

Saint James Lutheran Church

October 11, 2026

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

The Parable of the Wedding Feast



The Rev. John Locke

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Fayetteville, NC 28305

Musician: Alyssa Hall

Worship Leaders		
	October 11 20 th Sunday after Pentecost	October 18 21 st Sunday after Pentecost
Assisting Minister	Lindsey Smith	Ruth Ann Crecelius
Lector	Jane Boelke	Rick Boelke
Communion Assistant	Dave Runkle	Jacky Hummel
Ushers	Teri Bumphrey, Erin Smith	Tonie Neal, Avery Walker
Greeter	Kathy Brown	Linda Stellfox
Acolyte	Holden Linkous	Gabriel Thomas
Rover	Jake Smalley	Verena & Christopher Min
Worship Nursery	Erin Fuhr, Patsy Linkous	Erika Stockwell, Kathy Brown

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, 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.**

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. Restore our world 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."

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

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart ELW 873



- 1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
- 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
- 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
- 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

- 5 At last the march shall end;
 the wearied ones shall rest;
 the pilgrims find their home at last,
 Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*
- 6 Praise God who reigns on high,
 the Lord whom we adore:
 the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
 one God forevermore. *Refrain*

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.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

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 25:1-9

¹ O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

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

PSALM Psalm 23 (we read together)

- ¹ The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
- ² The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- ³ You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

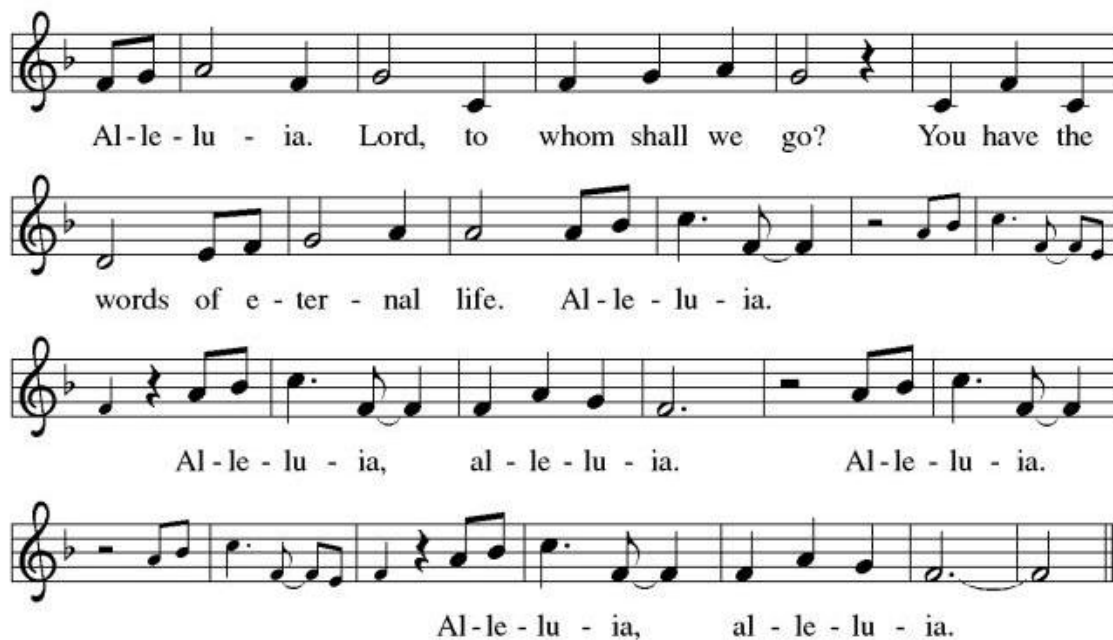
SECOND READING Philippians 4:1-9

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 22:1-14

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor John

HYMN OF THE DAY

Look Who Gathers At Christ's Table ACS 977



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.

2 <i>Clouds of light surround the table; ancient followers appear, saints confessing how they wrestled with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Peter tells of his denying Christ was ever in his sight; Paul relates his fruitless efforts to obliterate the light.</i> 3 <i>Their sad stories are repeated in a thousand different ways, but they share one thing in common: they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has invited north and south and east and west to converge around this table, where all life is fed and blest.</i>	4 <i>Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised by the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes when he blesses bread and breaks it— truth and manna from above!— and then passes wine that wakens in your heart the taste of love.</i>
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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 *My Shepherd Will Supply my Need* instrumental

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 -
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

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
Thanks be to God!

We sit.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

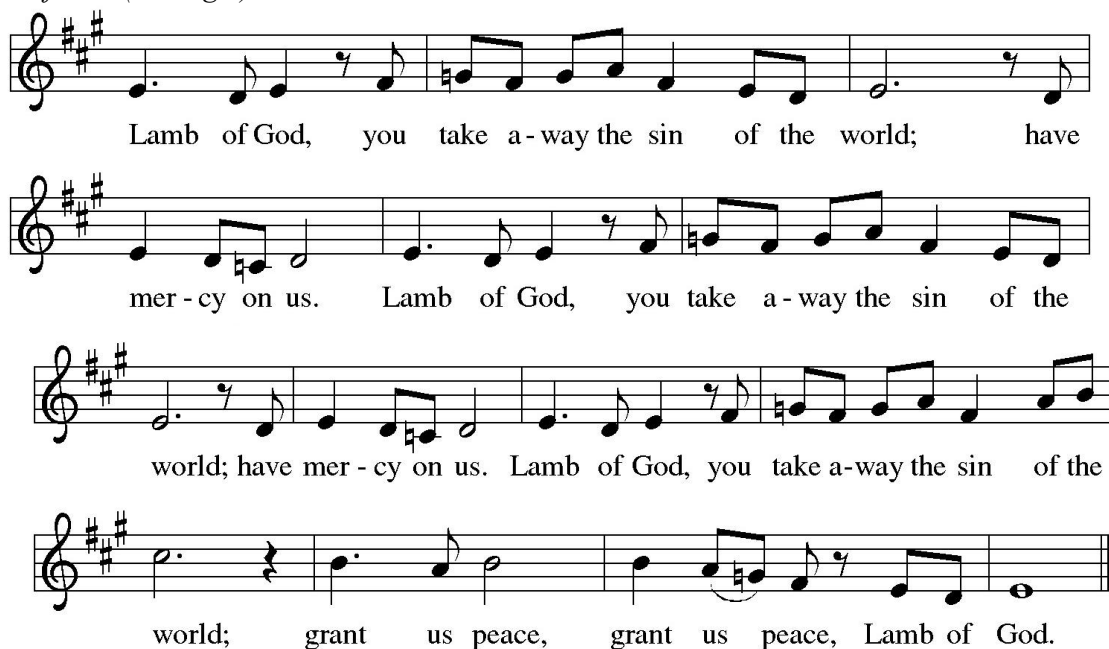
All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are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

We Come To The Hungry Feast

ELW 479

Come Let Us Eat

ELW 491

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 *Sent Forth By God's Blessing* ELW 547

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

October 11, 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 · 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 · Priscilla Unger

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

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



Due in part to the improvements to the building, the educational programs of the church grew in 1961. “Weekday Church School” on Wednesday afternoons and Vacation Bible School in the summer enrolled nearly 100 students. Average attendance at Sunday School was 234.



Ministry at St. James ... October 11-18, 2026

Sun. Oct 11	<i>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation
	10:00 am Worship
	11:30 am Choir Practice
	11:30 am Congregation Council
Mon. Oct 12	9:00 am Quilting Ministry (Annex)
	10:00 am Finance Team Meeting (Office meeting room)
	11:15 am Bible Study of Unnamed Women of the Bible (office)
Tue. Oct 13	6:00 pm Property Team Meeting (Office meeting room)
	6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747
	7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom
Wed. Oct 14	6:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal
Fri. Oct 16	Men’s Retreat at Agape Kure Beach
Sat. Oct 17	Men’s Retreat at Agape Kure Beach
Sun. Oct 18	<i>Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation
	10:00 am Worship
	11:30 am Choir Practice

Upcoming Worship Highlights:

October 25	- Reformation Sunday (wear red!)
	- Affirmation of Baptism for Gianna Orellano, Gabriel Thomas, Christopher Min, and Jacob Smalley
November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 8	Veterans’ Day Observance



All Saints Sunday is November 1, 2026

We remember those who have died **since last All Saints Day, November 1, 2025.**

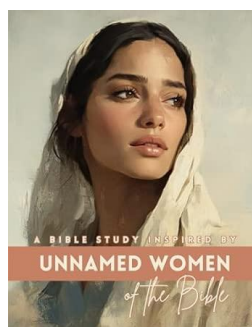
Please use the strip insert in this bulletin to list your loved one. We will mention them by name in the prayers during worship.



A graphic for the Sunday School Series on the book of Ruth. On the left is a golden crown with a blue gem. The text "Sunday School Series" is in purple script, and "Ruth" is in a large, gold, cursive font. Below the title, it says "Join us as we study about the remarkable Ruth. Famous for her loyalty, kindness and faithfulness." At the bottom are four icons with corresponding text: a crown for "Courage in uncertain times", a heart for "God's providence and faithfulness", a leaf for "Identity, purpose, and redemption", and two hands shaking for "Friendship, loyalty, and hope".

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

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.

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

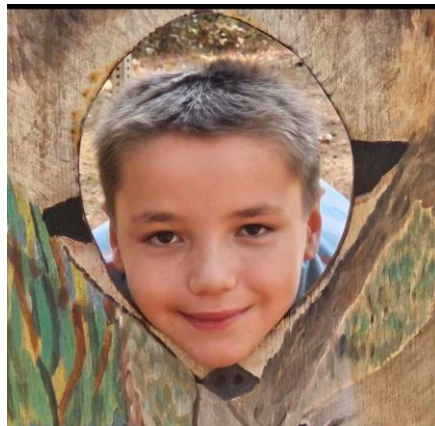


Carwash fundraiser to help raise money for the family of Ethan Thompson, one of our Scouts who needed his leg amputated due to bone cancer.

Come out to Saint James on Saturday 17th October from 9am-1pm.

Thank you for your prayers as this family deals with this challenge.

If you would like to send a card, the address is
Ethan Thompson
308 Hinsdale Ave,
Fayetteville, NC 28305



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