

The Beacon



*"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again
I say, Rejoice."
Philippians 4:4*

Volume 11

April 2026

Issue 119

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

**1942 St. James Church Road Website: stjameslutherannewtonnc.com
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**

+++++



EASTER and the "PASCHA FEAST"

Jesus was crucified on the day after Passover; the Scriptures see Easter as the fulfillment of that festival. At Easter, Jesus delivered us from our slavery to sin. Jesus is our Passover Lamb, who during the Passover meal gave His body and blood for us to eat and drink. Early Christians called the whole festival, from Christ's death to His resurrection, *Pashca*, which is Greek for Passover. For many centuries, they celebrated all the events of Holy Week in a vigil from Saturday dusk until Sunday dawn, when they celebrated the resurrection with the Lord's Supper. Since the fourth century, Christians have separated these events into the eight days of Holy Week. (This week includes an Easter Vigil on Saturday night which focuses on Baptism through which we join Jesus in His death and resurrection).

As Easter is the greatest festival of the Church Year, we celebrate it for a full fifty days, ending on Pentecost. The season embraces the forty days of Jesus' earthly walk with the disciples in His resurrected flesh, when he taught them the meaning of His death and resurrection (Acts 1:3). On the fortieth day – always a Thursday – we celebrate His ascension to reign at the right hand of God. Then, ten days later, the sending of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). So let Easter and the Pascha Feast continue! Jesus isn't gone, but He comes to us through his Word and Sacrament (Ephesians 1:20-23). (Lutheranism 101, pp. 123-124. Thomas M. Winger, Concordia, St. Louis: 2017)



Holy Week Schedule

- Apr 2 Maundy Thursday (7:00 pm)
- Apr 3 Good Friday (7:00 pm)
- Apr 4 Preparing the Easter Cross (9:00 am). All are welcome.
Children's Easter Party/Egg Hunt (10:00 am)
- Apr 5 Easter Sunrise (7:00 am)
Breakfast (8:00 am)
Flowering of the Cross (10:00 am). Meet in front of the church.
Easter Service (10:30 am)

+++++



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Nights - 7:00 pm in the Library to study the upcoming Sunday scriptures.
Thursday Mornings - 10:30 am in the Choir Room with Pastor Ken
 (April 23 and 30; May 7, 14, 21, and 28)



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

Confirmation Saturday
 May 16 @ 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, Apr. 12 @ 3:00 pm - Bible Study & Games
 Sunday, Apr. 26 @ 3:00 pm - Bible Study & Games

- WOMEN'S GROUP** meets on Monday, April 6th at 7:00 pm.
- EVANGELISM COMMITTEE** meets on Wednesday, April 8th at 6:30 pm in the library.
- CHURCH COUNCIL** meets on Thursday, April 16th at 6:30 pm in the library.
- WOMEN'S CRAFT DAY** - April 21st at 10:00 am with lunch to follow.
- MOVIE NIGHT** – April 25th at 7:00 pm. See Page 3
- MEN'S BREAKFAST** is Sunday, April 26th at 8:00 am.
- BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS** are in the Secretary's office following Worship Service on Sunday, April 26.

+++++

An Easter Egg Hunt, for all ages, will be on April 4th at 10:00 a.m. Come out and enjoy games, food, crafts ... and of course the **EASTER BUNNY!**

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

The Mother/Daughter Banquet will be held on May 9th in the Fellowship Building at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend. Please let Erica or Robin Sigmon know.

+++++

ST. JAMES' WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women Group will meet on Monday, April 6th at 7:00 pm.

Crafting Queens will resume on Tuesday, April 21st at 10:00 am. Lunch will follow.

+++++

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Committee will be having a *Movie Night* on Saturday, April 25th at 7:00 pm. The name of the movie is *"The Unbreakable Boy"*. It is based on a true story. Refreshments will be served. Bring your favorite chair and come out and enjoy the movie!

+++++

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.

+++++



We need your help to recruit summer staff for Solid Rock Day Camp, a ministry of the Carolinas Mission Region. Encourage all your college-age young people (including high school seniors) to apply!

Respectfully,
Cody Carpenter

+++++

Susie Devine of Devine Farms has been taking donations to Western North Carolina every Thursday. Some people in the WNC mountains are still in need. This post was put out by Susie:

"I need your help. This winter has been rough on so many people. Our friends in the mountains are still struggling. I've been so blessed to have had so many donations, and my church has given me money to purchase items that these folks need. I've been able to take a truckload of donations to WNC every week. However, I've run out of money and donations have been very slow coming in. I won't be able to deliver anything this week unless y'all come through for me. The main distribution site we deliver to counts on us every Thursday. They **ALWAYS** need: toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, 13-gallon trash bags, laundry soap, or just about anything folks use daily. Yes, folks are still struggling in the mountains – please don't forget about them! If you have a group that would like to do a project, I'll be glad to come pick up your donations or you can drop them by the farm anytime. Just leave it on the porch. You can get a lot of things they need for \$1.00 at Dollar General. Thank you, I know you'll come through for these folks. Is there any group willing to have another drive for them?"



- 3. Fran Watters
- 4. Cindy Sigmon, Kathy Turner
- 6. Dillon Crouch, Leslie Reed
- 10. Vicky Lineberger, Keeley Stikeleather
- 13. Phyllis Huffman
- 14. Heather Black, Brenda Gendron,
Ps Malcom Lerch, Kristin Sipe
- 15. Marie Caldwell, Jamie Sigmon
- 16. Margaret Wilson
- 20. Bonnie Usher
- 23. Nickie Sain, Beverly Sipe
- 24. Connie Bell
- 25. Ansley Boldon
- 26. Nancy Smyre
- 30. Cindy Lineberger

- 4. Natalie Arndt
- 6. Brian Heavner
- 7. Claire Sipe
- 9. Nancy Alle
- 11. Robert Crouch
- 12. Anthony O'Brien
- 15. Roger Crouch, Rylee Smith
- 17. Tiffany Beal, Randy Cline
- 18. Frances Sigmon, Jay Sipe
- 19. Joe Teague
- 20. Mary Beth Young
- 21. Soundra Huffman
- 23. Chad Deal
- 24. Kathy Hagan, Jessica Hatley,
Victor Lineberger II
- 25. Marjorie Moose
- 30. Marie Lingle



- 16. Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Montgomery
- 19. Mr. & Mrs. Joe Verbos
- 21. Mr. & Mrs. Tim Sipe
- 22. Mr. & Mrs. Darby Crouch
- 23. Mr. & Mrs. David Cook
- 30. Mr. & Mrs. Tracy Polson

- 3. Mr. & Mrs. Bob Alle
- 4. Mr. & Mrs. Chris Valone
- 7. Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Link
Mr. & Mrs. Wrenn Travis
- 29. Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Thompson
- 30. Mr. & Mrs. Clint Burgess

+++++

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church Family:

Thank you for your generous donation to the Catawba County Family Recovery Court. We really appreciate your support of our Family Recovery Court program.
Gina Styer, Team Member

Blessed are the givers...and grateful are the receivers. Thanks so much!

Thank you for your support of the Catawba County Wig Bank – Glenda Verbos
Thank you for your continued support – Peggy Missick
So appreciate helping us with our cause! – Sharon Sipe

St. James Lutheran Church

Thank you for your monetary donation to Malorie's Place. It was greatly appreciated.
God Bless!

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church:

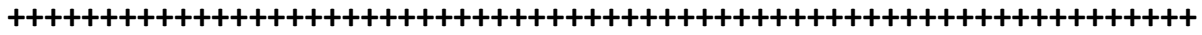
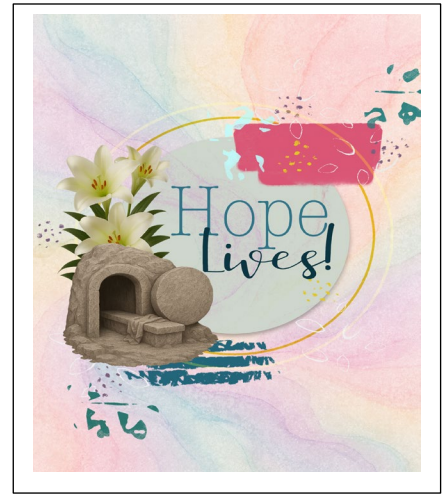
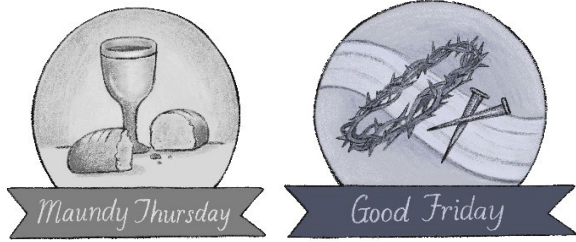
Thank you so much for your donation towards the lunch debt at Challenger Early College High School! Thank you for supporting our students!

Challenger Staff and Students



SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL

April 2 Maundy Thursday
 April 3 Good Friday
 April 5 Easter Sunday
 April 22 Earth Day
 Administrative Professionals Day



MARCH PHOTOS



Crosses remind us of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Pastor Ken holds a book with a Jerusalem cross on the cover.



Lorelai lights the Christ Candle.

Leland holds a sign in which everyone says "Jesus did it" in response to Pastor Ken's reading of the miracle of the blind man whom Jesus healed.



PALM SUNDAY

Quinn lights the Christ Candle.

Pastor Ken explains what takes place on Palm Sunday with the use of palms and a colt of a donkey.





David is fascinated by all the palm fronds in the aisle.



Joseph leads the processional with the Cross. Peggy and Quinn follow with the candles at the close of service.



foods like bread.



worship songs or sharing a meal.



©CRI ChurchArt.com

Holy Saturday

Day of Preparation

- Reading: Luke 23:50-56
- Activity: Prepare for Easter by decorating or cooking traditional

prayer, Scripture or silent activities with minimal speaking.

Easter Sunday

Jesus Is Risen!

- Reading: John 20:1-18
- Activity: Celebrate the Resurrection with joy and fellowship by singing

Re-create a foot washing ceremony by washing each other's feet.

or write about the theme of sacrifice or caring.

Wednesday

Silent Wednesday

- Reading: Psalm 46
- Activity: Engage in a quiet challenge, focusing on



- Activity: Make palm crosses or a palm-themed craft.



Thursday

The Last Supper

- Reading: John 13:1-20
- Activity:



Good Friday

The Crucifixion

- Reading: Isaiah 53
- Activity: Draw, paint



Tuesday

Speaking in Parables

- Reading: Matthew 22:1-14
- Activity: Choose a Gospel and count how many parables Jesus uses. For a challenge, identify which parables are in each Gospel book.

praying about what you wish to eliminate from your life or discussing obstacles that hinder your time with God.

Palm Sunday

Triumphant Entry

- Reading: Matthew 21:1-11



Monday

Cleansing the Temple

- Reading: Mark 11:15-18
- Activity: Take a reflective walk, silently



Happy Week

DAILY ACTIVITY GUIDE