

**SAINT JAMES
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PO Box 684
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166
WEBSITE www.sjnc.net

DIRECTORY

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

SAINT JAMES STAFF

Rev. Bill Ridenhour, Senior Pastor
prbill@sjnc.net

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator
jill@sjnc.net

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist /
Director of Music
scottfop@gmail.com

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian
tfh1990@yahoo.com

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator
krad3700@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and Receipts for
October 8, 2023

\$6,658.23

(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

In-Person Attendance:
105

Stewardship Sunday October 22

Join us for a Time and Talent Fair
and Luncheon following worship.
Please make reservations for lunch by
Tuesday, October 17—by e-mail
info@sjnc.net or call the church office.

SJLC Trunk or Treat

Candy, Popcorn, Music and Bounce
House

Sunday, October 29
4:30 pm—6:00 pm
Parking Lot

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please email all information to the church office by
Wednesday 10:00 am to info@sjnc.net*

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

15-Oct Erin Everett
Morgan Trott
17-Oct Isla Glatz
18-Oct Laura Baker
19-Oct Stephanie Harris
Kim Williams
20-Oct Katie King

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:
Barbara Albright

Communion Assistant:
Elizabeth Hurley

Acolyte/Crucifer:
Noah Pittard

Ushers: Brad Baker, Chip
Harward, Taylor Pruette, Al
Pieschel, Jon Miller

Building Supervisor:

Greeters:
Gretchen Walker

Videographer:

Christian Education
Meeting
with Parents,
Grandparents, Caregivers
of children ages 0-5th
Grade

Today, October 15
11:15—following worship
please plan to attend to
meet with CE Committee
and Pastor Bill to discuss
Nursery, Sunday School and
other opportunities for our
children

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given
by Jo Eng to the Glory of
God.

PRAYER LIST

- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Deb Black & Family

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 15
9:15 am Parish Choir
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am CE Comm Mtg
w/ Parents/G'Parents/
Caregivers (F' Hall)
Monday, October 16
10:30 am Quilting Group
6:30 pm Scouts
Tuesday, October 17
5:30 pm Mission Fund Comm
(Parlor)

Wednesday, October 18
2:00 pm Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Wed Night T'gether
7:00 pm Parish Choir
Thursday, October 19
6:00 pm Handbells
Saturday, October 21
8:30 am Leah's Hope Trailer
Sunday, October 22
9:15 am Parish Choir
10:00 am Worship—Blessing
of the Quilts/S'Ship Sunday
11:15 am Stewardship
Luncheon following Worship

..Wednesday Night Together
October 18 at 5:30 pm

For dinner purposes, please
communicate your intention to
join by signing up by e-mail
info@sjnc.net or call church office



Welcome!

St. James is a house of prayer
where all people can come to
know the compassionate heart
of Jesus. We are a community
of Christians where you can
belong before you believe. At
Saint James the beauty of
ancient worship and
traditional spiritual practices
transform contemporary lives.
Join us as together we
discover the sacred in the
heart of the city. Our worship
includes ancient and
contemporary symbols and
practices along with preaching
and music to inspire you to
follow Jesus in your daily life.
We welcome both the spiritual
seeker and seasoned disciple
to find their home in God with
us. If you are looking for a
spiritual home or just
exploring the life of faith, we
hope you will walk with us on
that journey of discovery.

**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”*

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

OCTOBER 15, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

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.

Welcome!

Newcomers and visitors, we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

Although there are customary postures (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

Children are most welcome in worship at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building.

First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

If you are interested in membership to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

Restrooms are available on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

Pew Pads are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups

Send Joseph Beasley any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com @stjamesnc

St. James YouTube Channel Go to www.youtube.com search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

UPCOMING DATES:

Oct. 16 Quilting Group 10:30 am
Scouts 6:30 pm
Oct 17 Mission Fund Comm 5:30 pm
Oct 18 Staff Meeting 2:00 pm
Wed Night Together 5:30pm
Parish Choir 7 pm
Oct 19 Handbells 6 pm
Oct 21 Leah's Hope Trailer 8:30 am
Oct 22 Blessing of the Quilts
Stewardship Sunday w/ Luncheon

Church Calendar for remaining 2023:

If you have an event or meeting scheduled for the balance of 2023—please let the church office know as to create a reservation for those rooms—info@sjnc.net

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Trumpet Voluntary in D* Jeremiah Clarke

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

HOLY COMMUNION with RITE of INSTALLATION of a PASTOR

4 pm

Pastor Bill will be installed as the Pastor of St. James Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 5th at 4 pm. The Rite of Installation will take place within a festive Communion Liturgy. Great, singable hymns too.

Thank You...

Thank you to all that donated their time and monies for the **2023 Cabarrus County CROP Walk**. St. James surpassed the \$1,000 goal that we aimed to reach! Twenty-five% collected goes to our local food bank, Cooperative Christian Ministry.

The family of Lorene Caudle Ledford deeply appreciate the outpouring of love and support to us. - *Deb Black*

I deeply appreciate my fellow sings in the Women's Chorus for their exceptional talents and gifts—Thank you for your contribution to my mother's service.

- *Deb Black*

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1 My hope is built on nothing less than
 2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I
 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood sustains
 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righteousness; no merit of my
 rest on his unchanging grace; in every high and
 tain me in the raging flood; when all supports are
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righteousness -



own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
 stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.
 washed away, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness alone, re-deemed to stand before the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Andante from Sonata 6**Felix Mendelssohn**Congregational Responses in **Bold****(Stand)*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the \dagger Son and of the
Amen.

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. **Amen.**

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.

*(Kneel or sit, as able)**Silence is held for reflection and self-examination*

Most Merciful God,

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

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 \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

(Stand)

GATHERING HYMN *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!* Nicae



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

APOSTOLIC 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.**

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 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. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

LAMB OF GOD *Choir and Congregation*



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.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that 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.
Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 for 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 upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

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.**

DISTRIBUTION

(Sit)

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, give 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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Sit)

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING *ISAIAH 25:1-9*

A reading from Isaiah.

¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 (Read Responsively, congregation in bold)

¹The LORD¹ is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me be- side still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall ¹ fear no
evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

A reading from Philippians, the fourth chapter.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the
Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask
you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in
the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose
names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to
everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer
and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the
peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever
is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if
there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things
that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will
be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blessed are you,

**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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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; won 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, God of pow'r and might,
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

For the unbaptized and for those who have ceased to worship, for our lips to be willing to invite them. Form us to be a people ready to welcome, listen and change. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For a Spirit of healthy discourse and disagreement, for the power of the Spirit to raise up among us a common vision for your church in this place. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression and disgrace; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

That we may end of our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For all the saints now resting from their labors; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

The Pastor concludes the prayers.

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(This can be done verbally with no physical contact, if desired)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Sit)

ANTHEM *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Harry Rowe Shelley

OFFERING *(Offering plates presented at the altar)*

(Stand)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

(Sit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Stand)*

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

HOLY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 22:1-14*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’

¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

Munich



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

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.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes, "Lord, in your mercy" and the congregation responds "hear our prayer."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy church of God, and for the unity of all peoples; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the civil authorities, for leaders of nations that their leadership may serve and protect all people and foster compassion and justice. For our city of Concord, for every city and community and for those who live in them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For seasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and the will to conserve it; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**