

St. James Lutheran Church

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

Ring Out A Weekly Newsletter



WEEK OF DECEMBER 19



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

IN-PERSON WORSHIP Sunday, December 19

In-Person Indoor Worship will be Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

The Health and Safety Committee and Church Council strongly encourage everyone to wear masks during worship. Congregational singing has resumed with masks.





WEEKLY WORSHIP

Live Streamed

Online Worship for December 19 will be live-streamed on YouTube beginning at 9:50 on Sunday morning. An email with the link will be sent on Sunday morning. You can also watch a recorded version later by visiting our YouTube page. You can open or print the bulletin and follow along with the service.



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"*

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 12, 2021
10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

LIVE 
STREAMING

[Bulletin for December 19](#)

[Watch Livestream](#)



ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 19

9:00 am Adult Sunday Schl
9:50 am Live Stream Begins
10:00 am In-Person Worship
11:15 am Children's



BIRTHDAYS THIS

Christmas Program Meeting
4:00 pm Youth Gathering

Monday, December 20

10:30 am Quilting Group
6:30 pm Scouts

Wednesday, December 22

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 24

5:30 pm Nativity of our Lord
11:00 pm Nativity of our Lord
Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 26

9:50 am Live Stream Begins
10:00 am In-Person Worship

Monday, December 27

Church Office Closed

WEEK

19-Dec Jakob Craver

19-Dec Heather Hughes

20-Dec Rory Kartheiser

23-Dec Lauren Irvin

25-Dec Bub Craver

25-Dec Ryan Hardister

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

- **Youth Christmas Gathering:** Dec. 19 at 4:00
- **Nativity of our Lord / Children's Christmas Program** Dec. 24 / 5:30
- **Nativity of our Lord / Special Music** Dec. 24 / 11:00

CHURCH NEWS



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM MEETING**

Several weeks ago I shared that out of safety concerns for our children, instead of singing carols, as each piece of the Christmas story is read, we would like the youth / children (and perhaps families) to help bring the story to life – dressing as shepherds, angels, Joseph and Mary, perhaps even some sheep and other animals. Between each piece of the story youth or children who play musical instruments will offer an interlude and / or the congregation will sing the verse of a hymn.

There are no lines to learn, no weekly rehearsals...just an opportunity to have our children participate in the wonderful story of Jesus' birth.

This Sunday (December 19) immediately after worship, we will have a short meeting in the fellowship hall to identify characters, and

pick up costumes. If you cannot attend but would like to participate please contact me. tony@sjnc.net Golda will be posting more info on our Facebook page.

Peace, Pastor Tony

THIS CHRISTMAS,

*there is a place
for you here*

If you are seeking a place to call home this holiday,
we are right in your neighborhood. Join us as we
sing, worship and celebrate Christ's birth.



St. James Lutheran Church
CHRISTMAS EVE
DEC. 24TH
5:30 PM & 11:00 PM

This is Christ's church, and there is a place for you here.



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

JAN 2 2022
2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - CONCORD, N.C.



NAME _____

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."
1 Peter 4:10

Operating/Ministries \$ _____	Property Capital Fund \$ _____
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OFFERING ENVELOPES

The Offering Envelopes for 2022 are now available in the Portico Entrance. If you would prefer for your envelopes to be mailed, please contact Jill Irvin in the church office. 704-786-0166



2022 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2022 Flower Calendar is now available online for you to make your reservation. Use the link below to select your date(s) and make your reservation. We use Pots of Luck Florist in Concord and the cost of two vases is \$100. If you would prefer, you can call the church office to make your reservation. Payment for flowers can be mailed or dropped off at the church or placed in the offering plate with a notation "Altar Flowers" in the memo line.

Make Your Reservation

SOCIAL MINISTRY

CCM FOOD PANTRY DECEMBER

We have experienced a significant jump in the number of households seeking food assistance across the whole CCM Food Program (all pantries, Samaritan's Table, etc.) this month. At the Crisis Center through this past Friday (10 service days) we have served 359 households representing 1,311 individuals (average family size 3.6!). Of those, 53 households (15%) had not been to CCM for assistance before! We



are guessing that many more households are experiencing the squeeze of rapidly increasing rentals costs.

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:

- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Corn
- Canned Pinto Beans and Baked Beans (pork & beans)
- Soup
- Pasta Sauce
- Rice (1lb or 2lb)
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal
- Diapers (all sizes)

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

CHURCHWIDE NEWS

URGENT: TORNADO RESPONSE

Last week an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. **Lutheran Disaster**

Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners in the area to assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. Recovery will take years as thousands of homes will need to be rebuilt or repaired. Your gifts to “U.S. Tornadoes” will be used in full (100%) to help people impacted by the tornadoes until the response is complete.



[Give Now](#)

ABOUND IN hope

This is our second pandemic Christmas. We thought this would be over so long ago. And still, we wear masks; we're physically distant; we can't be with friends and family as we used to do. And also, there's so much that's broken in this world, so much that tells us, "Why have hope? Just give up."

But we have a hope that's stronger than any of this, stronger even than death. The hope of God comes in the form of a tiny baby, a helpless child; nevertheless, who grew to a man and in his fragile strength was willing to die on the cross and was raised again. I don't know what next Christmas will bring. I don't know what New Year's will bring. But I do know we have hope.

St. Paul put it this way:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Merry Christmas, dear church.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



WE ARE THE BRANCHES

Each week we will remember in prayer our



brothers and sisters at one of our partner Lutheran churches in the NC Synod. Please lift them up in your prayers during the week also. This week we remember:

Kure Memorial Lutheran Church Kure Beach, NC

117 North Third Avenue
Kure Beach, NC
910.458.5266
Pastor Dan Keck



Learn More about
[Kure Memorial Lutheran](#)

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

~John 15:5

ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS
CATALOG



These Gifts Do a Lot of Good.

Wondering how you can make a positive impact in the world right now? With ELCA Good Gifts, you can choose from more than 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones. Each 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. Print-at-home and online cards are also available instantly at any time.

[**Shop Now**](#)



\$10 Chicks



\$30 Piglet



\$50 Goat



\$20 Honeybees

YOUTH NEWS



Christmas Gathering / Youth Worship: Dec. 19

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

**ONLINE
GIVING**



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.

[Give Now](#)

ST. JAMES STAFF

- **Rev. Tony Bradshaw**, *Senior Pastor* [Email](#)
- **Keith Sutton**, *Parish Administrator* [Email](#)
- **Jill Irvin**, *Financial Administrator* [Email](#)
- **Scott F. Foppiano**, *Organist / Director of Music* [Email](#)
- **Mike Holt**, *Youth and Family* [Email](#)
- **Dr. Glenda Poole**, *Interim Organist* [Email](#)
- **Kathryn Radcliffe**, *Nursery Coordinator* [Email](#)
- **Joseph Beasley**, *Congregation President* [Email](#)

[View as Webpage](#)

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