, Mike and Cindy Korinko, John Meadows, Travis and Shannon Nesbit, Karen Parks, and Lisa Wilkinson.

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#### WELCOME

# **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

Arioso

Johann Seb. Bach

Congregational Responses in **Bold** 

(Stand)

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who redeems us in Christ Jesus, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

Silence is held for reflection and self-examination

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God.

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

(Stand)

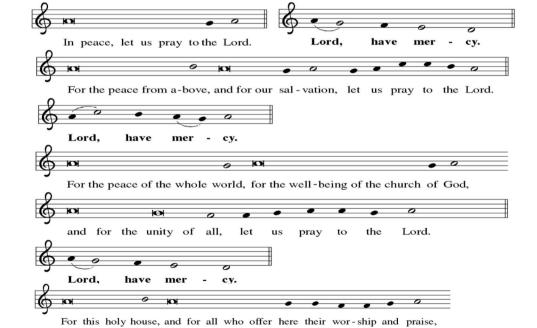




#### GREETING

**K**YRIE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 



Lord

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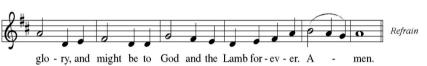
men.

let us pray to

the Lord.

Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.









#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Sit)

#### YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

# FIRST READING ACTS 2:14A, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

A reading from Acts, the second chapter.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, <sup>36</sup>"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." <sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# **PSALM** 116:1-4, 12-19 (Chanted by Choir)

- <sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications.
- <sup>2</sup> Because He hath inclined His ear unto me,

therefore will I call upon Him as long as I live.

- <sup>3</sup> The sorrows of death encompassed me, and the pains of hell got hold upon me; I found trouble and sorrow.
- <sup>4</sup> Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I beseech Thee, deliver my soul!"
- <sup>12</sup> What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me?
- <sup>13</sup> I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD.
- <sup>14</sup> I will pay my vows unto the LORD now, in the presence of all His people.
- <sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.
- <sup>16</sup> O LORD, truly I am Thy servant; I am Thy servant and the son of Thine handmaid; Thou hast loosed my bonds.
- <sup>17</sup> I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.
- <sup>18</sup> I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all His people,
- <sup>19</sup> in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of thee,

O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD!

#### SECOND READING 1 PETER 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

A reading from 1st Peter, the first chapter.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. <sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### HOLY GOSPEL LUKE 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene, two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 18Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said: but they did not see him." 25Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" 27Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" 33That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" 35Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

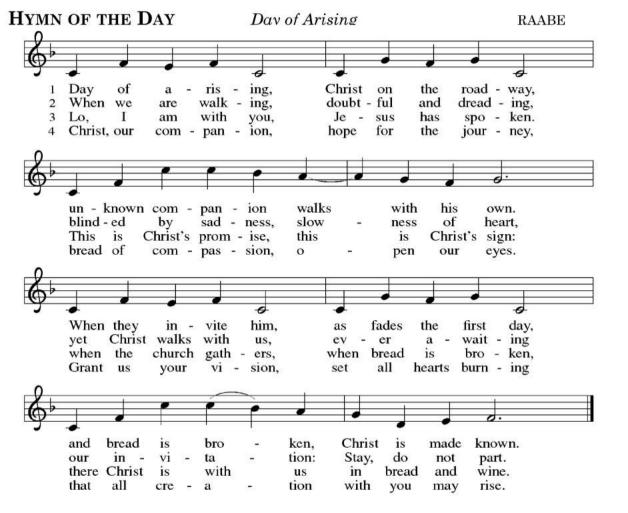
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Craig



### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

I present Mike and Cindy Korinko, John Meadows, Travis and Shannon Nesbit, Karen Parks, and Lisa Wilkinson who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Those making affirmation respond: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ? We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Ever-present God, you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread and in the bonds of community. Reveal yourself to us in the faces of all we meet. Strengthened by your body and blood, let us boldly live out your good news. Today we especially pray for Rev. Marcus Ollis and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Beth Eden Lutheran Church in Newton, NC. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

As we know you in the breaking of the bread, we know you in the grains of the field and the flowing waters. Care for the earth you lovingly create. Strengthen those who safeguard threatened land and water. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

You are the authority to whom we dedicate our lives. Help us keep the needs of those most vulnerable at the forefront of our community. Move us to care for any who are disregarded or oppressed. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

You feed and comfort those who hunger. Open the hearts of those who hoard resources and lead them to share your abundance. We pray for anyone hungering for your comforting presence this day especially those we name in out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

You pour out your love on those who are oppressed. Form this community to listen faithfully and speak honestly in our ministry together. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

We remember with thanksgiving all your beloved saints. As you have raised them to eternal life, abide with us in your promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

#### Amen.

# (Stand)

SHARING OF THE PEACE (This can be done verbally with no physical contact, if desired) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

## And also with you.

# ANTHEM

The Easter Song of Praise

Richard Shepherd

# OFFERING

(Offering plates presented at the altar)

# OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# HOLY COMMUNION

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

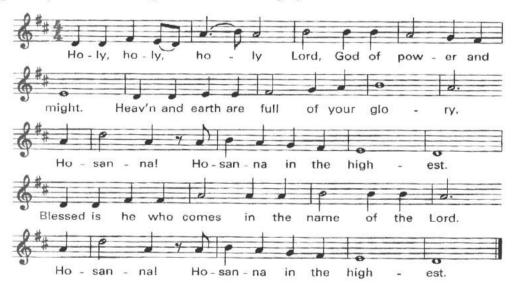
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church,



#### LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us; we are bold to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

# INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

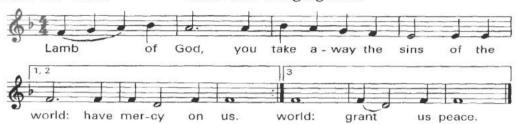
Thanks be to God!

(Sit)

All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion at Saint James. If you desire to receive Communion, please proceed to the altar by way of the center aisle. The ushers will direct you. You will receive a wafer and a cup of wine. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. After communing, please use the outside aisle to return to your seat. Communion will be brought to persons in the pews who are unable to come forward to the altar. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so.

#### LAMB OF GOD

Choir and Congregation



# POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

#### BLESSING

The God of all, who raised # Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

Amen.

# BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen from "The Easter Song of Praise"

Richard Shepherd

SENDING HYMN

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! v. 3-4

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# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Musique Royale

Michel Richard de LaLande

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

#### SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH PO Box 684 CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026 CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166 BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK WEBSITE www.sinc.net 25-Apr Natalie Williams 26-Apr Kailey Hartman DIRECTORY 27-Apr Thomas Grady Members of Saint James......Ministers 28-Apr Kara Bestler The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop 29-Apr Sam Hurley The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith......Bishop 29-Apr Chervl Webb 29-Apr Stacey Wilson SAINT JAMES STAFF Rev. Craig Saltzer, Interim Pastor CALENDAR THIS WEEK csaltzer@triad.rr.com Sunday, April 23 336-225-7889 9:00 am Sunday School Keith Sutton, Parish Administrator 9:15 am Parish Choir keith@sinc.net 10:00 am Worship-New Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator Members iill@sinc.net 11:15 am New Member Scott F. Foppiano, Organist / Reception Director of Music 2:30 pm Confirmation at scottfop@gmail.com St. Martin's Mike Holt, Youth and Family 4:30 pm Youth Gathering mvholt1957@vahoo.com Monday, April 24 Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian 10:20 am Quilting Group tfh1990@vahoo.com 6:30 pm Scouts Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator krad3700@gmail.com Wednesday, April 26 2:00 pm Staff Meeting CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL 7:00 pm Parish Choir Debbie Davis, President 9:30 pm College Online Jon Miller, Vice Pres., Mutual Ministry Chris Miller, Secretary, Social Ministry Thursday, April 27 Kenny Propst, Treasurer 6:00 pm Handbells Sunday, April 30 Chip Blackwelder, Property 9:00 am Sunday School Kim Haberman, Evangelism 9:15 am Parish Choir Samantha Hillegass, Parish Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Elizabeth Hurley, Worship & Music 4:00 pm Youth Gathering Beth Huss, Stewardship Frank Irvin, Finance/Christian Ed Pat McDonough, Youth Wendell Overby, Property Dee Pieschel, Social Ministry OFFICE HOURS M-Th 8:30-4:00 F 8:30-1:00

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email all information to the church office by Wednesday 10:00 am to keith@sjnc.net

# WEEK PRAYER LIST

- Beth Eden Lutheran Church, Newton, NC
- Martha Summers
- Patsy Black
- Tom Grady Jim Weisel
- Jim Weisel Tom Ridenhour
- Marga Beville Betty Miller
- Family of Elaine Sharpe
  - Gilbert, mother of Jeff Gilbert

# ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

#### Lector/Intercessor: Jodi Ramirez

Communion Assistant: Jodi Ramirez

Acolyte/Crucifer: Finley Stephens Greeter:

Gretchen Walker

Frank Irvin, Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard Building Supervisor:

Samantha Hillegass
Videographer:

Videographer: Ann Blackwelder

Ushers: Wendell Overby,