



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



Ring Out - Week of Dec. 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Introduction to Sunday'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.

Download Bulletin



Sunday Worship will be live-streamed on YouTube beginning at 9:45 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.

Watch the Live Stream

On the Calendar...

THIS WEEK

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 15

9:00 am Adult SS

9:00 am Choir

9:30 am Children's SS

10:00 am Worship

Monday, December 16

My Father's House Ministry

10:30 am Quilting

6:30 pm Scouts

Tuesday, December 17

My Father's House Ministry

SUNDAY

Sunday Ministries

LECTOR/INTERCESSOR

Dec. 15 Frank Irvin

Dec. 22 Kim Haberman

COMMUNION

ASSISTANT

Dec. 15 Samantha Hillegass

Dec. 22 Beth Huss

ACOLYTES

Dec. 15

Dec. 22 Joshua Rinker

GREETERS

Wednesday, December 18
5:30 pm Handbells
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, Dec. 21
Leah's Hope Trailer

Sunday, December 22
8:45 am **Breakfast Service Program**
9:00 am Choir
10:00 am Worship

Dec. 15 Esther Circle
Dec. 22 Esther Circle

VIDEOGRAPHER

Dec. 15 Annette Propst
Dec. 22

DECEMBER USHERS

Mike Downs, Al Brown Jr.,
Sid Hughes, Bill Hardister,
Hunter Huss

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Wendell Overby

ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 15 Kelley Carpenter
Dec. 22 Kim Haberman

Online Calendar



Happy Birthday!

15 Dec. - Kelley Carpenter
16 Dec. - Don Fowler, William Irvin, Justin Urso
18 Dec. - Judy McAnulty
19 Dec. - Jakob Craver, Heather Hughes
20 Dec. - Rory Kartheiser

Volunteer!

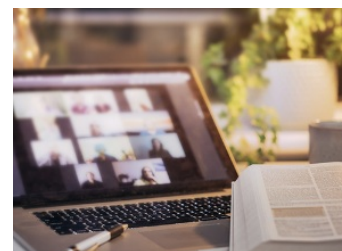
Please consider volunteering for a Sunday ministry or special event!



Lectors

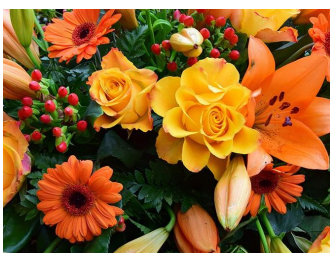


Communion



Videographers

Assistants



Altar Flowers



Special Events



Acolytes

Announcements



Congregational Breakfast - Dec. 22

Start your Sunday with fellowship and joy! Join us on **Sunday, Dec. 22 at 8:45am** for a delightful continental breakfast and the company of your fellow saints of St. James. At 9:15am, our Sunday School children share the Christmas story through song—a beautiful reminder of the season's true meaning.

Sidewalk update -

As part of the city's streetscape improvement project, demolition work has begun on the sidewalk in front of the main entrance. With this week's rain we anticipate the contractor putting down gravel to make egress a little drier and a little less messy. However, for your safety, please continue using caution when approaching this area. You may wish to consider using an alternate entrance if you typically rely on the front sidewalk. Thank you for your patience and understanding as these enhancements take place! While it is possible that the new walks will be poured before Christmas, there is no guarantee.



My Father's House Ministry Needs

St. James & St. Johns will host My Father's House Ministry Dec. 16-18. There are 25 people in the Ministry. If you can help provide an item for the dinner meal **Dec. 16 or Dec. 17**, please let co-chairs Sylvia Corl (704-425-8621) or Martha Matthews (704-787-2180) know.

Change for Change

Congratulations to the Sunday School children for collection \$200.00 to purchase 4 goats from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. The goats will provide fresh milk for daily nutrition for children and their families. Goats can go where other animals can't, surviving in some of the world's most challenging terrain and unreliable climates.



Ushers Needed for 2025

We have few teams of ushers that are still in need of people. If you are able and willing to serve as an usher in 2025, please reach out to [Gretchen Walker](#).

Ministries

Thank you for ringing!

We extend our sincere gratitude to all the St. James members who generously gave their time and energy as Salvation Army Bell Ringers this Christmas season!



Adult Sunday School

A Father's Prophecy - Luke 1:67-80

The Gospel of Luke was written in meticulous detail so that the reader would be convinced of the certainty of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Today, we will focus on Zechariah, the Father of John the Baptist, and the prophecy concerning his son's future ministry. For the nine months prior to John's birth, Zechariah, was unable to speak after being visited by the angel, Gabriel. His first words after the boy's birth are a beautiful song of praise for God and His future blessings for all mankind! Blessings to all of you in this Advent Season!

Thank You!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA GIFTS

Ed and Betsy Ballard
In Honor of: Ed Ballard
Our 7 grandchildren
Our 4 children
Our 3 great grandchildren
In Memory of: Lee David Ballard

Ralph Barnhardt
In Honor of: Jon & LeeAnn Miller
Hollis & Rebecca Miller
Avery Miller
In Memory of: Sandy Barnhardt
Alex Barnhardt

Fuller and Jean Beasley
In Honor of: Robert Henry Beasley
Simon James Lovelace
Naomi Elizabeth Lovelace
In Memory of: Joe and Betty Fries
Fisher and Margaret Beasley

Margaret Garrison & George Brinkman
In Memory of: Reverend and Mrs. George R. Whittecar

Pam and Al Brown
In Honor of: Margaret Clark
In Memory of: James Earle Clark, Mary Brown, and
Alfred Brown

Jeff and Kelley Carpenter
In Memory of: Isolee and Grady Carpenter

Kim Haberman and Kelly Carpenter
In Honor of: Dr Kevin Estes and the Parish Choir
Pastor Bill Ridenhour
In Memory of: Our parents, Joan and Don Eng

Jeffrey Koenig and Ashley Cline
In Honor of: Our friends who have passed this year
In Memory of: Callie Koenig and Violeta Zadwarny

Sylvia H. Corl
In Honor of: Brent, Michelle and Mason Corl
In Memory of: Madge and Byron Harrison, Jake
Whitaker, David Smith and Marc Sloop

Matthieu Devaux
In Honor of: Judy McAnulty



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA GIFTS

The Estes Family
In Honor of: The choir, congregation and Pastor Ridenhour for welcoming our family to St. James

Ann & Will Gillon
In Memory of: Mamie & John Bullock and Elizabeth & Leonard Gillon

Bill and Reggie Hardister
In Memory of: Bill Hardister Sr. and Carr Peeler Jr.

M. Samantha Hillegass
In Honor of: Thank God for our beautiful church "St. James Lutheran" and the wonderful people who make it work

Frank and Jill Irvin
In Memory of: Bill and Ernestine Irvin
Keith and Peggy Fink

Jeanette Jackson
In Honor of: "The Hopeless:" You are never alone"
In Memory of: My son Zachary Scott Michael
Mr. Harold Vandiver and Mr. HT Jackson

Michael & Cindy Korinko
In Memory of: Michael & Cindy Korinko's parents

Joan and Patrick Mahoney
In Memory of: Ethel, Phyllis and Robert Hertzell
Vera, Peg and Philip Mahoney

The Marlow Family
In Memory of: Jimmy Clark Marlow Sr.

Martha and Dan Matthews
In Honor of: Jason, Stephanie, Trevor, Ashleigh, Evelina, and Patrick Matthews
In Memory of: Helen and Mickey McGee and Jake McGee

Trevor and Ashleigh Matthews
In Honor of: Evelina Matthews
Dan and Martha Matthews

Joan and LB McEachern
In Memory of: Lyn McEachern

Dale and Barbara Merrell
In Honor of: Our parents
In Memory of: Our parents

Kim and Betty Miller
In Honor of: Charlie, Lori, Jason, Noah, Riece Pittard
Kasey, Natasha, Rebecca, Sophie, Valerie,
Lana, Keagen Miller



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA GIFTS

Kellie, Stevie, Harrison, Averie Cate, & Charlie Miller
In Honor of: Chip and Ann Blackwelder

Eric and Lindsey Olsen
In Memory of: Kenneth and Angela Olsen
Michael and Debby Landers

Laura, Wendell, Mason and Campbell Overby
In Memory of: Don and Sandra Faggart

Lex, Laura and John Patterson
In Memory of: Mr. and Mrs. SK Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. Alex M Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cooper

Al and Dee Pieschel
In Honor of: Birth of our Lord
Our Friends and Family

Lori and Charlie Pittard
In Honor of: Kim and Betty Miller
In Memory of: JB and Nancy Pittard & our grandparents

Annette and Kenny Propst
In Honor of: Bradley and Ashley, Andrew,
Jenny and Teddy

Patty Propst
In Memory of: Jimmy Propst

Anne Reading
In Honor of: St. James congregation
In Memory of: Mr. & Mrs. William M. Reading

The Rinker Family
In Memory of: Henry Rinker

Sis
In Honor of: Mom & Pop Becker

Joyce Smith
In Memory of: David Smith, Jake Whitaker, Marc Sloop,
and Loretta Fulco

Amy and Terry Splawn
In Memory of: Ty and Phyllis Harward

Theresa and Jim Steel
In Honor of: The Glory of God

Cheryl Webb
In Honor of: My children and grandchildren

The Whisnants
In Memory of: Ruth Whisnant
Tyler Young



In case you missed it...

Gospel Reading Sign-Ups for Family Christmas Eve Service



Join us in bringing the Nativity story to life! We're looking for five families to assist by reading the Gospel and placing the characters in the Nativity scene during the program on **Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 at 5:30pm.**

Passages are divided into 5 sections; please select 1 section per family to read. Pastor Bill will follow up with details. [Click here to sign up!](#)

Worship Live Stream

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced our world to shut down in 2020, St. James began to live stream worship. This was a helpful way to sustain our community in a difficult time. St. James continues to live stream worship to this day. For the sake of our homebound members (and our nurse staff/volunteers) who watch faithfully we will not stop live streaming worship.

It is possible to live stream worship with only a wide angle shot of the sanctuary that does not change. That only requires waking up the laptop, clicking on the live stream button and starting the stream. It is also possible to have a live stream in which the camera moves throughout worship. That makes for a more interesting "broadcast" and requires volunteers willing to be our "director" by changing the "shots" on the tablet.

This month of December has no one scheduled to serve in this role. We need to increase the number of volunteers willing to serve as the "videographer." The small, faithful band of current volunteers will enthusiastically welcome you to the club and teach you everything you need to know. The greater the number of videographers the smaller the number of times each person is needed to serve.

Please speak to Pastor Bill.

Reminders:



2025 Offering Envelopes Available

2025 Offering envelopes are ready for pick-up on the table behind the sacristy (office hallway). If you did not receive a box and would like one, contact [Jill Irving](#).

Christmas at St. James

Tuesday, December 24th –
"Family" Christmas Eve @ 5:30pm

Designed with families and younger children in mind, this liturgy will be less formal than customary for St. James and will include the singing of many favorite carols. There will be an opportunity for five families to assist in reading the Gospel and placing the characters in the nativity scene. [Click here if you would like to sign up.](#) At the normal sermon time, children will be invited to join Pastor Bill at the nativity scene. This will be the only sermon for this service. We will commune using a simple communion rite.



Musical Prelude @ 10:30pm

The choir and Kevin Estes, Director of Music Ministries and Organist, will present thirty minutes of fabulous music at 10:30pm. Don't wait until 11pm to come to church. Come at 10:30pm. You'll be glad you did.

A "Carol Mass" @ 11pm

St. James will celebrate a festive "Carol Mass" at 11pm on Christmas Eve. One of Luther's greatest gifts to the church was his "choral mass." A choral mass sings a hymn (or parts of a hymn) in place of the normal liturgical pieces. This "Carol Mass" sings a carol in place of many of the normal liturgical pieces. The 11pm liturgy will overflow with "C's." Carols, Communion, Candles. Come on Christmas Eve the 24th. Leave in the early minutes of Christmas Day, the 25th.

Sunday, December 29th @ 10am

On the First Sunday after Christmas, St. James will take a respite from our normal form. Have you had a hectic and stressful week? Come for a moment of calm. Sing a few quiet, softer carols. "A Service of Four Lessons and Carols with Reflections from Martin Luther" will precede a simple communion rite. The brief reflections are from Luther's Christmas Book. Luther and his brief reflections are the only preacher for the day.

Sunday, January 5th @ 10am

On the Second Sunday after Christmas, St. James returns to our customary Sunday morning liturgical fare. Through Luke's Gospel, we met John the Baptist on the Second Sunday in Advent. On this final day of Christmas, we come full circle meeting The Baptist again through the first chapter of the John's Gospel.



Christmas Eve

December 24th

Family Service - 5:30 PM

Candlelight Service - 11:00 PM

2025 Sign-Ups Available!

Please consider signing up for an upcoming Sunday ministry. Dates for 2025 are now available! Refer to the Volunteer section of this email or, [visit the website](#).

Volunteer opportunities



Acolytes Needed!

Please consider signing up to acolyte at an upcoming service.

All may serve - youth or adult! Just need to be able to carry the cross.

[Click here to sign up for an open date!](#)

Prayers & Considerations

IN OUR PRAYERS

Brad Baker
Joyce Beaty (*Friend of the Marlow's*)
Angie Buchanan
Mike & Debbie Cagle
(*Friends of Robert & Debbie Davis*)
Noah Clifton
Bruce Coffey (*Friend of Mark Murphy*)
Karey Conrad (*Friend of Dee Pieschel*)
Emma DePaulis
Anne Fridlund
Ed Frost (*Friends of the Marlow's*)



Tim Gibson (*Friend of Deb Black*)
Tom Grady
Linda Jones
(*Family of Barbara & Dale Merrell*)
Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow
(*Friends of Shannon Nesbit*)
Jan Phillips
(*Family of Brownie Brown*)
Tom Ridenhour
Geoff & Pam Seige
(*Friends of Robert & Debbie Davis*)

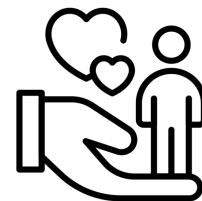
Member Meal Train Opportunity

[Click here to support a meal train for Jay Clemmer.](#)



Overnight Sitter Opportunity

Debbie Davis is looking for a sitter for the overnight hours for her mother. Paid position. Contact Debbie at 704-795-8743.



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.



Ways to Give

Keep in touch!



Follow St. James on [Instagram](#)
& [Facebook](#)!

Be sure to tag [@stjamesnc](#) when
posting so we may share!

St. James Staff

Rev. Bill Ridenhour, *Pastor* [Email](#)

Jill Irvin, *Financial Administrator* [Email](#)

Dr. Kevin Estes, *Director of Music Ministries & Organist* [Email](#)

Holly Sloop, *Communications Coordinator* [Email](#)

Kathryn Radcliffe, *Nursery Coordinator* [Email](#)

Teresa Honeycutt, *Custodian* [Email](#)

Debbie Davis, *Congregation President* [Email](#)

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