

Saint James Lutheran Church

June 28, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



The Rev. John Locke

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We Welcome The Rev. Emily Hartner, Bishop of the NC Synod – ELCA

Musician: Alyssa Hall

Worship Leaders		
	June 28 5th Sunday after Pentecost	July 5 6th Sunday after Pentecost
Assisting Minister	Scott Marosek	Ruth Ann Creelius
Lector	Rick Black	Kathy Brown
Communion Assistant	Henry Orellano	Tonie Neal
Ushers	Hannah Rea, Joanie Eissinger	John & Gayle Frinak
Greeter	Linda Stellfox	John & Gayle Frinak
Acolyte	Henry Orellano, Jr.	Victoria Orellano
Rover	Edward Samuelian	Tom Liedig
Worship Nursery	Erika Stockwell, Kathy Brown	Tonie Neal, Sue Rink

GATHERING

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

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Holy Manna* Handbell Choir

We stand.

A CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based on Psalm 89 for a 90th Anniversary Celebration)*

We gather today with gratitude and praise. For ninety years, God has gathered, called, and sustained St. James congregation.

We sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever.

Day after day, year after year, decade after decade, God has remained faithful.

We proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

Through seasons of joy and times of abundance,
through days of challenges and periods of uncertainty,
God has journeyed with this congregation.

Your faithfulness surrounds us, O Lord. The heavens praise your wonders.

God's covenant love does not fail. God's mercy is new every morning.

Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound of your praise.

We come to worship the One God who has led this community of faith with grace and mercy for ninety years and who still calls us to serve with love and mercy today.

We rejoice in the name of the Lord all day long. Alleluia!

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 steadfast love endures forever,
whose faithfulness reaches to every generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy and grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silence for reflection.

Gracious and faithful God,

We praise you for your steadfast love that has sustained this congregation for ninety years and has carried your people through every season.

Yet we confess that we have not always trusted your faithfulness.

**We have held tightly to fear instead of hope, to comfort instead of courage,
and to our own plans instead of your call.**

**We confess the ways we have failed to love our neighbors, ignored opportunities to serve,
or forgotten the generations who came before us and those who will follow after us.**

Forgive us for the times we have looked only backward with nostalgia or only inward with concern, rather than outward toward your mission.

Renew us by your Spirit. Give us grateful hearts for the past, faithful hearts for the present, and hopeful hearts for the future; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: God says, “My steadfast love I will keep forever.”
In Jesus Christ, God has already acted with mercy toward us.
Through his life, death, and resurrection, our sins are forgiven, and we are made new.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

GATHERING HYMN *All Are Welcome* ELW 641

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.

O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and make our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We sit.

WORD

CHILDREN’S TIME

Bishop Emily

Following Children’s Time, younger children (preK-2nd grade) are invited to go downstairs for an adult supervised activity time. They will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of The Day. Please see note on back cover for Nursery info.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 28:5-9

⁵ The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord, ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord and all the exiles. ⁷ But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.”

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

PSALM Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

- ¹ Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- ² **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**
- ³ “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- ⁴ **‘I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.’ ”**
- ¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the festal shout!
They walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.
- ¹⁶ **They rejoice daily in your name;
they are jubilant in your righteousness.**
- ¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength,
and by your favor our might is exalted.
- ¹⁸ **Truly, our shield belongs to the Lord;
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

*This Psalm serves as the basis
for today's Call To Worship and
Confession-Forgiveness.*

*It will not be read, but is
included here for study and
meditation.*

SECOND READING Romans 6:12-23

¹² Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 10:40-42

Jesus said to the twelve: ⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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

We sit.

SERMON

Bishop Emily Hartner

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *What A Fellowship, What A Joy Divine* ELW 774

APOSTLES CREED

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

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Each petition 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 *Majesty*

Adult Choir

Words/music: Jack Hayford; Arrangement: Jack Schrader

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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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.

We sit.

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.

Just As I Am Without One Plea ELW 592

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus ELW 802

We stand.

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.

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN *To Be Your Presence* ELW 546

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Saint James' 90th anniversary!

If you would like to give the altar flowers on a Sunday morning and have your dedication printed in the bulletin, contact the office with your date and dedication (saintjameslutheran@gmail.com / 910-484-8052)

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

June 28, 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 · Larry Schiebe · Philip Williams · Anna Lena Andersen · Brenda Killett
· Betty Kern · Cayla Chaplin · Valerie Brewer

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 · 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* · Zach Fuhr



Ministry at St. James ... June 28 – July 5, 2026

Sun. June 28

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Sunday School for adults only)
10:00 am Worship (Anniversary Celebration: Bishop Emily Hartner preaching)
Reception following worship

Mon. June 29

9:00 am Quilting Ministry Team (Annex)

Tue. June 30

7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747 Meeting
7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom

Wed. July 1

5:30 pm Theology on Tap (Men's Fellowship on the back lawn)
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Fri. July 3

Office closed for Independence Day

Sun. July 5

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost / U.S. Semiquincentennial

We'll sing various hymns that have been popular in the Church during America's history, and learn some background about them as well. How has the church impacted the development of the country, and how has the growth of the country influenced the church?

9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Men's class only)
10:00 am Worship

YOUTH (6TH-12TH GRADE) who plan to go on the annual one-day beach trip, please notify the church office, Pr. John, or Jennifer or Daniel Linkous. We need to make transportation plans this week. Also, we have invited youth from Westminster Presbyterian to go with us!!

THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!

Many people have given time and energy to make today's anniversary celebration an extraordinary event. Folks have prepared food, and created a wonderful environment to enjoy fellowship. Tables have been moved, pews and furniture have been rearranged so there will be more seating available. The choirs invested several hours in rehearsal. A video of history has been developed. Children and youth created welcome chalk "signage" for our bishop and all the worshipers. Special items have been brought out of the archives for display. And I am sure I have overlooked some things. Thanks to everyone who has helped for your faithful effort to celebrate God's love for this particular church of God.

To celebrate our 90th anniversary, a small snippet of our history will be featured in the bulletin each week.

In late 1935 and into early 1936 Lutheran services were held at the YMCA while waiting for approval from the Mission Committee of the synod to establish a mission congregation.

On June 28, 1936 St. James Lutheran Church was officially organized as a mission congregation in the United Evangelical Lutheran Synod of North Carolina. There were 47 charter members, and a baptized membership of 60. A church council was elected and a picnic lunch was served by the ladies of the congregation. On this day the fellowship committee was born, and the ladies of the church are still serving today!



Name Tags – We have name tags in the Gathering Space, and you are encouraged to wear yours. It will help us put a name with the new faces on Sunday morning. If you don't have one and would like one, leave a note on the attendance pad for Michelle in the office.

Make sure you pick up your copy of “Week 2 Week” devotions next to the bulletins at the entrance of the sanctuary!

WEEK 2 WEEK
 Week of June 21 - 27, 2024 4th Sunday after Pentecost

FOCUS VERSE:
 "And even the hairs of your head are all counted." Matthew 10:29

SESSION NOTES:
 What stood out to you? What surprised you? (Share phrases, references, etc.) What questions do you still have? (List them down to explore together.)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT by Rev. John Linko
 So, you're a hair (and a very good one). I mean, you're even though I like to brush and trim regularly. I'm kidding. No, the average human body has between 100 and 150,000 hairs. What makes the hair fall or stay on? It's not the weather or chemicals and fragrances. It's not the hair brush or the shampoo. It's not the comb, wash, or dry routine. It's not the hair care products you use every day or week. The average hair strand will live for between 2-7 years. So, here's a nice little math. Average head: 125,000 hairs. If one hair lives 5-7 years, and the number of hairs that are replaced with the same number, that's a turnover of about 25,000 hairs per year, or one (1) per day, or 2.5 an hour!

CONSIDER:
 What part of your life changes 7 or 7 times per hour? Perhaps Matthew is telling us that God knows the number of hairs on our head at any given moment – very exact and detailed info. Does that affect our understanding of how God cares for and loves us?

BEYOND SUNDAY:
 Monday: Monday 7:11 (Show us someone from the Bible who is most MEMORABLE) come for you, in this passage, of the Bible?
 Tuesday: Revelation 2:11 (John's vision encourages Sarah)
 Wednesday: Matthew 10:7 (The Kingdom of Heaven is near)
 Thursday: Psalm 10:4 (God's covenant to David)
 Friday: Isaiah 21:14 (The Babylonian Captivity Foretold)
 Saturday: Luke 1:3-4 (Jesus was the other Bethlehem)

BEFORE SUNDAY READINGS:
 Monday: _____
 Tuesday: _____
 Wednesday: _____
 Thursday: _____
 Friday: _____
 Saturday: _____

Read Ahead: June 28, 2024 - 1st Sunday after Pentecost (Psalm 84)
 Genesis 22:1-18, Psalm 110:1-18, Romans 1:1-16, Matthew 10:1-42



Nursery help:

We are looking for adults to help in the nursery and with the older kids (2nd grade and up) during the sermon. The kids (rising 2nd grade and older) will remain in the sanctuary until school starts to give Jacky Hummel a chance to recharge for the start of the school year. Contact the office if interested! saintjameslutheran@gmail.com 910-484-8052