

# The Messenger

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

JOYFULLY  
**Connecting**  
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



June 2024  
Volume 40, Issue 6

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

## Inside This Issue

Pastor's Page continued	2
Ashley Johannessen's Mission Trip	2
June 1st Yard Sale	3
National Youth Gathering	3
Youth Kure Beach Trip	3
Sanctuary Beauty on Pentecost	4
Vacation Bible School	4
"Salty Women" Breakfast meeting	5
Dinner at Haymount Truck Stop	5
<i>Lutheran's Believe What?! Class</i>	6
Property Update	6
Genesis Bible Study	7
Theology on Tap	7
Finance Committee News	8
Recycle your ink cartridges here	8
Collecting for Hygiene Bathroom kits	9
Child Advocacy Center receives blankets	10
WELCA April Conference summary	11-12
Prime Timers Luncheon	13
Worship Online	13
Receive Text updates	13
Worship Leaders	14
Zoom Meetings Links	14
Thanks you for sharing resources	15
Around the Parish	16



We had such a wonderful Pentecost Sunday worship experience. The visual décor and colors, the music, the lectors ... maybe even to some extent the sermon. It was exciting to imagine the emotional reaction of the disciples to the wind, the flames of fire, the voices, the confusion, and the delightful cacophony of language. I wonder if they had any realization they were about to get their "marching orders". They will wind up all over the known world, preaching, teaching, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Whether or not they thought of the word "missionary", I don't know. But they set an example for us all.

We rarely think of ourselves as being missionaries. But if we've read some of the results of recent studies about church, faith, worship attendance, etc., we might agree that Jesus' mission field begins at our own mirror. Sometimes we feel discouraged, full of doubts, wondering about our faith life and relationship with the Holy and Divine. We need to preach to ourselves from time to time, I suppose. Reminding ourselves that Jesus told *us* that we are loved isn't a bad place to start.

Moving into our various parts of the world – whether it's school, work, military, medical, office, factory, etc., The Spirit leads *us* as we encounter others. We need wisdom and openness to see the God in others. We need the grace and love to accept others where they are in their own faith journey. But make no mistake – we are missionaries. We are called to proclaim Christ in word and deed whether it be at the community grocery, the local playground, or the neighborhood library. Perhaps the first step is getting to know our neighbors. Hearing their stories, listening to the joys and hurts of life. Offering to walk with them in times of need, and to rejoice in times of celebration. Showing what faith looks like, rather than "shouting them down". In today's ELCA it's called "the accompaniment model of evangelism."

Some of our youth will be doing something like this when they attend the National Youth Gathering in July. 15,000 missionaries gathering in New Orleans to proclaim Christ in word and deed!

*Continues on page 2...*

## From The Pastor's Desk - continued

Our niece, Ashley Johannessen, recently sent us information about her new involvement with Adventure in Missions, an independent Christian mission organization specializing in running short-term mission trips for youth, teenager, and adult participation in a variety of locations around the world. She is a recent high school graduate, and this summer is going to spend a GAP year with them before heading to college. She is a giving heart, and will impact lives, no doubt. But God's missionary field isn't a one-way transaction. God's Spirit will encounter her as well, and she will find more than one missionary sharing with her.

Find out more about Ashely, Adventures in Mission, or how to support her venture below!

The ELCA has offered opportunities for many years to young adults seeking more in-depth faith journeys. The program is called Young Adults in Global Mission. Our seminaries participate in global programs of study, as well as hosting students from other countries.

In many ways, we are all in a new time and territory as Christians. Many of our friends, like some of us, are no longer hesitant to speak their questions of curiosity or doubt. They are serious about faith, life, things that matter, and the wonders of life. May God give us the opportunity to search with them, and a joy to be engaged with folks at all turns of life, so that through us, Christ might be known.

Peace on the journey,

Pastor John



### Ashley Johannessen's Support Letter

Friends + Family!!

I am very excited to announce that I have been accepted to go on a mission trip with World Race! Words cannot describe how grateful I am the Lord has blessed me with this new opportunity.

The World Race is a Christian missions organization that offer gap year mission trips and opportunities to bring the Gospel throughout the nations.



Click [here](#) for more...

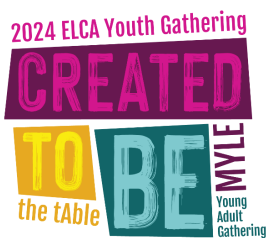
## Yard sale: Saturday, June 1st

**8:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Join us for our Youth Fundraiser Yard sale. Lots of great items!



## National Youth Gathering in July



Hanna, Lela, Victoria, and Nate are making final preparations for their trip to New Orleans, LA, in late July where they (and adult leaders Amanda Rea and Jordan Slaymaker) will join over 14,000 other ELCA youth and adults to celebrate, study, fellowship, worship, and serve under the banner *CREATED TO BE ...*

Please continue to be in prayer for these young disciples of Christ, and ask the Spirit to be present in their preparation their journey, and their experiences.

If you want to support them financially, please consider the Gathering Envelope Board in the Gathering space. Simply choose a dollar amount range you want to give, find an envelope with that amount (or close) and take it from the board. Enclose cash or check and place envelope in the offering. Or consider giving electronically: use the QR code in the weekly bulletin, scroll down to Youth Ministry and give on-line.

Thanks for supporting our Youth with their faith formation in your prayers and through your financial support.



### Other youth events

The annual beach-day trip to Kure Beach is currently scheduled for Wednesday JULY 31.

All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited (as well as a few adults/parents to drive, supervise, etc.).

Please notify Pastor or church office if you are able to attend.

We return to the church around 10:00 pm.

## Sanctuary beauty for Pentecost Sunday



### Vacation Bible School Exploration

We are hoping to offer Vacation Bible School this summer. Meghan Slaymaker is organizing a small group to determine the possibilities of such a ministry.

If you would like to help in this idea and investigation phase, please let her know soon.

You can get her contact info through the church office.

**V**acation  
**B**ible  
**S**chool

## New Fellowship opportunity for the women of Saint James!

Eugene Peterson, author of The Message (The Bible in Contemporary Language) interprets Matthew 5:13 *“Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage”.*



A new monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) will have its inaugural meeting on Thursday, June 13 at 9am at Maple Street Biscuit Company in the Freedom Parkway shopping center.

Collectively, we can envision where God might be leading us with this verse from Matthew and discuss how to proceed. If you are interested, but cannot attend this first meeting, please see Ruth Ann to make your wishes known.

## Dinner at Haymount Truck Stop

Take a break from cooking and join us for dinner at the Haymount Truck Stop on Thursday, June 13 from 5:30 - ?

The Truck Stop has a beautiful outdoor patio, cool indoor seating, local craft beer, signature cocktails, games, and is dog friendly. They have a rotating schedule of food truck vendors, including desserts!



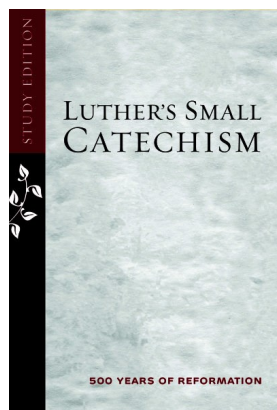
Parking at the church and walking the few blocks is strongly encouraged. We can help make arrangements to drop you off at the door if needed. This is a casual event and you are free to come at any time that evening after 5:30.

What a great opportunity to support local businesses and vendors along with building relationships with our neighbors! Contact Ruth Ann for more information.



### Lutheran's Believe WHAT???

#### A Time of conversation about Lutheranism, Catechism, and other things Lutheran for ADULTS



Maybe you just need a refresher course. Or maybe you never went through Lutheran catechism as a youth. Or maybe you just have some of those *why do we always ...?* Kind of questions. Regardless, this class offering might be just what you need.



Pastor John will be teaching a class for adults during the summer months. We'll review various topics of Luther's catechism: Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles Creed, Baptism, Holy Communion, etc., as well as other questions you might have about being Lutheran.

Classes will meet Sunday morning, 9:00-9:45 a.m.  
June 9, 16, 30, and July 14, 21, 28 and August 11, 18, and 25.

A more specific schedule of topics will be posted soon.

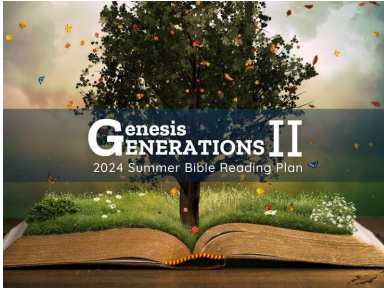
## Property Update



Over the last 12 months, I'd estimate that over 1500 meals or snacks were prepared and processed in the St. James kitchen. All of that can take a toll on appliances, equipment, supplies, etc. Twelve months ago, we completed the long-delayed cabinet completion., which included two new stainless steel prep tables. Last December we were able to add new formal table coverings, and just last month a local firm donated a new hot water heater (we can't safely operate the kitchen without hot water!). A couple of weeks ago, two new dishwashers were generously given. Thanks to Dave Runkle and Todd Burns for the install.

Thanks be to God for generous (and hungry) folks. Since Jesus spent a considerable amount of time sharing meals with folks, this effective up-to-date kitchen should excite us to do the same!

## Join Genesis Generations II Bible Study



Join folks across the synod to read the Bible together—individuals, congregations, small groups—in this year's Summer Bible Reading Plan: *Genesis Generations II!* Brought to you by NC Synod pastors, deacons, and lay people, we'll read together a section of Genesis, a short devotional writing, a few questions to ponder, and a prayer.

The readings begin on **Sunday, July 7**, and continue until we finish the book of Genesis. Last summer, *Genesis Generations* led us through the first half of Genesis; we now pick up where we left off. You **do not** need to have participated last year in order to join this year.

Join by:

- [subscribing](#) to receive daily emails
- watching the [synod's homepage](#) for daily posts
- watching for [daily podcast episodes](#)
- reading the printed compilation (a PDF coming soon—[last year's PDF is here](#))

## 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.***

*Next: June 5, 2024*

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

### Finance Committee News:

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

April Financial Data		
<b>General Offerings</b>	\$15,086	*
<b>Designated Offerings</b>	\$2,920	**
<b>Endowment transfer</b>	\$3,000	Needed to meet expenses
<b>Suggs loan</b>	\$5,233	
<b>Total Income</b>	\$26,239	
<b>Expenses</b>	\$29,441	

\* 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.

\$7,795 spent to replace parsonage windows

### 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!



**Saint James Women of the ELCA are participating in the below call for donations.  
You can place your items in the designated box.**

**NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING**  
**June 21-23, 2024**  
**IN-KIND GIFTS**

Before New Americans arrive in this country, a household must be set up for them. One way we can help is by contributing household items which allows clients to utilize the limited resettlement funds for needs, such as rent and utilities, as they work toward self-sufficiency.

The Gathering Planning Committee of the NC Women of the ELCA has chosen two kits that we hope our congregation will complete and bring to the Gathering in June.

The kits are the following:

**HYGIENE KIT**

- Shampoo (14 oz or larger)
- Soap (4 bars)
- Toothbrushes (4)
- Toothpaste (2 Tubes)
- Hand Soap (2)
- Feminine Pads (1 Box)
- Men’s Deodorant
- Women’s Deodorant
- Men’s Disposable Razor (1 Pack)
- Women’s Disposable Razor (1 Pack)
- Men’s Shaving Cream (1 Can)

**BATHROOM KIT**

- Washcloths (6)
- Hand Towels (6)
- Bath Towels (6)
- Shower Rod (1)
- Shower Curtain (1)
- Shower Curtain Hooks & Rings (1)
- Bath Mat (1)
- Toilet Brush (1)
- Toilet Paper (4 Rolls)
- Small Waste Basket (1)

**Building the Kit:**

Select the kit(s) from the above lists. New items only, please.

Pack kits in reusable storage containers. (Lutheran Services Carolinas suggest plastic totes, reusable bags, or buckets).

Include a welcome note from your congregation to a family.

Bring assembled kits to the Gathering in June. Lutheran Services Carolinas will take them back to their office for distribution.

If you would like to contribute financially to the New Americans Program, please bring your check [made payable to Lutheran Services Carolinas](#) with “**Emergency Assistance**” written on the memo line.

Thank you for considering these in-kind gifts as you attend the Gathering in June. Thank you, too, for your prayers and concern when New Americans transition into a new life and culture. They have suffered persecution in their homeland or have been displaced by violence. All are here legally and have all the documents necessary to be employed as they become self-sufficient.

God’s Blessings – Gathering Planning Committee



May 20, 2024

St. James' Lutheran Church

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 all Special Mothers. We appreciate receiving items selected with care that will benefit our children. We sincerely thank you for your continued support, and the children will enjoy the items that you donated.

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

*Thank you for these beautiful blankets for the children during the month of May. 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

## Sandhills Conference of NC Women of the ELCA:

Women of the Word “Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ”



### Spring Gathering 2024: Answering the call to be political

The women of the Sandhills conference of the NC Synod gathered on Saturday, April 20 at St. James, Fayetteville to explore a difficult, but important and interesting topic: “Called to be political.”

Jesus was political. He spoke out, sometimes dramatically, against aspects of the society in which he lived, that conflicted with the will and teachings of God. So...our call to be political is also about taking a stand. About doing the right thing in spite of perceived social norms. Kindness. Hospitality. Grace. These are political.

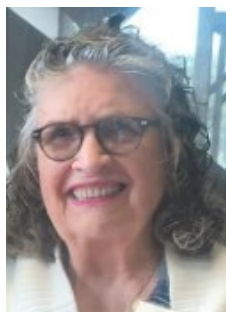
Martin Luther was political, standing up to the corruption of the Catholic church, demanding that ordinary citizens have the ability to read and understand scripture.

Lutherans have not always been outspoken against authority. The majority of German Christians during World War II did not confront the terrifying authority of Hitler and the Third Reich. But theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Confessing Church in Germany reacted to the crisis, speaking and acting on their belief that Christians needed to resist the actions of the state. Conclusions? Being political, being an advocate for justice, begins with an act of grace: listening. We must listen to each other, hear the voices of our sisters and brothers whose voices are not heard, whose needs are ignored.

And if we join a protest or two along the way, great. Maybe we turn over a table, so to speak, to get the ear of others who can help. But as Christians... as Lutherans... let us listen to each other, and to our brothers and sisters, with grace. And when we take a stand, let us lead with love.

Let us lead with the same love Jesus led with when he defied the authorities around him. Let us lead with love for those who are hungry. Let us lead with love for those who struggle with addiction. Let us lead with love for those who live with mental illness. Let us lead with love for our neighbor. If you think about it, for those earliest followers of Jesus... that very act was a political act. They answered the call without fear.

Can we do any less?



Tonie Neal, served as Sandhills conference liaison to the NC WELCA board for 2024.

## Sandhills Conference of NC Women of the ELCA: April 20, 2024



Lynn Bremer (middle) and Joyce Gardner (right) from Living Word, Laurinburg

Everyone enjoyed good conversation, sisterhood, and a delicious meal. Seated around tables, fifteen Women of the Word unwrapped the meaning of being political, taking a stand for what's right in the face of what's popular, and leading with love as we do God's work in the world.



Tonie Neal welcoming the attendees



Maxine Amos (L) and Deb Rosenberg (St. Mark's, Lumberton) with others from Living Word.



Women from St. Mark's Lutheran joined Delores Schiebe (right), at the table



Ladies from St. Mark's:  
Maxine Amos and Deb Rosenberg

**Join us every first Tuesday,  
at Noon!**

Potluck Lunch in our Fellowship Hall  
The next meeting is June 4th.



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.**

## 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.



**Assisting Ministers**

June 02..... Jane Boelke  
June 09..... Ruth Ann Crecelius  
June 16..... Allan Winter  
June 23..... Jane Boelke  
June 30..... Jordan Slaymaker

**Lectors**

June 02..... Glenn Stockwell  
June 09..... Matthew Shealey  
June 16..... Todd Burns  
June 23..... Gary Crecelius  
June 30..... Nancy Oliver

**Communion Assistant**

June 02 ..... Dave Runkle  
June 09 ..... Lela Pell  
June 16 ..... Tonie Neal  
June 23 ..... Delores Schiebe  
June 30 ..... Jane Boelke

**Ushers**

June 02 ..... Tonie Neal, James Peterson  
June 09 ..... John & Gayle Frinak  
June 16 ..... Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius  
June 23 ..... Sharon VanPelt, Joan Eissinger  
June 30 ..... Roscoe Killett, Gary Eissinger

**Acolytes**

June 02..... Hannah Rea  
June 09..... Gianna Orellano  
June 16..... Victoria Orellano  
June 23..... Nate Stockham  
June 30..... Aaron Thomas

**Greeters**

June 02 ..... Fran DeSilva  
June 09 ..... Nancy Oliver  
June 16 ..... Nikki Rettmann  
June 23 ..... Linda Stellfox  
June 30 ..... Delores Schiebe

**Rover**

June 02 ..... Rob Whitt  
June 09 ..... Paula Burns  
June 16 ..... Dan Hewins  
June 23 ..... Dave Runkle  
June 30 ..... Ed Samuelian

**Nursery**

June 02 ..... Colleen Tichich, Erika Stockwell  
June 09 ..... Sue Rink, Kathy Brown  
June 16 ..... Kevin Hoffmann, Valerie Brewer  
June 23 ..... Brittany Sterling, Kathleen Heinrich  
June 30 ..... Tonie Neal, Kevin Hoffmann

## Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Click on the times to connect

**Property Team - (June 11)**

**- 2nd Tuesdays**

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

[6:00 pm](#)

**Congregation Council (June 16)**

(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

### Prayer Concerns:

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

### 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 \*



McLamb, Cynthia	6-Jun
Boelke, Jane	13-Jun
Smith, Lindsey	14-Jun
McLamb, Shelby A.	16-Jun
Myers, Keyarah	16-Jun
Vittoa, Frank	20-Jun
Burks, Megan C.	23-Jun
Slaymaker, Meghan E.	23-Jun
Pell, Lela M.	24-Jun
Eissinger, Gary W.	26-Jun
Turner, Emily	26-Jun
Whitt, Emelia J.	27-Jun

### Anniversaries



Boelke, Rickie and Jane	4-Jun
Allison, Herman and Amy	5-Jun
Vittoa, Bill and Diana	18-Jun
Orose, Paul and Erin	19-Jun

**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**