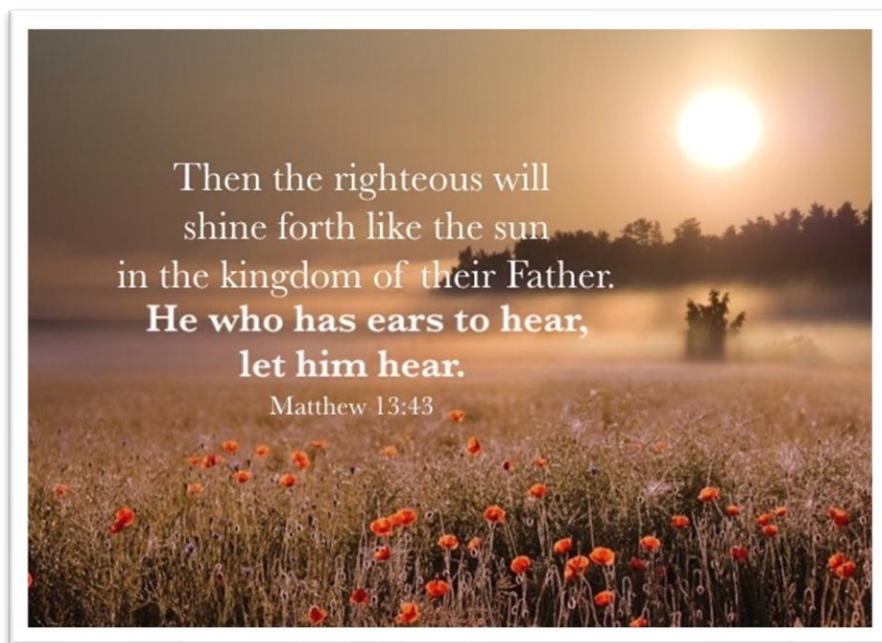


Saint James Lutheran Church

July 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



The Rev. John Locke

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PO Box 53276
Fayetteville, NC 28305

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910-484-8052 (office)
www.saintjamesfay.org

Musician: Alyssa Hall

Worship Leaders		
	July 19 8 th Sunday after Pentecost	July 26 9 th Sunday after Pentecost
Assisting Minister	Jacky Hummel	Jane Boelke
Lector	Jane Boelke	Rick Boelke
Communion Assistant	Sue Rink	Nancy Oliver
Ushers	Hannah Rea, Joan Eissinger	Sharon VanPelt, Ed Samuelian
Greeter	Sue Rink	Sonia Nazario
Acolyte	Willow Linkous	Aaron Thomas
Rover	Todd Burns	Johannes & Christopher Min
Worship Nursery	Sue Rink, Patsy Linkous	Amber & Verena Min

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 *Praise and Thanksgiving* ELW 689

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.

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

PSALM Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**
¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.
¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**
¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**
¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING**Romans 8:12-25**

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor John

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *For The Fruit of All Creation* ELW 679

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 *Praise Him, Praise Him* instrumental

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!
Thanks be to God!

We sit.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

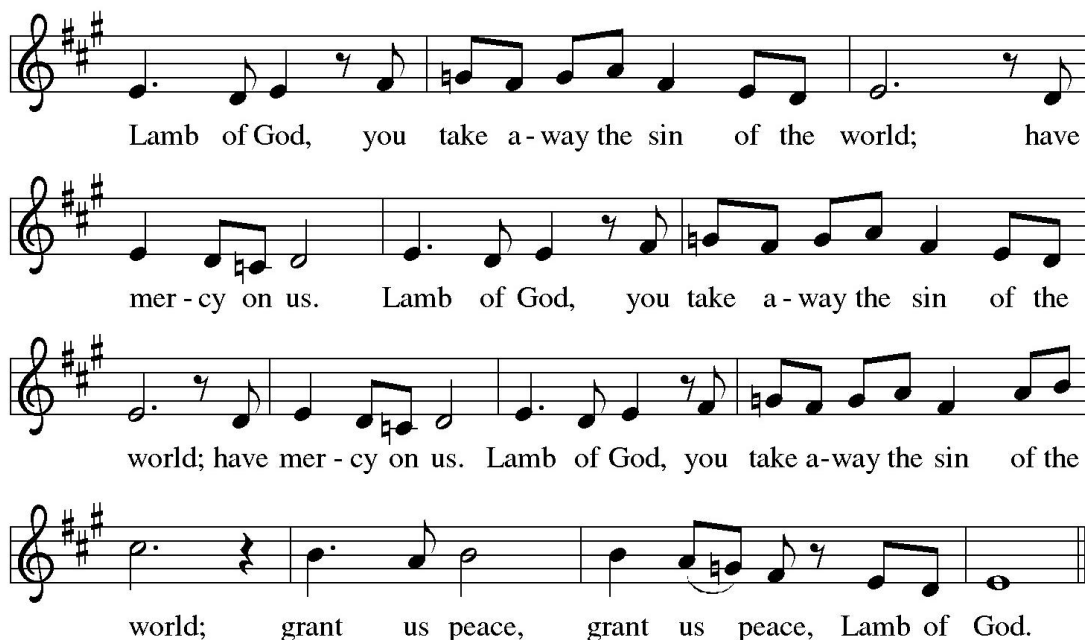
All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are 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.

Now The Feast and Celebration ELW 167

Shout To The Lord ELW 821

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 *Sing To The Lord of Harvest* ELW 694

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

July 19, 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 · Cayla Chaplin
 · Nikki Rettmann · The family of 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
· Bob Matlack · Yvonne Wheeler · Buddy Prevatte · Chuck Warren · Betty Beale · James Rose

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

Our military members (*deployed)

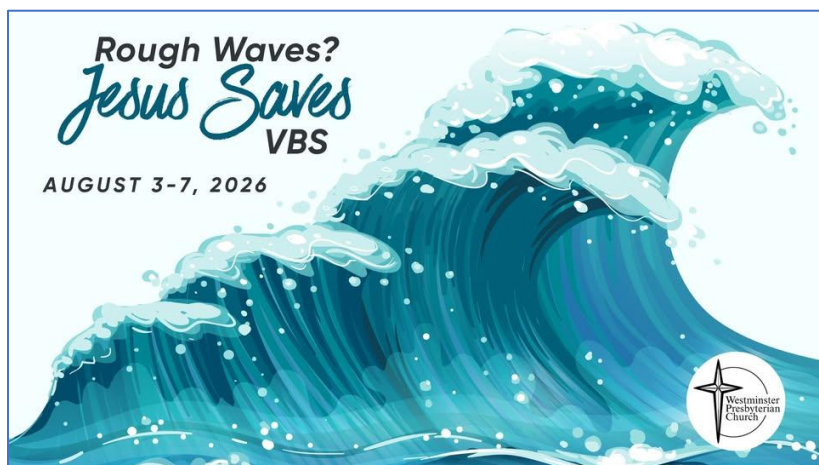
· Earl Stockham · Dan Gibson · Joshua Trogdon* · Bella Fish · Hochang Min · Alex Habermehl
· Robert James · Matthew Porter* · Derek Carlson · Howard Hogan* · Justyce Crecelius* · Zach Fuhr



Ministry at St. James ... July 19 - 27, 2026

Sun. July 19	<i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Men's class only) 10:00 am Worship
Mon. July 20	9:00 am Quilting Ministry Team (Annex)
Tue. July 21	7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747 Meeting 7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom
Sun. July 26	<i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Men's class only) 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm National Youth Gathering Info Session 5:00 pm Youth Water Games & Devotions
Mon. July 27	NO Quilting

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



8:30 am – 12:15 pm

2505 Village Drive, Fayetteville

Register at saintjamesfay.org



Our Monday morning Quilters will be on summer break July 27 and August 3.
There will be NO QUILTING those days.



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

A ground breaking service for the new church building was held on January 10 1937. Present were E. W. Wagoner, the building contractor, representatives of the NC Synod and the Mission committee of the Synod. Rev. Fisher conducted the ceremony with members of the building committee and other church members and friends in attendance.



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.

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



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.