

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



September 2026
Volume 42, Issue 9

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**Join us to for God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
September 13th after worship!**



God's work. Our hands." Sunday is the ELCA's annual day of service, which started in 2013.

St. James has been participating in a variety of ways over the years, as we take our worship into the world with acts of caring and service.

*"God's work. Our hands." is an annual event organized by the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**, designed to unite congregations and members in service projects that reflect Lutheran convictions that all life in Jesus flows from God's grace. The event emphasizes that **faith is expressed through action**, not just worship. Every act of service reflects the ELCA's belief that God's grace inspires daily acts of love and service.*

We will offer a sandwich lunch after worship and participate in various activities for all ages. See page 3 for more!



Bishop Emeritus Leonard Bolick will be our guest preacher October 4th!



As part of our 90th Anniversary Celebration we have invited former Bishop Leonard Bolick to preach at Saint James.

He was the Pastor for Saint James (August 1984- November 1986) and Bishop of the NC Synod February 2, 1997 – September 12, 2015.

"He has one more connection to St. James. It has to do with an event that occurred on August 21, 2005. Care to guess?"

Mark your calendar for this very special day!

We will have a luncheon after worship that day. BBQ and Fried Chicken with green beans, mac and cheese & sweet potato souffle. (We will have chicken nuggets for small children.). There will be an assortment of desserts and beverages. Cost per person is \$10. (Families with 3 or more, total cost \$30.) You can pay [here](#)

Reservations are required and limited to the first 90 responders.

We need the names of those coming along with ages for children under 12.

The reservation deadline is Sunday, September 27. [Sign up here](#) or at saintjamesfay.org



"I'm a Lutheran" Doug Bennett, head athletic trainer for the Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Club and member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Raleigh



In the summer "I'm a Lutheran" column from *Living Lutheran*, Bennett talks about his family's faith journey, his passion for supporting his athletes and his dedication to doing his best every day. [Read more](#) of his faith story.

"I'm a Lutheran because of grace. I trust in God's mercy, grace and love wholeheartedly."

God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 13th

"God's Work. Our Hands." is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) annual day of service, designed to celebrate the church's mission and engage members in acts of service within their communities.



We are planning the following activities after worship!



- "Operation Christmas Child" filling of shoe boxes

You are encouraged to bring items church by September 13th for God's Work. Our Hands Sunday.

However, we will still accept donations for the rest of the month.

They have many suggested items for the children which you can view on the table in the Gathering Space during the month of September!



- Greeting Cards made by younger children (up to 5th grade)
To go in "Operation Christmas Child" boxes



- Youth - 6-12th grade: Our first meeting of the school year. And we'll do it like Jesus!!! Around a table with a meal, building community, and serving and feeding others.

We'll make Celebration of Gratitude Bags for a few local first responder units! (Cookies, handmade cards, and prayer notes).



- Indoor and Outdoor Property Projects

It's Shoebox Time!



St. James Lutheran Church is collecting items for Operation Christmas Child for the whole month of September. Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By filling ordinary shoeboxes full of toys and other fun items, you can be part of giving boys and girls what may be their first gift ever! Local churches in more than 100 nations hand out these Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts at festive outreach events where the Gospel is presented in a child-friendly way.

Each box bursting with items such as a soccer ball, doll, or stuffed animal becomes a tangible expression of God's love to the child, their family, and their community. Many shoebox recipients also participate in our 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. We at St. James get to participate in this ministry.



On September 13, after the church service, we will meet in the fellowship hall, have lunch and then as part of the ***God's Work, Our Hands*** ministry, we will pack shoeboxes with donated items. Our goal is 50 shoeboxes.

There is a link to the list of suggested items following this article. Not every item goes into every box. But boxes should be full and exciting for the recipient child to open. So, your help is needed. There will be a container located at the entrance doors in the gathering

space each Sunday for you to place your contributions. Jane Boelke will be available to answer questions. Or you can call me: 651-636-3336.

If you wish to donate money, please make checks payable to St. James Lutheran Church and put "Shoeboxes" on the memo line. The donations are needed to cover the \$10 shipping and handling cost per box, as well as purchasing needed items.

Last of all, please pray for all the children who receive a shoebox, that they may learn about the God who loves them so much that He sent His son, Jesus, who is the best gift of all.

Thank you, Jane Boelke



Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child".

They have many suggested items for the children which you can view [here](#) or on the table in the Gathering Space during the month of September!



North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization
of the
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

6130 Heavner Road
Vale, NC 28168
August 20, 2026

Dear Saint James congregation:

The Supporting Our Sisters (SOS) Grant Committee would like to inform you that your grant application has been approved. We are excited to award you \$500.00 to support the Operation Christmas Child program. Thank you for your work to provide needed items for those children in third-world countries who lack those material items and, more importantly, knowledge of Jesus Christ

Your service of engaging in action and ministry fulfills one of the commitments of the NC Women of the ELCA.

Please send a brief report on the Operation Christmas Child (God's Work Our Hands) project, including number of participants and helpers, and pictures that we can use for display purposes at the gatherings and in the bulletin.

Sincerely,

Nena Babb
Stewardship Co-Chair
Treasurer, NC Women of the ELCA
704-462-4245
treasurerncwelca@gmail.com



July 27, 2026

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Child Advocacy Center, thank you for the donation of **30** Comfort Blankets in honor of those that have gone on before us. We give each child that comes to the CAC a special blanket to provide comfort and healing. Thank you for your willingness to provide very tangible items for the children we serve in Cumberland County. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Your contribution will help the Child Advocacy Center's mission of providing a safe, child-friendly place for child victims of abuse.

Thank you again for your support of Cumberland County's children.

Sincerely,

John Webster
Executive Director
john@cacfaync.org
www.cacfaync.org



News about Children's Ministry - from Pastor John



I recently enjoyed and appreciated a time of conversation with several parents of young children at St. James. Here are two updates we decided and the next steps for implementing upgrades to our children's ministry.

Sunday morning teaching time For the last year or so, Jacky Hummel has graciously served as the primary coordinator and teacher for a weekly 9 o'clock Sunday School K-5th class. Attendance, however, has been sporadic and few in number at best.

Next step

The weekly 9:00 class for K-5th grade will change in September to a once-a-month story and activity time. Beginning September 20th, we'll meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month in the lower-level classroom.

Nursery & children time during worship This ministry has been evolving for several years since we came out of COVID and then as the number of younger families increased. We now need to offer some organization and structure.

Next steps

1. The new focus of this ministry will be Infant through 5th grade. At the conclusion of children's time during worship, children will be invited to go to the lower-level classroom or nursery. They will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of The Day or Creed.
2. ** We will have two groups.
 ONE - Nursery will be for Infants-PreK, and will be a supervised non structured play time.
 TWO - K-5th grade will meet in the classroom with a structured learning environment led by Jacky Hummel.

The Parlor will be a place available during worship for parents to offer infant care.

Some upgrades to the room are planned: video feed of worship live-stream, infant soft play items, changing station in the adjacent restroom, etc.

Our aim is to help fulfill the congregational baptismal promise to walk with and support family. Of course, volunteers will be necessary to make these efforts effective. If you have a desire to be a part of children's ministry, please see Jacky Hummel, Pastor John, or notify the church office and someone will contact you.

And a special thanks to the five parents who participated in this conversation, either in person or privately.

Pastor John



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.



Ruth

Join us after Labor Day as we study about the remarkable Ruth. Famous for her loyalty, kindness and faithfulness.

			
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."*



Come be a part of something you haven't done before. Join handbells!



Handbells will rehearse Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm starting September 2, 2026.

We meet in the music room, just off the sanctuary. We need at least 6 ringers to make a small bell choir or 11 ringers to make a full choir. You do not need to know how to read music to be a member. (But is helpful if you can count to 4). Handbells add zest to the Sunday worship experience. Call or text Jane Boelke at 651-636-3336 to join or get bell questions answered. I am also available at church on Sundays. Please let me know by the last week in August so I can prepare music.

I look forward to hearing from you!

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Building men for Christ

*As iron
sharpens iron...
so one man
sharpens another.*

Proverbs 27:17



Point of Contact:
Todd Burns, (910) 308-5431 or burnst37@gmail.com or

See reverse or 2nd page for directions to Camp Agape

St. James Lutheran Church

“Men’s Retreat”

Theme: Rest for Your Souls (Matthew 11)

Friday & Saturday

October 16 & 17, 2026

**Camp Agape & Conference Center
Gerhard Cabin**

- **What to Bring:** Bible, Paper, Pen or Pencil, your favorite book...other than the Bible, clothing appropriate for light outdoor activities, overnight bag.
- **NO COST** to all attendees!

(tentative) Retreat Schedule

(the agenda is developing)

Friday, October 16:

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Arrival & Set up (Gerhard Cabin)
6:00 pm – Cookout (3Bs; Brats (on the grill), Beans, & Beverages)
7:00 pm – Icebreaker Activities / Campfire

Saturday, October 17:

7:30 am – Worship Service – outdoor chapel
8:00 am - Breakfast – Woodlands Lodge
8:30 am – noon. Bible Study/Program. Location is TBD (facilitated by Carl Rosenberg)
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm. Lunch – Woodlands Lodge
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Agape Work Project. Project and Location TBD
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Clean Gerhard Cabin and Depart

Our Retreat will be held at Camp Agape, a short 45-minute drive north of Fayetteville. Come join us for a weekend of fellowship, food, some light outdoor activities and spiritual growth.

The sign-up sheet and informational flyers can be found on the message board near the Men’s Bible Study area or contact the Church Office or Todd Burns.

Don’t miss out on this wonderful opportunity!!!

For more information contact Todd Burns, (910) 308-5431, burnst37@gmail.com

Fellowship Opportunities



Join us every first Tuesday, at Noon!

Potluck Lunch in our Fellowship Hall

September 1st at Noon

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

Men's Fellowship – September 2nd



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 lot

Fellowship opportunity for women!



Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, **September 10th at 9am** at

Eggs up Grill, 2951 Town Center Drive

If you are interested, please let Ruth Ann know: 910-309-1007



Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Click on the times to connect

Property Team - (September 8)

- 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](#)



Worship Leaders

Assisting Ministers

9/06 Lindsey Smith
 9/13 Scott Marosek
 9/20 Ruth Ann Crecelius
 9/27 Jacky Hummel

Lectors

9/06 Erin Smith
 9/13 Glenn Stockwell
 9/20 Beverly Beale
 9/27 Rick Black

Communion Assistant

9/06 Delores Schiebe
 9/13 Nancy Oliver
 9/20 Dave Runkle
 9/27 Paula Burns

Ushers

9/06 John & Gayle Frinak
 9/13 Tonie Neal, James Peterson
 9/20 ... Sharon VanPelt, Edward Samuelian
 9/27 Hannah Rea, Joah Eissinger

Acolytes

9/06 Gabriel Thomas
 9/13 Victoria Orellano
 9/20 Aaron Thomas
 9/27 Willow Linkous

Greeters

9/06 Delores Schiebe
 9/13 Gayle & John Frinak
 9/20 Patsy Linkous
 9/27 Amber Habermehl, Kathy Brown

Rover

9/06 Tom Liedig
 9/13 Verena & Christopher Min
 9/20 Edward Samuelian
 9/27 Todd Burns

Nursery

9/06 Verena Min, Patsy Linkous
 9/13 Sue Rink, Jennifer Linkous
 9/20 Erika Stockwell, Tonie Neal
 9/27 Amber Habermehl, Kathy Brown

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)

- Jacque Yacobucci
- Charlotte Davis
- Dara Lehner
- Brenda Killett
- Carolyn Uchtorff
- Betty Kern

Prayer Concerns:

- ◇ Angel Davis
- ◇ Beth Sessoms
- ◇ Mark & Ann Mabe
- ◇ David Herring
- ◇ James Peterson, Jr.
- ◇ Wes Davis
- ◇ Darcey Beale

Military Members

(* Deployed)

- Earl Stockham
- Joshua Trogdon *
- Bella Fish
- Dan Gibson
- Hochang Min
- Alex Habermehl
- Robert James
- Matthew Porter *
- Justyce Crecelius *
- Zach Fuhr
- Addie Piatz *
- Douglas Gearing *



9/01	Amanda Mott
9/03	Jake Smalley
9/05	Nicholas George
9/05	Joshua Rea
9/06	Jennifer Linkous
9/08	Patsy Linkous
9/10	Jordan Slaymaker
9/11	Laura Stockham
9/11	Brayden Williams
9/11	Jaxton Habermehl
9/12	Brad Dunning
9/13	Barbara Azzarelli
9/14	Catherine Earle
9/14	Jacob Smalley
9/15	Carl Rosenberg
9/19	Madaline Crecelius
9/25	Linda Schlenker
9/25	John Locke
9/25	Agnes Rybar
9/26	Donna Runkle
9/28	Gabriel Thomas

Anniversaries



9/14	Maddy & Brandon Gregory
9/23	Nancy & Michael Williams
9/29	Dan & Ann Gibson

**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 .**

**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 E-mail: 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

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