

St. James Lutheran Church

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

Ring Out A Weekly Newsletter



WEEK OF DECEMBER 27



Worship Bulletin Dec. 27

First Sunday of Christmas

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

DRAW US CLOSE

The joy of discovery that moment when hope and expectation were gloriously met by the illumination of one bright star.



We cannot imagine what words were spoken by visitors or if first impressions left them somewhat confused.
Messiah, Savior, a King born in the barest of palaces.

Yet they saw and fell down on their knees in adoration.
Lord, they saw you and knew whom they had met.
As we meet around crib candle or advent wreath
draw us into that stable in our imagination.

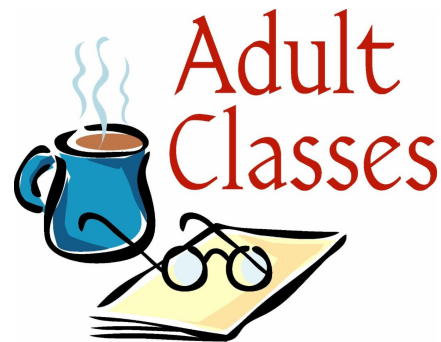
In the quiet moments of prayer this Christmas,
that brief oasis from the bustle of the world bring alive to us
the smell of the hay, the sound of the animals, the cry of a baby.
Draw us close to our Savior



Online Worship for Sunday, December 27 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

"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone! Adult Zoom classes will take a two week hiatus for Dec 27 and Jan 3, and resume on Jan 10. Instead of class, I would like for everyone to watch the YouTube video titled " The Lutheran View of the End Times". In this time of Advent, and as we look forward to the Second Advent of Christ, this video helps to cut through the confusion and scary of the End Times and gives us comfort! Hope you enjoy it!



[Lutheran View of the End Times](#)



ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 27

9:30 am Online Worship
Service- Lessons and Carols

Friday, January 1

New Year's Day
Church Office Closed

Monday, December 28

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 3

9:30 am Online Worship Service

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- 28-Dec. Beth Downs
- 28-Dec. Megan Sanders-Ostrom
- 29-Dec. Bobby Clary
- 29-Dec. Barbara Merrell
- 29-Dec. Joshua Monk
- 31-Dec. Catherine Nivens



CHURCH NEWS



VIRTUAL POINSETTIAS

This year since we were not meeting inside the church, we are recognizing our loved ones with virtual poinsettias. We will be sending contributions to our local social ministries that are experiencing increased needs during the pandemic. Thank you to everyone who purchased a virtual poinsettia. **\$1,785** was raised for local ministries. What a wonderful way to help others during the Christmas season.

Virtual Poinsettia Tributes



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

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

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 are sending out a LOT of food! In November



at the Crisis Center drive-through Food Pantry, we served a record 919 households, representing about 3,422 individuals, in 19 days we were open! That is an average of 48 households a day, and one of those days we had a tropical storm and Country Club Drive was closed below us. The need definitely is increasing in our community, so we sure appreciate all of our supporting partners.

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:

- Cereal
- Canned Carrots, Peas, Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables
- Soup
- Canned Fruit
- Baked Beans (Pork & Beans)
- Other canned beans except for pinto, black, kidney, chili
- Any dried beans
- Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter

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

CHURCH-WIDE NEWS

LESSONS AND CAROLS WORSHIP



The synod staff will provide two options—a recording and a live Zoom call—of a Lessons & Carols service on **Sunday, December 27**, featuring music from Rachel Kurtz, Christopher Clay, and the Lenior-Rhyne Choir.

The recording will be available on December 27 by 8:30 a.m. on the synod's [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#). The live worship via Zoom will be at 7:00 p.m. and will be led by Pastor CeCee Mills, Pastor Athena Thomasson-Bless, and Deacon Tammy Jones West. [CLICK THIS Zoom link to join.](#)

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 changed 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
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- **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](#)

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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