

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Margaret Garrison

Communion Assistant: Margaret Garrison

Acolyte: Maddox Landers

Ushers: Brad Baker, Chip Harward,
Taylor Pruette, Al Pieschel, Jon Miller

Greeter: Barbara Albright

Videographer: Kim Haberman

Building Supervisor: Joseph Beasley

PRAYER LIST

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); 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 (friend of the Marlow's); Ginger Gibbs (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Jeff Gilbert; Nancy Haney (loved one of Betsy Ballard); Ryan Hardister (son of Bill & Reggie Hardister); Maureen Hollmeyer; The Hopkins Family; 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); Leonard "Buddy" McEachern; Jason Matthews; 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; Corinne Robbins; Lori Ruff (mother of Christine Ruff); Jessica Seeley (cousin of Christine Ruff); Ruby Tyer (niece of Beth Huss' friend).

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Fisher and Margaret Beasley and Joe and Betty Fries by Fuller and Jean Beasley, who celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary today.

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



Open Camera – Scan QR Code
Thank you for supporting St. James

**The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June 28, 2026**

**The Holy Communion
10:00am**



**St. James Lutheran Church
104 Union Street South
PO Box 684
Concord, North Carolina 28026
704-786-0166
www.sjnc.net
Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Pastor**

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

Maybe you need forgiveness, or maybe you need to forgive ... Maybe you're tired and you need a little space to breathe ... Maybe you're trying church for the first time, or maybe you're trying church for the last time... Maybe you've spent your whole life wondering if God really loves you... Maybe you're lonely... Maybe you're sick... Maybe you came here looking for a miracle... Maybe you came here looking for another church but got disoriented and came here instead, and now it's too late to get up and walk out... Maybe, with God, there are no accidents... Maybe, with God, there is hope and healing and miraculous companionship... Maybe, with God, there is space to breathe and forgiveness on top of forgiveness... Maybe, with God, there is love... Maybe, with God here in our midst, we will hear those words that still split open the heavens, "You are my son! You are my daughter! You are my beloved. You. In you I am well pleased!" Maybe this is why we gather together, week after week after week, here at St. James.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this place - not just by the Saints at St. James, but by the God who revealed himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our brother, and our friend.

Welcome to St. James.

If you are comfortable doing so, please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill. If you have visited with us a number of times and think you might want to "make it official," please speak to Pastor Bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the person next to you or to an usher.

Restrooms are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building.

A nursery is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.

Let us know you visited!



Scan to connect!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

June 28 – Kim Harward

July 1 – Lindsey Lineberger, Langdon MacFarlane, Graham Pruetto

July 3 – Sarah Benson, Dale Merrell, Alisa Wilkinson

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 28	<i>Sonshine Backpack Items Due</i>	
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, June 29	10:30am	Quilting
Tuesday, June 30	<i>VBS registration deadline to guarantee t-shirt!</i>	
Sunday, July 5	9:00am	Choir
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	A Sundae Sunday! 🍦

A SUNDAE SUNDAY!

Join us after worship on **Sunday, July 5**, as we celebrate 250 years of American independence with a sweet treat and fellowship!

Sunday, July 5 | 11:00 a.m. | Under back portico entrance

Enjoy Cabarrus Creamery ice cream with your St. James family.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Rising 6th–8th grade youth are invited to serve with The Salvation Army this summer by helping pack fresh food boxes for families in need and earn service hours.

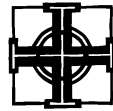
Volunteers serve Thursdays in June and July, 12:00–2:30 p.m., at The Salvation Army (216 Patterson Ave SE, Concord). Youth will sort, pack, and load food boxes alongside staff and St. James volunteers.

RSVP through SignupGenius and complete a volunteer form (available online or in the church office). Bring completed forms to Cheryl Webb. Questions? Call or text Cheryl at

832-275-8872.

RSVP:





St James Lutheran Church:
Growing in Christ through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service.

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Please silence your phones. Thank you.

When not printed, hymn harmonies may be found in the green LBW hymnal.

Welcome

Prelude

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENES

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Please sit or kneel, as able.
 Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: #520 Give to Our God Immortal Praise

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways; won - ders of grace to
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, ‘Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfil the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.’

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A The Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 10th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord**

‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.’

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please sit.

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #487 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, since you are our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, pil - grims here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Fa - ther’s bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
then by grace we all may win un - told fruits of his cre - a - tion.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, un - to you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, if I faith - ful be, life e - ter - nal grant to me.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

A Let us pray for the Church, the world, and one another.

A Father, you pay us the compliment of revealing hard truths to us. You expect us to see the world honestly, and to value your truth above even earthly peace. You speak to us of sin and death, cross bearing and persecution, suffering and service. Give us a double measure of your Spirit as we seek to be disciples of Jesus, because, dear Lord, we're going to need it! Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give the Church courage to speak your truth, even when that seems to bring not peace but a sword. Keep it faithful to the testimony of apostles and martyrs, saints, and doctors of your one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church throughout all time and space. Grant that it should prefer nothing whatsoever to Christ; and that it should count as its greatest honor the bearing of his Cross in this sin-shadowed world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the people and ministries of this congregation. Give us fresh ways to reach, speak with, and walk alongside people who don't know your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even in the lazy days of summer, you call us to be Jesus' apprentices in the art of healing souls, teaching minds, and softening hearts to receive your great gifts. Bless and guide everyone learning to be disciples of Jesus, walking with him as he seeks the hurting and lost. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace. Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. Bless us with peace, and with freedom from every evil and falsehood. Teach us all to live together as your children, and to work together for the prospering of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep Mason and those who serve their country defending life and liberty, safe from harm to body and soul. Prosper all they do that is in accordance with your will. Give them clear heads, capable hands, and upright spirits. Bring them safely home when their task is done, and heal those who are injured in any way. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray on behalf of your servants who suffer in body, mind, spirit, or circumstance, and for all who crave your mercy and blessing. Restore them to health, wholeness, and hope. Help us to give even a cup of cold water for the sake of our Lord and his love for them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With reverence and affection, we remember before you our beloved dead. Comfort all who grieve. Help us care for each other for Jesus' sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

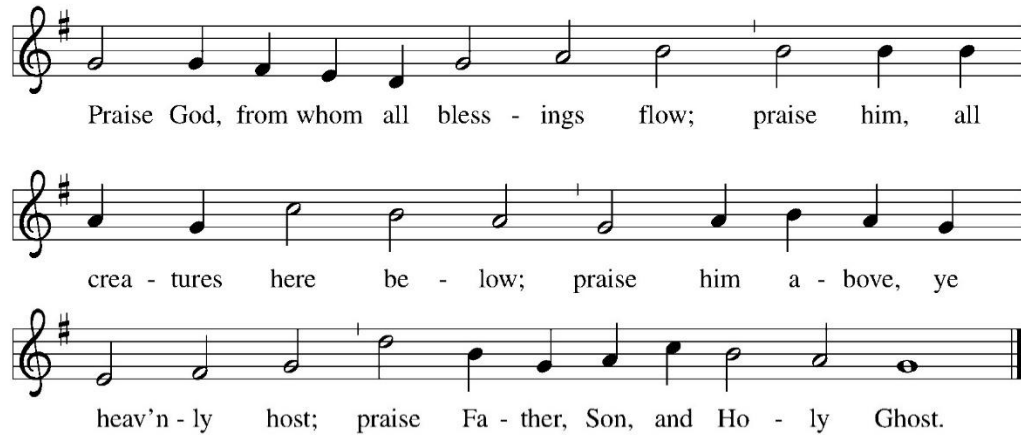
Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY #564 "The Doxology"



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Blessed are you,

C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



THE COMMUNION RITE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

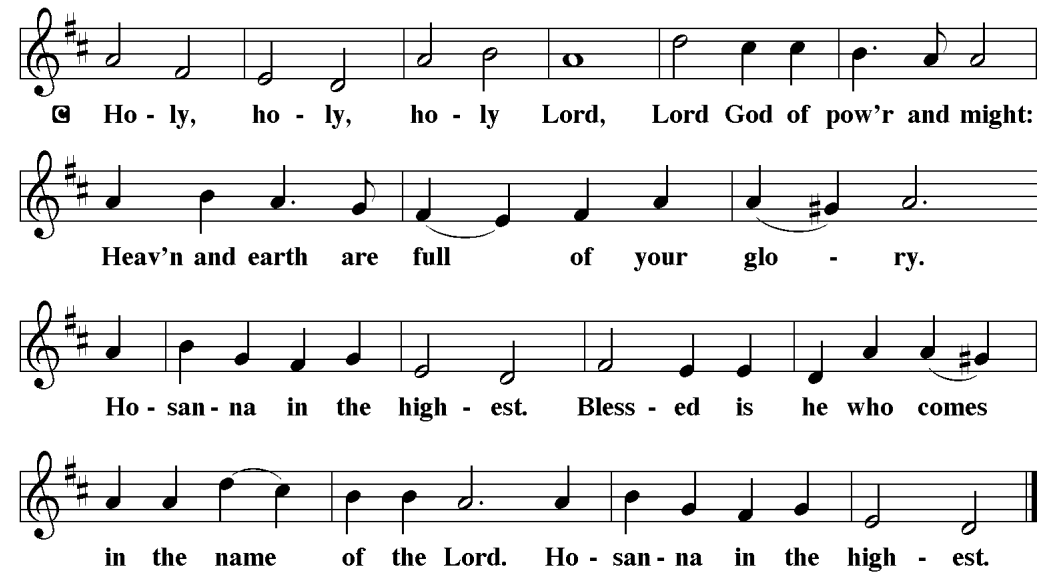
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times
and in all places offer thanks and praise to you,
O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**



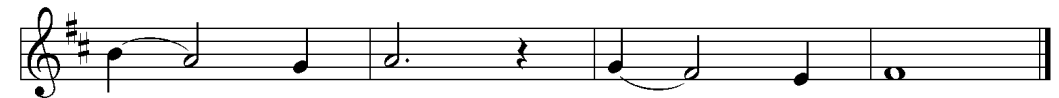
Q Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please sit.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

-Luther's Small Catechism Part V

Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you wish for the pastor to bring communion to you. Please advise an usher.

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray,

A Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord

C Amen

Silence for reflection.



THE BENEDICTION

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: #260 On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

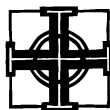
Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,
 hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 C Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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SONSHINE BACKPACK JUNE SUPPLY DRIVE

Help provide weekend food for local children in need through our partnership with Sunshine Backpacks. Requested items include shelf-stable milk, cereal, mac & cheese, canned goods, granola bars, juice, popcorn, and pudding. Donations are due on the back kitchen counter by **June 28**. Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl or Gretchen Walker.

VBS PROPS NEEDED!

VBS is looking for props for this year's Snowball Mountain Challenge theme!
Needed: Sleds, skis, ski poles, inflatable snow tubes, snow discs/saucers, Christmas trees. Please label and drop items in the Flex Room. Items may be picked up after the final night of VBS on July 28. Contact Laura Overby or Lisa Folino with questions.

REGISTER FOR VBS

Vacation Bible School will be **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 to begin the process.

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

Register: ➡️



STAY CONNECTED!

Sign up to receive our weekly *Ring Out* e-newsletter for news, events, and ministry updates.



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 YouTube: [@stjameslutheranconcord](#)