

The Beacon

"I am the resurrection, and the life."

John 11:25



Volume 9

March 2024

Issue 96

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

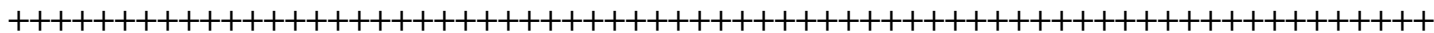
Sherrie McKean, Secretary

Office Hours: 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Monday-Friday

Gary Reitzel, Custodian

Council Members: 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



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday through Easter

Mar. 24	<u>Palm Sunday</u>	
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship.
Mar. 28	<u>Maundy Thursday</u>	
	7:00 p.m.	Worship, Holy Communion and stripping of the altar.
Mar. 29	<u>Good Friday</u>	
	7:00 p.m.	Worship, the silent procession of the cross, confession & absolution, and the seven last words of Christ.
Mar. 31	<u>Easter Sunday</u>	
	7:00 a.m.	Worship, Easter Sunrise service held outside. Breakfast to follow.
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship, with Holy Communion.

MARCH ACTIVITIES

The **Daytime Ladies' Circle** (which will meet on the 1st Thursdays at noon) has been put on hold at this time.

The **Evening Ladies' Circle** will meet on Monday, Mar. 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room. We will be putting together crafts for the Bazaar.

There will be a **2nd Sunday Lunch** on March 10th following the worship service.

The **Evangelism Committee** will meet on Wednesday, Mar. 13th at 6:30 p.m.

The **Cemetery Committee** requests that all winter flowers be removed from the graves by Saturday, Mar. 16th.

Lenten Services and Meals: March 3rd, 10th and 17th. See page 1 and below.

The **Crusaders** will meet on March 10th and 24th at 5:00 p.m.

The **Men's Breakfast** will be on Sunday, Mar. 24th at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Building.

Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Mar. 30th.

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WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday Evening Lenten Services continue through March 24th. Soup and sandwiches will be served. If you would like to bring either, please see Robin Burgess for the sign-up sheet.

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.

It's time to order Easter Lilies or make a contribution in Memory or In Honor of someone. Easter lilies will be \$14.00. There will also be a few Canna Lilies that can be purchased. They will be \$25.00. They will be limited and will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. We will also take donations for Easter cross flowers. Since Bud passed away, this will be a larger expense for us this year. Other donations will be used to purchase new Paraments for the Advent Season as ours are worn. Orders need to be turned in to Robin Burgess by March 24th.

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We Have Four Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm (Fellowship Bldg.)
(studying scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday)

Thursdays @ 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
(currently studying the Psalms)

Sundays @ 9:30 am (Fellowship Bldg.)

Sundays @ 9:30 am (Library)

Come join us! We have a place for you!

MARCH

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

APRIL

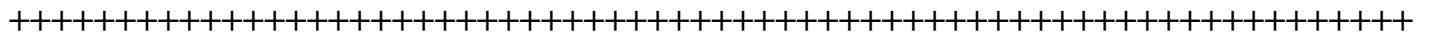
Birthdays and Anniversaries

3. Fran Watters
4. Cindy Sigmon, Kathy Turner
6. Dillon Crouch, Leslie Reed
10. Vicky Lineberger, Keeley Stikeleather
13. Phyllis Huffman, Larry Spriggs
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

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



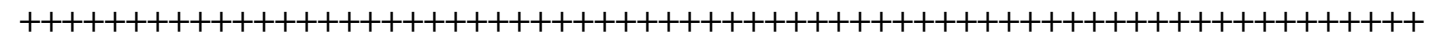
16. Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Montgomery
19. Mr. & Mrs. Joe Verbos
21. Mr. & Mrs. Tim Sipe
22. Mr. & Mrs. Darby Crouch
23. Mr. & Mrs. David Cook
30. Mr. & Mrs. Tracy Polson



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.



IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

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|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| March 1 | World Day of Prayer |
| March 10 | Daylight-Saving Time begins |
| March 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| March 19 | First day of Spring |
| March 24 | Palm Sunday |
| March 28 | Maundy Thursday |
| March 29 | Good Friday |
| March 31 | Easter |



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Committee would like to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper last month. It was enjoyed by everyone present.

On Sunday, Mar. 17th, the Committee will be handing out Postcards for church members to send. You can send these to someone that has not been coming to church or a shut-in or to someone you would like to see come to our church. Invite them to come and join us!!



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AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS FUNDRAISERS

American Heritage Girls Spirit Night at Boxcar Grill in Claremont on Wednesday, March 6 from 4:00 - 9:00 p.m. 10% will be donated to the Washington Trip in June.

Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 18, Lincoln Country Club 2052 Country Club Road Lincolnton, NC 28092 Tee time is 2:00 p.m. Players - \$75.00 Team - \$300.00 Sponsors - \$100

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INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Investment Committee has met and considered the options for how to allocate the tithe portion of the generous gift left to us from the Linda Westerheide estate. The following is a breakdown of the funds:

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Corner Table	\$4,900.00
Lutheran World Hunger	\$4,900.00
NALC Carolinas' Mission District	\$4,000.00
NALC Seminary	\$22,000.00
ECCCM	\$20,000.00
Food for the Poor	\$4,800.00
Room in the Inn	\$4,200.00
Pastor's Discretionary	\$4,000.00
Mission Church	\$4,800.00
Providing lunches for students in need	\$6,313.99

The Mission Church chosen for this gift is Word of Life Lutheran Church located in Vale, NC.

The schools chosen to receive this gift are Mill Creek, Maiden Middle, and Jacobs Fork.

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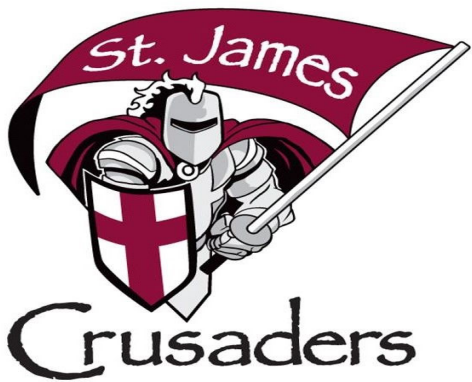
RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay time is fast approaching. The date is early this year, **April 26th**, starting at 6:00 p.m. in downtown Hickory. We have the team signed up. Anyone wishing to sign up can do so, no fee. Go to Relay for Life, Catawba County, and search teams for St. James. If you have any issues, let Betty Hawn, Joe or Glenda Verbos know. Thank you for your support.

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SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Safety Committee will start back doing **Blood Pressure Checks** after church services in the Secretary's office.



OUR LENTEN MISSION

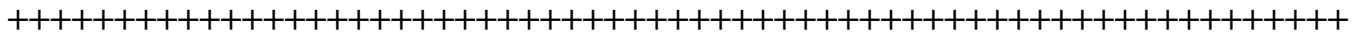
We would like to have your help once again to create Health Care Kits for the NALC Disaster Response Team. Please bring the following items to the church during Lent. Donation bins will be at the front and the back of the church.

Please note: the dates are suggestions. You may bring any item at any time. **THANK YOU!**

- March 3** - shampoo and bars of soap
- March 10** - deodorant
- March 17** - nail clippers
- March 24** - combs

Donations of 2-gallon-sized Ziploc bags are also appreciated, as they are used to package the care kits.

Join us for packaging day! We will put the kits together on Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 in the Fellowship Building. Many hands make light work, so come lend yours!



HELPING THOSE IN NEED

On Thursday, Feb. 22nd, volunteers from the Evangelism Committee and Social Ministry gathered to fill 200 bags and make sandwiches for the Corner Table. This project was to help those in need of meals for the weekend.



Approximately 10 volunteers met at the Corner Table on Saturday morning to distribute these bags. The recipients were very appreciative.

Thank you

Thank You to our Church family for all the prayers, thoughts and cards over the past several months. We both are so grateful for all of you.
David and Elaine Link

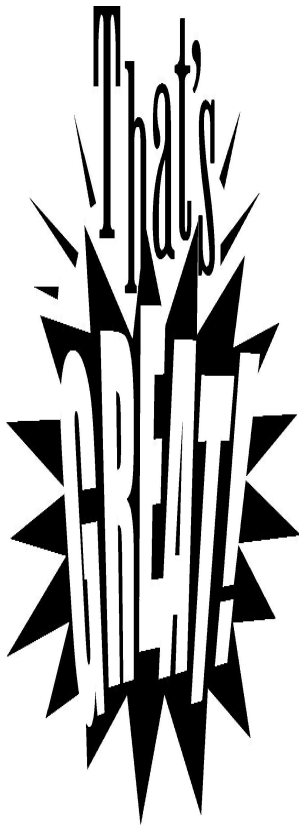
Dear Friends in Christ,
Thank you for the cards, the poinsettia, and the visit from Freddie and Kristin. It is so nice that you continue to remember me. God bless you all in 2024!
Pastor Malcom Lerch

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Molly Booher will be 90 years old on March 6th. She would appreciate calls and cards - she misses St. James. Her address is 814 Williams Dr, Jacksonville, NC 28540. Her phone number is 828-358-7286.



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Miss Trista Zaren, one of our American Heritage Girls, is working on her Stars & Stripes Award. This is the highest award given in the AHG. She is making four picnic tables from benches to be used at Rising Hope Farms in Claremont. She sponsored a spaghetti lunch at the church on Feb. 25th. Thanks to your generous contributions, enough was raised to build two of the picnic tables. Congratulations!



Gabby Hernandez qualified for the National Archery Team. She will be competing in Kentucky later this spring.

Madelyn Beisler, granddaughter of Ron and Claire Sipe, won Miss Congeniality at the St. Stephens Beauty Pageant last month. Congratulations!



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Thursday morning Bible Study will **NOT** meet on March 28 or April 4.