

# 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**

## **DRIVE-IN WORSHIP/COMMUNION Wednesday, October 14**



Join us on October 14 at 7:00 pm for Drive-In Worship with Communion on the top level of the parking deck beside the church. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed. Plan to join us now!

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### *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**.

### **GIVING**



The need for your giving and support continues, even though we have had to cancel gathering and corporate worship services. You may drop contributions by the church office during office hours or you can mail to:

St. James Lutheran Church  
PO Box 684  
Concord, NC 28026



Your church is here for you. Please do not hesitate to call the church office, 704-786-0166 and leave a message if you have needs. This could include picking up medicine, groceries, etc. Your church family is here for you!

## From the Pastor



### From the Pastor

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.  
(Philippians 4:4)*

You may think that's easy for Paul to say...but not really. Paul writes these words from prison, facing an uncertain future. The same is true for the church in Philippi. There are those who have come preaching the necessity of circumcision and of following the laws of Judaism, and the church is in conflict.

So how can Paul, how can they, possibly rejoice? They can rejoice because they are not alone: the Lord is near (4:5); the peace of God (which surpasses all understanding), will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (4:7); and in prayer and thanksgiving and setting their mind on Christ, the peace of God will be with them (4:9). It is this truth, this promise that enables them to think about and be about whatever is honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, worthy of praise...in other words, the work of Christ.

The same is true for us. In the middle of a pandemic, political turmoil, social distancing, economic uncertainty, not to mention it's been nearly seven months since we last gathered in person to worship...how can we possibly rejoice? Well, we are not alone, the Lord is near – guiding us, sustaining us, and through us continuing to proclaim the gospel through social media and feeding the hungry, and caring for the neighbor.

As for resuming worship, while Governor Cooper announced a transition to phase three, the recommended numbers for mass gatherings did not change (25 indoors; 50 outdoors). This, however, doesn't mean we are biding our time. The Health and Safety committee has presented a proposed regathering plan to the church council which will be approved in some form, this coming Tuesday (October 13). We will then make the plan available to the congregation, so you are familiar with the necessary safety procedures for regathering.

In addition, over the next several weeks we will be preparing the facilities, training ushers and greeters, and planning the changes that will be necessary for worship, so that after Governor Cooper's next update on October 23, and in consultation with the North Carolina Synod, we are ready to resume in-person worship.

In the meantime, we will continue to offer weekly worship using social media, and on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month we will offer a Drive-In Holy Communion service on the top floor of the parking deck beside the church. It is a beautiful setting, and we invite you to join us.

Thank you for your continued prayers and generosity and patience. And remember, we really do have a lot to rejoice and to give thanks for...for the Lord is near and faithful.

Pastor Tony



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

**Lee David Ballard**

By Ed and Betsy Ballard

**Ellie Murphy, mother of Mark Murphy**

By Linda Hartsell



- ◆ **Ralph & Sandy Barnhardt**
- ◆ **Joan and Pat Mahoney**
- ◆ **Richard Benz**            **Phyllis Harward**
- ◆ **Clary Phillips**         **Doris Smith**
- ◆ **Cliff Caffrey**           **Alex Patterson**
- ◆ **Alex Barnhardt**        **Carole Grady**
- ◆ **Don Eng**                **Bill Hardister**
- ◆ **Richard Benz**         **Todd Walker**
- ◆ **Alison Monk**           **Ed Ballard**
- ◆ **Mike Holt**              **Todd Walker**
- ◆ **Richard Benz**         **Alison Monk**
- ◆ **Ed Ballard**             **David Smith**
- ◆ **Judy McAnulty**        **Terri Fleck**
- ◆ **Kelly Hill, friend of Debbie Wilkinson**
- ◆ **Family of Hal Merriott**
- ◆ **Family of Pat Downs, father of Mike Downs**
- ◆ **Our homebound members, all in need of prayer**



- Oct. 1            Chase Lineberger  
Conner Lineberger  
Donae Yoos
- Oct. 3            Nicholas Crainshaw
- Oct. 4            Meghan Kuly
- Oct. 5            Charles Sloop
- Oct. 9            Elizabeth Thompson
- Oct. 10          Hayden Burroughs
- Oct. 11          Susan Miller
- Oct. 12          Patsy Black
- Oct. 15          Erin Everett  
Morgan Trott
- Oct. 17          Isla Glatz
- Oct. 18          Laura Baker
- Oct. 19          Stephanie Harris  
Kim Williams
- Oct. 20          Katie King
- Oct. 22          Calen MacFarlane  
Joyce Smith
- Oct. 23          John Eury  
Nancy Faggart
- Oct. 27          Michael Folino  
Joan McEachern
- Oct. 28          Cliff Caffrey  
Linda Hartsell  
Riley Moran  
Donnie Peterman  
Taylor Pruette  
Heather Wilson  
Drew Yoos
- Oct. 30          Adam Hartman  
Jackson Propst

# SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

**Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46**

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2020 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

**Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14**

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

**Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22**

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020 REFORMATION



Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

**Gospel: John 8:31-36**