ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Barbara Albright **Communion Assistant:** Kim Haberman

Acolyte: Noah Pittard

Ushers: Mike Downs, Al Brown, Jr., Sid Hughes

Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss **Greeter**: Gretchen Walker

Building Supervisors: Hunter Huss & Kim Haberman

WELCOME

We welcome Lois Buesser for a return engagement on the organ bench. Thank you, Lois!

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Noah Clifton; Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Margaret Garrison; Tom Grady; Maureen Hollmeyer; Will Irvin; 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); Patricia Mahoney (sister-in-law of Joan Mahoney); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Roger Scarselletta (nephew of Joan Mahoney); Deb Walker.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Please save the date and join us for a congregational sing-along of Advent and Christmas Carols accompanied by full Orchestra, Organ and the Parish & Bell Choirs of St. James Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 13th at 7:00pm.

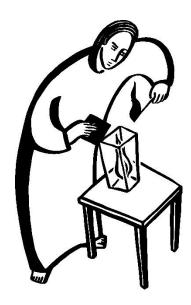
To assist in your offeringSecure Online Giving



Open Camera – Scan QR Code *Thank you for supporting St. James!*

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 10, 2025

The Holy Communion 10:00am



St James Lutheran Church 104 Union Street South PO Box 684 Concord, North Carolina 28026 704-786-0166 www.sjnc.net

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Pastor

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

Maybe you need forgiveness, or maybe you need to forgive ... Maybe you're tired and you need a little space to breathe ... Maybe you're trying church for the first time, or maybe you're trying church for the last time... Maybe you've spent your whole life wondering if God really loves you... Maybe you're lonely... Maybe you're sick... Maybe you came here looking for a miracle... Maybe you came here looking for another church but got disoriented and came here instead, and now it's too late to get up and walk out... Maybe, with God, there are no accidents... Maybe, with God, there is hope and healing and miraculous companionship... Maybe, with God, there is space to breathe and forgiveness on top of forgiveness... Maybe, with God, there is love... Maybe, with God here in our midst, we will hear those words that still split open the heavens, "You are my son! You are my daughter! You are my beloved. You. In you I am well pleased!" Maybe this is why we gather together, week after week after week, here at St. James.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this place - not just by the Saints at St. James, but by the God who revealed himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our brother, and our friend.

Welcome to St. James.

If you are comfortable doing so, please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill. If you have visited with us a number of times and think you might want to "make it official," please speak to Pastor Bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the person next you or to an usher.

<u>Restrooms</u> are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A <u>nursery</u> is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

August 10 – Connie King

August 12 – Robert Davis, Jr., Wayne Williams

August 14 – Mike Downs, Bill Grady

August 15 – Charlotte Davis

August 16 – Patty Propst

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 10	9:00am 9:30am 9:55am 10:00am	Parish Choir Children's Sunday School Congregational Meeting Worship Blessing of the Backpacks Congregational Lunch
Monday, August 11	10:30am	Quilting
Tuesday, August 12	6:oopm	Congregation Council
Saturday, August 16	8:30am	Leah's Hope Trailer
Sunday, August 17	9:00am 9:30am 10:00am	Parish Choir Children's Sunday School Worship

STUFF THE PENCIL BOXES!

Throughout the month of August, our Christian Education Committee is collecting pencils to support students in our local schools.

High-need item: Ticonderoga #2 Pencils
Also collecting: Crayola Colored Pencils

Look for the pencil boxes on the counter in the Portico to leave your donations.

USHERS NEEDED

We are currently looking to add a few new ushers to our Sunday worship team. Whether you're able to serve regularly or are simply willing to be on call as a substitute, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please reach out to Gretchen Walker (gwalk64@ctc.net) to volunteer.



St James Lutheran Church: Growing in Christ through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service.

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Prelude

Please stand.
THE INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

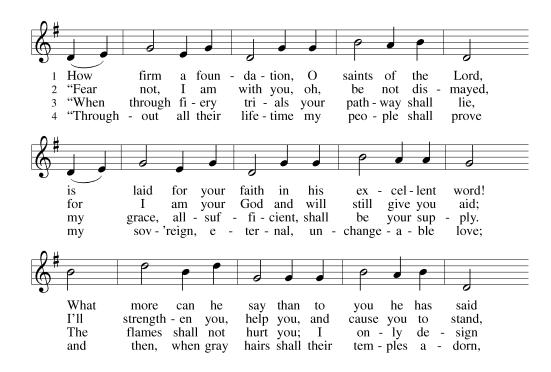
- P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen
- P If we say we have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

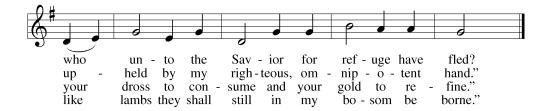
Please sit or kneel, as able.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P 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
- P 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.
- C Amen

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: How Firm A Foundation

A harmony graphic is not available. Please see #507 in the green LBW hymnal.





THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merit of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.
THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

³²"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

Please sit.
THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Soul Adorn Yourself with Gladness

A harmony graphic is not available. Please see #224 in the green LBW hymnal.

Please see next page.



- Soul, a dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad-ness,
- 2 Has-ten as a bride to meet him, ea ger ly and glad ly greet him.
- 3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon-der o ver this sur-pass-ing won-der
- 4 Je sus, source of last-ing plea-sure, tru est friend, and dear-est trea-sure,



come in - to the day-light's splen-dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der. There he stands al-read - y knock-ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un-lock-ing, that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less; peace be-yond all un - der - stand-ing, joy in - to all life ex-pand-ing:



Bless the one whose grace un-bound-ed this a - maz-ing ban-quet found-ed; o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im-mor - tal: with the choic-est wine of heav-en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. hum-bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car-nate, I a - dore you;



he, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low-ly. "Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with-in my heart for - ev - er." Oh, most glo-rious con - so-la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va-tion. wor - thi - ly let me re-ceive you, and, so fa-vored, nev - er leave you.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

THE PRAYERS

Please sit or kneel, as able.

- A Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
- A Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- A Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- A Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- A Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- A Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

- A We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- Into your hands, O Lord, we commend we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

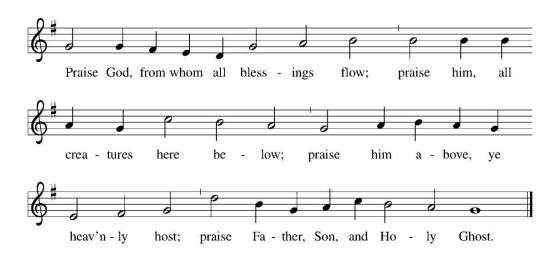
Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY #564 "The Doxology"



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray.
- A 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



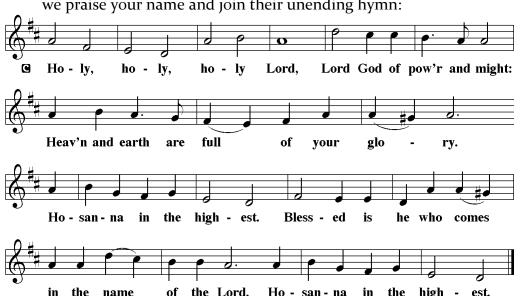
THE COMMUNION RITE

- 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 him 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:



Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- 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.

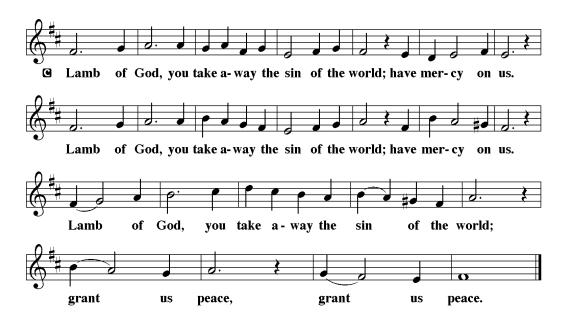
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us 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.



Please sit.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

- 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, given 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

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 to 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. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P Let us pray,
- A Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord
- C Amen



THE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

The minister addresses the congregation.

P Brothers and Sisters, our community is prepared to open our schools. Teachers are ready to teach. Parents are prepared to send their children back to school. Children are excited or, perhaps, not so excited to engage in learning.

Let us pause to give God thanks for the gift of learning and for the labors and well being of all who teach and learn.

A Remembrance of Baptism.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. Because of God's love for us, we are sent into the world, and our schools, to be Christ for our neighbor.

Prayers for students and teachers.

Lord Jesus Christ, at the age of twelve, you set us an example for seeking knowledge and truth when you were found in the Temple, "sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions."

Let us pray: Help us to honor and support those who teach. Affirm them in their chosen vocation. Give them loving hearts, strong spirits and love for their students. When they are weary, given them rest and renewal. Give them perseverance to sow seeds they may not see come to harvest. Lord, in your mercy, **Teach us your ways.**

Give our children a love for learning full of discovery and growth. May your Holy Wisdom be their guide. Open their hearts and minds to the wonder and mystery of learning. Guide them in your ways and truth. Give them loving friends and let them be good friends for others. Give them teachers willing to challenge and pick them up when they fail. Lord, in your mercy, **Teach us your ways.**

Bless the teachers, students and staff of Families First as their preschool serves another year at St. James. May our preschoolers find in this place welcome, love, acceptance and a solid foundation. Foster in their teachers a love for teaching and their students. Lord, in your mercy, **Teach us your ways.**

Protect and defend all who labor and learn in our school buildings and on our school campuses. Keep them safe from all harm. Lord, in your mercy, **Teach us your ways.**

The Blessing.

All are invited to raise a hand, palm up toward the ceiling and pray together"

Almighty God, fountain of all wisdom, You have blessed us with the joy and care of children: give us and teachers everywhere calm strength and patient

wisdom to bring them up, teaching them to love whatever is just and true and good. Amen

Students may turn their hands down and hold them over their backpacks.

The congregation may raise their hand(s) to bestow a blessing on the children and teachers gathered here.

Bless now these backpacks and the children who carry them: That with hearts enlightened by your Holy Spirit they may grow in knowledge and piety, to worship and serve you. Amen.

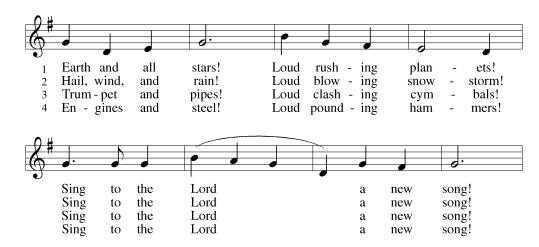
THE BENEDICTION

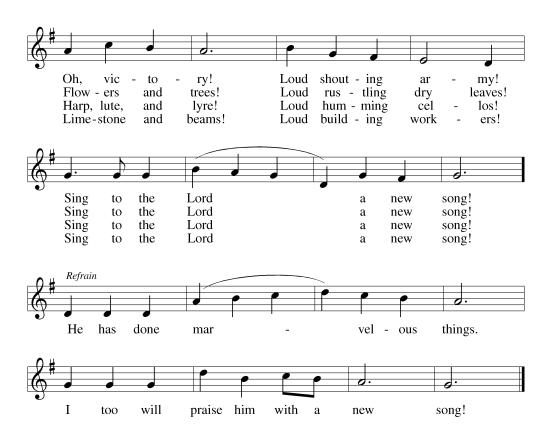
P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: Earth and All Stars

A harmony graphic is not available. Please see #558 in the green LBW hymnal.





- 5 Classrooms and labs!
 Loud boiling test tubes!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Athlete and band!
 Loud cheering people!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain
- 6 Knowledge and truth!
 Loud sounding wisdom!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Daughter and son!
 Loud praying members!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

THE DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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Blessing of the Backpacks is a combination of the LBW, Pastor Bill's original work and adaptation from the work of The Rev. Clint Schnekloth available on his blog.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SEPT - 7

Join us after worship on Sunday, Sept. 7 in the Fellowship Hall for *God's Work, Our Hands*, a day of service across the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. We'll assemble hygiene and school kits for Lutheran World Relief, create Mission Quilts, and write encouragement cards for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

All activities will take place in the Fellowship Hall, and all materials will be provided. Just bring your enthusiasm and appetite! Bagged lunch will be provided. We have yellow T-shirts for those who have never participated or no longer have theirs from past events. T-shirts will be handed out after worship on Sunday 8/24.

Please sign up online at www.sinc.net

SONSHINE BACKPACKS

St. James will be supporting the Sonshine Backpack Ministry, which provides weekend food for Cabarrus County schoolchildren in need.

For over 12 years, this ministry—led by Bonita Rowland at St. John's Lutheran Church—has worked to ensure students don't go hungry when school meals aren't available.

Each quarter, our church will collect non-perishable food items to help fill these backpacks. Items may include shelf-stable milk, cereal cups, oatmeal, or grits, macaroni & cheese or canned pasta, soup, vegetables, and fruit, granola bars, juice boxes, popcorn, and pudding cups.

Please place your donations on the back counter in the church kitchen during the month of **September**.

Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl at 704-425-8621 or Gretchen Walker at gwalk64@ctc.net.