

# The Messenger

**Saint James**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY  
**Connecting**  
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



**January 2023**  
Volume 39, Issue 1

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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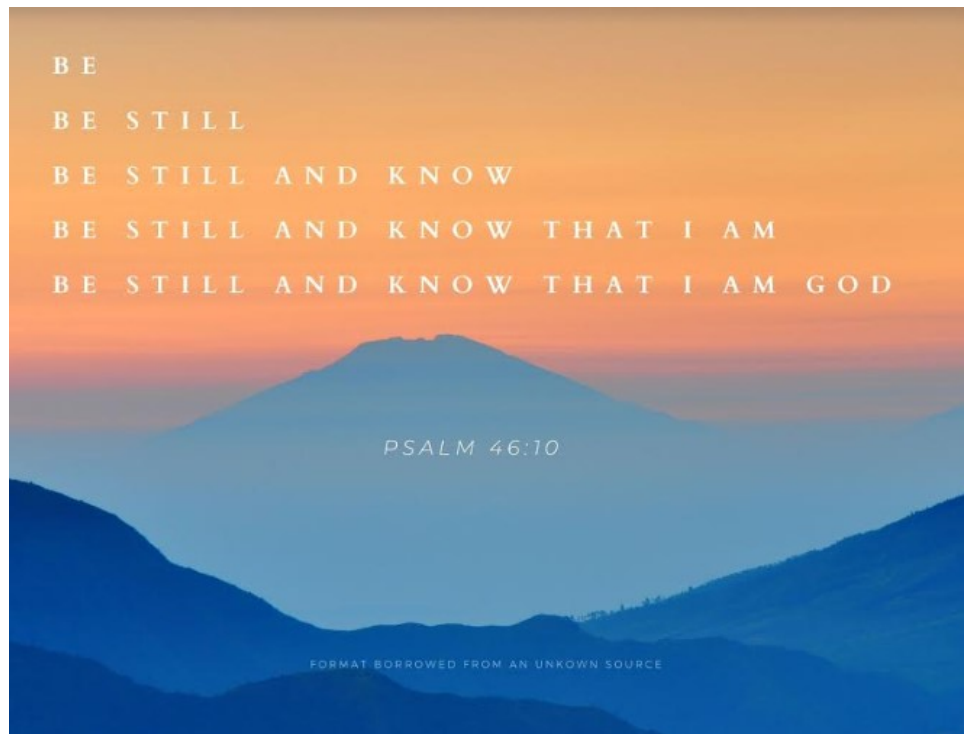
## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

2023. A new year is finally here. A fresh, new calendar is ready to be explored; time is available to be invested; and, adventures and opportunities await our presence.

*So, Pastor John, how do I/we step into this newness with curiosity, excitement, and openness?*

Great question! I'm so glad you asked. I've got a suggestion, though it isn't original. (Most of my "advice" isn't original, but I do try to "borrow" from the best.)

I saw a poster once that seems to sum it up. It is a powerful presentation of Psalm 46:10. Just might be the verse to memorize for the year.



Continued on page 2

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK—Continued**

**BE** ... My first reaction in most situations is *to do* something: fix, say, plan, etc. Jesus teaches us to *be present* with other people.

**BE STILL** ... Our culture encourages us to always be active. If we're not busy and moving, then we are being lazy or lax. But all the busyness can prevent us from hearing and seeing the really important messages from the Spirit.

**BE STILL AND KNOW** ... I am impatient. I want answers and insights NOW! But too often I'm asking the wrong questions. God says *some things take time*, and the Spirit often surprises us with new directions while I wait on answers to *my questions*.

**BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM** ... God tells Moses, *Tell the people of Israel that "I AM" has sent you*. I AM is a verb that indicates the existence of an entity or its qualities (definition from Oxford Dictionary). **God was, God is, God will be**. There is no when ... no where ... no why that excludes God's presence.

**BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD** ... The triune God - the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the God of Peter, James and John; the God of the Apostle Paul; the God of my mother and grandmother and great-great grandmother - is the giver of life, the sustainer of hope, the bringer of joy, the pure essence of love and mercy. GOD is more than I can comprehend or wonder.

The Psalmist words of God's reaches across the millennia to us today.

In this New Year of 2023, may we offer ourselves to God each day,

and hear the voice in our hearts

***be still and know that I am Lord.***

Pastor John

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL UPDATES

Congregation council turnover is always a sweet-sour time. We are saddened by the departure of Sue Rink, Ruth Ann Crecelius, and Lela Pell as they complete their terms on council. (Bill Rettman and Bruce Morgan resigned their seats several months ago due to various reasons.)

But we are excited at the gifts that Valerie Brewer, Kevin Hoffman, Jordan Slaymaker, and Nate Stockham (youth representative) will add to council's leadership. Of course, it is exciting to welcome back Tonie Neal, re-elected to a second term.

They ask for your prayers and support, and please ... answer your phone and heart when they call!



The 2023 Congregation council will meet Sunday, January 15 and a primary agenda item will be the election of officers.



**WEEK 2 WEEK**

*Connecting worship throughout the week.*

*Week2Week* will help you connect worship throughout the week. is designed to consider the scripture readings from each Sunday. Monday-Wednesday will help you reflect on the previous Sunday. Thursday-Saturday look toward the next Sunday.

You can find them on Sunday as a bulletin insert, in the gathering space, or download one from the church [website](#).

## Property Ministry Team News



Hello St. James Family!

In light of the environment we are in with regards to violence in public places the Church Council has elected, based on recommendations from the Property Ministry Team, to implement a few precautions to improve our posture to provide a safe worship experience.

We are planning to take the following actions:

1. Reinstate the “Rover” position who will maintain a presence on the Church campus (primarily outside) during the Worship Service hour. This will be a volunteer in addition to the Ushers.
2. Limit access to the Church building by keeping only the main entrance doors (the double doors and single door in the Gathering Space/west side) unlocked on Sunday mornings. ALL other doors will remain locked.
3. Educate. The Property Team will provide training/instruction on the Run, Hide, Fight plan. This was presented to area churches by the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office this past fall and includes an informational video made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This training will be given to Council Members, Ushers, and Sunday School Teachers at a minimum, but is open to all Congregation members.
4. Identifying interior doors of specific rooms that currently do not lock and installing a barricade system/device.

These actions are lessons learned and provided by the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office and specifically geared towards our area churches.

The implementation will begin in February 2023.

Church Council

## UPDATES FROM "COMFORT BLANKET" MINISTRY - not to be confused with Quilting Ministry-

St. James became involved with "comfort blankets" in March of 2019.

Prime Timers program for April of 2019 was Faith Boehmer, Prevention and Volunteer Coordinator at CAC. (Child Advocacy Center). She relayed to a primetime member CAC needed "comfort blankets"--and that is how our participation in the ministry started.

Donations from St. James have been:

2019 - 100 blankets

2020 - 370 blankets

2021 - 100 blankets

2022 - 320 blankets

A few facts about the CAC. Before Cumberland County had a CAC, child abuse victims were required to go from agency to agency re-telling the story of their abuse many times. With the CAC, the child has one forensic interview at the CAC with a trained interviewer in a non-threatening child-friendly setting.

At the conclusion of a child's visit to the CAC, the Victim/Family Advocate helps the child select a fleece blanket to take home. The Comfort Blankets are a tangible way to show support and care to these children who have experienced trauma. As the child uses the blanket while sitting on a couch or curled up in bed at night, they can be reminded that someone cared for them.

Prior to covid, small groups met at St. James to "cut" and "tie" blankets. We hope to be able to safely do this in the near future.

Interested in helping? Contact Marcia Katt 910-322-8037

We need people to cut and tie. Monetary donations are always welcome and very much appreciated. Please indicate "comfort blankets" on check and/or envelope.



*These are the first blankets donated during our Prime Time Meeting April 2, 2019*



## Finance Committee News:

The Finance committee wants to thank everyone for their generosity in supporting the ministries of St. James.

|  |          |                                |
|--|----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Bank account beginning of month</b>                   | \$4,942  |                                |
| <b>Income</b>  | \$16,625 | Offerings                      |
| <b>Expenses</b>  | \$20,625 |                                |
| <b>Special Expenses not included above for this Fall</b> |          | Paid by                        |
| <b>HVAC annex</b>  | \$9,937  | Memorial Gift & Refinance loan |
| <b>Stainless Steel Kitchen Table</b>                     | \$910    | Memorial Gift                  |
| <b>Live Feed Camera</b>                                  | \$2,562  | Synod Grant                    |
| <b>Quilting Sewing Machine</b>                           | \$779    | Synod Grant                    |

A number of years ago Theda Suggs was talking with fellow church members about what to do with her estate after the Lord called her home. Following their advice she contacted the ELCA Foundation and set up an endowment to carrying on Gods ministries with the gifts God had provided her. She chose St James, her church family, to administer her endowment as she indicated in her will. One of her wishes was to provide scholarships for students at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and Lenoir-Rhyne University.

We were excited to hear the scholarships for this year were awarded.

- The Lenoir-Rhyne recipients are: Rafael, Alvarez-Allred and Tiffany Holman. They are both music majors.
- The Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary recipients are: Rahim Brown and Steven Hoyle. Majors are ELCA Affiliate and Master of Divinity respectively. A total of \$8,600 was divided among the four recipients.

Another wish was to provide support to Lutheran Family Services and Lutheran Services for the Aging. We were able to send \$5,000 for this year from the interest on her endowment. We at St James are honored to be able to carrying out Theda Suggs's wishes for God's ministries.



**2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS NOW AVAILABLE**

We are so appreciative of the generosity of this congregation this past year. Some of you have indicated that you'd like a printed statement for your own record-keeping.

If you need a statement, please contact Michelle in the church office (910) 484-8052 or at [saintjameslutheran@gmail.com](mailto:saintjameslutheran@gmail.com). She will arrange to have a statement e-mailed, or regular postal mail, if you need it.

Thank you from seminarian for the scholarship

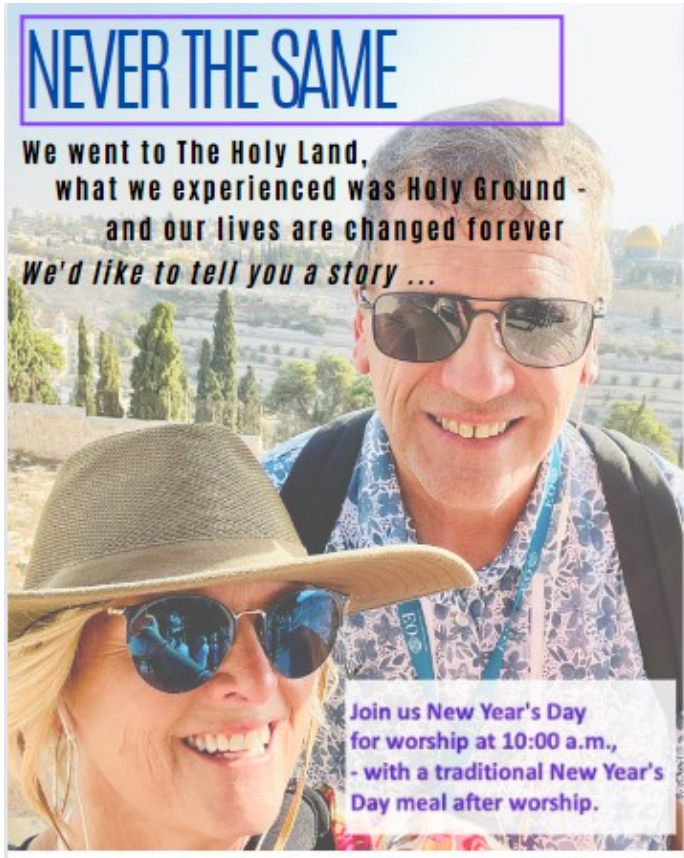
To Saint James LLC,  
I am grateful for the financial support I received from the Theta Suggs Scholarship. Thank you for your support of LTSS and for students like me. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
  
In Christ,  
Kjell Bakken



I would like to say thank you to the congregation and to Pastor Locke & Anna Lisa for all the support during my families loss.

We thank you from our hearts!  
Ellen Blocker & Family

## Holy Land Trip - Pastor John's and Anna Lisa's Presentation and Worship Video



Thanks to all of you who were able to attend in person on January 1st , and a tremendous SHOUT OUT to Dave and Donna Runkle, Beverly Beale, Amanda Rea, and Ruth Ann Crecelius for all the work with arrangements (please forgive me if I've left someone out.)

We are still working on creating and editing a video to recreate the worship presentation. We had too many mis-steps with photos, music, and flow. So, we're are at work to get a presentation that will better express some of the stories of our pilgrimage.

Our self-imposed deadline to have a video uploaded to St James You Tube channel is Friday, January 20.

Thanks for your patience!  
~~Pastor John

### THANK YOU! VIELEN DANK! ¡GRACIAS!

The staff of St. James offers our appreciation for the year-round kindnesses from the congregation, and most especially the special Christmas bonus!

It's a honor to be in ministry with St. James Lutheran Church.





Our 10:00 Sunday worship service is being streamed live, and is also available for later viewing. Click [here](#) to watch



**Tech folk are also needed to help with audio and video controls. Training is available. Contact office or Pastor John.**

**Assisting Ministers**

1-08..... Jason Lorentzen  
1-15..... Ruth Ann Crecelius  
1-22..... Jordan Slaymaker  
1/29..... Jason Lorentzen

**Lectors**

1-08..... Valerie Brewer  
1-15..... Sue Rink  
1-22..... Bill Rettmann  
1/29..... Beverly Beale

**Communion Assistant**

1-08..... Lela Pell  
1-15..... Paula Burns  
1-22..... Charles Lee  
1/29..... Nancy Oliver

**Ushers**

1-08 ..... Roscoe Killett, Gary Eissinger  
1-15 ..... Roscoe Killett, Gary Eissinger  
1-22 ..... Tonie Neal, Kathleen Heinrich  
1/29 ..... Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius

**Acolytes**

1-08..... Youth  
1-15..... Gabriel Thomas  
1-22..... Gianna Orellano  
1/29..... Aaron Thomas

**Greeters**

1-08..... Erika & Glenn Stockwell  
1-15..... Sue Rink  
1-22..... Fran DeSilva  
1/29..... Kathleen Heinrich

## Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Click on the times to connect

**Property Team - 2nd Tuesdays**

(Meeting ID: 829 6466 1925 / Password: 977528)

[6:00 pm](#)

**Men's Bible Study - Sundays**

(Meeting ID 821 9445 9989/ Password: 442495)

[9:00 am](#)

**Fellowship & Conversation - Tuesdays**

(Meeting ID: 837 4730 9659 / Password: 588450)

[7:00 pm](#)

### THANKS FOR SHARING RESOURCES

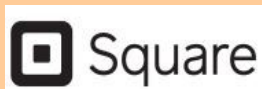


We appreciate every gift that is received, and we attempt to make wise decisions in how we use and invest these funds.

Thanks for on-going financial giving.

You can support our ministries by scanning the code or online

Click [here](#)



# Around the Parish



One of the gifts that the Christian community shares with others is praying for those with special needs or concerns. Call the Church Office or fill out the green form in the pew racks to let us know of prayer needs.

The list in the weekly bulletin is intended to be for persons in immediate crisis. Generally those names will be changed after 3 weeks.

The newsletter has our long term prayer list which is updated as you tell us.

Please keep us informed so that we can share accurate information with the Saint James community.

## Remember These

### **People at Home or in Care facilities** (restricted mobility)

- Peggie Ann Jackson
- Sigrid Walters
- Charlotte Davis
- Claudia Doyle
- Shirley Johnson
- Lorraine Breisch
- Brenda Killett

## Prayer Concerns:

- ◇ Joe & Dara Lehner
- ◇ Angel Davis
- ◇ John Tucker
- ◇ Beth Sessoms
- ◇ Diane Stulz
- ◇ Carolyn Uchtorff
- ◇ Julie Kuhrt
- ◇ Julie Murthy
- ◇ Ellen Blocker
- ◇ Sherieda Peasley
- ◇ Darcy Dapra
- ◇ Charlotte Norris
- ◇ Chad Smyre
- ◇ Mark & Ann Mabe
- ◇ Orose Family
- ◇ Thomas Oliver

## Military Members

(\* *Deployed*)

- Luke Steffen
- Riley Broding
- Grant Alexis
- Earl Stockham
- Nikki Rettmann
- Jessie Hewins
- Ben Schollett
- Brandon Berry
- **Darian Dix \***
- Joshua Trogdon
- Kelly Steenrod
- David Oliver
- Bella Fish
- Sarah Fox
- Rob Whitt
- Austin Hilken  
(former member at Ft. Campbell)



|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| <b>Martin, Georgia</b>    | 1/1  |
| <b>Killett, Brenda</b>    | 1/8  |
| <b>Brown, Willie</b>      | 1/11 |
| <b>Fish, Elliott</b>      | 1/11 |
| <b>Skinner, Charles</b>   | 1/14 |
| <b>Mott, Sarah</b>        | 1/16 |
| <b>Stellfox, Linda</b>    | 1/18 |
| <b>Hohman, Mary</b>       | 1/21 |
| <b>SanMiguel, Patrick</b> | 1/22 |
| <b>Vittoo, Diana</b>      | 1/25 |

## Anniversaries

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| <b>Larry &amp; Delores Schiebe</b>  | 1/29 |
| <b>Chuck &amp; Priscilla Warren</b> | 1/31 |



**The Messenger is a monthly newsletter of  
Saint James Lutheran Church,  
P.O. Box 53276; Fayetteville, NC 28305.**

All are welcome to worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.  
Holy Communion is celebrated every week.

**Should you have an emergency or need Pastoral Care, contact  
Pastor John Locke: Cell (704) 530-9969 or [jpl406@gmail.com](mailto:jpl406@gmail.com) .**

**Church Staff Office hours are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mo-Th.  
Phone: (910) 484-8052 | 24 hour answering machine.  
[www.saintjamesfay.org](http://www.saintjamesfay.org) E-mail: [saintjameslutheran@gmail.com](mailto:saintjameslutheran@gmail.com)**

*Saint James Lutheran Church*

**Located in the Haymount Area**

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[www.saintjamesfay.org](http://www.saintjamesfay.org)

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