

# 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.

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

10:00 A.M.

*Introduction to Today's Worship*

**C**onflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

# 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.

**First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)** are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. 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:**

**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

**BLESSING BOX:** For the month of September, St James has the opportunity to stock the blessing box at Rotary Square. Items can be put directly into the box or placed in the red Blessing Box bin that is just inside the Portico area.

# GATHERING

## WELCOME

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Dearest Jesus, We Are Here*

*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.**

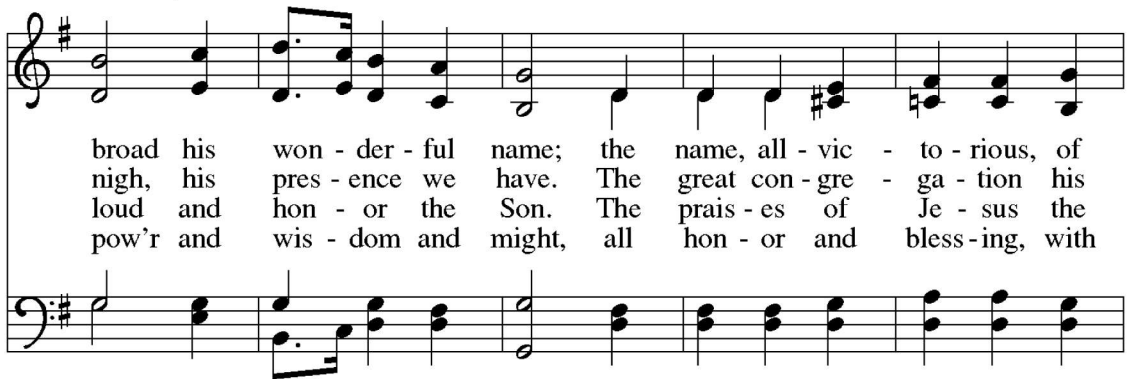
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and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

**Amen.**

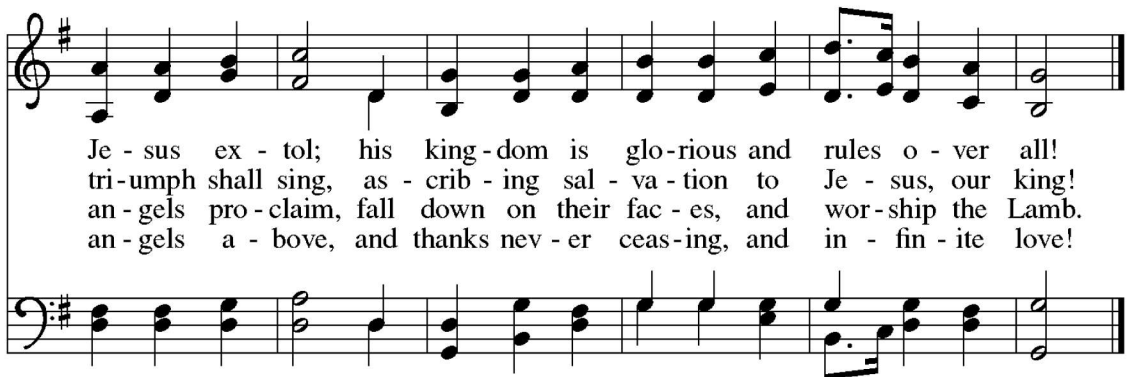
*(Stand)*



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -  
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is  
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -  
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of  
 nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his  
 loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the  
 pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!  
 tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!  
 an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.  
 an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

## 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

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### FIRST READING *EZEKIEL 33:7-11*

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

A reading from Ezekiel, the thirty-third chapter.

**S**o you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. <sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 119:33-40** *(Read Responsively, congregation in bold)*

- <sup>33</sup> Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I will observe it to the end.
- <sup>34</sup> **Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.**
- <sup>35</sup> Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.
- <sup>36</sup> **Turn my heart to your decrees,  
and not to selfish gain.**
- <sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;  
give me life in your ways.
- <sup>38</sup> **Confirm to your servant your promise,  
which is for those who fear you.**
- <sup>39</sup> Turn away the disgrace that I dread,  
for your ordinances are good.
- <sup>40</sup> **See, I have longed for your precepts;  
in your righteousness give me life.**

**SECOND READING ROMANS 13:8-14**

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

A reading from Romans, the thirteenth chapter.

**O**we no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. <sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20*

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**J**esus said to the disciples: <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Sit)*

**SERMON**

*Pastor Bill Ridenhour*

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;  
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.  
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;  
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,  
 Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
 but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.  
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!



## 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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Today, we especially pray for Rev. Tom Rightmyer and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Church of The Savior in Newland, NC. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.  
**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**

*Amazing Grace*

*John Bertalot*

## **OFFERING**

*(Offering plates presented at the altar)*

**(Stand)**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**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

Jesus invites you to this table.

**Come, eat, and live.**

*(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

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The God of glory,  
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and  
 2 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine  
 3 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice; your great re - deem - er own; be -  
 4 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev - 'ry land from

rules the world be - low with bound - less pow'r and love. Our thanks we  
 forth in wis - dom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry  
 lieve, o - bey, re - joice, and wor - ship God a - lone. Cast down your  
 all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less

bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!  
 tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.  
 pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.  
 throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king sal - va - tion's song!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Trumpet Tune*

*David German*

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*



## COPYRIGHT

**TRUMPET TUNE:** Contributors: David German Music by David German © 1990 Fred Bock Music Company (administered worldwide by the Fred Bock Publishing Group)

**AMAZING GRACE** Contributors: John Bertalot Tune: Setting © 1990 Augsburg Fortress Text: Public Domain

**MUSIC:** Used with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002 All rights reserved.

**LITURGY:** From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS002140

# SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 684  
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026  
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166  
WEBSITE [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net)

## DIRECTORY

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

## SAINT JAMES STAFF

Rev. Bill Ridenhour, Senior Pastor  
[prbill@sjnc.net](mailto:prbill@sjnc.net)

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator  
[jill@sjnc.net](mailto:jill@sjnc.net)

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist /  
Director of Music  
[scottfop@gmail.com](mailto:scottfop@gmail.com)

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian  
[tfh1990@yahoo.com](mailto:tfh1990@yahoo.com)

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator  
[krad3700@gmail.com](mailto:krad3700@gmail.com)

## 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

10-Sep Ryan Patterson  
10-Sep Alisa Wickliff  
10-Sep Libby Williams  
11-Sep Riece Pittard  
12-Sep Terri Fleck  
13-Sep Will Gillon  
16-Sep Collins Whisnant

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:  
Christine Ruff

Communion Assistant:  
Mark Murphy

Acolyte/Crucifer:  
Noah Dixon

Ushers: Chip Blackwelder,  
Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline,  
Jeff Koenig

Building Supervisor:  
Kim Haberman

Videographer:  
LeeAnn Miller

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and  
Receipts for Sept. 3, 2023

\$4,414.25

(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

In-Person Attendance 73  
Online Worship 98

## FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by  
Dale and Barbara Merrell to  
the Glory of God and in honor  
of Pastor Bill.

## PRAYER LIST

- ◆ Church of the Savior,  
Newland, NC
- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Bill Fisher

## CALENDAR THIS WEEK

### Sunday, September 10

9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am God's Work. Our  
Hands.

### Monday, September 11

10:30 am Quilting Group  
6:30 pm Scouts  
*My Father's House*

### Tuesday, September 12

12:00 pm Lively Leisures  
6:00 pm Church Council  
*My Father's House*

### Wednesday, September 13

7:00 pm Parish Choir

### Thursday, September 14

6:00 pm Handbells

### Saturday, September 16

8:30 am Leah's Hope Trailer

### Sunday, September 17

9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship