



The Beacon

*"In that day shall the branch of the
LORD be beautiful and glorious.."*

Isaiah 4:2



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

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**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, Robin Sigmon,
Victor Paquin, Christopher Painter, and Kristen Link**

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A Reflection and Prayer on Psalm 100 from Martin Luther

The 100th psalm is a prophecy of Christ. It calls on the entire world to be joyful, to praise, and to give thanks, that it, to worship God and come to His throne and His courts, and to call on him with confidence. For His grace is an eternal kingdom, which truly remains forever and ever.

100 *Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!*

² *Serve the LORD with gladness!*

Come into his presence with singing!

³ *Know that the LORD, he is God!*

It is he who made us, and we are his,^[a]

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ *Enter his gates with thanksgiving,*

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ *For the LORD is good;*

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

Let us pray. Spirit of grace and of prayer that proceeds from the Father and Son, grant us your power, and intercede for us with sighings which cannot be uttered, that in spirit and in truth we may give thanks to our Savior Jesus Christ for His love and truth. Anoint us with the oil of gladness to walk before our God in a Holy conversation, and to run the way of His Commandments.

("Reading the Psalms with Luther." Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis: 2007, p. 235-236)



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Nights - 7:00 pm in the Library to study the upcoming Sunday scriptures.

Thursday Mornings - (Beginning Sept. 11) 10:30 am in the Choir Room to study Paul's letters to the Thessalonians with Pastor Ken.



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

Confirmation Saturdays

Sept. 27 @ 9:30am-12:00pm	Old Testament
Nov. 22 @ 9:30am-12:00pm	New Testament
Jan. 24 @ 9:30am-12:00pm	Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Apr. 25 @ 9:30am-12:00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion

WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (9:30am)



Children (NEW)	Upstairs	Infant - 4 years	(beginning Sept. 7)
Children	Upstairs	Grades K-4 th	(beginning Sept. 7)
Youth (NEW)	Upstairs	Grades 5 th -12 th	(beginning Sept. 7)
Adults	Library		
Adults	Choir Room		

Grades 5th through 12th



Sunday, Sept. 7th at 12:30 pm: Hickory Crawdads Baseball!! We'll leave after Worship for lunch at McDonalds, then off to the game in Hickory that starts at 2:00 pm. (Bring money for food).

Upcoming YOUTH Events:

Sunday, Sept. 21st @ 3:00 pm
Sunday, Oct. 5th @ 3:00 pm
Sunday, Oct. 19th @ 3:00 pm
Sunday, Oct. 26th @ 4:30-6:30 pm (Trunk-or-Treat)

WOMEN'S GROUP meets on Monday, September 8th at 7:00 pm.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE meets on Wednesday, September 10th at 6:30 pm.

"CRAFTING QUEENS" meet on Tuesday, September 16th at 10:00 am.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Wednesday, September 17th at 7:00 pm in the Library.

HOMEcoming SUNDAY: September 21st at 10:30 am. The Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder will be our guest preacher, followed by lunch in the Fellowship Building. Rev. Yoder is the pastor of St. Martin's Lutheran Church (Maiden) and is the Director of Lutheran Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Charlotte). He is also a former Dean of the Catawba Valley Mission District (NALC).

CAR SHOW - September 27th from 10 am - 2 pm.

MEN'S BREAKFAST will be on Sunday, September 28th at 8:00 am.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS will be in the Secretary's office following Worship Service on Sunday, September 28th.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT - Sunday, October 26th from 4:30 - 6:30 pm.

CHURCH THANKSGIVING MEAL - November 26th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Building.

WREATH'S ACROSS AMERICA - Saturday, December 13th at 12:00 Noon.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - Sunday, December 21st at 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Building.



The Evangelism Committee was busy in August. We were on the Court Square in Newton on Tuesday of Reunion Week. We handed out water and fans along with information about St. James. On Saturday the 30th, we handed out bags of food to the homeless at the Corner Table. Our Haas Worship Service will be held on Sunday, October 12th at Haas Cemetery with lunch to follow. Our regular meeting in September is on the 10th at 6:30 pm.

ST. JAMES' WOMENS GROUP

BAZAAR REQUESTS

The Women of the Church are putting together 4 baskets to be raffled off for the Bazaar. The baskets we are making: 1) Spa 2) Kitchen 3) Entertainment 4) Gardening We ask that if anyone might have new items that could be put in these baskets to bring them to the church and put them on the table outside of Pastor's office. We can also use Gift Cards for the baskets. These baskets will be raffled off at the Bazaar - Tickets to be sold **SOON!**

Other things that we can use for the Bazaar are new or slightly used clothing, household items and holiday decorations.

It is only **12 weeks** until the Bazaar...Save your items for us! If you have anything that you need to bring earlier, please ask us.

We hope to make this Bazaar a **Huge Success!!**

The **Carolina Women's Group** will have a meeting on Saturday, October 11th, 2025 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Pomaria, SC. Registration begins at 8:30 am; program begins at 9:00 am. A meal will follow - the cost is \$10.00.

If you are interested in going, please let Robin know by September 21st.

Our Women's Group's monthly meeting is on Monday, September 8th. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

"CRAFTING QUEENS" MORNING OUT!!

Our next crafting workshop will be Tuesday, September 16th at 10:00 am. We have made a lot of things to be sold at the Bazaar at our Tuesday morning events. *Come join us!* A light lunch is also served.

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To All Thrivent Members:

***LIVE GENEROUSLY! GIVE TO OTHERS THROUGH YOUR
THRIVENT MEMBERSHIP!***

Each one of us can apply for up to \$500 a year to benefit a church, an organization, or something near and dear to our hearts. Examples: a) Blessing Box at St. James; b) school lunches, teacher supplies, etc; c) materials for quilting circles, etc; d) needed supplies/equipment for an organization of your choice...etc, etc, etc.

I am available and will be glad to sit down with anyone who has questions or needs help getting started. I have placed some brochures on the table outside of the secretary's office which may also help you.

Susan Hullet, Representative for St. James



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



- 3. Victor Paquin
- 5. Stephanie Shook
- 7. Joy Sharpe
- 9. Anissa Laws, Wesley Stinson
- 13. Brenda Isenhour, Celia Reece
- 15. Susan Hullet
- 17. MacKenzie Lowman Jordan
- 25. Aiden Palmer
- 27. Sharon Ford, Zoie Miller
- 31. Jonathan Schmutz



- 3. Mr. & Mrs. Ben Young
- 14. Mr. & Mrs. Joe Devine
- 16. Mr. & Mrs. Chad Deal
- 17. Mr. & Mrs. Alex Reed
- Mr. & Mrs. John Schlie
- 20. Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sharpe
- 21. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Crouch
- 26. Mr. & Mrs. Luke Devine
- 27. Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne Sipe

- 1. Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery Sigmon
- 8. Mr. & Mrs. Anthony O'Brien
- 9. Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Sipe
- 10. Mr. & Mrs. Steve Campbell
- 12. Mr. & Mrs. Freddy Link
- 22. Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Miller
- 27. Mr. & Mrs. Mark Saunders

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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.

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The Power of Prayer Warriors

Prayer warriors are spiritual soldiers—men and women who faithfully lift others in prayer, often behind the scenes. Though their work may go unnoticed by the world, it is deeply valued by God. Their intercession can strengthen the weary, comfort the grieving, and open doors for God's will to be done.

In Scripture, we are urged to "pray one for another" (James 5:16, KJV), reminding us that healing and restoration often come through the prayers of the faithful. A prayer warrior stands in the gap, bringing needs before the Lord with boldness and persistence.

The Apostle Paul recognized the power of prayer, often asking others to pray for him as he shared the gospel. In the same way, prayer warriors today uphold churches, pastors, families, and communities.

Their prayers may be silent, but their impact is mighty. Never underestimate the difference a praying heart can make.

Peggy S. Sigmon Memorial Scholarship

Peggy Sigmon was a lifelong member of St. James Lutheran Church. She dedicated her life to her family, her church and her faith. Those who had the honor of knowing her knew that her life was dedicated to serving in her church and her community. She served on the church council as a member and vice chair many times, played in the handbell choir, was a member of the women's circle group, and more. There was never a meal served at St. James that she wasn't helping with by cooking, serving and cleaning. She was usually the first one there and the last one to leave. Her love and dedication have been carried on by many in our church and community. Peggy was proud of her family and cared for them. Her life was dedicated to taking care of others. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend. She never met a stranger. If you came to her home, she was going to feed you and greet you with a smile. If you needed help with something she was first to offer help. She taught us how to show our love to our families, love for our church, and love for all.

The Peggy S. Sigmon Memorial Scholarship is dedicated to keeping the spirit of love alive, showing compassion and always keeping God first in all we do. As a recipient of this scholarship our family will continue to pray, mentor and strive to continue the legacy that she instilled in her own family.

Requirements for this scholarship

- Required Essay: What I have learned from American Heritage Girls
 - What American Heritage Girls has meant to you. What are your future plans?
 - Active member of American Heritage Girls - at least four years
 - Completed the requirements of American Heritage Girls Family Helper Badge at Patriot level
 - Documentation of service hours (community, church, school, AHG, or other approved service hours)
- All documents must be completed and submitted to the chair of the scholarship committee: Robin Burgess by April 1st of each year.

Committee: Robin Burgess- Chair, Keeley Stikeleather, David Arndt, Debbie Sipe

SPECIAL DATES IN SEPTEMBER

September 1	Labor Day
September 7	National Grandparents Day
September 11	Patriot Day
September 22	First day of Autumn



CONGRATULATIONS to Gary Reitzel. He was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award at the Claremont City Council meeting. It is awarded to people who have made significant contributions to the State and their Community. This award comes from the Governor’s Office. He has served the Claremont Rescue Squad for the past 48 years, worked for the Catawba County EMS for 34 years, and continually shows great dedication to St. James.

AUGUST PHOTOS



Avalee lighting the Christ Candle.

Pastor Ken explains that the water used in Baptism contains the gifts of Promise, Salvation, Grace, Forgiveness, Life and the Holy Spirit.



Baptism of Kade Preston Warren. Welcome to St. James!!



Thank you Lisa for the beautiful music every Sunday!

LITTLE KIDS IN CHURCH

DID YOU HEAR...

The child cry in church?

The child say "All done" at the end of service?

The toddler say "Amen" after Pastor Ken twice?

The little one laughing and cooing during sermons?

The patter of little feet running to the Children's Sermon?

Thank you God for all the many blessings you have bestowed on St. James.

Submitted by Claire Sipe