

**SAINT JAMES
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PO Box 684
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166
WEBSITE 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

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator
jill@sjnc.net

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist /
Director of Music
scottfop@gmail.com

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian
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Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator
krad3700@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and Receipts for
October 15, 2023

\$6,019.48

(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

In-Person Attendance:
104

Stewardship Sunday TODAY

Join us for a Time and Talent Fair
and Luncheon following worship.

Blessing of the Quilts TODAY

Our quilts will be distributed globally
through Lutheran World Relief.
*Thank you Quilters for your hard
work and dedication!*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

22-Oct Calen MacFarlane
Joyce Smith

23-Oct John Eury
Nancy Faggart
Mark Frye
Allison Guilfoyle

24-Oct Naomi Lovelace

25-Oct Vero Grady

27-Oct Michael Folino
Joan McEachern

28-Oct Cliff Caffrey
Linda Hartsell
Riley Moran
Donnie Peterman
Taylor Pruette
Tessa Rafiee
Heather Wilson
Drew Yoos

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:
Christine Ruff

Communion Assistant:
Dianne Lambert

Acolyte/Crucifer:
Noah Dixon

Ushers: Brad Baker, Chip
Harward, Taylor Pruette, Al
Pieschel, Jon Miller

Greeters:
Nancy Faggart

SJLC Trunk or Treat
Candy, Popcorn, Music and
Bounce House

Sunday, October 29
4:30 pm—6:00 pm

Parking Lot

We need folks to sign up
for “trunks”...

Sign up Sheet @ Back
Portico Door

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given
by Joyce Smith in loving
memory of David Smith on
the occasion of their 63rd
Anniversary.

PRAYER LIST

- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Deb Black & Family

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 22
9:15 am Parish Choir
10:00 am Worship—Blessing
of the Quilts/S’Ship Sunday
11:15 am Stewardship
Luncheon following Worship

Monday, October 23
10:30 am Quilting Group
6:30 pm Scouts

Wednesday, October 25
7:00 pm Parish Choir

Thursday, October 26
6:00 pm Handbells

Sunday, October 29
Reformation Sunday
9:15 am Parish Choir
10:00 am Worship
4:30—6:00 pm
Trunk or Treat



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.

**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”*

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

OCTOBER 22, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today’s Worship

In today’s first reading God uses the Gentile
ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes.
When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells
them to give the emperor what belongs to
him and to God what belongs to God. To
gather for worship reminds us that our
ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to
any earthly authority. Created in the image of
God, we offer our entire selves in the service
of God and for the sake of the world.

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 @stjamesnc

St. James YouTube Channel Go to www.youtube.com search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

UPCOMING DATES:

Oct. 23 Quilting Group 10:30 am
Scouts 6:30 pm
Oct 25 Parish Choir 7:00 pm
Oct 26 Handbells 6 pm
Oct 29 Parish Choir 9:15 am
Worship 10:00 am
Trunk or Treat 4:30—6:00 pm

Church Calendar for remaining 2023:

If you have an event or meeting scheduled for the balance of 2023—please let the church office know as to create a reservation for those rooms—info@sjnc.net

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Con Moto Maestoso from Sonate in A Felix Mendellssohn*

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

HOLY COMMUNION with RITE of INSTALLATION of a PASTOR

4 pm

Pastor Bill will be installed as the Pastor of St. James Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 5th at 4 pm. The Rite of Installation will take place within a festive Communion Liturgy. Great, singable hymns too.



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1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
 2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
 3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
 You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
 the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
 The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
 No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
 much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
 but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Refrain



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Adagio e Dolce—Sonate III

Johann Seb. Bach

*Congregational Responses in **Bold***

(Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son and of the
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

Silence is held for reflection and self-examination

Most Merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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)

GATHERING HYMN *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* Rustington



1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

APOSTOLIC 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.**

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 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. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

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 give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that 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.
Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

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.**

DISTRIBUTION

(Sit)

Q: 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, give 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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Sit)

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING *ISAIAH 45:1-7*

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-9 [10-13] (Read Responsively, congregation in bold)

- ¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**
⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**
¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**
¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

A reading from First Thessalonians the first chapter.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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.

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; won this day overcome death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, 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.

For the unbaptized and for those who have ceased to worship, for our lips to be willing to invite them. Form us to be a people ready to welcome, listen and change. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For a Spirit of healthy discourse and disagreement, for the power of the Spirit to raise up among us a common vision for your church in this place. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression and disgrace; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

That we may end of our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For all the saints now resting from their labors; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

The Pastor concludes the prayers.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 *Offertory*

John Ness Beck

(Sit)

OFFERING *(Offering plates presented at the altar)* **(Stand)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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 22:15-22*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

HYMN OF THE DAY *Let the Whole Creation Cry*

Salzburg



1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song,
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - jice.
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

APOSTLES' 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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes, "Lord, in your mercy" and the congregation responds "hear our prayer."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy church of God, and for the unity of all peoples; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the civil authorities, for leaders of nations that their leadership may serve and protect all people and foster compassion and justice. For our city of Concord, for every city and community and for those who live in them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For seasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and the will to conserve it; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**