

Saint James Lutheran Church

October 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



We welcome Rev. Leonard Bolick, Bishop Emeritus, as our guest preacher

The Rev. John Locke

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910-484-8052 (office)

PO Box 53276

www.saintjamesfay.org

Fayetteville, NC 28305

Musician: Alyssa Hall

Worship Leaders		
	October 4 19th Sunday after Pentecost	October 11 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Assisting Minister	Jane Boelke	Lindsey Smith
Lector	Kathy Brown	Jane Boelke
Communion Assistant	Henry Orellano	Dave Runkle
Ushers	Lindsey Smith, Erin Smith	Teri Bumphrey, Lindsey Smith
Greeter	Fran DeSilva	Kathy Brown
Acolyte	Gianna Orellano	Holden Linkous
Rover	To be assigned	Jake Smalley
Worship Nursery	Sue Rink, Tonie Neal	Erin Fuhr, Patsy Linkous

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

MUSICAL VOLUNTARY Handbell Choir. *Variant on Hyfrydol*

We stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood ... **you delivered Noah and his family.**
Through the sea ... **you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.**
At the river ... **your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.**
By water and your Word ... **you claim us as daughters and sons,**
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Gather Us In

ELW 532

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.

KYRIE

We pray for God to empower us in our baptismal promises.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
We pray to the Lord,
Lord have mercy, every day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
We pray to the Lord,
Lord have mercy, every day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
We pray to the Lord,
Lord have mercy, every day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
We pray to the Lord,
Lord have mercy, every day.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
Refrain
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of

vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -

le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Leonard

Children (Up to 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.

- Children up to Kindergarten will be in the nursery for a supervised play time.
- Children 1st - 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 Amber Habermehl, Pastor, or call the church office.)

FIRST READING Isaiah 62:1-5

- ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.
- ²The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.
- ³You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- ⁴No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate.
But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah;
for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will be married.
- ⁵As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

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

PSALM Psalm 150:1-6

- ¹Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.
- ²**Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.**
- ³Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,
- ⁴**praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,**
- ⁵praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.
- ⁶**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.**

SECOND READING**Ephesians 5:25-32**

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—
³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

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 16:13-18

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,
“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

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

We sit.

SERMON

Rev. Leonard Bolick, Bishop Emeritus

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Church's One Foundation

ELW 654

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 *The Cornerstone / My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*
We stand.

Choir

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 -
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

O God before time, O God at the end, we delight in the splendor of your universe.
Daily we laud your continuing creation,
and we give thanks for the faithful people who made bold and courageous efforts
to follow your call to create a community known as St. James Lutheran Church.
We glorify you, now and forever.
We glorify you, now and forever.

O God of the covenant, O God of the church, we hear you speaking to centuries of your people.
We come as your children to this table, and we give thanks for your presence
among the NC Lutheran Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
We praise you, now and forever.
We praise you, now and forever.

You gave us Mary and Magdalene, Peter and Paul, Luther and Melanchthon, Henry Muhlenberg, and
Elizabeth Fedde ... there are many more names to whom we should pay tribute ...
those who have led, served, worshiped, sang, prayed, taught, cooked, cleaned, repaired ...
those who have listened, cried, fed, nurtured, healed, restored, and encouraged ...
the countless number of servants of yours who have been part of this 90-year journey of ministry.
We bless you, now and forever.
We bless you, now and forever.

You came as Jesus, our wisdom, our guide,
embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free,
dying for sin, and alive for the life of the world.
We worship you, now and forever.
We worship you, now and forever.

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.

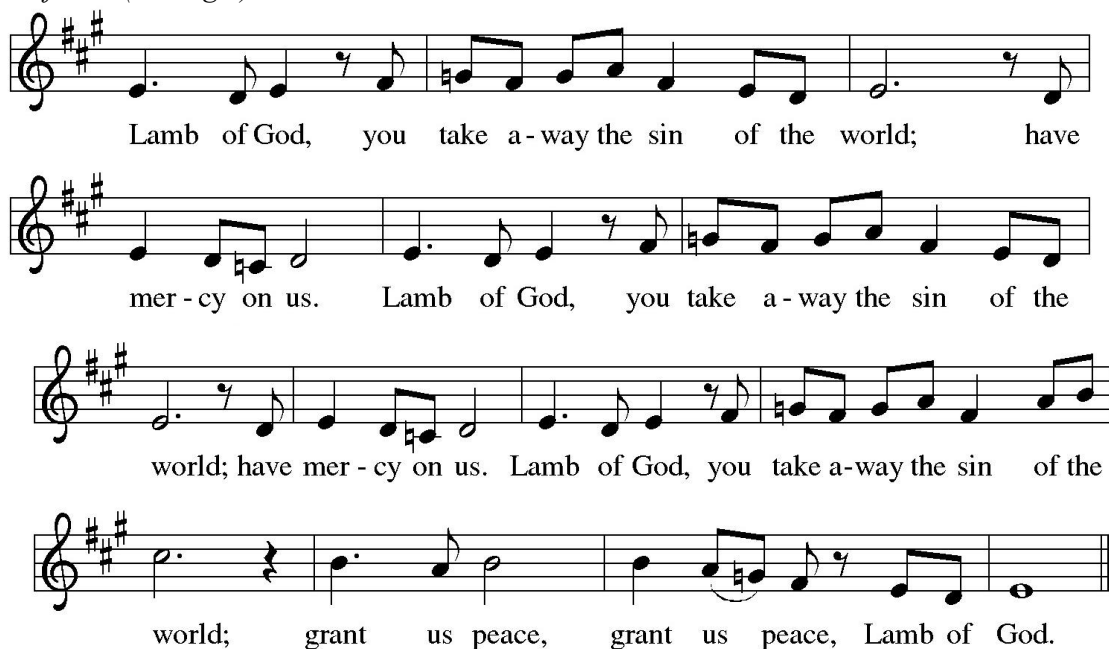
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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.

Thy Word

W&P 144



Refrain
F C⁷ F B^b C⁷ F B^b F
Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

C Gm Dm Am B^b C
1 When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be -

B^b/F F C Gm Dm Am
side me, and noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.

B^b C Dm D A/C[#] C^{sus} C⁷ *Refrain*
Please be near me to the end.

2 I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for-ev-er is

wan-der-ing. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and

I will love you to the end.

Chords: C, Gm, Dm, Am, Bb, C, Bb/F, F, C, Gm, Dm, Am, Bb, C, Dm, D, A/C#, Csus, C⁷ Refrain

My God, How Wonderful Thou Art

ELW 863

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

October 4, 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) · Barbara Azzarelli
 · Suzi Wilkinson

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

Ministry at St. James ... October 4 – 11, 2026

Sun. Oct 4

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

90th Anniversary Celebration

- 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation
- 10:00 am Worship with Bishop Emeritus Leonard Bolick
- Luncheon after worship

Mon. Oct 5

- Pastor John at Synod Fall Convocation
- 9:00 am Quilting Ministry (Annex)
- 11:15 am Bible Study of Unnamed Women of the Bible (office)
- 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Den Meeting

Tue. Oct 6

- Pastor John at Synod Fall Convocation
- 12:00 pm Prime Timers Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747
- 7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom

Wed. Oct 7

- Pastor John at Synod Fall Convocation
- 5:30 pm Theology on Tap (Men's Fellowship on back lawn)
- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal

Thu. Oct 8

- 9:00 am Women's breakfast at "Eggs Up Grill"
- (2951 Town Center Drive / Hope Mills)

Sun. Oct 11

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation
- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:30 am Choir Practice
- 11:30 am Congregation Council



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

The plan for improvements to the church, which was proposed in 1958, was undertaken. On July 1, 1960, a ground breaking service was conducted by Pastor Mauney with members of the Church Council, Building committee, charter members and representatives of the various auxiliaries of the congregation participating. Player, Inc., of Fayetteville was the contractor. The cost of the renovations was \$72,000. The first service in the enlarged nave was held on Christmas Eve, 1960.





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



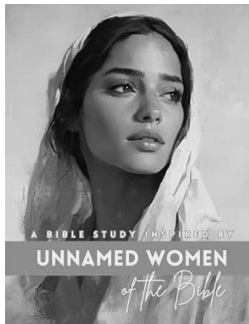
Friendship,
loyalty, and
hope

**You don't want to miss the
exciting study with
Anna Lisa **Sunday mornings!**
9 am in Room 127**



Bible Study- Mondays @ 11:15 – 12:15

(Office meeting room)



Please come join us each Monday for a very interesting study on some of the women in the Bible who were never named. Yet their contributions are vital in knowing how our Lord knew what they did and contributed to the ministry of the Bible.

Our next study (Oct 5th) will be about a young girl who encouraged a mighty king to follow the instruction to wash in the Jordan River seven times, so that he might be healed from leprosy. This servant girl is only one of many women in the Bible who remain nameless, yet play such significant roles in God's love story for humankind. We will be unable to study all of them, but we are doing a study which you can find online if you are interested : www.seehearlove.com/unnamedwomenstudy

Check it out and join us each Monday at 11:15 am

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



JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE