

St. James Lutheran Church

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

Ring Out A Weekly Newsletter



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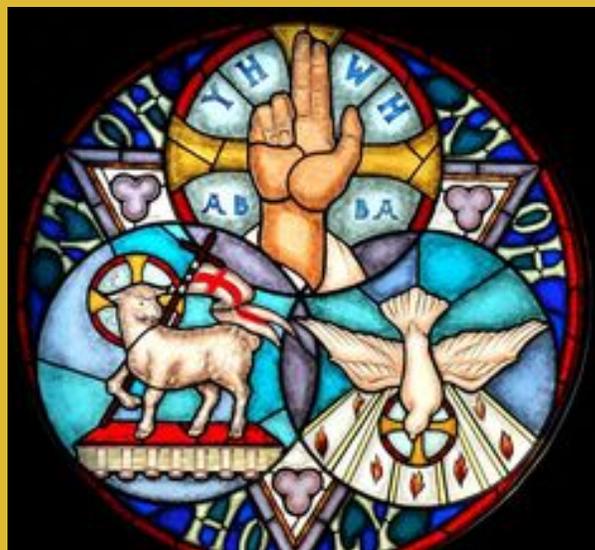
WEEKS OF MAY 23 / 30



DAY OF PENTECOST - May 23

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit.

Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.



THE HOLY TRINITY - May 30

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Sunday, May 23 / 30

In-Person Indoor Worship will be Sunday at 10:00 a.m. In consultation with the executive committee of the council, masks will no longer be required for indoor worship. We will however, at least for the moment, continue to social distance and refrain from indoor singing. Communion will be available every Sunday beginning May 23.

GATHER WITH US FOR
IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We encourage those who have not been fully vaccinated to continue to wear masks and that even those who have been fully vaccinated consider wearing a mask, particularly when entering and exiting worship, for the sake of those who have not been vaccinated.



NURSERY

A nursery will be available during worship beginning this Sunday, May 23. In keeping with CDC guidelines, and for the safety of our children, masks must be worn by nursery attendants and children 2

years old and older.

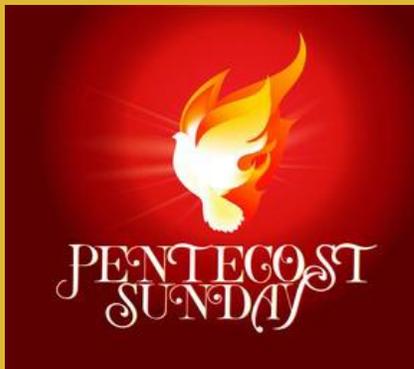


WEEKLY WORSHIP Live Streamed

Online Worship for May 23 and May 30 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.

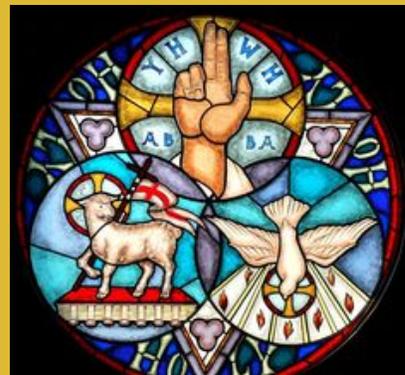
DAY OF PENTECOST



[Watch Live Stream](#)

[Worship Bulletin May 23](#)

THE HOLY TRINITY



[Watch Live Stream](#)

[Worship Bulletin May 30](#)

ON THE CALENDAR

CHURCH EVENTS

Sunday, May 23

9:55 am Live Steam Worship
10:00 am In-Person Worship
3:00 pm Youth at Propst's Farm

Monday, May 24

10:30 am Quilting Group

Thursday, May 27

6:30 pm Bible Heroes
7:00 pm Bible Heroes

Sunday, May 30

9:55 am Live Steam Worship
10:00 am In-Person Worship

Monday, May 31

10:30 am Quilting Group

Tuesday, June 1

2:00 pm Social Ministry Meeting
6:30 pm Baccalaureate Service
at Calvary
Deadline for Cook Scholarship
Applications

Sunday, June 6

9:55 am Live Steam Worship
10:00 am In-Person Worship

BIRTHDAYS

23-May Grayson Downs

23-May Mason Overby

27-May Brad Baker

29-May Dylan Rutemiller

31-May Joe Grady

31-May Samantha Hillegass

01-Jun Jason Kartheiser

01-Jun Keith Sutton

03-Jun Mike Holt

03-Jun Nancy Hopkins

03-Jun Jack Nivens

04-Jun Thomas Propst, Jr.

04-Jun Miles Walker

05-Jun Mark Davis

05-Jun Joe Wilson

CHURCH NEWS



COOK SCHOLARSHIPS

In 1968, John M. Cook, Jr established an endowment to assist college and graduate students who are members of St. James Lutheran Church to help pay their tuition.

The Cook Trust Fund Committee is now accepting applications for the fall and spring semesters of the school year 2021/2022.

Applications are available in the church office. The deadline to return the application will be **June 1st, 2021** to be considered for a scholarship this fall.

Please contact Kenny Propst with any questions that you may have regarding the application process at 704-467-2300 or fcpinc@vnet.net.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SALVATION ARMY CENTER OF HOPE



LET'S BUILD HOPE!! - SAVE THE DATE

THE SALVATION ARMY CENTER OF HOPE LAND DEDICATION

for Cabarrus & Stanly County Residents

JUNE 4, 2021 | SAM
CORNER OF PATTERSON AND ASHLYN

*Please partner with The Salvation Army to change lives
and renew hope in our community.*



PICTURE HOPE CAMPAIGN

Where we are now:

We have currently raised or received pledge amounts that equal to \$5,144,131 of our \$7 million goal! Our efforts in this journey began by reaching out to private donors, followed by an official campaign kickoff in September 2019. We are moving full force to reach out to agencies, corporations, and individuals in the community to make this vision a reality. To do so, we are hoping for your support to complete the funding needed to charge ahead with this project. We hope to take these studies, thoughts, and plans and bring them to life to make lasting impacts in the lives of many people in need. Our goal is to break ground on the shelter in fall 2021.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 704-791-4323 OR EMAIL
AMANDA.KEATON@USS.SALVATIONARMY.ORG
A FORMAL INVITATION WILL BE MAILED IN MAY.



ESTHER'S HEART

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Saturday, June 5, 2021

Esther's Heart for Transformation Ministry is growing. Join the celebration and ribbon cutting.

OPEN HOUSE

Esther's Heart for
Transformation Ministry Inc.
is **GROWING** and we'd like for
you to join us as we celebrate
what GOD has done!

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021 - 1PM TO 4PM
RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY - 1:30PM

ESTHER'S PLACE

728 JACKSON TERRACE ST. SW
CONCORD, NC 28027



PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 20, 2021
[HTTP://BIT.LY/ESTHERSOPENHOUSE](http://bit.ly/esthersopenhouse)
FOR MORE INFO CALL 704.964.6125



CCM FOOD PANTRY

We are beginning to shift our models somewhat. In the past, our approach was “If you need food, come and get it!” And that works for many of the food-insecure in our community. However, we have begun to recognize that there are some who cannot come, for whatever reasons. So now we are beginning to think about how we can get the food to them. We are developing partnerships with Elder Orphan Care and the Community Paramedic program, sharing food resources with them to share with their clients. We also had developed a program in partnership with the county, Atrium, and the Cabarrus Health Alliance to deliver groceries to families who were under quarantine but needed food. Now we are putting the final touches on a similar but on-going program to deliver groceries to homebound households who lack the support system to help them get food from our pantry. It is amazing to see how God is opening doors for us to increase our impact and serve our food-insecure neighbors.

We continue to be so grateful to all the churches and organizations who support us with on-going and occasional food collections. You truly are invaluable!

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 carrots, peas, potatoes and mixed vegetables
- Diced tomatoes
- Canned fruit
- Canned beans (not green)
- Any dried beans
- Pasta sauce
- Toilet paper

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

CHURCHWIDE NEWS

NC SYNOD ASSEMBLY

June 3 - 5, 2021

You can join this year's NC Synod Assembly in two ways. Voting



members from each congregation and voting rostered ministers will need to be registered and will join Zoom using a link sent to those who register. Guests and visitors do not need to register and may join by visiting the synod's [Facebook page](#) or [YouTube channel](#). We can't wait! See you soon!

Information About Assembly

LET THERE ALWAYS BE A SONG

The church and its music in pandemic times



*Let my spirit always sing,
though my heart be wintering,
though the season of despair
give no sign that you are there,
God to whom my days belong,
let there always be a song.*

—Shirley Erena Murray, “Let My Spirit Always Sing” (ACS, 1020)

This hymn text by the late New Zealand hymn writer Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020) might have readers pushing back about the always of song. Does my spirit always sing? This Easter season may feel more like the extension of a very long winter. Does my spirit feel like singing? If I sing by myself in front of a computer monitor or distanced from others and muffled by a mask in a pew, is it complete? Where is the joy in that song?

Yet notice: “always” refers to the song, not the singer. As Lutherans, we rejoice in music as a gift of God, a gift of the whole creation. Since the morning stars sang together and the trees of the field clapped for joy, there has always been song.

What has changed in this pandemic year has been our experience of this gift of song. This most basic human impulse, to sing, now comes with warning labels. The same breath that animates the song can spread a deadly virus that has stolen the breath of over half a million people in the United States alone. Out of love for our neighbor, our songs have temporarily ceased in the ways that we have known.

We've faced many questions about our experience of music in this pandemic time, specifically our experience of assembly song. How will this time of reduced assembly singing shape our song in the months and years to come? How will it impact the church musician's vocation?

*Seek the disconcerting answers,
follow where the Spirit blows;
test competing truths for wisdom,
for in tension new life grows.*

—David Bjorlin, "Ask the Complicated Questions" (ACS, 1005)

"In tension new life grows." In speaking with musicians and worship leaders, a common theme is the "both/and" dimension to our questions regarding the church's song. This is very much in accord with our theology as Lutherans: saint and sinner, law and gospel. Marcell Silva Steuernagel, a Lutheran and a professor of church music at the Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, said it succinctly: "Opportunity and grief go hand in hand."

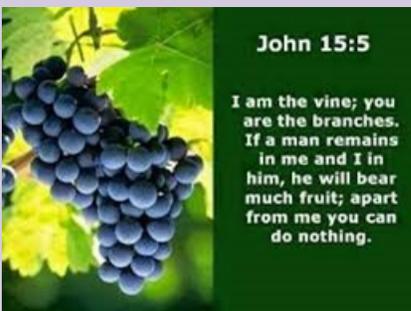
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ASSEMBLY WORSHIP NEEDS YOUR VOICE



You are invited to lend your singing voice to the 2021 Synod Assembly online worship service. The link below provides recording instructions for at-a-distance participation in three hymns: "Built on a Rock," "Lead Me, Guide Me," and "Rise, Shine, You People." All are welcome. Nobody's individual voice will be heard, but everybody's voice will help the cause. You can record one, two, or all three hymns. *Submission deadline is **Thurs., May 27, 11:59 p.m.***

[Directions for Participating](#)



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:

May 23 St. Enoch Evangelical Lutheran Church

[More Information about
St. Enoch Lutheran Church](#)



May 30 Mount Gilead Evangelical Lutheran Church

[More Information about
Mount Gilead Lutheran Church](#)

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

YOUTH NEWS

MAY CALENDAR

May 23 3:00 - 6:00 Cookout and Form Signing at Propst's Farm

May 30 No Youth - Memorial Day

FISHING, HAMBURGERS, GAMES AND A FORM SIGNING GATHERING

May 23 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.



ALL IN ONE AFTERNOON: MAY 23 is the date! 3:00 – 6:00 at the Propst's Farm is the time and location. We will gather for a great afternoon of fun and to give everyone the chance to sign all of the annual and summer forms at one time. Mark your calendar and plan to join us that afternoon. Hope to see you there.

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.

[Give Now](#)



As you have noticed, this week's Ring Out is a two-week issue. I am on vacation next week, May 24-28 and Ring Out will not be published next Friday. I will be back in the office on Monday, May 31.

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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