

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Lindsey Olsen

Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass

Ushers: Al Brown, Jr., Bill Hardister, Amy Griffith

Ushers Needed! - Contact Gretchen Walker if you can assist (gwalk64@ctc.net)

Videographer: Jason Pittard

Building Supervisors: Kim Haberman, Hunter Huss

PRAYER LIST

Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; Patrick Bryn (son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Jay Clemmer; Noah Clifton; Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Phyllis Freeman (Mother of Fonda Shumate); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Ginger Gibbs (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Jeff Gilbert; Nancy Haney (loved one of Betsy Ballard); Ryan Hardister (son of Bill & Reggie Hardister); Maureen Hollmeyer; Hunter Huss; 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); Leonard "Buddy" McEachern; Jason Matthews; Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Dave Olsen (friend of Patsy Black); Mason Overby; Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Al Pieschel; Corinne Robbins; Lori Ruff (mother of Christine Ruff); Jessica Seeley (cousin of Christine Ruff); Ruby Tyler (niece of Beth Huss' friend); John Walker.

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



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

**The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026**

**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 to you or to an usher.

Restrooms are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A **nursery** 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.

Let us know you visited!



Scan to connect!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Aug. 16 – Patty Propst
- Aug. 17 – Michael Bestler
- Aug. 18 – Helen Fincher, Sam Jones
- Aug. 19 – Jim Harris, Jr.
- Aug. 21 – Meagan Lambert

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Aug. 16	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Nominating Committee (Flex Room)
Monday, Aug. 17	RSVP Deadline for Stewardship Luncheon	
	10:30am	Quilting (Flex Room)
Thurs., Aug. 20	6:30pm	Choir
Sunday, Aug. 23	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Stewardship Luncheon

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON

Join us for a special Stewardship Luncheon after worship on **Sunday, August 23**. Enjoy a catered lunch and fellowship as we discuss the mission of St. James. Be sure to RSVP to help us plan! Please email LeeAnn Miller (lbmiller1@carolina.rr.com) if you can bring a dessert!

RSVP by Aug 17:





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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Please silence your phones. Thank you.

When not printed, hymn harmonies may be found in the green LBW hymnal.

Welcome

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,

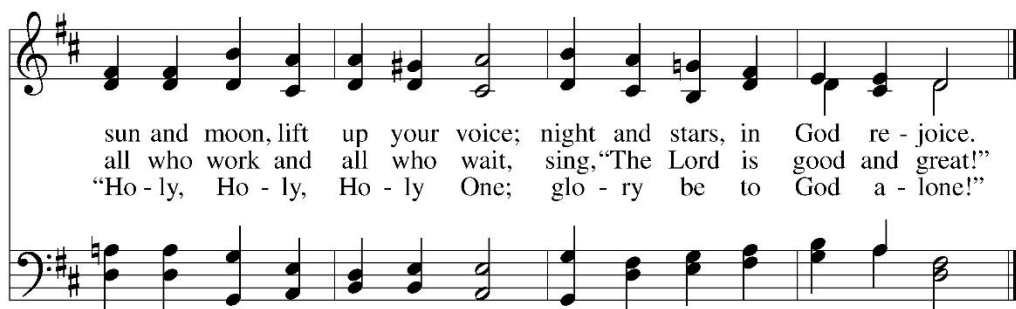
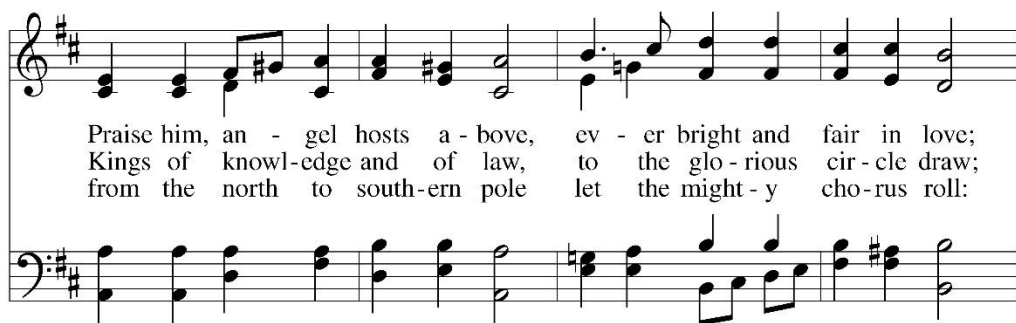
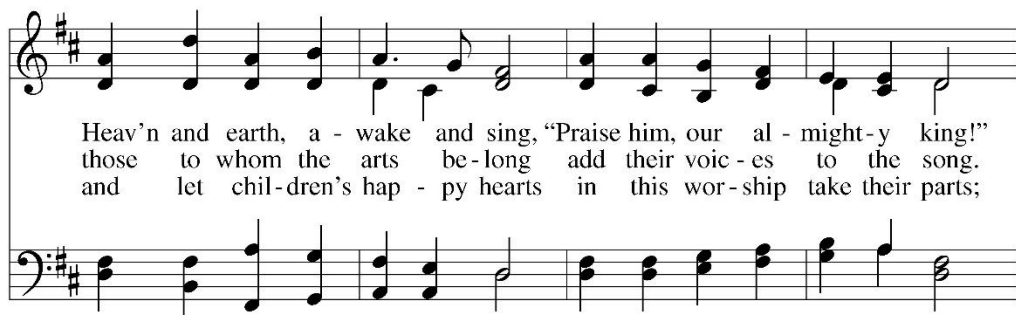
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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: #242 Let the Whole Creation Cry

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
2 War-riors fight - ing for the Lord, proph-ets burn - ing with his word,
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



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 ever-living God, you have given great and precious promises to those who believe. Grant us the perfect faith which overcomes all doubts, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 21-28

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

Please stand.
THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 15th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ ²⁴ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ ²⁶ He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ ²⁷ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

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: #423 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love’s re - veal-ing light



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy’s per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,



con-se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - ’ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.

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

A Let us pray for the church, the world and for all people according to their need.

Dear Father, we are slow to see others as your beloved children! Soften our hearts to lead them into Jesus' presence. Help us to discover that at the foot of his Cross, we truly are sisters and brothers. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Fashion your Church into your house of prayer upon the earth. By your Holy Spirit, show it how to rightly welcome all people into its midst. Through your Word and holy Sacraments, draw many close to your beloved Son. Let them receive his promised mercy, forgiveness, healing, and salvation. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Make this congregation a house of prayer. Fashion us into people of prayer. Transform our ministries into expressions of prayer, offered to you on behalf of our neighbors and our world. Help us to welcome fellow sinners. Give us grace to walk with them on the lifelong journey of repentance and obedient faith. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Forgive and heal the hatred and violence that destroy peace, justice, and goodwill. Teach our rulers to diligently seek the good of everyone entrusted to their care. Increase understanding, cooperation, and kindness between those of different backgrounds or beliefs. Teach us all to look beyond those things which divide, and to cling to your merciful will to heal and save all who will receive you. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

In Christ, your mercy and salvation are for all who call upon your name. Thus we pray for all who suffer. Be gracious to them, and bless them. Show them the light of your countenance. Draw them, and all who care for them, closer to your Son. Bestow upon them the joy of your saving help. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Thank you, dear Father, for giving your fullest healing to the faithful departed. We commend them into your care, especially those dearest to us. Let their faithful example guide our discipleship. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **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



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

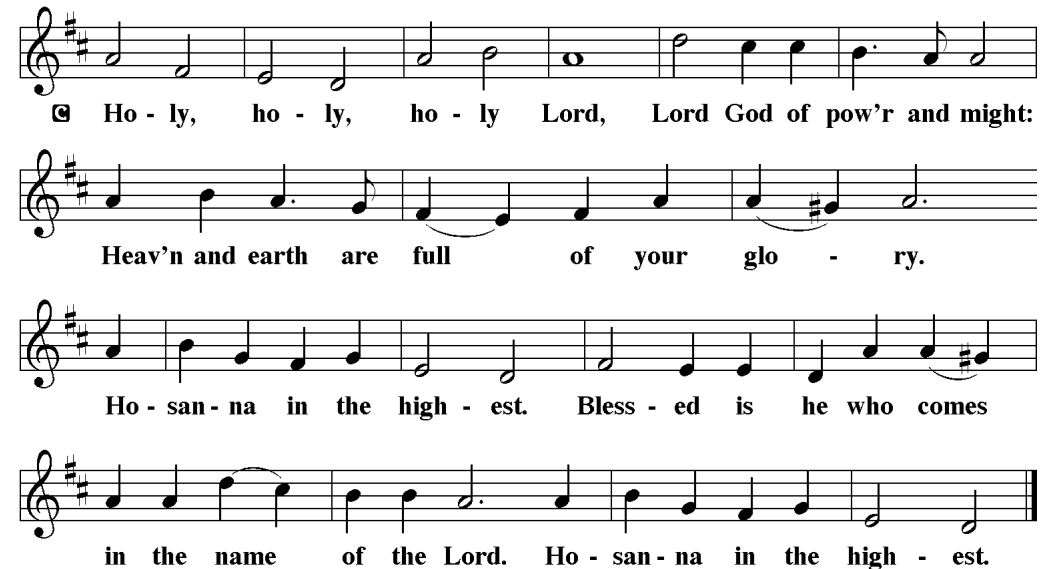
A Let us pray.
 A Blessed are you,
 C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have
 blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service
 and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have
 made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen



THE COMMUNION RITE

P The Lord be with you.
 C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.
 C **We lift them to the Lord.**
 P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
 P 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, Lord God of pow'r and might:
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 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.

P 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.

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 your Holy Spirit,
that by the Holy Communion
we may know the unity
we share with all your people
in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
almighty Father, now and forever.

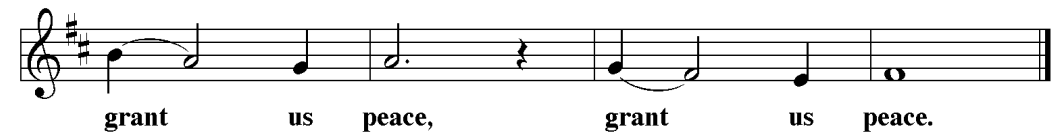
C Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C 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. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you wish for the pastor to bring communion to you. 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,
We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy 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.

C Amen

Silence for reflection.



THE BENEDICTION

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

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: #530 Jesus Shall Reign

Musical notation for the first system of the hymn, featuring a treble and bass staff in G major. The lyrics are:

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

Musical notation for the second system of the hymn, featuring a treble and bass staff in G major. The lyrics are:

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

Musical notation for the third system of the hymn, featuring a treble and bass staff in G major. The lyrics are:

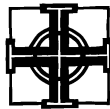
shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude



COPYRIGHT:
Lutheran Book of Worship © 1978. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Licenses SAS-002140, SB177826. **Lord Whose Love in Humble Service (Text)** © Oxford University Press (New York). Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002. **Lord Whose Love in Humble Service (Arrangement)** © Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress License SB177826. Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002.

THANK YOU!

Your generosity makes ministry happen at St. James.

Offerings Budgeted for 2026	\$405,055
Offerings Received as of July 31, 2026	\$208,777
Offerings Expected as of July 31, 2026	\$236,282
<u>DEFICIT</u> as of July 31, 2026	-\$27,505

STAY CONNECTED!

Sign up to receive our weekly *Ring Out* e-newsletter for news, events, and ministry updates.



Follow us on social media:
Facebook & Instagram: **@stjamesnc**
YouTube: **@stjameslutheranconcord**

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUPPLY DRIVE

Help us prepare for *God's Work. Our Hands.* by donating supplies for Lutheran World Relief Kits that will support people in need around the world.

Social Ministry & Christian Ed. Committee are collecting supplies for:

- School Kits
- Personal Care Kits
- Baby Care Kits
- Fabric Kits

Collection Dates: August 2 – September 6

Assembly Day: Sunday, September 13, following worship

Donations: Please place kit items in the designated bins at the Portico entrance.

Consider donating supplies, packing kits, or both to help serve our neighbors around the world.

Scan for supply list:



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SERVICE DAY– SEPT. 13

Join us **Sunday, September 13**, after worship in the Fellowship Hall for a day of service! We'll assemble Lutheran World Relief kits, create Mission Quilts, and write encouragement cards for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

A bagged lunch will be provided (**RSVP**). Everyone is invited to participate!

T-shirts will be available after worship on Sept. 6 and on Sept. 13 for those who need one.

Sign up:



INTERESTED IN CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT PARTICIPATION?

If you missed Sunday's Carols by Candlelight preview, it's not too late to join the St. James Choir! If you or someone you know would enjoy being a part of Carols by Candlelight, we'd love to have you join us.

Rehearsals Begin: Sept. 17 at 7:30pm.

Dress Rehearsals: Dec. 7 & 9

Performance Dates: Dec. 11 & 12

For more information contact Kevin Estes (kevin@sjnc.net).