

# The Messenger

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

JOYFULLY  
**Connecting**  
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



March 2024  
Volume 40, Issue 3

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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*Maundy Thursday*  
*Remember me*

### **Maundy Thursday: 3/28- 7pm**

(*Love one another* is Jesus' mandate. He demonstrates by washing feet, offering a meal, breaking bread, and pouring wine.)

### **Good Friday: 3/29 - 7pm**

(Jesus sacrifices himself on the cruelest of tortures - a wooden Roman cross. It is central to our worship of prayer and song.)



### **Easter Vigil: 3/30 - 7pm**

(We join with Episcopal sisters & brothers at Holy Trinity, 1601 Raeford Rd.

We celebrate the ancient tradition of the church as we repeat God's stories of mercy, hope, and salvation. The sounds of "He Is Risen" we'll be on our lips and in our hearts.)



**Sunrise at 7am**

**Breakfast 8-9 am**

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt 9 am**

**Festival Worship at 10am**

(We will gather outdoors as the weather permits. Bring your own chairs and blankets if needed. We will celebrate The Son Rising as the sun rises upon us. We celebrate in fellowship, food, and fun with a delicious breakfast followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. A festival of worship, featuring special music, and instruments, in our wonderfully decorated sanctuary.)

## Finance Committee News:

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

### January Financial Data

<b>General Offerings</b>	\$14,109	*
<b>Designated Offerings</b>	\$1,361	**
<b>Endowment transfer</b>	\$3,000	Needed to meet expenses
<b>Loan from Suggs endowment</b>	\$3,546	Loan for Parsonage repair
<b>Total Income</b>	\$22,016	
<b>Expenses</b>	\$22,012	

\* As you will note we do not receive enough offering to meet our expenses. We hope our offerings will increase so we do not need to use our endowment funds.

\*\* Funds are received from a grant, company or individual designated for a specific purpose.



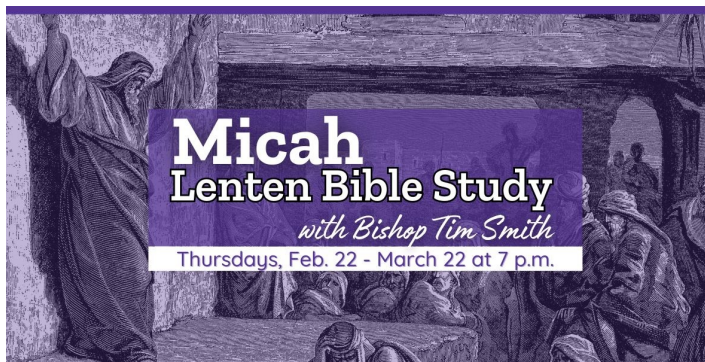
The 2024 Stewardship Campaign continues. To date, 41 giving units (families) have returned giving intent cards totaling annual intended giving of \$165,840.

Generous giving in the congregation allows for Lenten Suppers and Vesper worship, youth attending LYO, coffee time before and after worship, building repairs and upkeep, faith formation for children and youth, pastoral care for hospitalized or grieving folks, Sunday worship, and much more.

Thank you for the gifts you give! Each and every gift is important and helps proclaim the message of the gospel to a hurting world.

If you have not returned an intent card for 2024, please give it prayerful consideration. If you have never taken this step with a congregation before, it is understandable that you might be reluctant. Perhaps begin with "I'll support God's mission through St. James throughout the year." And leave the amount line blank. Then next year, try using an amount. Someone told me once that the goal is to grow in our understanding and ability toward generosity.

Thanks be to God for gifts graciously given, gratefully received, and generously shared!



Bishop Tim Smith will offer an online Bible study on the book of Micah during Lent—specifically, the five Thursdays beginning February 22 and concluding on March 21— from 7 to 8 p.m. via Zoom. Don't miss this opportunity to study Micah with other Lutherans across the synod!

It's not too late! [Register now to receive the Zoom link!](#)

### Youth at LYO



We are thankful for Amanda Ray, and Jordan Slaymaker for serving as adult leaders for our youth at the recent LYO event in Greensboro. Over 170 youth and adult leaders participated in sessions of faith, building, fun, fellowship, and worship.

Pictured are (L-R) Gabriel Thomas, Lela Pell, Jordan, Aaron Thomas, Hanna Rea, Nate Stockham, and Amanda.

### 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.***

***Note: Thursdays during Lent!***

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



### National Youth Gathering update

Victoria Orellano, Lela Pell, Hannah Rea, and Nate Stockham, along with adult leaders Amanda and Jordan, will be headed to New Orleans in July for the National Youth Gathering.

This event is held every three years and will be attended by 25,000 youth and leaders. It is a tremendous event. And of course it requires financial investment for registration, travel, hotel, food, etc. They have two fundraising events planned. We hope that you will feel led to participate and support them in this faith forming gathering.

### 100 Envelope Challenge

In the hallway outside the fellowship hall, you'll find envelopes numbered 1-100.

The YOUTH are asking for your support by selecting one or more envelopes. Then place a check or cash in the envelope(s).

Put your name on the outside of the envelope(s) and place it in the offering on Sunday morning. If all envelopes can be filled, the group will be \$5000 closer to their final goal.

### Yard sale in May

A yard sale is coming in May! The exact date will be announced soon, but in the meantime, begin setting aside all those wonderful valuable treasures from which you need to part.

Donations will be accepted beginning 1 April.

Be on the lookout for more details!



## Ministry teams being re-established

Congregation council is working on the reestablishment of ministry teams. Pictured below is the newly appointed fellowship planning team.

We are hoping to add an Evangelism team, a Christian education (or faith formation) team, and a worship/music team in the next few weeks. Would you be interested in sharing your gifts and talents to serve on one of these three teams for the next 12 to 18 months (or so)?

Please contact Kevin Hoffman (congregation president) or Pastor John for more information.

### Meet your 2024 Fellowship Planning Ministry Team



While God created us to be in relationship with Him, he also created us to be in relationship with one another. Relationships are essential! Through deepening our relationship with God we can care better about those around us.

We are **Joyfully** preparing relationship-building events and activities to **Connect** members of Saint James. We pray that you find commonality in our fun and faith filled group outings, in our simple Lenten meals, or over a hot cup of coffee before worship.

Left to Right:  
Lisa Law, Amy Allison, Ruth Ann Crecelius  
Front: Kathy Brown, Barb Gearing

We are always open to suggestions and assistance!

Joyfully Connecting

Faith - Life - People

## Ministry teams

How did that fellowship meal come about? ... How do I go about becoming an usher for worship? ... Who plans summer activities for our children/families? ...

Great questions. Unfortunately, there are no good answers. One of the things that suffered during the pandemic were our Ministry Teams. Coming out of the pandemic, 9 of the 12 ongoing ministry teams were no longer functioning or non-existent. The 2024 congregation council has made a priority to review, revise, and renew a number of our ministry teams.

Our newly *re-formed* Fellowship Planning Team (see previous page) will plan and give oversight to congregational fellowship events, meals, and receptions throughout the course of the year. They will recruit volunteers for the particular events. The objectives of the team will be to emphasize relationships: *Joyfully connecting. Faith. Life. People.* As new individuals and families begin worshipping and exploring faith through St. James, we will need opportunities to create and build new relationships.

Do you have particular gifts, interests, passions, abilities, dreams, goals ...? Then, St. James needs your energy, gifts, and passions to build and develop ministries.

**EVANGELISM** Be a story-teller. Help the congregation share God's story with the community. Work with our social media and website efforts to give awareness and invitation to the congregation and community about how the gospel is proclaimed at and through St. James. Give oversight to our greeter and hospitality efforts.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** Help others grow in faith. Oversee and develop the ways we teach and model faith in the congregation. As growing disciples of Jesus, we need to know the stories of faith from the Bible, as well as absorb the teaching of the Spirit as we learn. We want to learn how our Christian faith is relevant to our daily lives. This team can help in many ways, from Sunday morning in-person classes to on-line learning, from group Bible study to individual growth studies, from children through adults, from Sunday through Saturday, from Christmas to Easter, from Adam and Eve to Abraham and Sarah to Ruth and Boaz to the disciples Peter, James, and John, to the disciples Mary, the other Mary, and Priscilla.

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC** Worship is central to the life of a congregation. For a large number of people, it is the first encounter with the congregation. Worshipping well, with integrity and faithful commitment, offers life and vitality to a congregation. This ministry team is charged with assisting the pastor and music staff in crafting and maintaining a high level of excellence in our worship life: overseeing the maintenance of music equipment and instruments; supporting altar guild with proper care and use of paraments and worship items; assisting with recruiting and training ushers, worship leaders (assisting ministers, communion assistants, lectors, acolytes, etc.); promoting variety in worship through art, music, movement, etc.; assisting with recruitment of members for vocal choirs, handbell choirs, and other groups and ensembles; work with pastor(s) and organist/pianist and/or choir director in planning and evaluating worship (both in-person and live-stream.)

If you feel a call to any of those ministry areas, please contact Pastor John, Kevin Hoffman (president of the congregation), or Valarie Brewer (vice-president of congregation) for more conversation.





February 14, 2024

St. James' Lutheran Church  
Attn: Marcia Katt

Fayetteville, NC 28314

Dear Marcia,

On behalf of the staff and the board of directors, thank you for the wonderful blankets donated to the Child Advocacy Center in recognition of Valentine's Day. We appreciate receiving items selected with care that will benefit our children. These blankets will aid in spreading the message "Because Someone Loves You". We sincerely thank you for your continued support, and the children enjoy the items that you donate.

Without you and your support, we would not be able to help those children begin the healing process. Thank you again for your support and compassion for Cumberland County's children.

Sincerely,

*Roberta Humphries*  
 Roberta Humphries  
 Executive Director  
 roberta@cacfaync.org  
 www.cacfaync.org

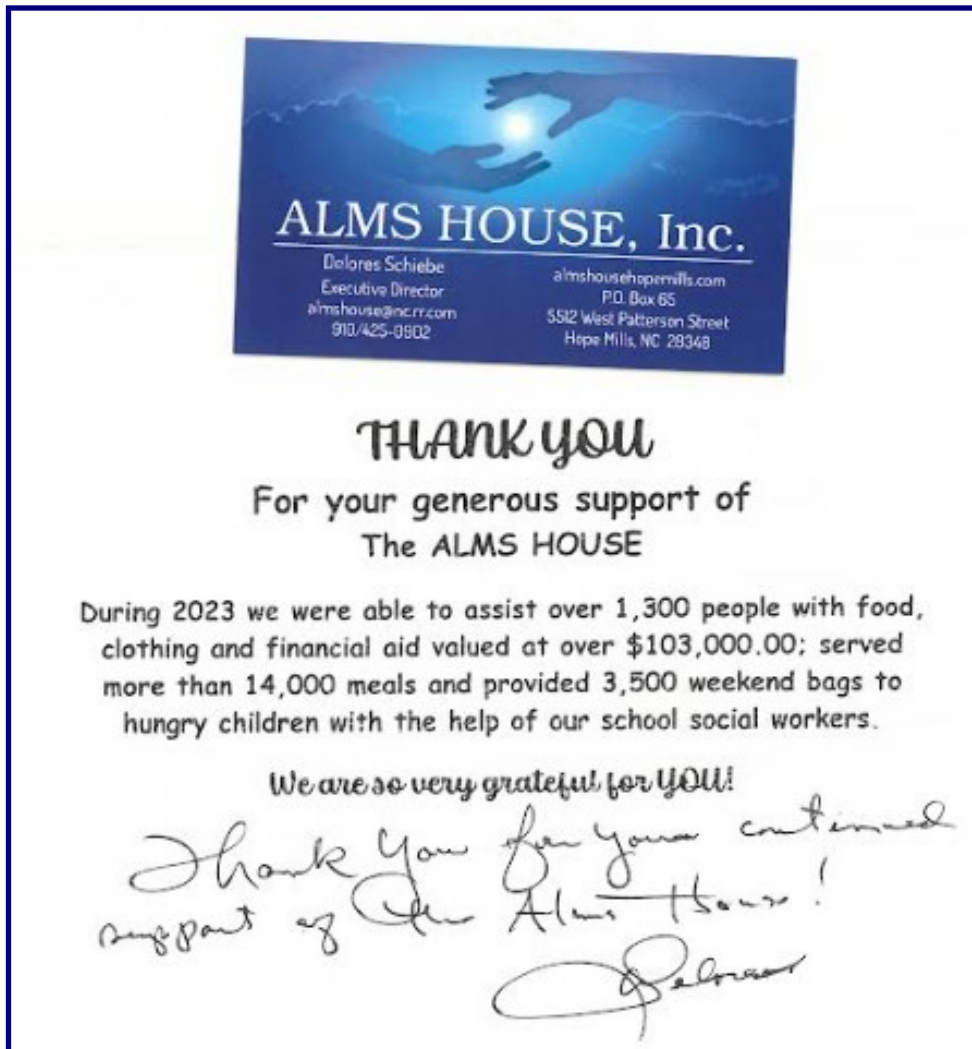
*What a wonderful gift of love for the children. Thank you for always providing wonderful blankets for the children.  
 Roberta*

*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





## ALMS HOUSE, Inc.

Dolores Schiebe  
Executive Director  
alms@almsnc.org  
910.425.9502

alms@almsnc.org  
P.O. Box 65  
5512 West Patterson Street  
Hope Mills, NC 28348

### THANK YOU

For your generous support of  
The ALMS HOUSE

During 2023 we were able to assist over 1,300 people with food, clothing and financial aid valued at over \$103,000.00; served more than 14,000 meals and provided 3,500 weekend bags to hungry children with the help of our school social workers.

We are so very grateful for YOU!

Thank you for your continued support of The Alms House!  
*Dolores*

### Property Repairs and Updates

Many resources are required to keep our facilities updated, repaired and useful. A significant portion of our spending plan are allocated to property repairs. As many as 70 -100 manhours our volunteered each month by dedicated folks to paint, replace lightbulbs, make minor electrical and carpentry repairs, etc.

A few of the projects currently underway are a facelift for the men's restroom next to the elevator, upgrade of the hallway and kitchenette area of the annex building, and repair/ replacement of support posts for annex porch.

Many thanks to all those who are involved in these and other projects around our campus.

If you have skills that are helpful in property, maintenance and upkeep, feel free to join folks on the third Saturday morning of each month !

## 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.

## Fayetteville HymnSingers in Concert at St. James

Sunday, March 24, 3:00. Reception to follow.

This volunteer choir inspires, reminds, and encourages faith through the music of hymns. Come and listen, sing, and worship with The HymnSingers!!

\*\* Several St. James folks are members -  
Jane and Rick Boelke, Sue Rink, Anna Lisa Johannessen and Pastor John.





## Lenten Mid-Week Wednesdays

Meal at 5:45pm and Vespers at 6:45 pm

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

We'll use the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" as we study Peter's faith journey. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God.

In this series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

*This series is developed by the creative and faithful talents of **A Sanctified Art**, a talented creative team of pastors, artists, and writers. Trained theologians and pastors, they are also artists and creators. They are called to be artists just as much as ministers; in order to faithfully offer their gifts to the Church and world, they cannot set their creativity aside. They offer their creative gifts to resource, provoke, guide, facilitate, and enrich the spiritual lives of worshipers around the world.*

## 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 Quilters continue to bring joy with their “Fidget Blankets”**



February 20, 2024  
Alice Mullins  
Life Enrichment Director  
Trinity Ridge Hickory NC, 28601  
To: St. James Lutheran Church  
PO Box 53298  
Fayetteville NC, 28305

I wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you so much for the busy blankets that were made and sent to us. This is a gift to memory care residents that keeps their minds busy and their hands busy as well.

We all have a gift that God has given to us...thank you for sharing your gift with the residents here at Trinity Ridge. You are appreciated and we are very thankful that you have reached out to us.

Alice Mullins ADC, CDP

*Alice Mullins*

Dear Quilters:

My husband has been the recipient of both a "fiddle pad" and bit.

He is in the latter stage of dementia and can get quite agitated and messy when he eats.

Both items are beautifully crafted and oh so very appreciated. You are providing a wonderful service to those in need.

*Diane Wood*

Join us every first Tuesday, at Noon!



Potluck Lunch in our Fellowship Hall  
The next meeting is April 2nd.



1424 Morganton Rd.  
Fayetteville, NC 28305

## Ukrainian Easter Egg Decorating class

Learn to create one of these beautifully-crafted Easter Eggs.  
Saturday, March 23, 9:00 am – 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring at least one (1) RAW egg.  
All other materials will be supplied.

Cost is a \$25 donation to Ukrainian Relief.

Minimum age is 10 (or be able to focus for a long period of time,  
and able to respect open flame near paper and plastic.)

To signup:  
email  
[saintjameslutheran@gmail.com](mailto:saintjameslutheran@gmail.com)  
or call  
910-484-8052

[Or online](#)





February 1, 2024

St. James' Lutheran Church  
Attn: Marcia Katt

Fayetteville, NC 28314

Dear Marcia,

On behalf of the staff and the board of directors, thank you for the wonderful blankets donated to the Child Advocacy Center in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness month. We appreciate receiving items selected with care that will benefit our children. We sincerely thank you for your continued support, and the children enjoy the items that you donate.

Without you and your support, we would not be able to help those children begin the healing process. Thank you again for your support and compassion for Cumberland County's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roberta J. Humphries".

Roberta Humphries  
Executive Director  
roberta@cacfaync.org  
www.cacfaync.org

A handwritten note in blue ink that reads "Thank you for your local &amp; generous support Roberta".

*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



## Women's Build 2024

Join us for our Women's Build classes, where you will learn four different common home repairs, as well as how to build an Adirondack chair.

\$30 per person  
3/14/24 10-3 pm  
3/15/24 10-3 pm  
Same classes each day.



Call (910) 483-0952 for more information!



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.**

# Cumberland County CROP Hunger Walk

YOU CAN HELP TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES



On Sunday, April 14th, we will continue to fight against the challenges of disease, disaster, displacement and other concerns that leave people hungry. Join us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need today and sustainable food security for tomorrow.

## HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

You can participate as part of a team, or as an individual. It is as easy as **1, 2, 3!**

- Register today at [www.crophungerwalk.org/cumberlandcountync](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/cumberlandcountync) or scan the QR code.
- Talk to friends, family and neighbors and invite them to join your team or sponsor you.
- Join us in-person on Sunday, April 14th at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2505 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC. Registration: 2:00pm; Step off: 3:00pm





**Assisting Ministers**

March 03..... Jordan Slaymaker  
 March 10..... Ruth Ann Crecelius  
 March 17..... Jane Boelke  
 March 24..... Allan Winter  
 March 31 (7 am)..... Jane Boelke  
 March 31 (10 am)..... Jane Boelke

**Lectors**

March 03 ..... Glenn Stockwell  
 March 10 ..... Matthew Shealey  
 March 17 ..... Valerie Brewer  
 March 24 ..... Bill Rettmann  
 March 31 (7 am)..... TBA  
 March 31 (10 am)..... TBA

**Communion Assistant**

March 03 ..... Tonie Neal  
 March 10 ..... Tawan Thomas  
 March 17 ..... Lela Pell  
 March 24 ..... Delores Schiebe  
 March 31 (7 am)..... Paula Burns  
 March 31 (10 am)..... Sue Rink

**Ushers**

March 03 ..... Gary & Joan Eissinger  
 March 10 ..... Ruth Ann & Gary Crecelius  
 March 17 ..... John & Gayle Frinak  
 March 24 ..... Roscoe Killett, Gary Eissinger  
 March 31 (7 am) Tonie Neal, Kathleen Heinrich  
 March 31 (10 am).....

**Acolytes**

March 03..... Gabriel Thomas  
 March 10..... Victoria Orellano  
 March 17..... Nate Stockham  
 March 24..... Ian Gibson  
 March 31 (7 am)..... Hannah Rea  
 March 31 (10 am)..... Gianna Orellano

**Greeters**

March 03 ..... Barbara Azzarelli  
 March 10 ..... Erika & Glenn Stockwell  
 March 17 ..... Gayle & John Frinak  
 March 24 ..... Sue Rink  
 March 31 (7 am)..... Tonie Neal  
 March 31 (10 am)..... Nikki Rettmann

**Nursery**

March 03... Colleen Tichich, Erika Stockwell  
 March 10..... Lisa Law, Kathy Brown  
 March 17.... Kevin Hoffman, Erika Stockwell  
 March 24..... Heather V., Kathleen Heinrich  
 March 31 (7 am)..... Kevin Hoffmann  
 March 31 (10 am)..... TBA

**Rover**

March 03 ..... Ed Samuelian  
 March 10 ..... Dave Runkle  
 March 17 ..... Todd Burns  
 March 24 ..... Tom Liedig  
 March 31 (7 am)..... Ed Samuelian  
 March 31 (10 am)..... Dave Runkle



# 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

## 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*)

- Earl Stockham
- Jessie Hewins
- Joshua Trogdon
- Darian Dix
- Kelly Steenrod
- David Oliver
- Bella Fish
- Rob Whitt
- Dan Gibson
- Tristan Bonde
- Jacob Rea
- Zach Turner \*



Joan Eissinger	3/04
Lore Gibson	3/05
Charles Lee	3/07
Gayle Frinak	3/15
Victoria Orellano	3/18
Todd Burns	3/20
Samantha Hoffmann	3/20
Jason Lorentzen	3/20
Amy Burks	3/23
Mary Beth Winter	3/23
Barb Gearing	3/28
Jim Schlenker	3/29
Karen Martin	3/29
Bella Fish	3/31

## Anniversaries

Sharon & Eddie Mathis	3/03
Carl & Deb Rosenberg	3/04



**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**

1424 Morganton Road  
P.O. Box 53276  
Fayetteville, NC 28305



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

**Address Service Requested**