

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



January 2024
Volume 40, Issue 1

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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**Sinner
Saint**

FROM THE PASTOR'S MESS DESK

Those of you who have visited me in my office have seen firsthand my organized mess. I want to be organized; and I can create the to do lists, the filing systems, the project timeline strategies, calendars, the reminder systems, etc. with the best of them. But when it comes right down to it, the best I can do seems to be to just “organize the mess.” One of my mentors had his own particular organization system: he simply had three large stacks of paperwork. Two were on a credenza behind his desk, and one was only front left-hand corner of his desk. Exactly what went in which stack, I never did understand. But it seemed to be effective for him as he knew where to find what he was looking for without much distress.

I guess much of life is that way for most of us. We want our lives to be one way and yet that isn't our reality. This is the time for the new year resolutions, the goal-setting, the gym memberships, the “whatever” We will try once again and ... this time, it will work!

So if you happen to step into my office in the coming months and find the multiple stacks of papers and boxes and books and files and “stuff, don't be surprised. If nothing else, I am consistent in my failure rate in these efforts.

I look at it all as a metaphor for life. There are times, when my organization skills are apparent, active, and very effective. You might say I'm the saint of organization. But, there are other times (and plenty of them) when I am the worst organizer (read “sinner”) - to the chagrin and discomfort of those who rely upon my effectiveness. In real life, those things which matter the most, I am most dependent upon the graceful gift of God. God has decided to make me a saint in spite of my own neglect, stubbornness, and inattentiveness. God has decided to see me through the lens of, an empty cross and an empty tomb. I am forgiven. Free. Saint. But I am also human. And as such, I am a sinner.

Continued on Page 2

FROM THE PASTOR'S MESS DESK

Continued....

It's one of Luther's paradoxes. Simultaneously Saint and Sinner. And the Latin, we say *Simul Ustus et Peccatur*.

Maybe that's the best way to start the year. Remember each day that we are baptized. Named. Claimed. Forgiven. Empowered. Sent.

Graciously, a Saint and Sinner.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor John

THANKS FROM THE STAFF

Thank you so much for the appreciation gift, cards, and other expressions of thoughtfulness during the Christmas season. We hope that each family St James had a blessed Christmas. We wish everyone a happy new year!

Ellen, Michelle, and Pastor John

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Interested in becoming a formal member of St James? Or just wanting to know more about Lutheranism? Pastor John will be leading a conversational class on January 14, 21, and 28.

New members will be received during worship on Sunday, February 11.

Please indicate your interest on the attendance sheet at worship or contact the church office.



December 15th Saint James Family Celebration with Rivermist

What a glorious celebration!! We broke bread, sang songs and told stories with the incredibly talented guys of the band Rivermist (and their beautiful wives and families)!!

This event was the last in a series of church family gatherings we began this summer called "Welcome Home" - based on the message of The Jesus Revolution movie!



Youth activities

Confirmation Class meets following worship on Sun., Jan 21. (See Sue Rink for info).

National Youth Gathering Group will meet following worship on Jan 21.
(See Amanda Rea or Jordan Slaymaker for info)

2024 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

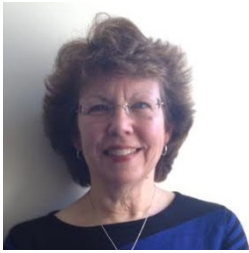
Our stewardship campaign, *Attempt Great Things for The Lord*, continues to be encouraging. THANK YOU to the 33 families who have returned Intent Cards as of January 5. Your intended giving represents a total of 11,175 for support of God's work through St. James Congregation in 2024.

If you have not returned an intent card yet, you are encouraged to do so. If you feel uncertain with a financial intention, but will be supporting the ministries of St. James, simply make a note to that effect, and return the card. It is reassuring to the congregation council to have confidence in the financial support for the envisioned ministries of St. James.

Each family has different abilities in giving.
Each gift is significant and is a measure of generosity.
God will multiply our giving and bless others through it.



Meet our 2024 Congregation Council!



Beverly Beale (reelected)



Valerie Brewer



Joan Eissinger (new)



Kevin Hoffmann



David Moon (new)



Tonie Neal



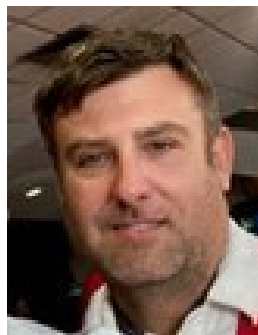
James Peterson (new)



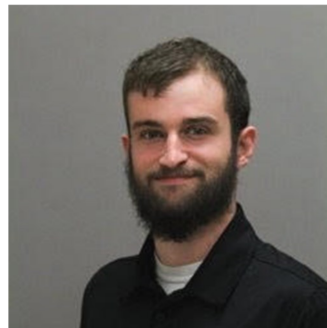
Amanda Rea



Nichole Rettmann (new)



Ed Samualian (new)



Jordan Slaymaker (2023 President)

Our annual congregational meeting was December 10th where we elected new council members.



WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED

There are many ways to assist in leadership and worship: usher, greeter, safety rover, lector, assisting minister, altar guild, acolyte, crucifer, banner bearer, audio & video technician, liturgical or visual artist, children’s time, presenter, etc. If you have gifts in any of these areas and would like to share, please contact the church office.

2023 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

Worship is central to our faith. Jesus all it as the most important commandment, *love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, mind, and soul.* Being active and present in worship is not only importance to ourselves, but it is vital for others in the community. Sometimes, it is valuable to have others near us as we worship, even if we don’t interact. God is present to, and in, those who worship.

Worship attendance at St James in 2023 increased, partly due to the presence of guests and new members.

Here is a summary for 2023:

YTD average in-person attendance by month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
63	75	75	74	79	69	66	71	71	70	77	67

Highest attendance: (Excluding Christmas Services) Date: 2/5/23 Attd: 86

YTD average YouTube views (within 10 days of worship) by month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	17	16	23	27	13	17	11	16	22	21	23

Highest views: Date: 1/15/23 # views: 50

The increase in attendance is encouraging and appreciated.

Baptism of Henry Hewins

Thank you so much to those who attended Hank's baptism last month. It was a very special experience for us and we are overwhelmed by your outpouring of love and support! Special thanks to Pastor John and Pastor Louise for coordinating a wonderful day. And thank you for the lovely cards and gifts for Hank—this little boy is certainly loved!

Dan & Jessie Hewins





LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL
SOUTHERN
S E M I N A R Y
LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY

Thank you for your gift!

Saint James Evangelical Lutheran Church
PO Box 53276
Fayetteville, NC 28305-3276

Dear Saint James Evangelical Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, thank you for your recent gift.

We are able to continue to enhance our facilities, expand access to scholarships, recruit and retain talented faculty and cultivate a rich campus life for our seminarians because of committed partners like you.

Thank you for helping to prepare this next generation to become spiritual leaders and servants to their communities worldwide.

Warmly,

Catherine Serrin Niekro
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

This is your tax receipt. Please retain it for your records

Date Processed: 11/21/2023 **Gift ID:** 23-514-1000011050
Amount: \$3,000.00
Benefitting Fund: Theda Suggs Memorial Scholarship for LTSS
Notes: 2023 Funding for Theda Suggs Endowment at LTSS

This is your tax receipt. Please retain it for your records

Date Processed: 11/21/2023 **Gift ID:** 23-514-1000011050
Amount: \$3,000.00
Benefitting Fund: Theda Suggs Memorial Scholarship at Lenoir-Rhyne
Notes: 2023 Funding for Theda Suggs Endowment at LRU

Lenoir-Rhyne University is a 501 (c) 3 organization. Gifts to Lenoir Rhyne are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For certain gifts such as Bears Club memberships, the amount received may not be fully tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor. For all other gifts, Lenoir-Rhyne University verifies that no goods or services of value were exchanged in consideration of this gift. If you have questions about your receipt, or any aspect of giving to LR, please email gifts@lr.edu.

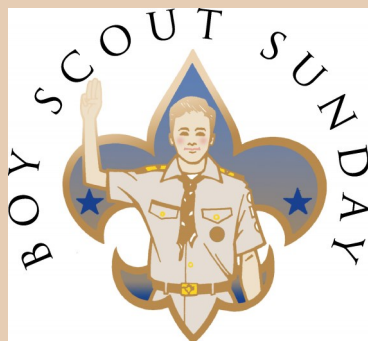
**Our former Vicar Matt baptized Lindsey Killett Osagiede's daughter
(Roscoe and Brenda Killett's grandbaby)**



In 2006, I was a Vicar in North Carolina, teaching Lindsey confirmation with Pr. Louise Hilbert. When I was serving in NYC, she was a regular at our parish while at NYU. She is now in Atlanta and members at St. Luke.

17 years after meeting, I had the holy honor of baptizing their wonderful daughter-joy upon joy. Welcome, Michelle Osagiede!

Matthew O'Rear



SCOUT SUNDAY

Saint Congregation has been the charter organization for Troop 747 and Pack 747 for many years.

We will observe Scout Sunday on February 4 and celebrate our joint ministry. Scouts will be participating in various aspects of worship leadership.



November 28, 2023

St. James Lutheran Church
Marcia Katt
684 Bartons Landing Place, Apt. 8
Fayetteville, NC 28314

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Child Advocacy Center, thank you for the **50** "Comfort Blankets" that you made and donated for **Giving Tuesday**. We give each child that comes to the Center a special blanket to provide comfort and healing. We appreciate your willingness to provide very tangible items for the Children we serve in Cumberland County. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Your contribution will help the Child Advocacy Center's mission of providing a safe, child-friendly place for child victims of abuse.

Thank you again for your support of Cumberland County's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jasie Landeros".

Jasie Landeros
Executive Director
jasie@cacfaync.org
www.cacfaync.org

A handwritten note in black ink that says "Thank you so much!".

No goods or services were provided by the Child Advocacy Center in consideration of your gift.

Child Advocacy center is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code for 1984, as amended. Our tax identification number is 56-2161682.

222 Rowan Street • P.O. Box 488 • Fayetteville, NC 28302-0488
phone 910.486.9700 • fax 910.486.8677
www.CACFayNC.org



LENT 2024

Lent, the 40 days of spiritual preparation before Easter, comes early this year. Ash Wednesday is February 14. The Ash Wednesday worship will be at 7:00; it will include the imposition of ashes.

If an additional service time is desired by enough people, we will add an afternoon or morning worship opportunity.

Mid week Lenten vespers will be held each Wednesday evening (starting Feb. 21) at 6:45 pm.

Comfort Blanket Ministry

During 2023 the “St. James Comfort Blanket” ministry made and delivered more 400 blankets. That’s a lot of God’s children that we were able to bring comfort to and help stay warm.

Thanks to everyone who helped.

Jesus our brother kind and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude.
The friendly beasts around him stood.
Jesus our brother kind and good.

A brilliant star shone through the night
And filled the world with wondrous light
While friendly beasts stayed by his side
A brilliant star shone through the night

“I,” Said the donkey, all shaggy and brown.
“I carried His mother uphill and down.
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town.”
“I,” Said the donkey all shaggy and brown.

“I,” Said the cow, all white and red.
“I gave Him my manger, for a bed.
I gave Him my hay to pillow His head.”
“I,” Said the cow, all white and red.

“I,” Said the sheep with the curly horn
I gave Him my wool for a blanket warm.
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.”
“I,” Said the sheep with the curly horn.

“I,” Said the dove from the rafters high.
I cooed him to sleep so he wouldn’t cry.
We cooed him to sleep my mate and I.”
“I,” Said the dove from the rafters high.

Every beast by some good spell
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gifts they gave Emanuel.
The gifts they gave Emanuel.

Receive Text Updates

If you are not currently on our email news list, sign up on our website: <https://saintjamesfay.org/>

To receive text messages instead, here is how to sign up

To receive messages via text,

Text @8bhg3
to 81010



You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @8bhg3'.

Trouble using 81010? Try texting @8bhg3 to (910) 401-3357 instead.

Recycle your ink cartridges and help support Saint James

We are collecting used desktop ink cartridges.

NOT Xerox type toners. Place them in the marked bin outside of the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you!





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.



Join us every first Tuesday, at Noon!

Potluck Lunch in our Fellowship Hall
The next meeting is February 6th



Men's Fellowship

Come join us every first Wednesday 5:30 pm - 8 pm on the back lawn of St. James for brats, beans, and beverages. If you are coming, let Dave Runkle or Todd Burns know in advance.

Weather plan is in the Annex/Entrance across the parking lot.

Assisting Ministers

Jan 07 Jordan Slaymaker
Jan 14 Ruth Ann Crecelius
Jan 21 Allan Winter
Jan 28 Jordan Slaymaker

Lectors

Jan 07 Matthew Shealey
Jan 14 Valerie Brewer
Jan 21 Bill Rettmann
Jan 28 Todd Burns

Communion Assistant

Jan 07 Jane Boelke
Jan 14 Tonie Neal
Jan 21 Tawan Thomas
Jan 28 Lela Pell

Ushers

Jan 07 Roscoe Killett, Gary Eissinger
Jan 14 Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
Jan 21 Joan & Gary Eissinger
Jan 28 Tone Neal, Kathleen Heinrich

Acolytes

Jan 07 Gianna Orellano
Jan 14 Angel VanDervoort
Jan 21 Gabriel Thomas
Jan 28 Nate Stockham

Greeters

Jan 07 John and Gayle
Jan 14 Barbara Azzarelli
Jan 21 Fran DeSilva
Jan 28 Delores Schiebe

Nursery

Jan 07 Colleen Tichich
Jan 14 Erika Stockwell
Jan 21 Lisa Law, Kathy Behling
Jan 28 Angel VanDerVoort,
..... Kathleen Heinrich

Rover

Jan 07 Rob Whitt
Jan 14 Dan Hewins
Jan 21 Tom Liedig
Jan 28 Ed Samuelian

Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Click on the times to connect

Property Team - January 9th
- 2nd Tuesdays

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

[6:00 pm](#)

Congregation Council (January 21)

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

[11:30 am](#)

Men's Bible Study - Sundays

(Meeting ID 821 3488 9583 / Password: 257977)

[9:00 am](#)

Fellowship & Conversation - Tuesdays

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

[7:00 pm](#)

THANKS FOR SHARING RESOURCES

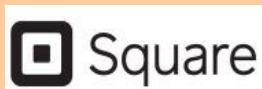


We appreciate every gift that is received, and we attempt to make wise decisions in how we use and invest these funds.

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
- Brenda Killett
- Warren Porter

Prayer Concerns:

- ◇ Joe & Dara Lehner
- ◇ Angel Davis
- ◇ John Tucker
- ◇ Beth Sessoms
- ◇ Ellen Blocker
- ◇ Orose Family
- ◇ Thomas Oliver
- ◇ Mark & Ann Mabe
- ◇ Jean Blackman Brauer

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



Georgia Martin	1/01
Brenda Killett	1/08
Elliott Fish	1/11
Linda Stellfox	1/18
Henry Hewins	1/20
Patrick SanMiguel	1/22
Diana Vittoe	1/25
Jessie Hewins	1/30
Angelus VanDervoort	1/30

Anniversaries

Larry & Delores Schiebe	1/29
Chuck & Priscilla Warren	1/31

