

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



August 2025
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Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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Year round stewardship



“*Penelope Checkwriter*” and her husband, *Karl Cardholder*, are pretty busy folk. They travel a lot - visiting grand-children, going to the beach house, college reunions, etc. AND they are faithful, devoted members of their congregation. They are concerned about how their two passions (church and travel) often conflict, but they have made a commitment to get their pledge contribution to the church. Only thing is, they often forget in the midst of the busy schedule and the check doesn’t always get written each month. They try, but too often they just forge. If there was only a way to make *giving simpler!*

Ever find yourself like Penelope or Karl? It isn’t that we don’t want to participate and support church ministries, it’s that other things get in the way and we forget to write that check. However, if we were to have some help remembering, wouldn’t that be helpful?

Well, help is available! And, there is an incentive for all of us to participate! *Simply Giving* allows you to select how much and when during the month your contribution will be drafted from your bank account.

Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church year round.

- Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It’s easy!
- You will no longer need to write checks and prepare envelopes every week.
- Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.
- You choose the frequency (weekly, semi-monthly or monthly).

Print your [sign up form](#) today.

You can also call for a hardcopy form: 910-484-8052.

Return it to the church office either by placing in an envelope in the offering plate or by mail: Saint James Lutheran Church / PO Box 53276 / Fayetteville, NC 28305

Church Leadership Changes



Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as **Presiding Bishop of the ELCA**. The election took place during the 2025 [ELCA Churchwide Assembly](#) being held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix Convention Center. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Curry has [served as bishop](#) of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah. He replaces outgoing Bishop Elizabeth Eaton



Lucille "CeCee" Mills an assistant to the bishop in the NC Synod was elected August 1st as the **Secretary of the ELCA**. She was our guest preacher here at St. James March 23, 2025.



Bishop of the North Carolina Synod

The Rev. Emily Kuhn Hartner was elected at the 2025 Synod Assembly, held May 29-31, in Greensboro. Most recently, Bishop Hartner served as pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Charlotte. She begins her six-year term on August 1, 2025.

She replaces outgoing Bishop Timothy Smith



St James Congregation:

Thanks to Kevin Hoffman for his leadership as council president for the last 18 months, and for his contributions as council member since 2023. Quite simply, with changes in job and family (new baby), he felt he could not carry out the duties effectively and so resigned his position. **THANK YOU, KEVIN** for your calm and insightful leadership in your tenure as president and council member!

We extend our deepest condolences to the friends & family of two of our members



Joseph Christian Lehner (77) of Raeford, NC, passed away on July 20, 2025.



Roscoe Killett (79) of Fayetteville, NC passed away on July 29, 2025.



Diane Stultz

I want to thank you for remembering me in your prayers - it means so much to know other congregations are lifting me up on Sunday mornings. I am currently done with chemo, but am still receiving an infusion monthly for immunotherapy. Your prayers have helped get me through this battle! Blessings -
Diane

Changes in music leadership at St. James

Our previous music director Mark Tollefsen, resigned recently from St James. We appreciate Mark's efforts and wish him well in the next phase of his musical ministry.

Congregation council took action in July to begin the replacement process. After a time of discussion, council approved a recommendation to offer a position of interim director to Amanda Rea (member of congregation). She agreed to take on the responsibilities of directing the choir, assisting Pastor with hymn selection, and retaining weekly worship accompanists*. This interim position will last until the end of September, at which time council will hopefully be able to make a decision about the ministry on a longer term basis.

*As of this writing, worship accompanists have been secured for the months of August and September.

A music study task force was appointed by council to review various aspects of music and worship in order to provide council various possibilities of both volunteer and paid leadership. Members of the task force are Rick Boelke, Matthew Shealey, Jennifer Linkous, Valerie Brewer, Beverly Beale, Amanda Rea, and Edward Samuelian (lead member.) Thanks to these folks for giving of their time and leadership. The congregation will be receiving more information from them in the next two weeks for input and suggestions.



New worship leaders

Congrats and thanks to Willow Linkous, Holden Linkous, and Ricky Van Pelt have been trained as **acolytes** and will begin their leadership in the coming weeks.

We also welcome the newest **assisting ministers** – Lindsey Smith, Jacky Hummel, and Nate Stockham.



Baptism of Jesse Habermehl (parents Amber and Alex) on July 27, 2025. Rev. Sarah Locke (Jesse's aunt, and former member of St. James Lutheran) presided at the baptism.



Prayers for our college students

Please be in prayer for our college students as a new semester begins in a few weeks:

- ◇ Wade McLamb (Univ. of NC – Chapel Hill);
- ◇ Sophia Min (Univ. of Buffalo);
- ◇ Campbell Burt (Univ. of Tenn.);
- ◇ Keyarah Myers (Fayetteville Tech);
- ◇ Lela Pell (Cape Fear Tech);
- ◇ Elliot Fish (East Carolina Univ.);
- ◇ Josh Trogon (East Carolina Univ.);
- ◇ Lore Gibson (Roanoke Univ.);
- ◇ Megan Burks (Fayetteville Community College);
- ◇ Carly Burks (school unknown.)



Dedication of hospitality room and new worship accessories on Sunday, August 10



We will have a time of dedication during worship on Sunday, August 10 for the new worship accessories and for the newly refurbished hospitality room.

Thanks to generous folks who have made these ministry enhancements.



From St. Marks, Lumberton (August Newsletter)

Reflection

Be a Sunflower

By Julie Arndt, Messenger Editor

We have a birdfeeder outside the front door of our apartment. It was a gift from a friend for no particular occasion other than, “Just saw it and thought of you” after a conversation we’d had once about my grandfather and his bird feeders. I smile whenever I look out the front door, because of my friend’s sweet gesture and because I enjoy watching the birds.

The bird feeder is a pretty busy place most days and we keep our daily visitors happy with plenty of food.

The interesting part of all this is the result of birds spilling seeds all over the place, which led to what Robert has dubbed our “Crop.” All sorts of seeds have taken hold in the ground around the bird feeder, but one was a pleasant surprise.

I love sunflowers. They represent adoration, loyalty and longevity. Known as “happy” flowers, sunflowers bring joy and are a symbol of summer sunshine. They are the national flower of Ukraine and were seen often in support of peace during the Ukraine Crisis. The sunflower is seen as a sign of hope and warmth, positivity and strength, strong

bonds and lasting happiness — always looking for the light.

Sunflowers represent:

- long life and lasting happiness, as most varieties stand in full bloom throughout the summer.
- Good fortune and positive opportunities — a lucky charm for someone beginning a new career path or starting a new job
- Optimism and happiness, brightening your mood with vibrant and colorful yellow and orange petals
- Positivity and strength, as the sunflower always follows the sun
- Warmth, adoration, dedication and love for family members and friends
- Loyalty and strong bonds, represented by their sturdy and upright stems
- Friendship that lasts forever

One of the stalks in our “Crop” turned out to be a sunflower. I was so happy when I realized when it was.

My favorite flower just popping up unbidden in a bunch of weeds that grew from birdseed.

An unexpected blessing.



Isn't it funny how, when you've had one of THOSE days, or weeks... somehow out of the blue you get a phone call from a friend you've been missing, or hear your favorite song on the radio when you start your car, or see a particularly beautiful sunset, something like that... something small and unexpected that just makes you smile?

Like my sunflower in the weeds?

That's God, folks.

Saying to his weary and generally irked but always beloved child, “Life can be hard and unfair but you know what, kiddo? It gets better, and you're not alone when it sucks. I've got you. So smile.”

Be a sunflower for someone. Be an unexpected blessing.

Finance Team News

6 Months (Jan-June)		Cash Flow	YTD-JUNE
	YTD-JUNE	YTD-JUNE	Actual to Budget
Income (Total)	2025 Budget	Actual	Variance
Income from envelopes	97,814	93,267	(4,547)
Income from Loose plate offering	2,875	5,116	2,241
Dedicated Giving Income	30,413	51,600	21,187
All Other Income	500	765	265
Total Income	131,602	150,748	19,146
Expenses (By Ministry Group)			
Mission Support	6,150	7,359	1,209
Property Ministry	15,580	30,297	14,717
Pastoral Ministry	53,120	53,025	(95)
Communication/Office Ministry	19,725	19,272	(453)
Worship & Music Ministry	17,336	15,785	(1,551)
Fellowship Ministry	600	610	10
Social Ministry	555	2,548	1,993
Christian Education Ministry	3,150	1,936	(1,214)
Stewardship Ministry	100	-	(100)
Finance Ministry	1,400	1,078	(322)
Fixed Expenses Ministry	26,691	28,024	1,333
Evangelism Ministry	275	144	(131)
Total All Expenses	144,682	160,078	15,396
CASH FLOW (Income-Expenses)		(9,330)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income for first 6 months of 2025 is up due to dedicated income transfers. Expenses for first 6 months of 2025 up due to property expenses and fixed expenses. Church checking account balance end of June was negative \$1,593. This was only a cash-flow situation until July 1st. Designated funds at the end of June is down \$17,397 from start of year. 			
Endowment balances as of 7/9/2025			
	Qrtly Income	Balance	Fund Value
Arne	132.88	354.65	\$95,187.64
Patterson	1,392.00	6,273.56	\$149,562.37
Currie	1,043.83	7,320.53	\$336,500.24
Suggs	13,046.20	43,247.37	\$1,401,787.25
	15,614.91	57,196.11	\$1,887,849.86
Total memorials for end of June is \$1,863			

Social Ministry - Serving God's Children

Back to School Items for Howard Hall Elementary School

HELP HONOR BRENDA & ROSCOE KILLETT

As some of you know Roscoe was a big man with a big heart for children. One passion of his was TC Berrian School (they are now closed). There was a time he had several ladies from St. James teach boys to play the piano. When Brenda and Roscoe knew of a family that needed help-they stepped up to do what they could.

There is no way we can fill Roscoe's shoes, but we can try.

We normally help a school with back to school needs. Roscoe has requested we help Howard Hall school.

Roscoe would always ask the principal, "what do you need?" "What can I bring you?" This year we asked the principal "What do you need?" What will we take her?

This is our chance to show his family we are willing to continue what means so much to them.

Listed below are items the principal at Howard Hall told us the school needs.

Please place all new items on the table in the gathering space.

- Backpacks
- Ziplock bags
- #2 pencils
- Glue sticks
- Dry erase markers
- Crayola Crayons. (Any amount of crayons in box)
- Composition books
- Magic markers
- Colored pencils

- Underwear both boys and girls
- Socks both boys and girls



Do you see what I see?

We have been asked to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Now we can be HIS eyes.

Do you know Lion's clubs collect used prescription eyeglasses? They do!

They have now started collecting "reading glasses".

If you have any prescription glasses and/or reading glasses that you no longer use, please bring them to the church and place in the box on the round table in the gathering area.

We can be HIS hands, feet and eyes.



Tonie Neal delivering socks and underwear them to DSS 7/28/25

Thank you to our special Angels.

A special thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas in July socks and underwear collection for our local Department of Social Services.

We were able to donate 127 pairs of socks, 211 pairs of underwear, 5 beginner bras and 3 tee shirts. Once again we were the hands and feet of Jesus.



Note of gratitude and congrats to youth who led worship on August 3.

A particular note of praise to Hannah Rae (11th grade, Jack Britt) for her sermon presentation.

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!



Sun., Aug. 17, 10:00 a.m Worship

St. James Lutheran Church

Blessing of the Bookbags



Bring your backpack, bookbag, or other school item for a special time of blessing.



Fellowship Opportunities



Fellowship opportunity for women!

Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, **August 14 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 -- August 6

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

August 5

**We welcome our guest speaker, Kelly Papagikos;
Executive director of Visiting Angels in Fayetteville.**

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 - (August 12)
- 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

8/03.....Scott Marosek
8/10.....Jacky Hummel
8/17.....Ruth Ann Crecelius
8/24.....Jane Boelke
8/31.....Lindsey Smith

Lectors

8/03.....Youth
8/10.....Daniel & Holden Linkous
8/17.....Kathy Brown
8/24.....Nancy Oliver
8/31.....Anna Lisa

Communion Assistant

8/03.....Youth
8/10.....Delores Schiebe
8/17.....Paula Burns
8/24.....Tonie Neal
8/31.....Jacky Hummel

Ushers

8/03.....Erin Smith, Teri Bumphrey
8/10.....Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
8/17.....Joan Eissinger, Hannah Rea
8/24.....Agnes Rybar, Georgette Miller
8/31.....Gary Crecelius, Edward Samuelian

Acolytes

8/03.....Gabriel Thomas
8/10.....Hannah Rea
8/17.....Henry Orellano
8/24.....Gianna Orellano
8/31.....Angelus VanDervoort

Greeters

8/03.....Gayle & John Frinak
8/10.....Teri Bumphrey
8/17.....Erika & Glenn Stockwell
8/24.....Barbara Azzarelli
8/31.....Kathleen Heinrich

Rover

8/03.....Paula Burns
8/10.....Verena & Christopher Min
8/17.....Todd Burns
8/24.....Edward Samuelian
8/31.....Dave Runkle

Nursery

8/03.....Kevin Hoffmann, Patsy Linkous
8/10.....Sue Rink, Kathy Brown
8/17.....Verena Min, Jennifer Linkous
8/24.....Heather VanDervoort, Kathleen Heinrich
8/31.....Tonie Neal, Valerie Brewer

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:

- ◇ 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



- 8/08 Norman Mutter
- 8/11 Jacque Yacobucci
- 8/12 Larry Schiebe
- 8/13 Nichole Rettmann
- 8/15 Amy Allison
- 8/17 Heather VanDervoort
- 8/17 Lorraine Wittkorn
- 8/21 Dan Runkle
- 8/24 Suzi Wilkinson
- 8/24 Elizabeth Slaymaker
- 8/30 Valerie Brewer
- 8/31 Stella SanMiguel

Anniversaries



- 8/04 Chandra & Michael McClenahan
- 8/10 Pastor John & Anna Lisa
- 8/13 Rhonda & Bruce Akers
- 8/21 Amy & David Burks

**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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