



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

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## Week of April 26, 2026

*The Fourth Sunday of Easter*

### **Introduction to Worship**

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

**Watch the Live Stream:**



[Download Bulletin](#)

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## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, April 26

9:00 am Adult Sunday School  
9:00 am Choir  
9:30 am Children's Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship

### Monday, April 27

10:30am Quilting

### Thursday, April 30

6:30 pm Choir Practice

### Sunday, May 3

9:00 am Adult Sunday School  
9:00 am Choir  
9:30 am Children's Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Parent Meeting with Christian Ed. & Pastor Bill

[Church Calendar](#)

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## Sunday Ministries

### LECTOR/INTERCESSOR

**April 26** Margaret Garrison  
**May 3** Kim Haberman

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

**April 26** Christine Ruff  
**May 3** Elizabeth Hurley

### ACOLYTE

**April 26** Noah Pittard  
**May 3**

### GREETER

**April 26** [Volunteer](#)  
**May 3**

### VIDEOGRAPHER

**April 26** Jeff Gilbert

### APRIL USHERS

Robert Davis, Samantha Hillegass,  
Dale Merrell

### MAY USHERS

Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin, Tony  
Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard

### APRIL BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Robert Davis

### MAY BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Wendell Overby

### ALTAR FLOWERS

**April 26**  
**May 3**

**Sign Up to Volunteer**

Lector

Communion  
Assistant

Acolyte

Videographer

Altar Flowers

## Happy Birthday! 🎈

April 26 - Kailey Hartman

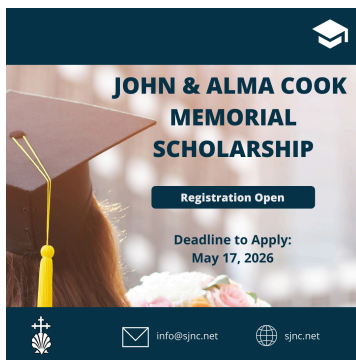
April 27 - Thomas Grady

April 28 - Kara Bestler

April 29 - Sam Hurley, Cheryl Webb

May - Anna Grace Craver

## Announcements



### COOK SCHOLARSHIP

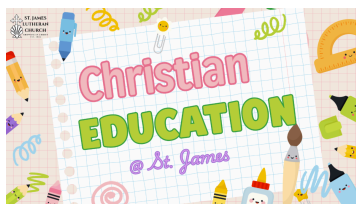
#### \*Attention Students!\*

In 1968, John M. Cook, Jr. established an endowment to assist college and graduate students who are members of St. James Lutheran Church by helping with their tuition expenses.

The Cook Trust Fund Committee is now accepting applications for the 2026/2027 academic school year.

Interested applicants can email [holly@sjnc.net](mailto:holly@sjnc.net) for an application. Please confirm if you are a first-time or returning applicant so you will receive the appropriate forms.

**APPLICATIONS DUE BY MAY 17, 2026**



### Parent Meeting - May 3

You are invited to meet with the Christian Education Committee and Pastor Bill after worship on **May 3** in the Fellowship Hall. We'll discuss the direction of Christian education for children and youth, review what's working, share ideas, and explore ways you can contribute.



### Lively Leisures - May 12

Join us on **Tuesday, May 12** for our final Lively Leisures of the spring, featuring a presenter from Eli Lilly. Lively Leisures will pause for the summer and resume in September.



## Honoring Our Graduates - May 17

Please let the church office know if you have a child graduating from high school this year. We would like to honor the graduates on **May 17**.

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

## This week's lesson...

Christian Expectation of Grace - Jonah 3:1-5; Jonah 4:6-11

In this week's lesson, we study the prophet, Jonah, who was directed by God to preach judgment against the city of Nineveh, the seat of power of the pagan Assyrian Empire. Nineveh was a cruel oppressor of Israel but, the story of Jonah reveals God's expansive grace and mercy without partiality. God does not ignore Nineveh's wickedness, however, when the people receive the warning and react appropriately, God extends His mercy and grace to them and relents from the promised punishment! This relenting of God's punishment angers Jonah, but God is the ultimate judge and His treatment of Nineveh exemplifies that His grace and forgiveness are available to all who will accept them. God doesn't punish Jonah for his disobedience, instead, God remained in conversation with Jonah and taught him the comprehensive nature of divine grace. There are many lessons to be learned from this text, and we'll discuss them on Sunday!

## Reminders

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**July 26 - 28, 2026**

*All volunteers will be required to have a current Safe Gatherings background check. Contact the church office to volunteer.*

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
GROWING IN CHRIST  
EST. 1843

**SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE**

**FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD**

**sjnc.net**

The poster features a cartoon walrus character in a red jacket and green hat, holding a microphone. The background is a snowy mountain scene with ski lifts and colorful flags. The text is in white and yellow on a blue background.



## Amazing Grace Blessing Box

Amazing Grace's Life Skills Lab program continues 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.



## Altar Flower Sign-Ups

Consider signing up to provide altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday. It's a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or mark an important date.

After worship, any remaining flowers are shared with members of our congregation who are homebound.

[Click here to see available dates and to sign up.](#) Please be sure to fill in the details of how you want the bulletin to read.

## In Our Prayers

**Cecil Berry** (Friend of Gretchen Walker)

**Family of Michael Black**

(Nephew of Patsy Black)

**Patsy Black**

**Caroline Bost**

**Patrick Bryn**

(Son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn)

**Angie Buchanan**

**Mike & Debbie Cagle**

(Friends of Robert & Debbie Davis)

**Noah Clifton**

**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)

**Phyllis Freeman**

(Mother of Fonda Shumate)

**Ed Frost** (Friends of the Marlow's)

**Ginger Gibbs** (Friend of Deedee & Jeff Gilbert)

**Jeff Gilbert**

**Tom Grady**

**Ryan Hardister**

(Son of Bill & Reggie Hardister)

**Maureen Hollmeyer**

**Hunter Huss**

**Dale Johnson** (Friend of Dale Merrell)

**Mary Frances Johnson**

(Cousin of Francie Davis)

**Karen Johnston**

(Friend of Judy Benz)

**Mary Anne Lanahan**

(Aunt of Francie Davis)

**Ruth Lawler**

(Friend of Dee & Al Pieschel)

**John Ledford** (Brother of Deb Black)

**Buddy McEachern**

**Barbara Merrell**

**Deb & Roger Myers**

(Friends of Deb Black)

**Dave Olsen** (Friend of Patsy Black)

**Mason Overby**

**Stan Parnell**

(Friend of Rob & Debbie Davis)

**Becky Phillips**

**Al Pieschel**

**Lori Pittard**

**Lori Ruff**

(Mother of Christine Ruff)

**Ruby Tyer**

(Niece of Beth Huss' Friend)



## Meal Train Opportunity

The Meal Train for St. James member Jay Clemmer is ongoing. Volunteers are invited to [sign up for dates](#) that work best for them.

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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.



## Ways to Give

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# Volunteer!

## Assisting in Worship

[Sunday Worship Volunteer Opportunities](#) are now open! We're looking for Ushers, Greeters, 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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## 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

 Phone: (704) 786-0166

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

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

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