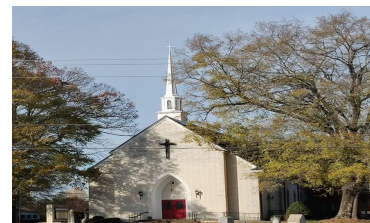


## *The Beacon*

*"Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."*

*1 John 3:18*



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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

## Mark Your Calendar for LENT at St. James



Pancake Supper March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm



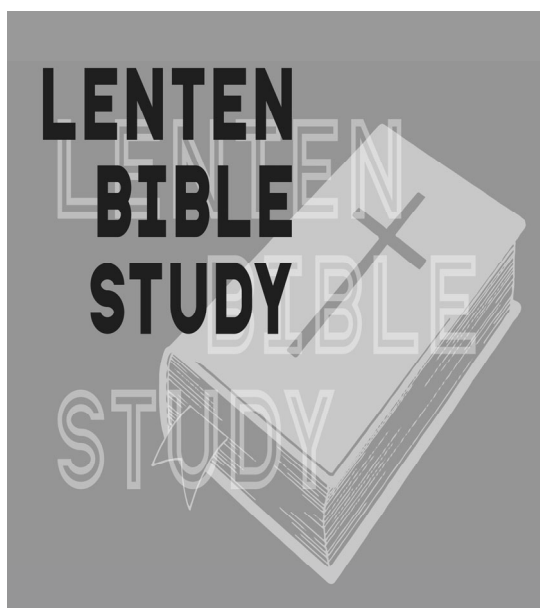
March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm

## Minor Books. Major Messages.

Exploring God's Grace Inside the  
Shortest Books of the Bible

Sundays: 6:00 pm, Supper and Bible Study

March 9	Esther
March 16	Ruth
March 23	Philemon
March 30	Jude
April 6	Titus





**LENT: What’s the Big Deal?**

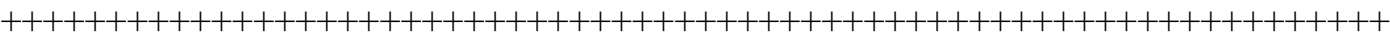
We tend to think of Lent as a time of preparation for Easter – which it is, But Lent has its own unique character. In the first four centuries of Christianity, it was normal to have baptism on the night before Easter (the Vigil). Lent was the time for final “catechesis” or instruction preparing candidates for baptism. By the early Middle Ages, it was rare for anyone to enter Christianity as an adult convert. Lent then became a time of repentance for people who had been excommunicated and wished to repent and be forgiven in time to commune at Easter. At the beginning of the season, they put on sackcloth and ashes, which is the origin of Ash Wednesday.

The time of repentance and spiritual renewal was eventually extended to all Christians. It is forty days long to parallel Jesus’ forty days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness after his baptism (Matthew 4:2). It also reminds us soberly of the forty-day flood and Israel’s forty years in the wilderness.

Although Sundays are always celebrations of Easter, and so not properly part of Lent, we tend to observe Lenten customs on Sundays because our people may not get much Lent otherwise. We omit the “Gloria in Excelsis” and “Alleluia” and have no flowers at the altar so Easter will seem more joyful when they return. Violet, the color used during Lent, is penitential, but also reminds us of the mocking royal robe placed on Jesus by the soldiers (Mark 15:17).

So, how can I respond? You can make use of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal by committing yourself to more intensive bible reading and prayer. Fasting can help you focus on eternal nourishment. Likewise, charitable giving can help break your attachment to this world and benefit your neighbor. (See Matthew 6).

*(“Lutheranism 101: Worship.” Concordia Publishing, St. Louis, 2017, p. 121-2)*



**SCHEDULE**

**4th - 12th Grades**

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 1 - Sat.	Women’s Prayer Breakfast (8:30 am).
Mar. 3 - Mon.	Women’s Meeting (7:00 pm).
Mar. 4 - Tues.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (6:00 pm). See Page 4
Mar. 5 - Wed.	Ash Wednesday Service (7:00 pm).
Mar. 9, 16, 23, 30	Supper & Bible Study (6:00 pm).
Mar. 12 - Wed.	Evangelism Committee Meeting (6:30 pm).
Mar. 13, 14, 15	Photography Sessions in the Fellowship Building
Mar. 18 - Tues.	Women’s Craft Day with Lunch (10:00 am). See Page 5
Mar. 19 - Wed.	Council Meeting (7:00 pm).
Mar. 23 - Sun.	Men’s Breakfast (8:00 am).
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

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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.*



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

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
30. Cindy Lineberger



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

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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

The Evangelism Committee is again sponsoring the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper. It will be on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Please come out and enjoy the fellowship and food. Also, we need grills and people to help make the food. We will get started around 4:00 pm that day.

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### RELAY FOR LIFE

The date and place for Relay has been set. The date is Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 pm til 9 pm. The place is the Crawdads stadium parking lot. There will be a kids zone with bouncy houses, a survivor section and food trucks. Our team is signed up and now we need participants. If you need help signing up, please call Joe Verbos at 828-320-6777. More details to come.

## ST. JAMES' WOMENS GROUP

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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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### **COME JOIN THE 'CRAFTING QUEENS'!!!**

We started our **Craft Day** last month and had 11 ladies that came together to make crafts for our Bazaar. We had a great time making things and finished the morning off with lunch together. We will meet again the third Tuesday of March and continue making things for the Bazaar. We have given our group the name of **CRAFTING QUEENS**. We invite all ladies of the church to come and be a part of this group. See you at our next meeting...March 18 at 10:00 am.

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Last year we sold T-shirts with the St. James logo. We had a few T-shirts left. If anyone would like to purchase one of those that is left, please see Robin. They are \$12.00 each.

Large - Red

Large - Blue (Navy)

Medium - Blue

Medium - Blue (Navy)

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### ITEMS WE NEED FOR THE BAZAAR

This year we are planning on making baskets of items to raffle off. Items that we need are:

- \* Kitchen items
- \* Spa items
- \* Entertainment items
- \* Gardening items

If anyone has something that we could put in one of these baskets that they are willing to donate, please leave the item(s) at the church by Sherrie's office on the table. Thanks so much for your help!

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**Plastic bags ... Food Lion, CVS, Walmart, Dollar General ... are everywhere!**

Please recycle plastic bags for re-use to Corner Table or ReStore.

Plastic bags make good trash containers in cars or at home.

During October and November, please save plastic bags for St. James' Annual Bazaar.

**SPECIAL DATES IN MARCH**

- Mar. 2 Transfiguration Sunday
- Mar. 5 Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 7 World Day of Prayer
- Mar. 9 Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar. 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- Mar. 20 First Day of Spring



He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.  
Matthew 17:2, ESV



Annabelle placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the NC state archery tournament this past weekend and Startown took First Place for its 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Gabby placed 4<sup>th</sup> for High School and Maiden High placed second. Both girls qualified for Nationals in May.

The American Heritage Girls will host a **Mother-Daughter Banquet** on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the church. All women are invited to attend.



February 2<sup>nd</sup> — Candle lighting with Carter; explains the Blessing Bags with children.



February 9<sup>th</sup> — Pastor Ken lights Christ Candle and explains Seraphim Angels with children.



Lots of people stopped and watched as one of our large trees was cut down recently. The tree was leaning over the Fellowship Building, losing branches, and when examined closely had a rotten core. This was needed due to it being a safety hazard to the property, congregants and visitors.



Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Raelynn Navae Heavner — February 23, 2025



Pastor Ken explains the meaning of the Baptismal water as Anna pours it into the Baptismal Font during the Children’s Sermon. Raelynn is quite mesmerized.



The congregation and sponsors participate in the liturgy.

***Welcome Raelynn to the Body of Christ!***

