



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

Week of Sept. 20, 2026

The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction to Worship

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Watch the Live Stream:



[Download Bulletin](#)

The Week Ahead

Sunday, Sept. 20

9:00 am Choir
9:00 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
10:00 am Worship

Monday, Sept. 21

My Father's House Meal Ministry
10:30 am Quilting

Tuesday, Sept. 22

My Father's House Meal Ministry

Thursday, Sept. 24

6:30 pm Choir
7:30 pm Carols by Candlelight
Rehearsals

Sunday, Sept. 27

Sonshine Backpack Items Due!
9:00 am Choir
9:00 am Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
10:00 am Worship

Save the Dates!

Oct. 11 - CROP Hunger Walk
Oct. 17 - Meals on Mission Meal Packing
Oct. 25 - Trunk or Treat 🎃
Nov. 1 - 7 Salvation Army Meal Week
Nov. 29 - Advent Activities
Dec. 1 - 27 Sonshine Backpack Quarterly Food Drive
Dec. 6 - Bethlehem at the Farm
Dec. 7 - My Father's House Meal Ministry
Dec. 11 & 12 - Carols by Candlelight
Dec. 20 - Cocoa & Cookies: Children's Christmas Program
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services

[Church Calendar](#)

Sunday Ministries

LECTOR/INTERCESSOR

Sept. 20 Barbara Albright
Sept. 27 Lindsey Olsen

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Sept. 20 Samantha Hillegass
Sept. 27 Kim Haberman

VIDEOGRAPHER

Sept. 20 Emma DePaulis
Sept. 27 [Volunteer](#)

SEPTEMBER USHERS

ACOLYTES

Sept. 20 [Volunteer](#)

Sept. 27 Riece Pittard

GREETER

Sept. 20 Nancy Faggart

Sept. 27 Laura Patterson

Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline, Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Michael Rinker

ALTAR FLOWER

Sept. 20 Open

Sept. 27 Open

[Sign Up to Volunteer](#)

[Lector](#)

[Communion
Assistant](#)

[Acolyte](#)

[Videographer](#)

[Altar Flowers](#)

Happy Birthday! 🎂

Sept. 20 - Peter Muniz, Camron Trott, Carson Trott

Sept. 22 - John Patterson, Patricia Propst

Sept. 23 - Annette Propst

Sept. 24 - Lois Marlow

Announcements



Meals on Mission - Lifeline Meal Packing Event

Join us **Saturday, Oct. 17** at 10am at Cabarrus Arena and Events Center for a morning of service with Lifeline Christian Mission. We are in need of 10 volunteers to help pack meals for their Meals on Mission event. Supplies provided; [click here to sign up!](#) Contact Chris Miller for more information.



2026 WELCA Stanly/Cabarrus Fall Conference Gathering

This year's WELCA Conference will be held **Saturday, Sept. 26** at Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church (3600 Hwy 601, Concord NC 28025)

Cost \$8 (payable at door) | Registration at 8:30 a.m. | Program at 9:00 a.m.

If you would like to attend as a member of St. James, please let Jean Beasley know by Sept. 21st.



Trunk or Treat!

Join us on **Sunday, October 25**, at our rear portico parking lot from 3:00pm - 5:00pm for St. James' annual Trunk or Treat event! Enjoy candy, popcorn, music, and games!

If you are able to host a trunk or help run a game, please let us know!



This week's lesson...

Joshua Fights for God - Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23

After crossing the Jordan River, Joshua led the Israelites through the land of Canaan. Joshua and the army of Israel is again facing a much mightier military opponent, and Joshua is commanded by God to not be afraid! Warfare is always a messy, bloody business and in the ancient world, it was no different. Scripture's accounts of the conquest of Canaan raise questions and concerns for modern readers. The themes of extreme violence, scorched-earth warfare, and merciless destruction of cities and people challenge our sensibilities, and we wonder how God would not only allow but also command such things. Keep in mind that these "warfare texts" should not be read as glorifying war; however, they were written for the Israelites at a particular time to remind them of the necessity for spiritual purity in the land. The sin of the Canaanites had stained the land (See Leviticus 18), and if they remained in the land, their pagan practices would lead Israel into sin. The corrupting influence had to be removed to provide God with a specific location where His Holy purpose and presence might be established. We will discuss more in class on Sunday, hope to see you then!

In Case You Missed It...



CROP Walk 2026 - Join the St. James Team!

Registration is now open for CROP Hunger Walk! [Register now](#) and join the St. James team for the annual Cabarrus County CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, Oct. 11 at 2pm (check-in at 1pm).

If you are unable to walk you can still make a donation towards the St. James team!

This year's fundraising goal is \$1600!

The walk starts at Kimball Memorial Lutheran Church (101 Vance St. Kannapolis, NC 28081).

St. James supports the CROP Walk each year with sponsorship and participation.

Reminders

HELP PROVIDE FOOD



Monday, **Sept. 21** | Ham Meal
Tuesday, **Sept. 22** | Chicken Strip Meal

Side dishes needed!

Suggested sides:

- Corn
- Noodle/pasta dishes
- Vegetable casseroles
- Fruit
- Mac & cheese
- Bob Evans mashed potatoes
- Baked beans
- Green beans

If you can help, please contact Martha Matthews at 704-787-2180.

Snacks:

- Lance crackers
- Goldfish crackers
- Juice boxes/Capri Sun
- Fresh fruit

Desserts:

- Cookies
- Cupcakes
- Homemade treats



Sonshine Backpack September Supply Drive

Help provide weekend food for local children in need through our partnership with Sonshine Backpacks.

Requested items include: shelf-stable milk, cereal, mac & cheese, canned goods, granola bars, juice, popcorn, and pudding.

Please place donations on the back kitchen counter by **Sept. 27**.

Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl or Gretchen Walker.



Bethlehem at the Farm - Volunteers Needed!

Step back in time to the night Jesus was born at Bethlehem at the Farm on **Sunday, December 6, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.** at the farm of Anita and Jeff Jones, just a few miles from St. James off Old Salisbury Road.

Together, we'll bring Bethlehem to life with a bustling marketplace, townspeople gathered around the fire, shepherds following the star, Mary and Joseph with the Christ Child, census takers, live animals, and more. Around 200 people from our community experience this special event.

But we need your help to make it possible! We're looking for about 50 volunteers from our congregation to help create this immersive Christmas experience. Volunteers are needed for just 3-4 hours, and there are a variety of roles available.

Please consider being part of this meaningful St. James tradition. [Sign up to volunteer through the form on our](#)

[website](#). Together, we can help our community experience the story of Christ's birth.



Carols by Candlelight

If you or someone you know would enjoy being part of Carols by Candlelight, we'd love to have you join us.

Rehearsals: Thursdays at 7:30pm

Dress Rehearsals: Dec. 7 & 9

Performance Dates: Dec. 11 & 12

For more information contact [Kevin Estes](#).

Partner News

Salvation Army Coffee Crawl

Sip local. Connect with community. Make a difference.
A FUNDRAISER PRESENTED BY:

Coffee CRAWL
OCTOBER 1-14

16
LOCAL COFFEE SHOPS

14
DAYS TO SAMPLE
OCTOBER 1-14

1
GREAT COMMUNITY
IMPACT

HOW IT WORKS

- 1 GET YOUR PASSPORT**
Purchase a Coffee Crawl passport for \$15, online (scan QR) or from an Auxiliary member. Your support helps The Salvation Army serve our neighbors.
- 2 VISIT PARTICIPATING SHOPS**
Present your passport when ordering at participating coffee shops. They'll pour their coffee crawl sample for your enjoyment. Feel free to buy additional items to support local shops.
- 3 GET YOUR PASSPORT MARKED**
Shops may stamp, initial or punch your passport when presented. Ten shops completes the Crawl. Fourteen shops receives extra swag.
- 4 TURN IN YOUR PASSPORT**
Bring your completed passport to The Salvation Army to receive inaugural coffee crawl swag. Also have a chance to look around our facilities and see what we do first hand.

In Our Prayers



Meal Train Opportunity

A Meal Train has been set up for **Patsy Black**. [Click here for available dates to provide a meal.](#)

Chip Allman

(Friend of the Marlow Family)

Cecil Berry (Friend of Gretchen Walker)

Family of Michael Black

(Nephew of Patsy Black)

Patsy Black

Patrick Bryn

(Son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn)

Angie Buchanan

Mike & Debbie Cagle

(Friends of Robert & Debbie Davis)

Jay Clemmer

Noah Clifton

Karey Conrad

(Friend of Dee Pieschel)

Catherine Durst

(Daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges)

Nadine Filipak

(Friend of Al & Dee Pieschel)

Phyllis Freeman

(Mother of Fonda Shumate)

Ed Frost

(Friends of the Marlow's)

Ginger Gibbs

(Friend of Deedee & Jeff Gilbert)

Nancy Haney

(Loved one of Betsy Ballard)

Ryan Hardister

(Son of Bill & Reggie Hardister)

Linda Hartsell

Maureen Hollmeyer

Hunter Huss

Mary Frances Johnson

(Cousin of Francie Davis)

Karen Johnston

(Friend of Judy Benz)

Mary Anne Lanahan (Aunt of Francie Davis)

Ruth Lawler

(Friend of Dee & Al Pieschel)

John Ledford (Brother of Deb Black)

Ron Lee (neighbor of Kathryn Radcliffe)

Buddy McEachern

Jason Matthews

Barbara Merrell

Deb & Roger Myers

(Friends of Deb Black)

Ruthie O'Brien

(Friend of the Marlow Family)

Dave Olsen (Friend of Patsy Black)

Mason Overby

Stan Parnell (Friend of Rob & Debbie Davis)

Al Pieschel

Corinne Robbins

Lori Ruff (Mother of Christine Ruff)

Jessica Seeley

(Cousin of Christine Ruff)

Doris Smith

Bobbi Talbert (Friend of Dale & Barbara

Merrell)

Ruby Tyer (Niece of Beth Huss' Friend)

John Walker

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Weisel

Secure Online Giving

Supporting your church is just a few clicks away! With [online giving](#), you can make a one-time gift, set up automatic recurring donations on the date you choose, and view your complete giving history.

Automated recurring gifts are a convenient way to provide our church with much-needed consistent support throughout the year. Thank you for your faithful generosity.



Ways to Give

Volunteer!

Assisting in Worship

[Sunday Worship Volunteer Opportunities](#) are now open! We're looking for Ushers, Greeters, Communion Assistants, Lectors, Acolytes, and Videographers to help on Sundays.

Altar flower dates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up for flowers [online](#), on the sign-up sheet in the portico, or call the office at 704-786-0166.

Not sure where to start? Email us at info@sjnc.net for more information, training, or to connect with a volunteer team leader.

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](#)

Kim Haberman, Congregation President [Email](#)

Contact Us



Phone: (704) 786-0166



Website: www.sjnc.net



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