

# The Messenger

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

JOYFULLY  
**Connecting**  
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



**February 2026**  
Volume 42, Issue 2

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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*Lent is a 40-day Christian season of spiritual preparation for Easter, symbolizing Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness, focusing on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (charity) as acts of repentance and self-discipline, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Thursday.*

*Lent is not about self-improvement, but rather a time to make room for God's work, acknowledging human frailty while preparing for the joy of Easter.*

### **Make plans now!**

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper:

Feb 17th at 6pm



Ash Wednesday Service

Feb 18th at Noon and 7pm



Wednesdays during Lent (Feb 25- March 25)

12:00 - 12:45

Lunch (bring your own) and worship

5:45 pm

Fellowship Meal

6:30 - 7:15 pm

Lenten Vespers





The season of Lent is upon us once again. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is February 18<sup>th</sup>.

This 40-day time of meditation, contribution, and prayer is part of the Church calendar, and can help us grow in faith as we preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord (Easter Sunday.) Oftentimes we'll see Lent described as "a time of alms giving, fasting, and prayer." There's nothing wrong with that, but in recent years we've broadened the possibilities of strengthening faith during Lent.

My mind and heart wrestled with what my personal approach needs to be this year. Unrest, division, uncertainty, and skepticism seem to permeate all areas of our lives these days. In our effort to shut out or filter the daily barrage, it can be easy to ignore and block God from our view as well. I feel the need to improve my awareness of how God shows us and is present each day in my life, my community, and in the people I encounter.

I have often included statements in my preaching and teaching to try and encourage others to look for (and see) how the Spirit is at work around us. While God's Spirit does not need our involvement nor permission nor awareness in order to be at work in the world, part of Jesus's call to each of us to "follow me" involves being aware of the many ways and places in which God is present and active. So I will have to be more present in the daily "muck and mire" in order to look for (and see) the work of the Spirit.

I'll share with you what I see during my "Lenten Spirit-awareness journey".

Maybe you'll join me on a journey of your own. I look forward to our conversations and times of sharing.

Peace on the journey!

Pastor John

## Youth to LYO ...



Registration has now closed for NC Synod's annual Youth Event - LYO.

On Friday, February 27 - Sunday, March 1, seven youth from St James will join with several hundred other NC Youth in Greensboro.

Hannah Rea, Riley Greeno\*, Aaron Thomas, Gabriel Thomas, Layton McManus\*, Johannes Min, and Nate Stockham (along with two adult leaders) will celebrate in Word, worship, study, fellowship, and fun times at LYO.

Please keep them in your prayers.

# A CHARITY EVENT FOR SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

## Sports & Entertainment Memorabilia Sale

Demon Deacons Ford Davis  
Blue Devils Smith Krzyzewski  
Tar Heels Sampson  
LT Hill Bogues

Babe Ruth Yankees Roger Maris Mickey Mantle  
Yogi Berra Roberto Clemente Local baseball

**Jeff Allen** has been fascinated with memorabilia of sports, movies, music, local history, etc. as long as he can remember – which covers a lot of ground after 81 years. His small Haymount apartment is stuffed with all kinds of memorabilia from baseball (think Babe Ruth!), to sports magazines and newspapers (think basketball and football at Carolina, Duke, or other ACC schools), to posters and record albums (how about ELVIS or jazz?), and more than can be listed in one paragraph.

While he loves to tell the stories and show the collectibles, he appreciates opportunities to help others. Instead of hanging on to “the stuff”, Allen is now determined to create value for “the stuff” and help others. It’s something it’s something Allen has done a lot of over the years. Often, the donations have gone to causes dear to Allen’s heart – helping the hungry and the homeless.

He’s holding **a charity event for Second Harvest Food Bank** to help fight hunger in the area. Allen is partnering with St. James Lutheran Church for a one-day sale of of memorabilia. ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK.

*More details about particular memorabilia will be released in the coming weeks.*

**Sat., March 7, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**St. James Lutheran Church**

Volunteers are needed for this ministry event.  
Contact the church office or Pr. John.

### Introducing 2026 Congregation Officers



President –  
Rick Boelke



Vice President –  
Avery Walker



Secretary –  
Rick Black

### Congratulations Graduate!



Adam Wold is a former member of St. James, and eldest son of William Wold and Aurore Wold. He recently graduated from UNC Asheville with a degree in Chemistry.

He is applying to PhD programs and will be working on synthetic (carbon-based) photovoltaics as a lab tech at Asheville next summer.



## Fellowship Opportunities



### Fellowship opportunity for women!

Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, February 12 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 - February 4

*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

**February 3 at Noon**

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



December 30, 2025

The Rev. John P. Locke  
St. James Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 53276  
Fayetteville, NC 28305-3276

Dear Pastor Locke and Congregation:

Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) greatly appreciates the legacy gift from the estate of Theda Johnson Suggs. This gift allows us to extend hope and healing to others.

Last year, LSC cared for over 6,400 people through a variety of programs and services. Ensuring older adults have access to vibrant senior living and health care communities, protecting children from abuse and neglect, assisting those with disabilities to reach their highest potential, and welcoming refugees to become new Americans are just a few ways we are working to strengthen local neighborhoods and communities.

We are grateful for your assistance helping Theda Johnson Suggs make this estate gift to LSC. Thank you for partnering with us in this important work.

Yours in Christ,



Ted W. Goins, Jr.  
President

A handwritten note in blue ink that says "Thank you!!!" with three exclamation points.

P.S. For your gift records, LSC acknowledges a gift in the amount of \$5,000.00 on December 17, 2025, to be used where needed most. IRS regulations require us to confirm that no goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

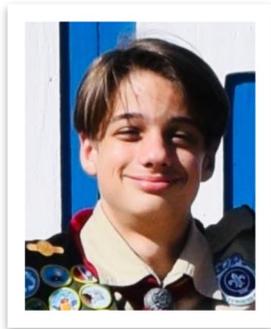
### Ian Gibson's Eagle Scout Project

For my eagle scout service project I will be expanding the prayer garden on the lawn behind the fellowship Hall. The project includes a firepit area for congregation events and replacing the fencing adjacent to the prayer garden. I will need to purchase the firepit and the brick aggregate ground cover. The cost of this project is projected to be around \$1000.

Donations to support this project would be greatly appreciated.

Please make donations to St James Lutheran Church by March 1 with "Ian Gibson's Eagle Project" in the description line.

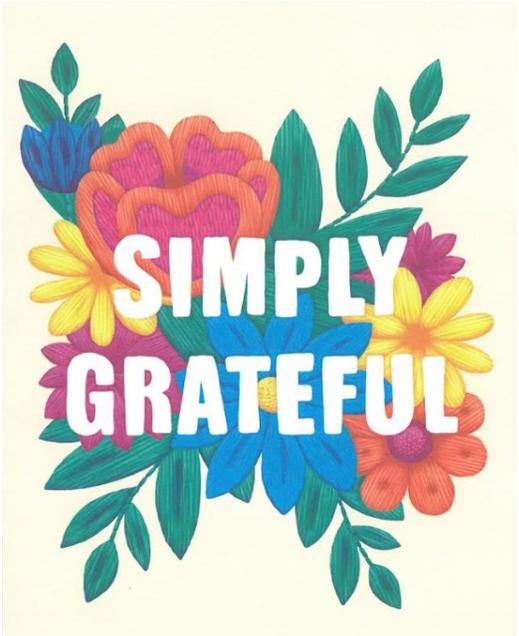
I hope to complete this project by April 2026.  
Thank you!  
Ian Gibson



**Thank you Notes our Quilters have received**

Dear Friends,  
 Your generosity is  
 very much appreciated!  
 Your donation during  
 Giving Tues will help  
 the quilt continue  
 creating quilts for  
 the babies in the NICU  
 and the veterans at  
 the VA hospital here  
 in Fayetteville. In  
 2025 we donated over  
 400 quilts to the NICU  
 and over 100 to the VA  
 hospital.  
 Thank you so much!  
 Amy Allison

Tarheel Quilters  
 P.O. Box 36253  
 Fayetteville, NC  
 28303



Peter K. Jones Morning Star Special  
 Care Unit  
 Ellen merrry christmas  
 Callen - windy  
 Staff & Residents  
 Thank you all for  
 your hard work &  
 Kindness!!  
 Sara Brinson Cathy Sheridan  
 Tom Lewis The Pentons  
 Donna

Morning Star SCU  
 GREENSBORO NC 270  
 3017 DUNSTON  
 18 DEC 2025 PM 3 L  
 Eastover, NC 28312

## Social Ministry Outreach for February

Pampering, hugs and Love!!!

There are several special days in February. Almost everyone is familiar with Valentine’s Day.

It’s a great time to pamper someone, give appropriate hugs and to show love.

Let’s join others. By collecting *Pampers, Huggies and Luvs* disposable diapers for our local Department of Social Services (DSS) Foster Care program.

Also disposable baby wipes, children’s socks and underwear

Do you know sometimes it is necessary for a baby to go into foster care when they leave the hospital? Or there are times when a child is removed from the home with only what they are wearing. It does happen! It is a big help to the “new” family to have a few supplies until they are able to make a purchase. We all know diapers should be changed often.



There have been times when a child has a supervised visit with a parent and needs a diaper change. It is a big help if some are available at DSS. All sizes are needed. Any brand is welcome.



The babies that are in DSS care are all special. We should all want them pampered and receive hugs.

Let’s help THEM out.

Please place in clear tub in the gathering area.





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 - (February 10)**

**- 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**

2/01 ..... Jane Boelke  
2/08 ..... Lindsey Smith  
2/15 ..... Jacky Hummel  
2/22 ..... Nathan Stockham

**Lectors**

2/01 ..... Holden & Daniel Linkous  
2/08 ..... Mathew Shealey  
2/15 ..... Anna Lisa Johannessen  
2/22 ..... Rick Boelke

**Communion Assistant**

2/01 ..... Henry Orellano  
2/08 ..... Tonie Neal  
2/15 ..... Sue Rink  
2/22 ..... Paula Burns

**Ushers**

2/01 ..... Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius  
2/08 ..... Teri Bumphrey, Erin Smith  
2/15 ..... Ed Samuelian, Avery Walker  
2/22 ..... Tonie Neal, Joan Eissinger

**Acolytes**

2/01 ..... Victoria Orellano  
2/08 ..... Willow Linkous  
2/15 ..... Ricky VanPelt  
2/22 ..... Gabriel Thomas

**Greeters**

2/01 ..... Sharon VanPelt  
2/08 ..... Erika Stockwell  
2/15 ..... Sue Rink  
2/22 ..... Kathy Brown

**Rover**

2/01 ..... Todd Burns  
2/08 ..... Dave Runkle  
2/15 ..... Verena & Christopher Min  
2/22 ..... Ed Samuelian

**Nursery**

2/01 ..... Erika Stockwell, Jennifer Linkous  
2/08 ..... Sue Rink, Kathy Brown  
2/15 ..... Amber Habermehl, Valerie Brewer  
2/22 ..... Verena Min, Kathleen Heinrich

# 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:

- ◇ Angel Davis
- ◇ John Tucker
- ◇ Beth Sessoms
- ◇ Thomas Oliver
- ◇ Mark & Ann Mabe
- ◇ Brenda Tinney
- ◇ Ashley Littman
- ◇ Joseph San Miguel
- ◇ David Herring
- ◇ James Peterson, Jr.
- ◇ Claudia Joyner

### Military Members

(\* *Deployed*)

- Earl Stockham
- Jessie Hewins
- Joshua Trogdon
- Darian Dix
- Bella Fish
- Dan Gibson
- Hochang Min
- Alex Habermehl
- Robert James
- Matthew Porter



- 2/01 Jesse Habermehl
- 2/04 Allan Winter
- 2/07 James Peterson
- 2/14 Ron Gearing
- 2/16 Henry Orellano
- 2/17 Christopher Min
- 2/19 Ruth Ann Crecelius
- 2/20 Sarah Parrish

### Anniversaries

- 2/07 Rhonna & Joel Wilson
- 2/10 Laura & Earl Stockham
- 2/14 David & Donna Runkle
- 2/21 Riley & Caitlin Broding
- 2/25 Heather & Jason VanDervoort



**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



[www.saintjamesfay.org](http://www.saintjamesfay.org)

**Address Service Requested**