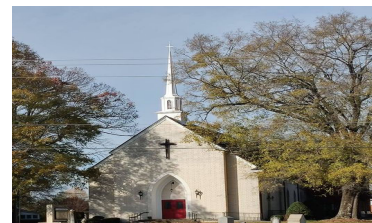


# The Beacon

“Be strong, all ye people of the land, and work;  
for I am with you.” Haggai 2:4



**Volume 9**

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**Issue 101**

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Monday-Friday  
Gary Reitzel, Custodian

Council Members: Betty Hawn, David Arndt (Vice Chair), Benjamin Stewart (Secretary),  
Gary Reitzel, Robin Sigmon, Victor Paquin, Christopher Painter  
Wesley Stinson, Celia Reece (Treasurer), and Kristen Helton

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## PRAAYER:

### **What Privilege and Command does God give those who believe in Christ?**

*(from Luther's Small Catechism and "The Lord Will Answer: A Daily Prayer Catechism" from Concordia Publishing: 2004)*

In a recent sermon I preached at St. James, I focused on a key part of our weekly worship liturgy: the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy). This short prayer bears the heart and soul of the one who is praying. Luther writes about prayer by answering a series of his own questions included in his Small Catechism.

**Matthew 7:7-8:** Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be open to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be open.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:** Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**We Believe:** God commands and invites believers in Jesus Christ to pray. The tolling of the church bells is a call to pray at Sunday worship, a death, or other occasions. Pause for prayer in moments of need or bereavement.

**Pray:** O Lord our God, teach us, we beg You, to ask You aright for the right blessings. Steer the vessel of our life toward Yourself, O tranquil haven of all storm-tossed souls. Show us the course wherein we should go. Renew a willing spirit within us. Let Your Spirit curb our wayward senses, and guide and enable us unto that which is our true good, to keep Your laws, and in all our works evermore to rejoice in Your glorious and gladdening Presence. For yours is the glory and praise from all Your saints forever and ever. Amen. (Basil of Caesarea, c. 330-79)

**AUGUST MEETINGS**

**Worship & Music** will meet on Thursday, Aug. 1st at 6:30 p.m.

The **Laity Team** will meet on Monday, Aug. 5th at 6:00 p.m.

The **Women’s Circle** will meet on Monday, Aug. 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Building. We will make crafts. We will also start making plans for the Bazaar. Bring all of your ideas to the meeting.

The **Evangelism Committee** will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 14th at 6:30 p.m.

The **Church Council** will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 21st at 7:00 p.m.

The **Men’s Breakfast** will be on Sunday, Aug. 25th at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Building.

**Blood Pressure Checks** are in secretary’s office on Sunday, Aug. 25th following worship.

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**WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION**

Planning for **Bazaar**: Yes, it is early — but never too early to start planning! We plan on having some craft workshops through the year. ALL are invited. As you are beginning to do your spring cleaning there are things that we can use:

- |         |          |                    |      |
|---------|----------|--------------------|------|
| Buttons | Material | Thread             | Yarn |
| Glue    | Ribbon   | Any craft supplies |      |

If you have any, please let Robin know.

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**EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone that brought homemade ice cream and desserts and helped with the Cockman Family singing. We had almost 120 people to attend. On Monday, Aug. 12, we will be giving out cold water and fans at *Gospel Night on the Square* in Newton. Come by and say Hello. We will be going to Mt. Airy in October. If you would like to go, please see a member of the Evangelism Team.

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Tuesday evenings **Bible Study** is at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Building. Thursday mornings **Bible Study** will **not** meet in August, but will resume in September.

**Worship** on Sunday, Aug. 4 will be held outside at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served afterwards; please bring a dessert to share.

The **AHG Awards Ceremony** is Sunday, Aug. 18th at 4:00 p.m. Everyone at St. James is welcome to attend.

**Choir rehearsals** will resume on Wednesday, Aug. 21st.

Our next **Blood Drive** is Wednesday, Aug. 28th from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. You can sign up online or see Connie Bell or Sharon Sipe.

Pastor Ken is planning a **New Member Class** later this summer. If anyone is interested in joining St. James please contact him for more information.

Our **Blessing Box** supplies are running low. Please help to restock as you are able. Also, the Corner Table is in need of plastic grocery bags that can be dropped off there.



- 3. Ps. Bob Alle
- 4. Robin Burgess, Gary Reitzel, Nora Smyre
- 5. Barbara Sigmon, Chris Travis
- 8. Johnnie Bolick, Alexis Barr Horne
- 10. Jeff Sigmon
- 12. Emily Barr, Laura Miller
- 14. Jessie Clark, Kyle & Montana Lineberger,  
Cheryl Sigmon
- 15. Kristen Helton
- 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, John Houser

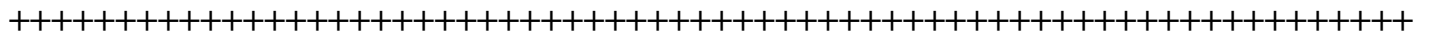


- 1. Debra Self, Amanda Young Valone
- 3. Tanya Stinson, Janey Link Thern
- 4. Scott Arney, Darby Crouch
- 5. Jerry Stikeleather
- 8. Tim Sipe
- 9. Lindsey Arney
- 10. Carolyn Travis
- 12. Andy Sipe
- 14. Gracie Elizabeth Sipe
- 16. William Stewart
- 17. Amber Beal
- 20. Barbara Smith
- 21. Robert Dixon
- 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

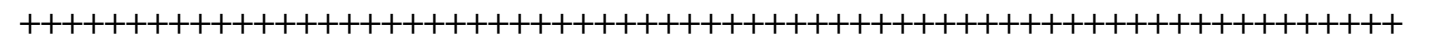
- 3. Mr. & Mrs. Ben Young
- 14. Mr. & Mrs. Joe Devine
- 16. Mr. & Mrs. Chad Deal
- 17. Mr. & Mrs. Alex Reed  
Mr. & Mrs. John Schlie
- 20. Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sharpe
- 21. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Crouch
- 26. Mr. & Mrs. Luke Devine
- 27. Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne Sipe



**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.



August 7, 2024

***FAITHFUL STEWARDS:***

God’s love never goes on vacation. Good Stewards continue to give financially to support our church...even when on vacation.

**THANK YOU** for remembering St. James each Sunday.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BRIDAL SHOWER  
HONORING

JESSICA LYNN BEAL

AUGUST 24TH FROM 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. AT

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FELLOWSHIP BUILDING

**RSVP:** STEPHAINE MURPHY 828-446-8646

TINA BEAL 828-455-7838

REGISTRY: AMAZON



Ron & Claire Sipe recently gifted a new stole to Pastor Ken. The colorful one on the left is filled with lots of butterflies—symbols of the Resurrection. When it's turned around, the white side displays a fish, a dove, a seashell with water drops, the first 2 letters of Christ, a Cross with 2 golden rings, the symbol for the Trinity, and the Communion bread and wine.



### GOD'S GIFT OF MUSIC

What helps you sort out what you're feeling, or experience an emotion more deeply? What allows you to let loose and cry, or fully celebrate when you're joyful? Nature helps some of us get in touch with our feelings, perhaps because it removes us from screens and other distractions.

But when getting out isn't possible — no mountain lake is nearby, or the weather isn't tranquil — consider the gift of music. Often instrumental or vocal music helps us access the depths of our soul like nothing else can.

God may even speak to us through music — whether in song lyrics, our own inner thoughts or wordless stirrings of the heart.

Albert Schweitzer, a pastor, musicologist, physician and more, said, "Joy, sorrow, tears, lamentation, laughter — to all these music gives voice, but in such a way that we are transported from the world of unrest to a world of peace, and see reality in a new way, as if we were sitting by a mountain lake and contemplating hills and woods and clouds in the tranquil and fathomless water."

Make some playlists for various emotions: joy, grief, anxiety, hope. Then imagine yourself relaxing in nature, and experience God's love.



# WE BELONG

"I KNOW MY OWN AND MY OWN KNOW ME"



This trip was so energizing! To be around so many youth who share their core beliefs was amazing. There were a lot of impressive individuals there, our youth among them! We had over 13 hours of scheduled program time each day, including mission work and small group Bible study, and each part gave us something to think about and hopefully deepen our faith. The biggest take-away from the week for me was a realization of just how much our youth need their church community in order to combat the societal pressures that they face in their everyday lives. They need mentors and support. Please keep them in your prayers and make yourself a part of their lives. Love them and make sure they know they are loved. They are the future of the church!

~Karen Stewart

At the first ever NALC CYG in Boerne, Texas, youth rallied around the powerful theme "*We Belong: 'I Know My Own and My Own Know Me,'*" a testament to the profound connection we share in Christ. The mission of the CYG was to provide opportunities for Lutheran youth to not only grow in their faith, but to be encouraged by connecting with other believers throughout North America. With each session, we delved into what it means to belong—to Christ, to the Church, to our communities, and to each other, echoing the profound truth of our theme passages from John 10:14-15.

Going on this trip, I really experienced something extraordinary when getting to listen to different people talk and share some of their stories, the little missions that we did, the Bible studies, and just getting to know people that shared the same faith as me. I got to meet some really great people and some people are still talk to. This trip really brought us closer together as a youth group and I feel that even though I had a near death experience I loved every second of it.

~Jessie Sipe



The first ever NALC Continental youth gathering was one of the strongest experiences I have had in years. We met so many amazing people, and my small group devotion leader, pastor Eldridge, really touched my life with his words. Along with learning so much about my faith, I had a great time hanging out with the rest of the youth and getting to know everyone better! It was a little sad that it was one of my last trips as a youth in our congregation, but this experience has strengthened my desire to help lead youth in the future. Thank you all so much for your generosity to send us to Texas this summer, it was a trip that I will never forget!

~William Stewart

# Influencer

In today's world we have a lot of influences. On the mission trip, we focused on how we could be an influence on others as well. By exploring what we think of ourselves as well as what others think of us, we learned about how God created us as individuals with qualities that He can use to serve Him.



This was my first mission trip and I can say it was a positive experience. Our congregation would be proud to know that our young people represented us in a way that is in keeping with our values and beliefs. If you want to see God at work through the hands of people this is an outreach that everyone needs to try. To see young people from across our country worshipping and being truly interested in the word of God is an inspiration. These are our next generation Christians that need our support to grow in the name of God. The people that these projects help are for some of the most needy people in neighborhoods not much different from where we live. The sense of selflessness that comes from helping others is amazing.

~ Fred Link



While heading to this Mission trip I was really worried that it would not compare to the one from last year but I was wrong. I loved every second of it from all the big group sessions that we did down to our tiny youth group devotions. My crew was the best crew I could've asked for. We got two houses done. While also having a ton of laughs and fun times together. Along with our Texas trip this trip really grew me as a person and my faith as well. I couldn't have asked for a better trip or better people to go on it with. ~ Jessie Sipe



This year's mission trip in Elizabeth City was the hottest and wettest one I have ever been on. I was tasked with building a 32 foot wheelchair ramp for a family, and it was a grueling experience, however, I loved every minute of it. The Lord definitely blessed me with good people to work with, and we managed to finish our ramp after staying late on the final work day. I had a great time getting to know my crew and my youth group a lot more, especially seeing Noah come out of his shell and joke around with us. I will definitely miss going on the mission trip next year! Thank you for all you have done to support us and send us off on these faith-building journeys. ~William Stewart



# VBS 2024

VBS was a huge success! We blasted off and met some new friends while meeting about Jesus.

*THANK YOU* to everyone who helped us with it.

Erica



**ICE CREAM &  
CAKE SOCIAL  
2024**

