

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



May 2023
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Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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A prayer for Mother's Day

Lord, we remember the mothers
who have gone before us.

**For their love, sacrifice, struggle
and joy, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember the mothers of
Scripture who are a part of our story
as we are a part of your story.

**For their courage, faith, love and
fierceness, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember those who have not
given birth to us, but are mothers to us.

**For their gift of themselves that they
have given, we thank you.**

For the women who struggle with
fertility, for those women whom
society labels as less in their childlessness,
for those women who have lost children.

**For their tears, for their strength,
for their wisdom, for their lives,
we thank you.**

In your name we pray. Amen.

by Claire Schoepp



Celebration of Life Service for Peggie Ann Jackson

On Saturday, April 22 at 1:00 pm in the afternoon, we celebrated the life of lifetime member Peggie (Ann) Jackson. She died unexpectedly in early March of this year. Due to the distance to Maysville, NC, members of the congregation had difficulty attending.

Peggie Ann and the whole Jackson family has a long history of involvement at St. James.

Over 35 family and friends attended, shares stories, music, and God's Word together.

Thanks to Gayle Frinak and Delores Schiebe for serving refreshments following the service.

We celebrate Pentecost on May 28th!



Excerpt taken from ELCA.org "Living Our Baptism":

Jesus had tried to instruct his disciples for when he no longer would be able to be with them on their earthly pilgrimage. Jesus had promised to send the Advocate to be with them.

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” (Acts 2:1-4 NRSV)

The Holy Spirit is still at work, calling, gathering, and empowering followers of Jesus to grow in discipleship.

Thanks for faithful efforts

At the risk of omitting someone, I am going to attempt to list names of all the folks that made Lent-Easter worship events and other celebrations impactful:



Tonie, Amanda, Anna Lisa, Chris, Todd, Tyler, Maddie, Tom, Dave, Scout Troop 747, Roscoe, Riley, Jim, Allan, Hannah, Barb, Sue, Rae, Fran, Heather, Penny, Kathleen, Edward, Sonja, Beverly, Joanie, Lisa, John, Gayle, Sarah Catherine, Ruth Ann, Nancy, Valarie, Delores, Ian, Hannah, Aaron, Gabe, Nate, Angelus, Victoria, Gianna, Linda, Donna, Diana, Amy, Stella, Glenn, Erica, Gary E., Elizabeth, Gary C., Jane, Rick, Tristan, Colleen, Tawan, Ann, Ewa, those who participated in worship leadership, and Michelle (church administrative secretary).

If I have omitted your name, please accept my apology. It wasn't intentional - we definitely appreciate all who participated! *Pastor John*

Worship leadership

At St. James, you'll notice numerous folks involved in worship leadership: *Ushers and greeters* who help welcome, guide, and direct; *Singers and Musicians* that lead in song; *Lectors* (readers) who present the Word; *Communion assistants* who help serve the bread and wine; *Acolytes* who light candles, carry banners, cross, Bible, etc. into worship; *Technicians* that work with audio, video, and internet livestream for worship; *Altar Guild* who make sure the sanctuary is prepared for worship, and the vessels, paraments, and linens are cared for; and, *Visual artists* who inspire and proclaim the Word through banners, paintings, floral decorations, liturgical dance, etc.;

For any given worship as many as 25 or 30 people can be involved in a leadership role.

If you want to know more about participating in any of these roles, please contact Pastor John JPL406@gmail.com or the church office saintjameslutheran@gmail.com

Want to know more about membership at St. James?

Are you interested in learning more about *being Lutheran*, or more about *St. JAMES*, or about *becoming a member of St. James congregation*? Contact me, or call the church office. I'm organizing a group now to meet in June.

We'll organize a time for conversation, teaching, sharing, and learning about "the church", the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), and *church* at St. James. And we'll talk about membership, as well. What it means, and why it is and isn't all that important.





Changes in Congregation Council Leadership

Charles Lee has resigned his position as president of the Congregation, in order to give needed attention to family concerns. He did not make this decision easily. "Life throws many curveballs and sets up many roadblocks and we must often change course, even when that course is not one we wish to take."

We all keep Charles and his husband, Tim, in our prayers for healing, strength, and patience.

The Congregation Council, at its meeting on April 16, elected Jordan Slaymaker as president of the congregation, serving until the end of 2023. Valerie Brewer was elected to serve as secretary until the end of 2023. The council is still considering appointing someone to complete the term vacated by Charles' resignation.

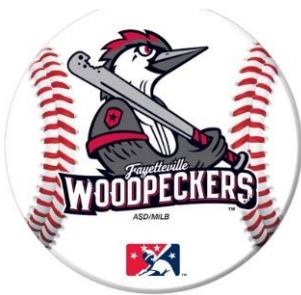


Play Ball!!

Save the date: Friday, August 18th.

The Woodpeckers baseball team is playing at home, AND the National Anthem will be sung by our own Anna Lisa Johannessen!!!

St. James Group Tickets information will be announced soon!



Share an Easter picture?

Maybe you've taken some family photos recently, (perhaps Easter Sunday at our "photo booth," or some other setting.)

If so, would you share a copy with us? It would be a great way to update our photo directory database.

Send us copies of your pictures via email saint-jameslutheran@gmail.com

(use largest format/digital size you have.) Thanks!



St. James Safety Plan Active Shooter Protection



The Congregation Council recently adopted a safety measure for the congregation in the unlikely event of an active shooter situation during a congregational activity.

Rest assured that we have no knowledge or evidence of any impending threat or danger.

However, the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department encourages all places of worship to have a plan in place to help deter a threat, as well minimize dangerous situations.

The primary emphasis for St. James' members is an everyday instruction: be aware of your surroundings, situations, and people that might seem unusual or look out of place or seem.

We will begin operating this new plan on Sunday, June 4.

Here is the basic outline of the protection plan, considering our congregation, church buildings, and resources:

- 1) Reinstate the "Rover" position (prior to Covid, this position existed and was separate from Ushers or Greeters). The Rover will walk around downstairs and outside during the worship service. This step addresses deterrence. *(Volunteers are needed for this duty. Please see Todd Burns or Dave Runkle for more information.)*
- 2) Limit access to the sanctuary / fellowship building by locking ALL exterior doors with the exception of those in the Gathering Space (main doors that lead to sanctuary). We will place signage by all usual entrances directing everyone to the sanctuary entrance with a statement like "...in the interest of safety and security, this door remains locked...please use the main entrance/west side of building..." This step also addresses deterrence.
- 3) Educate the Congregation (Ushers, Rovers, Property Team, and Council Members **at a minimum**) on the Run, Hide, Fight plan. **Everyone can benefit from this education. The Congregation Council did the training at their meeting on April 16. More training sessions for ushers, team leaders, congregation will be scheduled soon.
- 4) Identify interior doors – those that CAN and CAN NOT be locked or barricaded from inside the room (to classrooms and nursery, for example). Then we will install a simple device on the doors that lack proper security.

There is not an easy way to test or drill for this type of plan. But education and trust will be very helpful. We all will need to trust that the plan is in effect each Sunday, and that appropriate people have been trained for deterrence, as well as group safety. Please take advantage in the coming months as training classes are offered. If you don't wear your name badge on Sunday mornings, begin doing so. Engage in conversation with folks with whom you might be unfamiliar. Also, we might need to learn new paths into the building on Sunday morning.

During the last 10+ years, the property team and Congregation Council have provided various proactive steps for safety and protection to the congregation: Electronic Security Systems in both buildings; Fire escape plans; and, Youth and Children protection policies. This additional plan will continue to help us protect each other of risks that exist in our world today.

Prayer Warriors of Saint James



We are looking for anyone who would like to be a part of the prayer chain at St. James.

The only requirement is to call who is next on the list and be willing to pray for the person who has been placed on our prayer chain.

Please contact Joanie at 910-850-8444 or joaneissinger@gmail.com to be placed on our prayer chain or for more info.



Potluck Lunch - Every first Tuesday of the month.
Join us MAY 2nd at Noon!

Vacation Bible School brainstorm

Summertime VBS has been a long-time tradition at many churches. But the memories of many adults are hard to recreate for our children. These are different times from the '90s (or '70s or even '60s!) So, the context and format of VBS is changing in many places, but the message is the same – *God loves us!*

We are in the midst of conversation about how, what, when, or even *if* VBS should be a ministry for St. James this summer. We extend an invitation to all, especially parents of young children, to a time of conversation on **May 3rd at 7pm** in-person at the church or on-line ZOOM. (Meeting ID 871 6562 4831 / Passcode 085383)

Or use link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87165624831?pwd=T0xUNWNYZEeRNWp6VVoxdTl2dWpqdz09>

~ Congregation Council



NC Synod LIFELINE FUND

In 2016, with a generous grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., the North Carolina Synod began the Faith+Finances+Freedom initiative to help leaders and congregations address economic challenges facing pastoral leaders. St. James supported the Lifeline Fund last year with a donation through our endowments. The Congregation Council has recently approved another gift for 2023.

Rev. David Sloop (retired, ELCA) will be on hand on May 7 to explain more about THE LIFELINE FUND and how it benefits Rostered Leaders and congregations.

For more information, click here:
<https://nclutheran.org/leaders/lifeline-fund/>



Holy Baptism

Welcome to LUKE RUSH

Luke Nathaniel Rush, 8-month-old son of Cathleen and John, and brother of Riley, was baptized at St. James on April 16. Welcome Luke! May you experience the love of God's grace and mercy that daily surrounds you!



Kathy Behling and Richard Brown got married on April 1st .

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Brown!



EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA VIA DE CRISTO

Experience God's Grace

Who should attend a Via de Cristo retreat?

The retreat is designed for those Christians who, having been informed of the methods and aims of the movement, believe that the retreat can strengthen them in their faith and bring them closer to Christ in their discipleship. Most of Eastern NC Via de Cristo's retreats are "co-ed" – for men and women. Once in a great while we will hold a men only or women only retreat weekend.



On Sunday, June 4, Lynne Hoffman, the Outreach Chair for Eastern NC Via de Cristo, will be at St. James to share and answer questions about the Via de Cristo faith-forming experience. Many of St. James members have participated in Retreat Weekends over the years, dating back to the 1980's. Each one returned with a renewed spirit of faith, an increased enthusiasm for sharing God's love, and a deeper desire to share the Gospel within our congregation and our community. Lynne will join with others from St. James to share their passion for this ministry, to answer questions, and to encourage others to consider being a part of a VDC weekend.

What is Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo means "the Way of Christ." It is a name used by Lutherans for a movement of personal Christian renewal within the Church. Via de Cristo in Spain in the 1940s under the name of "Cursillo". Via de Cristo has been in North Carolina since 1976. It is a structured, well-thought-out method for renewing the faith of individuals, the congregations from which they come and the environments in which they live and work.

A Via de Cristo Retreat is an encounter with Christ in which the participant becomes a part of a community abounding in God's grace. It enhances and strengthens our personal relationship with Christ, with our Christian brothers and sisters and with the Christian community.

What is the goal of Via de Cristo?

The Via de Cristo has a goal – to change the world, to remake the world in Christ, and to restore all things to Christ. It is important to view the process of Via de Cristo as a movement and not as an organization. The Via de Cristo viewed as a movement means that it is an on-going process. The Via de Cristo movement does not work directly with the problems of the church and society but works to form groups of people who can deal with these problems.

For more info visit:

https://www.envcvc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-UPD-11A-VDC-Trifold-Brochure_WHT.pdf.



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

5/07 Ruth Ann Crecelius
5/14 Allan Winter
5/21 Jason Lorentzen
5/28 Jordan Slaymaker

Lectors

5/07 Valerie Brewer
5/14 Jane Boelke
5/21 Sue Rink and Beverly Beale
(Affirmation of Baptism)
5/28 Glenn Stockwell

Communion Assistant

5/07 Delores Schiebe
5/14 Nancy Oliver
5/21 Dave Runkle
5/28 Tawan Thomas

Ushers

5/07 Tonie Neal / Kathleen Heinrich
5/14 Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
5/21 John & Gayle Frinak
5/28 Roscoe Killett / Gary Eissinger

Acolytes

5/07 Nate Stockham
5/14 Hannah Rea
5/21 Gianna Orellano
5/28 Victoria Orellano

Greeters

5/07 John & Gayle Frinak
5/14 Kathleen Heinrich
5/21 Sue Rink
5/28 Linda Stellfox

Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Click on the times to connect

Property Team - 2nd Tuesdays (May 2)

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

[6:00 pm](#)

Vacation Bible School Brainstorm (Wednesday—May 3)

(Meeting ID: 871 6562 4831 / Password: 085383)

[7:00 pm](#)

Congregation Council (Sunday—May 21st)

(Meeting ID: 867 0951 0008 / Password: 103028)

[11:30 am](#)

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)

- 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
- ◇ Chad Smyre
- ◇ Orose Family
- ◇ Delores Schiebe

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
- Dan Gibson
- Tristan Bonde



| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Martin, Michael | 5/9 |
| Rettmann, Bill | 5/12 |
| Whitt, Kelly | 5/13 |
| Lehner, Dara | 5/15 |
| Beale, Beverly | 5/18 |
| Stockwell, Erika | 5/19 |
| Robertson, Elizabeth | 5/23 |
| Stockham, Nathan | 5/30 |
| Thomas, Aaron | 5/30 |
| Lehner, Joe | 5/31 |

Anniversaries

Rob & Kelly Whitt
5/27



**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 .**

**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 E-mail: saintjameslutheran@gmail.com**

Saint James Lutheran Church

Located in the Haymount Area

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