

# The Messenger

**Saint James**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY  
**Connecting**  
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE

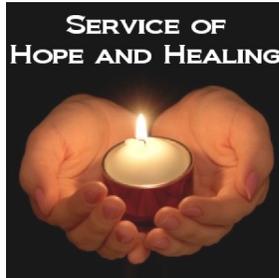


**November 2025**  
Volume 41, Issue 11

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

## Inside This Issue

Stewardship Update	2
Current Council Members	3
Congregation Meeting (Dec 7)	3
Installation of Bishop Emily Hartner	4
Social Ministry Outreach	5
Thank you for Fidget Blankets	5
Update from Finance Team	6
BBQ Fundraiser for Kiwanis Center	7
Fellowship Opportunities:	8
-Women's Breakfast Meeting	
-Theology on Tap	
-Prime Timers	
Worship on YouTube	9
Receive Text updates	9
Zoom Meetings Links	10
Thanks you for sharing resources	10
Worship Leaders	11
Around the Parish	12



## **Su, Nov 16 - 3 pm** **Service of Hope & Healing**

Death and separation always leaves us with an emptiness inside - some call it "a hole in the soul".

There are many books and seminars to help pastors offer help to individuals who have had a personal loss. Unfortunately, there's little training to help a congregation deal with the corporate grief of losing a significant key leader(s).

St. James has had several losses this year, especially those of Roscoe Killett and Amanda Rea. Both of these folks encountered many people in the congregation each week, helped create ministries, and were active in decision making. They offered joy, welcome, celebration, and love; they leave large spiritual footprints. We will miss them both for a long time. It is a holy task now for us to do the diligent work of group grief.

A first step comes on Sunday afternoon, November 16 at 3:00 with a worship service for Healing and Hope. Our worship will blend music (led by The HYMN Singers Community Choir of Fayetteville), stories, readings, and prayers for the Holy Healing of a congregation.

**SAVE THE DATE.**



## **Nov 30** **First Sunday of Advent**

**Advent** is a Christian season of preparation that begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and lasts for about four weeks. It is a time to reflect on and anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ, both his birth at Christmas and his promised second coming.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival". It's a time of spiritual waiting and preparation.

It's a season for prayer, reading scripture, and spiritual reflection to prepare one's heart for Christmas.

## Stewardship Update



October 29, 2025

Dear Friends,

Martin Luther once wrote “God doesn’t need our good works, but our neighbor does.”

As we approach the end of another year of ministry, we reflect upon some of the ways God has called us to use our good works for our neighbors:

- ◇ Welcoming and Hospitality – 22 people have formally joined our congregation, many others are actively participating, and 9 infants and young people have been baptized.
- ◇ Comfort and Solace – together we have mourned the loss of Audrey, Joe, Roscoe, and Amanda;
- ◇ Service to others– quilts and comfort blankets, school supplies, food, and emergency disaster relief.
- ◇ Stewardship - our endowment support has enabled us to maintain our ability for ministry; a special gift enabled the completion of a refurbished hospitality space; one of our members established legacy giving aspect to her estate planning.
- ◇ More - we have gathered in worship, fellowship, and broken bread together. We have worked through struggles and challenges, times of disagreement and times of rejoicing, and the emotions of saying hello to new friends and goodbye to some old friends.

We are extremely grateful for each financial gift and personal effort that makes ministry possible. Thank you for your support and participation in ministry this year.

It has been an interesting year financially, as we have had some givers reduce their giving due to illness, death, relocation, family economic changes, and other reasons. At the same time, several families have increased giving and new families have added their contribution to ministry.

***Unfortunately, giving to general ministries for the year is below anticipation by about 10%. We are asking all families to prayerfully consider an increase in giving or making a one-time extra offering in November or December to help St. James conclude 2025 with a positive cash flow. Any extra gift will be important and very much appreciated.***

2026 will mark the 90<sup>th</sup> year of ministry for St. James. God’s promise to mold and shape us as disciples is sure. Together we will proclaim GOD’s love to all people.

Thank you for being a part of St. James and for your generous support of this congregation’s continued mission and ministry.

Valerie Brewer, Congregation President

Gary Eissinger, Chair of Finance Ministry Team

Rev. John Locke, Pastor



**Current Council Members (2024-2025)**

You can view their pictures in the hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall



Valerie Brewer -  
Council President



Beverly Beale  
Council Secretary



Joan Eissinger  
Council Member



James Peterson  
Council Member



Edward Samuelian  
Council Member



Mary Wright  
Council Member



Hannah Rea  
Youth Representative

**Congregational Meeting is set for December 7 after worship.**

We will vote on the 2026 Ministry Plan and our incoming Council Members for 2026.  
Look for more information soon!





**Installation**  
*Bishop Emily K. Hartner*  
North Carolina Synod ELCA  
November 15, 2025 at 2 PM

The graphic features a stylized logo on the left consisting of a red cross with a white circle in the center, a red flame-like shape at the bottom left, and a black vertical bar with a white circle at the top. To the right of the logo, the text is arranged in four lines: 'Installation' in bold black, 'Bishop Emily K. Hartner' in a black serif font, 'North Carolina Synod ELCA' in a smaller black sans-serif font, and 'November 15, 2025 at 2 PM' in a black sans-serif font. A thin red horizontal line is positioned above the date.

Your prayers and presence are requested at the service of Holy Eucharist with the Rite of Installation for the 79th bishop of the North Carolina Synod ELCA, The Rev. Emily K. Hartner.

The installation and worship will take place on **Saturday, November 15**, at 2 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte.



The Rev. Emily Kuhn Hartner serves as the 79th bishop, and the first female bishop, of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Elected at the NC Synod Assembly in Greensboro, NC, on May 31, she began her term on August 1.

She is a child of the NC Synod having received much faith formation at her home congregation of Beth Eden Lutheran Church in Newton, NC. She earned a BS from Davidson College, an Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School, and an STM from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary).

Prior to her role as bishop, she participated in the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program, working with the unhoused community in Edinburgh, Scotland. She also served two congregations in North Carolina: St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, both in Charlotte. She lives in Huntersville with her husband Ian and son Oliver and enjoys tap dancing in her free time.

### Social Ministry

*For I was hungry ... thirsty ... a stranger ... needed clothes ... sick ... in prison  
AND YOU LOVED AND HELPED ME (adapted from Matt. 25)*

**Our emphasis will be assisting with Thanksgiving Meals for Alms House.**

We will collect non-perishable items like

- Canned Ham
- Canned green beans & corn
- Pie filling
- Stuffing
- Potatoes in pouch, etc.



### Thank you for Fidget Blankets



Thank you to St James Lutheran Church for the gracious welcome to speak with your Prime Timer group October 7th. We always appreciate the opportunity to share with others about the supports we provide to our senior community, but are especially thankful for the wonderful lunch and conversation, beautiful handmade items to provide to our seniors and caregivers, and generous donation to our organization.

Thank you for blessing our seniors!

Pictured are some of our “Fidget Blankets” we donated.

Fidget blankets are lap-sized quilts or mats with attached sensory objects, such as zippers, ribbons, buttons, and different textures, designed to keep hands busy.

They provide tactile and sensory stimulation, which can help reduce anxiety and agitation, improve fine motor skills, and offer comfort to individuals with conditions like dementia, Alzheimer's, autism, ADHD, and sensory processing disorders.



*Lisa Hughes from Cumberland County Council on Older Adults*

**Update from Finance Team**

<b>9 Months (Jan-September)</b>			
		<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>YTD-September</b>
	<b>YTD-September</b>	<b>YTD-September</b>	<b>Actual to Budget</b>
<b>Income (Total)</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Income from envelopes	146,721	134,727	(11,994)
Income from Loose plate offering	4,312	7,354	3,042
Dedicated Giving Income	42,975	87,586	44,611
All Other Income	3,394	4,058	664
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>197,402</b>	<b>233,725</b>	<b>36,323</b>
<b>Expenses (By Ministry Grouping)</b>			
Mission Support	8,775	11,034	2,259
Propety Ministry	23,370	48,600	25,230
Pastorial Ministry	79,680	79,762	82
Communication/Office Ministry	29,588	29,689	101
Worship & Music Ministry	25,878	22,177	(3,701)
Fellowship Ministry	900	706	(194)
Social Ministry	832	2,548	1,716
Christian Education Ministry	4,850	2,200	(2,650)
Stewardship Ministry	150	201	51
Finance Ministry	2,100	1,461	(639)
Fixed Expenses Ministry	37,037	41,676	4,639
Evangelism Ministry	412	238	(174)
<b>Total All Expenses</b>	<b>213,572</b>	<b>240,292</b>	<b>26,720</b>
<b>CASH FLOW (Income-Expenses)</b>			
<b>Loss year to date</b>		<b>(6,567)</b>	

- *Income from envelopes is down more than 8%, \$12,000*
- *The last 3 months we are running \$2,000 short each month from Budget*
- *Amount taken from Suggs endowment to pay expenses. \$5,973 per month*
- *We have taken \$53,757 from the Suggs endowment to pay our expenses.*
- *The Suggs endowment account balance at end of September is \$9,741*

**Support The Kiwanis Club  
Of Hope Mills  
BBQ Fundraiser**

**JOHN W. HODGES PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER  
5788 ROCKFISH ROAD HOPE MILLS NC (FIRE DEPARTMENT SIDE)**

**Friday November 7th 10am-1pm**

**\$12 BBQ Plate Sale** 

10 plate minimum for delivery  
Pulled Pork, Bun, Baked Beans,  
Coleslaw

**Drive Up/Curb Side Pick up:**

**POC: Dwayne Jacobs @ 910-850-8403 For Tickets**

Our Community School Programs and Projects will benefit from your support.

- K-Kids & Terrific Kids (Elementary Schools)
- Builders Club (Middle Schools)
- Key Club (High Schools)
- Service Leadership Program

**To Join Contact Delores Schiebe 910-425-0902**

St. James members can help Kiwanis Club by arranging to purchase meals for this event or to serve as delivery drivers to go to businesses or individuals who have made advanced orders.

All proceeds for this event go to support local youth programs. Glenn Stockham, Delores Schiebe, Erin and Lindsey Smith are members of the Hope Mills Kiwanis Club.

The Kiwanis Club of Hope Mills appreciates any financial donations for this event. Checks can be written Payable to: Kiwanis Club of Hope Mills and in the Memo line, write BBQ Fundraiser

Thank you for your support.

## Fellowship Opportunities



### Fellowship opportunity for women!

Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, **November 13 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 - November 5

*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

**November 4**

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.

## Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Click on the times to connect

**Property Team - (November 11)**  
**- 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**

11/02..... Nathan Stockham  
11/09..... Ruth Ann Crecelius  
11/16..... Scott Marosek  
11/23..... Lindsey Smith  
11/30..... Jacky Hummel

**Lectors**

11/02..... Kathy Brown  
11/09..... Anna Lisa Johannessen  
11/16..... Todd Burns  
11/23..... Matthew Shealey  
11/30..... Diana Vittoe

**Communion Assistant**

11/02..... Paula Burns  
11/09..... Dave Runkle  
11/16..... Jane Boelke  
11/23..... Delores Schiebe  
11/30..... Tonie Neal

**Ushers**

11/02..... Hannah Rea, Joan Eissinger  
11/09..... Tonie Neal, James Peterson  
11/16..... John & Gayle Frinak  
11/23... Sharon VanPelt, Edward Samuelian  
11/30..... Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius

**Acolytes**

11/02..... Gianna Orellano  
11/09..... Henry Orellano  
11/16..... Ricky VanPelt  
11/23..... Aaron Thomas  
11/30..... Holden Linkous

**Greeters**

11/02..... Fran DeSilva  
11/09..... Sonia Nazario  
11/16..... Linda Stellfox  
11/23..... Barbara Azzarelli  
11/30..... Sharon VanPelt

**Rover**

11/02..... Dave Runkle  
11/09..... Ed Samuelian  
11/16..... Paula Burns  
11/23..... Verena & Christopher Min  
11/30..... Tom Liedig

**Nursery**

11/02..... Amber Habermehl, Valerie Brewer  
11/09..... Kathleen Heinrich  
11/16..... Sue Rink, Patsy Linkous  
11/23..... Verena Min, Jennifer Linkous  
11/30..... Tonie Neal, Kathy Brown

# Around the Parish

## PRAYER REQUEST

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



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
- Dan Gibson
- Jacob Rea
- Hochang Min
- Alex Habermehl



- Nov 05 Penny Kendall
- Nov 05 Jeffrey Hoffmann
- Nov 06 Julie Kuhrt
- Nov 18 Luke Hoffmann

### Anniversaries



- Nov 11 Agnes & Georgette Rybar
- Nov 20 Claudia & William Doyle
- Nov 26 Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
- Nov 26 Richard & Sharon VanPelt

**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](mailto: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](http://www.saintjamesfay.org) E-mail: [saintjameslutheran@gmail.com](mailto:saintjameslutheran@gmail.com)**

*Saint James Lutheran Church*

**Located in the Haymount Area**

1424 Morganton Road  
P.O. Box 53276  
Fayetteville, NC 28305



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**Address Service Requested**