



The Beacon

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory."

Isaiah 6:3



Volume 11

August 2026

Issue 123

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

+++++



IN WHOM SHALL I TRUST?

A Reflection and Prayer on Psalm 84 from
Martin Luther

The 84th psalm is a psalm of comfort. It praises God's Word highly over all things – glory, power, joy and whatever we desire – that we may hold onto God's Word. And if we should be like the doorkeeper, that is, the least of those in the temple, this would still be far better than to sit in all the castles of the godless. For God's Word (the psalmist says) gives victory, salvation, grace, glory and all good things. O how blessed are those who believe this and then keep it! But where are they? Even if they were slandered and despised, they would find the whole world to be theirs in abundance, prepared for them.

*84 How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!*

*² My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.*

*³ Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.*

*⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise! Selah*

*⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.*

*⁶ As they go through the Valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.*

*⁷ They go from strength to strength;
each one appears before God in Zion.*

*⁸ O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah*

*⁹ Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!*

*¹⁰ For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.*

*I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

continued on Page 2...

...Continued from Page 1

¹¹ *For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk uprightly.*
¹² *O LORD of hosts,
blessed is the one who trusts in you!*

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, Lord, our God, because You have granted us Your Word which shows us the way of salvation. By your Holy Spirit work effectually in us through this Your Word, that it may prove in us a living and fruitful seed bringing a hundredfold, and that the fruit remain to eternal life.

("Reading the Psalms with Luther." Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis: 2007, p. 200-201)

Mark Your Calendar for These Events

Aug 3	Women's Meeting, 7:00pm
Aug 6	Women's Crafts, 2:00pm
Aug 13	Council Meeting, 6:30pm
Aug 18	Women's Crafts with lunch, 10:30am
Aug 23	Men's Breakfast, 8:00am
Aug 26	Red Cross Bloodmobile, 2:30-7:00pm
Sept 10	Thurs Bible Study resumes, 10:30am
Sept 13	Homecoming Sunday with covered dish lunch.
Sept 19	Confirmation Saturday
Sept 19	Car Show
Sept 26	Senior Banquet

The NALC (North American Lutheran Church) will hold their annual convocation exclusively online this year on August 7th. Pastor Ken, Randy Cline and Wesley Stinson will be delegates representing St. James. Next month's newsletter will have highlights from this event.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY: September begins Year Two of the confirmation journey for four of St. James' young people with Pastor Ken. In 2025-2026 the focus was on the books of the New & Old Testaments and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. This fall we'll begin with the Sacrament of Holy Communion. And celebrate their First Communion on Reformation Sunday in October. Then, Luther's Small Catechism will be the focus as we study the three articles of the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer, Confession and Forgiveness and Worship & the Liturgical Year. May God bless this group as they grow in faith together with God's Word.

THE LAITY TEAM: The Laity Committee is available to assist with prayers, comfort, support and encouragement. Please advise the team of needs or wishes.
Co-chairs are Keeley Stikeleather and Kristy Painter .. plus Robin Burgess, Betty Hawn, Tanya Stinson, and Claire Sipe .. plus Pastor Ken.

Evangelism Committee: The Evangelism Committee wants to thank the Congregation for your help with providing ice cream and desserts for the Cockman family singing. There was close to 80 people that came out and enjoyed the singing, food and fellowship here at St. James.

On Tuesday, August 18th, the Committee will be on the square in Newton handing out information about St. James. This will be beach night during Reunion Week. "Too Much Sylvia" will be playing that night. Be sure and stop by and see us!



WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (9:30am)

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

Chancel choir practice will start back on August 19.

Handbells practice will start back on September 2.

Senior Citizen's Party is happening on Saturday, September 26 from 11:30 - 1:30.

Anyone 70+ years old and their spouse or one other person are invited to attend. We will eat lunch and play some fun games! The theme is "RED, WHITE, and BLUE... Seniors deserve a Holiday too!" More information will be available soon.



2. Carolyn Kelley
3. Ps. Bob Alle
4. Robin Burgess, Gary Reitzel, Nora Smyre
5. Barbara Sigmon, Chris Travis
8. Johnnie Bolick, Alexis Barr Horne
10. Jeffrey Sigmon
12. Emily Barr, Laura Miller
14. Jessie Clark, Kyle & Montana Lineberger,
Cheryl Sigmon
15. Kristen Link
17. Jessica Little, Nicole Morrison, Joe Verbos
20. Jack Reed
21. Barbara Harris
23. Gabby Hernandez
25. Emmett Clark, Nancy Spriggs
28. Kyle Thompson
31. Raegan Black, Steve Ferguson



1. Debra Self, Amanda Young Valone
3. Tanya Stinson, Janey Link Thern
4. Scott Arney, Darby Crouch
5. Raelynn Heavner, Jerry Stikeleather
8. Tim Sipe
9. Lindsey Arney
10. Carolyn Travis
12. Andy Sipe
14. Gracie Elizabeth Sipe
16. William Stewart
17. Amber Beal
20. Barbara Smith
21. Robert Dixon
23. Logan & Luke Devine, Zachery Lowman
24. Dennis Craig, Ellen Miller
27. Johnny Sigmon



5. Mr. & Mrs. Andy Sipe
6. Mr. & Mrs. Clay Chapman
14. Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Craig
23. Mr. & Mrs. J C Sipe

3. Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Young
14. Mr. & Mrs. Joe Devine
17. Mr. & Mrs. Alex Reed
Mr. & Mrs. John Schlie
21. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Crouch
26. Mr. & Mrs. Luke Devine
27. Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne Sipe

SPECIAL DATE IN AUGUST

August 7 Purple Heart Day





Saint James Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date: May 14, 2026

Members present: Darbie Crouch, Robert Crouch, Ashton Hatley, Celia Reece, Rev. Ken Reed, Karen Stewart, Tanya Stinson, Wesley Stinson

Members absent: Kristen Link, Kristy Painter

Opening

Devotions: Pastor: Revelation 21:1-6

Prayer List: Painter family (death of Kristy's mom), Sharon Sipe (father in respite care), Pastor Janice Kelly, Nancy Bledsoe, Wilma Hedrick, Robert Crouch (procedure on 5/27)

Consent Package

Last month's minutes: Minutes from April distributed and reviewed. No changes noted.

****Note:** only approved minutes are to be put in the binder in the library and newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

April ending balance of general: \$228,740.16

April ending balance of all accounts: \$1,005,083.11

Pastor's Report:

New members for Council approval: Randy & Sindy Banwart, Carolyn Kelley, and Kyle Thompson
Will join by Affirmation of Baptism at date TBD.

Darbie moved to approve new members. Tanya seconded. All in favor.

Joel and Celia were the representatives of the congregation at Christiana Lutheran in Concord.
Details will follow at a later date.

Karen motioned to accept the package. Robert seconded. All in favor.

Committee Reports

Evangelism: Movie night was successful.

Handed out carnations on Mother's Day.

Will be handing out lunches at Corner Table on 5/23.

There will be a covered dish lunch after outdoor church service on 5/31.

Youth Ministry: Finished for this year. Several summer activities are planned.

Helping Hands: No report.

Social Ministry: No report.

Bereavement: No report.

Worship and Music: No report.

Christian Education: VBS will be held July 16-17 (Thursday and Friday evening)

Audit and Finance: No report.

Stewardship: No report.

Property: Meeting scheduled for 7:00 May 21.

Cemetery: Haas Cemetery cleanup scheduled for 5/16.

Catawba County Historical Society has cleaned up 2 headstones. Ron Sipe has posted pictures of them on Facebook. (These are not recent pictures.)

Safety Team: No report.

Laity Team Report: Met and put together bags for visitors and reorganized the card ministry.

Tech Team: No report.

New Business

Fellowship Building guidelines: After research and discussion, committee stands by the \$100 charge for use of the building by all.

Pastor Ken will be on vacation from May 30 - June 6. Pastor Bob Alle will be on call and preach at the outdoor service.

Fellowship Building requests:

Elaine Link withdrew request for July 3.

Kristy Smith - May 23 - graduation party - will use building and playground - payment included.

Tanya made a motion to approve. Darbie seconded. All in favor.

Mackenzie Jordan - June 23 - birthday party - will use building and playground - payment not included.

Tanya made a motion to approve. Darbie seconded. All in favor.

Robert made a motion to adjourn. Tanya seconded. All members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Called Council Meeting after Church Service

Date: May 24, 2026

Members present: Darbie Crouch, Robert Crouch, Kristy Painter, Karen Stewart, Tanya Stinson, Wesley Stinson

Members absent: Kristen Link, Rev. Ken Reed, Celia Reece, Ashton Hatley

Committee met to discuss the proposal from the Property Committee.

Bids were obtained for concrete for these 3 areas: behind parsonage, in front of storage shed (bus garage), and filling in the play area. Marshall Sigmon's was the lowest at \$6,000.

Funds will come from the Playground Fund (\$3,500) and Repair and Maintenance (\$2,500).

Darbie moved to accept the proposal. Tanya seconded. All approved.

THE COCKMAN FAMILY — JULY 19



Saint James Photos — July, 2026

