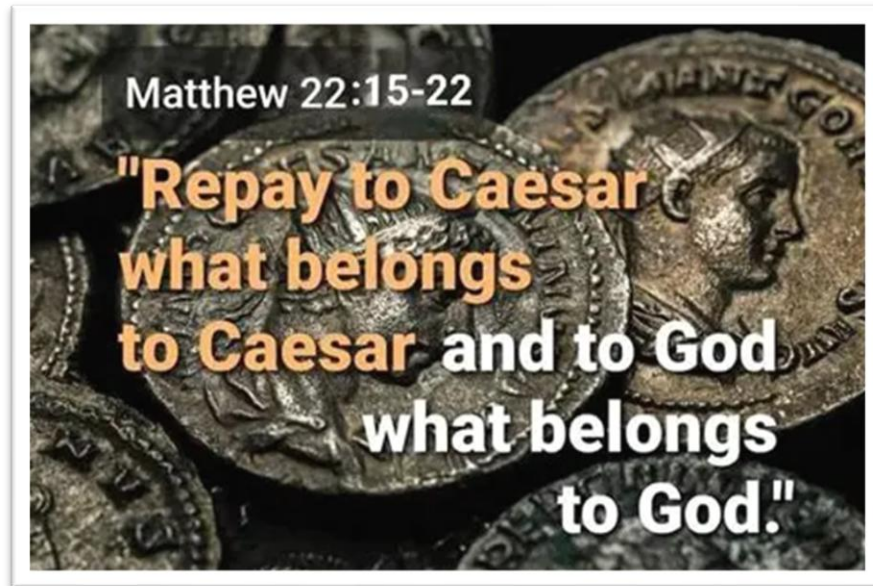


Saint James Lutheran Church
October 18, 2026
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost



The Rev. John Locke

704-530-9969 (cell)
1424 Morganton Rd.
PO Box 53276
Fayetteville, NC 28305

JPL406@gmail.com
910-484-8052 (office)
www.saintjamesfay.org

Musician: Alyssa Hall

Worship Leaders		
	October 18 21 st Sunday after Pentecost	October 25 Reformation Sunday
Assisting Minister	Ruth Ann Crecelius	Scott Marosek
Lector	Rick Boelke	Jim Wright
Communion Assistant	Jacky Hummel	Jaye-Lynn Orellano
Ushers	Tonie Neal, Avery Walker	Agnes Rybar, Ben Burt
Greeter	Linda Stellfox	Teri Bumphrey
Acolyte	Gabriel Thomas	Henry Orellano
Rover	Verena & Christopher Min	Edward Samuelian
Worship Nursery	Erika Stockwell, Kathy Brown	Amber Habermehl, Jennifer Linkous

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

We stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

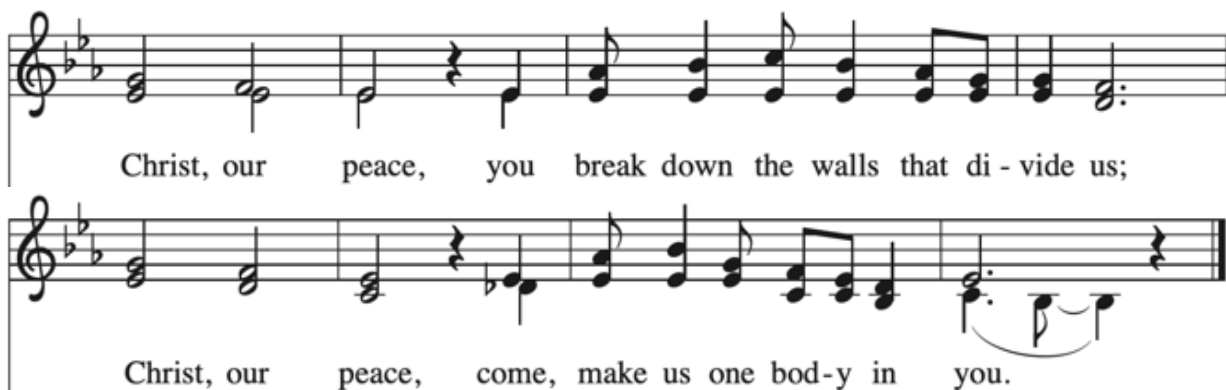
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

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." (twice)



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.**

**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.**

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

You Servants of God ELW 825

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.
Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

Following 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 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

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

PSALM Psalm 96:1-9-13

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**
⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.
¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**
- ¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

- ¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.
- ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.
- 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 22:15-22

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor John

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Commonwealth is God's Commandment

ACS 1036



1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

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 *You Are My All in All!*

Choir

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.

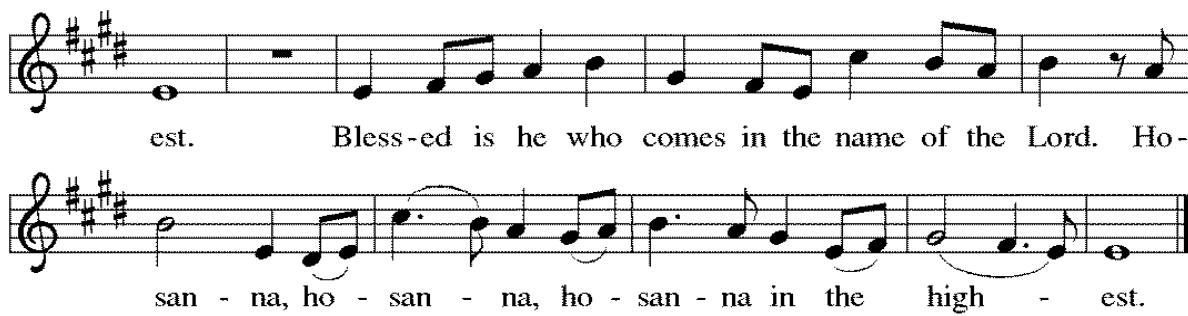
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

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 *Oh God of Every Nation* ELW 713

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

October 18, 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 · Stasha · 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 · Irene Ferguson · Sal LoGalbo · Kathy Huling
· Karen Frey on the passing of her husband (sister of Brenda Buie)

People at Home or in Care facilities: · Charlotte Davis · Brenda Killett · 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

The flowers on the Altar are given today by Agnes Rybar in memory of her sister-in-law, Ella Smorczewska



Ministry at St. James ... October 18-25, 2026

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
Mon. Oct 19	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 20	6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747
	7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom
Wed. Oct 21	6:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal
Sat. Oct 24	8:30 am Property Work Day
Sun. Oct 25	<i>Reformation Sunday</i>
	9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation
	10:00 am Worship and Affirmation of Baptism
	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
	<u>Congregational Meeting</u> to elect a nominating committee, who will nominate council members for 2027.
November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 8	Veterans' Day Observance
December 27	<u>Congregational Meeting</u> for Ministry Spending Plan approval & election of new council members
January 10, 2027	Installation of new council members

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

MEMORIES of NINETY YEARS

On Pentecost Sunday, May 21 1961, 75 new members were received in the St. James congregation. This was the largest number ever received at one service in the history of the church at that time.

If you recognize anyone, let us know!



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.





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



Remembering Loved Ones for All Saints Day

There are two different ways to honor the memories of loved ones for All Saints Day.

- For family and friends who have passed away since November 1, 2025, please fill out the slip of paper in the bulletin or contact the office by (Th. 10/29) Their names will appear in the bulletin on All Saints Day.
- To honor those who have passed away at any time, you may add bell(s) to the ribbons on the cross downstairs in the Gathering Space. It will be carried into the sanctuary during the processional on All Saints Day.



STAY IN THE LOOP

Receive Text Updates



Not on our email news list yet?

Sign up at <https://saintjamesfay.org/>

Get church updates by text

Join in a few seconds—text the keyword below to get started.

TEXT THIS KEYWORD

@8bhg3



SEND TO

81010

Open a new text message, enter the keyword, and send it to the number.



You can opt out at any time

Reply "unsubscribe @8bhg3" to stop messages.

Having trouble with 81010?

Text @8bhg3 to (910) 401-3357 instead.

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