

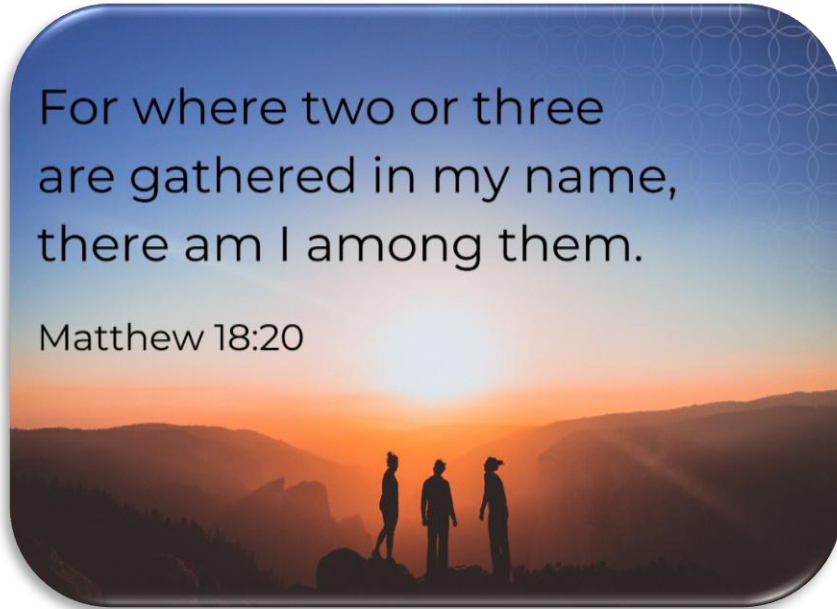
Saint James Lutheran Church

September 6, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

For where two or three
are gathered in my name,
there am I among them.

Matthew 18:20



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 6 15 th Sunday after Pentecost	September 13 GODS WORK. OUR HANDS
Assisting Minister	Lindsey Smith	Scott Marosek
Lector	Erin Smith	Glenn Stockwell
Communion Assistant	Nancy Oliver	Delores Schiebe
Ushers	John & Gayle Frinak	Tonie Neal, James Peterson
Greeter	Delores Schiebe	Gayle & John Frinak
Acolyte	Gabriel Thomas	Victoria Orellano
Rover	Tom Liedig	Verena & Christopher Min
Worship Nursery	Verena Min, Patsy Linkous	Sue Rink, Jennifer 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,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.



Music of "Christ Our Peace" begins ... we sing once

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

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.
“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.
“Christ Our Peace”

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.
“Christ Our Peace”
Amen.

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

As We Gather At Your Table ELW 522

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.
O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and 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 33:7-11**

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

PSALM **Psalms 119:33-40**

³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.
³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**
³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.
³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**
³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.
³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**
³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.
⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING **Romans 13:8-14**

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor John

HYMN OF THE DAY

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

ELW 603

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 Cello Solo by Christopher Min

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

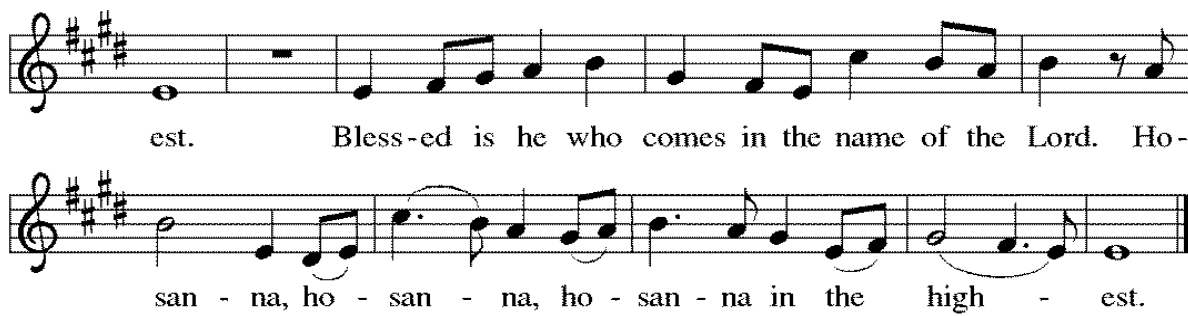
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

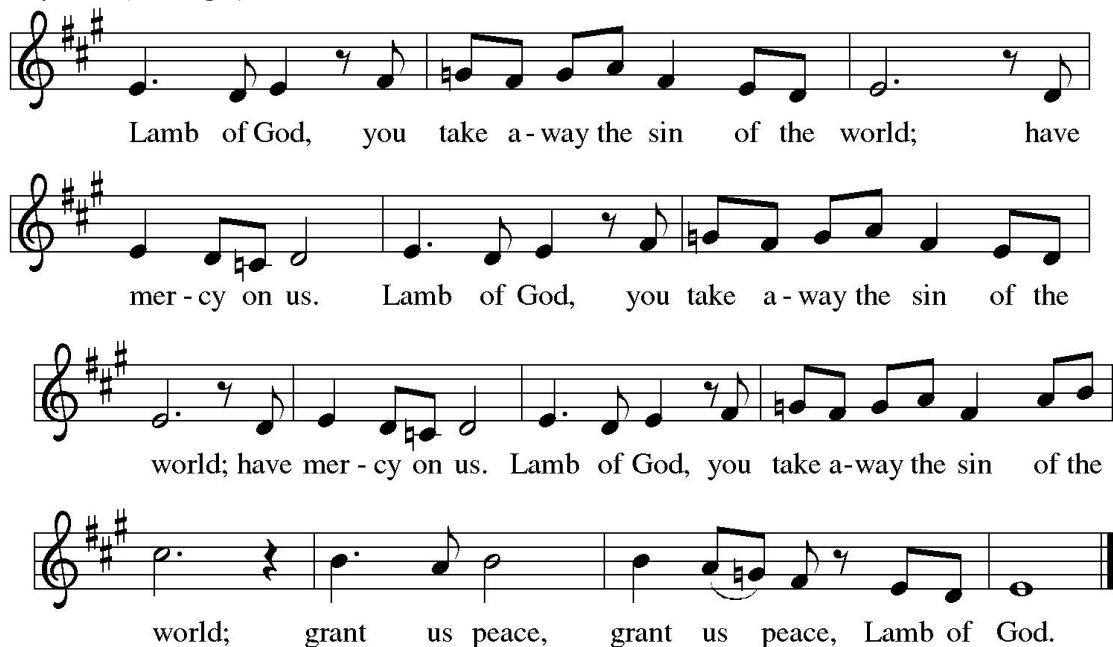
The body of Christ, given for you.

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.

Draw Us In The Spirit's Tether

ELW 470

When We Are Living

ELW 639

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 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* ELW 836

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

September 6, 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

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 · Beverly Frazier

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
· Robert James · Matthew Porter* · Derek Carlson · Howard Hogan* · Justyce Crecelius* · Zach Fuhr
· Addie Piatz* · Douglas Gearing*



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

During WWII the people of St. James cooperated with the Lutheran Service Center located in downtown Fayetteville. It was operated by the National Lutheran Council. When this center was closed in August of 1946, the church constructed a recreation building to be used for fellowship purposes by the congregation and by military personnel. The cinder block building was constructed without using a contractor, with much of the work done by members of the church. The building was completed in May of 1947 at a cost of \$7500. The furnishings from the closed service center were used in our new building. In the late 60s there was still a pool table and a Pepsi machine in our building. A Pepsi from that machine cost 6 cents!



Parsonage and Service Center, 1947

Ministry at St. James ... September 6 - 13, 2026

Sun. Sept 6	<i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Choir Practice
Mon. Sept 7	Labor Day – Office closed
Tue. Sept 8	6:00 pm Property Team Meeting 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747 7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom
Wed. Sept 9	6:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal
Thu. Sept 10	9:00 am Women's Breakfast at "Eggs up Grill" 2951 Town Center Dr. (Hope Mills)
Sun. Sept 13	GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY <i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation 10:00 am Worship 10:45 am <i>God's Work. Our Hands.</i> Ministry (Sandwich lunch provided.) 10:45 am Youth (6th-12th) will meet as part of GWOH

"Children's Church" started for grades 2-5 in the lower classroom. They will go down after Children's Time and before Scripture Readings. Parents are encouraged to volunteer and depart to hear the gospel and sermon if they wish.



Bible Study- Mondays @ 10:45 – 11:45 (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.

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.