

# St. James Lutheran Church

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

## Ring Out A Weekly Newsletter



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## WEEK OF December 10, 2023

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

4

## The Second Sunday of Advent

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### **Introduction to Sunday's Worship**

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it

with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

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## **Where Did That Come From? - The Advent Wreath Edition**

There has long been debate about the origins of the Advent wreath. Some argue for a pre-Christian origin. Others place the beginning point among 16<sup>th</sup>-century Germans. Much of the debate focuses upon what exactly we mean by the term *Advent wreath*. The modern Advent wreath, however, is fairly well dated to 1839 and a certain Pr. Johann Hinrich Wichern, administrator of the the Rauhes Haus in Hamburg, Germany. Wichern, being daily pestered by the boys in his orphanage regarding the arrival of Christmas, set up a wagon wheel with candles on it as a way to mark the passage of time for his wards. That wheel not only had candles for each of the Sundays (white) but also for all the weekdays (red). Learn more about Wichern, the Rauhes Haus, and his Adventzkranz at <https://www.rauheshaus.de/wir-fuer-sie/adventskranz/>. (Helps if you read German or have a browser that can translate for you.) The wreath migrated into the Protestant churches in Germany and eventually beyond. Its place in the sanctuary is relatively recent in terms of church history.

-courtesy wv-wmd.org

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## **DOWNLOAD BULLETIN**

### **ADVENT WORSHIP NOTE**

#### **HEADS UP!**

For the four Sundays in Advent, we will try two changes. The first change is the bulletin. We will be using what we are calling a "seasonal bulletin." We will use the same bulletin for all four Sundays of Advent. At the close of worship, you may leave your bulletin in the pew or in the narthex. The



Sunday Worship for will be live-streamed on YouTube beginning at 9:45 on Sunday morning. An email with the link will be sent on Sunday morning. You can also watch a recorded version later by visiting our [YouTube Page](#). You can open or print

second change will find us singing hymns from the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW), "the green book" that has been staring at you in the pew rack for years.

the bulletin and follow along with the service.

[WATCH THE LIVESTREAM](#)



## ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK & BEYOND

### ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

#### **Sunday, December 10**

9:15 am Parish Choir  
9:30 am Children's SS  
10:00 am Worship

#### **Monday, December 11**

10:30 am Quilting Group  
6:30 pm Bible Study  
(Birth Narratives)  
6:30 pm Scouts  
My Father's House

#### **Tuesday, December 12**

12:00 noon Lively Leisure's  
1:00 pm until - (F. Hall reserved)  
6:00 pm Current and New Council Members and Partners - Dinner  
My Father's House

#### **Wednesday, December 13**

8:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Big Brothers/Big Sisters  
Annual Parent Gift Shop -  
(Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 pm Bella Voce Choir  
7:00 pm Parish Choir

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**10-Dec** Jason Urso

**11-Dec** C.J. Harward, III

**13-Dec** Debbie Davis

**15-Dec** Kelley Carpenter

**16-Dec** Don Fowler, Will Irvin, Justin Urso

### PLEASE NOTE:

**Salvation Army Ringing of the Bells** at Sam's Club at Northlite Shopping Center in Kannapolis - Wednesday, December 13. ***We have one time slot left for 6 p.m. If you would like to sign up for the 6 p.m. slot - please sign up on form in portico area or call the church office (704- 786-0166).***

**Thursday, December 14**

6:00 pm Handbells

**Saturday, December 16**

8:30 am Leah's Hope Trailer

**Sunday, December 17**

9:15 am Parish Choir

9:30 am Children's SS

10:00 am Worship

**An Advent Journey -  
The Birth Narratives of Luke  
and Matthew**

**Mondays December 11, 18**

**@ 6:30 p.m.**

Bring your bible, your sense of humor and your questions.

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.

**HEY! "WE" NEED SOME  
HELP**

Ok, I need some help. Do you have experience in public relations? Do you have skills in helping organizations to communicate more effectively and efficiently. Do you have experience in helping organizations improve their ability to communicate with its members and the wider community?

Does St. James need a communication team tasked

**Lively Leisures**

The next Lively Leisures luncheon and program will be Tuesday, December 12.

The program will be presented by Bella Voche Choir.

**My Father's House**

St. James and St. Johns Lutheran will be hosting My Father's House Ministry December 11 thru 13. There are presently 6 adults and 9 children in the ministry. If you can provide an item for the meal for December 11 and 12, please let Sylvia Corl (704-425-8621 - cell) know. She will be glad to pick up the item from your home and take it to the ministry. The meals will be taken to the MAC (Mother's and Children's) House. Sylvia thanks you so much for your help with this much needed ministry.

**2024 Offering Envelopes**

2024 Offering Envelopes are now available. Pick up yours in hall outside church office.



with building more effective and efficient communication across the make up of our community? This is a worthy question, I think the answer is "yes, yes we do."

I am not asking for any individual to make an infinite commit from which you will never be paroled. I am seeking folks who would be willing to sit for a brief period of time around the question "ok, this is how you can get started and this is what you need to begin addressing this concern."

I hope that has a little more clarity than mud. Thanks!

Peace, *Pastor Bill*

## SUNDAY MINISTERS

### LECTOR/INTERCESSORS

Dec 10 Beth Huss

Dec 17 Barbara Albright

### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Dec 10 Dianne Lambert

Dec 17 Kim Haberman

### ACOLYTES

Dec 10 Finley Stephens

Dec 17 Noah Pittard

### GREETERS

Dec 10 Nancy Faggart

Dec 17 Martha Matthews

### VIDEOGRAPHER

Dec 10 Chris Miller

Dec 17 LeeAnn Miller

### DECEMBER USHERS

Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin,  
Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, and  
Jason Pittard

### FLOWERS

Dec 10 Jo Eng

Dec 17 Samantha Hillegass



## Family and Friends

- Jerry Kiser (nephew of the Marlows)
- Linda and Paul Jones (family members of Barbara and Dale Merrell)

## Members of St. James

- Patsy Black
- Tom Grady
- Tom Ridenhour
- Noah Clifton

**NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)** Family-to-Family has two programs as well as resources available. Please click here for flyers for more information: [F2F Flyer for family & friends](#)  
[F2F Flyer for family and family caregivers of children and adolescents](#)

## CHURCH RESOURCES

You can manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions or make a one time contribution and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. In a few short minutes, you can make a one-time gift or set up a donation that will process automatically on a recurring basis. Recurring donations are convenient and provide our church with much needed consistent support throughout the year.



[Give Now](#)

**FOLLOW ST. JAMES  
ON INSTAGRAM**



Use the link below to follow St. James on Instagram.

[FOLLOW](#)

# Instagram

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## ST. JAMES STAFF

- **Rev. Bill Ridenhour, Pastor** [Email](#)
- **Jill Irvin, Financial Administrator** [Email](#)
- **Scott Foppiano, Organist / Director of Music** [Email](#)
- **Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator** [Email](#)
- **Debbie Wilkinson, Interim Parish Administrator** [Email](#)
- **Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian** [Email](#)
- **Debbie Davis, Congregation President** [Email](#)

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