

Saint James Lutheran Church

May 31, 2026

The Holy Trinity



The Rev. John Locke

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Musician: Alyssa Hall

Worship Leaders		
	May 31 The Holy Trinity	June 7 Second Sunday after Pentecost
Assisting Minister	Lindsey Smith	Jane Boelke
Lector	Anna Lisa Johannessen	Diana Vittoe
Communion Assistant	Dave Runkle	Jacky Hummel
Ushers	Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius	Teri Bumphrey, Lindsey Smith
Greeter	Kathy Brown	Barbara Azzarelli
Acolyte	Aaron Thomas	Gianna Orellano
Rover	Todd Burns	Dave Runkle
Worship Nursery	Tonie Neal, Amber Habermehl	Sue Rink, Patsy Linkous

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME and MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTARY

We stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People

ELW 665

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We sit.

WORD

*The Holy Trinity is the Christian belief that one God exists eternally as three distinct Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who are co-equal, co-eternal, and of the same divine essence. **God is one in essence but three in person.** This means that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each fully God, sharing the same divine nature, yet they are distinct from one another in their relationships and roles.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Following Children's Time, younger children are invited to go downstairs for an adult supervised activity time. They will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of The Day.

FIRST READING Genesis 1:1—2:4a

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 8

¹ O Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
² **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**
³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
⁴ **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**
⁵ Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and hon-or you crown them.
⁶ **You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**
⁷ all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,
⁸ **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**
⁹ O Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

[Paul writes:] ¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

We stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Setting 8)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor John

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come Join The Dance of Trinity* ELW 412

NICENE CREED

We join with the Great Communion of Saints in confessing our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES RECOGNITION

We congratulate Victoria Orellano, Aaron Thomas and Nate Stockham on their High School graduation and wish them the best on their future endeavors.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Names of those on the congregation's prayer list are listed in the back of the bulletin)

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of God be with you always.
And also with you.

We share this peace as a sign of our baptismal unity as children of God. The “exchange of peace” (also commonly called “sharing the peace” or “passing the peace”) is an act of reconciliation that serves as a transition point between the Word and Meal portions of the liturgy.

We sit.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.



Support of the ministries of St. James, as well as the wider church, is appreciated. To donate with cash or check use an envelope from the back of the pew or scan the QR code to donate digitally. Thank you for your generosity.



ANTHEM *Holy, Holy, Holy*

We stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

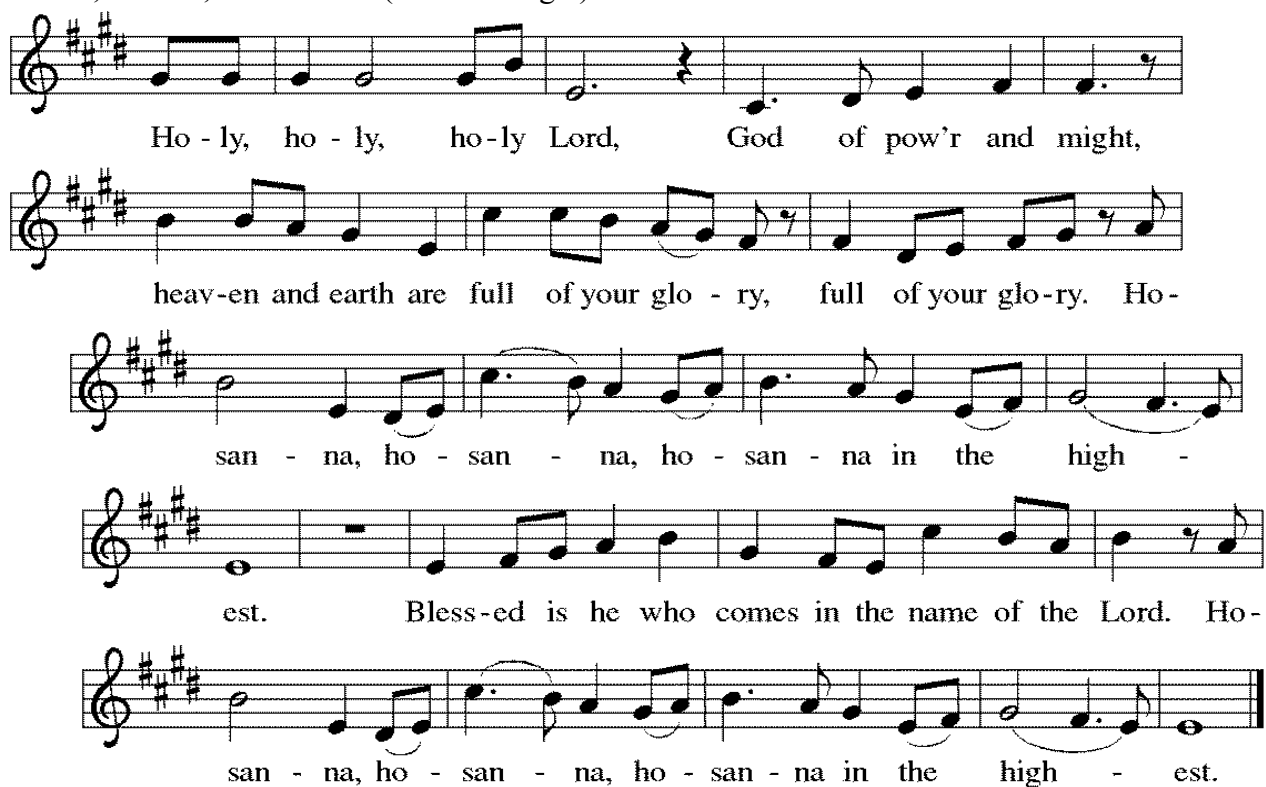
DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God.
You reveal your glory
as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God,
ever to be adored in your eternal glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW setting 8)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional Version)*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast!

Thanks be to God.

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available for those who prefer. We will distribute bread and wine by individual cup. Children and others not communing may fold arms across their chest, and they will receive a blessing from the communion minister.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

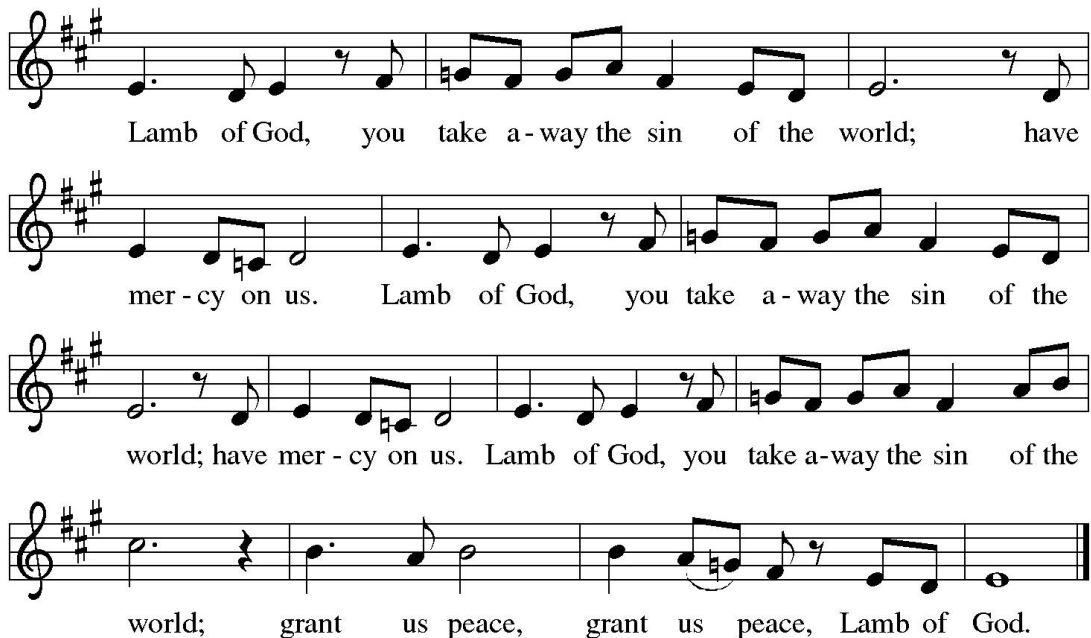
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond **Amen.***

COMMUNION SONGS

Lamb of God (Setting 8)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

We remain seated.

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

We stand.

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Holy, Holy, Holy* LBW 165

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

May 31, 2026

The list in the weekly bulletin is intended to be for persons in immediate crisis. Generally, those names will be moved to the newsletter after 3 weeks. The newsletter has our long-term prayer list which is updated as you tell us.

Members · Beth Sessoms · Stella San Miguel · Larry Schiebe · Philip Williams
· Anna Lena Andersen · Brenda Killett · Betty Kern · Cayla Chaplin

Friends & Family

· Diane Stultz · Peter Lundell · Gregg Nazario · Sandy Pangle · Stasha · Alan Carlson · Katie Maxwell
· Darcey Beale · Charlotte Choice and family · Sara Brown · Mindy Quinby · Morgen Jensen
· Jason VanDervoort · Pat Dwyer · Bob Matlack · Yvonne Wheeler · Buddy Prevatte

People at Home or in Care facilities: · Charlotte Davis · Brenda Killett · Carolyn Uchtorff

Our military members (*deployed)

· Earl Stockham · Dan Gibson · Joshua Trogdon* · Bella Fish · Hochang Min · Alex Habermehl
· Robert James · Matthew Porter* · Derek Carlson · Howard Hogan* · Justyce Crecelius*

Join our friends at Westminster Presbyterian for their Youth Conference!

<https://www.wpcfayetteville.org/youthconference>

WESTMINSTER
**Youth
Conference**

FREE & LOCAL
CONFERENCE

DESIGNED FOR MIDDLE &
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

JUNE 10-12
JUNE 10-12
JUNE 10-12

INFORMATION

when:

June 10-12
from 5-9pm

who:

Middle & High
School Youth

where:

Westminster
Presbyterian Church -
Fayetteville NC

cost:



Registration

Scan the QR Code to
Register Your Group!



**REGISTRATION
CLOSES MAY 31**

Check out ALL things Westminster
Youth Conference to include Keynote
Speaker, FAQs, Adult Participants
and more on our website.

www.wpcfayetteville.org/youthconference

Workshops: Yoga - Baking - Drama - Games - Crafts - Recreation

Schedule:

5:00 pm - Energizers & Music (Keynote Speaker)
5:45 pm - Dinner
6:30 pm - Break into Small Groups (Worship #1)
7:15 pm - Workshop # 2
8:00 pm - Small Group Reflection
8:30 pm - Closing

Ministry at St. James ... May 31 - June 7, 2026

- Sun. May 31** *The Holy Trinity*
 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Sunday School)
 10:00 am Worship
 11:30 am Choir Practice
- Mon. June 1** 9:00 am Quilting Ministry Team (Annex)
- Tue. June 2** 12:00 pm Prime Timers Luncheon
 7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747 Meeting
 7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom
- Wed. June 3** 5:30 pm Theology on Tap (Men's fellowship on back lawn)
- Sun. June 7** *Second Sunday after Pentecost*
 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Sunday School for adults only)
 10:00 am Worship
 11:30 am Choir Practice
 11:30 am Introduction to St. James and being Lutheran (with Pastor John)



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

Esther & Ruth

Join us this summer as we journey through the stories of two remarkable women of the Bible — Esther and Ruth.

Courage in uncertain times

God's providence and faithfulness

Identity, purpose, and redemption

Friendship, loyalty, and hope

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM

ROOM 127

LIGHT SNACKS & FELLOWSHIP

"All because someone was willing to say yes... for such a time as this."

SUMMER SCHEDULE

ESTHER SERIES

May 24 – June 21

May 24 Esther Overview

May 31 The Making of a Queen

June 7 For Such a Time as This

June 14 Parades and Parties

June 21 Fighting and Feasting

June 28 **St. James Anniversary Celebration!!**

July 5 & 12 No Sunday School
(I'll be in Greece)

July 19 & 26 No Sunday School

2ND SUMMER SERIES

Aug 2 – Aug 30
The Story of Ruth – A Plentiful Harvest

Numerous donations have been made to help offset the cost of replacement and installation of the fellowship HVAC system. Thanks be to God for the generosity that has been expressed. So far, St. James has been blessed with \$19,281.41 in donations, approximately half of the total cost.



If you would like to make a contribution, indicate HVAC on the check memo line, or on the outside of an offering envelope. The online giving option of the website has an HVAC selection to use.



Interested in formal membership in St. James?



Pastor John invites you to a time of conversation: "Introduction to St. James and being Lutheran", June 7th in the Fellowship Hall following worship (Lunch to be provided!) [RSVP to the office by June 3rd!](#)



Saint James is celebrating its 90th anniversary on June 28th.

We need your stories and photographs!

Please record your retelling of fond memories on your phone and email it to or contact Rick Boelke (612-386-0293) and he'll be glad to help! We will have a video reel on June 28th for us all to enjoy.