

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 684
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166
WEBSITE www.sjnc.net

SAINT JAMES STAFF

Rev. Bill Ridenhour, Senior Pastor
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Scott F. Foppiano, Organist /
Director of Music
scottfop@gmail.com

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krad3700@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and Receipts for
November 5, 2023
\$5,994.88

(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

In-Person Attendance:
101

Children's Sunday School is back! SS starts at 9:30 a.m. With the return of Sunday School, the Children's Sermon and the Children's Church will cease. The nursery will be for children up to and including age 5.

Salvation Army Ringing of the Bells at Sam's Club at Northlite Shopping Center in Kannapolis— Thursday, November 30 and Wednesday, December 13. Sign up times run from 10 am til 7 pm. The last shift ends at 8 pm. Sign up sheet is in Portico area...

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email all information to the church office by
Wednesday 10:00 am to info@sjnc.net

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

14-Nov Kim Johnson

15-Nov Douglas McAnulty

16-Nov Karen Parks
Heidi Patterson
Noah Pittard

17-Nov Jane Craver
Alexander DeGrace
Michael Korinko
Buddy McEachern, Jr.

18-Nov Emerson Baker

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:

Kim Haberman

Communion Assistant:

Dianne Lambert

Acolyte/Crucifer:

Finley Stephens

Ushers: Mike Downs, Al Brown, Jr., Sid Hughes, Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss

Greeters:

Sylvia Corl

Wednesday Night Together on November 15 @ 5:30 pm

Menu: Black Bean Chili
Soup, Creamy Coleslaw,
Cheddar Biscuits, Apple Pie a la mode, and Drink

Sign up by calling the church office or e-mail info@sjnc.net

Lively Leisure's will meet **Tuesday, November 14 at noon** in the Fellowship Hall.

Families will make Nativity Blocks after worship next Sunday, **November 19** and we will have pizza.

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Dale and Barbara Merrell in honor of their 29th Wedding Anniversary.

PRAYER LIST

- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 12

9:00 am Budget Discussion

9:15 am Parish Choir

9:30 am Children's SS

10:00 am Worship

Blessing Operation Christmas Child

Monday, November 13

10:30 am Quilting Group

6:30 pm Scouts

Tuesday, November 14

12:00 noon Lively Leisure's

6:00 pm Congregation Council

Wednesday, November 15

11-1:30 pm Narcan

Training in F. Hall

5:30 pm WNT

7:00 pm Parish Choir

Thursday, November 16

6:00 pm Handbells

Saturday, November 18

8:30 am Leah's HopeTrailer

Sunday, November 19

9:15 am Parish Choir

9:30 am Children's SS

9:50 am Cong. Meeting

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Nativity Blocks



Welcome!

St. James is a house of prayer where all people can come to know the compassionate heart of Jesus. We are a community of Christians where you can belong before you believe. At Saint James the beauty of ancient worship and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join us as together we discover the sacred in the heart of the city. Our worship includes ancient and contemporary symbols and practices along with preaching and music to inspire you to follow Jesus in your daily life. We welcome both the spiritual seeker and seasoned disciple to find their home in God with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home or just exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

Saint James Lutheran Church



A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**NOVEMBER 12, 2023
10:00 A.M.**

Introduction to Today's Worship

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

Welcome!

Newcomers and visitors, we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

Although there are customary postures (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

Children are most welcome in worship at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building (ages 0-up to and including ages 5)

First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

If you are interested in membership to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

Restrooms are available on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

Pew Pads are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups

Send Joseph Beasley any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com @stjamesnc

St. James YouTube Channel Go to www.youtube.com search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

Announcements:

Budget Discussion—TODAY, November 12th at 9 am in Fellowship Hall.

Congregational Meeting next Sunday, November 19th at 9:50 am before Worship for the purpose of election of Council Members, Synod Delegates, and approval of 2024 Budget.

Tree Lighting at St. James—Sunday, December 3rd at 5:00 pm to make ornaments and Tree Lighting Liturgy at 6 pm w/ snacks and drink to follow.

Church Calendar for remaining 2023:

If you have an event or meeting scheduled for the balance of 2023—please let the church office know as to create a reservation for those rooms—info@sjnc.net

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Fugue-Allegro from Sonate II* Felix Mendelssohn

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

Pastor Bill's Teaching Debut...

An Advent Journey—The Birth Narratives of Luke and Matthew

Mondays November 27 and December 4, 11, 18 @ 6:30 p.m.

Bring your Bible, your sense of humor and your questions. Do we have a coffee pot (asks the new guy??) If we do, we'll put it on. By then, you will have too many holiday sweets in your kitchen. Bring some with you.

We will go no more than an hour. It's possible we'll finish in less than four weeks. If we go longer than four weeks, you'll simply have to show up on Monday, December 25th. By 6:30 p.m. on the 25th, you will have had enough of your family.

With sufficient interest, Pastor Bill will run a brown bag matinee.

With sufficient need expressed, we will try for child care. No guarantees.


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1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

GATHERING**WELCOME****OPENING VOLUNTARY**
*Praeludium in G**Felix Mendelssohn**Congregational Responses in **Bold****(Stand)***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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. **Amen.**

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.

*(Kneel or sit, as able)**Silence is held for reflection and self-examination*

Most Merciful God,

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

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. **Amen.**

(Stand)

GATHERING HYMN

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

Galilee



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":
kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love you best of all.


APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

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 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. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

LAMB OF GOD

Choir and Congregation



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.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that 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.
Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us; we are bold to pray,
**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.**

DISTRIBUTION

(Sit)

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, give 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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, when the day of wrath comes we have no hope except in your grace. Make us so to watch for the last days that the consummation of our hope may be the joy of the marriage feast of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Sit)

FIRST READING *AMOS 5:18-24*

A reading from Amos.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.
²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.
²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Sung by: Bella Voce

Raney, arr.

SECOND READING *1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18*

A reading from First Thessalonians, the fourth chapter.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blessed are you,
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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, God of pow'r and might,
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

For the unbaptized and for those who have ceased to worship, for our lips to be willing to invite them. Form us to be a people ready to welcome, listen and change. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For a Spirit of healthy discourse and disagreement, for the power of the Spirit to raise up among us a common vision for your church in this place. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression and disgrace; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

That we may end of our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For all the saints now resting from their labors; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

The Pastor concludes the prayers.

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(This can be done verbally with no physical contact, if desired)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Sit)

ANTHEM *Lord, We Cry to Thee*

Clarence Dickinson

OFFERING *(Offering plates presented at the altar)* **(Stand)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Stand)*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 25:1-13*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* Haf Trones Lampa Fardig

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

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.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes, "Lord, in your mercy" and the congregation responds "hear our prayer."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy church of God, and for the unity of all peoples; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the civil authorities, for leaders of nations that their leadership may serve and protect all people and foster compassion and justice. For our city of Concord, for every city and community and for those who live in them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For reasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and the will to conserve it; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**