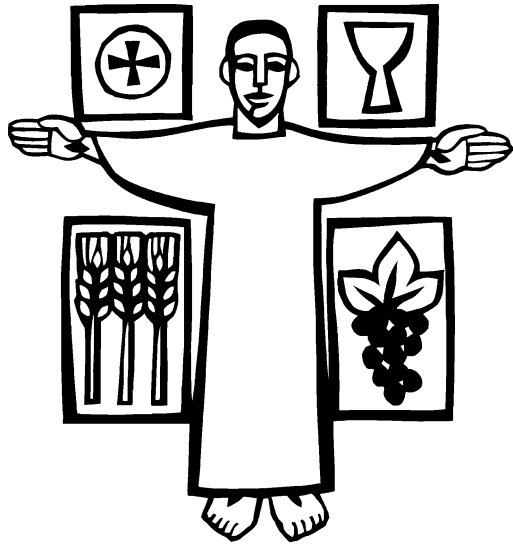


**The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 6, 2024**

**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**

**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.



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

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

Welcome

**Prelude**                      Allegro (from *Organ Trio Sonata I in E-flat*)                      J. S. Bach

*Please stand.*

**THE INVOCATION**

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: For the Beauty of the Earth**

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For your - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly giv'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 a - gent of God's grand de - sign, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:

*Refrain*

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

**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 Our Lord Jesus, you have endured the doubts and foolish questions of every generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over you, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge you as Lord.  
 C **Amen**

*Please sit.*

**THE FIRST READING: Genesis 2:18-24**

<sup>18</sup>The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. <sup>21</sup>So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones  
 and flesh of my flesh;  
 this one shall be called Woman,  
 for out of Man this one was taken."

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

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

**THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12**

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>2:5</sup>Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup>But someone has testified somewhere,

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
 or mortals, that you care for them?"

<sup>7</sup>You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;  
 you have crowned them with glory and honor,  
<sup>8</sup>subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,<sup>9</sup>but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

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 GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup>He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” <sup>5</sup>But Jesus

said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup>For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

<sup>10</sup>Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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

### THE SERMON

*Please stand.*

### THE HYMN OF THE DAY: God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill  
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in - to our world of stress,  
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re - lease  
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum-bly hope-ful in - to life.  
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,

to re - store the hope of heal - ing, give us grace and make us still.  
 for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing all the fail - ures we con - fess.  
 from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing; set us free and grant us peace.  
 Use us as a means of bless - ing: make us stron - ger, give us faith.  
 give us love to go on learn - ing: God, en - cour - age and re - new!

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**C 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 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.**

*Please sit or kneel, as able.*

**THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**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.**

**C 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**

**C 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**

**C 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**

**C 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**

**C 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**

**C Hear our prayer.**

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

## THE PEACE

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

*Please sit.*

## THE OFFERING

### THE ANTHEM

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

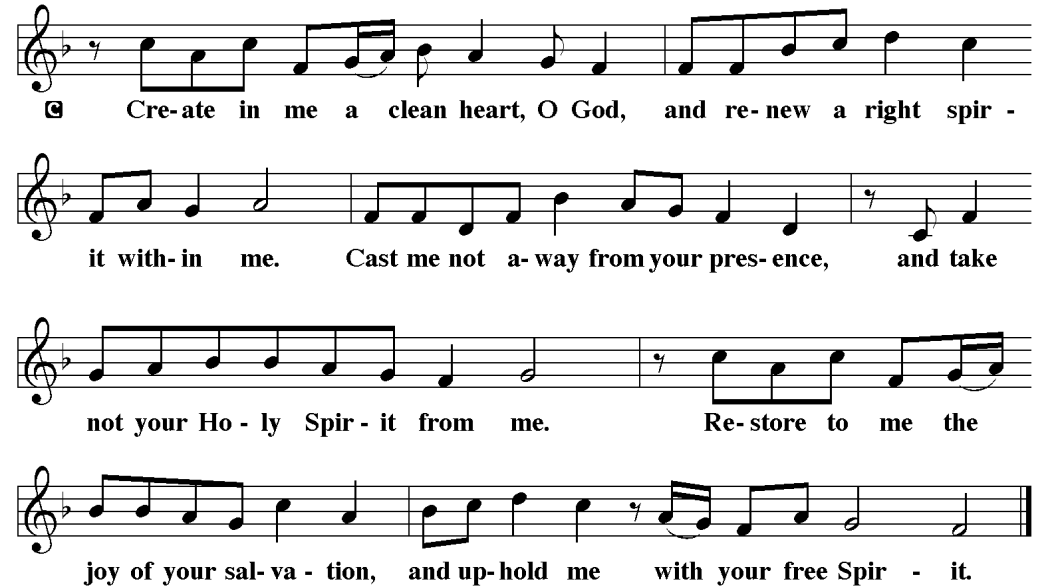
Tom Fettke

*When I gaze into the night sky,  
And see the work of Your fingers.  
The moon and stars suspended in space.  
But what is man that You are mindful of him?  
You have given man a crown of glory and honor.  
And have made him a little lower than the angels.  
You have put him in charge of all creation;  
The beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea.  
But what is man, oh, what is man  
That You are mindful of him?*

*O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of Your name  
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.  
O Lord, our God little children praise Him perfectly.  
And so would we, and so would we.  
Alleluia. The majesty and glory of Your name!*

*Please stand.*

### THE OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

### 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 We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.

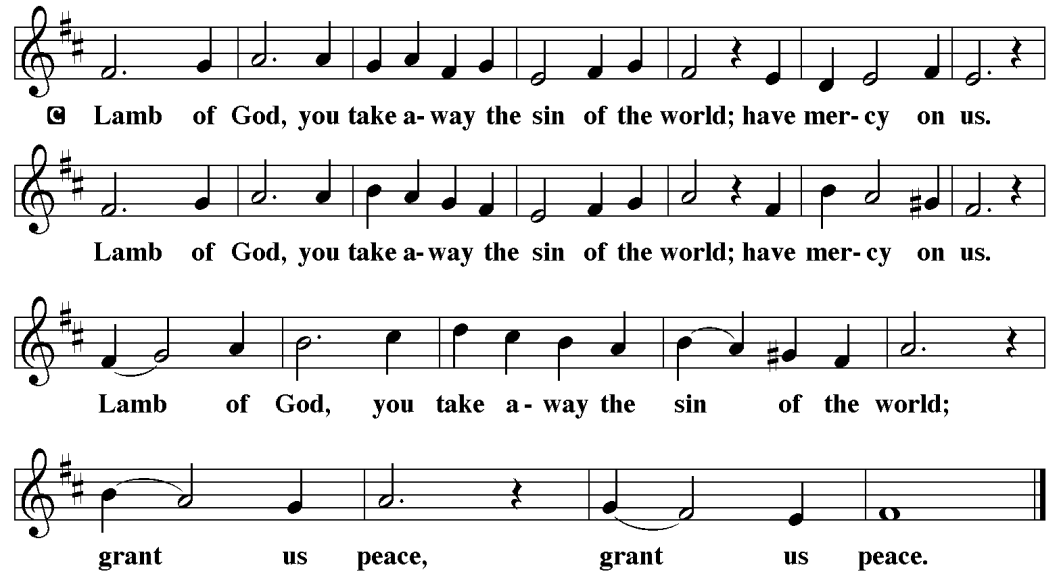
C **Amen.**

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.

P 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**

### THE BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen**



## THE SENDING HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God

*A harmony graphic is not available. Please hymn 534 in the green LBW.*



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

## THE DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

Sortie

Théodore Dubois



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## MEET THE NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR!

Choir member Chris Miller sat down with our Director of Music Ministries & Organist Dr. Kevin Estes. Get to know Kevin and be sure to welcome him and his family to the St. James community! Scan the QR Code to watch!



## COTTAGE MEETINGS

Join us for fellowship, meaningful conversations, and spiritual growth at an upcoming Cottage Meeting! These meetings are meant to bring members together in small groups with Pastor Bill. Scan the QR Code to see meeting dates and to RSVP! If you are interested in hosting a Cottage Meeting, please email LeeAnn Miller, [lbmiller1@carolina.rr.com](mailto:lbmiller1@carolina.rr.com).



*Cottage Meetings*

## BETHLEHEM AT THE FARM – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

This year's event will be **Sunday, December 8, from 4pm - 7pm.**

We need a large number of volunteers to act as townspeople for the village. Volunteers to arrive by 3:30pm; costumes to be provided. Please sign up @ the link: <https://bit.ly/VolunteerBATF>.

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Oct. 9 – Elizabeth Thompson  
Oct. 10 – Hayden Burroughs  
Oct. 11 – Ann Holt, Susan Miller  
Oct. 12 – Patsy Black

**CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

<b>Sunday, Oct. 6</b>	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children’s Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
<b>Monday, Oct. 7</b>	10:30 am	Quilting
	6:30 pm	Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Scouts
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 8</b>	Noon	Lively Leisures
	6:00 pm	Congregation Council
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 9</b>	5:30 pm	Handbells Practice
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, Oct. 10</b>	7:00 pm	Cottage Meeting ( <i>Hosted by Anne &amp; Dee Hodges/rescheduled from Sept. 26</i> )
<b>Sunday, Oct. 13</b>	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children’s Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
	2:00 pm	<b>CROP Hunger Walk</b> ( <i>Kimball Memorial Lutheran Church</i> )

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October 13:** CROP Hunger Walk  
**October 27:** Trunk or Treat  
**November 17:** Congregation Meeting  
**November 24:** Thanksgiving Worship & Pie Party  
**December 1:** Advent Tree Lighting  
**December 8:** Bethlehem at the Farm – *Volunteers Needed!*

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Margaret Garrison  
**Communion Assistant:** Elizabeth Hurley  
**Acolyte/Crucifer:** Noah Pittard  
**Ushers:** Brad Baker, Chip Harward, Taylor Pruette, Al Pieschel, Jon Miller  
**Videographer:** Chris Miller  
**Greeter:** Laura Overby  
**Building Supervisor:** Glenda Poole

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lorene Ledford by her family Deb, David, and Kristen Lorene Black.

**PRAYER LIST**

Tom Grady; Tom Ridenhour; Noah Clifton; Angie Buchanan; Sheril Rominger (friend of the Marlow’s); Linda Jones (family members of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel).

**YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR**

We are excited to announce that Mike Holt will be assisting in leading Youth Group this year for students in 6th grade and above. We invite you to mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 13th**, as we kick off our first Youth Group gathering. For a tentative schedule of the school year, please visit: <https://sjnc.net/youth-calendar>. If you are a youth ready for Confirmation, we encourage you to join us for Youth Group, where we will be discussing the Confirmation calendar.

**CROP HUNGER WALK**

St. James is a registered team for this year’s Cabarrus County CROP Hunger Walk on **Sunday, October 13th**. Consider supporting by joining the St. James team or donating: <https://bit.ly/StJamesCropWalk>.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Please consider supporting Operation Christmas Child by packing a shoebox for a child in need. Simply grab a shoebox from the portico area and follow the instructions to sponsor a box! Please be sure to return your shoebox (unsealed) by Sunday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>.