

# The Messenger

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

JOYFULLY  
**Connecting**  
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



December 2024  
Volume 40, Issue 12

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

## Inside This Issue

NC Mountain Christmas with <i>Rivermist</i>	2
Alms House Thank you	2
Congregational Meeting: Dec 8	3
Guardian Ad Litem	3
Advent Devotional	4
Disaster Relief Update	4
St. Joseph's Christmas Cantata	5
Chrismon Ornaments	6
We need Rovers	6
Samaritan's Purse update	7
Quilts for Episcopal Farm Workers	7
Disaster Response Thank you	8
Thank you for the cards	9
Saint James Card Ministry	9
Comfort Blanket Ministry update	10
Child Advocacy Ctr. Thank you Letter	10
Women's Breakfast Meeting	11
Theology on Tap	11
Worship Online on YouTube	12
Staff Christmas Gifts	12
Zoom Meetings Links	13
Thanks you for sharing resources	13
Worship Leaders	14
Around the Parish	15

## 2024 Advent-Christmas Schedule

### Sun Dec. 15, 10 am (during worship)

Back to Manger has been changed (lack of available time and participants) ... We will be changing the morning worship to incorporate a presentation involving children and youth

... theme will be JOY ... lot of details yet to be determined ... but basically the 3:00 time musical is being scrapped and the 10:00 worship will be modified ...

### Mon. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

#### **Blue Christmas Worship at Saint James.**

Joint worship with Holy Trinity Episcopal and Westminster Presbyterian congregations. *Blue Christmas Worship* is designed for those of us who experience pain and grief during the Christmas holidays. Through prayer, scripture, and music we recognize the hurts of life, and the grace of God's love that is offered through the birth of a baby in a manger.

### Sat. Dec 21, 5:30 Meal, program to follow.

#### **A Christmas celebration with food, fellowship and music.**

Friends from the group *Rivermist*, long with some of our own St. James talent will enrich us with music.

The theme is North Carolina Mountain Home Christmas, acknowledging the continued struggles and needs of the people and communities of Western North Carolina. More info on page 2

### Tue. Dec 24 3:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Worship.

Children will be invited and encouraged to participate during worship.

#### **10:00 pm**

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Worship.

We will hear and speak the words heard by shepherds so long ago – *Unto you is born a SAVIOR, Christ the Lord!*



## North Carolina Mountain Christmas

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congregational Christmas Dinner will be **Saturday Dec 21.**

**Meal begins 5:30, Program at approx. 6:20**

We celebrate the coming of Christmas as community, giving tribute to the strength and resiliency of the people and communities of Western North Carolina.

**Share** a meal of lasagna (beef, chicken, or vegan) and salad.

**Enjoy** the musical gifts of our friends Greg, Allen, Tony, Rick, Cliff and Steven (also known as RIVERMIST).

**Rejoice** through songs and story of the season.

**Give** a cash donation or winter coats, hats, blankets, sweaters, etc. for disaster relief.



Meal begins at 5:00 p.m.; Program begins around 5:50 p.m.

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED. Click here to make your reservations now.

<https://forms.gle/z44ykjRtKR6dqGFp6>

If you can help with decorations, set up, meal prep, etc. please contact Ruth Ann Crecelius ((910-309-1007).

Also needed are artificial Christmas trees. If you have an extra one you can loan, please let Ruth Ann know. They will be returned to you following the meal and program.



Thank you, Saint James Family!

Your response to the “item of the month” for November – the canned hams - has truly gone above and beyond! Families have been blessed – and continue to be blessed -because of your generosity.

Many of you contributed to the “Giving Tuesday” program through Cumberland Community Foundation. Results of the “amplified” funds will be determined the first week in December and should be available to us soon thereafter. I hope to share that information with you in next month’s newsletter. Thank you in advance for your very generous hearts.

Wishing you joy and blessings at Christmas and beyond!

Delores Schiebe,  
Executive Director

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON DEC. 8**

The items of business are adopting the proposed 2025 Ministry Spending Plan, and electing council members for the 2025-2026 terms. We will email info before the meeting and it will be available in the Gathering Space before worship.



*North Carolina*

**GUARDIAN AD LITEM**  
A CHILD'S ADVOCATE IN COURT

Looking for something to do? Want to help children in Cumberland who need a voice? Have you thought about being a Guardian ad Litem? (GAL)

One of their members, Marcia Katt celebrated her 10 year anniversary of being sworn in as a GAL November 24th . In those 10 years she has been an advocate for more than 50 children.

She will be glad to talk with you about becoming a voice for a child. (910) 322-8037.

**Be A Voice For  
The Children  
In Our  
Community**

North Carolina

**GUARDIAN  
AD LITEM**  
A CHILD'S ADVOCATE IN COURT

**VOLUNTEER WITH US!**  
1-800-982-4041  
[www.volunteerforgal.org](http://www.volunteerforgal.org)

**Will You Be A Voice For A Child?**  
Will You Advocate For Them in Court?  
Will You Speak For Their Best Interests?

**Become A Guardian ad Litem Today!**  
Cumberland County (910) 475-3291

This project was supported by Grant No. PRO034966 awarded by the NC Governor's Crime Commission as the State Administering Agency for funds awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication program/information are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NC Governor's Crime Commission or the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime.

Open Camera App, Scan Code,  
Tap Notification to Open Link



## AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL FROM LUTHER SEMINARY



Advent is a journey. Do you have a guide?

For four weeks, you'll follow a sacred path that leads you to the celebration of Christ's birth. If you don't make the time to pause, reflect, and rejoice along the way, you miss out on the greatest gifts of the season.

Let this free Advent devotional from Luther Seminary serve as your guide, illuminating your steps with daily scripture meditations. "Joy of Heaven, Here on Earth" contains reflections written by faculty and staff at Luther Seminary to engage your heart and mind with a short devotional each day of Advent.

Feel free to use this devotional for personal contemplation or as part of a shared study within your community. We hope it brings moments to pause, reflect, and rejoice in the anticipation of Christmas.

Click to [download](#) your free Advent Devotional today.

When you download this free Advent devotional, you will:

- Engage with daily scriptures that illuminate the path to Christ's birth.
- Discover prayers, hymns, and Scripture passages that deepen your spiritual connection in this holy season.
- Enrich your spiritual journey of Advent and the lives of those around you.



### DISASTER RELIEF UPDATES

Lutheran Disaster Response continues to work with various organizations and congregations to provide relief and healing after Helene's destruction.

Here are ways to help folks for Christmas: <https://ldrcarolinas.org/blog/christmas-is-coming/>

A \$2 Million Grant has been awarded to Lutheran Disaster Response to assist rebuilding private bridges destroyed by the hurricane. LDR will partner with Mennonite Disaster Services who has a great deal of expertise and experience.

<https://ldrcarolinas.org/blog/2-million-edrf-grant-awarded-to-support-bridge-repair/>



*St. Joseph's Episcopal Church Choir*

And singers from choirs throughout the community

*Presents The Annual Christmas Cantata*

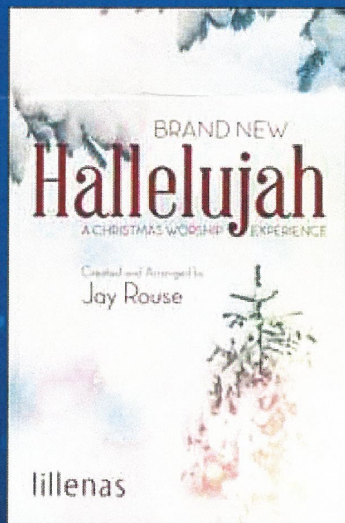
*"Brand New Hallelujah"*

Created and Arranged by Jay Rouse

Sunday December 22, 2024

4:00 PM

509 Ramsey St.  
Fayetteville, NC

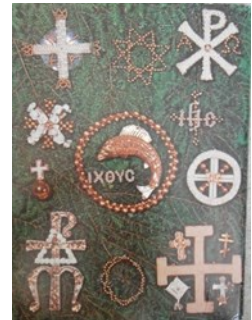




### Ornaments Money cannot buy Chrismons Light Trees with Love

What hangs on the tree in white and gold can be given or made, but never sold ? The answer can be found at our Saint James Lutheran church. Each year in the chancel, two stately cedar trees twinkle with white lights. Their evergreen boughs are laced with delicate white and gold ornaments. These are no ordinary tree decorations as any church member will tell you. They are *Chrismons* – symbols of Christ. These ornaments cannot be bought. Each one is made by a Christian as act of worship and love.

Saint James had our first *Chrismon Tree* in 1962. These symbols are ancient in origin – the circle, the fish – their use in modern worship has come about in the last 30 years.



The tradition of the Chrismon Tree began in 1957 at the Lutheran Church of Ascension in Danville, Virginia. A woman by the name of Frances Spencer volunteered to decorate the church Christmas Tree. Mrs. Spencer wanted the Christmas Tree to truly celebrate the birthday of Christ and did research and discovered designs called *Chrisma* that were used by the early church to represent Christ and identify places of worship. Mrs. Spencer translated the designs into Christmas Tree ornaments made of Styrofoam, wire, and beads and called her decorations *Chrismons*, deriving from the words “Christ and monograms”.



The church was deluged with orders from families and churches for *Chrismons* or for directions to make them. When members of Saint James decided to make Chrismons, they made two trips to meet with Mrs. Frances Spencer. The designs are copy-righted to prevent commercialism for they can't be sold. They have to be made.

Making Chrismons is no easy task. They take long hours and lots of patience to create and are combinations of several symbols. Not all *Chrismons* have old meanings. One at Saint James is a dove within a circle and is a symbol for Lutheran Church Women. The Chrismon Tree is put up before the fourth Sunday in Advent in time for a special service. All *Chrismons* on the tree were made by the women of the church. Chrismons are made only in white lights reflecting the purity and majesty of the Son of God.

From the history of the Saint James Archives  
Stella San Miguel



**We are in need of Rovers to serve during Worship Services.** Contact Todd Burns if you are interested and want to learn more: 910-308-5431

### Samaritan's Purse — Shoe Boxes update



Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A special Thank you to Jane Boelke for inviting the congregation to participate in this ministry. Jane has been volunteering with The Shoe Box ministry for a number of years. God's love will be shared with 133 children in places throughout the world.



### In October we collected quilts for the Episcopal Farm Workers

November 1<sup>st</sup> they sent a van to come pick them up after the "Church Women United Community Day" here at St. James.

Tonie Neal is helping load the van.







Lutheran Disaster Response

RECEIPT

From: LDR Carolinas  
1988 Lutheran Synod Drive  
Salisbury, NC 28144

To: St. James Lutheran Church  
PO BOX 53276  
Fayetteville, NC 28305

Item	Total Given
Donation for Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas	\$185.00
Item	Total Given
Donation for Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas	\$1690.00

St. James Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your kind donation to Lutheran Disaster Response. We are beyond grateful for your generous spirit. Your donation will go to support those within both Carolinas who have been affected by Hurricane Helene.

With thanks and blessings,

*Rev. Emily Lemoine*

Rev. Emily Lemoine  
LDR Carolinas Administrator  
NC Synod ELCA

*Thank you so much  
for this generous  
gift in support of  
LDR Carolinas!  
Blessings.  
Kathryn*



Rod Kuhlmann  
Omaha, NE

To the members of St. James Lutheran Church.

Thank You so much for your thoughts and prayers as I'm going through this medical treatment, It means a lot to me.

Just an interesting fact: I was baptized into St. James Lutheran Church in Elk Creek, Nebraska on June 4<sup>th</sup>. 1948. My parents and all of my Grandparents are buried there, so we try to go back each year to visit graves.

Joe and I served in the U.S. Air Force together in the early 1970's and for many of those years we worked as a team.

Thanks again for keeping Joe and me in your prayers.

The Card Ministry is part of the Social Ministry Team of St. James. Encouragement cards are sent monthly by different volunteers to those folks who are listed on our prayer concerns listing (bulletins & newsletter.) Over the years, this ministry has had profound effects on people throughout the country and beyond. If you would like to know more about how be a part of this ministry, please contact Tonie Neal.

We received above Thank you from one of our recipients.

### Update on “Comfort Blanket” ministry



The “Comfort Blanket “ ministry started in April of 2019. We primarily donate to our Child Advocacy Center (CAC). We have a great working relationship with them. They know they can contact us if they are running low. On October 29, we received a text they had ran out. They had interviewed approximately 40 children the previous two weeks. They like to give these victims of domestic situations a “comfort blanket”. A few people met the following day and made and delivered 20 blankets.

As of October 30, 2024 we have donated 1510 blankets to the CAC.



October 30, 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. It’s nice to know when we get low, you’re always willing to help us out. 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,

John Webster  
Executive Director  
john@cacfaync.org  
www.cacfaync.org





### Fellowship opportunity for women!

Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, **December 12 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, December 4*

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



**THEOLOGY ON TAP**  
**WED, DEC 4 5:30**

**BRATS PROVIDED ...  
BRING SOMETHING  
TO SHARE ...**

**HAVE A  
WINTER OR HOLIDAY  
MEMORY TO SHARE?**





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.**

### Staff Christmas Gifts

We will be collecting monetary gifts for our current St. James staff.

If you would like to say “Thank You” for the hard work they have done on our behalf, use an envelope from the pew and mark it “Staff Christmas gift.”

Place it in the offering, drop it off at the office, or place it in the mail.

You can also make a donation through the church website (or use the QR code in the bulletin.)

Please have it to the church office by December 22nd.



Thank you,





**Assisting Ministers**

12/01 ..... Ruth Ann Crecelius  
 12/08 ..... Jane Boelke  
 12/15 ..... Allan Winter  
 12/22 ..... Ruth Ann Crecelius  
 12/24: 3pm..... Jane Boelke  
 12/24:10 pm..... Jane Boelke  
 12/29 ..... Allan Winter

**Lectors**

12/01 ..... Gary Crecelius  
 12/08 ..... Lindsey Smith  
 12/15 ..... Matthew Shealey  
 12/22 ..... Bill Rettmann  
 12/24: 3pm..... Min Family  
 12/24:10 pm  
 12/29 ..... Beverly Beale

**Communion Assistant**

12/01 ..... Paula Burns  
 12/08 ..... Delores Schiebe  
 12/15 ..... Jane Boelke  
 12/22 ..... Dave Runkle  
 12/24: 3pm ..... Tonie Neal  
 12/24:10 pm ..... Sue Rink  
 12/29 ..... Delores Schiebe

**Ushers**

12/01 ..... John & Gayle Frinak  
 12/08 ..... Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius  
 12/15 ..... Sharon VanPelt, Joan Eissinger  
 12/22 ..... Tonie Neal, James Peterson  
 12/24: 3pm ... Roscoe Killett, Joan Eissinger  
 12/24:10 pm ..... Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius  
 12/29 ..... John & Gayle Frinak

**Acolytes**

12/01..... Nate Stockham  
 12/08..... Victoria Orellano  
 12/15..... Ian Gibson  
 12/22..... Aaron Thomas  
 12/24: 3pm..... Angelus VanDervoort  
 12/24:10 pm..... Nate Stockham  
 12/29..... Hannah Rea

**Greeters**

12/01 ..... Fran DeSilva  
 12/08 ..... Kathy Brown  
 12/15 ..... Jacky Hummel  
 12/22 ..... Sharon VanPelt  
 12/24: 3pm ..... Teri Bumphrey  
 12/24:10 pm ..... Sue Rink  
 12/29 ..... Kathleen Heinrich

**Rover**

12/01 ..... Dave Runkle  
 12/08 ..... Ed Samuelian  
 12/15 ..... Todd Burns  
 12/22 ..... Rob Whitt  
 12/24: 3pm  
 12/24:10 pm  
 12/29 ..... Tom Liedig

**Nursery**

12/01 ..... Colleen Tichich, Erika Stockwell  
 12/08 ..... Sue Rink  
 12/15 ..... Keven Hoffmann, Valerie Brewer  
 12/22 .... Brittany Sterling, Kathleen Heinrich  
 12/24: 3pm  
 12/24:10 pm  
 12/29 ..... Tonie Neal, Kevin Hoffmann

# 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
- ◇ 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



- 12/04 Quill Hoffmann
- 12/08 Bill Vittoe
- 12/10 Carly Burks
- 12/12 Paula Burns
- 12/13 Tom Liedig
- 12/16 John Frinak
- 12/16 Hannah Rea
- 12/17 Ben Burt
- 12/18 Jacob Rea
- 12/18 Delores Schiebe
- 12/21 Dale Fish
- 12/26 Marcia Katt
- 12/29 Marjorie Hendrix

### Anniversaries



- 12/11 Suzie & Donald Wilkinson
- 12/11 Joe & Dara Lehner
- 12/19 Ed & Savannah Samuelian
- 12/20 Tonie Neal & James Peterson
- 12/27 John & Gayle Frinak
- 12/30 Todd & Paula Burns

**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**