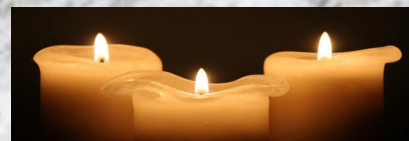


# St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter



**104 Union Street South  
Concord, NC 28025  
Phone: 704.786.0166  
Website: [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net)  
Facebook: @stjamesnc**



## *To the Glory of God and In Loving Memory*

**Charles R. Blackwelder**

By Herbert and Kathleen Blackwelder

**Richard Gribble**

By Tom and Carole Grady

**Carolyn Warren**

By Tom and Carole Grady

## IN THIS ISSUE

1. Memorials / CD Ministry / Online Worship Services / My Father's House
2. From Pastor Tony
1. In Our Prayers / Birthdays / Backpacks
4. Sunday Themes for July



## Online Worship

Online worship services are being recorded and are available on our website. If you don't have a computer and someone who is with you has a smartphone or tablet, these services can be played anytime by going to our website, [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net), selecting **Publications** and **Online Worship**.



## CD MINISTRY

Do you have a CD player and would like to receive an audio copy of each week's worship service? If so, call the church office and let us know. 704-786-0166

## Showers of Blessings CHURCH

CCM MY FATHERS HOUSE

IN BACK UP STAIRS

St. James/St. Johns Lutheran will be hosting My Father's House Ministry July 20-22. St. James will provide the dinner meals on Mon, July 20 and Tues, July 21. St. Johns is responsible for the night meal on Wed. July 22. The meals will be dropped off at the kitchen door of My Father's House Ministry around 5:30 those days. There are presently 14 people in the Ministry, 6 adults and 8 children. If you can provide an item for the meal on July 20 or 21, please let me know and I'll be glad to pick it up from your home. Thanks so much for your help with this needed Ministry. Sylvia (H)704-786-0296 (C) 704-425-8621

JULY 2020



## God is Faithful

*The Lord is faithful in all his works, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. (Psalm 145:13b-14)*

One of the buzzwords we hear a lot these days is *transparency* particularly as it pertains to openness and communication with others about what has been done, or is being done, or will be done, and therefore, keeping them in the loop and engaged.

And so, it is in the hope of being as transparent as possible and keeping you in the loop that I confess to those of you wondering when we will be able to re-gather for worship in the sanctuary...I don't know. The North Carolina Synod has recommended we not consider re-gathering until we are in the third stage of the governor's plan, and consideration of beginning stage three has been postponed to July 17<sup>th</sup> and may very well be postponed again if there is a spike in the statistics after the Fourth of July weekend. All that being said, it will probably be sometime in August (at the earliest) before we consider gathering in-person with specific protocols in place for physical distancing, masks, entering and exiting the worship space, etc... These protocols are currently being developed by our Health and Safety Committee.

If you are wondering when we can expect our life together return to normal (pre-Covid 19)...I don't know. All children and youth gatherings have been cancelled until school has resumed (and we don't know what that will look like yet); choirs and singing are particularly dangerous in the potential spread of the virus so our music will be limited; the same is true for fellowship meals, and greeting one another before and after church. I imagine that even after there is a vaccine, it will be a long while before many folks feel safe enough to gather again in person. So while I am not particularly fond of the phrase, we are transitioning into a *new normal* where masks, safe distancing, meetings using social media, and on-line and drive-in worship will certainly play an important part in our life together.

You may be wondering, what do you know pastor? Well, I know folks are lonely and miss gathering with others. I know people are grieving graduations and weddings and all sorts of things that didn't go as planned. And I know many people are frightened and weary from the uncertainty involving so much of day-to-day life.

And there is something else I know to be true that brings all of these things, even things we don't know into perspective. It not only gives us hope, but reminds us we have so much to be thankful for...and that is the reality the psalmist articulates, that the Lord is faithful and with us, and gracious in all his deeds. We are surrounded by signs of that truth.

I have witnessed God's faithfulness in our council as they call and check on you, and in various committees and individuals as they seek ways to walk with folks in crisis in the community, work to maintain our facilities, and develop safe gathering protocols. I've seen it in Mike Holt and the faces of our children and their parents as they gather on-line on Thursday nights; and in Rob and Jeremy and Golda Jay, and Keith and all those who help in the preparation of weekly worship and post to social media and keep you in the loop. I've seen it in the generosity of those who continue to financially contribute to our ministry together. I've seen it in your calls and notes and prayers of encouragement to me and one another.

Perhaps you have witnessed God's faithfulness as well. If so then you know as I know that whether we are talking old normal, or new normal, or uncertainties over viruses...God has this, God has us, and is with us, and is faithful... which is why I can say, and we can say, thanks be to God!

*Pastor Tony*

*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*



- ◆ **Ralph & Sandy Barnhardt**
- ◆ **Richard Benz**
- ◆ **Phyllis Harward**
- ◆ **Joan and Pat Mahoney**
- ◆ **Clary Phillips**
- ◆ **Doris Smith**
- ◆ **Cliff Caffrey**
- ◆ **Alex Patterson**
- ◆ **Alex Barnhardt**
- ◆ **Carole Grady**
- ◆ **Don Eng**
- ◆ **Bill Hardister**
- ◆ **Barbara and Dale Merrell**
- ◆ **Family of Robert Gribble, brother of Susan Miller**
- ◆ **Family of Tommy Fitts, son of Conrad Fitts**
- ◆ **Our homebound members, and all in need of prayer**

**Health Care Professionals and First Responders**

- ◆ **Deb Bradshaw**                      **Laurie Fowler**
- ◆ **DeeDee Gilbert**                      **Annette Propst**
- ◆ **Meagan Lambert**                      **Bradley Propst**
- ◆ **Sam Hurley, son of Elizabeth Hurley**
- ◆ **Lisa Snyder, friend of Debbie Wilkinson**
- ◆ **Julie Greathouse, friend of Lois Marlow**
- ◆ **Betsy Waselovich, sister of Golda Jay**
- ◆ **Kevin Burns, Stephanie Garrison, son-in-law and daughter-in-law of Margaret Garrison**
- ◆ **Jason and Stephanie Matthews, son and**

**FOOD BACKPACKS**

We are in need of a group of seven people to meet at Esther's Heart campus (4139 Zebulon Ave SW Concord 28027) on July 14 to pack backpacks for the upcoming two weekends. We will meet there at 6:00 p.m. and pack until done which will be approximately 8:00 p.m. We will be working outside under canopies so consider the weather this time of year. If interested, please contact Juanita Fitts. 704-784-2265



- July 01      Lindsey Lineberger  
Benjamin MacFarlane  
Graham Pruette
- July 03      Dale Merrell
- July 05      Chase Crainshaw
- July 08      Judy King
- July 10      Casey Gale  
Jim Weisel
- July 11      Margaret Fink  
Jeremy Jay  
George Patterson  
Thomas Propst, Jr.
- July 15      Margaret Ford  
Mark Weisel
- July 16      James Hughes, Jr.  
Beth Huss  
Janice Klauss  
Ann Ridenhour  
James Weisel
- July 17      Merrick Larkin
- July 18      Chris Deville  
Keith Fink  
Reggie Hardister  
Sid Hughes, Sr.
- July 22      Avery Ziegler
- July 23      Holden Downs  
Jill Trott
- July 25      Tom Grady  
Laurie Miller  
Justin Monk
- July 26      Kirby Bryn  
Elizabeth Hurley  
Al Pieschel
- July 27      Janet Patterson
- July 29      Luke Baker  
Noah Clifton  
Julianna Popovici  
Jim Steel
- July 30      Jay Cruse  
Hudson Davis  
Kyle Moran
- July 31      Amy Clifton  
Jo Ann Fowler  
Allison Irvin  
Jill Irvin  
Derek Myers

# SUNDAYS IN JULY

**SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020**

**5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30**

**SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020**

**6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23**

**SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020**

**7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43**

**SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020**

**8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52**