



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

Week of July 26, 2026

The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction to Worship

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Watch the Live Stream:



[Download Bulletin](#)

The Week Ahead

Sunday, July 26

Vacation Bible School Begins! 🏖️

9:00 am Choir

10:00 am Worship

5:30 pm VBS

Monday, July 27

10:30 am Quilting

5:30 pm VBS

Tuesday, July 28

5:30 pm VBS

Sunday, Aug. 2

9:00 am Choir

10:00 am Worship

[Church Calendar](#)

Sunday Ministries

LECTOR/INTERCESSOR

July 26 Lindsey Olsen

Aug. 2 Kim Haberman

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

July 26 Margaret Garrison

Aug. 2 Elizabeth Hurley

ACOLYTES

July 26 Christine Ruff

Aug. 2

GREETER

July 26 Jean Beasley

Aug. 2

VIDEOGRAPHER

July 26 Kim Haberman

Aug. 2

JULY USHERS

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

AUGUST USHERS

Al Brown, Jr., Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss

JULY BUILDING SUPERVISORS

Jeff Gilbert, Chip Popovici

AUGUST BUILDING SUPERVISORS

Kim Haberman, Hunter Huss

ALTAR FLOWER

July 26 Ordered

Aug. 2 Cheryl Webb

[Sign Up to Volunteer](#)

Happy Birthday! 🎂

July 26 - Kirby Bryn, Elizabeth Hurley, Al Pieschel

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

Announcements



VBS Begins Sunday! 🏔️

The countdown is over! St. James Vacation Bible School begins this Sunday, July 26!

Participants may be dropped off at 5:30pm

Nursery care available to those that preregistered.

We can't wait to see you on the mountain!



Carols by Candlelight Choir Interest Preview - Aug. 9

Have interest in singing in *Carols by Candlelight*? The St. James Parish Choir invites anyone interested in participating this year's performance to attend a special preview on **Sunday, August 9, at 2:00 p.m.**

If you are interested in participating, please complete the [interest form](#) and join us for the preview.

Join us for a day of service!

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Supply Drive & Kit Packing Event

Sunday, Sept. 13. | after worship

FABRIC KIT SUPPLIES
Please donate new, unused items only

- Neutral-colored, general-purpose thread 250-300 yards per spool
- Fabric

Please donate cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester). Each piece should be one of the following sizes:

- 24 yards of 60" wide fabric
- 3 yards of 44" wide fabric
- 4 yards of 36" wide fabric

Donation Guidelines
Fabric must be free of stains and holes. Each spool of thread should coordinate with one piece of fabric.
(Please do not donate items with:
Religious symbols or messages, Group or organization names, U.S. flags, patriotic or military symbols, References to the armed forces, including camouflage)

SCHOOL KIT SUPPLIES

- 70-page spiral notebooks (wide or college-ruled)
- #2 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 30-centimeter ruler for ruler with centimeters and inches
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- Pencil sharpener
- Pair of blunt scissors
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 2 1/2" pink erasers

PERSONAL CARE KIT SUPPLIES

- Dark-colored, lightweight bath towels (20" x 40" to 52" x 27")
- Bath-size bars of soap totaling 8-9 oz. (original wrapping)
- Adult-size toothbrushes (original packaging)
- Sturdy combs
- Metal nail clippers

BABY CARE KIT SUPPLIES

- Lightweight cotton T-shirts (no sweaters)
- Long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Receiving blankets (medium-weight cotton or flannel, 32" x 52")
- Cloth diapers (flat-fold preferred)
- Jacket, sweater, sweatshirt, or cape with hood (or include a baby hat)
- Pairs of socks
- Hand towels (dark color)
- Bath-size bars of gentle soap (8-9 oz., original wrapping; no mini bars)
- Diaper pins or large safety pins

Supply Collection Dates: Aug. 2 - Sept. 6
Pack Date: Sunday, Aug. 13, after worship



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 Committee is collecting supplies for:

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

The Christian Education Committee is partnering with Social Ministry by focusing its annual collection on School Kit supplies in place of their traditional pencil drive.

Collection Dates: August 2 – September 6

Assembly Day:

Sunday, September 13, following worship

Donations:

Please place school kit items in the "SCHOOL SUPPLIES" collection box located at the Portico Entrance.

Watch for additional collection boxes for Personal Care, Baby Care, and Fabric Kit supplies.

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

[See flyer for complete list of needed supplies.](#)



Save the Date

Join us for a day of service!

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Sunday, Sept. 13. | after worship



In Case You Missed It...



Mission Fund Update

The Mission Fund Committee met on June 2 to review grant applications from six local ministry partners. Funding was approved for The Open Door House, 1CAN, Esther's Heart, and Lifeline Christian Mission, supporting projects that provide housing assistance, food security, community outreach, and ministry programs.

The committee requested additional information from Coltrane Life Center before making a final decision and deferred Present Age Ministries' application until the September meeting.

The committee also welcomed Becca Kittel as its newest member. She will begin her term at the next meeting on September 1.

Reminders



Blessing of the Backpacks

Join us during worship on **Sunday, August 9** for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks as we pray for students, teachers, and school staff as they begin a new school year. After worship, stay for a congregational lunch. All are welcome!



Stewardship Luncheon

Save the date and 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.

In Our Prayers

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

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)

Buddy McEachern

Jason Matthews

Barbara Merrell

Deb & Roger Myers

(Friends of Deb Black)

Dave Olsen

(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

Nancy Haney

(Loved one of Betsy Ballard)

Ryan Hardister

(Son of Bill & Reggie Hardister)

Maureen Hollmeyer

(Friend of Patsy Black)

Mason Overby

Stan Parnell

(Friend of Rob & Debbie Davis)

Becky Phillips

Al Pieschel

Corinne Robbins

Lori Ruff (Mother of Christine Ruff)

Jessica Seeley

(Cousin of Christine Ruff)

Ruby Tyer (Niece of Beth Huss' Friend)

John Walker

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

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 for more information, training, or to connect with a volunteer team leader.

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](#)

Contact Us



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