

CONGRATULATIONS COOK SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Cook Memorial Trust Fund Committee is honored to announce this year's scholarship recipients for the upcoming school year.

Congratulations to the following recipients:

Allison Hinson - East Carolina University
Campbell Overby - Appalachian State University
Casey Gale - UNC Wilmington
Charlotte Davis - NC State University
Coleman Carter - UNC Greensboro
Hollis Miller - Appalachian State University
Hudson Davis - Appalachian State University
Jacob Rinker - UNC Wilmington
James Hughes - UNC Charlotte
Julianna Popovoci - East Carolina University
Noah Pittard - RCCC
Sam Hurley - Johns Hopkins
William Irvin - CPCC

We are proud of their accomplishments and look forward to watching them grow in their continuing education. When you have a chance, please join us in congratulating them and continue to support them in both prayer and words of encouragement.

- Cook Memorial Trust Fund Committee

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

Vacant, Part-Time Office Assistant

Church Office: 704-786-0166; info@sjnc.net

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator; krad3700@gmail.com

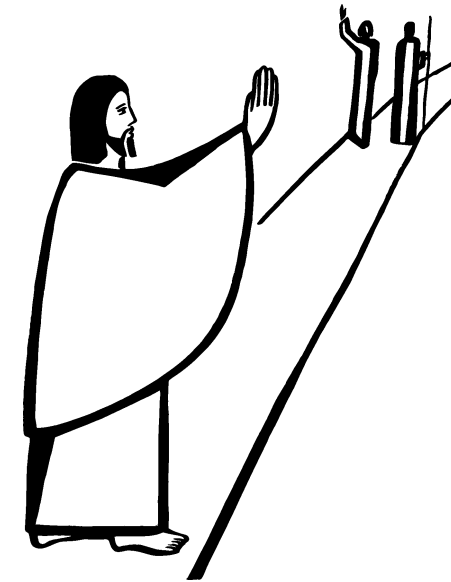
Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 7, 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 MISSION STATEMENT

GROWING IN CHRIST THROUGH

WORSHIP

LEARNING

FELLOWSHIP

SERVICE

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

July 8 Judy King
July 10 Casey Gale, Jim Weisel
July 11 Margaret Fink, George Patterson, Thomas Propst, Jr.

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 7	9:00 am	Parish Summertime Choir
	10:00 am	Worship
Monday, July 8	10:30 am	Quilting
Tuesday, July 9	6:00 pm	Congregation Council
Sunday, July 14	9:00 am	Parish Summertime Choir
	10:00 am	Worship

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

Put them in your calendar.

August 11: Blessing of Backpacks AND lunch after worship.
September 20: Kids Night; movie and pizza
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

Bethlehem at the Farm requires many volunteers.

Be on the lookout for more information.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Nancy Faggart

Communion Assistant: Beth Huss

Acolyte: Noah Pittard

Ushers: Dale Merrell, Gretchen Walker, Robert Davis, Lex Patterson, Samantha Hillegass

Videographer: Jean Beasley

Greeter: Judy Benz

Building Supervisor: Chip Blackwelder

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given by Joan & Buddy McEachern and Jennifer & Jack Ritchie to the glory of God and in loving memory of their beloved Lyn.

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); Susan Tadlock (friend of Deb Black); Mary Dorothy White (friend of Patsy Black); One Heart Global Ministries Mission Trip to Ecuador (our AirOne HVAC tech).

WELCA Save-the-Date

Save the date for 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. Contact Gretchen Walker for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Registration is available for Vacation Bible School July 28-30! VBS is free to members and visitors but requires registration. Register early to secure a spot.

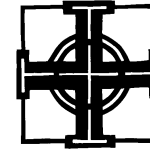
Registration is available on the home page of sjnc.net.

HEY! VBS VOLUNTEERS – BACKGROUND CHECKS??

Please complete your Safe Gatherings background check. Please contact the Church Office to get started.

HEY! VBS VOLUNTEERS – PLEASE SAVE JULY 21st

On **Sunday, July 21st**, there will be a meeting for all VBS volunteers immediately after worship in the fellowship hall. We will go over assignments and begin decorating.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering



Welcome / Prelude

Praise to the Lord

Paul Manz

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

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.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,
 hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

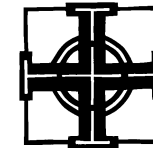
THE ENTRANCE HYMN: Jesus, Still Lead On

A harmony graphic is not available. Please see hymn 341 in the green (LBW) hymnal.

1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,
 way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

THE DISMISSAL

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



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 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us © 2015 Hope Publishing Co, Carol Stream IL, 60188

THE SENDING HYMN: On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
 un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
 un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
 on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

guide us by your hand to our Fa - ther's land.
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
 till we safe - ly stand in our Fa - ther's land.

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 God of glory, Father of love, peace comes from you alone. Send us as peacemakers and witnesses to your kingdom, and fill our hearts with joy in your promises of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5

¹ [A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.² And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³ He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴ The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." ⁵ Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



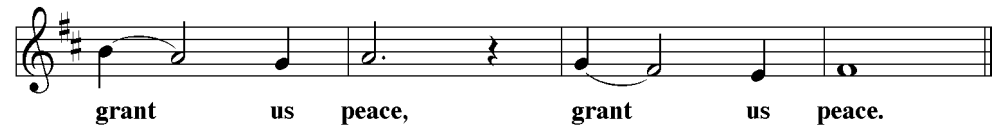
P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

THE BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen**



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.

THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 6th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ [Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word



1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord;
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;



tell how his own Son he gave, all from sin and death to save.
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.
let the gath - ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.



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.

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.



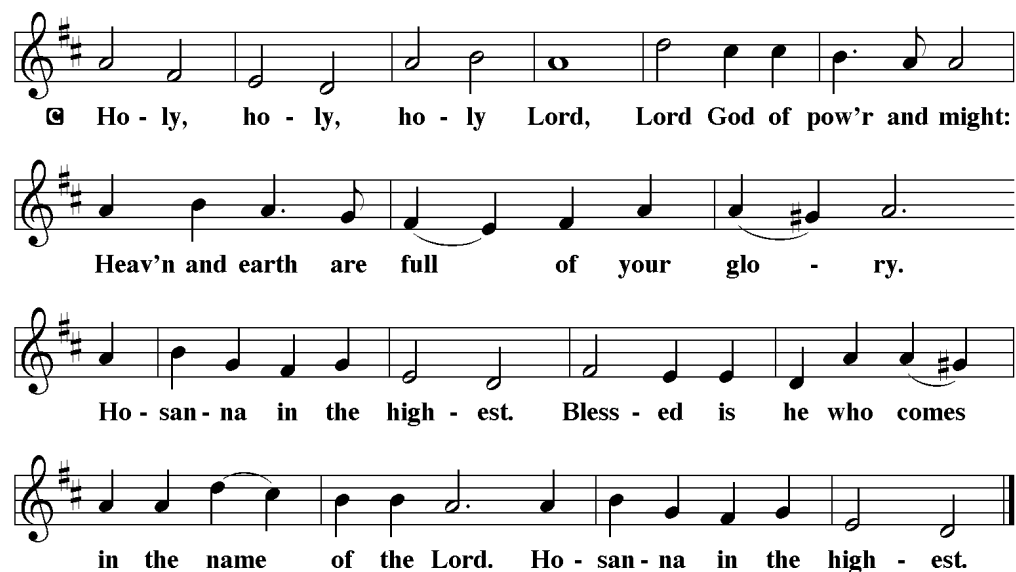
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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;



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.

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A 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 Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

C **That we all may be one.**

A Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

C **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

A We pray for all bishops, pastors, and deacons;

C **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

A We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

C **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

A Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

C **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

A Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

C **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

A Give to the departed eternal rest.

C **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

A We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
C **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

A Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

A brief silence for reflection.

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

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

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Joel Raney

Bella Voce

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

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: