



WEEKLY
Ring Out
NEWSLETTER



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

Week of Dec. 14, 2025

The Third Sunday in Advent

Introduction to Worship

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Watch the Live Stream:



[Download Bulletin](#)

The Week Ahead

Sunday, Dec. 14

My Father's House Meal Ministry

9:00 am Adult Sunday School

9:00 am Choir

9:30 am Children's Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

11:00am Social Ministry Meeting (Parlor)

Monday, Dec. 15

My Father's House Meal Ministry

10:30 am Quilting

6:30 pm Bible Study

Thursday, Dec. 18

6:30 pm Choir

Saturday, Dec. 20

Leah's Hope Trailer

Sunday, Dec. 21

9:00 am Adult Sunday School

9:00 am Choir

9:30 am Children's Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

**11:00 am Cocoa, Coffee & Cookies
with the Children of St. James ☕**

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Services

5:30 pm Family Service

10:00 pm Candlelight Service

(Music begins at 9:30pm)

[Church
Calendar](#)

Sunday Ministries

LECTOR/INTERCESSOR

Dec. 14 Barbara Albright

Dec. 21 Kim Haberman

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Dec. 14 Christine Ruff

Dec. 21 Samantha Hillegass

ACOLYTE

Dec. 14 Langdon & Calen MacFarlane

Dec. 21 Ben & Ryan Kuly

GREETER

Dec. 14

Dec. 21

VIDEOGRAPHER

Dec. 14. Annette Propst

Dec. 21 [Volunteer](#)

USHERS

Chip Popovici, Jimmy Harris, Jeff Jones,
Jeff Gilbert, Phil Tesh

BUILDING SUPERVISORS

Jeff Gilbert & Kenny Propst

ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 14 LeeAnn Miller

Dec. 21 Deb Walker

**Sign Up to
Volunteer**

Lector

**Communion
Assistant**

Acolyte

Videographer

Altar Flowers

Happy Birthday! ☐

Dec. 15 - Kelley Carpenter

Dec. 16 - Don Fowler, William Irvin, Justin Urso

Dec. 18 - Judy McAnulty

Dec. 19 - Jakob Craver, Heather Hughes

Dec. 20 - Rory Kartheiser

Announcements



☐ Carols by Candlelight ☐ - Tomorrow!

Thank you to St. James member Chris Miller, editor and publisher of [The Cabarrus Compass](#) for the detailed feature (below) promoting Carols by Candlelight.

Note: For the best experience, please plan to arrive no later than 6:50pm.

St. James Lutheran to Debut "Carols by Candlelight," a Full-Orchestra Retelling of the Christmas Story

St. James Lutheran Church will host its first Carols by Candlelight program on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m., inviting the community to take part in a unique musical retelling of the Christmas narrative.



The event — hosted at the church at 104 Union Street South — is free to attend, with a freewill

offering accepted.

Unlike a typical holiday concert, Carols by Candlelight is structured as a narrative journey through Advent and Christmas, told through a blend of carols, anthems, and readings.

What makes the evening distinctive is the central role of the congregation: attendees are not just observers, but active participants who help tell the story by singing familiar and beloved carols alongside the St. James parish and bell choirs.

The program features a number of classic carols, including Silent Night, O Come, All Ye Faithful, Away in a Manger, Joy to the World, and The First Noel.

Adding to the scale of the experience, the concert features roughly 30 orchestral musicians — many from the Charlotte Symphony — along with full organ accompaniment, an uncommon pairing for a congregational sing-along.

Dr. Kevin Estes, Director of Music Ministry at St. James, created and arranged much of the music performed during the event, including the carol settings and underscore played beneath the narration. He said the goal is to create a “soundscape” that carries listeners from the opening processional into the mystery and beauty of the nativity.

The origins of Carols by Candlelight trace back nearly 30 years to when Estes was a college student at The Juilliard School in New York City. His organ professor hosted a carol sing-along during December study days, and one year invited him to play.

That experience, he said, inspired him to expand the simple sing-along into a more robust musical narrative involving choirs and instrumentalists.

Dr. Kevin Estes. Photo courtesy of St. James.

Since its first full presentation in the mid-1990s in White Plains, New York, the concert has become a much-anticipated annual tradition in several congregations Estes has served — from Manhattan’s Upper West Side to Greenwich, Connecticut, and Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Some former choir and congregation members even travel each year to participate.

“I’m excited about sharing what I’ve enjoyed creating for the past three decades and what many congregants have told me they find meaningful,” Estes said.

The event will be led by Senior Pastor Rev. William Ridenhour and Estes. All are welcome to attend.

Chris Miller | [The Cabarrus Compass](#)



Mission Fund - Fourth Quarter Report

The Mission Fund Committee met on November 18, 2025, and awarded \$13,000 in grants.

Funding requests were received from:

- Present Age Ministries (support for minor victims of trafficking amid donation shortfalls)
- Salvation Army Women’s Auxiliary (Angel Tree & Silver Wings gift card support)
- Elder Orphan Care (“Stockings of Joy” handmade Christmas stockings distributed through Meals on Wheels)

Additional grants were awarded to:

- 1Can Inc. (blessing boxes)
- Amazing Grace Advocacy (winter coat drive)

- Big Brothers Big Sisters (holiday gift shop)
- Cabarrus Meals on Wheels (client groceries)
- Cooperative Christian Ministry (food pantry)

Christmas Gifts

Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias. The gift list dedications will be included in Sunday's bulletin.

St. James Lutheran

Ralph Barnhardt
In Memory of: Sandy Barnhardt
Alex Barnhardt

Pam and Al Brown
In Honor of: Dr. Kevin Estes &
The St. James Choir

Jeff and Kelley Carpenter
In Memory of: Don and Jo Eng
Grady and Isolee Carpenter

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

The DePaulis Family
In Honor of: St. James Lutheran Church

Margaret Garrison
In Honor of: First great-grandchild, Claire Burns,
daughter of Joshua and Hannah Kim Burns of
Bloomington, Indiana

Amy Griffith
In Memory of: James O. Griffith

Kim Haberman
In Honor of: My children, Sydney and Sam
Haberman
In Memory of: My parents, Jo and Don Eng

St. James Lutheran

CHRISTMAS
gifts
2025

Elizabeth Hurley
In Honor of: My children, Laura, Chris, Eleanor,
Thomas, Katie, Heidi, Ben, & Sam

Sam Hurley
In Honor of: Elizabeth Hurley
In Memory of: Catherine Petrea
David Hurley

The Kittel Family
In Memory of: Robin Hallatschek

Liz and David Klein
In Honor of: Our son, Grant
Our daughters, Sara and Hanna

Mike and Cindy Korinko
In Memory of: Mike and Cindy Korinko's parents

Joan and Patrick Mahoney
In Memory of: Ethel, Bob and Phyllis Hertzog
Vera, Phil and Peg Mahoney

Lois and the Marlow Children
In Memory of: Jimmy Clark Marlow, Sr.

The MacFarlane Family
In Honor of: Terry and Amy Splawn
In Memory of: Tyrone and Phyllis Harward

Martha & Dan Matthews
In Honor of: Jason, Stephanie, Trevor,
Patrick and Evelina Matthews
In Memory of: J. W. "Mickey" McGee,
Helen McGee, and Jake McGee



St. James Lutheran

Dale and Barbara Merrell
In Memory of: Our Parents

Brian, Sydnee, Henry & Theodore Mostek
In Memory of: Joan Buresh and Patty Barry

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

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

Al and Dee Pieschel
In Honor of: The birth of our Lord!

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

Patty Propst
In Memory of: Jimmy Propst

Trent & Kelly Propst
In Honor of: Kelly, William, Katie, & Patrick Propst
Patty Propst
In Memory of: Jimmy Propst

Kathryn Radcliffe
In Honor of: All of my Little Lambs in the nursery
All the nursery volunteers
James Radcliffe, Austin Hoadley
Griffin and Lauren Geiger

St. James Lutheran

CHRISTMAS
gifts
2025

Kathryn Radcliffe
In Memory of: Alice Radcliffe

Rinker Family
In Memory of: Jeanie Martin (Kristin Rinker's mom)

Sis
In Honor of: Mom and Pop Becker

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

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

Deb Walker
In Memory of: Caleb Harding

John and Deb Walker
In Memory of: Lois Walker

Cheryl Webb
In Memory of: Austin Hatcher

Nic, Amy, Logan & Collins Whisnant
In Memory of: Tyler Young
Ruth Whisnant

Gretchen Walker
In Honor of: The St. James Choir

Stacey Wilson
In Honor of: Brayden Thayer
In Memory of: Theresa Fleck



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday's Lesson...

Our Heavenly Father - Matthew 6:24-34

Matthew 6 is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Today's lesson continues Jesus' teachings on living a life that depends on a loving Heavenly Father's gracious provision of all our needs. It begins with the admonition that we cannot serve two masters: God and money. We worry about money because we need to provide all our earthly needs, however, Jesus tells us to look at the world around and see how beautifully everything in nature is taken care of, and aren't we worth more so much more in God's eyes?

Jesus tells us if we seek His Kingdom and Righteousness, all these things will be given to us! We need not worry because God will provide everything we need, in this life and the next!

In Case You Missed It...



Sonshine Backpacks - December Drive ☐

St. James is continuing its partnership with Sonshine Backpack Ministry to provide weekend food for Cabarrus County children in need with a quarterly food drive.

Requested items for December: shelf-stable milk, cereal/oatmeal, mac & cheese, canned pasta/soup/veggies/fruit, granola bars, juice, popcorn, pudding.

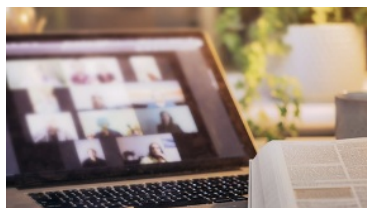
Please place nonperishable items on the back kitchen counter by Sunday, Dec. 28.

Contact Sylvia Corl or Gretchen Walker with questions.



2026 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2026 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](#).



Videographers Needed for Christmas Season!

We're looking for volunteers to serve as videographers this Christmas season. This simple but meaningful role helps us share worship with those who can't attend in person.

The videographer starts and stops the service recording on the laptop in the sacristy, and if comfortable, can also switch

camera angles using a tablet (optional).

If you're available to serve, please sign up using the [link](#).

New to the role or need a quick refresher? Contact the [church office](#), and we'll be happy to set up a brief training session.

Reminders



Christmas Eve Services:

5:30pm – Family Service

A family-friendly gathering with Christmas carols and communion, designed for worshippers of all ages.

9:30pm – Musical Prelude

Arrive early to enjoy festive seasonal music offered by our music ministry.

10:00pm – Candlelight Service

A joyful Christmas celebration featuring carols and communion by candlelight.



Cocoa, Coffee, & Cookies with the Children of St. James (Dec. 21)

Join us after worship December 21 for cocoa, coffee and cookies in the Fellowship Hall as the children of St. James tell us the Christmas story.



Volunteer in 2026!

Our 2026 [Sunday Worship Volunteer Opportunities](#) are now open! We're looking for Communion Assistants, Lectors, Acolytes, and Videographers to help on Sundays.

Altar Flower dates are also available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

Prayers & Considerations

Member Meal Train Opportunity!



Cecil Berry

(Friend of Gretchen Walker)

Family of Michael Black

(Nephew of Patsy Black)

Patsy Black

Caroline Bost

Betsy Boynton

Patrick Bryn

(Son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn)

Angie Buchanan

Mike & Debbie Cagle

(Friends of Robert & Debbie Davis)

Noah Clifton

Bruce Coffey (Friend of Mark Murphy)

Karey Conrad (Friend of Dee Pieschel)

Jennifer Cook (Friend of Fonda Shumate)

Catherine Durst

(Daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges)

Nadine Filipak

(Friend of Al & Dee Pieschel)

Ed Frost (Friends of the Marlow's)

Tom Grady

Harriett Huss Hodge

Maureen Hollmeyer

Mary Frances Johnson

(Cousin of Francie Davis)

Karen Johnston (Friend of Judy Benz)

Ruth Lawler

(Friend of Dee & Al Pieschel)

John Ledford (Brother of Deb Black)

Barbara Merrell

Deb & Roger Myers

(Friends of Deb Black)

Stan Parnell

(Friend of Rob & Debbie Davis)

Becky Phillips

Al Pieschel

Lori Pittard

Tom Ridenhour

Nathan White

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**

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

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