The THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER April 14, 2024

The Holy Communion with
The Rite of Holy Baptism



St James Lutheran Church 104 Union Street South PO Box 684 Concord, North Carolina 28026 704-786-0166 www.sjnc.net

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

Maybe you need forgiveness, or maybe you need to forgive ... Maybe you're tired and you need a little space to breathe ... Maybe you're trying church for the first time, or maybe you're trying church for the last time... Maybe you've spent your whole life wondering if God really loves you... Maybe you're lonely... Maybe you're sick... Maybe you came here looking for a miracle... Maybe you came here looking for another church but got disoriented and came here instead, and now it's too late to get up and walk out... Maybe, with God, there are no accidents... Maybe, with God, there is hope and healing and miraculous companionship... Maybe, with God, there is space to breathe and forgiveness on top of forgiveness... Maybe, with God, there is love... Maybe, with God here in our midst, we will hear those words that still split open the heavens, "You are my son! You are my daughter! You are my beloved. You. In you I am well pleased!" Maybe this is why we gather together, week after week after week, here at St. James.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this place - not just by the Saints at St. James, but by the God who revealed himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our brother, and our friend.

Welcome to St. James.

If you are comfortable doing so, please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill. If you have visited with us a number of times and think you might want to "make it official," please speak to Pastor Bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the person next you or to an usher.

<u>Restrooms</u> are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A <u>nursery</u> is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.

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EASTER SEASON THE HOLY COMMUNION with THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Gathering



Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome

Opening Voluntary

Arabesque

Lous Vierne

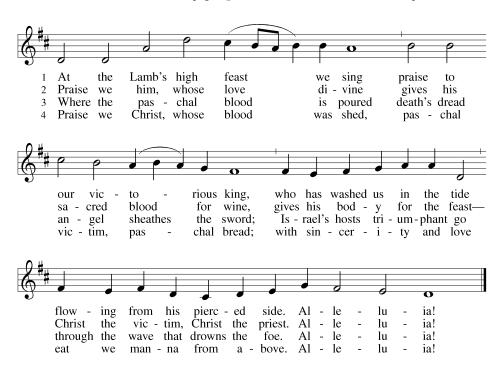
Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing Sonne Der Gerechtigkeit

A harmony graphic is not available. See Hymnal #210



- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky, hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie; you have conquered in the fight, you have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall; you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

THE HYMN OF PRAISE



THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant your faithful people a share in the joys

that are eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Please sit.



THE FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-20

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not

know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.



^{6b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a

ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: With High Delight Let Us Unite

Mit Freuden Zart

A harmony graphic is not available. See Hymnal #140



Water



The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

A sponsor presents the candidate.

- P Whom do you present to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism?
- S I/We present Miles Finnegan Hinson.

The minister addresses the sponsors and parents.

P In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grow in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R I do.

Please stand.

The prayers are said.

- A Let us pray for he who is to be baptized and for all the baptized everywhere:
- A That Finn may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- A That the Holy Spirit may open his heart to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- A That he may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- A That he may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- A That he may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen

The minister begins the thanksgiving.

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of

cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that he who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of he who is cleansed by this water and bring him forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.
- P Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?
- R I do.
- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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

The minister baptizes the candidate.

P Miles Finnegan Hinson is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please stand.

The Prayer for the Holy Spirit (Confirmation).

- P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Miles Finnegan Hinson: 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.
- C Amen

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized.

- P Miles Finnegan Hinson, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- C Amen

A lighted candle may be given to the baptized

- R Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- P O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in

their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Please stand.

- P Through Baptism God has made this brother a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- C We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.

THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- And also with you.

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

W. K. Stanton

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise.

Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.

He who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled,

Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first fruits of the holy harvest yield,

which will all its full abundance at his second coming yield.

Then the golden ears of harvest will their heads before him wave,

ripened by his glorious sunshine from the furrows of the grave.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high;

Alleluia! to the Savior, who has won the victory;

Alleluia! to the Savior, who has won the victory; Alleluia! to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity; Alleluia, Alleluia! to the triune Majesty. Amen.

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

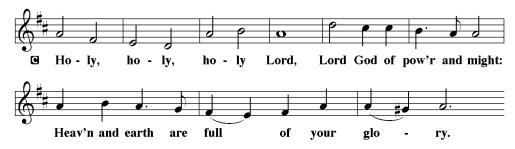
- A Let us pray.
- A Blessed are you,
- O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have

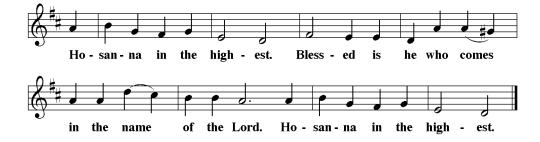
made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:





P You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

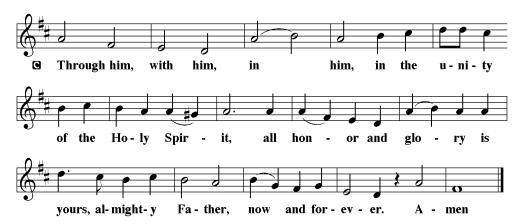
We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving

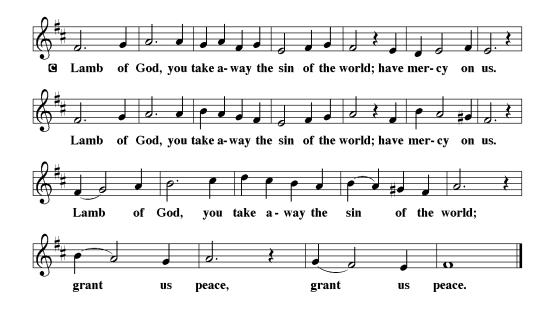
- Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
- C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.
- P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.



Please sit.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

- O: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?
- A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.
- Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?
- A: We are told in the words "for you" and "for the forgiveness of sins." By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

-Luther's Small Catechism Part V

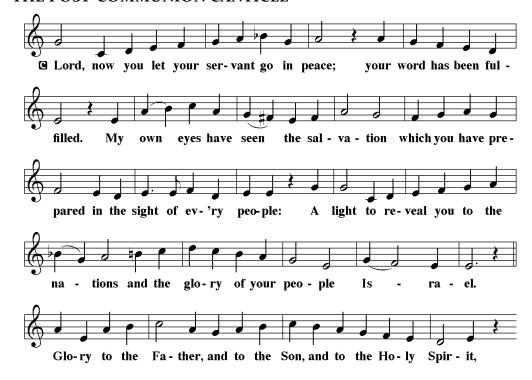
Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

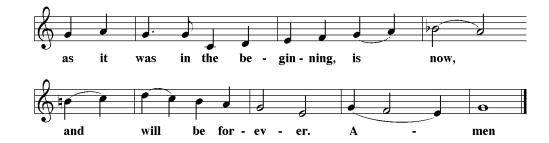
Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE





THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P Let us pray.
- P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen

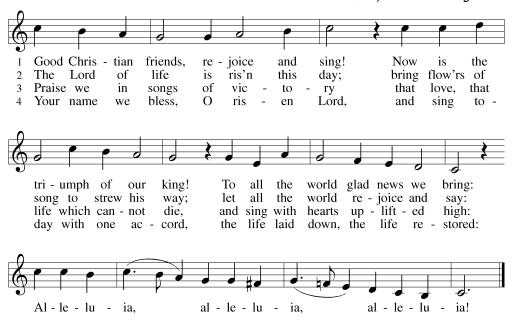


THE BENEDICTION

- P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C Amen

BENEDICTION RESPONSE: Amen (from The Easter Song of Praise) Richard Shepherd

THE SENDING HYMN: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing Gelobt Sei Gott



Silence for reflection.

THE DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary The Heavens Declare the Glory of God Benedetto Marcello



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Christine Ruff **Communion Assistant:** Ann Blackwelder

Acolyte/Crucifer: Joshua Rinker

Ushers: Chip Blackwelder, Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline,

Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright **Videographer:** Nick Lovelace **Greeter:** Gretchen Walker

Building Supervisors: Wendell Overby

PRAYER LIST

Tom Grady; Tom Ridenhour; Noah Clifton; Linda and Paul Jones (family members of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Susan Tadlock (friend of Deb Black); Mary Dorothy White (friend of Patsy Black); Samantha Hillegrass.

Bible Study Returns April 15th

Bible Study returns Monday, April 15 at 6:30pm. It is the Year of Mark (Cycle B in the lectionary). So, we'll do Mark.

Free Cabarrus County Pre-K

See if your family qualifies for a preschool program. Visit www.cabarruspartnership.org or call 704-933-8278 for information.

I AM NAMI Walks

NAMIWalks powers the life-changing work of NAMI Cabarrus, And NAMI Cabarrus powers "Mental Health for All." Join NAMIWalks Cabarrus on May 18 at 9 am at Frank Liske Park for Walk Day. Registration is live | Vendor opportunities available. namiwalks.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Children and Volunteers...Please save the dates July 28-30, 2024, for Vacation Bible School. All volunteers will be required to have a current Safe Gatherings background check. Please contact the Church Office to complete this process.

SAINT JAMES STAFF

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Senior Pastor; prbill@sjnc.net Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator; jill@sjnc.net Holly Sloop, Communications Coordinator; holly@sinc.net Scott F. Foppiano, Organist and Director of Music; scottfop@gmail.com

Church Office; info@sinc.net

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator; Krad3700@gmail.com Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian; Tfh1990@yahoo.com

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Havden Weisel

Joan Mahoney, Mary Catherine Nevins, Michelle Urso

April 14

April 15

April 16 April 17 April 18 April 19 April 20	Winstyn Downs Bill Fisher, Laura Patterson, Kirsten Ziegler Missy Hartman Mallory Horton, Jackson Hughes Sondra Bryn, George Hartsell	
	CHURCH CA	ALENDAR THIS WEEK
Sunday, April 14	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
Monday, April 15	10:30 am	Quilting Group
,	6:30 pm	Scouts
	6:30 pm	Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday, April 16	Kerr Street Ministry	
	5:30 pm	Mission Fund Committee (Parlor)
Wednesday, April 17	6:00 pm	Bella Voce Choir
	7:00 pm	Parish Choir
Thursday, April 18	6:00 pm	Handbells
Saturday, April 20	8:30 am	Leah's Hope Trailer
Sunday, April 21	9:ooam	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
<u>Altar Flowers</u>		

The altar flowers today are given by Ashley Cline and Jeff Koenig in appreciation of the St. James volunteers who assist with committees, community outreach, leadership, and the preservation of St. James history.