

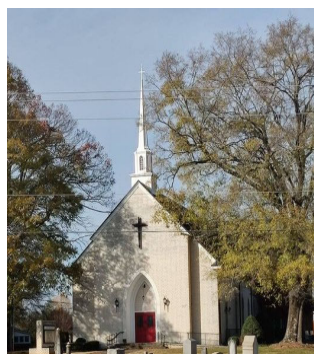


North American Lutheran Church

The Beacon

The Lord God will cause righteousness and
praise to spring forth before all nations.

Isaiah 61:11



September 2026

Issue 124

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

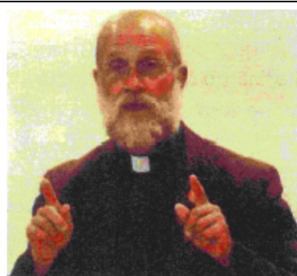
**1942 St. James Church Road Website: stjameslutherannewtonnc.com
Newton, NC 28658 *Follow us on Facebook*
E-mail church office: secretary@stjameslutherannewtonnc.com**

**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**

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Homecoming Guest Preacher September 13, 2026

Pastor Andrew F. Weisner, a native of North Carolina, was prepared for ministry at Lenoir-Rhyne College, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, PA, the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC; and completed doctoral studies in Church history at a theological consortium in Chicago. Before arriving at New Covenant Lutheran Church in Morganton, he served congregations in Greensboro, NC; York, PA; New York City; Chicago; Hickory, NC; Antioch Lutheran Church, Dallas, NC; and as campus pastor at Lenoir-Rhyne University. In addition to his parish ministry, he serves on the North American Lutheran Seminary faculty teaching the theology and practice of worship; on the NALC Commission on Theology and Doctrine; and on the NALC Commission for Ecumenism. He and his wife, Claudia Earle, have five adult children.

Mark Your Calendar for These Events

- Sept 2 Women’s Crafts, 2:00 pm
- Sept 7 Women’s Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Sept 9 Evangelism Committee, 6:30 pm
- Sept 10 Thursday Bible Study resumes, 10:30 am
- Sept 10 Council Meeting, 6:30pm
- Sept 13 Homecoming Sunday with lunch
- Sept 15 Women’s Crafts with lunch, 10:30am
- Sept 19 Confirmation Saturday, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
- Sept 19 Car Show, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Sept 26 Senior Banquet (70+), 11:30 am
- Sept 27 Men’s Breakfast, 8:00 am

WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (9:30am)



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

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.

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EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

On Sunday, October 11th, the congregation will worship at the Haas Cemetery. The service will start at 10:30 am. There will not be any Sunday School classes that day. We will have Communion. Afterwards, the Evangelism Committee will have hamburgers and hotdogs in the Fellowship Building. Please bring your favorite dessert to share. Hope to see you there.

The Evangelism Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30 pm in the Library.

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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.

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**SENIOR CELEBRATION
ST. JAMES’ MEMBERS 70 +**

- DATE:** Saturday, September 26, 2026
- TIME:** 11:30 pm
- PLACE:** St. James’ Fellowship Building

Please join us for food, fun and fellowship!

If you are providing transportation for one of our honored guests, you are welcome to join us for lunch and fellowship as well. There will be flyers in the bulletin starting next week. Please fill in the information and give it to Keeley or Leslie if you plan to attend.

ST. JAMES' WOMEN'S GROUP ANNUAL BAZAAR

It's that time again! We are beginning to make plans for our Annual Church Bazaar. It will be held on the third Saturday in November - Nov. 21st from 8 am to 2 pm.

As usual, some of the things that we need are slightly used clothes that are clean and (if possible) on hangers. We also need new or slightly used household items that are clean. We ask that things brought be clean since we get so much in that week and we don't have time to wash everything. Furniture can be brought the week prior to Bazaar.

The week of the Bazaar, we will need cakes, pies, cookies, breads and other baked items. Orders for chicken pies will be taken closer to time. BBQ by the plate and by the pound will be offered. Breakfast will be served early on Saturday morning.

We ask that all items be priced if possible when brought in. After the Bazaar items not sold can be picked up or they will be donated to Resource Warehouse – another way to help the community.

If there are questions that you have about items that you might bring, please feel free to ask someone from the Women's Group.

This is the one fundraiser that we have at the church. Each year it seems to get **bigger!** We hope we have a good showing again this year.

Time is running out for us to complete things for the Bazaar. The days/times for *Crafting Queens* are Wednesday, Sept. 2nd at 2 pm and Tuesday, Sept. 15th at 10 am with lunch. Please come out and help if you are able.

Our regular meeting is Monday, Sept. 7th at 7:00 pm.

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Samaritan's Purse Seasonal Job Opportunities

Our church received an email concerning 'seasonal employment opportunities for 'Operation Christmas Child'. They are looking for approximately 400 Christian men and women to fill paid positions for a 4-week project.

The processing center is in Charlotte. The dates run from mid-November through mid-December with possible 40+ hours per week Monday – Saturday (Thanksgiving Day off). There is also seasonal part-time available.

If you are interested or want more information, call our church office and speak with Sherrie.

End of Summer & Back to School Bash

WHERE: New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 2120 Startown Rd, Hickory, NC 28602

WHEN: Sunday, September 13th from 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Water activities Inflatables & Games Food Trucks

Donations for WNC

The table is set up in the Choir Room for continued donations. Paper products are needed most because food stamps don't cover their cost.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
& ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS
& ANNIVERSARIES

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

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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Dear Members of St. James Lutheran Church:

Thank you for donating to Safe Harbor. Because of your contribution, women and children will be given an opportunity to take a step from just surviving to thriving! It is an honor to be the hands and feet of Christ alongside you.

Eternally grateful,
Stefanie Robinson

Rev. Reed:

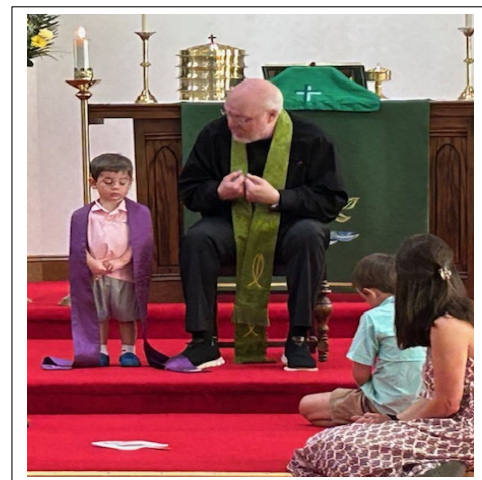
Thank you and your congregation for your generous gift to Ashure Crisis Ministry. Your support has been crucial in meeting the needs in our community for food, financial assistance and financial counseling. The needs are great and your gift helps so many in so many ways.

Thank you,
Gary McDougal
Ashure Board Member

Nancy Spriggs has a new address. She is doing well and she misses being at St. James. Her new address is: Seagrass Village, 3875 Yorktown Blvd., Apt. 3132, Port Orange, FL 32129.

SPECIAL DATES IN SEPTEMBER

- September 7 Labor Day
- September 11 Patriot Day
- September 13 National Grand
- September 22 First Day of Autumn





UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday Night Bible Study will resume on September 15th at 7 pm in the Family Room of the Fellowship Building.

Thursday Morning Bible Study will resume on September 10th at 10:30 am in the Choir Room. This year Pastor Ken will be leading us through Luther's Catechism: The Commandments, Creeds and more.

Haas Cemetery outside worship on October 11th at 10:30 am. There will be NO Sunday School.

Reformation Sunday on October 25th. First Communion for the Youth.