



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

Week of Dec. 21, 2025

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Introduction to Sunday's Worship

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Watch the Live Stream:



[Download Bulletin Dec. 21](#)



Christmas Eve Dec. 24, 2025

The Nativity of Our Lord

Introduction to Christmas Eve

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Watch the Live Streams:

Family Service | 5:30PM

Candlelight Service | 10:00PM



[Download 5:30pm Bulletin](#)



[Download 10:00pm Bulletin](#)

The Week Ahead

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 ☕

Monday, Dec. 22

10:30 am Quilting

Wednesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve
5:30 pm Family Service
10:00 pm Candlelight Service (9:30pm Musical Prelude)

Thursday, Dec. 25

Merry Christmas! 🎄

Sunday, Dec. 28

9:00 am Choir
10:00 am Worship

[Church Calendar](#)

Sunday Ministries

LECTOR/INTERCESSOR

Dec. 21 Kim Haberman
Dec. 24 Margaret Garrison (5:30pm) | Margaret Garrison (10:00pm)
Dec. 28 Amy Griffith

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Dec. 21 Samantha Hillegass
Dec. 24 Elizabeth Hurley (5:30pm) | Kim Haberman (10:00pm)
Dec. 28 Margaret Garrison

ACOLYTE

Dec. 21 Ben & Ryan Kuly
Dec. 24 Noah Pittard (5:30pm) | Kyleigh & Jackson Hughes, Josh & Jacob Rinker, Lauren Popovici (10:00pm)
Dec. 28 Ben & Ryan Kuly

VIDEOGRAPHER

Dec. 21 LeeAnn Miller
Dec. 24 Debbie Davis (5:30pm) | **Volunteer** (10:00pm)
Dec. 28 Ann Blackwelder

USHERS

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

BUILDING SUPERVISORS

Jeff Gilbert & Kenny Propst

ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 21 Deb Walker
Dec. 24 Kelley Carpenter & Kim Haberman
Dec. 28

[Lector](#)[Communion
Assistant](#)[Acolyte](#)[Videographer](#)[Altar Flowers](#)

Happy Birthday!



Dec. 23 - Lauren Irvin
Dec. 25 - Bub Craver
Dec. 26 - Todd Walker
Dec. 28 - Beth Downs

Announcements



Cocoa, Coffee, & Cookies with the Children of St. James - Sunday!

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

Join us for Christmas Eve!

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.



Sunday's Lesson...

Christ the Savior - Luke 15:3-7; Romans 5:6-10

Today's lesson covers the "lost and found" parables of Jesus and the many aspects of the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Passage one emphasizes Jesus as the seeker of the Lost Sheep. The parable of the lost sheep is touching but nothing compares to God's desire for lost people! In the second passage, Paul emphasizes the incredible love that God has shown to all humanity. Because Jesus died in our place, we are free from

condemnation that we rightly deserve. Thanks be to God that He has made total provision for our sinfulness and reconciled us all to Him through Jesus' death and resurrection!

In Case You Missed It...



Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating the hope of Christmas at our Carols by Candlelight concert this past Saturday.

Special thanks to our Music Ministry for arranging and leading this meaningful concert, and to all the musicians and volunteers who made the night so special.



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

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 Hertzel
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

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



Reminders

New
Offering
Envelopes

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**.



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.



Videographers Needed

We're looking for volunteers to serve as videographers. 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.



Partner Initiatives: Amazing Grace

1. Blessing Box in Rotary Square

Amazing Grace's Life Skills Lab program will be helping to keep the Blessing Box stocked every Tuesday and Thursday in partnership with the 1CAN Organization. You can join in this ongoing effort by donating non-perishable food or hygiene items. The red Blessing Box collection bin will remain on the Portico Counter and serve as a year-round ministry opportunity.

2. Children's Coat Drive

In partnership with the Cabarrus Partnership for Children, Amazing Grace will be collecting new or gently used winter coats for children in need. Coats can be placed on the couch in the Amazing Grace room on the 3rd floor through January.

Prayers & Considerations



Meal Train®

Member Meal Train Opportunity!

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

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

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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