

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE

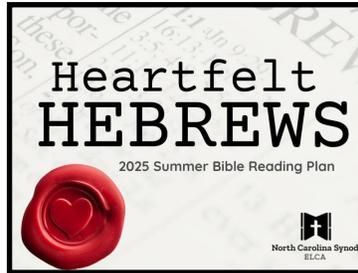


July 2025
Volume 41, Issue 7

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Thoughts	2
Congrats to Rev. Sarah Locke	3
Thank you from VFW	3
NC Synod elects first female Bishop	4
Youth Activities	5-6
Women of the ELCA June Gathering	7
Social Ministry Focus of the Month	8
Recycle your ink here!	8
Matthew Shealey honored	9
Child Advocacy Center Thank You	10
Fellowship Opportunities:	11
Women's Breakfast Meeting	
Theology on Tap	
Prime Timers	
Worship on YouTube	12
Receive Text updates	12
Zoom Meetings Links	13
Thanks you for sharing resources	13
Worship Leaders	14
Around the Parish	15



2025 Summer Bible Reading Plan

Join folks across the synod to read the Bible together—individuals, congregations, small groups. This summer's Bible Reading Plan is: *Heartfelt Hebrews*. *The Synod Assembly preview of this summer's plan was a real blessing; [check it out!](#)*

The readings begin on **Sunday, July 6**; choose how to join:

- [subscribe](#) to receive daily emails
- watch the [synod's homepage](#) for daily posts
- watch for [daily podcast episodes](#)
- read the printed compilation (PDF will be ready late June)
- go even deeper—respond with your own creative work! [Learn more.](#)

[Learn more.](#)



I was trying to remember a few days ago how many articles, conversations, and talks I've had with church members over the years about "change." I couldn't come up with a number – but I'm sure it's a lot! From the moment we are born, our life revolves around change. We become a day older, then a month, then years Each encounter, friendship, discussion, argument, etc. creates an opportunity for change within us or in our circumstances.

Even as I write this article, our legislative decision-makers in Washington are making a decision about the One Big Bill for America. Many await the decision with dread and fear, others promote it with positivity. Regardless of the adoption or failure of the bill, change is happening in our country. We will be left to struggle with the changes and adapt our lives to whatever comes.

In a few weeks, Jesse Habermehl's parents will bring him to the waters of baptism, to be adopted through the Spirit into the Family of God. This public action will be another step in Jesse's life, calling him to grow in faith. God will show him love and mercy in many ways during his life – in every change in his life.

A couple of days ago, Mark Tollefsen was offered a position of music director at another congregation in the area. It is a good opportunity for him, and he has decided to make a change. I imagine the decision was not easy for Mark, but I am sure he is excited for the new opportunity. We wish him well and pray for him in this next career step.

It will not be easy for St. James, though, as we deal with the changes that are to come. We will pray for discernment of how to proceed with music leadership.

So, you see, change is all around us. Whether it's growing another day older, learning a new language, or watching our rose gardens grow, life is about change. It's God's way – constant change amid continual creation. It's God's way of offering us grace, love, forgiveness, and mercy.

Those are the real constants of life. How and when and where we experience God's presence may change, but God's love for us does not change.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor John

Congrats to Rev. Sarah Locke, former member of St. James



Rev. Sarah Locke was recently awarded the James R. Carr distinguished service award in Lutheran Campus Ministry. She is an ordained ELCA pastor who also serves as an Episcopal priest, and is the campus pastor for an ecumenical campus ministry in Jacksonville, FL. She is also the daughter-in-law of Pastor John and Anna Lisa. Sarah and husband Daniel (also an ELCA pastor: St. Marks – Jacksonville) have two children, Bennet and Madeline.

The Carr award recognizes campus pastors who demonstrate excellence in ministry, foster engagement with others, have an adventurous enthusiasm for travel abroad, and exude a passion for integrating as wider worldview into their local ministries.

Sarah will be at St. James on July 27 to preside and preach at the baptism of her nephew Jesse (son of Amber and Alex Habermehl.)

Congratulations to Pastor Sarah!

Senior Support Staff Member



JIM MORRIS
Commander, VFW Post 10630

3226 Davis Street
Hope Mills, NC 28348
vfw10630.org
EIN: 56-1646389

Cell - 910.850.0580
Post10630@vfwnc.com
james_morris1963@yahoo.com

For Memorial Day we decorated our worship space with poppies from the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars). Our donation helps support Veterans and their families

I thank you so much for the very generous Buddy Poppy donation. It will allow us to continue our mission to support Veterans and their families in the Hope Mills community.

Jim Morris
VFW POST 10630

NC Lutherans Choose First Female Bishop



The North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has elected its first female bishop. Some 541 voting members elected the **Rev. Emily Hartner**, 43, on the fifth and final ballot Saturday afternoon at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

Notes on the Bishop's Transition

Bishop's Transition Team Chair, Deacon Tammy Jones West, offers important notes on this time of transition:

- Bishop Tim is still the bishop until August 1.
- Bishop-elect Emily doesn't start until then. It's important to leave well, and goodbyes matter.
- We offer all the prayers for both Bishop Tim and Bishop-elect Emily. Big transitions are coming their way!
- Several of you asked about cards for both people. Please send those to the synod office at 1988 Lutheran Synod Dr., Salisbury, 28144.
- Prayers for Emily's husband, Ian, and their son, Oliver, as her new call begins later this summer.
- Prayers for Holy Trinity, Charlotte, as they say goodbye to their beloved pastor.
- Prayers of gratitude for all those who were part of the call process for our new bishop.
- Prayers for the synod staff as they recover from the assembly. It's wonderful to be together, but it's also exhausting. They are such a gift to this church, and I was reminded of that again as I spent time with them. I'd missed them!
- Bishop-elect Emily's installation will be on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at Christ, Charlotte, at 2 p.m. Mark your calendar and plan to join the celebration!





YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR JULY

JULY 23 – Wednesday – Day trip to CAROLINA BEACH AND KURE BEACH ...

9:00 AM meet at church. Carpool to Carolina Beach. Spend day in sun, fun, sand, and fellowship. We'll take some food for the day.

Mid-afternoon we'll close up beach activity, change clothes, grab some dinner, and make our way to Kure Beach (about 10 min. south) to lead worship for Kure Memorial Lutheran weekly beach worship.

Following worship, we'll return to Fayetteville. Arrive 9:30-10:00 p.m.

***All those going will be invited to help plan the worship service and prepare to lead it. Planning session sometime in mid-July.*

SIGN UP needed to plan for number of vehicles, adults, food, etc.

To sign up, please:

Call church office and leave info, or

Text Pr. John (704) 530-9969 and leave info,



YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR JULY

What's Happening?

9:00 AM meet at church. Depart by 9:15 via Carpool to Carolina Beach. Spend day of fellowship in sun, fun, sand, and surf.

Mid-afternoon (3:00-4:00) we'll close up beach activity, change clothes, grab some dinner, and make our way to Kure Beach.

6:30 (ttv) We will lead worship for Kure Memorial Lutheran weekly worship on Kure beach.

Following worship, (approx. 8:15) we'll return to Fayetteville. Arrive 9:45-10:00 p.m.

July 13 Following worship. Lunch and planning for the worship service.

What do I/we need to do? **SIGN UP** as soon as possible, but definitely **by July 8!!** (We need to plan transportation, adults needed, food, etc.)

How much does it cost? \$10/youth.

Can I bring a friend? Absolutely! Remember, we go as one group, not several small groups. You'll introduce and help your friend engage with the whole St. James group.

What should / can I bring? Towel. Change of clothes. Sunscreen. A food item to share (think chips, snacks that won't melt, etc.)

How about body boards? Maybe, if there's room.

How about chairs? We will bring some as a group, but having one for each of us will require too much space. Plus, there's plenty of sand to sit on, (lol)! Anything else? Let's see ... oh yeah - patience, sense of humor, openness to having fun, help with set up, clean up, etc.

To sign up, please: Call church office and leave info, or text Pr. John (704) 530-9969 and leave info,

Please, sign up by Tue. July 8!!!

NC Women of the ELCA 37th Annual Gathering Report

June 20-22, 2025 Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, N.C.

A Spirit Filled group of ELCA women leaders from over 70 congregations across NC met for our Annual Gathering. Officers were elected, some having taken a year off and came back for more service. Some brand new to the state level of leadership, but not from congregational leadership. A budget was passed. Again showing the need level of our congregations, members and nonprofits. We manage our monies well, at the state level. The National President was our guest, and did an excellent job, of sharing her new responsibilities, that mirror our own.

Our program started Friday June 20, with registration, dinner, and voting member orientation. The dorm devotions were given in the evening when we were all back in our dorms and relaxed with our favorite snack and beverage. Fellowship was outstanding. Having everyone in the same dorm was a big plus. Who doesn't enjoy sharing the facilities with 15 other folks?

Saturday, saw us going from Morning Matins at 6:45AM until Entertainment at 7PM for a full range of activities all day. Awareness Sessions were informative and gave amply opportunities suggestions for service. Bible Studies were again Spirit Filled and very thought provoking.

Sunday was a morning of worship with Cee Cee Mills leading with Holy Communion and encouragement to keep the story going, good bye breakfast, packing up, turning in keys and for me a 4 ½ hrs. long drive. I found myself, turned around and in Lincolnton, before I found a charger and cruised home.

Welcome the following elected to 2 year terms:

- Vice President Robin Stuart, from Sardis, Hickory
- Secretary Julie Arndt from St. Marks, Lumberton
- Board Members Jane Cadwallader; Beth-Eden, Newton
- Tamarah Hefner; St. Mark's, Claremont
- Rev. Denise Henry; Epiphany, Winston Salem
- Leta Rosie Schieber, Calvary; Concord
- Karen Birkedal, Mt. Olive; Hickory
- Eleanor Ernst, Our Savior (one-year term)

For Triennial Voting Members 2026 Convention 8 ladies were elected.

Sunday figures were not given before we dispersed

- Friday we had 52 attend, \$613 offering
- Saturday we had 58 attend, \$750 offering

Balances in accounts as of 5/27/25:

Designated \$10,475.85 Checking account: \$95,038.23

Budgeted for 2026:

Expenditures \$45,700.00 Income \$45,700.00

If any have any questions, I can bring the paperwork to church for you. It was a joy to attend, it was sad to see how few we are now. Last year, we had 100 attend, so almost half as many this year. Anyone and everyone is welcome, ladies.

I hope you will consider 2026 for a nice weekend.

Tonie Neal, 910-583-5560



Social Ministry - Serving God's Children

Christmas in July Angeltree



There ARE angels among us. (You can be one!)

When you enter the Gathering Space in July, you might think it's Christmas. There will be a decorated tree, with ANGEL emblems. And why? It's Christmas in July, and some of God's children are in need of socks and underwear.

Each "Angel" will have either underwear sizes or socks sizes. Please choose an Angel - or two. Each angel will have two parts (one for you to keep and one to sign and return). The shop and return items to the collection box in the gathering area.

All collected items will go to Cumberland County Department of Social Services for their distribution. Thanks for all you do for God's children in Cumberland County.

Social Ministry Team

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!

FRED STABLEY SR. WRITING CONTEST
FIRST PLACE
 MATTHEW SHEALY - ASSISTANT SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR - METHODIST UNIVERSITY
 ATHLETE PROFILE | DISTRICT 3 | COLLEGE DIVISION

COLLEGE SPORTS COMMUNICATORS

Marine to Monarch: Zach Crisafulli's Unlikely Path to Division III Lacrosse

5/12/2024 2:45:00 PM

For many young students aspiring to play a sport in college, the blueprint is clear: Play well in high school, get recruited, commit to a school, and begin your career as a collegiate student-athlete upon graduating high school.

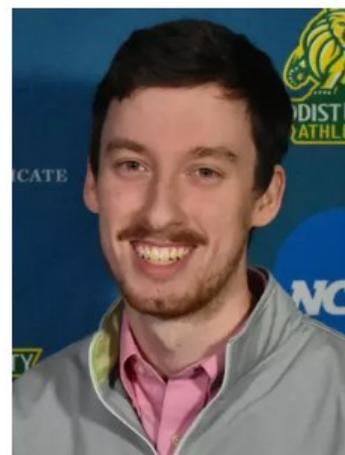
For others, like **Zach Crisafulli**, the route to collegiate athletics takes a different form.

WALKING FOR WEIGHT LOSS												
HOW TO LOSE 30 LBS												
Current weight	220 lbs											
Goal	190 lbs											
Daily steps	8,378 steps											
steps	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	550	600	650	700	750

Shealy Earns First-Place Honor in CSC's Fred Stabley Sr. Writing Contest

The College Sports Communicators organization announced its district winners for the 2024-25 Fred Stabley Sr. Writing Contest on Wednesday. Among all the entries, Methodist University's Assistant Sports Information Director **Matthew Shealy** saw one of his stories receive recognition.

Shealy earned first place in the "Athlete Profile" category in District 3's college division for his feature story about men's lacrosse student-athlete Zach Crisafulli. Published in May of 2024 and titled, "[Marine to Monarch: Zach Crisafulli's Unlikely Path to Division III Lacrosse](#)," the story explores Crisafulli's journey to becoming a student-athlete at Methodist for the first time at the age of 25.



Shealy's story will advance to the national ballot along with all other stories that placed first in their district, with national winners in each of the categories to be announced later this month. Methodist's district includes non-Division I schools in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. CSC members in all eight districts submitted nearly 500 articles across seven categories. All stories had to be published within the 2024 calendar year.



June 3, 2025

St. James Lutheran Church

On behalf of the staff and the board of directors, thank you for the 50 comfort blankets, snacks and juices that were recently donated to the Child Advocacy Center. 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", written over a light blue circular stamp.

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, July 10th 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 -- July 2nd

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

July 1st

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 - (July 8)
- 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

7/06 Ruth Ann Crecelius
7/13 Lindsey Smith
7/20 Scott Marosek
7/27 Jane Boelke

Lectors

7/06 Erin Smith
7/13 Beverly Beale
7/20 Glenn Stockwell
7/27 Valerie Brewer

Communion Assistant

7/06 Jacky Hummel
7/13 Sue Rink
7/20 Jane Boelke
7/27 Dave Runkle

Ushers

7/06 Sharon VanPelt, Joan Eissinger
7/13 Tonie Neal, James Peterson
7/20 Agnes Rybar, Georgette Miller
7/27 John & Gayle Frinak

Acolytes

7/06 Aaron Thomas
7/13 Victoria Orellano
7/20 Nathan Stockham
7/27 Ian Gibson

Greeters

7/06 Fran DeSilva
7/13 Kathy Brown
7/20 Sue Rink
7/27 Linda Stellfox

Rover

7/06 Tom Liedig
7/13 Verena & Christopher Min
7/20 Todd Burns
7/27 Edward Samuelian

Nursery

7/06 Erika Stockwell, Jennifer Linkous
7/13 Sue Rink, Lisa Law
7/20 Amber Habermehl, Valerie Brewer
7/27 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



- 7/01 Carolyn Uchtorff
- 7/01 Glenn Stockwell
- 7/02 Paul Orose
- 7/04 Ewa Thomas
- 7/06 Kathleen Heinrich
- 7/06 Teri Bumphry
- 7/09 Ann Gibson
- 7/02 Henry Orellano, Jr.
- 7/26 Georgette Miller-Rybar
- 7/28 Tyler Burns
- 7/30 Renie Johnston

Anniversaries



- 7/01 Lisa & Josh Law

**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



www.saintjamesfay.org

Address Service Requested