



# 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 IN LENT

**MARCH 5, 2023  
10:00 A.M.**

### *Introduction to Today's Worship*

**D**uring Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

## 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.

**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.

**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.

### Join Saint 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](mailto:joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com)



@stjamesnc

### St. James YouTube Channel

Go to [youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/@stjameslutheranconcord)  
[@stjameslutheranconcord](https://www.youtube.com/@stjameslutheranconcord) and subscribe.



# GATHERING

WELCOME

VOLUNTARY

*Pastorale*

*Charles Wesley*

*Congregational Responses in **Bold***

*(Stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who redeems us in Christ Jesus, whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Kneel or sit, as able)*

*Silence is held for reflection and self-examination*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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)*

1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and  
 2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our  
 3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty

watch - ful, stand - ing here be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer  
 weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en,  
 bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,

prayer and med - i - ta - tion; thus we a - dore you.  
 where your saints u - nit - ed joy with - out end - ing.  
 gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

**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.**

# KYRIE

## Kyrie, Eleison

*Cantor* *Assembly*

Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

<sup>3</sup> *Cantor* *Assembly*

Chri - ste, e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, e - le - i - son.

<sup>5</sup> *Cantor* *Assembly*

Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### FIRST READING *GENESIS 12:1-4A*

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

A reading from Genesis, the twelfth chapter.

**T**he Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” <sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### *PSALM 121 (Read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills —from where will my help come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup>**He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup>**The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

## SECOND READING *ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17*

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

A reading from Romans, the fourth chapter.

**W**hat then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. <sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Return to the Lord, Your God*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 3:1-17**

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**N**ow there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Sit)*

**SERMON**

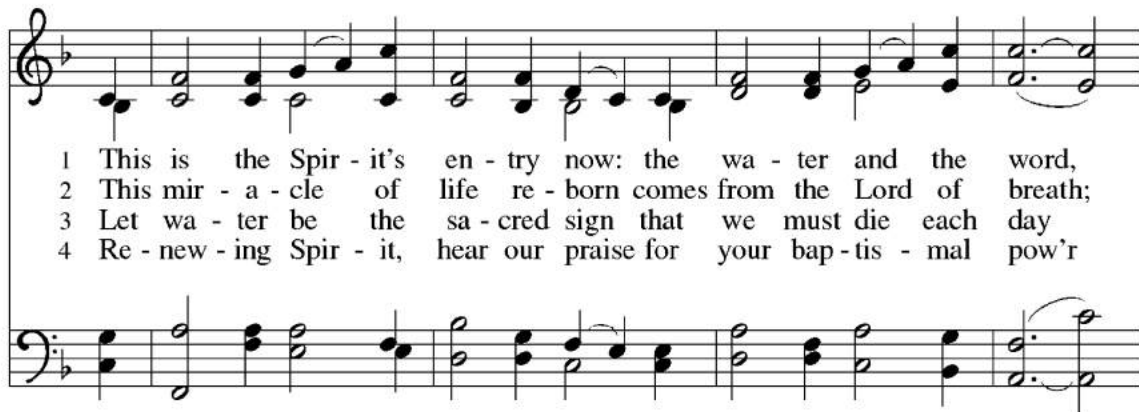
*Pastor Craig*

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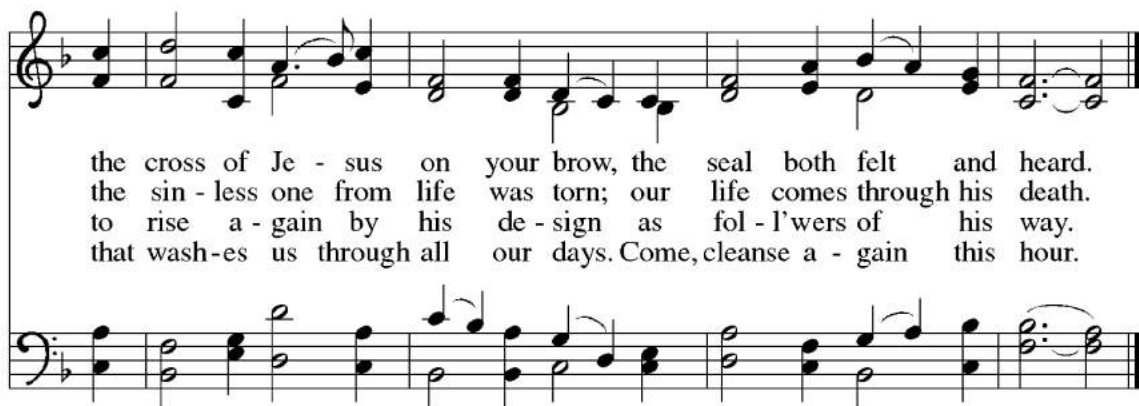
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1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,  
 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;  
 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day  
 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.  
 the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.  
 to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.  
 that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

Naomi Elizabeth Lovelace

*(See Insert)*

*(Kneel or sit, as able)*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Today especially we pray for the Rev. Micah Kearney and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter in Belmont, NC. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our earthly home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

*(Stand)*

## **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.**

## **OFFERING**

*(Offering plates presented at the altar)*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**Amen.**

# **HOLY COMMUNION**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

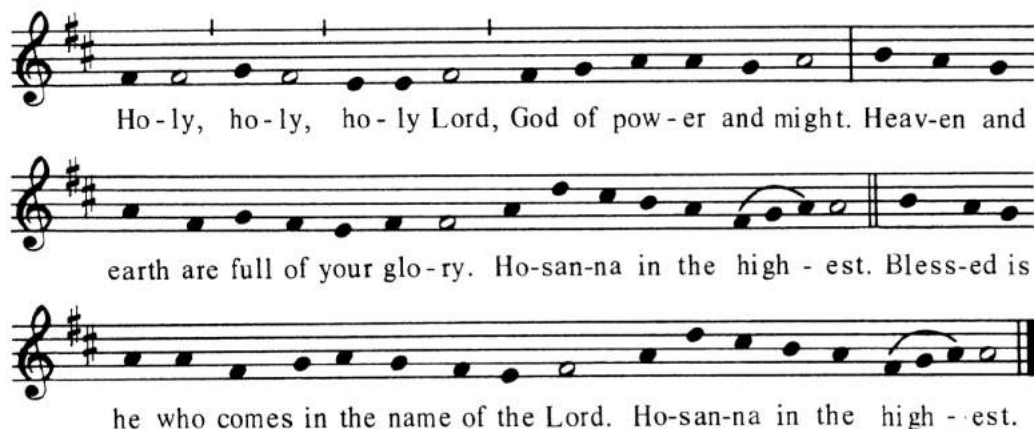
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, 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-er and might. Heav-en 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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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!**

*(Sit)*

*All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion at Saint James. If you desire to receive Communion, please proceed to the altar by way of the center aisle. The ushers will direct you. You will receive a wafer and a cup of wine. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. 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 to the altar. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so.*

## LAMB OF GOD

*Choir and Congregation*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant\_\_ us peace.

## ANTHEM

*Verum Corpus*

*W. A. Mozart*

*(Stand)*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

## BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*(Next Page)*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Grave*

*John Alcock*

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*  
 our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

# SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 684  
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026  
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166  
WEBSITE [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net)

## 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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336-225-7889

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**Jill Irvin**, Finance Administrator  
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**Teresa Honeycutt**, Custodian  
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**Kathryn Radcliffe**, Nursery Coordinator  
[krad3700@gmail.com](mailto:krad3700@gmail.com)

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Debbie Davis, President  
Jon Miller, Vice Pres., Mutual Ministry  
Chris Miller, Secretary, Social Ministry  
Kenny Propst, Treasurer

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Chip Blackwelder, Property  
Kim Haberman, Evangelism  
Samantha Hillegass, Parish Fellowship  
Elizabeth Hurley, Worship & Music  
Beth Huss, Stewardship  
Frank Irvin, Finance/Christian Ed  
Pat McDonough, Youth  
Wendell Overby, Property  
Dee Pieschel, Social Ministry

## **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

**05-Mar** Lauren Popovici  
**06-Mar** Sarah Poplin  
**06-Mar** Logan Whisnant  
**07-Mar** Camden Burroughs  
**07-Mar** Avery Miller  
**07-Mar** Ella Wickliff  
**10-Mar** Jay Clemmer  
**10-Mar** Jonas Jay  
**11-Mar** Jeff Miller

### CALENDAR THIS WEEK

#### **Sunday, March 5**

9:00 am Sunday School  
9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship  
11:20 am Handbell Wrkshp  
4:00 pm Youth Gathering

#### **Monday, March 6**

10:30 am Quilter's Group  
6:30 pm Scouts  
7:00 pm Esther Circle

#### **Tuesday, March 7**

10:30 am Mary Magdal. Cir  
5:00 pm Executive Council  
6:00 pm Property

#### **Wednesday, March 8**

5:00 pm Christian Ed  
5:30 pm Lenten Meal  
6:00 pm Lenten Study/  
Worship  
7:00 pm Parish Choir  
9:30 pm College Online

#### **Thursday, March 9**

6:00 pm Handbells

#### **Saturday, March 11**

10:00 am Council Retreat

#### **Sunday, March 12**

9:00 am Sunday School  
9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship  
11:20 am Acolyte Training  
11:20 am Evangelism  
4:00 pm Youth Gathering

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**  
Contributions and Receipts  
for Feb. 26, 2023  
**\$4,190.66**  
*(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)*

### PRAYER LIST

- ◆ Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, Belmont, NC
- ◆ Martha Summers
- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Jim Weisel
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Bishop Tim Smith
- ◆ Sawyer Williams, one of our Scouts
- ◆ Sadie Hope Hurlocker, daughter of Zach and Amy Hurlocker

**ROSE** The rose today is in honor of the baptism of Naomi Elizabeth Lovelace, daughter of Nick and Christine Lovelace and sister of Simon Lovelace.

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Lector/Intercessor:**  
Barbara Albright

**Communion Assistant:**  
Anne Hodges

**Acolyte/Crucifer:**  
Noah Pittard

**Greeter:** Dianne Lambert

**Council Person of Month:**  
Elizabeth Hurley

**Videographer:**  
Chris Miller

**Ushers:** Chip Blackwelder,  
Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline,  
Jeff Koenig