

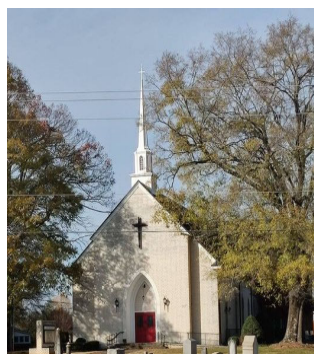


North American Lutheran Church

The Beacon

Your Father knoweth what things ye
have need of before ye ask him.

Matthew 6:8



October 2026

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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, Kristen Link,
Kristy Painter, Ashton Hatley, and Tanya Stinson

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From the Pastor's Desk

SEEKING HIS GRACE

A Reflection and Prayer on Psalm 85 from Martin Luther

The 85th psalm is a psalm of prayer in which the writer pleads against God's wrath and seeks his grace. The wrath (in Luther's opinion) consists in this, that they have a lack of God's Word and true preaching; also a lack of good government, peace and godly authority; and finally, a lack of fruitful times and good harvest. These afflictions hang together, one with the other. Therefore, the psalmist prays that God would speak again, so that his people will not fall into folly, blaspheme in impatience, nor seek other gods; so that peace, unity and truth and love might wash over His people, and that the land be fruitful; so that they can live a proper and honorable life in a God-pleasing way in peace and quietness, as Paul (1 Timothy 2:2) also teaches us to pray.

85 Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
2 You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin. Selah
3 You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.
4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!
5 Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
6 Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
7 Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.

⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹² Yes, the Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

Let us pray. Remember not, O God, our transgressions against us, and record not our sins in Your book, but cast them into the depth of the sea, and remember them no more forever. Impute to us the obedience of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who fulfilled all righteousness for us and gave Himself a sacrifice for our sins. Let us live for His sake and enable us to walk worthy of our calling. Amen.

("Reading the Psalms with Luther." Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis: 2007, p. 202-203)

Mark Your Calendar for These Events

Oct 4	Congregational Meeting after services
Oct 5	Laity Committee, 6:00 pm
Oct 5	Women's Meeting, 7:00 pm
Oct 7	Evangelism Committee, 6:30 pm
Oct 8	Council Meeting, 6:30 pm
Oct 11	Haas Heritage Sunday, 10:30 am
Oct 20	Women's Crafts with lunch, 10:30am
Oct 25	Men's Breakfast, 8:00 am
Oct 25	Reformation Sunday
Oct 31	Trunk-or-Treat, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

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	

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY



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

Thursday Mornings - 10:30 am in the Choir Room. Pastor Ken will be leading us through Luther's Catechism: The Commandments, Creeds and more.

(Oct. 1, Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Oct. 29 – no class Oct. 8)



GRADES 5th – 12th

Sun, Oct. 18 @ 3:00 pm
Sun. Nov. 8 @ 3:00 pm
Sun. Nov. 22 @ 3:00 pm
Sun. Dec. 6 @ 3:00 pm

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.



St. James Lutheran Church

2027 Ministry Request

September 27, 2027

Dear Committee Chair/Leader of St. James Lutheran Church,

The Finance Committee is in the process of putting together next year's budget for St. James Lutheran Church. Please meet as a committee to discuss and carefully consider your committee's needs for the upcoming year. Share them with us using this form. Feel free to contact any member of the Finance Committee with any questions.

Thank you in advance for your help in getting this done in a timely manner. Please put the completed form in the Finance Committee mailbox no later than October 11, 2026.

Working with you in Christ's Kingdom,
St. James Lutheran Church Finance Committee

Committee Name _____ Respondent _____

2026 Budget amount _____ 2026 Amount spent _____

What were the goals for this committee last

year? 1.

2.

3.

Were you able to meet these goals? Were there other issues that surfaced after your goals were set? If so, how did your committee address them?

What are your committee's goals for the next year?

1.

2.

3.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

On Sunday, October 11th, our congregation will worship at the Haas Cemetery. The service will start at 10:30 am. There will not be any Sunday School classes or worship at the church on that day. The service will be live on Facebook. The event is being held at the original site of the old Haas Church which was a forerunner to St. James. We will be in a different part of the cemetery this year thanks to the men. At least you will not have to worry about getting hit on the head with walnuts! Afterwards, we will have hamburgers and hotdogs in the Fellowship Building. Please bring your favorite desserts to share. Anyone who can help to set up and help with the meal is greatly appreciated.

The Evangelism Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 7th at 6:30 pm in the Library.

The Evangelism Committee will be filling lunch bags for the homeless at the Corner Table on Saturday, October 24th. We need small bags of chips, fruit cups, cheese crackers and water bottles. We are planning to fill around 100 bags. Please leave your donations on the table in the Choir Room outside of the secretary's office.

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 along with Robin Burgess, Betty Hawn, Tanya Stinson, Claire Sipe and Pastor Ken.

ST. JAMES' WOMEN'S GROUP ANNUAL BAZAAR

Our Annual Church Bazaar is fastly approaching. It will be held on the third Saturday in November - Nov. 21st from 8 am to 2 pm. This is the only fundraiser that the Ladies have during the year and we help a lot of people with the money that we make, including the Trail Life Boys and American Heritage Girls. Other ones helped are members of the community.

Some of the things that we need are new or slightly used clothing and household items. Clothes need to be on a hanger and must be clean. Some items of furniture can be sold. If there are any questions, please ask someone in the Women's group. We need crafts of all kinds. The week of the Bazaar, we will need cakes, pies, cookies, breads and other baked items. We will have baskets to raffle off and numerous nativity scenes to auction off.

Order forms for chicken pies and homemade rolls will be in the bulletin within the next couple of weeks. Breakfast will be offered on the morning of the Bazaar. BBQ plates and BBQ by the pound will be offered as well.

Let's make this year bigger than last year. With everybody's help we can do this. See all of you there on the 21st!

Our regular Women's meeting is Monday, Oct. 5th at 7:00 pm.

YOUTH NEWS

Wreaths Across America is December 19th at 12 pm. Order forms to sponsor a wreath are available at the back of the church or see Erica. If you are a Veteran and would like to help with our ceremony, please let Erica know.

Trunk or Treat will be October 31st from 3-5:00 pm. Please sign up if you are able to bring a trunk. We also need candy donations that can be left at the back of the church outside the secretary's office. The youth will be serving hotdogs and nachos.

Our *Christmas Play* is December 13th. All ages are welcome to participate. We will send out practice information soon.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Senior Celebration. We hope everyone had a great time. We would like to give a special thanks to Kristy and Liam for the music, Betty Hawn for getting the food, and the American Heritage Girls and their leaders for the beautiful centerpieces! Also, a shout-out to the four couples that played our game. We hope to make this an annual event!

Keeley & Leslie



The Seniors and guests would like to give a BIG thank you to Keeley and Leslie for the great Celebration you gave us. We're looking forward to it next year.

Members of St. James: I want to thank you for all of your prayers and support during my journey with Pancreatic Cancer. The doctors have told me that I am in remission. With God's help and your prayers, I have made it this far. Thank you!

Gary Reitzel

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS
& ANNIVERSARIES

- 1. Linda S Brittain, Steve Campbell
- 3. Jennifer Barr
- 6. Mickey Bell
- 7. Barbara Self
- 8. Clay Chapman, Karen Stewart
- 15. Bill Seitz, Jr.
- 18. Madelyn Stewart
- 20. Charles Smyre
- 22. Elaine Link, Robert Smyre
- 23. Samantha Heavner, Natalie Link
- 25. Betty Williams Cline
- 26. Carolyn Baucom
- 28. Carol Baker

- 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

- 19. Mr. & Mrs. Joel Reece
- 21. Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sipe

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SPECIAL DATES IN OCTOBER

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| October 4 | World Communion Sunday |
| October 11 | Pastor Appreciation Sunday |
| October 12 | Columbus Day |
| October 25 | Reformation Sunday |
| October 31 | Reformation Day |

Date: July 9, 2026

Members present: Darbie Crouch, Robert Crouch, Ashton Hatley, Kristy Painter, Celia Reece, Rev. Ken Reed, Karen Stewart, Tanya Stinson, Wesley Stinson,

Members absent: Kristen Link

1. Opening

- **Devotions:** Ashton: Romans 5:3-4 - "Tribulations make us more like Jesus"
- **Prayer List:** Chris Painter and family, Banks and Amber Crouch, Ruby Sigmon, Bobbie Sain, Tucker Crouch

2. Consent Package

- **Last month's minutes:** Minutes from June distributed.
- **Treasurer's Report:**
 - June ending balance of general: \$231,153.74
 - June ending balance of all accounts: \$1,006,180.47
 - Investment Committee to meet and approve of posting amount of Legacy Gift Fund in newsletter
- **Pastor's Report:**
 - a) Safe Harbor - asked for donations - building 11 cottages for mom and 3 children
Council considered suggestion and amount
Robert moved to donate \$500 from Council discretionary. Tanya seconded. All approved.
 - b) NALC Convocation - 8/7 - online (7-10 Friday night) - budget, elections
Recommends Randy Cline and Wesley Stinson as delegates
Karen moved to accept recommendations. Kristy seconded. All approved.
 - c) 3 outgoing council members met to discuss looking for their replacements.
 - d) Vacation - 7/26 -
 - e) Visitors to welcome:
 - Kay and Shane Pope: 84 years old; Kay's parents were Mack and Lucille Sigmon
 - David, Liz, and Preston Klappenbach: pastor just retired from Iowa and just moved back to this area
Darbie motioned to accept the package. Robert seconded. All approved.

3. Committee Reports

- **Evangelism:**
 - On Father's Day - handed out pens and beef sticks
 - 7/19 - Cockman Family - dessert and ice cream
 - 7/26 - FUPC - feed homeless - 120 - preparing meal of chicken sandwich and sides
 - Tuesday night of Old Soldier's Reunion - have a booth on the square in Newton
- **Youth Ministry:**
 - Upcoming events:
 - helping with VBS
 - Back to school trip to Crawdad's after church in late August
- **Helping Hands:** Margie has a skunk and groundhog living under house
- **Social Ministry:** 2 requests have been submitted and are being considered
- **Bereavement:** No Report
- **Worship and Music:**
 - 7/26 - Liam to play and doing Service of the Word (volunteers will lead)
 - Haas Ceremony in October (2nd Sunday)
Homecoming in September 13 ** NOT 3rd Sunday like usual - need to get word out
- **Christian Education:**
 - Children's classes have merged in Sunday School

- **Audit and Finance:**
 - July Auditor: Ashton Hatley
 - Meeting 7/21 with Terry Erskine
 - Pastor wants to schedule meeting with Finance Committee to discuss budgeting for some property needs
- **Stewardship:** No Report
- **Property:**
 - Fire Suppression System: \$3386.80 quote from Burgess
 - Roofs for FB, Parsonage, Garage estimate: \$36,860
 - \$825.48 - flooring for parsonage kitchen and laundry room from R&M
 - Gutter guards to go on parsonage - from R&M (\$1400)
 - Small group met to rate projects and determine order of completion
 - Secretary's office reno: \$1000 from R&M
 - Sanctuary painting and roofing - don't have money for these and will meet with FC to determine where funding should come from.
- **Cemetery:**
 - Haas Cemetery Cleaning: 8/1
- **Safety Team:** No Report
- **Laity Team Report:** No Report
- **Tech Team:** No Report

4. New Business

- David Arndt has someone to clean the steeple: \$1200 to rent equipment to reach it. Robert asked if it had been sealed. Will clean it with bleach.
- **Fellowship Building requests**
 - Ashley Young: 7/18: Birthday party
 - Jeff Sigmon: 7/25: Robin Sigmon's birthday
 - Car Show: 9/19 - no fee

Kristy made a motion to accept all Fellowship Building requests. Darbie, seconded the motion.

All approved.

Karen made a motion to adjourn. Robert seconded. All members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

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 13, 2026

Banks Robert Crouch was welcomed into Holy Baptism at St. James.

