



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

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## Week of May 24, 2026

*The Day of Pentecost*

### **Introduction to Worship**

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

### **Watch the Live Stream:**



[Download Bulletin](#)

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## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, May 24

**VBS Registration Open** 

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

### Monday, May 25

*Church Office Closed*

### Thursday, May 28

6:30 pm Choir Practice

### Sunday, May 31

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

[Church Calendar](#)

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## Sunday Ministries

### LECTOR/INTERCESSOR

May 24 Gretchen Walker

May 31 [Volunteer](#)

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

May 24 Margaret Garrison

May 31 Ann Blackwelder

### ACOLYTE

May 24 [Volunteer](#)

May 31

### GREETER

May 24 Barbara Albright

May 31 [Volunteer](#)

### VIDEOGRAPHER

May 24 Jeff Gilbert

May 31 Annette Propst

### MAY USHERS

Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin, Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard

### MAY BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Wendell Overby

### ALTAR FLOWER

May 24

May 31

# Sign Up to Volunteer

Lector

Communion  
Assistant

Acolyte

Videographer

Altar Flowers

## Happy Birthday! 🎈

May 27 - Brad Baker, Brett Benson

May 28 - Lindsey Olsen

May 29 - Dylan Rutemiller

## Announcements



### VBS Registration Open 🎈

Registration for VBS 2026 is open!

Vacation Bible School will be held Sunday, **July 26–Tuesday, July 28**, beginning each evening at 5:30 p.m.

Please plan to register by the end of June to guarantee a t-shirt!

If you are available to volunteer, please check to make sure your *Safe Gatherings* background check is current. If you are a first-time volunteer, please email [holly@sjnc.net](mailto:holly@sjnc.net) to begin the process.

❄️ This year's theme: Snowball Mountain Challenge! ❄️



### Middle School Youth Volunteer Opportunity with Salvation Army

Rising 6th–8th grade youth are invited to serve with The Salvation Army this June by helping pack fresh food boxes for local families in need.

Volunteers will serve **each Thursday in June beginning June 4, from 12:00–2:30pm** at The Salvation Army, located at 216 Patterson Ave SE, Concord, NC 28025.

Youth will help sort, pack, and load food boxes alongside Salvation Army staff and adult volunteers from St. James.

Please **RSVP through SignupGenius** and complete a volunteer form. **Volunteer forms may be downloaded** or picked up from the church office. Completed volunteer forms should be brought to Cheryl Webb on June 4.



## Preschool Graduation - Wednesday, May 27

A friendly notice - our partners at the Bilingual Preschool will be hosting a drive-thru graduation on Wednesday, May 27 from 9am - 4pm utilizing the back parking lot at the portico entrance.

The garden lot is recommended for anyone visiting the church during that time.



## Last Week's Worship Recording Available

Thank you for your patience as we continue adjusting to our updated streaming equipment.

Although last week's service (Sunday, May 17) did not livestream correctly, it was successfully recorded and has now been uploaded to our YouTube channel for [viewing](#).

## In case you missed it...



## Save the Date - Aloha Summer Party 🌴

Join us **Sunday, June 7**, following worship for our Aloha Summer Party! Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall, with activities continuing on the playground. Stop by for fun, fellowship, and food as we roll out the red carpet for summer - tropical snow cones included!



## Mission Fund First Quarter Update 📄

The St. James Mission Fund Committee met on March 3 and approved a \$2,000 grant to Families First of Cabarrus County in support of their expanding preschool ministry and community outreach efforts.

The committee also reviewed upcoming meeting dates for June 2, September 1, and December 1 at 5:45 p.m. in the Parlor, and discussed a candidate to fill the open committee position.

The Mission Fund continues to encourage local organizations to apply for future grant opportunities.



## This week's lesson...

Thomas, the Hesitant Believer - John 11:14-16; 14; 5-8; 20:24-29; 21:1-2

Tradition has labeled Thomas as a pessimist and skeptic. Today, we will consider all the texts in the Gospel of John that refer to the disciple, Thomas (also Didymus= the Twin), to see if this reputation is entirely fair, as it seems to convey that he was asking for evidence that was extreme or that his disbelief was unwarranted! The disciples had no idea that Jesus would return to life, so Thomas' desire for proof did not make him a "typical skeptic" because he alone, among the other disciples, had yet to see Jesus. Thomas' doubt mirrors a common human experience: the struggle of faith, which asks us to trust evidence that we ourselves cannot see firsthand. Jesus' Resurrection was a fantastic miracle, and Thomas' interactions with Jesus show the human difficulty in stepping outside the physical world and into a more important spiritual reality!

We should continually pray that the Holy Spirit would enlighten our eyes and our mind to truly comprehend this concept, and to share this great news of the Resurrection with a fallen world.

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## Reminders



### Parish Choir Performing at American Guild of Organists Concert (Sunday, June 14)

The St. James Lutheran Parish Choir will be performing as part of a concert presented by the American Guild of Organists on **Sunday, June 14, at 4:00pm** at Providence United Methodist Church (Charlotte). Please make plans to attend this special afternoon of beautiful choral and organ music and support our choir in this exciting performance!



[Click here to see available dates and to sign up.](#)

Please be sure to fill in the details of how you want the bulletin to read.

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## In Our Prayers

**Cecil Berry** (Friend of Gretchen Walker)

**Family of Michael Black**

(Nephew of Patsy Black)

**Patsy Black**

**George Brinkman**

(Friend of Margaret Garrison)

**Patrick Bryn**

**Hunter Huss**

**Family of Dale Johnson**

(Friend of Dale Merrell)

**Mary Frances Johnson**

(Cousin of Francie Davis)

**Karen Johnston**

(Friend of Judy Benz)

(Son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn)

**Angie Buchanan**

**Mike & Debbie Cagle**

(Friends of Robert & Debbie Davis)

**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)

**Jeff Gilbert**

**Tom Grady**

**Nancy Haney** (Loved one of Betsy Ballard)

**Ryan Hardister**

(Son of Bill & Reggie Hardister)

**Maureen Hollmeyer**

**Mary Anne Lanahan**

(Aunt of Francie Davis)

**Ruth Lawler**

(Friend of Dee & Al Pieschel)

**John Ledford** (Brother of Deb Black)

**Buddy McEachern**

**Barbara Merrell**

**Deb & Roger Myers**

(Friends of Deb Black)

**Dave Olsen** (Friend of Patsy Black)

**Mason Overby**

**Stan Parnell**

(Friend of Rob & Debbie Davis)

**Becky Phillips**

**Al Pieschel**

**Lori Pittard**

**Lori Ruff**

(Mother of Christine Ruff)

**Jessica Seeley**

(Cousin of Christine Ruff)

**Ruby Tyer**

(Niece of Beth Huss' Friend)



## Meal Train Opportunity

The Meal Train for St. James member Jay Clemmer is ongoing. Volunteers are invited to [sign up for dates](#) that work best for them.

## 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 also available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

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## **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](#)

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## **Contact Us**

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