

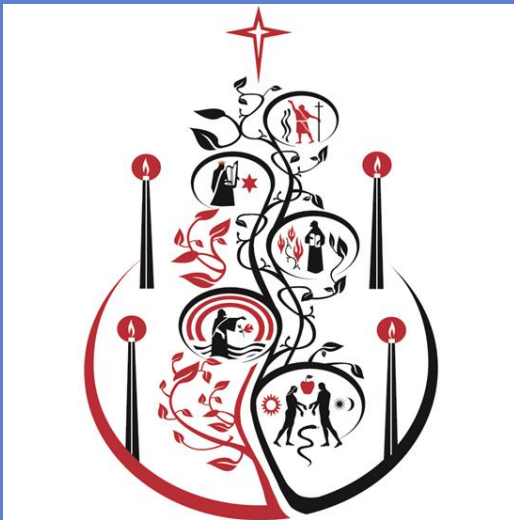
St. James Lutheran Church

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

Ring Out A Weekly Newsletter



WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29



Worship Bulletin Nov. 29

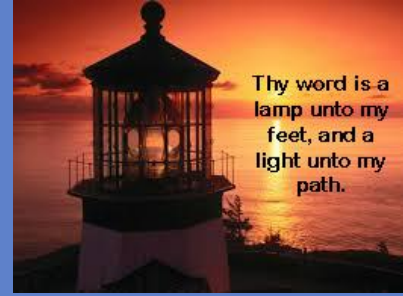
First Sunday of Advent

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come..

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel Mark 13:24-37



Readings for November 29



ONLINE WORSHIP

Online Worship for Sunday, November 29 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.



ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 29
9:30 am Online Worship Service
No Youth

Thursday, December 3
6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre-2nd
7:00 pm bible Heroes 3rd-5th

Sunday, December 6
9:30 am Online Worship Service
10:00 am Zoom Sunday School

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- 29-Nov. Garrett Baker
- 30-Nov. Patrick Matthews
- 02-Dec. Betsy Ballard
- 02-Dec. Al Brown, Jr.
- 02-Dec. Nathan Larkin
- 02-Dec. Jaxon Yow



04-Dec. Lauren Hoadley

04-Dec. Margaret Pruette

CHURCH NEWS



ADVENT WREATH KIT

Create your own family Advent wreath to light at home during this Advent season. St. James will be providing the materials for you to make your own wreath. The kits can be picked up at the church from 10:00 -12:00 on Saturday, November 28 or contact the church office to drive by and get your kit.

BLESSING BOX

What is the Blessing Box? It's a box that is located in Rotary Square that is stocked with food and other necessary items (List Below) available to those in the community. This was an Eagle Scout project for Gabriel Perry of Troop 221.

St James has agreed to stock the Blessing Box during the months of January and September. You can place items in the box yourself or you can drop them off at the church. Mark Murphy will be the contact person for any questions.



- Canned goods / Crackers / Cereal
- Bags of rice / Ramen / Pasta
- Peanut butter / Jelly
- Granola bars / Raisins
- Fruit snacks / Pudding cups / Fruit cups
- Baby food / Bottled water
- Other non-perishables
- Shampoo / Soap / Deodorant
- Toothbrush and toothpaste

Bethlehem at the Farm

Journey back in time to Bethlehem on Sunday evening, **December 13** from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. You and your family



will be welcomed to Bethlehem by the Census Taker and introduced to your guide who will lead you through the experience. You will meet a Roman soldier on horseback, visit the market where bread, fruit and other items can be found, meet a group of shepherds warming themselves around a campfire and talking about seeing the

angels and their visit to see the baby. Meet the Innkeeper, encounter a person in need, feed the animals, and of course, visit Mary, Joseph and the newborn baby.

All COVID guidelines will be practiced: social distancing, hand sanitizing, and temperature checks as you enter the city. In order to maintain an outside gathering maximum of 50 persons at one time, it is important that you sign up below or if you prefer, you may call the church office 704-786-0166 to schedule your time. Each time slot is 20 minutes long.

A huge THANK YOU to Jeff and Nita Jones for allowing us to use their farm for this special event. The address of the farm is 835 Brafford Drive, Concord, NC 28025. We hope to see you in Bethlehem.

[Make Your Reservation](#)

OFFERING ENVELOPES

St. James' Offering Envelopes for 2021 are now available for pickup at the church. You can drive under the portico and either ring the bell or call the church office 704-786-0166 and we will bring your envelopes to you. If you would prefer to have your envelopes mailed to you, contact Jill Irvin. jill@sjnc.net



SOCIAL MINISTRY

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

St. James will be ringing the bell for Salvation Army on Friday, December 4 and December 11. The location is Sam's Club at the Northlite



Shopping Center at Exit #60.

Sign up now! We only have six people that have signed up to ring. You will be outside and masked and socially distanced from other people.

Reserve Your Spot



CUDDLE UP COAT DRIVE

The Cabarrus Partnership for Children kicked off its 14th annual Cuddle Up Coat Drive on October 1st. This winter, more than ever, we need your help to ensure all of our community's children are warm.

In an effort to keep our families, children, and staff safe, we will not be accepting coats, socks, underwear, mittens or hats this year. Instead we are asking for checks (written to St. James Lutheran Church, note Coat Drive in the memo line), so that the Partnership staff can purchase the coats and winter items that local children need.



CCM FOOD PANTRY

We also are sending out a LOT of food! In recent months we have averaged serving between 750 and 800 households through our drive-through food pantry at our Crisis Center. With our satellite pantries and other food programs, we are serving about 1,500 households a month! In the first two weeks of November, we had already served 500 households, including 80 in one day on November 2! So almost as fast as the food is donated, we're distributing it.

Donations can be dropped by the church during office hours. Pull up under the Portico and call the office. 704-786-0166

Our current big needs are:

- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Corn
- Baked Beans (Pork & Beans)
- Other canned beans except for Pinto (black, kidney, chili, etc.)
- Any dried beans
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Pasta Sauce

- Canned pasta w/ meat (spaghetti w/ meatballs, ravioli, etc.)

As always, we especially seek low sodium items, no-added-sugar items, and whole grain items.

CHURCH-WIDE NEWS

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Wondering how to make a positive impact in the world right now? With ELCA Good Gifts, you can choose from 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones. Each one of these gifts makes a real impact in the world, sharing the love of Christ — one goat, water well or school uniform at a time.

Start your holiday shopping now and order free, customized cards for each gift you give. Please give by Dec. 10, 2020, to ensure that your cards arrive in time for Christmas.



[Shop Now](#)

You're Invited!

Stars and Promises Christmas Concert feat. Peter Mayer, lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffett

Dec. 9, 2020 | 7 p.m. Central time
Benefiting ELCA World Hunger

Facebook Premiere
(Accessible without a Facebook account)



 ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The image is a promotional poster for a Christmas concert. It has a dark blue background with white stars. The text is in white and yellow. There is a photo of Peter Mayer playing guitar on stage. At the bottom left, there is a logo for ELCA World Hunger.

CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERT

December 9 - 8:00 pm

In the first-ever event of its kind, ELCA World Hunger presents an online Christmas benefit concert featuring Peter Mayer, a longtime Lutheran and the lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffett.

Although we are in the midst of a difficult winter due to COVID-19, we know that, through God's abundance, you have shown incredible generosity by supporting the necessary work of the church. This concert is a

gift to you this Advent season. It is a way for us to say thank you and provide a place for you to gather online with the church community as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.

The concert is free and will premiere on the [ELCA Facebook page](#), with a live chat so you can engage with the audience, ELCA staff and Peter Mayer himself. Donations to ELCA World Hunger are encouraged and will support our church's work to respond to hunger

and poverty in more than 60 countries around the world. Register now to receive a free, exclusive Peter Mayer Christmas album download, created just for this event!

[Click here to get my free album](#)

Get the latest information through the [Facebook event](#) and share with your friends! Join the fun on Twitter and Instagram with the hashtags #ELCACHurchTogether and #StarsAndPromises, and we'll be resharing your posts.

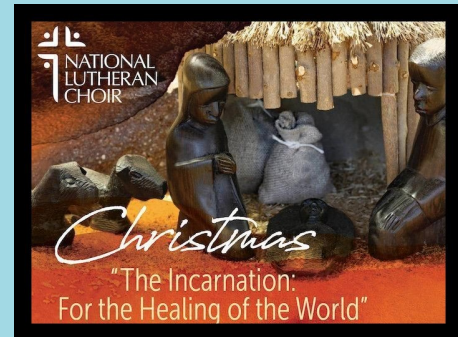
We hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL VIRTUAL PROGRAM

December 11 - 8:00 pm

The National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival comes to audiences FREE in a virtual, multi-media format on **December 11**.

The Incarnation: For the Healing of the World brings music from around the globe announcing the birth of Christ with messages of peace and joy that nothing—not even a pandemic—can take away.



[Details Here](#)

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

YOUTH REGATHERING

We were able to gather in person in March and that was the last time we were able to meet in person, up until NOW! The Synod Guidelines have change and now Youth and Children may gather together within these guidelines:

- Outside only
- Wear masks
- Practice social distancing
- Have no more than 25 people total

- **November 29** No Youth
- **December 13** Bethlehem on the Farm



CHURCH RESOURCES

ONLINE GIVING



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](#)

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](#)
- **Kenny Propst**, Congregation President [Email](#)

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Church Email info@sjnc.net

