The Messenger







February 2025 Volume 41, Issue 2

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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Kyrie Eleison ... Lord have mercy.

The last two weeks have been filled with words, actions, protests, and emotion-filled posts about the state of our nation. I have struggled as I thought about the words I might offer to those in my "circle of care" that might be helpful. Conversations with close friends and my own spiritual contemplation have led me to the prayer printed on the next page. The term "mercy" seems to be a hot-button word-of-theweek, and it has echoed in my heart and mind for days.

Please understand that this is NOT a politically partisan-based prayer. My prayer life is most often like flipping through a book of family photos. Faces, places, and images come to my mind and heart – sometimes upon request, but mostly they are sent by Spirit. It might be a face of joy or pain, a situation of happiness or sorrow, or an image of strength or fear.

I am usually surprised (and often overwhelmed) by the number of faces, places, and situations that are in my "circle of care."

If you received this newsletter, know that you are loved and are in that "circle."

If you are reading this, know that you are included in one or more of these petitions.

In love,

Pastor John



Continued

Kyrie Eleison

Caring and loving God ...

For all those who, on January 20:

Celebrated the victory of Ohio State's football team

Shared in the celebration of the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States

Gave thanks for the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Found hope in the ceasefire agreement in the Middle East

Kyrie eleison ...

For all those who mourned in the disappointment of a Fighting Irish defeat For all those who in their disappointment took a social media, internet, or television sabbatical on January 20

For all those who know that many hostages will never return to their families Kyrie eleison ...

For those who mourn and grieve, are in pain or despair
For those who feel hopeless, alone, isolated, or forgotten
For those who live in fear, or seek safety and shelter
Kyrie eleison ...

For those who celebrate a new life, or a new opportunity
For those who have been given a second chance
For those who have found a home, a relationship, or a safe place
Kyrie eleison ...

For those who seek safety, who need shelter, or feel vulnerable For those who protect, love, or bring healing For those who live in fear of darkness of all sorts, and For those who bring and share light.

Kyrie eleison ...

And most especially, I pray

For you, as you navigate the daily circumstances of life,

For you, as you forgive and are forgiven, show mercy and receive mercy,

For you, as you navigate the difficult circumstances of relationships in the world today

For you, as you love and are loved

Kyrie eleison ... Christe Eleison ... Kyrie Eleison. AMEN.

Youth Attending NC Synod Annual LYO Gathering



Seven youth and two adults from St James will participate in the annual LYO gathering in Greensboro at the end of February (Feb 28 – Mar 2).

Several hundred youth and adult advisors will gather for a weekend of fun, fellowship, worship and study.

The Theme this year is *LYOlympics: 5 Ways to Live Like Jesus*. This year's theme is connected to each of the 5 Olympic Rings—GROWTH, GENEROSITY, HUMILITY, HONESTY, and FORGIVENESS—as they help other youth learn what it means to live out their faith and live like Jesus today.

Please be in prayer for the youth and leaders panning and attending this event.

2025 St. James Congregation Council

Recently elected council members were installed during worship on Jan. 12.



Top row: Hannah Rea (youth representative)

3rd row: Beverly Beale, Valerie Brewer (re-elected), Edward Samuelian

2nd row: Kevin Hoffman (re-elected), Joanie Eissenger, Nikki Rettman, James Peterson

Front row: Mary Wright (newly elected)

New Members & Baptism Updates

During worship on Sunday February 2, we will receive new members. Being a formal member is a public pronouncement of faith and desire to be a part of this congregation and says *I will support the mission of God through St. James with my resources, time, energy, and talent. And, conversely, I will look to this congregation for mutual growth in faith and life.* An additional part of membership has to do with the organization of St. James. Since St. James, per constitution, is a 501C3 legal entity, membership helps when there are legal and financial issues.



So, we are grateful for the opportunity to welcome Rick and Jennifer, Sonia, Jacky, Norman, Frank, Terry, Rick and Sharon, Teri, Ben and Dawn, Campbell and Tanner, Agnes and Georgette, and Jake and Jacob. A reception will follow worship on Feb. 9.





On Feb. 23rd, we will make promises to Isaac Danger Law, as his parents Lisa and Josh present him for the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Isaac's grandfather, Rev. Peter Law (retired UMC), will be assisting minister for the baptism.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Scouting has been a longtime ministry of St. James. Many youth and adults have had life-altering experiences through Pack and Troop 747.



Many of the youth and adult leaders will be with us on Sunday, Feb. 2 during worship to celebrate Scout Sunday.



Outdoor Ministry in the ELCA

The ELCA supports and offers many outdoor ministry sites and programs across the country.

On Sunday, Feb. 16th we will celebrate and recognize a few of those sites that are within or supported by the NC Synod: Novus Way sites, most especially Lutheridge and Lutherock (both part of NovusWay), and Camp Agape and Kure Beach (Agape-Kure Beach ministries).

Folks from St. James have participated over the years at all four sites.















Bishop Tim Smith will offer an online Bible study on the book of Revelation during Lent—specifically, **the five Thursdays beginning March 13 and concluding on April 10**—from 7 to 8 p.m. via Zoom.

Don't miss this opportunity to study Revelation with other Lutherans across the synod!

Register today!

LENT 2025

Mid-Week Wednesday Meal (5:45-6:20) & Vespers (6:30-7:15)

Created for Community

Building on our Ministry Spending Plan theme *Strengthening God's Community*, our Lenten mid-week series will invite us to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with the creation, and with God.

We will be using Holden Evening Prayer liturgy as the structure of our worship. We hope to coordinate a small group musical ensemble to support Wednesday worship. If you are interested in being part of that group, please see Mark Tollefsen or Pastor John.

Wk I – Mar. 12	In Community with Creation
	Mark 4:35-41, Jesus Calms a Storm
Wk 2 – Mar. 19	In Community with All the Saints
	Mark 9:2-8, Jesus in conversation with those who have gone before
Wk 3 – Mar. 26	In Community with Our Neighbor
	Mark 2:1-12, A community comes together to bring a neighbor to Jesus
Wk 4 – Apr. 2	In community with those on the margins
	Mark 5:1-20, Jesus crosses barriers to attend to those on the margins
Wk 5 – Apr. 9	In Community with Christ
	Mark 10:32-45, Jesus reminds us that we are walking the way of the cross

Update from our Finance Team

Below is the budget for Saint James Ministries.

The Finance committee is trying something new in this newsletter. Some have been asking about our finances. In response to this we would like to report on the financial situation of the church by reporting income and expenses related to the spending plan.

Below is a spreadsheet with the data. Let us know if this is helpful in understanding our financial situation. We appreciate everyone's support of the ministries of St James.

Finance committee- Jim Schlenker, Gary Eissinger, Stella SanMiguel Pastor John and Sarah Parrish

INCOME	12/31/2024	2025 Budget
Offering in Envedlopes	198,730	195,628
Loose Plate Offering	7,324	5,750
Sunday School Offering	-	-
Total Offering	206,054	201,378
UNRESTRICTED		
Miscellaneous Income	2,770	3,525
DESIGNATED GIVING		
Mission Suport	5,429	400
Property Ministry	29,564	5,000
Worship & music	6,318	3,300
Fellowship	412	800
Social Ministry	1,920	1,800
Christian Ed/Youth	10,411	3,500
From Suggs Endowment	33,000	42,000
Evangelism	50	500
Total	87,104	57,300
OTHER RECEIPTS		
NC Sales Tax Refunds	2,467	1,000
TOTAL ALL INCOME	298,395	263,203

Update from our Finance Team

Below is the budget for Saint James Ministries - continued

EXPENSES		
Mission Support		
Synod Representation	131	150
Synod Mission Support	10,000	10,000
Diaster relief	3,048	500
World Hunger	-	-
Council training & retreat	-	
Staff Christmas gift	2,139	-
Total Mission Support	15,318	10,650
Dunnautic Ministra		
Property Ministry Sexton	E 222	E 600
	5,232	5,600
Sexton exp P/R tax	417	460
Property Maintenance	10,321	12,000
Lawn Care	6,600	6,600
Cleaning supplies	-	-
Parsonage repairs	20,586	3,000
Property other	91	3,500
Total Propety Expenses	43,247	31,160
Pastorial Ministry		
Pastor salary	75,240	75,250
Pastor Pen & Health	30,405	30,890
Pastor cont education	-	-
Pastor travel	-	-
Pastors books & per	50	100
Pastors p/r taxes	-	-
Total Pastorial Ministry	105,695	106,240

Continued on next page

Update from our Finance Team

Below is the budget for Saint James Ministries - continued

Communication		
Secretary	23,281	26,000
Secretary p/r taxes	1,813	1,950
Office supplies & service	7,279	7,000
Telephone & internet	2,096	2,100
Miscellaneous expenses	2,538	2,400
Total communication Exp	37,007	39,450
Worship & Music		
Choir trips & training	-	-
Music Director	9,031	25,500
Music director p/r taxes	528	1,950
Substitute pastor wages	990	900
Substitute organist wages	9,050	2,000
Worship	2,859	1,800
Alter flowes	946	1,446
Alter guild	552	525
Music	165	250
Piano organ maintenance	220	500
Sound shystem	188	350
Guest musicians		400
Profesional staff educaion	-	-
Total Worship & Music	24,529	35,621
Fellowship		
Fellowship/parish life	869	1,200

Continued on next page

Update from our Finance Team

Below is the budget for Saint James Ministries - continued

Social Ministrry		
Comfort blankets	991	800
Community social services	460	209
Quilting	256	100
Total social ministry	1,707	1,109
-11		
Christian Education		
Sunday school	30	100
Confirmation	842	1,100
Other Education	143	100
Vacation bible school	225	500
Youth ministry	10,250	3,500
Intergenerational events	-	300
Christian ed supplies	432	700
Total Christian eduction	11,922	6,300
Stewardship		
stewardshbip	-	200
Offering envelopes	338	150
Total Stewardship	338	350
Finance		
Sales tax expense	1,398	1,300
Finance charges	269	250
Bank service charges	869	1,010
Square procdessing fees	373	240
Medlin payroll software	79	80
Line of credit	-	
Total finance expenses	2,988	2,880

Continued on next page

Update from our Finance Team

Below is the budget for Saint James Ministries - continued

Fixed Ministry Expenses		
Alarm system	1,661	1,250
Elevator service	3,139	2,300
Utilities-church	10,511	12,000
Utilities-Annex	3,540	3,800
Church insurance	12,091	12,600
Run off tax	2,400	2,600
Solid waste	2,561	2,700
HVAC loan/Suggs Loan	2,000	6,000
Mortgaged	11,121	12,132
Total Fixed Expenses	49,024	55,382
Evangelism	475	550
Total all expenses	293,119	290,892
Income vs expenses	5,276	(27,689)

Social Ministry Focus for February 2025 DIAPERS AND WIPES FOR DSS

Pampering, hugs and Love!!!

There are several special days in February. Almost everyone is familiar with Valentine's Day. It's a great time to pamper someone, give appropriate hugs and to show love.

Let's join others. By collecting Pampers, Huggies and Luvs disposable diapers for our local social services. Also disposable baby wipes.

Do you know sometimes it is necessary for a baby to go into foster care when they leave the hospital? Or there are times when a child is removed from the home with only what they are wearing. It does happen! It is a big help to the "new" family to have a few supplies until they are able to make a purchase. We all know diapers should be changed often.

There have been times when a child has a supervised visit with a parent and needs a diaper change. It is a big help if some are available at DSS. All sizes are needed. Any brand is welcome.

The babies that are in DSS care are all special. We should all want them pampered and receive hugs. Lets help THEM out.

Please place in clear tub in the gathering area.











As we start off another year and reflect back on 2024 it is easy to forget the little things that make life special.

Take a minute to reflect each day on what makes you smile:

The sun is shining, a baby is laughing, the birds are chirping...

Submit a picture with brief explanation to saintjameslutheran@gmail.com and we will post a compilation next month.

Let start 2025 with gratefulness and cheer!

Comfort Blanket Ministry turns

January 17th a group of volunteers met to help tie comfort blankets.

These will be given to the Child Advocacy Center for the kids they serve.





<u>Back:</u> Valerie Brewer, Barb King , Linda Olson, Penny Kendall, Elizabeth Robertson, John Frinak, Amy Allison, Teri Bumphry

Front: Mary Wright, Marcia Katt, Kathleen Heinrich, Gayle Frinak

April 2, 2025 our ministry turns 6 years old! GOD does have a sense of humor! Our "Comfort Blanket "ministry began as what was intended to be a one time donation to CAC (Child Advocacy Center).

Faith Boehmer, Prevention/Volunteer Coordinator at the CAC was guest speaker at the Prime Time meeting. During conversations prior to her visit, we learned CAC had a need for "Comfort Blankets". A few ladies purchased fabric, met and made 19 blankets to give Faith at the meeting. We thought it was a one time donation. BUT—God had other plans. HE spoke through Brad Dunning. A \$50 donation was given to buy more fabric. As of January 2, 2025 St. James has donated 1560 blankets to the CAC.

Unfortunately, the need is still there. To commemorate our 6 year partnership we hope to donate either 60 (ten for each year) or 72 (one for each month) we have been a partner on April 2nd. We have had donations of both fabric and money. Please know both are very much appreciated and we try to be good stewards of all donations.

Prior to Covid we met several times at the church to make blankets and then ———!

Fortunately we are now able to meet as a group. It's a great time for fun, fellowship and a way to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

II ladies and one gentleman met on January 17. We completed 27 blankets. We hope to meet again on February 14 in the annex from 9-12. We would love to have you join us. (men too!) We purchase a majority of the fabric from Joanne's. We are concerned about the recent news they may be closing. We are looking into other options. Any input would be appreciated.





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.

Child of the Church returns for Christmas Visit

It was with delight, I read on an attendance sheet from our pre-Christmas services, a note from a former "child of the church". This young lady, <u>Christina Banchs</u> and her family were members of St. James in the late 90's and early 2020. She was in town over the holidays and attended our services. She noted in her information back to me, after I sent an email to welcome and how sad I was that I couldn't find a picture of her family in our photo albums.

<u>Do one of you remember the family</u>? She was with us before the "turn the church" around renovation, and found it looked smaller. We did gain two seats, Larry Hilbert told me. Christina is in Seminary to become a Pastor. She is attending SMN as a Seminary Student in Dallas, Texas. How my heart smiled when I thought of the children from our church that have moved into ministry. We have had a few. Some didn't stay with the Lutheran faith, but are ministers, and are serving or have served. What a blessing that spread all through the United States and beyond, either through our vicars over the years or our children. It was a wonderful trip down memory lane.

I hope you joined me.

Blessings for your week,
Tonie Neal

February 2025 The Messenger



RECEIPT for 2024 gift

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

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church PO Box 53276 Fayetteville, NC 28305

Item	Total Given
Donation for Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas	\$1,309.00

Saints of St. James,

Thank you for your kind donation to Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas. 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. hard your greenens for your Herricke to the Herricke

With thanks and blessings,

Rev. Emily Lemoine

LDR Carolinas Administrator

Rev. Smily Lemoure

Do you use aluminum drink cans?



After you enjoy the drink, you can help several people. Cub Scouts who meet at St. James recycle the cans. There is a large container near the church office. Please add cans only (no plastic bags and no tabs).



The tabs are used to help Ronald McDonald Houses. NC WELCA collects them. Please put any tabs in a ziploc bag or envelope and place in the plastic container in the gathering space. The container is used for current item of the month, but there is room for tabs.

These are continuous projects. Thanks for helping!!!

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.

Fellowship Opportunities



Fellowship opportunity for women!

Our monthly breakfast group (Salty Women) meets on second Thursdays, February 13 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, February 5

Weather plan is in the Annex/Entrance across the parking



Join us every first Tuesday, at Noon!

Potluck Lunch in our Fellowship Hall February 4

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.

Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Click on the times to connect

Property Team - (February 11)

- 2nd Tuesdays 6:00 pm

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

<u>Congregation Council</u> (February 16) (Meeting ID: 867 0951 0008 / Password: 103028) 11:30 am

Men's Bible Study - Sundays 9:00 am

(Meeting ID 821 3488 9583 / Password: 257977)

Fellowship & Conversation - Tuesdays 7:00 pm

(Meeting ID: 837 4730 9659 / Password: 588450)

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

02Jane Boelke	02/02
9Ruth Ann Crecelius	02/09
6Scott Marosek	02/16
23Jane Boelke	02/23

Lectors

02/02	Scouts
02/09	Nancy Oliver
	Lindsey Smith
	Matthew Shealey

Communion Assistant

02/02	Dave Runkle
02/09	Delores Schiebe
02/16	Jane Boelke
02/23	Sue Rink

Ushers

02/02	. Roscoe Killett,	Joan Eissinger
02/09	Gary & Ruth	n Ann Crecelius
02/16	John	& Gayle Frinak
02/23 S	Sharon VanPelt,	Joan Eissinger

Acolytes

02/02	Victoria Orellano
02/09	Aaron Thomas
02/16	Angelus VanDerVoort
02/23	Nate Stockham

Greeters

02/02	Sharon VanPelt
02/09	Sue Rink
02/16	Erika & Glenn Stockwell
02/23	Kathv Brown

Rover

02/02	Todd Burns
02/09	Tom Liedig
02/16	Dave Runkle
02/23	Ed Samuelian

Nursery

02	/02	. Colleen Tichich, Erika Stockwell
02	/09	Sue Rink, Kathy Brown
02	/16	.Kevin Hoffmann, Valerie Brewer
02	/23	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

Prayer Concerns:

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

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
- Hochang Min*





2/04 Allan Winter

2/07 James Peterson

2/12 Deb Rosenberg

2/12 Colleen Tichich

2/14 Ron Gearing

2/14 Roscoe Killett

2/17 Christopher Min

2/19 Ruth Ann Crecelius

2/20 Sarah Parrish

Δ nníversaries



2/14 Dave & Ronna Runkle2/25 Heather & Jason VanDervoort

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

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



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