

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 684
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166
WEBSITE www.sjnc.net

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
tfh1990@yahoo.com

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator
krad3700@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and Receipts for
October 22, 2023

\$4,044.75

(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

In-Person Attendance:
93

Children's Sunday School/ Nursery

Children's Sunday School is back!

A parent driven conversation
resulted in a new SS plan.

Beginning next Sunday, November
5th, SS will start at 9:30 a.m. With
the return of Sunday School, the
Children's Sermon and the
Children's Church will cease.

Beginning November 5th, the
nursery will be for children up to
and including age 5.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

30-Oct Adam Hartman
Jackson Propst

02-Nov Mary Elizabeth
Stewart

Patricia Weisel

03-Nov David Cruse
Kerri Kiker

04-Nov David Klein

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:
Kim Haberman

Communion Assistant:
Christine Ruff

Acolyte/Crucifer:
Noah Dixon, Jason
Pittard, Noah Pittard,
Joshua Rinker

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

Greeters:
Martha Matthews

SJLC Trunk or Treat

Candy, Popcorn, Music and
Bounce House

TODAY—

4:30 pm—6:00 pm
Parking Lot

Come join in the fun!!!

Wednesday Night Together

November 1 @ 5:30 pm
Menu: Baked Spaghetti,
Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread,

Dessert and Drink

Sign up by calling the church
office or e-mail info@sjnc.net

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given
by Jo Eng to the Glory of
God.

PRAYER LIST

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

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

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

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

Wednesday, November 1
5:30 pm WNT
7:00 pm Parish Choir

Thursday, November 2
6:00 pm Handbells

Friday November 3
4:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, November 4
4:00 pm Fincher/Jones Wedding

Sunday, November 5
9:15 am Parish Choir
9:30 am Children's SS
10:00 am Worship
4:00 pm Pastor's Bill
Installation 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.

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”*

REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 29, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

Rooted in the past and growing into the
future, the church must always be
reformed in order to live out the love of Christ
in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the
good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ
sets us free every day to do this life-
transforming work. Trusting in the freedom
given to us in baptism, we pray for the church,
that Christians will unite more fully in worship
and mission.

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 (ages 0-up to and including ages 5)

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. 30	Quilting Group 10:30 am Scouts 6:30 pm
Nov 1	WNT 5:30 pm Parish Choir 7:00 pm
Nov 2	Handbells 6 pm
Nov 3	Wedding Rehearsal 4:30 pm
Nov 4	Fincher/Jones Wedding 4:00 pm
Nov 5	Parish Choir 9:15 am Children's Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:00 am Pastor Bill's Installation Service 4:00 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 *Fugure in G-Major*

Johann Seb. Bach

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 - 4:00 p.m.

We will celebrate a festive liturgy of Holy Communion with the Rite of the Installation of a Pastor. This is an occasion to formally acknowledge Pastor Bill's arrival to St. James

Pastor Bill's Teaching Debut...

An Advent Journey—The Birth Narratives of Luke and Matthew

Mondays November 27 and December 4, 11, 18 @ 6:30 p.m.

Bring your Bible, your sense of humor and your questions. Do we have a coffee pot (asks the new guy??) If we do, we'll put it on. By then, you will have too many holiday sweets in your kitchen. Bring some with you.

We will go no more than an hour. It's possible we'll finish in less than four weeks. If we go longer than four weeks, you'll simply have to show up on Monday, December 25th. By 6:30 p.m. on the 25th, you will have had enough of your family.

With sufficient interest, Pastor Bill will run a brown bag matinee.

With sufficient need expressed, we will try for child care. No guarantees.

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1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Praeludium in G-Major**Johann Seb. Bach**Congregational Responses in **Bold****(Stand)*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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 *Lift High the Cross*

Crucifer

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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.

COMMUNION MOTET *Ave Verum*

Edward Elgar

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 God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

Amen.

(Sit)

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING *JEREMIAH 31:31-34*

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46 (Read Responsively, congregation in bold)

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING ROMANS 3:19-28

A reading from Romans, the third chapter.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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; 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 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 *Psalms 150*

Cesar Franck

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 *JOHN 8:31-36*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the eighth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

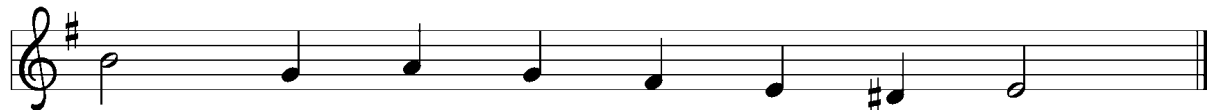
HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* Erhalt Uns, Herr



1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and



by de- ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we
 u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

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.**