



*"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service."*

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## Week of Dec. 7, 2025

*The Second Sunday in Advent*

### Introduction to Worship

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

### Watch the Live Stream:



[Download Bulletin](#)

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## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, Dec. 7

[Poinsettia Orders Due](#) ☐

9:00 am Adult Sunday School

9:00 am Choir

9:30 am Children's Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

### Monday, Dec. 8

10:30 am Quilting

6:30 pm Bible Study

### Tuesday, Dec. 9

Noon Lively Leisures

6:00 pm Executive Committee

6:30 pm Rehearsal - Carols by Candlelight

### Thursday, Dec. 11

[Salvation Army Bell Ringing](#) ☐

6:30 pm Rehearsal - Carols by Candlelight

### Saturday, Dec. 13

7:00 pm ☐ Carols by Candlelight ☐

### Sunday, Dec. 14

9:00 am Adult Sunday School

9:00 am Choir

9:30 am Children's Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Social Ministry Meeting - Parlor

## Coming Up

### Events:

**Dec. 13:** Carols by Candlelight ☐☐

**Dec. 21:** Cocoa, Coffee, & Cookies with the Children of St. James ☕

### **Dec. 24: Christmas Eve**

**5:30pm:** Family Service

**9:30pm:** Musical Prelude

**10:00pm:** Candlelight Service

[Church  
Calendar](#)

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## Sunday Ministries

[LECTOR/INTERCESSOR](#)

[VIDEOGRAPHER](#)

**Dec. 7** Christine Ruff  
**Dec. 14** Barbara Albright

#### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

**Dec. 7** Elizabeth Hurley  
**Dec. 14** Christine Ruff

#### ACOLYTE

**Dec. 7** Josh Rinker  
**Dec. 14** Langdon & Caleb MacFarlane

#### GREETER

**Dec. 7**  
**Dec. 14**

**Dec. 7** [Volunteer](#)  
**Dec. 14** [Volunteer](#)

#### USHERS

Chip Popovici, Jimmy Harris, Jeff Jones,  
Jeff Gilbert, Phil Tesh

#### BUILDING SUPERVISORS

Jeff Gilbert & Kenny Propst

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

**Dec. 7** Kelley Carpenter  
**Dec. 14** LeeAnn Miller

**Sign Up to  
Volunteer**

[Lector](#)

[Communion  
Assistant](#)

[Acolyte](#)

[Videographer](#)

[Altar Flowers](#)

## Happy Birthday! ☐

**Dec. 10** - Jason Urso  
**Dec. 11** - CJ Harward, III  
**Dec. 13** - Debbie Davis

## Announcements



Poinsettia Orders Due by Dec. 7th!

### ☐ Poinsettia Gifts - Final Call Sunday! ☐

This Christmas season, you have the opportunity to give a beautiful red 6 ½" poinsettia as a gift to the church. These gifts help adorn our worship space during this holy season and can be given in memory or honor of loved ones.

Each poinsettia is \$25. A list of donors and those being memorialized or honored will be included in the gift list. Please print clearly to ensure names are displayed as intended.

[Click here to order online](#), or complete and return the order form in Sunday's bulletin.

**Final deadline to order and be included on the gift list - Dec. 7.**

### 2026 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2026 are ready for pick-up on the table

# New Offering Envelopes

behind the sacristy (office hallway). If you did not receive a box and would like one, contact [Jill Irving](#).



## Sonshine Backpacks - December Drive ☐

St. James is continuing its partnership with Sonshine Backpack Ministry to provide weekend food for Cabarrus County children in need with a quarterly food drive.

Requested items for December: shelf-stable milk, cereal/oatmeal, mac & cheese, canned pasta/soup/veggies/fruit, granola bars, juice, popcorn, pudding.

**Please place nonperishable items on the back kitchen counter by Sunday, Dec. 28.**

*Contact Sylvia Corl or Gretchen Walker with questions.*



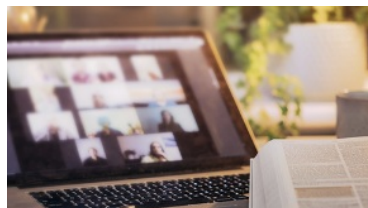
## Register to Ring - Volunteers Needed for Thursday Dec. 11th!

St. James is proud to once again partner with the Salvation Army to ring bells and support those in need in our community. Join us this **Thursday, December 11** at Sam's Club (2421 Supercenter Dr. NE Kannapolis NC 28083) for this meaningful tradition.

### UPDATE:

**We still have 5 one-hour time slots left to cover; click below to sign up!**

[Register to Ring!](#)



## Videographers Needed for Christmas Season!

We're looking for volunteers to serve as videographers this Christmas season. This simple but meaningful role helps us share worship with those who can't attend in person.

The videographer starts and stops the service recording on the laptop in the sacristy, and if comfortable, can also switch camera angles using a tablet (optional).

If you're available to serve, please sign up using the [link](#).

New to the role or need a quick refresher? Contact the [church office](#), and we'll be happy to set up a brief training session.

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

## This Sunday's Lesson...

God's Word - Psalm 19:7-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-15

Our main topic for this Quarter's Lessons will be "Enduring Beliefs of the Church". We will begin with the Foundation of the Trinitarian God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - whom we know through Scripture's revelation.

In Psalm 19, there are two sources of Revelation - Creation and Word! When we shift to 2 Timothy, we are more than 1,000 years from the writing of Psalm 19. The Apostle Paul is near the end of his ministry (and his life). There is an urgency in his tone as he writes to Timothy about his need to be courageous, strong, and have spiritual discipline because there will be great opposition to these teachings in the "last days." Instruction and teaching of the Scriptures is as important now as it ever has been. As we look to the year ahead, I pray that all of us will make daily time in Scripture our highest priority!

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## In Case You Missed It...



### My Father's House Meal Support

St. James Lutheran Church will provide meals for My Father's House Ministry on Monday, December 15, and Tuesday, December 16. We are looking for volunteers to help by preparing side dishes:

Monday: Sides to complement a ham meal

Tuesday: Sides to accompany a chicken strip meal

If you can contribute, please contact Martha Matthews at 704-787-2180 (call or text). She will provide a head count for each meal.

Suggested sides:

Mac & cheese, Bob Evans mashed potatoes, baked beans, green beans, corn, noodle or potato dishes, any vegetable casserole, rolls, and desserts.

Additional needs:

Snacks for after-school tutoring—such as Lance crackers, fruit cups, and juice boxes.



### Lively Leisures - Tuesday (Dec. 9)

Join us Tuesday, Dec. 9th, for a festive Christmas Lively Leisures! Enjoy lunch followed by a joyful Christmas sing-along. Please RSVP to Sylvia Corl.



## Carols by Candlelight - Saturday! (Dec. 13)

Join us for Carols by Candlelight — the story of Christmas told through scripture and song!

Experience this beautiful evening featuring full orchestra, organ, and the Parish & Bell Choirs of St. James Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 13th at 7pm.



## Cocoa, Coffee, & Cookies with the Children of St. James (Dec. 21)

Join us after worship December 21 for cocoa, coffee and cookies in the Fellowship Hall as the children of St. James tell us the Christmas story.



## Christmas Eve (Dec. 24)

Make plans now to join us for Christmas at St. James!

### Wednesday, Dec. 24

#### **5:30pm – Family Service**

A family-friendly gathering with Christmas carols and communion, designed for worshippers of all ages.

#### **9:30pm – Musical Prelude**

Arrive early to enjoy festive seasonal music offered by our music ministry.

#### **10:00pm – Candlelight Service**

A joyful Christmas celebration featuring carols and communion by candlelight.

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## Memorials & Honorariums

NOVEMBER 2025

## Memorials & Honorariums

*The following memorials & honorariums were given in memory or in honor.*

### In Honor Of:

#### **Quilting Ministry**

Given by:  
Lex & Laura Patterson

#### **Ralph Barnhardt's 90th Birthday**

Given by:  
Doug & Cheryl Kelling

### In Memory Of:

#### **Terry Fleck**

Given by:  
Lex & Laura Patterson

#### **Anne Fridlund**

Given by:  
Lex & Laura Patterson

#### **David Propst**

Given by:  
Fuller & Jean Beasley

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## Reminders



### Volunteer in 2026!

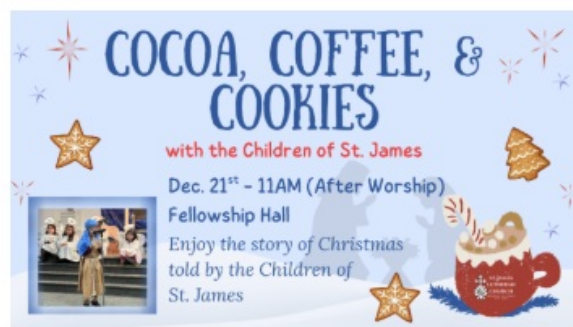
Our 2026 [Sunday Worship Volunteer Opportunities](#) are now open! We're looking for Communion Assistants, Lectors, Acolytes, and Videographers to help on Sundays.

Altar Flower dates are also available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Not sure where to start? Email us at [info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net) for more information, training, or to connect with a volunteer team leader.

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## Upcoming Events



## Partner News



### Amazing Grace invites St. James participation in new initiatives...

#### 1. Blessing Box in Rotary Square

Amazing Grace's Life Skills Lab program will be helping to keep the Blessing Box stocked every Tuesday and Thursday in partnership with the 1Can Organization.

You can join in this ongoing effort by donating non-perishable food or hygiene items. The red Blessing Box collection bin will remain on the Portico Counter and serve as a year-round ministry opportunity.

#### 2. Children's Coat Drive

In partnership with the Cabarrus Partnership for Children, Amazing Grace will be collecting new or gently used winter coats for children in need. A collection box will be located in the Portico Hallway for this short-term drive.

### Big Brothers Big Sisters Holiday Toy Drive

Each year, Big Brothers Big Sisters hosts a Holiday Gift Shop to help families in need choose gifts for their children. This year's event will take place Monday, December 15 at St. James and they are looking for both toys and volunteers.

If you are interested in assisting, visit links below.

[Volunteer to Sign Up](#)



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## Prayers & Considerations



Member Meal Train Opportunity!

[Click here to support a meal train for Jay Clemmer.](#)

**Cecil Berry** (Friend of Gretchen Walker)  
**Family of Michael Black**  
(Nephew of Patsy Black)  
**Patsy Black**  
**Family of Virginia Gaye Blackwelder, St. John** (Friend of Lex & Laura Patterson)  
**Caroline Bost**  
**Patrick Bryn** (Son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn)  
**Angie Buchanan**  
**Mike & Debbie Cagle**  
(Friends of Robert & Debbie Davis)  
**Noah Clifton**  
**Bruce Coffey** (Friend of Mark Murphy)  
**Karey Conrad** (Friend of Dee Pieschel)  
**Jennifer Cook** (Friend of Fonda Shumate)  
**Catherine Durst**  
(Daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges)  
**Nadine Filipak**  
(Friend of Al & Dee Pieschel)

**Ed Frost** (Friends of the Marlow's)  
**Tom Grady**  
**Harriett Huss Hodge**  
**Maureen Hollmeyer**  
**Mary Frances Johnson**  
(Cousin of Francie Davis)  
**Karen Johnston** (Friend of Judy Benz)  
**Ruth Lawler**  
(Friend of Dee & Al Pieschel)  
**John Ledford** (Brother of Deb Black)  
**Barbara Merrell**  
**Deb & Roger Myers**  
(Friends of Deb Black)  
**Stan Parnell**  
(Friend of Rob & Debbie Davis)  
**Becky Phillips**  
**Al Pieschel**  
**Lori Pittard**  
**Tom Ridenhour**

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## Secure Online Giving

Supporting your church is just a few clicks away! With [online giving](#), you can make a one-time gift, set up automatic recurring donations on the date you choose, and view your complete giving history.

Automated recurring gifts are a convenient way to provide our church with much-needed consistent support throughout the year. Thank you for your faithful generosity.



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## St. James Staff

Rev. Bill Ridenhour, Pastor [Email](#)

Jill Irvin, Financial Administrator [Email](#)

Dr. Kevin Estes, Director of Music Ministries & Organist [Email](#)

Holly Sloop, Communications Coordinator [Email](#)

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator [Email](#)

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian [Email](#)

Kim Haberman, Congregation President [Email](#)

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## Contact Us

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☐ Website: [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net)

✉ Email: [info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net)

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