



104 Union Street South  
Concord, North Carolina 28025

Office Phone: 704.786.0166  
Website: [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net)

# Saint James Lutheran Church

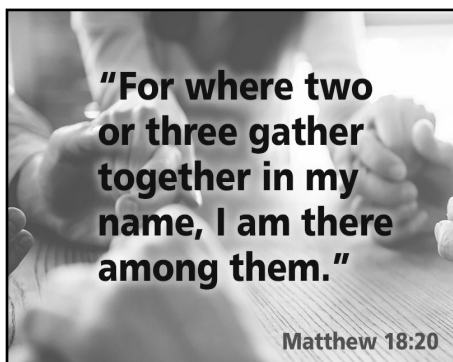


A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 6, 2020



**"For where two  
or three gather  
together in my  
name, I am there  
among them."**

Matthew 18:20

**C**onflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

### WELCOME

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

**Amen.**

#### 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

Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING *Ezekiel 33:7-11***

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

A reading from Ezekiel, the thirty-third chapter.

**S**o you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. <sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

**PSALM *Psalm 119:33-40***

*I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)*

A reading from Psalm 119.

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
 and I shall keep it to the end.  
<sup>34</sup>Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
 I shall keep it with all my heart.  
<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
 for that is my desire.  
<sup>36</sup>Incline my heart to your decrees  
 and not to unjust gain.  
<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
 give me life in your way.  
<sup>38</sup>Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
 which is for those who fear you.  
<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
 because your judgments are good.  
<sup>40</sup>Behold, I long for your commandments;  
 by your righteousness enliven me.

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

## SECOND READING *Romans 13:8-14*

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

A reading from Romans, the thirteenth chapter.

**O**we no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. <sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:15-20*

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**J**esus said to the disciples: <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

*Rev. Dr. Tom Ridenhour*

# HYMN

## Built on a Rock



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
2 Not in our tem - ples made with hands God, the Al - might - y, is  
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, built for his own hab - i -  
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is  
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
dwell - ing; high in the heav'n's his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our  
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear God's Word where he this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
life and sal - va - tion. Were two or three to seek his face, he in their  
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with  
prom - ise is bring - ing: I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
midst would show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.  
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary,**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and communities toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**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.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.  
**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

God in peace, to love and serve the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN FESTE BERG

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*

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# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please e-mail all information to the church office at keith@sjnc.net

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
104 UNION STREET SOUTH  
PO BOX 684  
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28025  
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166  
WEBSITE www.sjnc.net

## PRAYER LIST

**Ed Ballard**

All health care professionals and first responders including:

**Deb Bradshaw**

**Lauri Fowler**

**DeeDee Gilbert**

**Annette Propst**

**Meagan Lambert**

**Alison Monk**

**Jason and Stephanie Matthews**

**Dr Bradley Propst, son of**

*Kenny and Annette 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*

**Lauren, daughter of Angie**

*Buchanan*

**Dr. Stephanie Garrison,**

daughter-in-law of Margaret Garrison

**Dr. Kevin Burns, son-in-law of**

Margaret Garrison.

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

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**06-Sept** Sophie Horton

**06-Sept** Trey Horton

**06-Sept** Dylan Urso

**06-Sept** Paul Winterhalter

**08-Sept** Laura Overby

**08-Sept** Edith Propst

**09-Sept** Dianne Lambert

**10-Sept** Ryan Patterson

**10-Sept** Alisa Wickliff

**10-Sept** Libby Williams

**11-Sept** Riece Pittard

**12-Sept** Terri Fleck

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and Receipts

for August 30, 2020

**\$5,452.00**

(\$8,414.00 needed for weekly)

## ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

**Lector/Intercessor:** Ann Gillon

## DRIVE-IN WORSHIP

Join us on Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. for Drive-In Worship. If you haven't attended yet, you are missing out on joining your St. James' family, at a distance, for music, liturgy, scripture and a short bible study.

## EMAIL SCAMS

Have you recently received requests from Pastor Tony asking you to buy gift cards or call quickly? Rest assured, those emails are NOT coming from him. His account has not been hacked, rather, his account is being spoofed. (Emails look like they're coming from him but they're not.) It's annoying but there's absolutely nothing to be done about them. Except, we encourage you to be vigilant in two ways:

1. Always look closely at the **From:** of the email to confirm that it's from **tony@sjnc.net**
2. **DO NOT** reply to or click on anything in these emails.

Pastor Tony **will not** email you asking you to purchase gift cards or send money! So please don't reply to these emails. **When in doubt, call the church office: 704-786-0166.**

**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)

**St. James YouTube Channel**  
Search for St. James Lutheran Church Concord NC and subscribe.

## DIRECTORY

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

## SAINT JAMES STAFF

The Rev. Tony Bradshaw.....Senior Pastor  
**tony@sjnc.net**

Jill Irvin.....Finance Administrator  
**jill@sjnc.net**

Mike Holt.....Youth and Family  
**mvholt1957@yahoo.com**

Keith Sutton.....Parish Administrator  
**keith@sjnc.net**

Cindy Cruse.....Hospitality Director  
**ccruse98@twc.com**

Kathryn Radcliffe.....Nursery Coordinator  
**krad3700@gmail.com**

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

**Kenny Propst.....President**  
**Joseph Beasley.....Vice President**  
**Golda Jay.....Secretary**  
**Beth Huss.....Treasurer**

Ann Blackwelder  
Samantha Hillegass  
Elizabeth Hurley  
Hunter Huss  
Nick Lovelace  
Mac Mullins  
Mark Murphy  
Al Pieschel  
Jodi Ramirez



@stjamesnc

## OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:30-4:00, F 8:30-1:00  
Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:00