



# Saint James Lutheran Church



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



*“Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning,  
Fellowship and Service”*

## *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 ancient worship and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join us as together we 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 just exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**AUGUST 20, 2023  
10:00 A.M.**

*Introduction to Today's Worship*

**I**n Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

# 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](mailto:joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com) @stjamesnc

**St. James YouTube Channel** Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

## **UPCOMING DATES:**

**Aug. 20:** Reception for Mike Holt

**Aug. 27:** Pastor Craig's Last Sunday  
Reception for Pr. Craig Saltzer

**Sept. 10:** Pastor Bill's first Sunday at  
St. James  
God's Work. Our Hands

**Sept. 11-13:** My Father's House

**Sept. 12:** Lively Leisures at 12:00 pm

# GATHERING

## WELCOME

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Prelude in Classic Style*

*Gordon Young*

*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)*



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise,  
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
 3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,  
 4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
 spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
 sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
 the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.



5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
 O fallen human race!  
 Look and be saved through faith alone,  
 be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
 be now and ever giv'n  
 by saints below and saints above,  
 the church in earth and heav'n.

## GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

(Sit)

## YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### FIRST READING *ISAIAH 56:1, 6-8*

*The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.*

A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-sixth chapter.

**T**hus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. <sup>6</sup>And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—<sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. <sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### *PSALM 67 (Read Responsively, congregation in bold)*

<sup>1</sup>May God be gracious to us and bless us

and make his face to shine upon us,

<sup>2</sup>**that your way may be known upon earth,**

**your saving power among all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge**

**the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has yielded its increase;**

**God, our God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>May God continue to bless us;

let all the ends of the earth revere him.

## SECOND READING *ROMANS 11:1-2a, 29-32*

*God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.*

A reading from Romans, the eleventh chapter.

**P**aul writes: <sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. <sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Stand)*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **HOLY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 15:10-28***

*Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**J**esus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” <sup>13</sup>He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” <sup>16</sup>Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” <sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” <sup>24</sup>He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup>He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Sit)*

**SERMON**

*Pastor Craig*



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.



## APOSTLE'S CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

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

**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.**

**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.**

*(Kneel or sit, as able)*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Today, we especially pray for Rev. Paul St. Clair and our brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Paul Lutheran in Statesville, NC. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors. Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## 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.**

*(Sit)*

## ANTHEM

*Hymn to the Good Shepherd*

*John B. Dykes*

The King of love my Shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul he leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
Thy unction, grace bestoweth:  
And O what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house for ever.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 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.

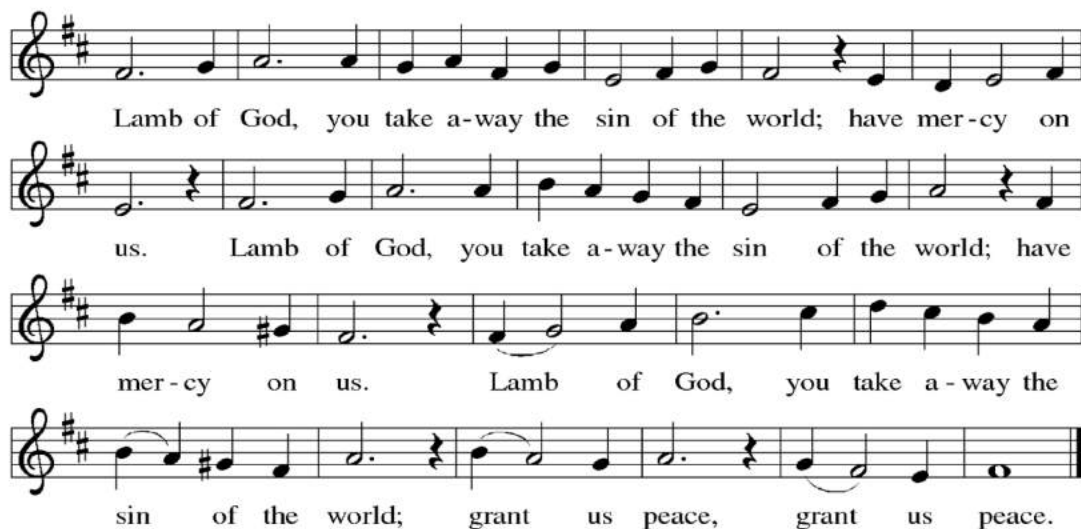
**Thanks be to God!**

*(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*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.  
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our  
dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEACON MIKE HOLT

*See Insert*

## BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

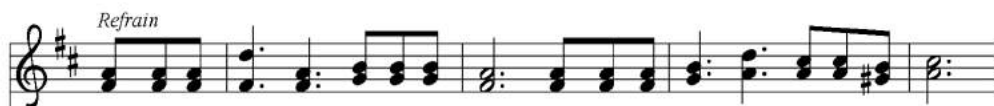
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**Amen.**



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood,  
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.



## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Alla Breve in D*

*Johann Seb. Bach*

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*



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# SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## DIRECTORY

Members of Saint James.....Ministers  
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop  
The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

## SAINT JAMES STAFF

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## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Debbie Davis, President  
Jon Miller, Vice Pres., Mutual Ministry  
Chris Miller, Secretary, Social Ministry  
Kenny Propst, Treasurer

Chip Blackwelder, Property  
Kim Haberman, Evangelism  
Samantha Hillegass, Parish Fellowship  
Elizabeth Hurley, Worship & Music  
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](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**21-Aug** Meagan Lambert  
**23-Aug** Brittany Eaton  
**24-Aug** Lisa Burke  
**25-Aug** Audrey Baker  
**25-Aug** Will King

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Lector/Intercessor:**  
Barbara Albright

**Communion Assistant:**  
Anne Hodges

**Acolyte/Crucifer:**  
Noah Pittard

**Ushers:** Mark Murphy,  
Jimmy Harris, Jeff Jones,  
Jeff Gilbert, Chip Popovici,  
Phil Tesh

**Building Supervisor:**  
Jon Miller

**Videographer:**  
Chris Miller

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and  
Receipts for Aug. 13, 2023  
**\$6,716.77**

*(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)*

**In-Person Attendance 97**  
**Online Worship 75**

### FLOWERS

#### PRAYER LIST

- ◆ St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Statesville, NC
- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Steve Conrad
- ◆ Lauri Lyn Hodges
- ◆ Pastor Craig Saltzer
- ◆ Bill Fisher

### CALENDAR THIS WEEK

#### **Sunday, August 20**

9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Reception for Mike  
Holt

#### **Monday, August 21**

10:30 am Quilting Group

#### **Wednesday, August 23**

2:00 pm Staff Meeting  
7:00 pm Parish Choir

#### **Sunday, August 27**

9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Reception for Pr.  
Craig Saltzer