

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



October 2026
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Celebrating the Reformation October 25



Reformation Sunday commemorates Martin Luther's posting of the **95 Theses** in 1517, marking the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

It is widely observed with red liturgical colors, hymns such as *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, and readings focused on justification by faith.

Next year will mark the 510th Anniversary!



We'll celebrate with Gianna Orellano, Gabriel Thomas, Christopher Min, and Jacob Smalley as they affirm the promises of baptism during worship



It's been quite a party! NC Synod Bishop Emily got us off to a good start in June, as we began a celebration of St James' 90th birthday. And last Sunday Pastor Leonard and Rita joined us to give thanks to God for the Spirit's presence in and among the people of St James.

There are many people who deserve a word of thanks for our wonderful celebrations - the planners and idea makers; the decorators, servers, and cooks; table and chair movers, kitchen workers, and cleaners; worship leaders, musicians, ushers, acolytes, and rovers; archivists, researchers, artists, and decorators; and much more. If you served in these or other ways, we are very grateful!

Birthdays are frequently recognized with gifts. And this birthday is no exception. As Pastor, I have the great privilege to daily witness these gifts in action. I've seen the gift of hospitality and kindness - strangers are welcomed, the hungry are fed, and wounds are healed. Each week the gifts of music and arts inspire us: choir anthems, hymnody, banners, and posters. There are regular unveilings of the free gifts of fellowship and companionship. God sends us to the community as the family of God: I see smiling faces, laughter, conversations, and introductions. We all benefit from the gifts of physical work and skills: lights that we may see, a clean and orderly facility that we may be comfortable in, printed bulletins, newsletters, communications so that we might be informed. God's gifts to Congregation seem to be endless!

Anniversary celebrations offer us an opportunity to recognize the achievements and challenges of the past, as well as energize us for new possibilities in the future. as we metaphorically blew out to the candles of our celebration, we were we are energized and excited for how God will be using us to love one another, those in our community, and those around the world. Where, what, and how these ministries will take place we do not yet know. But, with God by our side, and the Spirit leading and encouraging us forward, we can boldly share God's love!

Pastor John

What a glorious celebration of St. James Lutheran Church's 90th anniversary!



We were especially blessed to welcome Rev. Leonard Homer Bolick, Bishop Emeritus, and his lovely wife, Rita, as our special guests on October 4, 2026.

Anna Lisa was privileged to present Bishop Bolick with a custom stole that she created especially for him—one that reflects his North Carolina mountain heritage.

Bishop Bolick and Rita served at St James in the mid 80s just prior to his election as Bishop of NC Synod. Two outstandingly lovely people!

North Carolina was truly blessed by their ministry for many years!

*90 years of St. James. A lifetime of faithful ministry.
And one very glorious day of celebration.*



Fran DeSilva, Ruth Ann Crecelius,
Dave Runkle



Gary Crecelius, Riley Broding



Sharon Van Pelt's granddaughter,
Caitlin Broding, Colt Broding



Karola Dombrowski, Delores Schiebe,
Sarah Parrish



Sharon Van Pelt, Daniel Linkous



Fran DeSilva, Beverly Beale

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

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WHAT IS THE ALMS HOUSE?

Associated Local Ministries in Service - Helping Others in Unfortunate Situations and Experiences

The ALMS HOUSE began as a brainchild of five local pastors and was established as a non-profit agency in February 1984 by twelve local churches of various denominations. Currently, churches representing many denominations are actively involved in support, and make up the Board of Directors of the Alms House. These churches support the ALMS HOUSE by providing funding, food, and volunteers.

With the exception of our Love Meals and KAPP (Kids Assistance Program Plus), the families and individuals we serve must live within a specific geographical area in and around Hope Mills. We are able to assist individuals outside of this geographical area with approved referrals.

ALMS HOUSE Administrative Office and food pantry are located at **3310-14 North Main Street in Hope Mills** and serve individuals seeking assistance (by appointment only) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.



The ALMS HOUSE assists with food; clothing and limited utility assistance. **Food and financial donations may be made at this location Tuesday thru Friday from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.**

The Thrift Store is located at 5512 West Patterson Street, Hope Mills, NC. Thrift Store hours are Tuesday thru Friday from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. **Clothing and household donations are accepted at this location during those hours only. Due to space limitations, we are unable to accept large items such as furniture.**

The ALMS HOUSE coordinates with the local school social workers to provide bags of food for Cumberland County children who might otherwise have little or nothing to eat over the weekend. **KAPP (Kids Assistance Program Plus)** is one of our major projects. In addition to providing bags of food for the children, “**Plus**” allows us to provide food and additional financial assistance to our senior citizens.

Meals are served Sunday thru Friday at 5 p.m. and Saturday at 12 noon at our 3310 North Main Street location. Everyone is welcome.

The ALMS HOUSE is an IRS recognized, NC Charitable licensed non-profit organization, funded through the generosity of our partnering churches, as well as businesses and individuals within the community. This ministry is made possible by a small staff of dedicated volunteers, our director, and the gracious support of our local community.

Since this is a local, grass-roots effort with minimal operation expenses, tax-deductible donations stay in the local community and are used to assist local people in need.

Financial donations may be made to the ALMS HOUSE, P.O. Box 65, Hope Mills, NC 28348 or at our main office at 3310 North Main Street location.

Please visit our website at thealmshouse.org/home or email us at contact@thealmshouse.org

What a wonderful turnout for *God's Work. Our Hands Day Social Outreach, Sept. 13, 2026*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

62 boxes were packed with lots of materials left over. More boxes and still be filled. Folks went through the line, packing more than once, and Jane estimated over 40 folks participated. Jane said she was up for doing it again next year. Thanks Jane Boelke!

QUILTERS WITH SCARVES

There were over 40 scarfs tied to go into the boxes by our quilters and others who helped. A very practical item on the wish list.

Christmas cards were written for the boxes by 4 of our under-5th-grade-class. Jacky stated they used creative methods for their message.

Middle and High School Youth took on the project of recognizing some of the First Responders in our neighborhoods. Greeting cards were also written by the youth. The cards, along with gifts of cookies, were delivered by 5 Youth Advisors and 13 Youth. Some enjoyed sitting in the fire trucks, while some toured the buildings. There were LOTS of smiles on both sides. A big plus for the class was this was the startup meeting for the new school year. So a nice way to begin, together, sharing a meal, remembering Jesus meal with his disciples, and spreading the love.

Our Property Team spent their time outdoors tending to the yard maintenance. Hot and “sweaty”, you guessed it, were the words of the day for them. A pat on the back might be in order!

Between grants, gifts, discounts for the sandwich/cookie meal, and volunteers bringing in supplies to supplement the meal and the material for the boxes, we made a difference. The cost to mail packed boxes is \$25 per box, per Jane. So we are indeed “doers of the word...” James 1:22.

Our 90th anniversary order of totes and shirts had arrived, so Ruth Ann and company were able to hand out those orders to folks. Really beautiful work. Thrivent was also generous with t-shirts, so that was another treat. Those were free. See Sue if interested.

A big hand to the scouts, setting up and tearing down our table set up. Thank you.

We heard the stories of how folks found St. James and decided to stay with us.

We heard laughter, saw smiles and lots of pleasure on faces throughout the accomplishment of activities. It was truly a Spiritual time of coming together and doing for others that can't do for themselves.

Give yourself a hand! Well done good and faithful servants.

~ Sue and Tonie, Social Ministry...

God's Work. Our Hands Sunday was a success!



Shoe-boxes for Operation Christmas Child



Gianna Orellano, Holden Linkous, Ricky Van Pelt, Lucian Linkous, Henry Orellano, Gabriel Thomas



Pr. John, ??, Gabriel Thomas, Holden Linkous, Lucian Linkous, Sue Rink, Gianna Orellano, Henry Orellano, Johannes Min, Jaye Orellano, Chris Min, Jennifer Linkous, Jacob Smalley, Addie Smalley, Henry Orellano, Daniel Linkous (not pictured Tanner Burt).

Social Ministry Outreach for October

*For I was hungry ... thirsty ... a stranger ... needed clothes ... sick ... in prison
AND YOU LOVED AND HELPED ME* (adapted from Matt. 25)

We will be collected **blankets** for the **Episcopal Farm Workers Migrant Program...**

Long sleeve shirts (Medium) and **long pants** (inseam) 30, for harvesting protection.

As well as **Hygiene items**



EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY

Episcopal Farm worker Ministry began in the 80's with the majority of the people served living in Duplin, Harnett, Johnston, Lenoir and Sampson Counties.

You can place your donations in the designated box in the Gathering Area.

Farmworkers are an integral part of the American economy, playing a significant role in providing an ample supply of low-cost food, year-round for U.S. households, yet, despite their essential role in feeding our nation, they are often mistreated and abused by employers and face a multitude of barriers that keep them from ensuring even the most basic of living standards.

Farmworkers are routinely subjected to substandard housing, pesticide exposure, dangerous and exhausting work, inadequate wages, frequent housing and labor violations, intimidation, job loss if violations are reported, language and educational barriers, lack of transportation, and extreme isolation.

The poverty and injustice that farmworkers endure are not merely the problems of an invisible group of transient unknowns, but of individuals with names and identities.



From: <https://episcopalfarmworkerministry.org/our-community/>

**To commemorate 9/11/2001, 10 (ten) “comfort blankets”
were donated to our local Child Advocacy Center on 9/11/2026**



There were so many heroes. One special group of heroes that are often overlooked are four-legged animals. Man's best friend.

Some of the mission's dogs performed were search and rescue, recovery and therapeutic support. They were very instrumental during the aftermath of 9/11/2001

Dogs continue to serve. One way is providing comfort to children. St. James is fortunate to have one such “special” member, Quinn. With the help of her owner, Dave Runkle, Quinn visits the CAC to help provide children who will be interviewed “comfort”.

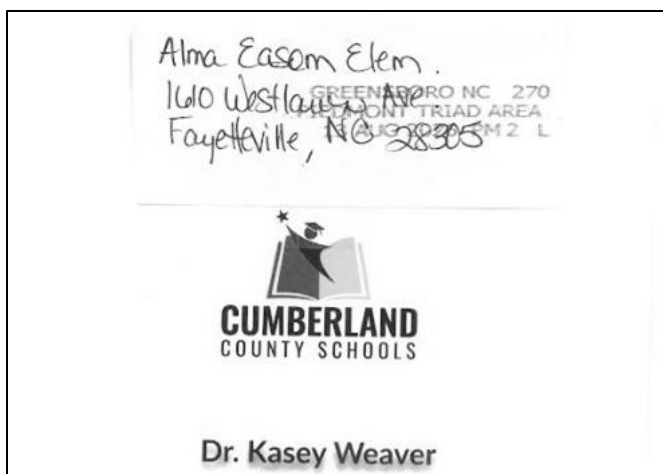


Blankets will be given to children interviewed.

They will have a choice of stars or pawprints.



Thanks to everyone who brought donations during our August School Supply drive!



Thank you so much for the School Supplies. We will definitely put them to good use! We appreciate the support from your Church.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kasey Weaver

NC Women of the ELCA Fall Conference



Lutheran Church of the Living Word, Lauringburg, NC, finds 6 of St. James' members/friends enjoying a morning of spirit-filled fun, Bible Study, food, and blessings on Saturday, September 26, 2026.

Saint James folks:

Sonia Nazario Sue Rink, Jacky Hummel, Tonie Neal, Diana Vittoe

Congratulations!



Campbell Burt received \$4 K from

Women of the ELCA Patterson Scholarship for 2026-2027 school year.





Our 10:00 Sunday worship service is being streamed live, and is also available for later viewing.

Click [here](#) to watch



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



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 in Room 127 Sunday mornings at 9 am

Upcoming Zoom Meetings ~ Click on the times to connect

Property Team - (October 13)

- 2nd Tuesdays

(Meeting ID: 829 6466 1925 / Password: 977528)

[6:00 pm](#)

Men's Bible Study - Sundays

(Meeting ID 821 3488 9583 / Password: 257977)

[9:00 am](#)

Fellowship & Conversation - Tuesdays

(Meeting ID: 837 4730 9659 / Password: 588450)

[7:00 pm](#)

THANKS FOR SHARING RESOURCES



We appreciate every gift that is received, and we attempt to make wise decisions in how we use and invest these funds.

Thanks for on-going financial giving.

You can support our ministries by scanning the code or online

[Click here](#)



Fellowship Opportunities



Join us every first Tuesday, at Noon!

Potluck Lunch in our Fellowship Hall

November 3rd at Noon

The Prime Timer group is designed as a fellowship opportunity for all members over 55.

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Frederick Clarkson, new Pastor and Director of Episcopal Farm Workers Ministry, featuring in Dunn

Men's Fellowship – November 4th



Come join us every first Wednesday 5:30 pm - 8 pm on the back lawn of St. James for brats, beans, and beverages.

If you are coming, let Dave Runkle or Todd Burns know in advance.

Weather plan is in the Annex/Entrance across the parking lot

Fellowship opportunity for women!



Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, November 12th at 9am at

Eggs up Grill, 2951 Town Center Drive

If you are interested, please let Ruth Ann know: 910-309-1007



Worship Leaders

Assisting Ministers

10/04 Jane Boelke
 10/11 Lindsey Smith
 10/18 Ruth Ann Crecelius
 10/25 Scott Marosek

Lectors

10/04 Kathy Brown
 10/11 Jane Boelke
 10/18 Rick Boelke
 10/25 Jim Wright

Communion Assistant

10/04 Henry Orellano
 10/11 Dave Runkle
 10/18 Jacky Hummel
 10/25 Jaye-Lynn Orellano

Ushers

10/04 Lindsey Smith, Erin Smith
 10/11 Erin Smith, Teri Bumphrey
 10/18 Tonie Neal, Avery Walker
 10/25 Agnes Rybar, Ben Burt

Acolytes

10/04 Gianna Orellano
 10/11 Holden Linkous
 10/18 Gabriel Thomas
 10/25 Henry Orellano

Greeters

10/04 Fran DeSilva
 10/11 Kathy Brown
 10/18 Linda Stellfox
 10/25 Teri Bumphrey

Rover

10/04 Dave Runkle
 10/11 Jake Smalley
 10/18 Verena & Christopher Min
 10/25 Edward Samuelian

Nursery

10/04 Sue Rink, Tonie Neal
 10/11 Erin Fuhr, Patsy Linkous
 10/18 Erika Stockwell, Kathy Brown
 10/25 ... Amber Habermehl, Jennifer Linkous

Around the Parish

PRAYER REQUEST

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



One of the gifts that the Christian community shares with others is praying for those with special needs or concerns. Call the Church Office or fill out the green form in the pew racks to let us know of prayer needs.

The list in the weekly bulletin is intended to be for persons in immediate crisis. Generally those names will be changed after 3 weeks.

The newsletter has our long-term prayer list which is updated as you tell us.

Please keep us informed so that we can share accurate information with the Saint James community.

Remember These

People at Home or in Care facilities (restricted mobility)

- Jacque Yacobucci
- Charlotte Davis
- Dara Lehner
- Brenda Killett
- Carolyn Uchtorff
- Betty Kern
- Suzi Wilkinson
- Beth Sessoms

Prayer Concerns:

- ◇ Angel Davis
- ◇ Mark & Ann Mabe
- ◇ David Herring
- ◇ James Peterson, Jr.
- ◇ Darcey Beale

Military Members

(* Deployed)

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



- 10/01 Tonie Neal
- 10/02 Nanci Williams
- 10/02 Chandra McClenahan
- 10/04 Mary Rosenberg
- 10/07 Janet George
- 10/07 Ethan Wilson
- 10/08 Marie Runkle
- 10/09 Rick Black
- 10/12 Michael McClenahan
- 10/14 Scott Marosek
- 10/19 Gianna Orellano
- 10/19 Kathy Brown
- 10/19 Rick Boelke
- 10/20 Fran DeSilva
- 10/20 Mary Wright
- 10/21 Leighann Combs
- 10/24 Willa Porter
- 10/24 Lynn Bremer
- 10/25 Richard VanPelt
- 10/27 Nancy Olliver
- 10/27 Anthony Rybar
- 10/31 Jim Wright

Anniversaries



- 10/01 Ben & Dawn Burt
- 10/02 Jim & Linda Schlenker
- 10/12 Gary & Joan Eissinger
- 10/12 Glenn & Erika Stockwell
- 10/18 Jacky & James Hummel

**The Messenger is a monthly newsletter of
Saint James Lutheran Church,
P.O. Box 53276; Fayetteville, NC 28305.**

All are welcome to worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.
Holy Communion is celebrated every week.

**Should you have an emergency or need Pastoral Care, contact
Pastor John Locke: Cell (704) 530-9969 or jpl406@gmail.com .**

**Church Staff Office hours are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mo-Th.
Phone: (910) 484-8052 | 24 hour answering machine.
www.saintjamesfay.org E-mail: saintjameslutheran@gmail.com**

Saint James Lutheran Church

Located in the Haymount Area

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www.saintjamesfay.org

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