

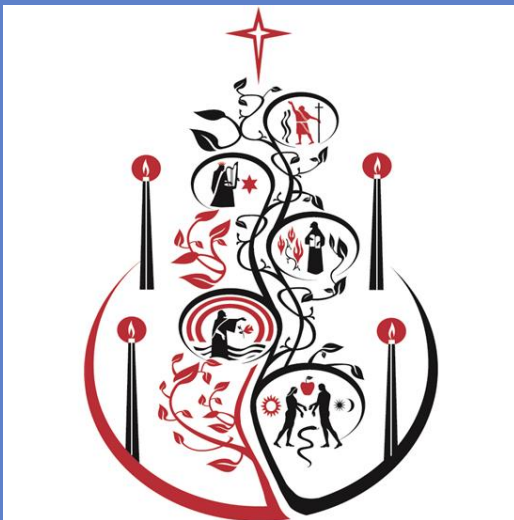
# St. James Lutheran Church

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

## Ring Out A Weekly Newsletter



### WEEK OF DECEMBER 13



**Worship Bulletin Dec. 13**

#### Third Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

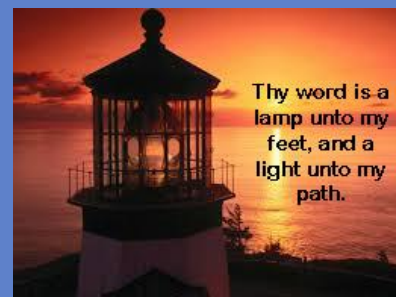
#### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**First Reading** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

**Psalm** Psalm 126

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Gospel** John 1:6-8, 19-28



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

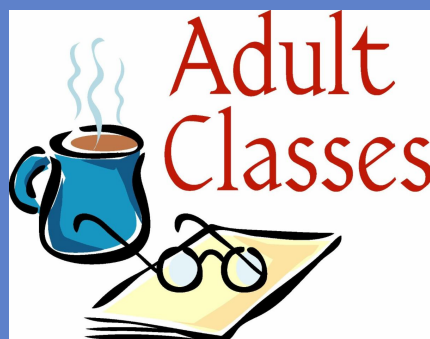


## ONLINE WORSHIP

Online Worship for Sunday, December 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.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS ZOOM

Frank Irvin will be offering a Zoom Sunday School class on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited. Please have a Bible or Bible App ready because we're going to look outside the texts listed in the lesson. Click on the link below to join in the discussion.



### [Study Guide- Jacob's Family](#)

[Join Class on Zoom](#)



## ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

### [Sunday, December 13](#)

9:30 am Online Worship Service  
10:00 am Zoom Sunday School  
4:00 - 7:00 pm Bethlehem at the Farm

### [Thursday, December 17](#)

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

### [Sunday, December 20](#)

9:30 am Online Worship Service  
10:00 am Zoom Sunday School  
5:00 pm Youth In-Person  
Christmas Gathering

# DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre-2 <sup>nd</sup> 7:00 pm Bible Heroes 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	4	5
<b>6 Advent 2</b> 9:30 am Online Worship 10:00 am Sunday School – Zoom 5:00 pm Youth In-Person 5:30 pm Tree Lighting / Caroling	7	8 6:00 pm Congregation Council	9 7:00 pm Drive-In Worship 	10 6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre-2 <sup>nd</sup> 7:00 pm Bible Heroes 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	11	12
<b>13 Advent 3</b> 9:30 am Online Worship 10:00 am Sunday School – Zoom 4:00 – 7:00 Bethlehem at the Farm	14	15	16	17 6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre-2 <sup>nd</sup> 7:00 pm Bible Heroes 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	18	19
<b>20 Advent 4</b> 9:30 am Online Worship 10:00 am Sunday School – Zoom 5:00 pm Youth Christmas Gathering – In-Person	21	22	23	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 5:00/5:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship TBD Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25 Christmas</b> Church Office Closed 	26
<b>27 Christmas 1</b> 9:30 am Online Worship No Youth	28 Church Office Closed	29	30	31	1 Church Office Closed	

[Download December Calendar](#)

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- 13-Dec.** Debbie Davis
- 15-Dec.** Kelley Carpenter
- 16-Dec.** Don Fowler
- 16-Dec.** William Irvin
- 16-Dec.** Justin Urso
- 18-Dec.** Judy McAnulty
- 19-Dec.** Jakob Craver
- 19-Dec.** Heather Hughes



## CHURCH NEWS



### “Virtual” Poinsettias for Christmas 2020

This Christmas we can honor our loved ones while also helping our local ministries like Opportunity House, CCM and Salvation Army Shelter of

Hope! The church will still list tributes to those we cherish, but instead of buying poinsettias to brighten our sanctuary, we will be sending contributions to our local social ministries that are experiencing increased needs during the pandemic. What a wonderful way to help others during the Christmas season.

To honor a loved one with a virtual poinsettia, complete the form. Payment can be mailed to the church or paid online.

We will list the donations in a special Ring Out during Christmas Week and also will be included with the Christmas Eve bulletins.

[Order Virtual Poinsettias](#)

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Our Christmas Eve Worship this year will be held outdoors in the Garden Lot at St. James. Social distancing will be followed and masks must be worn. You may bring a yard chair if desired. There will be two services offered. The service will also be broadcast over FM radio 93.9 to those who prefer to stay in their cars, parking in the back Portico Lot. An Online service will also be available.



There will be an early service around 5:00 or 5:30 and then a service later in the evening. Please indicate your worship preference below. This will help in our planning. Thank you!

[Christmas Eve Preference Survey](#)



## 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](mailto:jill@sjnc.net)

**SOCIAL MINISTRY**



## MY FATHER'S HOUSE

St. James / St. Johns Lutheran will be hosting My Father's House Ministry December 21, 22 and 23. St. James will provide the dinner meals on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 21 and

22. There are presently 18 people in the Ministry, 10 adults including staff and 8 children.

If you can provide an item for the meal, please let Sylvia Corl (704-786-0296 H or 704-425-8621 C) know and she can pick items up from your home and take it to MFH on the proper night. Thanks so much for your help with this needed Ministry.

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## 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.



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## CCM FOOD PANTRY

We 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.

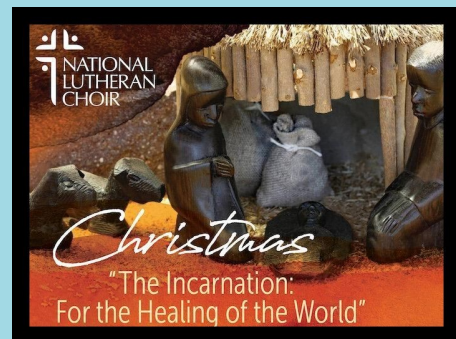
## CHURCH-WIDE NEWS

### CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL VIRTUAL PROGRAM

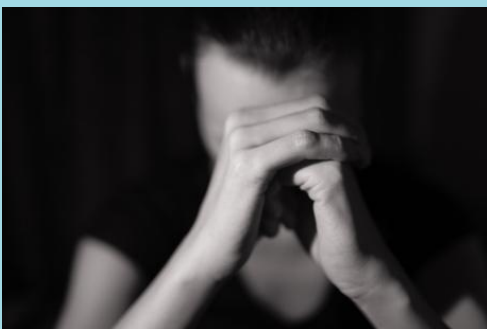
**December 11 - 8:00 pm**

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](#)



### ADVENT IS A SEASON OF SIGHS, ESPECIALLY THIS YEAR

*Richard Lischer  
The Christian Century*

*We don't pine for a second coming that will bring the world to an end. We pray for the indwelling of Christ that will enable the world to continue.*

Before Advent is a word, it is a sigh. A voice crying. A mood. And never more deeply felt than in these troubled months. Advent marks both the exhaustion and the hope of God's people, when the meaning of our lives is expressed in a weary exhalation of ordinary breath and

then a sharp intake of something greater.

The prayers and hymns of this season begin with an inarticulate plea for deliverance. It was first voiced not by a hymn writer but by a prophet: “O that thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down” (Is. 64:1). It is in this eighth-century prayer: “O Key of David . . . you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open. O come and lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.”

“O . . .” We are grieving this Advent, which is not like us this close to Christmas. For preachers, the usual challenge of the season is to hold Christmas cheer at bay so as to allow Advent to retain its own brooding character. This year I have a feeling that won’t be a problem. I think we will linger in Advent this year.

[Read the Full Article](#)

## 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](#)

## 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
- **December 13** Bethlehem on the Farm
- **December 20** Youth Christmas Gathering In-Person
- **December 27** No Youth

## 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](#)

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### 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](#)
- 

Church Office: 704-786-0166

Website: [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net)

Church Email [info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net)



