

**Annual Report by
Congregation Council
for
2023 Ministry Year**

Called to be generous stewards of God's love, we ...
Love and praise God through **worship**
Provide **Christian education & Faith Formation**
Create Christian bonds through **fellowship**
Engage in **outreach** to our community

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH ✿ LIFE ✿ PEOPLE

*St. James Lutheran Church
Fayetteville, NC
Organized 1936*



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Table of Contents

Page 2.	Table of Contents
Page 3.	Staff & Congregation Council
Page 4.	<i>In Memory</i>
Page 5.	Highlights of 2023 Activities
Page 6.	Summary of Survey Responses
Page 7.	(Summary, cont'.)
Page 8.	Pastor's Reflection
Page 9.	(Pastor's reflection, cont'.)
Page 10.	Ministry Reviews
Page 11.	(Youth, Confirmation, Worship & Music, Social Ministry, Stewardship)
Page 12.	(Ministry Reviews, cont'.)
Page 13.	Property Ministry
Page 14.	(Propert, cont'.)
Page 15.	Finance Report
Page 16.	(Finance, cont'.)
Page 17.	Membership Statistics
Page 18.	Treasurer's Report
Page 19.	Endowment Reports
Page 20.	Lutheran Men In Mission Report
Page 21.	Altar Guild

The Staff

Rev. John Locke Pastor
Michelle Aumack..... Office Administrator
Ellen Blocker..... Custodian

The Officers for 2024

President..... Kevin Hoffmann
Vice-President Valerie Brewer
Council Secretary Nichole Rettmann

The Officers for 2023

President..... Jordan Slaymaker
Vice-President Nancy Oliver
Council Secretary Valerie Brewer

Members of Congregation Council 2023
(term ending 2023 or 2024)

Beverly Beale ('23)	Tonie Neal ('24)
Charles Lee ('23)	Valerie Brewer ('24)
Sue Rink ('23)	Kevin Hoffman ('24)
Amanda Rea ('23)	Nancy Oliver ('24)
Barb Gearing ('23)	Jordan Slaymaker ('24)

Executive Team:

Charles Lee (president); Jordan Slaymaker (secretary); Amanda Rea (vice-president).

In early Spring, there were two changes to council:

Charles Lee resigned from council due to personal reasons. New officers were elected with the following results: President: Jordan Slaymaker; Vice-president: Amanda Rea; Secretary: Valarie Brewer.

Nate had to resign; Lela Pell took over the position. (Youth representative).



The 2023 Annual Reports are dedicated to those members of St. James who have run the race, who have kept the faith and to whom the crown of eternal righteousness has been given:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------|
| ✝ | Peggie Ann Jackson | (March 9) |
| ✝ | Sigrid Walters | (March 28) |
| ✝ | Shirley Johnson | (October 13) |
| ✝ | Lorraine Breisch | (November 26) |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023 CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A Major Focus on Building Relationships

Council recognized early in the year that stronger relationships between individuals and families throughout the congregation was highly needed. After returning to in-person worship and activities post pandemic, we all began noticing folks who did not return. At the same time there has been an increase in “new faces” in the congregation. Approximately 20-25 families became active participants during the last two years. Eight took formal step to become members of St. James. A number of folks who had just become active prior to pandemic time had to be re-acquainted. So, many of our activities focused on ways to develop and build relationships.

- Feb 21 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, with inter-generational games and activities
- May 12- Fiesta Friday event, an evening of games and family fun.
- May 14-20 Participated in Revive All Event – a community-wide gathering of churches (almost 30 different congregations) for worship, learning, fun, food, and service.
- June 16- “Welcome Home” Multigenerational Gathering
- July 21 - “Welcome Home” Multigenerational Gathering – Christmas in July
- August 18 - “Welcome Home” Multigenerational Gathering
Woodpeckers Baseball Group Outing
- Oct 29 - Reformation Celebration Lunch, with family activities
- Dec 15 - Advent-Christmas Family Celebration with *members of Rivermist*

In addition to these intentional activities, people also built friendships through times together in quilting, around the fire at Theology on Tap, choir rehearsals, property work days, sharing coffee-time conversations before worship, etc.

We have a long ways to go. But God’s Spirit gave us many opportunities for a great start in 2023.

RESPONSES TO OUR 2023 CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

Where Is God at St. James Lutheran Church?

In an effort to have more input in the annual report, council distributed a brief survey to gather thoughts from congregational members. Thanks to Beverly Beale who brilliantly summarized the various comments and responses.

“GOD IS IN THE HELPERS”

Anne Lamott’s quote sums up the way St. James lives out its mission to “Be Doers of the Word.” We are a congregation in search of ways to serve others. The renovation of our quilting room has enabled our Quilting Ministry to grow and expand by adding machines and updating their work area. They create comfort blankets, lap quilts, fidget blankets, adult bibs and more treasures which they distributed to the Child Advocacy Center, support groups, nursing homes, and homebound patients. They were a part of God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday along with a car parade which visited members who cannot attend worship regularly and a group that created fabric wreaths for folks in longterm care facilities. Our Project of the Month collected food for Alms House, made kits for the Episcopal Migrant Farm Worker Ministry, collected back packs and school supplies for students who need them, and brightened the holidays with gifts for Angel Tree recipients. We supported relief in the U.S. and beyond through Lutheran Disaster Relief and in Ukraine through funds raised by our Ukrainian Easter egg decorating class.

Sometimes our service comes in the form of serving one another. Members who lost loved ones recalled how much it meant for people to attend a memorial service or sing in the choir or provide food for a reception. Something as simple as a hug, words of comfort and encouragement, or even signing a card remind us that something doesn’t have to be big to make a big difference.

GOD IS IN THE WORSHIP ... AND THE FELLOWSHIP

It is almost impossible to separate these two essential parts of life at St. James. They often overlap, and each is an integral part of the other. It seems the fellowship begins as people arrive for worship. They recall being warmly greeted by the rovers as they hurry into the building and being welcomed by folks chatting in the gathering space. This blend of fellowship and worship continues in Sunday school classes. During the service God’s presence is felt in both the solemn wisdom of the sermon as well as the humor of the children’s comments during children’s time and the pastor’s responses to them. Music enriches our worship with the rebuilding of our choir and the contributions of our guest accompanists and our handbell choir.

But our worship isn't confined to Sunday mornings. It spills over into midweek services where we gather around a table for Lenten suppers and then worship around that same table. Whether in the quiet of a Blue Christmas service, around a fire at Theology on Tap, at a lively Primetimers potluck, in the beauty of a Hymnsingers concert, or the frivolity of Zoom Fellowship, God meets us wherever we are in our journey.

This year we were blessed with new members, frequent visitors and more children! This led us to develop intergenerational events where we could blend fellowship, food, faith and fun for all ages: everything from a baseball game to the Biblical Dating Game, checkers to costumes to corn hole, and Christmas in July to Christmas in December with Rivermist. Participants said these events allowed them to make new friends, deepen relationships with longtime members, and get to know new members. The connection we make with others through fellowship enhances our worship experience.

GOD KNITS US TOGETHER

God calls us to things that are bigger than we are as individuals. For youth here at St. James that included preparing for Affirmation of Baptism through confirmation class, leading worship on the beach at Kure Beach, attending meetings with other Lutheran youth in North Carolina, and preparing for a trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans by working together on yard sales and other fundraisers. Another way our youth can be knit together with other young people is by participating in the active Scouting program here at St. James.

God also calls us as a congregation to things that are bigger than our church alone. We partnered with other churches such as Holy Trinity Episcopal, Westminster Presbyterian and First Baptist Church to host services for Blue Christmas, Holy Week, and Blessing of the Animals. We also worked in collaboration with other communities of faith on the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service as well as the Revive All.

WHERE WILL GOD LEAD US NEXT?

To paraphrase one member, "I hope that as we continue through 2024, we as a congregation will enjoy increased participation as we fellowship together and within the community as we continue to 'Be Doers of the Word.' "

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

2023 was an intense year for our congregation. As we began the transition into a post-Covid world, we found ourselves relying on God's peace, patience, as God guided us into this liminal space. Much of what we used to know and experience as "church" had changed. So, we had to adapt, change, and learn to rejoice at God's presence among us in both joys and challenges.

- In-person worship attendance was consistent, but not at the numbers we experienced only 18 months earlier. But then God began calling individuals and families to St. James who we had not known before. Many of these folks have become members of St. James, but all are active and add to the energy and excitement that is building.
- We were still learning how to create an effective on-line experience for worship. But Michael McClenahan (tech lead for live-stream video) invested his time in research and learning; and, the Synod office provided us with a grant to enable the addition of a modern digital video camera, as well as an upgraded computer. These resources created an enhanced audio and video on-line ministry.
- We began to realize that the pool of experienced ministry volunteers was now smaller, and our demands on their energies was creating the possibilities for burn-out. We intentionally scaled back on a couple of ministries from former days. One of those was Vacation Bible School. During a planning meeting for a VBS program, the idea came about to develop family, inter-generational activities. *Welcome Home* ministry was created and replaced VBS on the summer schedule. Four family times of food, fellowship, and relationship building went on the schedule. These events offered the congregation an opportunity to grow in faith through fellowship, fun, and food.
- We experienced the joy of life with several baptisms. And we mourned at the loss of friends and families.

Parents brought children to the sacrament of baptism. Through Water and Word God promised to love and be with William Whitt, Luke Rush and Henry Hewins in their journeys in this life.

I presided or participated in eight funerals. Six were for members of St. James: Peggie Ann Jackson, Andrew San Miguel, Shirley Johnson, Sigrid Walter, Lorraine Breiche, Julie Murthy.

Many in our congregation experienced the pain and sting of death – the loss of parents, siblings, friends, and family. Michelle Aumack, our church administrator, traveled to Germany during the summer to be with family at the loss of her mother.

A particularly difficult funeral for me personally was for a life-long friend. He died almost a year after his diagnosis of an aggressive form of ALS. One of his last wishes was for me to preach at his funeral. I cried. I laughed. I felt unworthy and incapable of the task. But God lifted and supported me, gave me words to say and love to offer. I have no doubt that his request will be one of my most cherished memories of my ministry.

- God had some hard work for the Spirit to handle in 2023, no doubt.

Some of the St. James' families are no longer active with St. James as a faith home. Several moved due to retirement; some have begun worshipping elsewhere; and others have simply not returned to any congregation. Many of the ministry teams that were active in planning and oversight did not re-develop in 2023. Congregation Council consisted of nine individuals, of which four had been part of the congregation less than 4 years.

Within the greater church, many were concerned at pastors leaving without retirement or a call to another congregation in place. Almost a dozen of my colleagues in NC were among those that felt they could no longer do pastoral ministry without endangering their own emotional health or that of their families.

Perhaps in 2023 we all became more acutely aware that “church” in this era is not like it used to be. The world is much different than it was in 1950 or 1970 or 1990 or even 2010. The global community seems to be smaller as we are able to instantly access information or be a “virtual” part of situations around the world. And, we seem to be more willing than ever before to willingly share details about our lives (or create a false picture of our lives) - often to people we don’t even know.

I personally struggle with my longing for “the past”; I grieve at no longer having “what was.” But in the midst of that pain and disappointment, God will offer a sign of encouragement and hope. A phone call from a friend, a note from family, a smile or hug from one of our wonderful grandchildren, a reminder of purpose from my wonderful spouse, or some other wonder comes to me. And God says *I am with you. I have promised to be with you through all of life’s ups and downs ... ins and outs ... highs and lows.*

2023 was quite a year - a year of transition, some will say. But it was a year for St. James congregation to shift, change, take smaller steps, and learn to do the familiar in new ways. But as you can see from this report, God has provided energy, resources, creativity, strength and love *to and through* St. James Lutheran Congregation.

A Psalmist once wrote ...

This is the day that the Lord has made. Rejoice. And be glad in it. (Psalm 118)
And there it is. *THIS DAY*. Live, love, laugh in *this day*. Plan a bit for tomorrow. Maybe even worry – a little. But don’t let the longing for yesterday nor the worries of tomorrow steal the joy of loving and being loved today.

We’re Joyfully Connected.

Life. Love. People.

Go. Love. Be The Church.

Pastor John

MINISTRY REVIEWS

INTRODUCTION

Due to the inactivity of a full spectrum of ministry teams to create these annual reports, the paragraphs below were developed by Pastor John and Michelle Aumack as overviews of activities in the various areas of ministry. They relied upon past newsletters, calendars, and personal recollection.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth ministry continues to re-group and re-build following the pandemic time. Many factors impact youth ministry of our congregation. Family time has become more valued, and that impacts the ability of youth to be at church events on a consistent basis. Our youth attend over 6 different high schools and several different middle schools. Families live in all different sections of Fayetteville-Cumberland County (and beyond). We have been unable to re-develop a youth ministry team with consistent adult leadership.

And yet, the Spirit works. Several youth and adult leaders attended the Synod LYO event in February. We traveled to Kure Beach in July for a day of beach fun and fellowship, followed by evening worship on the beach with the congregation of Kure Memorial Lutheran Church.

The Spirit called four youth and two adult leaders to register for the 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Their work for team building and fundraising continues.

The group ended the year with a fun afternoon of baking Christmas cookies, playing games, and playing “Dirty Santa”.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Hannah Rea, Aaron Thomas, Angelus VanDervoort, Victoria Orellano, Nathan Stockham followed God’s call for affirmation of baptismal promises in May.

Sue Rink and Beverly Beale were instrumental in continuing confirmation classes for our youth.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

Weekly worship remains the primary place and time of congregational engagement for the large majority of folks. So, we invest a lot of time, energy, and resources into developing and preparing worship experiences. Regardless whether it’s the weekly Sunday morning, a festival Sunday (Easter, Pentecost, Reformation, Christmas, etc.), Lenten mid-week vespers, beach vespers at Kure Beach with our youth, or baptisms and funerals, all worship preparation is taken seriously. We try to involve many people in the leadership of worship – over 40 people have been called upon to have a leadership role of some sort during 2023. Thanks to all!

In September of 2023, Chris Colon accepted an offer to become pianist and organist at another church, and we sadly said goodbye. We were fortunate, however, to have two very capable folks offer their services to lead worship on piano – Alyssa Hall and Amy Stovall. They have continued to serve during 2023 as we assess our best move forward. Amanda Rea and Colleen Tichich have willingly and capably led the choir in weekly rehearsals and worship services.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

“Be Doers of the Word, and not hearers only...” James 1:22

2023 indeed saw St. James’ congregation as doers as we did outreach into the community. St. James saw interest in our outreach grow and we doubled our output from 2022. It was a good year.

Most of our donations were directed to:

- School Supplies
- Quilts, fidget & lap blankets, larger blankets, dialysis pt covers, bibs, knitted caps and masks
- Pin Wheels
- Food supplies
- Clothing donations
- Nursery clean up and fresh supplies (this might fall under Worship/Music or Faith Formation)
- Greeting Card for shut-ins, service members, family consolation, ill health
- First Time Visitors Bags
- Crop Walk donations, sponsorship, and walkers
- Health, School, Hygiene Kits
- God’s Work, Our Hands Day consisted of a parade, gift bags, songs, visits for shut-ins, ill

We reached out to Church World Service, Lutheran Services Carolinas, Church Women United, Child Advocacy Center, Alms House, Stoney Point Elementary School, numerous rehabilitation centers, Cape Fear Valley Hospital, Episcopal Farm Workers, and a multitude of individuals.

All were touched by the love St. James’ congregation shows for Jesus.

“Whatever you wish me to do for you, do likewise also for them; for this is the law and the prophets”.

Matthew 7:12

Respectfully Submitted

Tonie Neal, Chair

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

A campaign for the 2024 Annual Spending Plan was created and developed. The results were very positive. Approximately 40 intent cards were returned representing over \$100,000 in intended giving for 2024.

PROPERTY MINISTRY

This past year was once again very busy with many property related actions across our campus. Led by the Property Ministry Team, we collectively accomplished many actions and projects. I am personally thankful for the support and hard work by the past and present Property Team members; Joe Lehner, Dave Runkle, and Tom Liedig. I would also like to thank Pastor John for his continued participation, support and leadership. A final thank you to the Finance Ministry Team for their support and teamwork.

The mission did not change for 2023; to provide a safe, comfortable, and inviting space for worship and our ministry services. We oversee and manage all activities associated with the infrastructure of the five buildings and nearly five acres across your St. James campus.

In 2023, we completed our 11th year with a full-time lawn care contractor, having now been with Karrie Hawkins' service since December 2015. That coverage includes a weekly service across all the grounds, over one acre of property. This provides a consistent, year-round, service that allows our volunteers to place their efforts toward the many other property requirements. Our Custodian, Ms. Ellen Blocker, continues to provide weekly custodial service for the Church building, Office area, and Ministry Annex. Other services include trash removal and pest control.

In order to give everyone an appreciation of all the actions that were accomplished in 2023 we've attempted to provide a simple list, but please understand behind many of these were hours of work, planning and let's not forget the financial support.

2023 Property Ministry Team Led Actions	
Provided oversight of the NCLMM Disaster Relief support equipment located on the church property for about half the year. It was returned in support of recovery missions and some equipment repair	Coordinated for contractor repairs of various HVAC repairs; Sanctuary air handler wiring was corrected, Gather Space HVAC drain was cleared out,
Replaced many electrical outlets throughout the year.	Completed the expansion of the Quilting Room.
Annual Nativity Scene set up/removal and assisted with the Chrismon Trees set up/removal	Coordinated for and managed the replacement of carpet in the Church Office
PWC provided new electrical connection to the building; no cost to St. James.	Installed new bell rope.
Removed wallpaper and install tile backsplash in women's restroom (blue hall)	Changed pest control services; lowering our bill.
Maintained the Prayer Garden throughout the year. Removed the dead dogwood tree.	Coordinated and managed the Sanctuary Stained Glass Window covering replacement project.
Began coordination for the Gathering Space/Hospitality Room remodel.	Installed steps railing at Church Office entrance.

Coordinated and managed the replacement of a dormer window at the Parsonage.	Coordinated and managed the shingles replacement of the Parsonage back half of the roof.
Repainted the parking lot lines.	Initiated the Parsonage kitchen floor repair project. Will coordinate and manage the actual work in 2024.
Limited work on the lower level build back in the hallway. Completed two storage closets and the two bench seats.	
Repaired many light ballasts throughout both buildings.	
Periodically replaced furnace filters, alarm batteries and light bulbs as required.	
Initiated a security/safety plan review and proposal that began in early 2023.	

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who supported the monthly Work Days and all of the other projects while spending many hours working to keep our property safe, comfortable, and inviting. Thank you to the many financial donors who have made most of our contract work possible. A special thanks to the Property Ministry Team members who help to plan and manage the continued completion of the building renovation along with the many maintenance actions.

Please consider joining this effort. While the work is never ending, the fellowship is great and it is rewarding to be able to see the progress made. Many hands make light work. We can use everyone!

In 2024, we will continue to have property workdays on the third Saturday of each month from 8:30 am to noon! WE NEED YOU! Please plan to join us for these short, but critical work sessions.

Respectfully submitted,
 Todd Burns
 Property Ministry Team Chairperson
 (910) 308-5431, burnst37@gmail.com

FINAANCE MINISTRY

Mission Statement: Maintain an effective financial system that will enable St. James to support and establish needed ministries.

2023 Team members: Jim Schlenker (chair), Stella San Miguel, Gary Eissinger and Sarah Parrish.

2024 Team members: Jim Schlenker (chair), Stella San Miguel, Gary Eissinger and Sarah Parrish.

Meetings: 10 meetings were held in 2022. Six were in person and 6 were on Zoom. Meetings are held the 1st or 2nd Monday of the month at 10:00 AM.

Financial Committee Highlights:

- ⇒ Reviewed monthly income and expense statements to ensure wise use of offerings for administering St. James ministries.
- ⇒ Total General Fund offerings: \$ 191,994. An 2% increase over last year.
- ⇒ Total Designated offerings plus Endowment interest transferred to general ministry: \$97,188.
- ⇒ Total Expenditures: \$291,064. A 7% increase from last year. We repaired the stained-glass windows and water damage to the parsonage.
- ⇒ With the absence of a Treasurer, Finance committee Chair Jim Schlenker and Office Administrator Michelle Dix coordinated work to carry out the duties of the Treasurer.
- ⇒ We were honored to carryout Theda Suggs's wishes in her will by:
 1. Continued coordination of the Theda Johnson Suggs Endowment Scholarships at Lenoir Rhyne University and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Submitting \$3,000 for the Seminary and \$3,000 to Lenoir Rhyne.
 2. Recipients of the 2022-2023 academic year scholarships are unknown at this time.
 3. Sending \$2,000 to Lutheran Family Services and \$2,000 to Lutheran Services for the Aging.
- ⇒ Aderholdt Scholarship- no awards were given. There is \$3,299 in the fund. \$1,299 is available to be awarded.
- ⇒ Mission Support in the amount of \$10,000 was paid to the North Carolina Synod.
- ⇒ The internal Audit. Audit was not conducted this year as we were unable to find members to do it.
- ⇒ Prepared the 2024 Spending Plan for Council consideration. The congregation approved the 2024 MSP in the amount of \$287,005. To help make up the deficit in projected income, \$48,000 from the Suggs endowment will be transferred to the General Fund.
- ⇒ Administered staff Christmas gifts.
- ⇒ Church mortgage with ELCA Mission Fund with principal of \$124,291.
- ⇒ Promissory HVAC loan is \$ 2,000.

Continued on next pageAA

FINANCE, cont'.

Administered Memorials				
	Received	Spent	Remaining	Use
Lillian Lee	409	0	409	To be used for gathering space
Jim & Tom Rosser	563	0	563	To be used for music ministry
Sigrid Walters/ Gerda Kanode/ Shirley Johnson	170	0	170	Use has not been determined
Peggie Jackson	2,264	2124	240	Used for Kitchen upgrade
Andrew San Miguel	250	150	100	Used for Kitchen upgrade
			1,482	

God's Peace,
Jim Schlenker, Finance Chair

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Child Members Received

By baptism	3
By affirmation of faith	0
By letter of transfer	0
<u>Associate Member</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	3

Child Members Removed

By death	0
By inactivity	0
By request	0
<u>By transfer</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0

Adult Members Received

By baptism	0
By affirmation of faith	2
By letter of transfer	2
<u>Reinstatement</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	5

Adult Members Removed

By death	4
By inactivity	0
By request	0
<u>By transfer</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	6

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Baptized members	208	206	210	212
Average weekly attendance	77	43	50	70

Baptized in 2023
Henry Hewins
Luke Rush
William Whitt

Confirmed in 2023
Victoria Orellano
Hannah Rea
Nathan Stockham
Aaron Thomas
Angelus VanDervoort

**[Adults received in 2023
by Transfer or
Affirmation**

Jane Boelke
Rick Boelke
Kathy Brown
Ed Samuelian

TREASURER'S REPORT (TO THE ELCA CHURCHWIDE BODY)

Reported to ELCA

Receipts

Regular Giving	221,982
Designated Giving	12,613
Earned Income	53,225
Grants	6,500
Total Income	294,20

Disbursements

Operating Expenses	256,479
Payments on HVAC Loan	6,000
Payments on Mortgage	12,132
Mission Support	10,000
Disaster Response	2,777
Colleges	3,000
Seminaries	3,000
Lutheran Social Services	4,000
Social Agencies	5,128
Total Expense	302,516

Assets 12/31/2023:

Cash in General Checking Accounts (Fund 01)	2,673.61
Cash in Dedicated Bank Account (Fund 02)	85,327.88

Total in Checking Accounts 88,001.49

Liabilities:

Outstanding HVAC loan	2,000
Outstanding Mortgage Principle (12/31/23)	122,690.07

ENDOWMENTS REPORT

We started 2023 with an interest balance of **\$51,202** (monies not spent in previous years). This was added to the total monies that the 3 funds generated in 2023 in dividend interest **\$58,573**, making a total of **\$109,775** available for distribution in 2023.

With the resignation of Catherine Earle as Chair Council was unable to find a replacement. Council decided to incorporate the Endowment committee as a sub committee under the Finance committee. The Finance chairperson will chair the endowment committee and keep the records.

This year St James Ministry request remained at \$3000 a month to meet expenses. Requests were received for needed repairs to the Parsonage and for Outreach ministries. Obligations of Theda Suggs 'Will were honored.

2023 distributions:

Suggs Endowment

Saint James Ministries	\$30,000 (10months x \$3000)
Organist/Chior Director	\$12,000
Lutheran Seminary Scholarship	\$ 3,000 (Will fulfillment)
Lenoir-Rhyne Scholarship	\$ 3,000 (Will fulfillment)
Lutheran Family Services	\$ 2,000 (Will fulfillment)
Lutheran Services for the Aging	\$ 2,000 (Will fulfillment)

Currie Endowment

Campfirmation Registration	\$ 1,600
Parsonage repair	\$ 5,000

Patterson Endowment

NC SYNOD Lifeline Fund	\$ 1,750
Crop Walk	\$ 400
ELCA Diaster relief -HI Wildfire	\$ 1,000
Comfort Blankets	\$ 1,000
Parsonage repair	\$ 3,900

TOTAL Funds distributed **\$66,650****

- St James Ministries did not take money from the Endowment to fund monthly expenses in April and November.
- Interest remaining unspent as of December 31, 2023, is **\$57,140**. This will be held over and added to the interest accrued in 2024. The Endowments remain in a good position for the coming year. If current interest income remains the same, we should be able to continue with funding the programs we funded in 2023.
- One stipulation of Theda Suggs 'Will is that her Endowment pay for maintenance of the organ which was her gift to the congregation. We have been fortunate that no repairs have been needed in the last few years. Our organist has resigned and we have not been able to find a new organist. We hope to reserve funds from the endowment to fund the organist position and repairs when a new one is hired..

2023 Members

Jim Schlenker (Finance Chair and Acting Endowment Ministry Chair)
John Frinak, Marcia Katt, Catherine Earle

LUTHERAN MEN-IN-MISSION

Officials for 2023

President/Ministry Chairperson - Todd Burns
Secretary – Dave Runkle
Treasurer – Gary Crecelius

Mission

The mission of the North Carolina LMM (NCLMM) is to support men in their spiritual growth and in their social and intellectual development as they strive to deepen their commitment to Christ and to their families and to provide strength and support as they grow in the life of the Church and its evangelical mission. Our goal at Saint James Lutheran Church (SJLC) is to provide the men of our congregation the opportunity and environment to work towards and achieve the NCLMM mission.

Events

In 2023 the SJLC LMM met nearly every Sunday for bible study and held our official meeting the second Sunday of the month at 9 am via Zoom for fellowship, and spiritual growth. LMM focused the Bible study on the weekly worship service lessons. LMM also continued our monthly Theology on Tap gathering the first Wednesday of the month meeting on the back lawn of the Church campus. LMM also supported and/or sponsored many activities and events throughout the year as we worked towards the LMM mission.

These include:

- ▷ LMM continued with the sponsorship and responsibility within Saint James Lutheran Church for the Honeycutt Park adopt-a-site program managed by the Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Department. We support this effort with a bi-monthly clean up on the third Saturday of the month. The neighborhood community park proudly remains under sponsorship of Saint James Lutheran Church.
- ▷ Some men participated in the NCLMM Annual Gathering in March that was conducted virtually.
- ▷ In 2023 we remained as host congregation for “pre-positioning” the NCLMM disaster relief trailer (yellow) and box truck (white) and trailer (white). The box truck and yellow trailer were returned to the NCLMM POC for repair prior to onward mission support where it remains. The white trailer was dispatched to Kentucky in early 2022.

Financials

The LMM ending balance for 2023 was \$351.25. The primary expenses in 2023 included: \$100 for the National LMM, \$150 for the NCLMM Charter. LMM’s financial requirements are not supported through the Church Budget.

Please contact Todd Burns if you have any questions or want to learn more about your Lutheran Men In Mission. burnst37@gmail.com, (910) 308-5431.

Respectfully submitted by:
Todd Burns, Dave Runkle, and Gary Crecelius

ALTAR GUILD

Members of the Altar Guild are behind the scene ministers who faithfully and reverently prepare the house of God for weekly services. This includes the worship services of baptism, weddings and funerals, as well as extra services during Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas. The Altar Guild is responsible for keeping the sanctuary, altar and baptismal font clean and free of clutter. Paraments are changed for the seasons of the church year with appropriate linens. Members set the weekly table for communion. These duties are usually carried out on Saturday morning and continued through each of the services as needed.

Schedule for 2023

We give thanks to our youth of Saint James who have been stepping up to help us carry items from the altar area to the sacristy after service. You are serving Jesus and He loves you.

Thank you to all who have served, are serving and to the new volunteers on our roster!

Respectfully submitted;
Elizabeth Robertson, Chair

Jan Elizabeth Robertson, Beverly Beale	Jul Elizabeth Robertson, Beverly Beale
Feb Tonie Neal, Fran DeSilva,	Aug Elizabeth Robertson, Beverly Beale
Mar Elizabeth Robertson, Beverly Beale	Sep Elizabeth Robertson
Apr Elizabeth Robertson, Beverly Beale	Oct Joan Eissinger
May Joan Eissinger, Delores Schiebe	Nov
Jun Elizabeth Robertson, Beverly Beale	Dec Beverly Beale, Elizabeth Robertson