

Saint James Lutheran Church

September 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



The Rev. John Locke

704-530-9969 (cell)

JPL406@gmail.com

1424 Morganton Rd.

910-484-8052 (office)

PO Box 53276

www.saintjamesfay.org

Fayetteville, NC 28305

Musician: Alyssa Hall

Worship Leaders		
	September 27 18 th Sunday after Pentecost	October 4 19 th Sunday after Pentecost
Assisting Minister	Jacky Hummel	Jane Boelke
Lector	Rick Black	Kathy Brown
Communion Assistant	Paula Burns	Henry Orellano
Ushers	Hannah Rea, Joan Eissinger	Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
Greeter	Barbara Azzarelli	Fran DeSilva
Acolyte	Willow Linkous	Gianna Orellano
Rover	Todd Burns	Dave Runkle
Worship Nursery	Amber Habermehl, Kathy Brown	Sue Rink, Tonie Neal

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

We stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

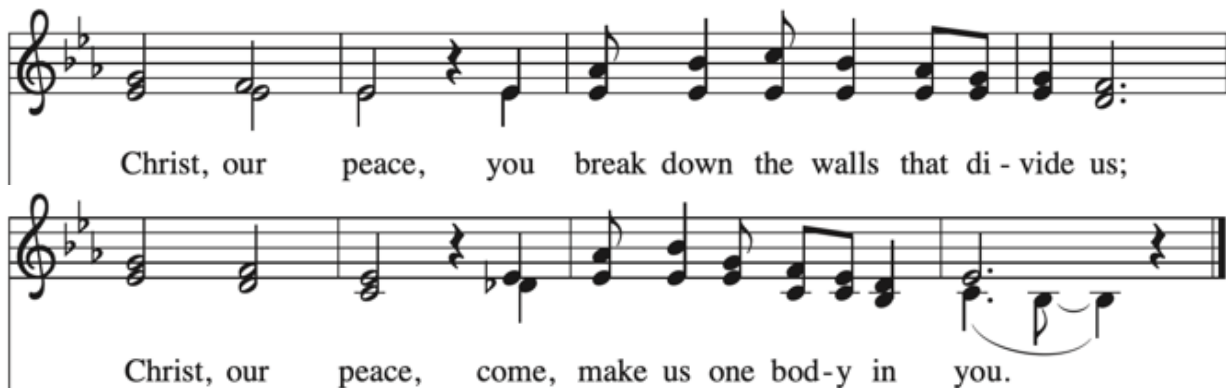
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

PASTOR: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Evident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

We sing, "Christ Our Peace."



Christ, Our Peace



**Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.**

We sing, "Christ Our Peace."

**Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

We sing, "Christ Our Peace."

PASTOR: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

God Is Here

ELW 526

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.

**God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them,
keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

- *Children (PreK-5th grade) are invited and encouraged to participate in the Children's Worship Time in the lower level. They will return prior to Holy Communion.*
- *Pre-K -2nd grade will be in the nursery for a supervised play time.*
- *Children 3rd -5th grade will participate in a more structured learning time led by Jacky Hummel.*

(Adult volunteers are needed in both areas. If you can help, please talk with Jacky, Pastor, or call the church office.)

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.”

O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

PSALM Psalm 25:1-9

¹ To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the syllables. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The third staff ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

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

Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor John

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh That The Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772

We stand.

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:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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 *Wonderful Grace of Jesus*

We stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you
and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

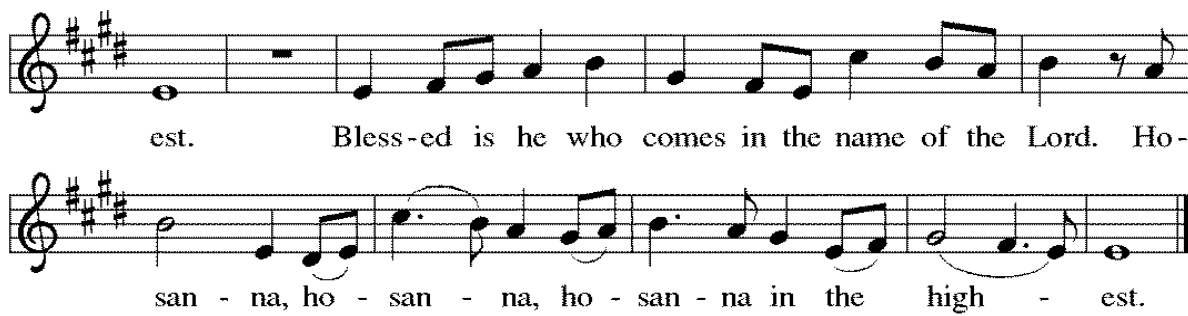
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 -



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

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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

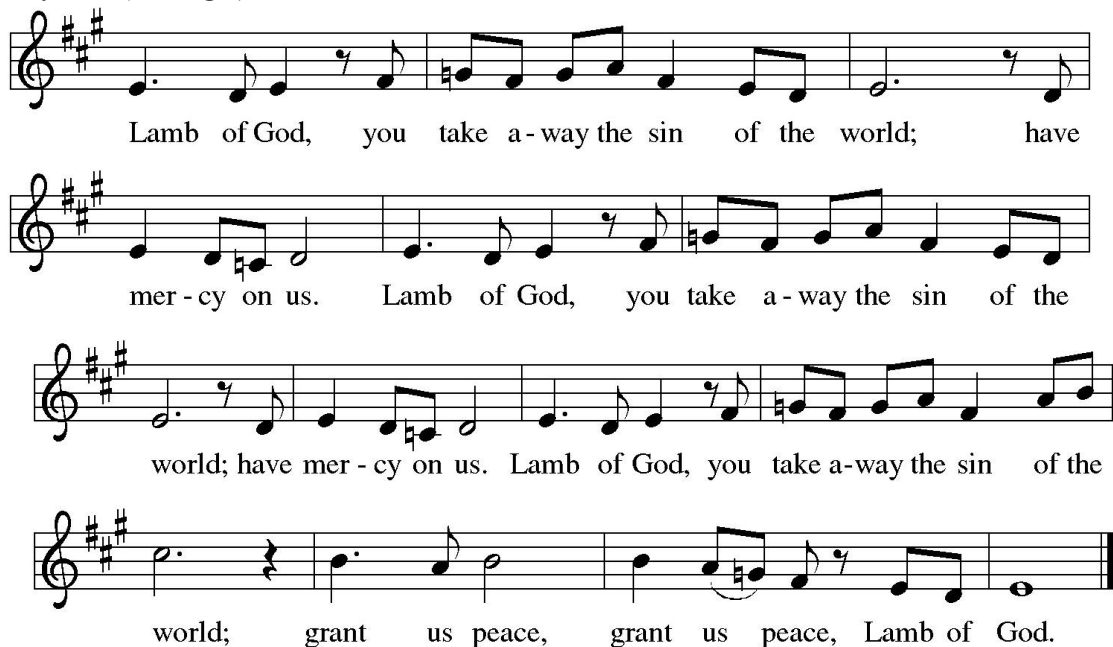
The body of Christ, given for you.

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.

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW 814

In The Singing

ELW 466

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

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.
Amen.

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *The Lord Now Sends us Forth* ELW 538

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

September 27, 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
· Gary Eissinger · Mary & Jim Wright (passing of her son and his brother)

Friends & Family

· Diane Stultz · Peter Lundell · Gregg Nazario · Sandy Pangle · Stasha · Alan Carlson · Katie Maxwell
· Charlotte Choice and family · Sara Brown · Mindy Quinby · Morgen Jensen · Buddy Prevatte · James Rose
· Ethan Thompkins · Simone Ryan · Sharon Decatur · Mike Crecelius · Connie Vargas

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

Our military members (*deployed)

· Earl Stockham · Dan Gibson · Joshua Trogdon* · Bella Fish · Hochang Min · Alex Habermehl
· Matthew Porter · Derek Carlson · Howard Hogan* · Zach Fuhr · Addie Piatz* · Douglas Gearing*
· Chad Kennedy · Riley Broding



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.)

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 and Pay at saintjamesfay.org



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

In October of 1954 the congregation began a schedule of two services of worship each Sunday morning to avoid over-crowding the nave. A study of the needs of the congregation was conducted and it was determined to develop a building expansion program as soon as plans could be made and funding secured. A plan was prepared for the addition of 8 new classrooms, pastor's study, church office, sacristy, choir robing room, rest rooms, boiler room and an addition to the church nave to increase the seating capacity by 50%.



Ministry at St. James ... September 27 – October 4 2026

Sun. Sept 27	<i>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation
	10:00 am Worship
	11:30 am Choir Practice
Mon. Sept 28	9:00 am Quilting Ministry (Annex)
	11:15 am Bible Study of Unnamed Women of the Bible (office)
Tue. Sept 29	6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack Meeting
	6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747
	7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom
Wed. Sept 30	6:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal
Sun. Oct 4	<i>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	90th Anniversary Celebration
	9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation
	10:00 am Worship with Bishop Emeritus Leonard Bolick



Sunday School Series

Ruth

Join us 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."

—  —

You don't want to miss the exciting study with Anna Lisa Sunday mornings!

KIWANIS CLUB OF HOPE MILLS

BBQ FUNDRAISER



Friday October 2nd!

St. James' members Erin Smith, Lindsey Smith, Glenn Stockwell, and Delores Schiebe are members of Kiwanis and can be contacted to purchase tickets for the BBQ meals.

You can pick up your meal at the church as well at 11:00 am in the kitchen.


Pulled Pork, Bun, Baked Beans, & Cole Slaw

\$14.00



Friday, October 2nd
10:00 AM–1:00 PM



5788 Rockfish Road Hope Mills (Fire Department)



POC: Dwayne Jacobs
910-850-8403



Minimum 10 plate order for delivery

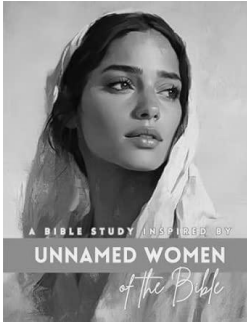


YOUR SUPPORT HELPS US TO SUPPORT

Terrific Kids, K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Clubs, Community Service Projects
(Local, National, & International)

Bible Study- Mondays @ 11:15 – 12:15

(Office meeting room)



Do you know the names of those women who were important in the Bible, women who were never named? In the Old Testament there were women who lived in times when God used many women, but they were never named.

Lot's wife, Noah's daughters-in-law, Eve's daughters, Potiphar's wife etc. I am sure there were many more who lived in that time. The New Testament is as full of women who followed Jesus or who were a part of his life and ministry. The Samaritan woman at the well, the adulteress, Peter's mother-in-law and many others.

We will be using a study guide called **Unnamed Women of the Bible**.

It is a 6-week study of just a few of these women. There are at least 78 unknown women, and I have a list which we could look at.

September 21st we studied Kings 6:28-29:

During a brutal siege of Samaria that caused severe starvation, a desperate woman approaches King Joram for help. She explains that she made an agreement with another woman: they boiled and ate her son one day, but when it was time to cook the other woman's son the next day, the second woman hid her child.

If you would like to join this bible study on Mondays, starting September 21, for about an hour please email Diana Vittoe at vittoediana@gmail.com.

Celebrating 90 Years, 90 Acts of Grace

As we celebrate 90 years of God's faithfulness at Saint James, we want to honor the living, breathing impact of Christ's love in our community. Over nine decades, our church has been built on quiet prayers, shared meals and open doors.

To celebrate this milestone, we are launching the
90TH ANNIVERSARY KINDNESS JOURNAL

Our goal is to physically record 90 distinct acts of kindness—both big and small—that happen within our congregation and community. This book will be in the gathering space for the next few weeks and then be safely stored in our Archives room for future generations.

How you can participate:

- Notice the good: Did someone bring you a meal, send a timely card or offer a helping hand? Did you witness someone else showing kindness to a neighbor? Or did you offer those things to your neighbor?
- Write it down: Stop by the table in the gathering space to journal the kindness given or received. Entries can be signed or anonymous.
- Pass it on!: Let this challenge inspire you to be the answer to someone else's prayers.

Let's fill these pages with gratitude, bridging 90 years of faith with 90 tangible expressions of love.

With joy,
The 90th Anniversary planning team

