

## *The Beacon*

*"The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble."*

*Psalm 20:1*



**Volume 10**

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**Issue 106**

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Monday-Friday  
Gary Reitzel, Custodian**

**Council Members: Wesley Stinson (Vice Chair), Karen Stewart (Secretary),  
Celia Reece (Treasurer), Robert & Darbie Crouch, Robin Sigmon,  
Victor Paquin, Christopher Painter, and Kristen Link**



**NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

## **Seminary Celebrates Tenth Anniversary**

Ten years ago, the North American Lutheran Seminary was only a vision. We dreamed of a seminary where pastors are formed in the Great Tradition of the Christian faith and the evangelical witness of the Lutheran Confessions. Over the past ten years, that vision has become a reality. The NALS has grown into a hub-and-spokes network of schools across North America that are focused on raising up faithful and well-prepared leaders for the NALC.

As we look back on the past ten years, we can't help but celebrate the countless ways God has blessed the NALS—through our students, our faculty, and our alumni, and through generous supporters like you. From day one, the NALS has been dedicated to nurturing pastors and leaders who are passionate about the gospel and prepared to serve our congregations. Our students not only learn theology, they experience it. NALS students are being formed to grow in their love for God's Word, to dive deep into the richness of the sacraments, and to become part of a community that shapes them into the pastors and leaders that the Church so desperately needs.

We are astounded with immense gratitude. So many of you have walked alongside the NALS—through prayer, encouragement, and financial support. Thanks to your care for our seminary community, we can celebrate this milestone. Your partnership has allowed the seminary to flourish in ways we could have only dreamed of ten years ago. Today, NALS alumni are serving congregations and communities across North America, bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. It's beautiful to behold this impact—and it's just the beginning!

As we celebrate the first ten years of the NALS, we also look ahead with excitement and hope. We know the Lord has even more in store for the NALS in the years to come. But we will need your continued partnership. Join us in dreaming about the next ten years of the NALS. Your support—whether through prayer, spreading the word, or a financial contribution—makes a difference. Together we can equip future pastors and leaders to continue the work God has set before us in the NALC.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 3 - Mon.	Women’s Meeting (7:00 pm).
Feb. 9 - Sun.	Second Sunday Lunch.
Feb. 12 - Wed.	Evangelism Committee Meeting (6:30 pm).
Feb. 18 - Tues.	Women’s Craft Day with Lunch (10:00 am).
Feb. 23 - Sun.	Men’s Breakfast (8:00 am).
Mar. 1 - Sat.	Women’s Prayer Breakfast (see Page 5).
Mar. 13, 14, 15	Photography Sessions in the Fellowship Building (see Page 5).
May 31 - Sat	Relay for Life - Sign up online.



## Tuesday Nights @ 7:00pm, Fellowship Building

A weekly study of the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday worship service.

## Thursday Mornings @ 10:30am, Sanctuary with Pastor Ken

Feb. 6            Matthew 11:20-30

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## Delegates Needed for Upcoming NALC Convocations:

St. James is allowed delegates to represent the church at two upcoming convocations: If you are interested in being a delegate, please reach out to Pastor Ken for more details.

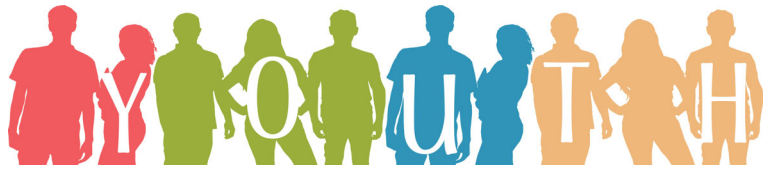
*NALC Carolinas Convocation: Christ Lutheran Church, Stanley NC  
May 2-3: one lay delegate needed in addition to Pastor Ken.*

*NALC Continental Convocation: Omni Hotel, Pittsburgh PA  
Aug. 6-8: two lay delegates needed in addition to Pastor Ken.*

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Linda Carswell thanks everyone for the cards, gifts and Christmas wishes that she received in December.



**SCHEDULE**

**4th - 12th Grades**

Feb. 9 (Sun) 6 pm:	Super Bowl Party (Parsonage)
Mar. 2 (Sun) 3 pm:	Meet in Fellowship Building
Mar. 16 (Sun) 5 pm:	Meet in Fellowship Building
Apr. 13 (Sun) 3 pm:	Easter Party (Fellowship Building)
Apr. 27 (Sun) 3 pm:	Jacob's Ice Cream - meet in Fellowship Building
May 4 (Sun) 3 pm:	Putt-Putt - meet at church
May 18 (Sun) 3 pm:	Put together flood baskets for NALC Disaster Response



# 100 BAGS

# 100 BLESSINGS

Sponsored by the St. James youth. Help us keep the St. James “Blessing Box” filled each day. Take a bag, fill it up and return it Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> or any Sunday thereafter.

- \*Canned chicken \*Canned tuna \*Canned spaghetti
- \*Rice \*Mac and cheese \*Canned vegetables \*Soup
- \*Canned fruit \*Pasta and sauce \*Crackers
- \*Peanut butter and Jelly.

Pastor Ken lighting the Christ Candle with Lorelai and explaining the ‘100 Bags 100 Blessings’ during the Children’s Sermon. Each child received a bag and a list of items they could buy.







- 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

- 1. Amy Bolick, Rick Heavner, Bobbie Sain
- 3. Jessie Sipe, Margaret Travis
- 4. Ricky Estep
- 6. Molly Booher, Isaac Crouch
- 8. Jessica Beal, Bain Sipe
- 11. Kristy Painter
- 16. Benjamin Stewart
- 17. Jane Sain
- 19. Sharon Arnold
- 21. Janice Elmore, Donna Sigmon
- 23. Jeff Link
- 25. Torre Boldon
- 26. Bob Hullet
- 28. Susan Cook, Jill Raines
- 29. Ashton Hatley



- 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

- 4. Mr. & Mrs. Chris Painter
- 9. Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Clark
- 12. Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Brittain
- 22. Mr. & Mrs. Nickie Sain

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### THE LAITY TEAM

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. God’s continued blessings and peace to everyone. The committee consists of Robin Burgess, Betty Hawn, Sue Lindley, and Claire Sipe.

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### EVANGELISM COMMITTEE



On Saturday, February 8th at 7 pm in the Fellowship Building, we will show the movie “*The Forge*”. It is a compelling, suspenseful and Spiritual movie. Come join us! Bring your favorite chair to sit in. You are welcome to bring your own refreshments and there will be some provided as well.

Come enjoy a great movie AND you do not have to pay admission to get in!!

How many of you were able to find the hidden books of the Bible before you looked for the answers? Hmm..did you find as many as Pastor Ken?

ST. JAMES' WOMENS GROUP

BAZAAR 2024

Total Income		\$8,022.50
AHG	988.00	
Trail Life	<u>1,326.00</u>	
	<u>-2,314.00</u>	
25% Christmas Giving	1,427.12	
10% Social Ministry	<u>570.85</u>	
Total Back to the Community		-4,311.97
50% Church Project		-2,854.25
15% 2025 Bazaar		- 856.28

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PICTORIAL DIRECTORY “MAKE MEMORIES LAST”

Sign up will begin soon. Picture dates are March 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. Everyone photographed will get an 8” x 10” and a Pictorial Directory. Appointments will be taken at 2nd Sunday lunch.

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SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH

February 9<sup>th</sup> with soup and sandwiches. Sandwiches will be provided. Will need crockpots of soup and desserts. If you can bring soup, please let Robin Burgess know.

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CRAFT WORKSHOP

There will be a craft workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. If anyone has craft supplies they want to give away, please bring them to this workshop.

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WOMEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Maiden Community Women’s Prayer Breakfast is quickly approaching. St. Matthew’s, along with Ivey Memorial, Maiden Chapel, and Mt. Olive will host this event on Saturday, March 1, 2025. Registration will begin at 8:30 am, and breakfast will be served at 9:00 am. The program will follow in the Church Fellowship Hall.

“Casting Bread” is the charity chosen for support this year. This ministry is based in Watauga County and serves primarily Watauga, Caldwell, Ashe, Avery and Wilkes Counties assisting in insuring that food is available to those in need both as a café and as a food pantry. Attendees to the breakfast may bring canned goods, non-perishables, toiletries (trial size), self-rising flour, or Food Lion gift cards.

Following breakfast, Donna Smith from Lexington, NC will bring a message of prayer and service. She is the pianist at Bethel Church in Thomasville, as well as a retired teacher, author and speaker.

Please let Robin Burgess know by Sunday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> if you would like to go.  
In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**SPECIAL DATES IN FEBRUARY**

- Feb. 1 - 28    Black History Month
- Feb. 2        Groundhog Day
- Feb. 14       Valentine’s Day
- Feb. 17       Presidents’ Day



**2024 Blessing Box Stories**

If St. James’ Blessing Box would talk, it may tell these tales:

- \* Head lights come into the parking lot at the wee morning hours. A coat-clad person parked really close to me. The cans of food rattled while being carried quickly to their car.
- \* A man of years visited one day. He got out of his old truck, opened the Blessing Box door, looked in for a time, shook his head, closed the door, and left with nothing in hand.
- \* A red car has visited my friend, Library Box, many times. A lady has even sat beside the Library Box in her car reading.
- \* A lady neighbor left a ‘Thank You’ note to St. James Church.
- \* Oh the times visitors have found only a can or two or nothing. Even Library Box, at times, has had little to offer.
- \* My door was opened one Sunday morning to find nothing. A friend of nature - Praying Mantis - was perched above my door, sitting very still as if saying a prayer. A Church lady filled me full...it felt sooo good!
- \* One day a friend observed a young lady and boy walking across the Church parking lot. They walked to the Blessing Box. They took a few things. They walked back the way they came to a place unknown.
- \* A lady was seen placing items in the Blessing Box. Maybe to repay for items she had taken when she was in need or to help someone else.

If St. James’ Blessing Box could talk .....

\*\*Please refer to the “100 Bags 100 Blessings” post on Page 3 for ways that you can help make our Blessing Box special to our friends, neighbors and community.