

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



September 2025
Volume 41, Issue 9

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

Inside This Issue

From the Pastor's Desk	1-2
Gospel Concert in Hope Mills	3
Email/ Texting hoax affected Pastor	4
Congregation Council	5
Worship News & Choir begins	6
Confirmation Classes resume	7
Adult Sunday School Classes	7
Children's & Youth Ministry Teams	8
School Supply Drive - Update	9
Donations for "Fidget Blankets"	10
Child Advocacy Center Thank you	11
"Thank you"	12
Candlelighter dedicated	12
Fellowship Opportunities:	13
Women's Breakfast Meeting	
Theology on Tap	
Prime Timers	
Worship on YouTube	14
Receive Text updates	14
Zoom Meetings Links	15
Thanks you for sharing resources	15
Worship Leaders	16
Around the Parish	17



Strengthening God's Community ...

that's been our 2025 Stewardship Theme. We were hoping that this tagline would inspire us to find ways to create and strengthen relationships. St James is fortunate that people are responding to God's call to be a part of this faith community. Given the transient nature of our community, it is important that we recognize names and faces. But more importantly, is We were hoping that would inspire us to find ways to create and strengthen relationships. St James is fortunate that people are responding to God's call to be a part of this faith community. Given the transient nature of our community, it is important that we recognize names and faces. But more importantly, we are called to see Jesus in one another.

Fortunately, there are times and ways the Spirit works without us knowing how.

- The welcoming atmosphere of the newly dedicated hospitality room has offered opportunity for several conversations that might not have happened without that improved space.
- The desire of people to honor the life of Roscoe Killett has multiplied the amount of school supplies we ordinarily donate. And the spirit is leading us to a deeper relationship with the administration and staff of Howard Hall Elementary School.

There are more ways the Spirit has been active:

- A new pictorial directory is almost ready for publication and distribution. Although it won't be of professional level quality, it will allow us to update frequently. (Special note of thanks to Erin Orose for donating her photography skills!)



Continued from page 1

- Name Tags. I encourage you to wear a name tag on Sunday mornings. It does ease folks who are newer to our congregation, and it makes entering into conversation a little easier. If you do not have a pre-printed tag at the tag station, please make a note on an attendance sheet. We'll make sure one is ready for you the next Sunday. We have a station for the name tags – next to the steps in the gathering space. The display-holder is not large, though. So the design will be evolving over the next few weeks. Patience, please.
- Spotlight interviews for the monthly newsletter. A new section of the newsletter begins in October. We'll "spotlight" four individuals or families of the congregation with a photo, brief bio, and intro!
- And speaking of new relationships, The ELCA is blessed with a new Presiding Bishop, as well as a new bishop for our NC Synod.



Bishop Emily Hartner began her work as bishop of the NC Synod on August 1. Ordained in 2010, she has served two congregations in Charlotte. Bishop Hartner is married, with a seven-year-old son.



Bishop Yeheil Curry was elected as presiding bishop of the ELCA at the Churchwide Assembly in July. His six-year term will begin in October. Bishop Curry lives in Chicago with his wife LaShonda. They have three adult daughters.

It is my prayer that all who enter into our space (physical or virtual) feel welcome, invited, and safe. May the "place" called St. James Lutheran, wherever and whoever that may be, foster caring, nurturing, and healing faith to all.

Pastor John

★ The ALMS HOUSE ★

Presents

1st Annual Gospel Music Concert Saturday, October 4th † 5:00 PM

Featuring:



Refreshments
Available

FREE
ADMISSION

Location:

The Hope Mills Church God Family Life Center

4830 Cameron Road • Hope Mills NC

† A Love offering will be taken for the ALMS HOUSE Ministries †

Email/texting hoax affected Pastor and/or church's email listing

A couple of weeks ago, you might have received an email that appeared to be from me. It read something like this:

*"Hello, I hope this message finds you well. Are you open to talking via email? I find myself in a bit of a bind and could use your help with something that needs some discreet handling. Please reply me back as soon as you can.
Peace"*

That email, and any follow-up emails or texts, were a hoax. Some even asked the recipient to purchase Target gift cards and forward to me.

I DID NOT SEND THE EMAILS OR TEXTS. Apparently, my email list was hacked, and many of the church membership list was affected. I am very sorry for any inconvenience or stress they may have caused you.

This is not the first time this has happened to me, and, I fear, that it won't be the last. Read this information that I found with a quick Google search. *Note that the article is from 1991* -pretty early in the internet mindset.

Nov 26, 2019 – Security Department of the University of Chicago
*Urgent? Are you available?
Assistance needed immediately.*

Have you received an email with this as a subject? Seemingly from your manager or department chair. Information Security wants to make you aware of an active, persistent scam that is targeting the University as well as many other institutions. These types of email scams use messaging to press a recipient to act quickly, usually asking the recipient to purchase gift cards for an authoritative figure who has no time to talk.

This scam has successfully persuaded a number of individuals at the University to take action with negative consequences over the last couple of months.

Initial scam email

The typical exchange is an initial feeler email, impersonating a manager or supervisor to lure the target to respond.

Characteristics of the email are:

- Short subject, such as "Are you available?" and "Urgent favor," and short message intended to evade spam/phish filters
- Impersonating someone the recipient knows, usually someone in a position of authority
- Sense of urgency
- Sender claims to be unavailable to talk or clarify
- Sending email address does NOT match that of the person being impersonated
- The Reply-To email address usually differs from the sending one

It is amazing how similar this is to what happened on Aug. 14th. For those who received one of these emails or texts, I truly apologize. For future communications claiming to be me, please read the email or text carefully. If you were not expecting an email from me, then read it carefully. If you have *any doubts what-so-ever* if it is legitimate, please call me. Do not click on any links or respond to any requests. As for me, I am going to begin a task of cleaning up my email listings, changing and updating user names and passwords for all those websites I frequently utilize.

~ Pastor John

Congregation council

Even though St James Congregation is a faith-based group of people, we are also viewed by the state of North Carolina as a legal institution that requires a constitution, bylaws, elected officers and Board, etc.

Some people say that the congregation council handles the business portion of the congregation.

I won't deny that being a member of council can be stressful. The responsibilities and roles of council are very broad and sometimes controversial. Some decisions are difficult, particularly when everyone may not be of the same mind.

But council membership can also build faith and be rewarding. I was on council at my home congregation three different terms prior to going into ministry. I served as president of the congregation on several occasions, so I understand the challenges, stress, and frustrations and the joys and surprises of the Spirit. I have witnessed God's spirit at work through the work of the larger church, the sharing of wisdom from one person to another, people being examples of faithful living, and folks building relationships through acts of forgiveness and hard work.

Council members are elected in November for a two-year term.

This year we will need to elect 6-8 individuals. To be most effective, a council needs to have a variety of gifts and skills among members. No single individual makes all of the decisions nor carries all the responsibilities. But, through prayer, patience, and persistence, God's work and mission will be carried out through a group effort.

If you have questions about council leadership, or feel a call to council ministry, speak with one of the current council members or Pastor John.





Worship news for September and October

- September 14 *Pulpit Exchange with Christus Victor Lutheran, Durham, NC*
In an effort to get to know other churches in our conference, Pastor John will preach at Durham while Pastor Ben Krey will come to St. James.
- September 28 *Baptism and Welcome to St James*
Conrad Gregory will be brought to the waters of belonging by mom and dad (Madison and Nick Gregory)
- October 12 *Baptism and Welcome to St James*
We celebrate the baptisms of several young folks: Willow Linkous, Holden Linkous, Ricky Van Pelt.
- October 26 *Reformation Sunday*
We commemorate and celebrate the gift of The Reformation, Martin Luther, and all the reformers.

Sanctuary Choir begins fall schedule



The Choir kicks off the fall schedule on September 3rd. The choir always welcomes new voices. If you'd like to give it a try or have questions about the how, when, etc., contact Amanda Rea (interim director) at (910) 988-5456.



Confirmation 2025-26

Confirmation class is an intentional time for 6th-8th graders to learn more about Christian faith, Lutheran perspectives and traditions, and how we grow in faith. Sue Rink and Beverly Beale are the lead instructors. The first meeting (with one or both parents) will be September 7, following worship. Lunch will be provided. Get-to-know-you activities and orientation for confirmation will follow. Parents will have a separate session with Pastor John for orientation and confirmation Q & A.

Adult Sunday School Classes

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Men's Class | Meets at 9:00 each Sunday in-person in the fellowship hall (with an on-line Zoom access). Their weekly discussion is based on the lectionary texts of the day. |
| Women's Class | Meets at 9:00 each Sunday in-person in Room 127 (on-line access is currently NOT available). Class resumes September 7. Topic yet to be determined. |

Two ministry teams forming, TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED



The Congregation Council is in the process of forming two ministry teams: Children's Ministry Team, and Youth Ministry Team.

The Children's Ministry Team (Pre-k through 5th grade) will need 4-6 people to oversee, direct, and provide opportunities for children and their parents to grow in faith and build relationships through:

- Weekly Sunday School program
- Oversee Current Nursery program during worship
- Assist pastor to coordinate an annual first communion class
- A children and family activity once every 4-6 weeks (some ideas - games, prepare and sing a song for worship, summer VBS event, Christmas play/activity, etc.)
- Provide Michelle (church administrator) info and news for updating communications.
- Promote and encourage participation in summer camp (i.e., Camp Agape, Lutheridge, etc.)

The concept (naive as it may sound) is that this team, with pastor's assistance, will provide overall structure and direction. Other adults will be needed to carry out the week-to-week activities, i.e. Sunday School teachers, activity leaders, folks to provide refreshments, etc.

The Youth Ministry Team (6th – 12th grades) will need 4-6 people to oversee, direct, and provide opportunities for youth and their parents to grow in faith and build relationships through:

- ◇ Consider a Weekly Sunday School program
- ◇ Assist Confirmation Class with logistic planning (This class is usually 6th-8th grade. Sue Rink and Beverly Beale are the current class adult leaders.)
- ◇ Evaluate the possibilities for senior high class faith formation
- ◇ Coordinate youth for the annual LYO gathering (Greensboro, NC), and the triennial Youth Gathering trip (Summer of 2027, Minneapolis, MN)
- ◇ Develop a calendar of monthly (regular) youth activities (could be either group separately or together)
- ◇ Promote and encourage youth to attend summer camp

The concept is that these individuals, with pastor's assistance, will provide the overall structure and direction of the ministry. Other adults will be needed to carry out the week-to-week activities, i.e. Sunday School teachers, adults to help carry out the individual activities, folks to provide refreshments, provide transportation, etc.

If you are interested in participating in either of these ministries, or need more information, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JOHN

School supplies Drive - Update



In August we collected school supplies in memory of Roscoe Killett!



As of 8/24/25 We have collected

- ⇒ 1,338 Colored Pencils
- ⇒ 1,306 #2 Pencils
- ⇒ 206 Crayons
- ⇒ 145 Composition Books
- ⇒ 259 Glue Sticks
- ⇒ 196 Dry Erase Markers
- ⇒ 432 Markers
- ⇒ 483 Socks & Underwear
- ⇒ 1,135 Ziplock bags
- ⇒ 54 Backpacks
- ⇒ 47 Notebook paper
- ⇒ 22 Knitted hats
- ⇒ 221 Other (scissors, pencil sharpeners etc)



Dear St. James,

Thank you for your prayers, visits, acts of condolence, and contributions to the school drive. We know that Roscoe is proud of all the school supply donations made to Howard Hall. We are grateful to be a part of a loving community during this season. Peace be with you all.

Sincerely,

The Killett Family

Donations for “Fidget Blankets”

Place in the clear tub in the Gathering Space

Ladies are you ready to: clean out your junk drawer (we all have at least one), empty your button box, do something with crafts you started and never completed? We have a solution for you.

St. James quilters and a few friends have been making “fidget blankets”. They are primarily for children diagnosed with autism, someone diagnosed with Alzheimer’s or dementia .

You can help by donating: ribbons, any size or amount(the kind you would sew, not wrap gifts),buttons (any kind), fabric (all types and any amount) yarn (all colors, and any amount)





August 11, 2025

St. James Lutheran Church

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors, thank you for the 20 comfort blankets that were recently donated to the Child Advocacy Center in memory of Roscoe Killett. 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



The School of Hope
GREENSBORO NC 270
111 BURNING MOUNT TRIAD AREA
31 JUL 2025 AM 2 L
Fayetteville, NC.
28301

Dear Mr. Locke, 7-30-25
Words cannot express our
gratitude for women like Penny
Kendall who have used their
talents and abilities to help others!
The Sensory Blankets that they
made and gave to our school
which helps students with autism.

What a blessing! God Bless!
Thank you again!
Amy Sparks
Principal



**August 24th we dedicated a candlelighter
in memory of Warren Porter**

Pictured here are his son, Jeffrey and widow, Willa.



Fellowship Opportunities



Fellowship opportunity for women!

Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, **September 11 at 9am** at Biscuitville (3110 Raeford Rd - Tallywood Shopping Center)

If you are interested, please let Ruth Ann know: 910-309-1007



Men's Fellowship -- September 3

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

September 2

**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

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.

Assisting Ministers

9/07 Nate Stockham
9/14 Scott Marosek
9/21 Jacky Hummel
9/28 Ruth Ann Crecelius

Lectors

9/07 Matthew Shealey
9/14 Diana Vittoe
9/21 Erin Smith
9/28 Glenn Stockwell

Communion Assistant

9/07 Sue Rink
9/14 Jane Boelke
9/21 Delores Schiebe
9/28 Dave Runkle

Ushers

9/07 Sharon VanPelt, Joan Eissinger
9/14 Tonie Neal, Edward Samuelian
9/21 John & Gayle Frinak
9/28 Lindsey Smith, Teri Bumphrey

Acolytes

9/07 Hannah Rea
9/14 Ricky VanPelt
9/21 Victoria Orellano
9/28 Aaron Thomas

Greeters

9/07 Sonia Nazario
9/14 Kathy Brown
9/21 Sharon VanPelt
9/28 Sue Rink

Rover

9/07 Tom Liedig
9/14 Todd Burns
9/21 Dave Runkle
9/28

Nursery

9/07 Erika Stockwell, Kathy Brown
9/14 Lisa Law, Kathleen Heinrich
9/21 Tonie Neal, Patsy Linkous
9/28 Sue Rink, 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



- 9/01—Amanda Mott
- 9/03—Jake Smalley
- 9/05—Joshua Rea
- 9/06—Jennifer Linkous
- 9/08—Patsy Linkous
- 9/10—Jordan Slaymaker
- 9/11—Laura Stockham
- 9/11—Brayden Williams
- 9/12—Brad Dunning
- 9/13—Barbara Azzarelli
- 9/13—Elizabeth Hoffmann
- 9/14—Catherine Earle
- 9/14—Jacob Smalley
- 9/15—Carl Rosenberg
- 9/15—Jameson Habermehl
- 9/18—Jason VanDervoort
- 9/19—Madeline Crecellius
- 9/25—Linda Schlenker
- 9/25—John Locke
- 9/25—Agnes Rybar
- 9/26—Donna Runkle
- 9/28—Gabriel Thomas

Anniversaries



- 9/29 Dan & Ann Gibson

**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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P.O. Box 53276
Fayetteville, NC 28305



www.saintjamesfay.org

Address Service Requested