

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



January 2025
Volume 41, Issue 1

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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I've seen a lot of New Year's slogans this year.

"So long 2024! Hello, 2025!"

"Wipe the slate clean"

365 new days. 365 new excuses. Less bitter, more glitter.

May all your troubles last as long as your resolutions!

New Year's is the perfect holiday to celebrate. An ending and a new beginning. A time to celebrate the victories of past, leave the defeats behind, and look forward to improving, renewing, and rebuilding for the future.

The future is always the brightest right about now. Somehow, we think that tomorrow (that will be Wed., Jan. 1, as I write this article), will hold the key to making everything okay – as though we are given a second chance (or maybe even a third or fourth!) at starting over.

Truth is – as we wait for the ball, or globe, or apple, or whatever is marking the final seconds of 2024 – the last seconds of this year will not be any longer or shorter than the year to come. Simply changing the calendar on the wall will not change us or our circumstances one bit.

We want change – the change that will make us wiser, stronger, richer, better But real change, as you already know, comes through the power of the Holy Spirit. For it is God who Creates All Things New day by day. *Each day* we are given opportunities to love and be loved. *Each day* we are given the wonderful gift of life, breath and hope. *Each day* we can look for the ways God is giving us to bless someone else's life.

So, as we step into the bold, fresh, and yet-not-too-tarnished 2025, may we ask God to be with us. May God's presence be known within, beside, behind, and before us. As we seek God's guidance, rely on God's forgiveness and grace, and yearn for God's work to be done through us, truly a new and beautiful day and year will unfold for us.

May God guide you with mercy and courage and boldness in this New Year!

With His love,
Pastor John

COLLECTION UPDATE



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Disaster Relief efforts during our NC Mountain Home Dinner!

As of 12/22 received a total of \$1,690 for Western North Carolina

\$ 550 in Gift Cards

\$1,140 in Checks & Cash

YOUTH – LYO Gathering in February!



The 2025 LYO Assembly, is **February 28- March 2, 2025!**

The Theme this year is ***LYOlympics: 5 Ways to Live Like Jesus.***

The location is Embassy Suites, Greensboro, NC.

The Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) of the NC Synod is open to all youth in **grades 6-12.**

The LYO board has worked hard to prepare a theme 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. We will have large group time, small group time, games, meals, a dance, some free time, and lots of fun. The weekend is planned by 9 high school youth from across our synod who serve on our LYO Board.

Thank You!!!

To the many, many folks who gave of time and energy to decorate our spaces; prepare communion; lead worship; or prepare, serve, or clean-up for the Congregational Dinner. There are too many to list, and a great risk of leading someone out. But we are grateful and thankful for the sharing of time, energy and ideas to make ministry happen!

Thanks, also from the church staff (Ellen, Michelle, and Pastor) for the special gift at the end of December. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Congregational Christmas Dinner in review!

Many thanks to Ruth Ann Crecelius, Barb Gearing, Jacky Hummel, Amanda Rea, Hannah Rea, Anna Lisa Johannessen, Tawan Thomas, Aaron Thomas, Dave Runkle, and Gary Crecelius, and Michelle Aumack for all their work in preparing, promoting, and creating such a wonderful event. Here are some pictures of the night!



2025 Stewardship Campaign Update



We pray for God’s power to encourage us and empower us we work and move toward a stronger community of faith. Through prayer, worship, study, service, and generosity the Spirit leads us into ministry – among ourselves as well as throughout our community.

We are about 30% of our 2025 Ministry Spending Plan goal of \$290,000. Rarely do we have intent responses to match the goal, but it is usually around 65-70%. If you have not returned an intent card yet, please do so soon.

Currently, 23 giving units [families] have returned giving intent cards, representing over \$90,000 of giving toward 2025 ministry plans. One of our goals is to have at least 50 intent cards returned.

*If you feel uncomfortable with indicating an amount, you can write a note indicating that “while I/we will be prayerfully contributing to God’s mission through St. James, we cannot at this time make a specific intention.”



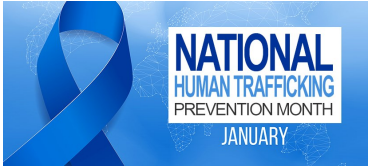
Our 10:00 Sunday worship service is being streamed live, and is also available for later viewing.

Click [here](#) to watch

Tech folk are also needed to help with audio and video controls. Training is available.

Contact office or Pastor John.

Social Ministry Focus for January, 2025 Human Trafficking Survivors Awareness



For January 2025 we start our year off with our *Focus of the Month* to support human trafficking survivors in their walk. Christ expects no less of His followers. Human Trafficking is a form of modern slavery that occurs in every state, including North Carolina.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline works closely with service providers, law enforcement, and other professionals in NC to serve victims and survivors of trafficking by responding to human trafficking cases and sharing information and resources.

The NC hotline reported the following for 2023: 394 victims involved in 235 cases. Since its inception the National Human Trafficking Hotline identified 2502 cases of Human Trafficking with 7002 victims.

We are called upon to treat these neighbors with love as we help with the start of their new journey.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love...forbearance...kindness...against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

In January, we collect items to assist with the ministry of Magnolia Home of Hope.

Magnolia Hope is located in an undisclosed location in Eastern NC. It is a program that provides trauma-informed therapies, on-site schooling, life skills classes, and gardening classes for girls.

- Shampoo (for Caucasian or AA hair types)
- Conditioner, body wash, body spray, lotion, loofas
- Hygiene items: tampons- size regular and super with plastic applicator
- Toothbrushes, flossers, hair ties, face wash

A collection box will be in the gathering area as you enter sanctuary building.

National HT Hotline 888-373-7888 Text “BEFREE” or “HELP” to 235733 or CHAT
Email: help@humantraffickinghotline.org Source: humantraffickinghotline.org

COMFORT BLANKETS - helpers needed

To acknowledge Human Trafficking IS happening we will be making blankets for the CAC on January 17 in the church annex 9-12 noon. If you have scissors that you like , please bring them. If you have never helped, come and try. Questions Marcia Katt 910-322-8037



December 4, 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 honor of Giving Tuesday. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Webster".

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

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

Fellowship Opportunities



Fellowship opportunity for women!

Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, January 9 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, January 8

Weather plan is in the Annex/Entrance across the parking



Join us every first Tuesday, at Noon!

Potluck Lunch in our Fellowship Hall

January 7

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 - (January 14)

- 2nd Tuesdays

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

[6:00 pm](#)

Congregation Council (January 19)

(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

01/05 Jane Boelke
01/12 Scott Marosek
01/19 Ruth Ann Crecelius
01/26 Allan Winter

Lectors

01/05 Glenn Stockwell
01/12 Valerie Brewer
01/19 Kathy Brown
01/26 Anna Lisa Johannessen

Communion Assistant

01/05 Tonie Neal
01/12 Paula Burns
01/19 Dave Runkle
01/26 Jane Boelke

Ushers

01/05 Tonie Neal, James Peterson
01/12 Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
01/19 Sharon VanPelt, Joan Eissinger
01/26 John & Gayle Frinak

Acolytes

01/05 Henry Orellano
01/12 Gabriel Thomas
01/19 Gianna Orellano
01/26 Ian Gibson

Greeters

01/05 Linda Stellfox
01/12 Barbara Azzarelli
01/19 Nancy Oliver
01/26 Gayle & John Frinak

Rover

01/05 Dave Runkle
01/12 Verena & Christopher Min
01/19 Todd Burns
01/26 Ed Samuelian

Nursery

01/05 Colleen Tichich, Erika Stockwell
01/12 Sue Rink
01/19 Kevin Hoffmann, Valerie Brewer
01/26 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

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
- Hochang Min*



- Jan 08: Brenda Killett
- Jan 11: Elliott Fish
- Jan 18: Linda Stellfox
- Jan 20: Henry Hewins
- Jan 22: Patrick SanMiguel
- Jan 25: Diana Vittoe
- Jan 30: Jessie Hewins
- Jan 30: Angelus VanDervoort
- Jan 31: Campbell Burt

Anniversaries

Jan 29:

Larry & Delores Schiebe



Jan 31:

Chuck and Priscilla Warren

Congratulations to



- ⇒ Walter Trogdon (grandson of Delores and Larry Schiebe) and his wife Alyssa on the birth of their daughter, Anslea Kate on December 15.
- ⇒ Jessie and Dan Hewins on the birth of their daughter, Hilde Kate on December 9th



Congratulations to Frank Vittoe and Brianna Maricall, recently married at a private ceremony.

**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

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Fayetteville, NC 28305



www.saintjamesfay.org

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