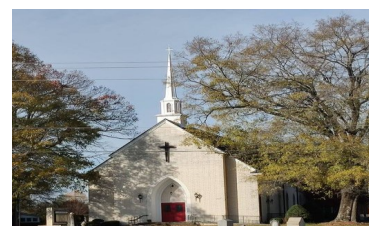


Volume 10

The Beacon
"Peace I leave with you, my peace I
give unto you." John 14:27



Issue 116

St. James Lutheran Church NALC Telephone: (828) 464-1953 Fax: (828) 465-2084

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Newton, NC 28658 Follow us on Facebook
E-mail church office: secretary@stjameslutherannewtonnc.com**

**Rev. Kenneth (Ken) Reed Jr.
kenreed803@gmail.com
Pastor, St. James Lutheran Church
1940 St. James Church Rd.
Newton, NC 28658
704.796.1764**

**Sherrie McKean, Secretary
Office Hours: 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Monday-Friday
Gary Reitzel, Custodian**

**Council Members: Wesley Stinson (Vice Chair), Karen Stewart (Secretary),
Celia Reece (Treasurer), Robert & Darbie Crouch, Kristen Link,
Kristy Painter, Ashton Hatley, and Tanya Stinson**

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"Christmas Prayer" by St. Ephrem the Syrian (306-373)

The feast day of your birth resembles you, Lord,
because it brings joy to all humanity.
Old people and infants alike enjoy your day.
Your day is celebrated from generation to generation.

Kings and emperors may pass away,
and the festivals to commemorate them soon lapse.
But your festival will be remembered until the end of time.
Your day is a means and a pledge of peace.

At your birth, heaven and earth were reconciled,
since you came from heaven and earth on that day,
You forgave our sins and wiped away our guilt.

You gave us so many gifts on the day of your birth;
a treasure of spiritual medicines for the sick;
spiritual light for the blind;
a cup of salvation for the thirsty;
the bread of life for the hungry.

In the winter when the trees are bare, you give us
the most succulent fruit.
In the frost when the earth is barren, you bring new
hope to our souls.
In December when seeds are hidden in the soil, the
staff of life springs forth from the virgin womb.

About Saint Ephrem (author of "Christmas Prayer")

Saint Ephrem had a prolific pen, and his writings best illumine his holiness. Although he was not a man of great scholarship, his works reflect deep insight and knowledge of the Scriptures. In writing about the mysteries of humanity's redemption, Ephrem reveals a realistic and humanly sympathetic spirit and a great devotion to the humanity of Jesus.

It is surprising to read that he wrote hymns against the heretics of his day. He would take the popular songs of the heretical groups and using their melodies, compose beautiful hymns embodying orthodox doctrine. Saint Ephrem became one of the first to introduce song into the Church's public worship as a means of instruction for the faithful. His many hymns have earned him the title "Harp of the Holy Spirit."

(references: "Advent & Christmas with the Church Fathers", TAN Books; FranciscanMedia.org.)



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Nights - 7:00 pm in the Library to study the upcoming Sunday scriptures.
Thursday Mornings (Jan 8 & Jan 22) - 10:30 am in the Choir Room with Pastor Ken



CATECHISM INSTRUCTION for 5th, 6th and 7th GRADERS

Confirmation Saturday

Jan. 24 @ 9:30am-12:00pm



WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (9:30am)

Children (NEW)	Upstairs	Infant - 4 years
Children	Upstairs	Grades K-4 th
Youth (NEW)	Upstairs	Grades 5 th -12 th
Adults	Library	
Adults	Fellowship Building	



GRADES 5th through 12th

Sunday, Jan. 4 @ 3:30 pm - Bowling: Pin Station
Sunday, Jan. 18 @ 3:00 pm - Bible Study & Games
Sunday, Feb. 8 @ 5:30 pm - Super Bowl Party
Sunday, Feb. 22 @ 5:00 pm - Bible Study & Games

WOMEN'S GROUP meets on Monday, January 5th at 7:00 pm.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Thursday, January 8th at 7:00 pm in the Library.

SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH - January 11th following Worship Service.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE meets on January 14th at 6:30 pm in the Library.

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE - January 14th from 2:00 - 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Building.

WORSHIP & MUSIC meets on Tuesday, January 20th.

MEN'S BREAKFAST is Sunday, January 25th at 8:00 am.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS are in the Secretary's office following Worship Service on Sunday, January 25th.

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ST. JAMES' WOMENS GROUP

MONTHLY MEETING: The Ladies will meet on Monday, January 5th at 7:00 pm.

CRAFTING QUEENS: There will not be any crafting days in January. A crafting date will be held on February 5th at 2:00 pm to see what interest this date and time may hold for anyone during the cold weather. A second day will be on February 17th at 10:00 am with lunch to follow.

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EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30 pm in the Library. On Tuesday, February 17th at 6:00 pm, we will host our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the Fellowship Building.

Gary Reitzel, Chairman



- 1. Marshall Sigmon
- 6. Jeff Arndt, Logan Arney, Jean Harris, Dakota Smith
- 7. Darbie Crouch, Adam Dixon
- 8. Joe Devine
- 10. Todd Sipe
- 11. Sue Lindley
- 15. Nell Houser
- 17. Rue Horne, Dottie Rudisill
- 18. Ray Ford Jr, Jimmy Long, J.C. Sipe, Kade Preston Warren
- 19. Jamie Smyre Smith
- 20. Betty Hawn, Tracy Montgomery
- 22. Reagan Saunders, Charlie Sigmon
- 24. Averie Crouch O'Brien
- 25. Kay Sigmon
- 27. Jeremy Clark, Amber Crouch, Tammy Link
- 28. Joe Dean Sigmon
- 29. Teresa Turner



- 2. Victor Lineberger
- 3. Amy Brown, Brandon Nelson
- 6. Linda Sipe, Preston Workman
- 8. Seth Ford, Lorelai O'Brien
- 9. Regina Lee
- 10. Shanna Smyre Rabon
- 13. Judy Brown, Taylor & Zach Harris, Ron Sipe
- 14. Colby Collins, Max Lowman
- 16. Heather Hagan
- 18. Susie Devine, Earl Sipe
- 20. Annabelle Hernandez
- 21. Kristy Estep
- 22. Allison Ford
- 23. Bill Armstrong, Joseph Reitzel, Dwayne Sipe
- 25. Kaitlyn Stewart
- 26. Lynn Hill



- 17. Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Sipe
- 29. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Smyre

- 1. Mr. & Mrs. Kelly York
- 3. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sipe
- 6. Ps. & Mrs. John Lingle
- 9. Mr. & Mrs. Victor Paquin
- 21. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smyre

THE LAITY TEAM

The Laity Team plans to meet monthly to assess the current status of Church members. Prayers, cards, encouragement, and support to each other is our calling from our Lord. Kristy Painter or Keeley Stikeleather, co-chairs, may be contacted. The committee consists of Robin Burgess, Betty Hawn, Sue Lindley, and Claire Sipe. God’s continued blessings and peace to everyone.

Many thanks to everyone for all the calls and cards from my St. James family at Christmas time. Linda Carswell

The American Red Cross Blood Mobile will be at St. James on January 14th from 2:00 - 7:00 pm. Please consider giving blood if you are able.

THANKFUL AND BLESSED



David Link replenished and replanted the flower beds around the Fellowship Building. David cleaned out the gutters around the church building.



The Ladies' Group collected paper necessities for Western Carolina in December. They filled treat bags for church members at Christmas.



Benjamin is installing new wiring for our WiFi.



The Evangelism Committee put together luminaries for our Christmas Eve Service.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Maiden High School JROTC leads the procession into the graveyard.



The Main Speaker is Lt. Col. Joseph Thomas, Senior JROTC leader at MHS.

Veterans post a wreath in remembrance of each branch of service.



David Thornburg played *Amazing Grace* on the bagpipes.

Gun salute performed by American Legion Post 16 Honor Guard.



Gabby lays a wreath at a Veteran's grave



American Heritage Girls Troop 0333

A VERY MIXED UP CHRISTMAS - CHILDREN'S PLAY 2025



SPECIAL DATES IN JANUARY

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| January 1 | New Year's Day |
| January 6 | Epiphany |
| January 19 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day |

