

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Barbara Albright

**Communion Assistant:** Margaret Garrison

**Ushers:** Dale Merrell, Gretchen Walker,  
Robert Davis, Lex Patterson, Samantha Hillegass

**Greeter:** Jean Beasley

**Videographer:** Annette Propst

**Building Supervisors:** Robert Davis & Gretchen Walker

**PRAYER LIST**

Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); 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); 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); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Roger Scarselletta (nephew of Joan Mahoney); Deb Walker.

*To assist in your offering*

Secure Online Giving



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*Thank you for supporting St. James!*

**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 27, 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.

**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

July 27 – Janet Patterson, Michael Rinker  
July 29 – Luke Baker, Noah Clifton, Julianna Popovici, Jim Steel  
July 30 – Jay Cruse, Hudson Davis, Kyle Moran  
July 31 – Amy Clifton, Jo Ann Fowler, Allison Hinson, Jill Irvin  
August 1 – Hillary Pruette  
August 2 – Maureen Hollmeyer, Callie MacFarlane

### CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 27	9:00am	Parish Choir
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, July 28	10:30am	Quilting
Sunday, August 3	9:00am	Parish Choir
	10:00am	Worship

### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

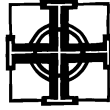
Join us for the annual Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am worship.

Be sure to stick around afterwards for a congregational lunch.

Everyone is welcome; please RSVP to help us plan!

Scan below or email [info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net) to RSVP.





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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION



**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: Your Kingdom Come!

*No harmony graphic is available. Please see #376 in the green LBW hymnal.*



1 Your king - dom come! O Fa - ther, hear our prayer;  
2 Stum - bling and blind, we strive to do your will,  
3 Come through the faith where - by the church must live;  
4 Your king - dom come; come too, God's glo - rious Son!



shine through the clouds that threat - en ev - 'ry - where;  
trust - ing the word you sure - ly will ful - fill,  
come through the word and sac - ra - ments you give;  
Oh, may our task for you be no - bly done!



light from a - bove, our on - ly life and joy,  
that all are yours, how - ev - er far they roam,  
come through your teach - ing, and your heal - ing too;  
Faith - ful let all your ser - vants be, and true,



show us the hope that noth - ing can de - stroy;  
that love shall tri - umph, and your king - dom come;  
come through the work en - light - ened hearts can do;  
un - til they bring all na - tions home to you;



show us the hope that noth - ing can de - stroy.  
that love shall tri - umph, and your king - dom come.  
come through the work en - light - ened hearts can do.  
un - til they bring all na - tions home to you.

**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** The Lord be with you  
**C** **And also with you.**  
**P** O God, your ears are open always to the prayers of your servants. Open our hearts and minds to you, that we may live in harmony with your will and receive the gifts of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** **Amen.**



*Please sit.*  
**THE FIRST READING:** Genesis 18:20-32

20Then the Lord said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! 21I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.”  
22So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. 23Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? 25Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” 26And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” 27Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. 28Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” 29Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” 30Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” 31He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” 32Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

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

**THE SECOND READING:** Colossians 2:6-15

6As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.  
8See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. 9For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. 11In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; 12when you were buried with him in

baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. 13And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, 14erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. 15He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

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. Luke, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C     **Glory to you, O Lord**


1He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” 2He said to them, “When you pray, say:  
    Father, hallowed be your name.  
    Your kingdom come.  
3Give us each day our daily bread.  
4And forgive us our sins,  
        for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.  
    And do not bring us to the time of trial.”  
5And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ 7And he answers from within, ‘Do

not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ 8I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.  
9“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. 10For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? 12Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? 13If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”


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

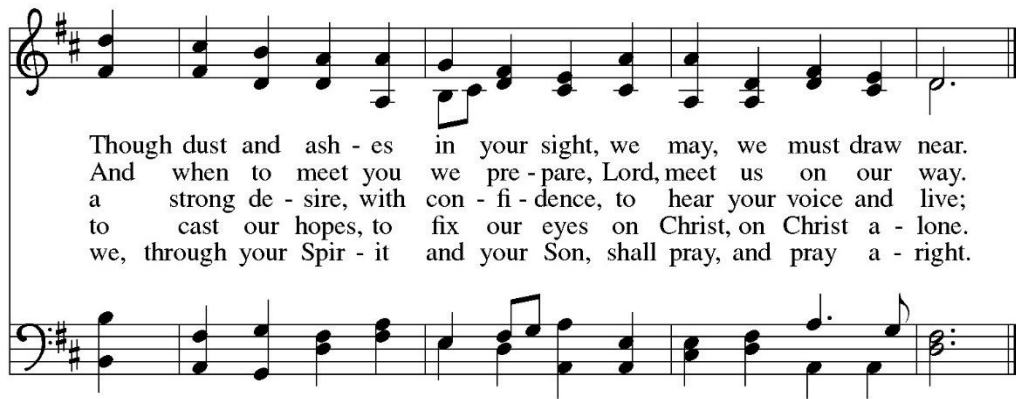
*Please sit.*  
**THE SERMON** **Pastor Bill Ridenhour**

*Please stand.*  
**THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright**



1 Lord, teach us how to pray a - right, with rev - 'rence and with fear.  
2 We per - ish if we cease from prayer; oh, grant us pow'r to pray.  
3 Give deep hu - mil - i - ty; the sense of god - ly sor - row give;  
4 Faith in the on - ly sac - ri - fice that can for sin a - tone;  
5 Give these, and then your will be done; thus strength - ened with all might,





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 whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people  
according their needs.

Father, we have grown so used to praying to you that sometimes we forget  
what a privilege it is! Forgive us when we become careless, forgetful, or  
presumptuous. By your Spirit’s leading, make us eager to stand with Jesus’ arm  
around our shoulders, confidently and lovingly calling you “Abba, Father,” and  
talking with you about everything. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep your Church firmly rooted and grounded in Christ, its Head. Make it dead  
to sin and alive to righteousness. Give it the faith and the words to pray  
continually for the needs of all people, and for their salvation. Give it the  
strength and will to act in accordance with your will. Lord, in your mercy, **hear  
our prayer.**

Draw the people of this congregation into a life of prayer with you. Help us to  
ask for your mercy; to seek your guidance; and to knock at the door of your  
heart. Give us the courage and love to invite family, friends, and neighbors into  
a closer walk with you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Deliver your persecuted servants from evil. Help them to pray for their  
enemies. Help us to pray for them and with them. And guide and strengthen all  
missionaries. Help them find and use ways to introduce unbelievers to your  
dear Son, until all hearts are tuned to your praise. Lord, in your mercy, **hear  
our prayer.**

Keep this country in your care. Guide our leaders in paths of righteousness.  
Help us to preserve and extend the blessings of liberty and justice for all. Give  
health and safety to all people; and establish your Kingdom among us. Lord, in  
your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our enemies; for those who are estranged from us; for those who  
work to harm us; and for all whose hearts are full of bitterness, malice,  
perversion, and other evils. Transform them, and conform them to your will.  
Help us to forgive them as you have forgiven us. And heal all our hearts, so that  
we reflect the holiness and mercy of your dear Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear  
our prayer.**

Hear the prayers of those who ask for healing; who seek for comfort; and who knock on doors that they fear are shut. Graciously answer them from the wellsprings of your mercy and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, keep in your care all who died clinging to the promises which have their Yes in Christ. Comfort those who mourn. Give each of us the daily bread we need throughout our earthly pilgrimage. Help us to readily give and humbly ask for forgiveness. Strengthen us when we are tempted to turn aside from your good will; and deliver us from the snares of the Evil One. Bring us into the Kingdom that you have prepared for all whom you have redeemed through the merits of your dear Son, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit, we may praise, adore and bless you forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P 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.  
C **Amen.**

#### THE PEACE

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

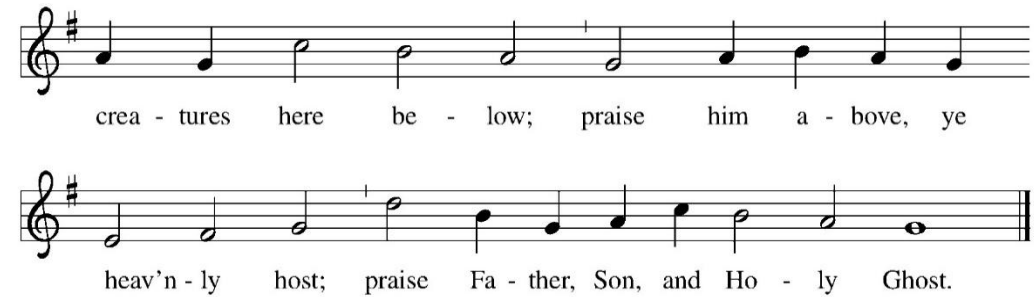
*Please sit.*

#### THE ANTHEM

#### THE OFFERING

*Please stand.*

#### THE OFFERTORY #564 "The Doxology"



#### 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 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**

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.

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.

*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**

*Silence for reflection.*



**THE BENEDICTION**

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

**THE SENDING HYMN: Our Father, by Whose Name**

1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name all par - ent - hood is known,  
2 O Christ, your - self a child with - in an earth - ly home,  
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, bind our hearts in u - ni - ty

in love di - vine you claim each fam - 'ly as your own.  
with heart still un - de - filed to full a - dult - hood come:  
and teach us how to find the love from self set free;

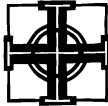
Bless moth - ers, fa - thers, guard - ing well, with con - stant love as  
our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place that they may all be -  
in all our hearts such love in - crease that ev - 'ry home, by

sen - ti - nel, the homes in which your peo - ple dwell.  
hold your face and, know - ing you, may grow in grace.  
this re - lease, may be the dwell - ing place of peace.

THE DISMISSAL

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

Postlude



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**Prayers** adapted from Cathy Ammong’s work at lutherancore.website.

THANK YOU!

Please join us in thanking all those who volunteered for Vacation Bible School held this past week. We are grateful for your time, energy and effort. Double thanks are offered to LeeAnn Miller and Laura Overby, who served as co-chairwomen, and to Mike Holt, Set Builder Extraordinaire. A fabulous Road Trip was enjoyed by all.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING -AUGUST 10

C13.02 mandates that the voting membership, at the annual meeting, elect six voting members to serve a one-year term on the Nominating Committee. This committee is charged with developing a slate of nominees to serve on church council. We forgot all about this in February. So, we’re doing it on August 10th. Immediately before worship, we will gavel in, take a vote to elect and gavel out. The vote to elect the members of the nominating committee is the only item of business permitted on August 10th. The nominees are Annette Propst, Chip Blackwelder, Wendell Overby, Deedee Gilbert, Ashley Cline, Beth Huss.

RING OUT!?! WHAT’S A RING OUT?!?

The Ring Out is the email newsletter of St. James. It is full of timely information. It has more stuff than the bulletin. If you don’t get it, go to sjnc.net, click on Publications, click on Ring Out and then use the subscribe button.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOU

We’re looking for caring volunteers to help with our Children’s Sunday School classes. No teaching experience needed – just a love for kids and willingness to share God’s Word. Materials and training provided. Please email Ann Blackwelder at mafb2468@gmail.com or call the church office.

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.