

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 2024**

**The Holy Communion
10:00am**



**St. James Lutheran Church
104 Union Street South
PO Box 684
Concord, North Carolina 28026
704-786-0166
www.sjnc.net**

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

Maybe you need forgiveness, or maybe you need to forgive ... Maybe you're tired and you need a little space to breathe ... Maybe you're trying church for the first time, or maybe you're trying church for the last time... Maybe you've spent your whole life wondering if God really loves you... Maybe you're lonely... Maybe you're sick... Maybe you came here looking for a miracle... Maybe you came here looking for another church but got disoriented and came here instead, and now it's too late to get up and walk out... Maybe, with God, there are no accidents... Maybe, with God, there is hope and healing and miraculous companionship... Maybe, with God, there is space to breathe and forgiveness on top of forgiveness... Maybe, with God, there is love... Maybe, with God here in our midst, we will hear those words that still split open the heavens, "You are my son! You are my daughter! You are my beloved. You. In you I am well pleased!" Maybe this is why we gather together, week after week after week, here at St. James.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this place - not just by the Saints at St. James, but by the God who revealed himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our brother, and our friend.

Welcome to St. James.

If you are comfortable doing so, please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill. If you have visited with us a number of times and think you might want to "make it official," please speak to Pastor Bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the person next to you or to an usher.

Restrooms are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A **nursery** is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.



*St James Lutheran Church:
Growing in Christ through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome / Prelude

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Please sit or kneel, as able.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P 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.

C Amen.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: Praise the Lord! O Heavens

1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;
2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail.

sun and moon, re - jice be - fore him; praise him, gleam - ing stars and light.
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.

Praise the Lord, for he has spo-ken; worlds his might-y voice o-beyed;
Praise the God of our sal-va-tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro-claim;

laws which nev-er shall be bro-ken for their guid-ance he has made.
heav'n and earth, and all cre-a-tion, laud and mag-ni-fy his name!

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,
“This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

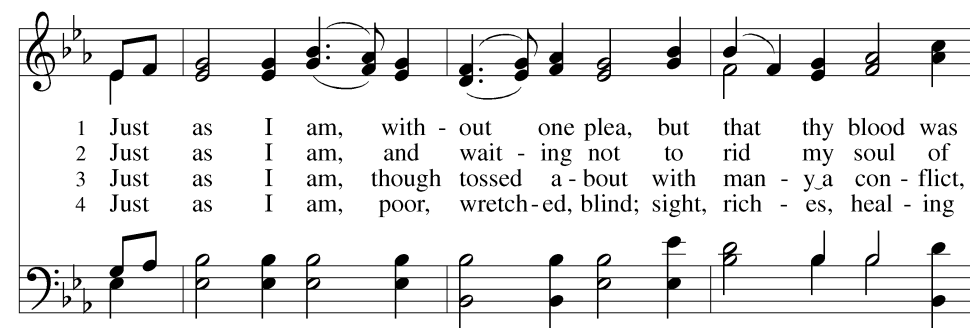
²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Just As I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 because thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
 has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C 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 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.**

Please sit or kneel, as able.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Leader and People pray responsively

A In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

**A For all people in their daily life and work;
 C For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

**A For this community, the nation, and the world;
 C For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**A For the just and proper use of your creation;
 C For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

**A For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
 C For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

**A For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
 C For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

A For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and those we remember silently in our hearts.

Silence

A Hear us, Lord;
C **For your mercy is great.**

A We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

A We will exalt you, O God our King;
C **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

A We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

A Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
C **Who put their trust in you.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

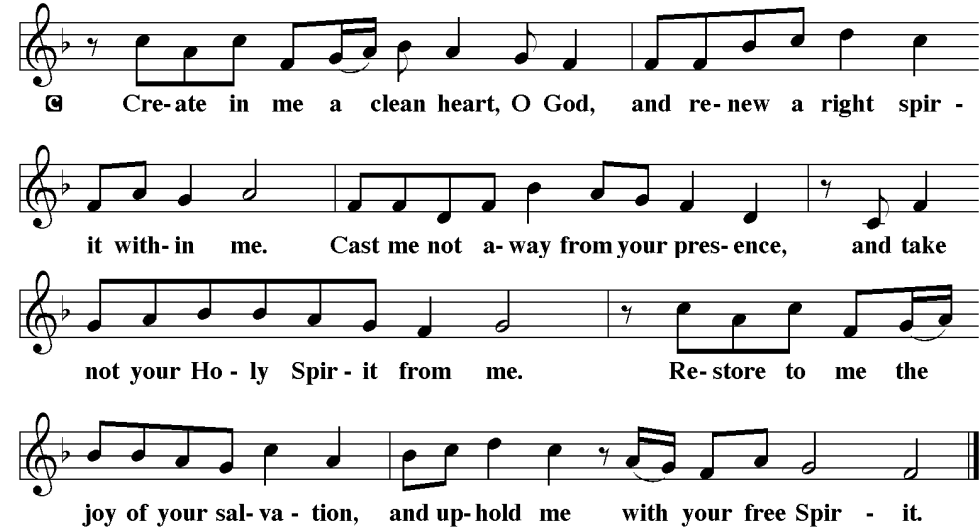
Please sit.

THE OFFERING

THE ANTHEM

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



☐ Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.
A Blessed are you,
C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

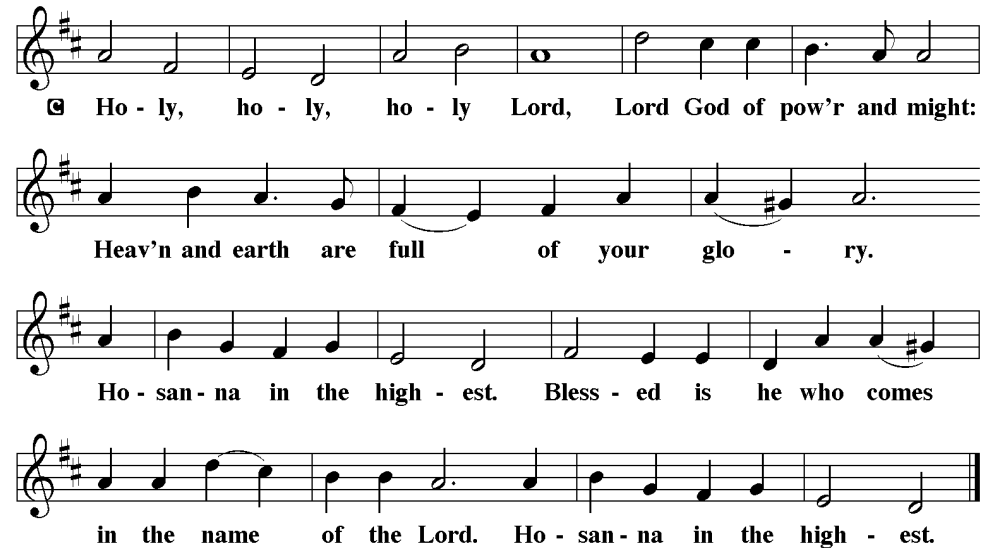
THE COMMUNION RITE

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, 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, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n 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.

P Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**



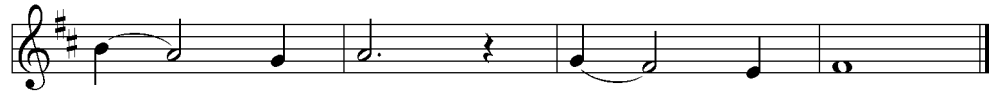
C **Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please sit.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

-Luther’s Small Catechism Part V

Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C **Amen**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray.

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

THE BENEDICTION

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

THE SENDING HYMN: O God, My Faithful God



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

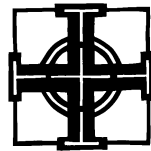


give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.



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FALL FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Join us for the St. James Lutheran Church Fall Fellowship Gathering at our all-congregation picnic on **Sunday, September 8** at the home of Kenny & Annette Propst. Fall Gathering starts at 12:30pm; Smoke House BBQ Lunch at 1:00pm.

Rain location - St. James Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP by SEPT 1. to help us plan. Scan code below or email info@sjnc.net.



Picnic RSVP

KID'S NIGHT OUT!

All kid's ages 4+ are invited to join us for Kid's Night Out on **Friday, September 20 at 6:00pm!** We'll have Pizza, popcorn, a movie and craft! Be sure to register to help with planning. If you can volunteer, please let us know! info@sjnc.net



Kid's Night RSVP

COTTAGE MEETINGS

St. James is excited to announce the start of Cottage Meetings. These meetings are meant to bring members together in small groups with Pastor Bill. We are asking for volunteers who can host a small gathering. Dates are being discussed, but we ask if you are interested, please send LeeAnn Miller an email. This is a great way to get to know members, the Pastor and fellowship.

NC WELCA CABARRUS/STANLY CONFERENCE – REGISTER NOW!

Join us on **Saturday, October 5, 2024**, for the NC Women of the ELCA Cabarrus/Stanny Fall Conference gathering! Program will include food, fellowship, offerings, and special program. Registration is \$10. Register at:

<https://bit.ly/NCWELCAFALLCONFERENCE>

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Sept. 1 Claire Ford, Kathleen Francus
Sept. 2 Kathryn Radcliffe
Sept. 3 William Propst
Sept. 4 Kim Haberman, Patrick Propst
Sept. 5 Simon Lovelace, Ashleigh Matthews
Sept. 6 Sophie Horton, Trey Horton, Dylan Urso

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday Sept. 1 9:00 am Parish Choir
9:30 am Children’s Sunday School
10:00 am Worship
RSVP for Fall Fellowship Gathering

Monday, Sept. 2 *Labor Day – Church Office Closed*

Tuesday, Sept. 3 10:30 am Mary Magdalene Circle
5:00 pm Executive Committee

Wednesday, Sept. 4 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, Sept. 8 9:00 am Adult Sunday School
9:00 am Parish Choir
9:30 am Children’s Sunday School
10:00 am Worship
12:30 pm Fall Gathering Picnic (Annette & Kenny Propst/ Rain location –Fellowship Hall)

FALL EVENTS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES (that means 0-99+)

September 8: Fall Fellowship Gathering – Picnic Lunch
September 20: Kids Night; movie and pizza
October 13: CROP Walk
October 27: Trunk or Treat
November 24: *Short* Thanksgiving Worship followed by a Pie Party
December 1: Advent Tree Lighting (Well, technically it is a Christmas Tree)
December 8: Bethlehem at the Farm – *Volunteers Needed!*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Christine Ruff
Communion Assistant: Elizabeth Hurley
Ushers: Chip Blackwelder, Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline, Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright
Videographer: Jean Beasley
Greeter: Judy Benz
Building Supervisor: Mike Rinker

PRAYER LIST

Tom Grady; Tom Ridenhour; Noah Clifton; Angie Buchanan; Jo Eng; Sheril Rominger (friend of the Marlow’s); Linda Jones (family members of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Mary Dorothy White (friend of Patsy Black); Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black).

MY FATHER’S HOUSE MINISTRY

St. James and St. Johns will host My Father’s House Ministry Sept. 16 - 18. If you can help by providing items for the dinner meal Sept. 16 or 17, please let Sylvia Corl know: 704-425-8621.

BLESSING BOX

St. James is sponsoring the Blessing Box for the month of September. Please consider donating items throughout the month to be placed at the box in Rotary Square. Requested items include nonperishable food items, baby food, bottled water, shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Items may be placed in the Blessing Box or in the collection bin in the portico. Contact Chris Miller with questions.

HEY! DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE?

St. James has begun a search for a part-time Office Assistant. The Office Assistant is the first point of contact for St. James Lutheran Church members and its guests. This position is a crucial one, providing exceptional customer service and ensuring smooth operations in our front office. This position will work no more than 12 hours per week. If you know someone, please send them to our website for more information.