



# 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"*

## *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.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

**JANUARY 2, 2022  
10:00 A.M.**

### Introduction to Today's Worship

**W**ithin the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

**We Welcome Everyone on this Lord's Day  
to the Liturgy of Holy Communion.**

**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. In keeping with CDC guidelines, and for the safety of our children, masks must be worn by nursery attendants and children two years old and older.

**The First Aid Kit and the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary. 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.



**Join Saint James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups**

Send Jeremy Jay any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at [jeremy@pbnjay.com](mailto:jeremy@pbnjay.com)



@stjamesnc

**St. James YouTube Channel**

Go to **www.youtube.com** and search for St. James Lutheran Church Concord NC and subscribe.

# GATHERING

## WELCOME

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

*~Johann Seb. Bach*

*Congregational Responses in **Bold***

## CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Those who live in a land of darkness—on them light has shined.**

The light shines in the darkness.

**And the darkness did not overcome it.**

For Christ is born in Bethlehem.

**Come let us adore him.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

*DIVINUM MYSTERIUM*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.        | 4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore. |
| 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race, and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore. | 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore! Amen.          |
| 3 This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.  |  |

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING *JEREMIAH 31:7-14*

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

A reading from Jeremiah, the thirty-first chapter.

**T**hus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 147: 12-20

- <sup>12</sup> Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!
- <sup>13</sup> For he strengthens the bars of your gates;  
he blesses your children within you.
- <sup>14</sup> He grants peace within your borders;  
he fills you with the finest of wheat.
- <sup>15</sup> He sends out his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.
- <sup>16</sup> He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters frost like ashes.
- <sup>17</sup> He hurls down hail like crumbs—  
who can stand before his cold?
- <sup>18</sup> He sends out his word, and melts them;  
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.
- <sup>19</sup> He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
- <sup>20</sup> He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

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

## SECOND READING *EPHESIANS 1:3-14*

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

A reading from Ephesians, the first chapter.

**B**lessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,

*continued...*



<sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

*Stand*

## **HOLY GOSPEL    JOHN 1:1-18**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

*Stand*

## NICENE CREED

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

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Kneel or sit, as able*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. We especially pray for the Rev. Rosemary Peek and our sisters and brothers at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Sylva, NC. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

The sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In the name Emmanuel, we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need of comfort and healing, especially those whom we now name before you with our lips and in the silence of our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities. As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MUSIC

*O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair*

WAREHAM

## HOLY COMMUNION

### THE 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.**



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophet's hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 in 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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.**

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion at Saint James. If you desire to receive Communion, please proceed toward the chancel steps by way of the center aisle. You will receive a wafer and a cup of wine. For those unable to partake of wine, grape juice is available in the center circle of the tray. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. After communing, please use the outside aisle to return to your seat. Communion will be brought to persons in the pews who are unable to come forward. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We thank you wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. Grant that we, who rejoice to celebrate the birth of our redeemer, may follow him in the way of righteousness and by your grace may be made worthy to dwell with him in heaven, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

**Amen.**



# SENDING

## CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you now and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*In Dir ist Freude*

~Johann Seb. Bach

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*

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# SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## DIRECTORY

Members of Saint James.....Ministers  
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop  
The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

## SAINT JAMES STAFF

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## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Joseph Beasley  
Ann Blackwelder  
Debbie Davis  
Samantha Hillegass  
Elizabeth Hurley  
Hunter Huss  
Frank Irvin  
Chris Miller  
Jon Miller  
Mark Murphy  
Dee Pieschel  
Kenny Propst

## OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:30-4:00, F 8:30-1:00

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please email all information to the church office at  
[keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)*

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**04-Jan** Susie Kartheiser  
**06-Jan** Jon Miller  
**06-Jan** Karen Rezza  
**07-Jan** Stephanie Deville  
**07-Jan** Nic Whisnant  
**08-Jan** Brad Davis

## CALENDAR THIS WEEK

### Sunday, January 2

9:00 am Adult Sunday Schl  
9:50 am Live Stream Begins  
10:00 am In-Person Worship

### Monday, January 3

10:30 am Quilting Group  
*Office Closed*

### Wednesday, January 5

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, January 9

9:00 am Adult Sunday Schl  
9:50 am Live Stream Begins  
10:00 am In-Person Worship

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

### Lector/Intercessor:

Betsy Ellington-Boynton

### Communion Assistant:

Ann Blackwelder

### Acolyte:

Casey and Conner Gale

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

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

**Contributions and Receipts  
for December 26, 2021**  
**\$7,835.00**  
*(\$7,692.00 needed for weekly)*

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Tom and Ann Ridenhour to the Glory of God and in honor of Dr. Glenda Poole and all other musicians who have contributed to our music program over the last year and a half.

## PRAYER LIST

- ◆ Shepherd of the Hills  
Lutheran Church, Sylva,  
NC
- ◆ Don and Sandra Faggart
- ◆ Dan Matthews
- ◆ Noah Clifton
- ◆ Carole Grady
- ◆ Jimmy Summers
- ◆ Norma and Tony Mosley

*If you have someone you would like to add to the prayer list, please contact Keith at 704-786-0166 and leave a message or email at [keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)*

## SALVATION ARMY NIGHT SHELTER:

St. James will be providing meals for the Salvation Army Shelter of Hope Sunday, Jan. 23 - Saturday, Jan. 29. This includes providing dinner for 20 adults. You will be advised if the number increases but no more than 30. (Please include a protein, vegetable, a starch and dessert) If you have any questions, contact Mark Murphy. Sign up below:  
<https://forms.gle/ePuiPiETWe4oJGNA6>