



# 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.

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**JULY 16, 2023**  
**10:00 A.M.**

*Introduction to Today's Worship*

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in 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.

**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.

**SUMMER OF SERVICE:** Today after worship, we will meet in the fellowship hall for a lite lunch and then we have several service activities planned. Our main project will be collecting food for the Blessing Box. This is a multi-generational event so everyone is invited.

**AED/CPR REFRESHER TRAINING** The Health and Safety Team is coordinating AED/CPR training for individuals at St. James. This is a refresher course in CPR

and use of the AED device. (No Certifications) We would like to have as many people trained to handle an emergency, if it arises, when you are at the church. The sessions will be on Tuesday, July 18 at two different times: 1:30 – 3:00 pm and 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Would you like to help matching our members to their gifts? The Stewardship Committee is looking for you. Contact Beth Huss if interested.

# GATHERING

## WELCOME

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major*

*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 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,  
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;  
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;  
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;  
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
 let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thic - ken, may thy word still o'er me shine  
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
 as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.  
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.



## 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

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### FIRST READING *ISAIAH 55:10-13*

*God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.*

A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-fifth chapter.

**F**or as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 65:1-13** *(Read Responsively, congregation in bold)*

<sup>1</sup>Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;  
and to you shall vows be performed,

**<sup>2</sup>O you who answer prayer!**

**To you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
you forgive our transgressions.

**<sup>4</sup>Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.**

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.**

<sup>5</sup>By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.



**6**By your strength you established the mountains;  
you are girded with might.

<sup>7</sup>You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples.

**8**Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

**10**You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

**12**The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,

<sup>13</sup>the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

## SECOND READING *ROMANS 8:1-11*

*There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.*

A reading from Romans, the eighth chapter.

**T**here is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 13:1-9, 18-23*

*In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**T**hat same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!" <sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

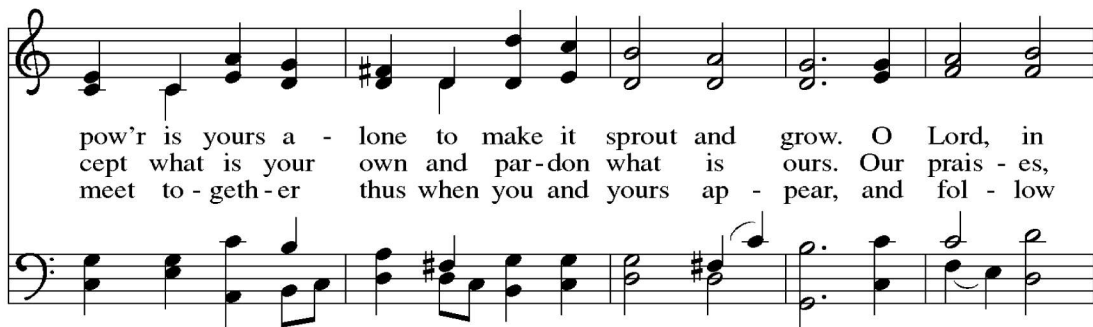
(Sit)

SERMON

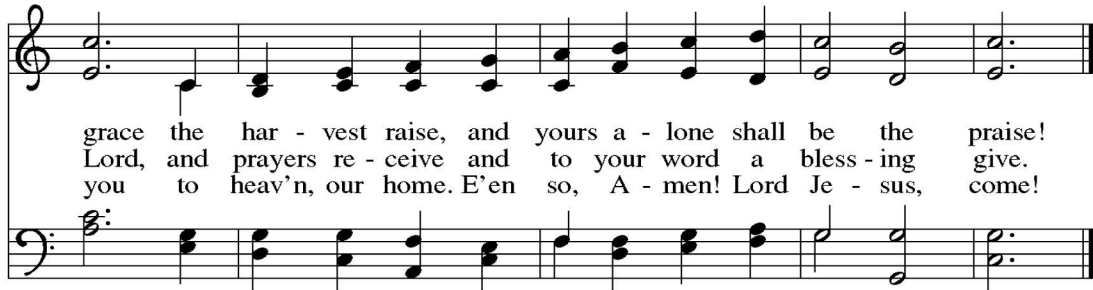
*Pastor Betsy Mitchell*



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the  
 2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -  
 3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in  
 cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,  
 meet to - geth-er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!  
 Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.  
 you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

## 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.*

Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Today, we especially pray for Rev. Mary Beth Miller-Zurell and our brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Conover, NC. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heal those who are sick, O God (*especially*). Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. 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

*Unending Love*

*Rowland H. Prichard*

Here is love, vast as the ocean, loving kindness as the flood.  
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom, shed for us His precious Blood.  
Who would not His love remember? Who can cease to sing His praise?  
He can never be forgotten, through Heav'n's everlasting days.

On the mount of crucifixion fountains opened deep and wide.  
Through the floodgates of God's mercy flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers poured, unending, from above,  
God's own peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world with love.

## OFFERING

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

## 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.

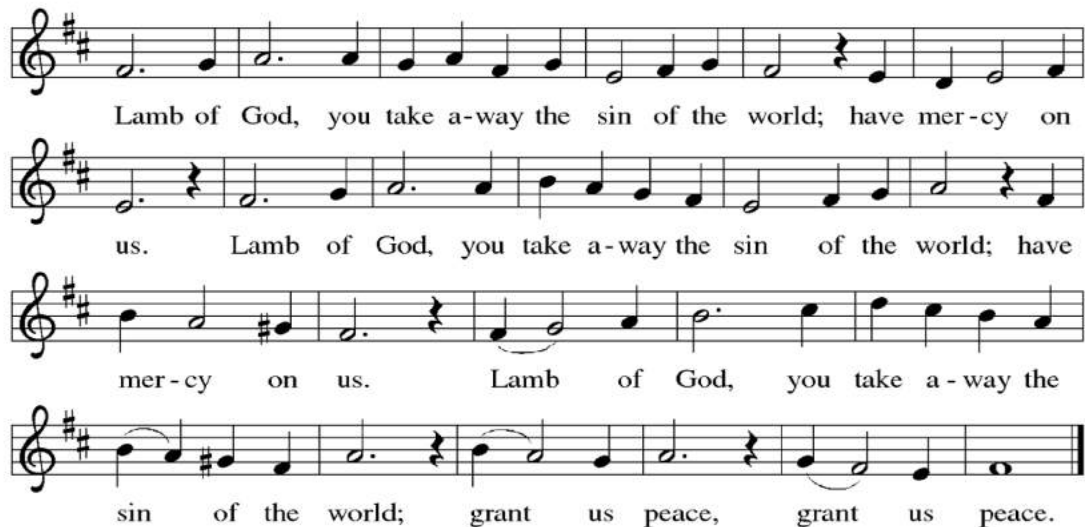
**Thanks be to God!**

*(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.**

## BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos  
and speaks in the smallest seed  
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you  
now and to the end of the age.

**Amen.**

1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;  
 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,  
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,  
 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,

now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
 but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
 but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
 that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.****CLOSING VOLUNTARY***Grand Plein Jeu**Francois Couperin**The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*





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# 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. Craig Saltzer**, Interim Pastor  
[csaltzer@triad.rr.com](mailto:csaltzer@triad.rr.com)  
336-225-7889

**Keith Sutton**, Parish Administrator  
[keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@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)

**Mike Holt**, Youth and Family  
[mvholt1957@yahoo.com](mailto:mvholt1957@yahoo.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-Jul** Jim Weisel  
**16-Jul** James Hughes, Jr.  
**16-Jul** Beth Huss  
**16-Jul** Janice Klauss  
**16-Jul** Ann Ridenhour  
**16-Jul** James Weisel  
**17-Jul** Merrick Larkin  
**18-Jul** Chris Deville  
**18-Jul** Keith Fink  
**18-Jul** Reggie Hardister  
**18-Jul** Sid Hughes  
**21-Jul** Ashley Cline  
**22-Jul** Avery Ziegler

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Lector/Intercessor:**  
Barbara Albright

**Communion Assistant:**  
Kristin Rinker

**Acolyte/Crucifer:**  
Finley Stephens

**Greeter:**  
Maureen Hollmeyer

**Ushers:** Dale Merrell,  
Gretchen Walker, Robert  
Davis, Lex Patterson,  
Samantha Hillegass

**Building Supervisor:**  
Chip and Ann Blackwelder

**Videographer:**  
Chris Miller

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and  
Receipts for July 9, 2023  
**\$6,810.50**  
*(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)*  
**Attendance 88**

## FLOWERS

The altar flowers today are given by Al and Dee Pieschel to the Glory of God and in thanks for our children and grandchildren.

## PRAYER LIST

- ◆ St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Conover, NC
- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Barbara Merrell
- ◆ Pastor Craig Saltzer
- ◆ Family of Lyn McEachern

## CALENDAR THIS WEEK

**Sunday, July 16**  
9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship  
11:20 am Summer of Service  
Lunch and Projects

**Monday, July 17**  
10:30 am Quilting Group

**Tuesday, July 18**  
1:30 pm AED/CPR Refresher  
5:30 pm Mission Fund Comm  
6:00 pm AED/CPR Refresher

**Wednesday, July 19**  
7:00 pm Ladies Choir  
Ensemble

**Thursday, July 20**  
11:00 am Service for Lyn  
McEachern

**Sunday, July 23**  
9:00 am Evangelism Comm.  
9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am VBS Setup