

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



December 2025
Volume 41, Issue 12

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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December 15, Monday, 7:00 pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2505 Village Drive



Blue Christmas worship, with Holy Trinity Episcopal, First Baptist, Westminster Presbyterian, and Highland Presbyterian. Westminster will be our host for this annual service of Christmas-time healing and hope.

December 20, Saturday, evenings (tba)

Family Christmas Dinner and Festival at St. James



Themed *Amanda's Place*. Dinner, games, and entertainment featuring members of local band - and St. James' friends - *Rivermist*. Other special guests and performances are being arranged. A sign-up reservation arrangement will be announced soon. A special fund-raising effort to assist the Amanda Rea family with hospital and family financial needs.

December 21 - Sunday worship. -



A special children's time to share Christmas stories. More info will be sent to families.

December 24 -

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Worship.



3:00 pm

Children will be invited and encouraged to participate during worship.

10:00 pm

We will hear and speak the words heard by shepherds so long ago

Unto you is born a SAVIOR, Christ the Lord!

Save The Date



December 7 – New Member Sunday ...



If you are interested in membership with St. James, or just wanting to learn more about being Lutheran Christian, meet with Pastor John following worship on Sunday, November 30 (or call to make appointment for another time.) We will receive new members on December 7 during worship.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADVENT

Teacher: Anna Lisa Johannessen

Sundays at 9:00 AM

Nov 30 - Dec 21

Fellowship Hall

Who: Women & Men • Ages 14—99

When God steps into the story, everything changes.

Journey through four Old Testament foreshadowings of the Messiah — and see how Jesus fulfills every promise.

- WEEK 1 — THE STORM:** Hope when life is chaos (Genesis / Noah / Jesus calms the storm).
- WEEK 2 — THE SWORD:** Sacrifice and spiritual warfare (Abraham & Isaac, Gabriel, Michael).
- WEEK 3 — THE STAR:** Guidance and Light (Genesis 1, Isaiah 9:2, John 8:12, Rev 22:16).
- WEEK 4 — THE SAVIOR:** Immanuel — God with us
(Davidic promise, Jeremiah's Branch, Gabriel, shepherds).

No preparation required. Bring your Bible and a friend.

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" — the hymn threading all four weeks.

An Update on Music Ministry

As many of you know, the music ministry at St. James has been in a state of change in the last few months. Musician Mark Tollefsen resigned in July of this year. Following some study and consideration by a council-appointed task force, the council decided to take some time to more fully evaluate our situation. They offered Amanda Rea the position of interim choir director, and to contract local musicians to play keyboard (piano) for Sunday morning worship. Amanda accepted that responsibility and did so without accepting a salary.

The plan was to determine issues such as styles of music, activity and number of people in choir, addition of handbells, etc. over the next few months. Then, hopefully, we'd be in a position to bring on a regular staff person in early spring. However, as I assume are aware, Amanda died unexpectedly in late July after a brief and difficult struggle with cancer.

As we grieve and heal from the loss of a key music leader, several choir members and pastor are working together to plan quality and inspiring music for worship. Amy Stovall has been serving as the interim pianist for the last several months and will continue through December. However, her teaching schedule intensifies in the new year, and she will not be able to continue on a regular basis.

So, we take a step back and re-group and make alternate plans that will provide weekly worship accompaniment, adult choir and handbells continuation, and seek the Spirit's guidance in preparing for the next leader of music at St. James.

Thanks for your patience and support.



CONGREGATION MEETING – SUNDAY, DEC. 14th following worship.

All active members are eligible to vote in the congregational meeting.

Our agenda is:

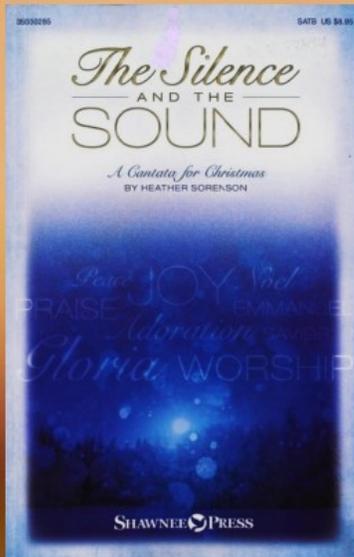
- ⇒The election of 2026-2027 council members
- ⇒The consideration of the proposed 2026 Ministry Spending Plan, and
 - ⇒Initial approval of the revised Congregation Constitution.



Information will be sent in a separate email the first of December.

Christmas Cantata

The St. Joseph's Episcopal Church Choir
under the direction of Mrs. Sharon Smith McNair
along with choir members from community churches
presents its annual Christmas Cantata



Sunday December 21, 2025

At

4:00 PM

At

St. John's Episcopal Church

302 Green St.

Fayetteville, NC 28301

(910) 323-0161

stjoefay@gmail.com

www.stjosephfay.org

The Silence and the Sound

A cantata arranged by Heather Sorenson

With orchestra

St. Joseph Episcopal Church presents *The Silence and The Sound*, this year's version of their annual Christmas cantata. It is always a marvelous celebration that will be held this year at St. John's Episcopal Church to accommodate the size of audience. Sue Rink, Anna Lisa Johannessen, and Pastor John are members of the choir.



New Youth Ministry Team Appointed by Council

We are always excited when folks step out in faith to take on leadership roles in church ministry. God has called Henry and Jaye-Lynn Orellano, Daniel and Jennifer Linkous, Michael McClenahan, Erin Smith, and Madison Gregory to serve as our youth ministry team.

They will help oversee the 6th-12th grade ministry – helping plan and coordinate youth events, faith activities, recruit adult and family volunteers, and help coordinate with confirmation plans and schedules. We pray the Spirit’s power as we re-new and invigorate youth ministry at St. James. May God bless your efforts and give you the spirit of joy in this ministry!

If you are interested in helping with youth ministry programs and activities, contact one of these folks or the church office for more information.



Children’s Ministry Team Developing

Feel called to offer faith opportunities and share the sacred stories of scriptures with our children? Feeling a nudge to help our young families with the concerns of being young parents or dealing with pressures of parenthood? Be a part of the Children’s Ministry Team!

We’re in need of 3-4 more people to help oversee and direct the various aspects of Children’s Ministry (PreK – 5th grade). Sunday morning faith formation time (curriculum and staffing), nursery during worship (recruiting volunteers), monthly activity times (organizing activities for children and families), and other relationship-building activities are items in the Children’s Ministry Team portfolio.

Join Jacky Hummel, Diana Vittoe, and Sonja Nazario to re-build this ministry.
Inform the church office if you desire more information.

The Staff of Bishop Emily Hartner



Rev. Emily Hartner was installed as the 79th Bishop of the NC Synod, ELCA. As she begins this new season of ministry, we rejoice with our siblings across the Synod and give thanks for her leadership, vision, and faithful witness.

We also celebrate the extraordinary contribution of Holy Trinity member **Larry Hilbert**, who hand-crafted the crozier Bishop Emily received entirely with traditional woodworking tools. All wood colors are natural (with the exception of the green-stained European sycamore) and represent *A World of Color*

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Staff: | American Black Walnut with American Maple rings |
| Crook: | Figured Crotch American Black Walnut |
| Luther Rose Leaves: | Figured Curly European Sycamore |
| Heart of the Luther Rose: | South American Bloodwood |
| Cross: | Asian Holly and African Ebony |

We give thanks for Bishop Emily Hartner's ministry and for the gifts Larry so generously shared with the wider Church.





A memorial fund is a charitable fund established in memory of an individual to support a cause they cared about. These funds are created to honor a loved one's legacy through charitable giving. They provide a way for friends and family to contribute to something meaningful and lasting in memory of the deceased.

Saint James has lost many members over the years, just this year we mourn:
Joe Lehner, Roscoe Killett and Amanda Rea.

Below are the people that have contributed to their Memorial Funds as of November 25, 2025

Joe Lehner:

Kathy Kuzas, Bruce Lehner, Steve Lehner, Jake Smalley, Scott Marosek, Delores Schiebe, Tonie Neal, Brian Gaskell, Charles Warren, Gary Eissinger, and David Runkle

Roscoe Killett:

Tonie Neal, Jake Smalley, Scott Marosek, Judy Hagen, Marianne Peiper, E.P. Freeman, Fran DeSilva, Georgette Miller-Rybar, Catherine Earle, Charles Warren, Lindsey Smith, Gary Eissinger, and David Runkle

Amanda Rea:

Agnes Rybar, Karen Lasher, Penny Kendall, Judy Hagen, Emily Brisson, Michaela Wydra, John Fahl, Christopher Gearing, Joe Burks, David Stultz, Kathy Brown, Sarah Parrish, Amy Allison, Delores Schiebe, Fran DeSilva, Brenda Killett, David Runkle, Gloria & Al Peuster, Bruce & Gloria Tapp, Cyndy Polen Oleskey, Kerry Hansen, Joshua Gearing, Jason Gearing, Lynn Bremer, Tonie Neal, Faith Haselberger, Richie O'Briant, Nancy Behnfeldt, Sue Rink, Frank Maxwell, Suzi Wilkinson, Alessandra Alfred, Regency Homes, Debbie Wooten, Gary Eissinger, Nancy Oliver, Priscilla Warren, Catherine Earle, Jake Smalley, and Jeffrey Porter.

Scholarship Opportunity!

Aderholdt Scholarship

In 1985 the Claude Herbert Aderholdt Scholarship Fund was established by his family as a way of honoring Mr. Aderholdt's life-long involvement in education. The St James Finance Ministry Team, which oversees the Scholarship, is now accepting applications for the school year 2025-26.

This small financial assistance is for students in higher education, preferably college juniors and seniors or graduate students. However, money, if available, may be awarded to freshmen and sophomores at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

Because this year's funding is limited, the applicant must be a first time recipient, an active member in our congregation or a child or grandchild of an active member of the congregation. Financial need will be consideration in awarding a grant.

If you would like to apply, get an application [here](#) or contact church office

Deadline for the return of completed applications is January 30 by noon.

Anyone who is interested may contribute to Aderholdt Scholarship Fund. The awards are made from the interest that the fund generates and the principle is never touched.

Food Drive for Alms House



Thanks to your generosity and the help of Cub Scouts the Alms House will be able to help feed numerous families this Thanksgiving!

Cub Scouts and St. James worked together to collect food for ALMS House



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Child Advocacy Center, thank you for the 80 "Comfort Blankets" that you made and donated. We give each child that comes to the Center a special blanket to provide comfort and healing. Thank you for your willingness to provide very tangible items for the Children we serve in Cumberland County. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Your contribution will help the Child Advocacy Center's mission of providing a safe, child-friendly place for child victims of abuse.

Thank you again for your support of Cumberland County's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Webster".

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

History of the Red Kettle

In 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was distraught because so many poor individuals in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season, he resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner for the destitute and poverty-stricken. He only had one major hurdle to overcome -- funding the project.

Where would the money come from, he wondered. He lay awake nights, worrying, thinking, praying about how he could find the funds to fulfill his commitment of feeding 1,000 of the city's poorest individuals on Christmas Day. As he pondered the issue, his thoughts drifted back to his sailor days in Liverpool, England. He remembered how at Stage Landing, where the boats came in, there was a large, iron kettle called "Simpson's Pot" into which passers-by tossed a coin or two to help the poor.

The next day Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing at the foot of Market Street. Beside the pot, he placed a sign that read, "Keep the Pot Boiling." He soon had the money to see that the needy people were properly fed at Christmas.



Fellowship Opportunities



Fellowship opportunity for women!

Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, **December 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 - December 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

December 2nd at Noon

The Prime Timer group is designed as a fellowship opportunity for all members over 55.

We expect the Dulcimers from Goldsboro to start our season off with their beautiful entertainment.

Join us Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025 for our pot luck luncheon, and good fellowship.





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 - (December 9)
- 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

12/07Jane Boelke
 12/14 Nathan Stockham
 12/21Ruth Ann Crecelius
 12/24 3pmScott Marosek
 12/24 10pmJane Boelke
 12/28 Lindsey Smith

Lectors

12/07 Jim Wright
 12/14 Georgette Miller-Rybar
 12/21Gary Crecelius
 12/24 3pm Beverly Beale
 12/24 10pm Rick Black
 12/28Erin Smith

Communion Assistant

12/07 Tonie Neal
 12/14Sue Rink
 12/21Paula Burns
 12/24 3pm Nancy Oliver
 12/24 10pmDave Runkle
 12/28Jacky Hummel

Ushers

12/07Teri Bumphrey, Lindsey Smith
 12/14 Tonie Neal, James Peterson
 12/21 Agnes Rybar, Georgette Miller
 12/24 3pm Edward Samuelian,
 Avery Walker
 12/24 10pmGary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
 12/28Teri Bumphrey, Lindsey Smith

Acolytes

12/07 Angelus VanDervoort
 12/14 Victoria Orellano
 12/21 Willow Linkous
 12/24 3pm Ricky VanPelt
 12/24 10pmHannah Rea
 12/28Gianna Orellano

Greeters

12/07Sue Rink
 12/14Nancy Oliver
 12/21 Erika & Glenn Stockwell
 12/24 3pm Teri Bumphrey
 12/24 10pm Leighann Combs
 12/28 Kathy Brown

Rover

12/07 Todd Burns
 12/14 Dave Runkle
 12/21Verena & Christopher Min
 12/24 3pm Tom Liedig
 12/24 10pm Todd burns
 12/28 Dave Runkle

Nursery

12/07 Verena Min, Valerie Brewer
 12/14 Amber Habermehl, Tonie Neal
 12/21Sue Rink, Patsy Linkous
 12/24 3pm n/a
 12/24 10pm n/a
 12/28 Sue Rink, Jennifer Linkous

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
- ◇ 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
- Hochang Min
- Alex Habermehl



12/03	Maddy Gregory
12/04	Quill Hoffman
12/08	Bill Vittoe
12/09	Hilde Hewins
12/10	Carly Burks
12/12	Paula Burns
12/13	Tom Liedig
12/16	John Frinak
12/16	Hannah Rea
12/16	Elliott Gregory
12/17	Ben Burt
12/18	Jacob Rea
12/18	Jean Mott
12/18	Delores Schiebe
12/19	Rhonna Wilson
12/21	Dale Fish
12/26	Marcia Katt
12/29	Marjorie Hendrix



Anniversaries

12/11	Susan & Donald Wilkinson
12/19	Savanna & Edward Samuelian
12/20	Tonie Neal & James Peterson
12/27	Gayle & John Frinak
12/30	Paula & Todd Burns

**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

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