

**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 15, 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 Prelude II in G major Felix Mendelssohn

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.

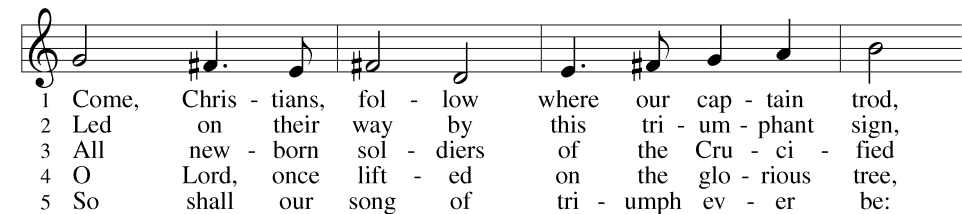
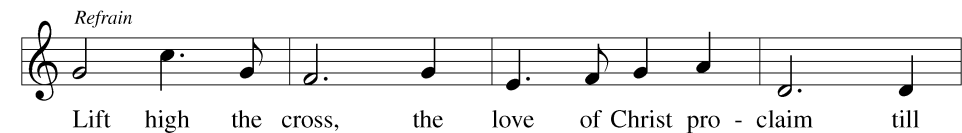
*Please sit or kneel, as able.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P 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: Lift High the Cross

A harmony graphic is not available. Please see #377 in the green hymnal (LBW).



Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 the hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
 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!

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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen**

Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me
 the tongue of a teacher,
 that I may know how to sustain
 the weary with a word.
 Morning by morning he awakens—
 awakens my ear
 to listen as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,
 and I was not rebellious,
 I did not turn backward.
⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
 and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
 I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.
⁷The Lord God helps me;
 therefore I have not been disgraced;
 therefore I have set my face like flint,
 and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
 Who will contend with me?
 Let us stand up together.
 Who are my adversaries?
 Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me;
 who will declare me guilty?

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

THE SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine yield fresh.

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 8th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for

their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

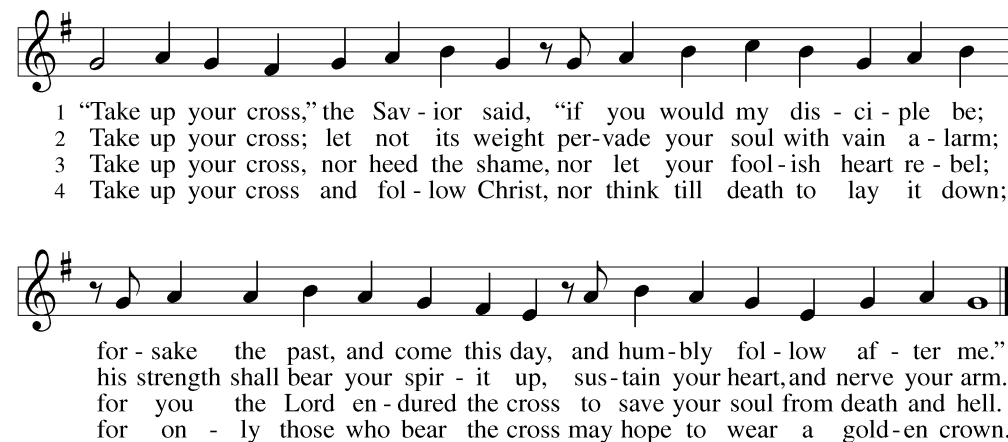
P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

A harmony graphic is not available. Please see #398 in the green hymnal (LBW).



1 “Take up your cross,” the Sav - ior said, “if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame, nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
for - sake the past, and come this day, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.”
his strength shall bear your spir - it up, sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
for you the Lord en - dured the cross to save your soul from death and hell.
for on - ly those who bear the cross may hope to wear a gold - en crown.

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

- A In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"
- A For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- A For all bishops, pastors and deacons that they may speak the good news of Jesus Christ, and for all the holy people that may hear and live it willingly, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- A For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.**

- A For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- A For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples. For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- A For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- A For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- A For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- A For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- A Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.
- C To you, O Lord our God.**

P For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE OFFERING

THE ANTHEM

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert Martin

*When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,*

*I sacrifice them through his blood.
See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

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.**

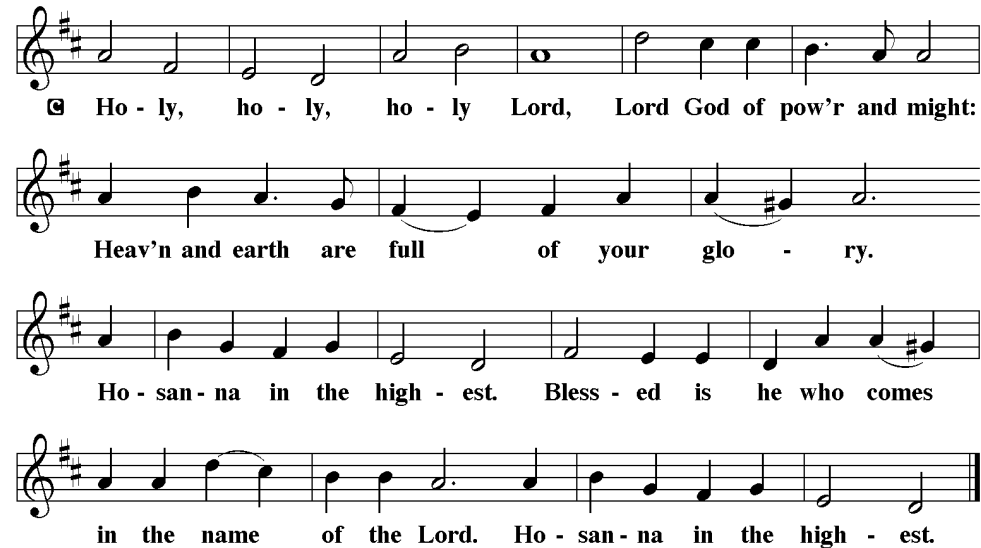
P Lift up your hearts.

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.

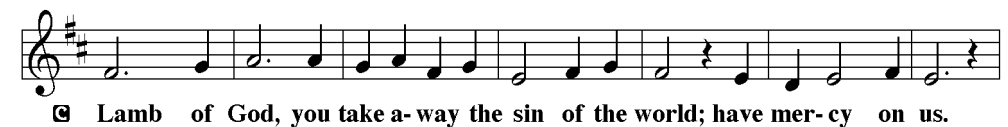
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

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.**



Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy 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: Built On a Rock

A harmony graphic is not available. Please see #365 in the green hymnal (LBW).



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’ns 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



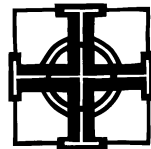
chim-ing and call - ing— call-ing the young and old to rest, call-ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Were two or three to seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak-ing 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

THE DISMISSAL

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



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KID'S NIGHT OUT! – THIS FRIDAY!

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!



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. Scan the QR Code to see upcoming meeting dates and to sign up! If you are interested in hosting a Cottage Meeting, please email LeeAnn Miller, lbmiller@carolina.rr.com.



Cottage Meetings

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, and hygiene items. Items may be placed in the Blessing Box or in the collection bin in the portico. Contact Chris Miller with questions.

NC WELCA CABARRUS/STANLY CONFERENCE – REGISTER NOW!

Join us on **Saturday, October 5, 2024**, for the NC Women of the ELCA Cabarrus/Stanly 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. 16 Collins Whisnant
Sept. 17 Evelina Matthews
Sept. 19 Trevor Matthews
Sept. 20 Peter Muniz, Camron Trott, Carson Trott

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 15 9:00 am Adult Sunday School
9:00 am Parish Choir
9:30 am Children’s Sunday School
10:00 am Worship

Monday, Sept. 16 10:30 am Quilting
6:30 pm Bible Study
7:30 pm Esther Circle

Wednesday, Sept. 18 5:30 pm Handbells Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Friday, Sept. 20 6:00 pm **Kid’s Night Out**

Saturday, Sept. 21 *Leah’s Hope Trailer*

Sunday, Sept. 22 9:00 am Adult Sunday School
9:00 am Parish Choir
9:30 am Children’s Sunday School
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am **God’s Work. Our Hands.**

FALL EVENTS

September 20: Kid’s Night Out
September 22: God’s Work. Our Hands.
October 5: NC WELCA Cabarrus/Stanly Conference
October 13: CROP Walk
October 27: Trunk or Treat
November 24: Thanksgiving Worship followed by Pie Party
December 1: Advent Tree Lighting
December 8: Bethlehem at the Farm – *Volunteers Needed!*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Kristin Rinker
Communion Assistant: Dianne Lambert
Ushers: Chip Blackwelder, Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline, Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright
Videographer: Annette Propst
Greeter: Maureen Hollmeyer
Building Supervisor: Mike Rinker

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God and in memory and honor of those who died on 9/11 by Dale Merrel.

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); Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit).

FALL BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study returns this **Monday, September 16 at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.

The 11th Annual God’s Work, Our Hands will be held **Sunday, September 22 after worship**. Please plan to donate a couple of hours of your time by signing up to volunteer: <https://bit.ly/GWOH>.

CROP HUNGER WALK

St. James is a registered team for this year’s Cabarrus County CROP Hunger Walk on **Sunday, October 13th**. Consider supporting by joining the St. James team or donating: <https://bit.ly/StJamesCropWalk>.

ST. JAMES STAFF

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Senior Pastor; prbill@sjnc.net
Vacant, Director of Music
Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator; jill@sjnc.net
Holly Sloop, Communications Coordinator; holly@sjnc.net
Church Office: 704-786-0166; info@sjnc.net
Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator; krad3700@gmail.com
Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian