

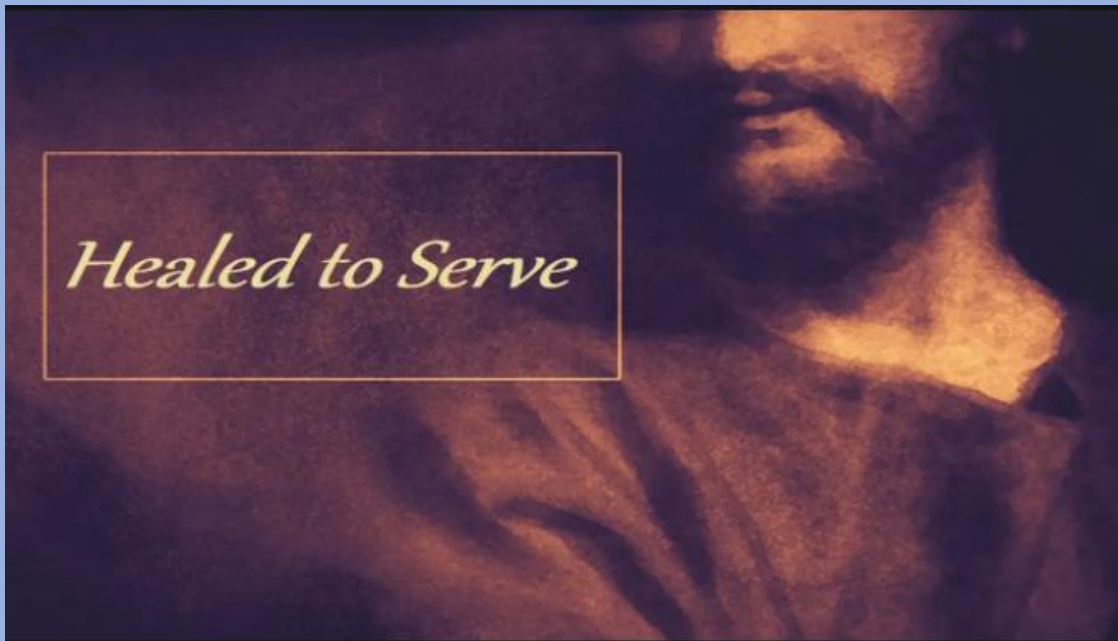
St. James Lutheran Church

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

Ring Out A Weekly Newsletter



WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7



5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.





WEEKLY ONLINE WORSHIP

Online Worship for Sunday, January 31 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.

**Worship Bulletin
February 7**



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.

[Joseph Forgives
Study Guide](#)

[Scripture Readings](#)

Join the Class



ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

CHURCH EVENTS

Sunday, February 7

9:30 am Online Worship Service
10:00 am Zoom Sunday School
3:00 pm Youth Service Project

BIRTHDAYS

07-Feb. Mark Williams
08-Feb. Doris Smith
09-Feb. Jimmy Marlow

5:00 pm Youth Meeting

Tuesday, February 9

6:00 pm Congregation Council

Wednesday, February 10

9:30 pm College Online

Thursday, February 11

6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre-2nd

7:00 pm Bible Heroes 3rd-5th

Sunday, February 14

9:30 am Online Worship Service

10:00 am Zoom Sunday School

10-Feb. John King

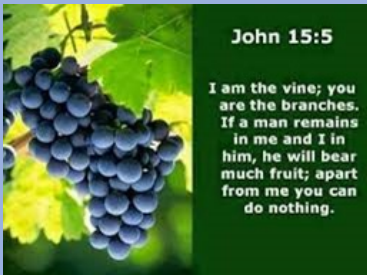
11-Feb. Natalie Sheldon

12-Feb. Jean Beasley

13-Feb. Wade Bestler

13-Feb. Jeff Carpenter

CHURCH NEWS



FROM PASTOR TONY

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)

Several things have become quite obvious over the last ten months of social distancing. One is worship is possible without beautiful buildings, processions, acolytes, crucifers, ushers, greeters, choirs, and detailed bulletins. While these things certainly add to the joy of worship, at least according to Martin Luther, the essential moments of public worship are reading and hearing God's holy word (including the presence and proclamation of Christ in the sacraments), and responding through prayer and praise.

This leads me to the second thing we have discovered - we can worship and be about the work of the church without being physically together - at least for a time - and we have done that through online worship services, phone calls checking in with the homebound, and supporting ministries like CCM, Opportunity House, Salvation Army, Our Father's House, the Blessing Box ministry we stocked this past month...and the list goes on.

But what has become most obvious during this time apart is how interconnected our lives are as a country, and even more so as a church. And it's that last part I want to focus on, for the longer we are physically separated from one another, and the more we allow political, economic, and social issues to tear us apart, the more likely we are to forget that we are part of something greater than ourselves

(the vine), begin to see the gospel as an individual possession rather than a gift to be shared, and dry up.

In the waters of holy baptism we are claimed as precious children of God, joined together as sisters and brothers to the one vine (Christ) and called to bear much fruit. And as Christ's body the church we are able to accomplish (bear) far more fruit together than any one of us can accomplish alone.

The same is true in our relationship with the churches that make up our denomination – the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Sometimes we can get so caught up in our ministry together as a congregation, and listen to all of the voices claiming that denominations are dying, that we forget we are one of over 9,100 congregations in the United States, and one of nearly 200 Lutheran congregations in North Carolina that share a living, daring confidence in God's grace - a grace that frees us to participate in God's work in the world – and that together we can accomplish so much more than is capable alone.

It is my hope and prayer that we are able to gather together again soon and know the joy of Christian fellowship, but until then we will continue to provide opportunities to worship and study the scriptures on-line, celebrate Holy Communion in drive-in worship services, and identify community needs we can safely support through our time, talents, and resources.

We will also in the months to come, be more intentional in seeking to renew and strengthen our relationship with the ELCA, and in particular, the NC Synod, by considering what a synod is, recalling our rich history as part of the NC Synod and the larger church, lifting up the ministries and resources we share as part of the synod and larger church, and reviewing how benevolence dollars are spent.

As part of this process, it will also be important to share both our joys and concerns of being connected with the ELCA and NC Synod, celebrating what needs to be celebrated and grieving what needs to be grieved, so that we may move forward together, abiding in the love, grace, and mercy of the one vine, for the sake of the gospel.

In Christ, Pastor Tony

ST JAMES' FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

The February Newsletter that is mailed to our members who don't have email to receive the weekly news is posted on our website. It

FEBRUARY 2021

St. James Lutheran Church
Newsletter

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IN THIS ISSUE

1. Ash Wednesday Drive-In Communion / From Pastor Tony
2. From Pastor Tony
3. Memorials
4. In Our Prayers / Birthdays
5. Sunday Themes for February
6. February Calendar

ASH WEDNESDAY DRIVE-IN WORSHIP
February 17 at 6:30 pm

ASH
Join us in your car for a Drive-In Ash Wednesday communion service on Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30 pm. The service will be held in the Garden Lot. Mark your calendars now as we begin our Lenten journey together. More details and bulletin coming soon.

Your church is here for you. Please do not hesitate to call the church office, 704-786-0166 and leave a message if you have needs. This could include picking up medicine, groceries, etc. Your church family is here for you!

John 15:15

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 15:15)

Several things have become quite obvious over the last ten months of social distancing. One is worship is possible without beautiful buildings, processions, candles, caskets, lanterns, greeters, choir, and detailed bulletins. While these things certainly add to the joy of worship, at least according to Martin Luther, the essential moments of public worship are reading and hearing God's holy word (including the presence and proclamation of Christ in the sacraments), and responding through prayer and praise.

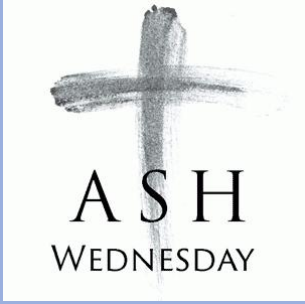
This leads me to the second thing we have discovered: we can worship and be about the work of the church without being physically together—at least for a time. —continued on Page 2

contains our on-going prayer list, memorials and honorariums during the last month, the monthly calendar and more.

February Newsletter

ASH WEDNESDAY DRIVE-IN WORSHIP

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Since the adoption of the 2016 Downtown Master Plan, over \$24 Million has been invested by the private sector in response to over \$15 Million invested by the public sector in downtown. Investments have included nearly 50 residential units in the former Hotel Concord and Lofts 29, a 600-space county-owned parking deck, a variety of infrastructure improvements, and nearly 300 additional residential units with supporting retail and office space spread throughout three buildings that is nearing the construction phase on Market Street behind City Hall (anticipated investment \$60 Million). The City is also underway with the planning and design phase for a new streetscape for Union Street that will enhance the pedestrian experience and make room for additional outdoor dining and amenities. The Master Plan update aims to keep the momentum moving forward by building

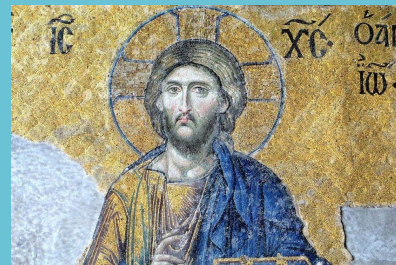
on the success of the 2016 plan and creating a strategic vision for downtown for the next five years.

[Find Out More and Take Survey](#)

CHURCH-WIDE NEWS

AIN'T IT THE TRUTH?

The Bible lifts up competing narratives as a foundational human dilemma. While all of creation God proclaims, “very good,” God also warns the first humans that even in paradise there are boundaries, that enhance the greatest gifts of all—relationship with God and with one another. The tree of which they are instructed not to eat is the Tree of all knowledge of good and evil.



[Read Bishop Tim's Full Reflection](#)

SYNOD E-NEWS

Our NC Synod publishes a bi-monthly newsletter that contains information, events, and opportunities throughout the Lutheran churches in North Carolina.



[Read Now](#)



Ready to Share a Smile with Someone Special this Valentine's Day?

Give [honeybees](#) (\$20), a [fruit-tree seedling](#) (\$10) or a [piglet](#) (\$30) in honor of your valentine and help someone around the world overcome hunger and poverty. Each gift provides a sustainable source of food, income or both to help a family in need. This Valentine's Day, you can share the love of Christ far and wide!

Donate now and print or email one of our [limited-edition cards](#) to let your valentine know about your sweet gift. Card options are available after checkout.

Shop Now

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH ZOOM MEETINGS

- February 7
- February 14
- February 21



GOODBYE 2020—HELLO 2021

It seems that 2020 was a roller coaster ride filled with a lot of turns, corkscrews and dark tunnels, but I sure am glad that 2021 is here and I can see us pulling into the station to get off of the ride. It's been a ride for sure, one of those rides that you wish you had not gotten on in the first place, but you're glad you were able to get off to never ride again. So Goodbye 2020!

Hello 2021! But so far, 2021 looks to be the same as 2020! What happened? There are supposed to be some changes, a breath of fresh air, light at the end of the tunnel kind of changes. Well, if you look hard enough, you can see the light while taking in the breath of fresh air. (Don't forget to wear your mask though.)

BIBLE HEROES:

Bible Heroes is designed for those younger than youth age. It's short, has meaning and is a great learning adventure of faith. We gather through ZOOM on Thursday evenings starting with the younger ones through 2nd grade gathering at 6:30 and the older crowd, 3rd through 5th grade starts at 7:00. The Zoom ID is sent out through email. If you haven't been receiving the Bible Heroes email, please let us know and we will be happy to add you. We hope to see you online at Bible Heroes!

SAD TO SAY

Sad to say, we will not have any of our usual fundraisers, (Valentine's Dinner, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, and the Spring Port at Pit) this year. However, we will plan to have a Port A Pit in the fall.

COLLEGE ONLINE

College Online gathers through Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 9:30. It's a great time to get together, see each other, check in to see how everyone is doing and to share in a faith based discussion. If you haven't been receiving an invitation through text, please let us know and we'll be happy to add you to the College Online invitation.

YOUTH GATHERINGS

As it stands now, we will continue to gather in person, every Sunday evening with the exception of a few long weekends and holidays. We will gather outside at Calvary's picnic shelter starting at 5:00. COVID Guidelines will be practiced so make sure you're wearing your mask.

SO, WHAT'S UP WITH 2021?

Check out what we have planned



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](#)
- **Joseph Beasley**, Congregation President [Email](#)

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