

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



May 2025
Volume 41, Issue 5

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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A Mother's Day for All

For Mother's here and everywhere
Who feel the joy, or the despair,
Of what it means to really care,
For offspring of all stages here

For children who've been mothered so
Adopted, fostered, or from the womb,
Or nurtured by a guardian too,
This day's a day to give thanks too

For those who yearn for those not here,
The child not born, lost, or deceased,
Or mothers whose time here has ceased,
Know angel love surrounds your face

For those who chose no parent call,
But still do much to serve us all,
Know that we appreciate all,
You do to make life wonderful

For those who suffer memories toll,
Of Mother's not meeting their call,
With responses not good, or small,
You're worth so much, stand righteous tall

This day is for all creatures here,
To celebrate those who appear,
To help us get from birth to here,
Know love like that lasts eternally

© Pauline O'Shea

To read more of Pauline's poetry, visit
<https://thehealingoflife.com/poetry/>

Social Ministry - Serving God's Children

Focus for May

Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

We PRAY for ...

- ◇ Over 700 children who were referred to CAC last year for Child Abuse cases ...
- ◇ 450 families who were served
- ◇ Volunteers who gave almost 2000 hours of service
- ◇ Counselors who held over 700 sessions
- ◇ CAC staff, Guardian Ad Litem folks, and others who care daily for children at risk

We ACCOMPANY these children and families through our donations.

During May we will collect the following:

- Bottled water
- Juice Boxes
- Individually wrapped snacks for children
- Canned soda
- Coffee



During a recent Sunday service Pastor John mentioned the current item of the month was being extended for another month. Previously there was an item of the month every month. Different organizations were benefactors of the “items”. As you all know Covid changed a lot of “the way things used to be”.

Some of the different areas that benefited from item of the month were Catholic charitable ministries, Salvation Army, Pauline Jones School, TC Berrian School, Samaritan's Purse shoes boxes, OIAM (the list goes on).

Members of our Social Ministry Team research areas where help is needed. They try to get a list of most needed items and give members of the congregation opportunities to help be “the hands and feet” of Jesus. We have a member who is very involved with providing Samaritan's Purse shoe-boxes. We will have an opportunity to help with that. Start saving your shoe boxes.

- * We have found there is a need for socks and underwear. (*Be on the lookout for that announcement*).
- * We hope to help a local school * We help with Crop Walk * We help migrant workers
- * We recently started helping individuals who have been trafficked

Please be on the lookout for upcoming areas where you can help.
Remember — We can be the hands and feet of Jesus.



God Builds Community at St. James Lutheran Resurrection News!

He Is Risen! Alleluia!

The God of Resurrection Power is at work building God's Church at St. James Lutheran!

In the past six months, over 20 new members have joined our congregation, and another 15 guests have begun attending regularly — a visible sign of the Holy Spirit drawing people into Christ's body. Worship attendance has regularly surpassed 90 in recent weeks (Over 150 total at both Easter Sunday services!), a testament to the joy and hunger for Word and Sacrament among God's people. Our financial outlook continues to improve, reflecting faithful stewardship and trust in God's provision. Most exciting is the palpable sense of enthusiasm: hearts stirred by the Gospel, hands eager to serve, and voices lifted in praise. The Spirit is on the move!

Do we have challenges? *Of course.*

Are there areas of growth we need to explore? *Absolutely.*

Do we need to be afraid? *No!*

For Christ the Savior, the Resurrected One, the Messiah, and the Redeemer goes before us, and beside us, strengthening us for the journeys ahead.

As Lutherans, we know this is not our doing, but God's gracious work through the gift of faith first given to us. To God be the glory as God continues to grow this community of faith to compassion and at St. James!

Pastor John



April 2, 2025

St. James Lutheran Church

On behalf of the staff and the board of directors, thank you for the 90 wonderful blankets donated to the Child Advocacy Center in celebration of six years of donating fleece blankets. We sincerely thank you for your continued support, and the children will enjoy the items that you donated. So many lives have been touched by your selfless act of kindness and generosity.

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

Comfort Blankets for Child Advocacy Center



We Continue to support the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) with "no sew" comfort blankets for the children they serve.

90 "comfort blankets" delivered to CAC on April 2, 2025

Pictured:

Krista Maulter (grand-daughter of Penny Kendall) and Marcia Katt

Property Ministry Team Update

Hello St. James Family!

Your Property Team would like to take a moment to point out a few important items and provide some reminders.

You may have noticed that the Hospitality Room and part of the Gathering Space recently received a renovation/remodel. It really was simply finishing the work from the last major renovation in 2005. This recent work was a result primarily of a very kind donation from one of our congregational members. Many thanks for that generous support. The funded amount covered most of the carpentry aspect (all but the cabinet and countertop), but did not include the furnishings. We have a furniture plan from our designer/General Contractor; Church Interiors, Inc.

If Congregational members are interested in funding portions or all of this project or other listed projects, please contact Todd Burns or Dave Runkle.

- ☐ Hospitality Room Cabinets and Countertop. \$8,125.00
- ☐ Hospitality Room Furnishings. \$5,000 to \$9,000
- ☐ Gathering Space Furnishings. \$5,000 to \$7,500
- ☐ Annex Main Door Package. \$2,150

If you have completed your home projects and are able to get out, feel free to stop by at your convenience and do a little weeding of the many planting areas around our Church property. Every little bit helps.

Calendar items:

- ⇒ The next Property Ministry Meeting is Tuesday, May 13 at 6:00 pm via Zoom and in Room 127.
- ⇒ The next Property Ministry Work Day is Saturday, May 17, 8:30 am to ~12pm/noon

Sincerely,
Property Ministry Team



Quarterly Report from Finance Team

		Cash Flow	YTD-Mar
	YTD-Mar	YTD-Mar	Actual to Budget
Income (Total)	2025 Budget	Actual	Variance
Income from envelopes	48,907	49,873	966
Income from Loose plate offering	1,438	2,857	1,419
Designated Giving Income	15,206	19,436	4,230
All Other Income	250	765	515
Total Income	65,801	72,931	7,130
Expenses (By Ministry Grouping)			
Mission Support	2,625	2,575	(50)
Property Ministry	7,790	8,150	360
Pastorial Ministry	26,600	26,492	(108)
Communication/Office Ministry	9,863	9,395	(468)
Worship & Music Ministry	8,793	7,841	(952)
Fellowship Ministry	300	291	(9)
Social Ministry	277	1,472	1,195
Christian Education Ministry	1,450	1,908	458
Stewardship Ministry	50	-	(50)
Finance Ministry	700	566	(134)
Fixed Expenses Ministry	12,346	14,486	2,140
Evangelism Ministry	137	39	(98)
Total All Expenses	70,931	73,215	2,284
CASH FLOW (Income-Expenses)		(284)	

We had a good first quarter for 2025. Our actual income almost perfectly matched our actual expenses. Our projected revenue and projected expenses are better than what we had in our 2025 spending plan.

God makes all things new! God continues to call us into ministry of fellowship, worship, faith formation, and various partnerships with community and church agencies. The Spirit has blessed us with over 10 new families as members, and other families regularly attending as guests.

Thanks for your generosity of giving to support ministry in this place and time. God is working through each of us to build God's community. *Pastor John*



Pray for our members who will be attending Synod Assembly later this month: Amanda Rea, Hannah Rea, Edward Samuelian, Anna Lisa Johannessen and Pastor John

Each May, the North Carolina Synod comes together for a time of worship, learning, and fellowship. Every other year, this gathering also includes conducting important synod business. Voting members selected from each congregation join pastors and deacons to make key decisions, including approving the budget, electing synod council members, and, this year, selecting a new bishop, as Tim Smith retires.



CHILDREN MINISTRY TEAM to be developed – A call to parents of children Pre-K – 5th grade, and other interested and talented adults.

Jesus told the disciples “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matt. 19:14) It is thrilling and joyous that almost 15 children (pre-k – 5th grade) now attend worship with regularity. St. James congregation has not experienced this number in several years. We have not had an active ministry team since we returned to in-person worship at the end of Covid.

It is my hope and prayer that God raises up at least 3-5 people who, with the help of parents and others, will oversee events and activities to teach and share faith formation to our children. The main areas of foci will be:

- 1) Weekly faith formation (Sunday School)
- 2) Nursery during worship; and
- 3) Fellowship and activity events (i.e. monthly or bi-monthly) for children and family.



This team will do planning, recruiting, and support, so that many folks will have opportunity to serve.

We need input from all families. So, if you have a child in this age range, or if you have interest or gifts for working with this age-group, please answer a short survey at www.saintjamesfay.org/faith/children .

We'll gather some basic contact info, and best meeting time possibilities.

~Pastor John

Congrats to Seniors!

We congratulate seniors:

- ◇ Sophia Min (Jack Britt High), daughter of Verena and Hochang Min;
- ◇ Wade McLamb (Pine Forest High), son of Cynthia and Warren McLamb)
- ◇ Campbell Burt (Fayetteville Academy), daughter of Dawn and Ben Burt.



Due to conflicting family schedules, senior recognition will be on both Sundays, May 18 and May 25.

Congratulations are also due to those graduating from college:

- Clayton McLamb (son of Cynthia & Warren McLamb), Elon University;
- Annabella (Bella) Fish* (daughter of Abigail Snyder & Dale Fish), NC State University;

*Bella also commissions into the US Army Reserves on Friday, May 2.

Worship News - Communion Distribution



On the first Sunday's of May and June, we will commune at the altar rail during worship, something we discontinued after Covid. A number of folks, however, have recently expressed a desire to reinstate this method. Congregation council, during its March meeting, discussed and decided to do so.

Holy Communion is one of our sacraments in the Lutheran Church - a means of grace. We recognize God as the main actor in this meal, being present in, under, and through the bread and wine.

God provides strength, forgiveness, encouragement, and love to each of us in this meal, regardless of how it is distributed. We come to the table with humble and thankful hearts, rejoicing for the gracious nature of God. Being able to kneel or stand at the altar rail offers many people a time of stillness to pray and reflect, and say thanks.

Pastor John

Fellowship Opportunities



Fellowship opportunity for women!

Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, **May 8th 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 -- May 7th

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.

Weather plan is in the Annex/Entrance across the parking



Join us every first Tuesday, at Noon!

Potluck Lunch in our Fellowship Hall

May 6

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.



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 as well, or instead of email, 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 - (May 13)

- 2nd Tuesdays

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

[6:00 pm](#)

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

5/04 Ruth Ann Crecelius
 5/11 Scott Marosek
 5/18 Jacky Hummel
 5/25 Jane Boelke

Lectors

5/04 Nancy Oliver
 5/11 Beverly Beale
 5/18 Glenn Stockwell
 5/25 Kathy Brown

Communion Assistant

5/04 Tonie Neal
 5/11 Jane Boelke
 5/18 Dave Runkle
 5/25 Delores Schiebe

Ushers

5/04 Sharon VanPelt, Joan Eissinger
 5/11 Tonie Neal, James Peterson
 5/18 Agnes Rybar, Georgette Miller
 5/25 John & Gayle Frinak

Acolytes

5/04 Angelus VanDervoort
 5/11 Gabriel Thomas
 5/18 Hannah Rea
 5/25 Aaron Thomas

Greeters

5/04 Kathy Brown
 5/11 Glenn & Erika Stockwell
 5/18 Sue Rink
 5/25 Kathleen Heinrich

Rover

5/04 Dave Runkle
 5/11 Tom Liedig
 5/18 Dan Hewins
 5/25 Paula Burns

Nursery

5/04 Erika Stockwell, Verena Min
 5/11 Sue Rink, Kathy Brown
 5/18 Verena Min, Valerie Brewer
 5/25 Heather VanDervoort, 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
- Carolyn Uchtorff

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
- ◇ James Peterson, Jr.

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*
- Alex Habermehl



- | | |
|------|---------------------|
| 5/03 | Earl Stockham |
| 5/12 | Bill Rettmann |
| 5/15 | Dara Lehner |
| 5/18 | Beverly Beale |
| 5/19 | Erika Stockwell |
| 5/19 | Dawn Burt |
| 5/23 | Elizabeth Robertson |
| 5/25 | Ed Samuelian |
| 5/30 | Nathan Stockham |
| 5/30 | Aaron Thomas |
| 5/31 | Joe Lehner |

Anniversaries



- | | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 5/09 | Scott & Stephanie Marosek |
| 5/28 | Jeffrey & Elizabeth Hoffmann |

We celebrate the birth of Finch Dylan Kae Hoffman,
(son of Kevin & Colleen) who was born April 2nd.



**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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