

Ring Out

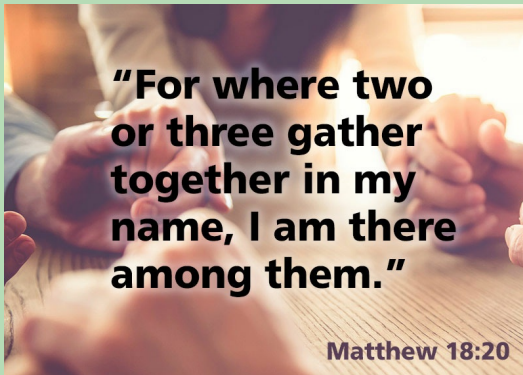
A Weekly Newsletter



St. James Lutheran Church

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

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6



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

Matthew 18:20

**Worship Bulletin
September 6**

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

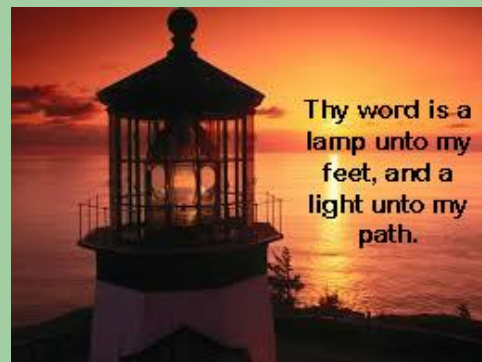
SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm Psalm 119:33-40

Second Reading Romans 13:8-14

Gospel Matthew 18:15-20



Thy word is a
lamp unto my
feet, and a
light unto my
path.

Readings for September 6



Online Worship for Sunday, September 6 will be available on Facebook and YouTube at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. An email with links will be sent when the online worship service is posted. You can open or print the bulletin and follow along with the service.

CHURCH NEWS



ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 6

9:30 am Online Worship Service

Monday, September 7

Office Closed - Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8

6:00 pm Congregation Council

Wednesday, September 9

6:00 pm Youth Meeting - Zoom

7:00 pm Drive-In Worship

Thursday, September 10

6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre - 2

7:00 pm Bible Heroes 3 - 5

Sunday, September 13

9:30 am Online Worship Service

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

06-Sept Sophie Horton

06-Sept Trey Horton

06-Sept Dylan Urso

06-Sept Paul Winterhalter

08-Sept Laura Overby

08-Sept Edith Propst

09-Sept Dianne Lambert

10-Sept Ryan Patterson

10-Sept Alisa Wickliff



10-Sept Libby Williams

11-Sept Riece Pittard

12-Sept Terri Fleck



On September 1, Governor Cooper announced a transition into phase 2.5. We will find out in the days to come exactly what that means, but what we know for sure is that our wilderness journey through the challenges and opportunities of Covid 19 are far from over. What we also know is while it may not look or feel like it, God is present and at work shaping and changing and empowering us not to return to life as usual when this is over, but to live as God's people in an ever changing world by embodying and bearing witness to God's unchanging love and faithfulness. That, as Bishop Tim reminds us in the article below, is the Biblical witness and our hope.

So continue to wear your masks in public; wash your hands often; check on your neighbor; be generous as you are able; be patient with one another, give thanks for what you do have instead of worrying about what you don't have; pray for our elected officials, healthcare workers, first responders, law enforcement officers, protesters, and the vulnerable sister and brother seeking food and shelter and work and justice; spend some time in God's word with your family; join us for on-line worship; and take a deep breath and remember God is still at work giving life to dry bones. And for that we say, thanks be to God!

Pastor Tony



FAITHFUL ADAPTATION

Bishop Tim Smith

In 586-87 BCE King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon, after a long siege, laid waste the holy city of Jerusalem, destroyed the supposed indestructible temple home of Yahweh and the ark of the covenant, deposed the Davidic dynasty, and took away all of the Jewish leaders to exile in Babylon. "Devastated" would be an understatement for ancient Israel, as their foundational and presumed eternal covenantal identities were ripped away: land, descendants, perpetual Davidic rule, and blessings evaporated.

So much of the hope and promise of Scripture comes from this time of

exile. “By the rivers of Babylon, there we lay down our harps and wept when we remembered Zion” (Ps. 137) as the Babylonians taunted them with suggestions that either their God never existed or that their god Marduk was stronger. Ezekiel 37’s valley of dry bones—“clean cut off” with no hope for life—that yet come together and dance was a vision of hope amid hopelessness for these exiles. And Isaiah 40-43 offers a vision of comfort and restoration, a way out of no way, a highway made straight in the desert to take the exiles home. Fulfillment was in short supply. Hope and promise were what sustained a remnant to return.

That exile lasted nearly 50 years, and when finally the Persians defeated Babylon and Persia’s King Cyrus allowed the Israelites to go home, it wasn’t at all the Jerusalem or the Israel they remembered. Ezra and Nehemiah helped restore the law and the temple, but it was never the same again. God’s promises and presence remained, but if Israel were ever to thrive again, they would have to be faithful, patient, and persistent. There would be no on-demand return to all they remembered. They would have to adapt.

We know that many long, arduous, biblical trials were associated with the number 40, which simply meant “a really long time.” Rain with Noah for 40 days and 40 nights. 40 years with Moses in the desert. 40 days of temptation in the wilderness for Jesus. Remnants of that biblical number persisted in Caldwell County during my childhood. I remember my dad describing a crowded store by saying, “There must’ve been 40-‘leven people in there!” Getting through each of those long biblical struggles meant finding the delicate balance of faithfulness to essentials, patience, and willingness and ability to adapt.

Fast forward to our 2020. Remember March, when we were annoyed that our inconveniences and stay-at-homes and distancing and masking and sanitizing might last an unthinkable 4-6 weeks? Now in September, we’re still in Phase 2 with nearly 185,000 dead in America and counting, not to mention so many grieving, suffering lingering side effects, living in fear of infection, unemployed, and on and on. And our congregations in the NC Synod—some gathering in some ways, some waiting, quite a number increasingly threatened with their demise hastened by the limitations of this virus. There is no safe and immediate end in sight. Where is our God? Is our God? How long, O Lord? As with the biblical narratives, just adaptation without faithfulness or faithfulness without adaptation will fall short. We need both.

Many of our congregations have adapted very well to online platforms, even increasing the number of people reached. Others are just now venturing cautiously into the re-gathering arena. Amid much uncertainty, one thing I do know is that most of our leaders, despite

their willing and creative and adaptive spirits, are weary. Not okay. Political and racial tensions threaten us just as much as the virus. Is there a way home? Will we even recognize that home when we get there? And will our people adapt?

None of us knows for sure. There's a lot I don't know and can't predict. I do suspect a few things though:

1. A number of our congregations that really were on the bubble of being able to afford full-time pastoral leadership will risk their very survival if they refuse to risk sharing ministry with others, including sharing a pastor (yoking).
2. Technology won't go backwards, even if a vaccine is effective or the virus mysteriously disappears. Many have adapted to online and on-demand options. Even when we can re-gather safely and freely, many of our folks will expect it. If we don't offer it, they will find it elsewhere.
3. The synod staff for the near-term will continue to explore, share, and equip congregations and rostered ministers to adapt, but realizing the toll on emotional energy as well as time, the staff will also try to fill some gaps to help the great majority of our congregations who have only one or no full-time pastoral staff members. These will include things like Bible studies, continuing to provide weekly sermons and call-in devotions, confirmation classes, Wednesday morning check-in calls, regular zoom gatherings of council presidents and treasurers, and other programmatic pieces as needful and requested.
4. Cancellation of ELCA and synod-sponsored large in-person gatherings is already basically suspended for the rest of this calendar year and likely will continue for the future well into if not through 2021. While no decision has been made and won't soon be, there is a strong possibility or likelihood that our June 2021 Synod Assembly, including the election of a bishop, will happen either partially or completely online.

Governor Cooper will tell us within the next 10 days where we are in gathering protocols as a state. Our synod re-gathering task force will meet Sept. 10, and Synod Council will meet Sept. 11 and 12, at which time we will update our synodical recommendations for safe re-gatherings. You've likely correctly discerned by now that we will not be offering less restrictive recommendations than the state itself makes.

In the meantime, through this protracted challenge, and on whatever other side we come out of it, we're here for you. And we trust with you that God even now is up to something transformative. We may even get back to Jerusalem someday. But it won't, and can't be, just like we left it in February. And that's not entirely a bad thing with the God who continually makes all things new anyway. Hang in there.

Walking with you,

CHURCH-WIDE NEWS



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the U.S. and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Currently, LDR is responding to:

- Hurricane Laura
- California Wildfires
- Derecho storm in the midwest
- COVID-19
- and more...

[Learn How LDR is Responding and Donate Today](#)

Word@Hand

Word@Hand is an innovative Bible engagement app that allows you to take a six-path Journey around a book of the Bible, a theme, or a season of the Christian year. The app offers Bible translations and video presentations that are accurate, reliable, and easy to understand. Equally as engaging for the novice as they are for the scholar, Word@Hand Journeys present insights to help you thrive with God. Available for iOS and Android devices. Each path offers a video, seven daily steps, and more.



[Learn More](#)

SOCIAL MINISTRY

2020 CABARRUS COUNTY

CROP Hunger “Virtual” Walk



Q: What is a virtual walk?

A: It's an actual walking activity, but for reasons of safety and social distancing, participants will commit to walking on their own or in small groups in their neighborhoods, parks, or trails on walk day. We won't be gathering in one large group this year and the time and length of the walk is flexible.

Q: What's the date and time of the walk?

A: Sunday, October 11th at 1:30 PM. (Although, the time is very flexible.)

Q: Does the walk help people affected by the pandemic? What programs are supported by the walk funds?

A: yes. People affected by the current COVID-19 crisis locally and around the world will be assisted by the work of Cooperative Christian Ministry and Church World Service.

Watch for more information and how to sign up.



CURRENT FOOD NEEDS - CCM

The CCM Food Program is getting really low on a lot of our staples. And we're really going to miss the annual Cabarrus County Fair Food Drive, which was always a big help. We're hoping our church and community partners can really step up and help us out.

Food donations can be dropped off at the church during office hours. Pull under the portico and call the church office 704-786-0166

Our current big needs are:

- Any kind of canned vegetables except peas
- Any kind of canned beans
- Peanut Butter and jelly/ jam
- Soup
- Rice
- Spaghetti noodles
- Pasta sauce
- Toilet paper and paper towels

We always especially seek:

- Low sodium items
- No-added-sugar items
- Whole grain items.
- Plastic grocery bags

Right now, we have plenty of the following:

- Macaroni & Cheese
- Cereal
- Canned chicken

- Canned peas
- Canned fruit

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

ONLINE YOUTH MEETINGS



All in-person Youth meetings and activities are currently cancelled. Online Zoom meeting will be held weekly.

September 9

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm Code: 468 883 755

September 13, 20 and 27

Sundays at 5:00 pm Code: 468 883 755



BIBLE HEROES

Bible Heroes will continue to Zoom meet on Thursdays during September. Bible Heroes is all about teaching kids the Biblical virtues of courage, commitment, loyalty, and honor. These are some of the virtues that the heroes of faith possessed. In these Bible lessons kids will learn that by following the examples of these heroes from the Bible, and putting our trust in God, we can live heroic lives too.

Pre-K - 2nd Grade at 6:30 pm

Grades 3-5 at 7:00 pm

CHURCH RESOURCES



You can manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions or make a one time contribution and view your complete online giving history

from anywhere you have access to the Internet. In a few short minutes, you can make a one-time gift or set up a donation that will

process automatically on a recurring basis. Recurring donations are convenient and provide our church with much needed consistent support throughout the year.

The need for your giving and support continues, even though we have had to cancel gathering and corporate worship services.

Give Now



FACEBOOK PAGE

Want to see photos, events, news items on Facebook? Follow St. James on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com and search for:

[@stjamesnc](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesnc)



YouTube

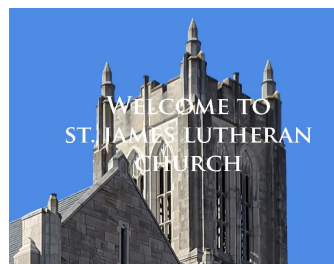
YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Go to the YouTube website. www.youtube.com then search for **St. James Lutheran Church Concord NC** Subscribe to St. James' YouTube channel where service videos and other videos from time to time will be uploaded. Once you subscribe, turn on Notifications so you will know when a new video is uploaded.



INSTAGRAM

Do you like photos and videos? Then follow [stjamesnc](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesnc) on Instagram.



WEBSITE

Check out St. James website, www.sjnc.net. There you will find links to

Download the Instagram app on your smartphone or tablet, create an account and then search for St. James.

Church News, Events, Publications including bulletins, newsletters, and online worship services, and lots more.

ST. JAMES STAFF

- **Rev. Tony Bradshaw**, *Senior Pastor* [Email](#)
- **Jill Irvin**, *Financial Administrator* [Email](#)
- **Keith Sutton**, *Parish Administrator* [Email](#)
- **Mike Holt**, *Youth and Family* [Email](#)
- **Cindy Cruse**, *Hospitality Coordinator* [Email](#)
- **Kathryn Radcliffe**, *Nursery Coordinator* [Email](#)
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