

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



November 2024
Volume 40, Issue 11

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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Thank You

Last Sunday, (October 27) you got us. I mean, you really got us. First time in a long time I was truly surprised. No hints, no tips, nothing suspicious.

Ruth Ann Crecelius, and her crew of undercover agents, surprised Anna Lisa and me with a tenth anniversary celebration. Yep, we've been at St. James for over 10 years. It was a wonderful time, and thanks to all who prepared food, decorated, cleaned up, spoke of memories and thanks, gave cards or gifts, or expressed love in other ways.

We've been blessed in our ten years in Fayetteville. It has been our privilege to serve alongside you in God's mission to the world through St. James.

Pastor John and Anna Lisa

Strengthening Community



The congregational council will present its recommended Ministry Spending Plan (MSP) for 2025 to the congregation soon. The MSP is just that - a plan; it is a way to estimate the financial investment needed for a ministry vision.

The most important word of that last paragraph is *vision* - a mental picture of a hoped-for goal. In St. James' case, it represents an answer to the question:

What is God calling us to do and to be in this place and time (Fayetteville during 2025)?

The congregation council has struggled for the last year to try and articulate an answer. What they have discovered is that it is a hard question to answer in detail. But, perhaps we have been overthinking it.

The first apostles had to work through their shock of the death and resurrection of Christ. Then they began to understand the power of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus. Then came the gatherings of the followers. They came for teaching, worship, fellowship, faithful interaction – in other words: *community*. I don't think that was a vision of Peter, James or John, but rather an overwhelming urge to help the followers create and grow in a faithful community. Sound familiar?

The congregation of St. James was formed in the fall of 1935. Several local Lutherans (Mr. and Mrs. Felix Campbell and Dr. L. E. McKnight) requested the Lutheran Synod of NC to begin a Lutheran church here. So, the Synod sent recently ordained Rev. Roscoe Fisher (who was working on a master's degree at UNC-Chapel Hill at the time), to see what might be possible. By mid-October, only 22 people gathered for the first worship service. *A congregation might not be possible*, was the report to Synod. Of course, our presence at St. James today serves as evidence that the forecast was incorrect.

Those first members had a vision – to create the atmosphere and setting for a Lutheran congregation for the community. That uncomplicated vision served the congregation well in the next two decades as thousands of Lutheran young men and families poured into Fayetteville (Fort Bragg) during WWI and WWII. They came from Lutheran places like Pennsylvania, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and New York and needed to hear the gospel spoken and lived out in Lutheran liturgy and welcome. The presence of a Lutheran community that proclaimed hospitality, grace, and love was paramount in their survival.

Think about how much has changed in the last 80+ years. We communicate with family at any time and place, and we can view happenings around the world in real time. But we still need a local community – a nearby, accepting, challenging, welcoming, faith-filled, and faith-building community – to ground us and support us.

Continued on next page

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Strengthening community can be a vision worth living into and to which we can invest our time, ability, and resources. The 2025 MSP for St. James will enable a grace-filled community to continue; it will encourage fellowship, faithful learning and study; it will provide uplifting and renewing worship; it will create the means to serve others; and it will foster an environment for faith to grow.

In chapter 2:42-47 of The Acts of The Apostles, gospel writer Luke describes some actions of the early church:

Acts 2:42-47 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

⁴² *They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together.*

⁴³ *Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked.* ⁴⁴ *All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had.* ⁴⁵ *They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever was in need.* ⁴⁶ *Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely,* ⁴⁷ *while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.*

St. James Lutheran has a task ... a goal ... a vision for 2025. *Continue to sustain and create a gospel proclaiming, faith-forming, and welcoming community.*

Please be in prayer for the congregation council as they finalize the 2025 MSP recommendation.

2025 MSP Information will be sent to each participating household soon. Please watch for it in your USPS Mailbox!

Blessings

Pastor John



A COMMUNITY INTER-FAITH GATHERING FOR THANKSGIVING

WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR FRIENDS

Monday, Nov 25th, 2024 at 7:00 pm
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
1601 Raeford Road

Joint sponsored by the following Congregations
Beth Israel, Holy Trinity Episcopal, St James Lutheran,
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
Fayetteville Friends Meeting, Masjid Omar Ibn Sayyid

November Item of the Month

The item of the month for non-perishable items for ALMS HOUSE families for Thanksgiving will be the **small canned hams**. Thanks!



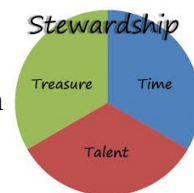
Alms House will be distributing Thanksgiving dinners to those in need the end of November.



Ministry Teams

The Congregation Council is focused on re-forming congregational ministry teams. Currently, the focus is in the areas of Stewardship, Evangelism, and Worship & Music.

The Stewardship Team works to inform, encourage, ask, and give thanks to the congregation for acts of generosity. Growing in generosity is a goal for all disciples – in sharing of time and creativity, as well as financial resources. The Stewardship Team helps the congregation “see the future stories of ministry” that can be told tomorrow, because of generous giving today.



Another area of focus for Stewardship Team is helping folks improve personal financial management habits and actions. A goal is to offer courses once or twice a year (i.e. Dave Ramsey, Thrivent, or others) for members of the congregation and community.

The Evangelism Team tells the stories of God that happen in, with, and through St. James Lutheran congregation and its members. They help develop, improve, and manage communication tools such as the church newsletter, Facebook page, website, digital communications, bulletin boards, local advertising, signage and promotions, etc.



Worship & Music Team will assist the pastor and music director with developing, planning, and evaluating the various worship formats and music opportunities for St. James. Worship life is central to faith formation and relationship building for the congregation.



We will be needing three to five people on each of these teams, with a commitment to serve for up to two years. If you have skills, passions, or the desire to learn about any of these specific ministry areas, please speak to Pastor John or one of the Executive Committee (Kevin Hoffman, president; Valarie Brewer, vice-president; or, Nikki Rettman, Secretary).

Interested in becoming a member of St. James?

Contact Pastor John soon. Information-sharing meetings will be arranged for late-November, with new members received during worship in December.



A musical treat! HYMNSingers in concert at St. James on Sunday, November 17



Mark your calendar for 3:00 on Nov. 17, as **The HYMN Singers** – a community choir directed by Wilhelmena Sapp – will inspire us with hymns old and new. The singing of hymns is fading in the current age of contemporary Christian music.

Yet, we learn so much of our theology and belief through the hymns we have sung since birth. The effort of the HYMN Singers is to retain and inspire that love for hymns so important to the church.

December Family Fellowship – Dec. 15, 3:00 pm

Children’s Christmas Play

We celebrate the season with time together, music, and refreshments. Our children, youth, and maybe a few adults will present *Back To The Manger*. This play is a delightful musical that tells THE STORY-within-another-story. Norman has helped Mr. Hanson with a special invention, and it creates a wonderful “caroling adventure through time”.

You will not want to miss this Christmas celebration.



Congregational Christmas Celebration – Fri. Dec 20, Time TBA

Christmas with Friends



Our second annual dinner celebration. Food, ambience, fellowship, stories and music. We are blessed for the fourth time to celebrate with members of the band Rivermist. Greg, Allan, Tony, Cliff, and Rick bring an acoustic version of some of their hits, and also lead us in a few Christmas classics.

Reservation information will be released in the next few weeks.

GIVING TUESDAY



For anyone who may have questions about "Giving Tuesday."

Giving Tuesday is a global day of generosity celebrated on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Every year, people around the world come together to thank, help, give, show kindness and share what they have with several non-profits (including ALMS HOUSE) to make it easy for you to support the causes that matter most here in Hope Mills.

This year, CCF's *Giving Tuesday* campaign runs from November 25th to December 4th, 2024. During this time, Cumberland Community Foundation will AMPLIFY your gifts with matching funds provided by CCF and some very generous matching donors.

During 2023, gifts up to \$5,000 were matched with \$.3195 on the dollar. ALMS HOUSE very generous donors gave a total of \$21,476.00 - which were amplified with \$6,862.24. Certainly a wonderful fundraiser to support our many programs.

For more information on how to participate in "Giving Tuesday" you may stop by the ALMS HOUSE or visit online: cumberlandccf.org/giving-Tuesday. Donate online [here](#)

Thank you in advance for supporting your local Hope Mills outreach ministry.



Do you have any yarn you don't need, or are able to buy some?

We know a great place for it. A member of the congregation has been crocheting hats to send to the mountains for hurricane victims. Please donate any color or size yarn. Place on table in the gathering area. Thank you.

Blankets for Western North Carolina

On October 14th a group of volunteers make “no sew” blankets for those affected by Hurricane Helen in Western North Carolina:



Back row: Barb King, Nancy Moore, Sue Rink, Teri Bumphrey, Amy Allison, Marcia Katt, Anna Smith
Front row: Penny Kendall, Krista Multerer, Sharon Gore, Elizabeth Robertson, Gayle Frinak

Thank You

I wanted to express my thanks and gratitude for the greeting cards I have been receiving every month. My name is Darian Dix and I'm the son of your church administrator, Michelle Aumack. I'm currently serving in the US Army, stationed in Kansas.

It always feels good to receive mail, even if it's from a stranger!

Thank you so much for your kind and uplifting words.



Results of FOOD Drive for Living Waters Lutheran – Cherokee



Thanks Be To God for the wonderful outpouring of love and support for this emergency donation effort. St. James had several large boxes of food, and all of The Triangle conference donated enough food to almost fill a 16' truck.

The food was delivered on Friday, Nov. 1 to Living Waters, who immediately began distributing to families in need.



The Sandhills Fall Gathering was hosted by St. Mark's in Lumberton.

September 21st, 2024



6 of St. James' ladies attended:, Barbara Gearing, Tonie Neal, Mandy Rea, Sonia Nazario, Lyn Bremer, Jacky Hummel.



Barb Gearing and Mandy Rea enjoying refreshments before the program



Deb Rosenberg was one of the presenters



Fellowship opportunity for women!

Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, **November 14 at 9am** at Maple Street Biscuit Company (Freedom Pkw shopping center).

If you are interested, please let Ruth Ann know: 910-309-1007



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: Wednesday, November 6

Weather plan is in the Annex/Entrance across the parking



Join us every first Tuesday, at Noon!

Potluck Lunch in our Fellowship Hall

November 5th

Our guest speaker, Maddie Kellog, with the Cumberland Community Foundation, will speak about *Giving Tuesday*.

The Prime Timer group is designed as a fellowship opportunity for all members over 55. Gatherings are once a month on the first Tuesday of each month at 12:00 noon.

Each person is encouraged to bring a dish of food to share.

There are occasional programs, but sharing conversation seems to be the most uplifting and consistent activity.

Recycle your ink cartridges and help support Saint James

We are collecting used desktop ink cartridges. NO 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.

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.

Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Click on the times to connect

Property Team - (November 5)

- 2nd Tuesdays

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

[6:00 pm](#)

Congregation Council (November 17)

(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](#)



Assisting Ministers

11/03 Allan Winter
11/10 Jane Boelke
11/17 Ruth Ann Crecellius
11/24 Allan Winter

Lectors

11/03 Anna Lisa Johannessen
11/10 Beverly Beale
11/17 Glenn Stockwell
11/24 Meghan Slaymaker

Communion Assistant

11/03 Delores Schiebe
11/10 Sue Rink
11/17 Dave Runkle
11/24 Jane Boelke

Ushers

11/03 Roscoe Killett, Gary Eissinger
11/10 John & Gayle Frinak
11/17 Sharon VanPelt, Joan Eissinger
11/24 Tonie Neal, James Peterson

Acolytes

11/03 Gianna Orellano
11/10 Aaron Thomas
11/17 Ian Gibson
11/24 Gabriel Thomas

Greeters

11/03 Gayle & John Frinak
11/10 Sue Rink
11/17 Delores Schiebe
11/24 Nancy Oliver

Rover

11/03 Ed Samuelian
11/10 Todd Burns
11/17 Rob Whitt
11/24 Tom Liedig

Nursery

11/03 Colleen Tichich, Erika Stockwell
11/10 Sue Rink
11/17 Kevin Hoffmann, Valerie Brewer
11/24 Brittany Sterling, Kathleen Heinrich

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
- Audry Orose

Prayer Concerns:

- ◇ Joe & Dara Lehner
- ◇ Angel Davis
- ◇ John Tucker
- ◇ Beth Sessoms
- ◇ Orose Family
- ◇ Thomas Oliver
- ◇ Mark & Ann Mabe
- ◇ Tim Cannon
- ◇ Brenda Tinney
- ◇ Ashley Littman
- ◇ Chris Yerton
- ◇ Joseph San Miguel
- ◇ Carol Garcia

Military Members

(* Deployed)

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



Rob Whitt	Nov 01
Penny Kendall	Nov 05
Jeffrey Hoffmann	Nov 05
Audrey Orose	Nov 15
Luke Rush	Nov 17
Luke Hoffmann	Nov 18

Anniversaries



Nov 6	Jordan & Meghan Slaymaker
Nov 20	Claudia & William Doyle
Nov 26	Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius

**The Messenger is a monthly newsletter of
Saint James Lutheran Church,
P.O. Box 53276; Fayetteville, NC 28305.**

All are welcome to worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.
Holy Communion is celebrated every week.

**Should you have an emergency or need Pastoral Care, contact
Pastor John Locke: Cell (704) 530-9969 or jpl406@gmail.com .**

**Church Staff Office hours are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mo-Th.
Phone: (910) 484-8052 | 24 hour answering machine.
www.saintjamesfay.org E-mail: saintjameslutheran@gmail.com**

Saint James Lutheran Church

Located in the Haymount Area

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