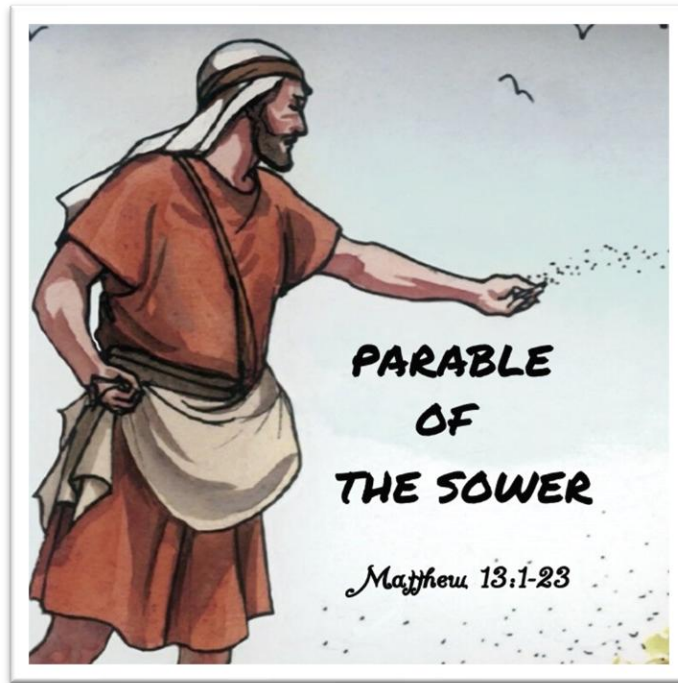


# Saint James Lutheran Church

July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



## The Rev. John Locke

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Musician: Alyssa Hall

<b>Worship Leaders</b>		
	<b>July 12 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>July 19 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>
Assisting Minister	Nathan Stockham	Lindsey Smith
Lector	Rick Black	Jane Boelke
Communion Assistant	Jacky Hummel	Sue Rink
Ushers	James Peterson, Tonie Neal	Hannah Rea, Joan Eissinger
Greeter	Patsy Linkous	Sue Rink
Acolyte	Gabriel Thomas	Willow Linkous
Rover	Dave Runkle	Todd Burns
Worship Nursery	Erika Stockwell, Jennifer Linkous	Sue Rink, Patsy Linkous

## GATHERING

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

### PRELUDE

### WORDS OF WELCOME

*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** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* ELW 533

### 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S TIME

#### FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,  
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

#### PSALM Psalm 65:1-13

<sup>1</sup> You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be fulfilled.  
<sup>2</sup> **To you, the one who answers prayer,  
to you all flesh shall come.**  
<sup>3</sup> Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you blot out our transgressions.  
<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!  
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**  
<sup>5</sup> Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,  
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.  
<sup>6</sup> **You make firm the mountains by your power;  
you are girded about with might.**

- <sup>7</sup> You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
- <sup>8</sup> **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**
- <sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.  
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**
- <sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- <sup>12</sup> **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.**
- <sup>13</sup> May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.

**SECOND READING          Romans 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

*We stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Setting 8)**



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

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

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!"

<sup>18</sup> "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

Pastor John

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil* ELW 512

## 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 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.



**OFFERING SONG** *Bringing in the Sheaves* Adult Choir

*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

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.

### 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!

*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.

*What Is This Place?* ELW 524

Instrumental

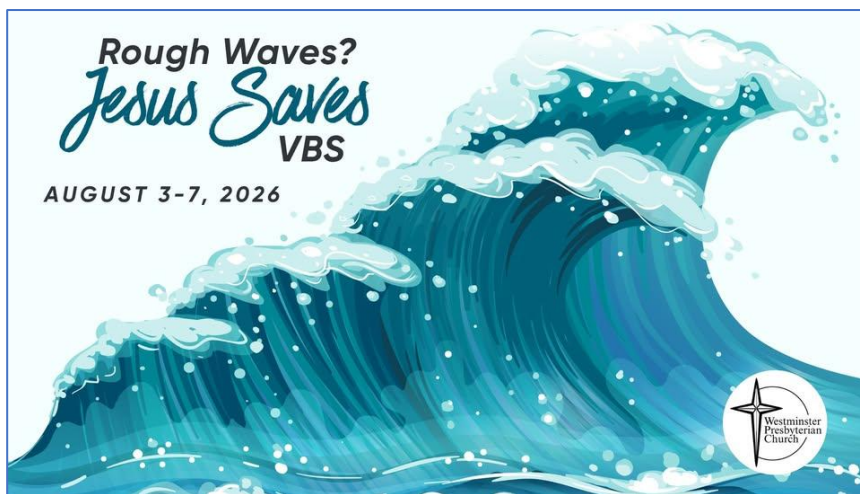


## Ministry at St. James ... July 12 - 19, 2026

<b>Sun. July 12</b>	<b><i>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</i></b> 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Men's class only) 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Congregation Council
<b>Mon. July 13</b>	9:00 am Quilting Ministry Team (Annex) 10:00 am Finance Ministry Team (Office meeting room)
<b>Tue. July 14</b>	6:00 pm Property Ministry Team (Office meeting room) 7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747 Meeting 7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom
<b>Wed. July 15</b>	8:15 am Youth Beach Trip Gathering in parking lot 8:30 am Youth Trip departure
<b>Sat. July 18</b>	7:30 am Honeycutt Park Clean up (352 Devers Street) 8:30 am Property Work Day (on site)
<b>Sun. July 19</b>	<b><i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i></b> 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Men's class only) 10:00 am Worship



**We are invited to Westminster Presbyterian's Vacation Bible School!**



**8:30 am – 12:15 pm**  
**2505 Village Drive, Fayetteville**

**Register at [saintjamesfay.org](http://saintjamesfay.org)**

## Social Ministry Outreach of the Month

"Christmas in July" is the theme of our *Item of the Month*, as we offer a "gift to a child." The Kindergarten and First Grade classes of Alma O. Easom School will need a variety of supplies when school begins, and the social ministry team has felt The Spirit's nudging us to help.

There are two ways to remember what item you want to help supply:

One is a tag from The Angel Christmas Tree (we usually see those in the gathering space in December). There are angel-shaped tags on the tree, with a possible donation idea written on it for you. Take one, or more, tags. Keep the paper angel for your use. Then, put your name on the laminated angel, and drop it in the "angel" basket.

A second way to remember is take one of the lists of all items needed.

As you purchase your items, return them to the church and put them in the collection box(es). We will conclude the collection by Sunday, AUGUST 2.

*The school did not offer a list of clothing items, but no doubt new clothing items (underwear, socks, t-shirts) will be appreciated. Remember K-1 is the age range.*

Alma Easom Elementary School is in St. James' neighborhood. While the school is most visible on Fort Bragg Road, it actually faces Westlawn Ave. about 6 blocks from our front door. The school population also includes one of the city's largest low-income areas, causing Easom to be a Title 1 School. All 300 of the attending students receive free breakfast and lunch, due to home income. These students will have little with them on those first days of school in August. **Can they rely on St. James to provide a large portion of the supplies they will need? Please respond with a generous spirit!** We can help more than a hundred families have a good school year.



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

On September 16, 1936 a lot was purchased on the corner of Morganton Road and Dobbin Ave. The lot was 100 feet on Morganton Road and 200 feet deep. It was purchased from Dr. Seavy Highsmith for a sum of \$2,800.00. The lot was paid for equally by local Lutherans and the North Carolina Synod. The property was paid in full on the last day of 1936.



**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.

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### Nursery help:

We are looking for adults to help in the nursery and with the older kids (2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:saintjameslutheran@gmail.com) 910-484-8052