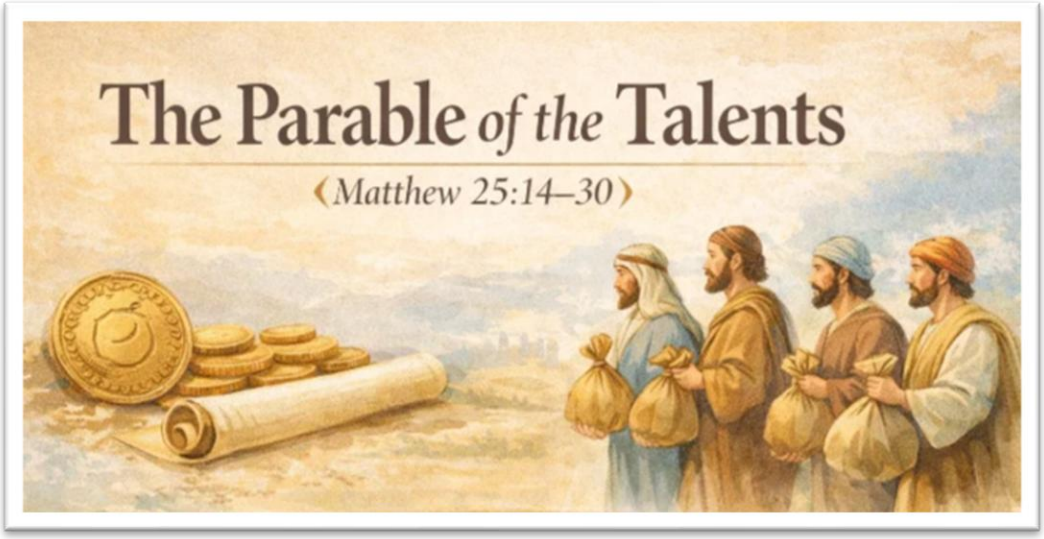
Saint James Lutheran Church
November 15, 2026
25th Sunday after Pentecost



Those who await their return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

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		
	November 15 25th Sunday after Pentecost	**November 22 26th Sunday after Pentecost**
Assisting Minister	Ruth Ann Crecelius	Lindsey Smith
Lector	Daniel & Holden Linkous	Diana Vittoe
Communion Assistants	Hannah Rea	Jane Boelke
Ushers	Sharon VanPelt, Edward Samuelian	Hannah Rea, Ben Burt
Greeter	Nancy Oliver	Erika & Glenn Stockwell
Acolyte	Victoria Orellano	Gianna Orellano
Rover	Dave Runkle	Jake Smalley
Worship Nursery	Sue Rink, Erin Fuhr	Erika Stockwell, Verena Min

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GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

HANDBELL CHOIR: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*



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,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety
over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light *ELW 715*

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.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

We sit.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Blessing of Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes ... led by Jane Boelke

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. Please talk with Amber Habermehl, Pastor, or call the church office.)

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord God,
for the day of the Lord is at hand!
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

PSALM 90:1-8-12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;
5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
11 Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?
12 **So teach us to number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

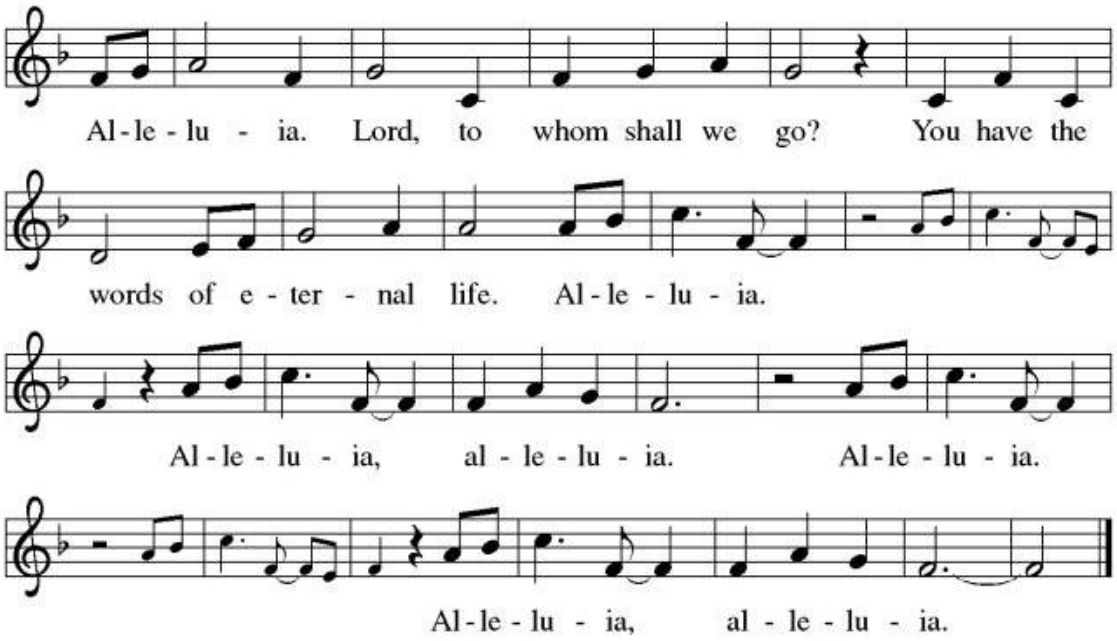
SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to
you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When
they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come
upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for
that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of
the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for
those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day,
let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God
has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so
that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up
each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

We stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Setting 8)



GOSPEL The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them.[15] To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey. [16] "After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. [17] In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more.[18] But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. [19] "Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. [20] The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, 'Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.'

[21] "His master replied, 'Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.' [22] "The second servant also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I've gained two more.' [23] "His master replied, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.' [24] "Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven't sown. You gather crops where you haven't spread seed. [25] So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what's yours.' [26] "His master replied, 'You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven't sown and that I gather crops where I haven't spread seed? [27] In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest.[28] Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins.[29] Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. [30] Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.' "People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

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

We sit

SERMON Pastor John

We stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

As Saints of Old ELW 695

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 are listed in the back of the bulletin)*

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

God, in your mercy.
hear our prayer.

We stand

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

We stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

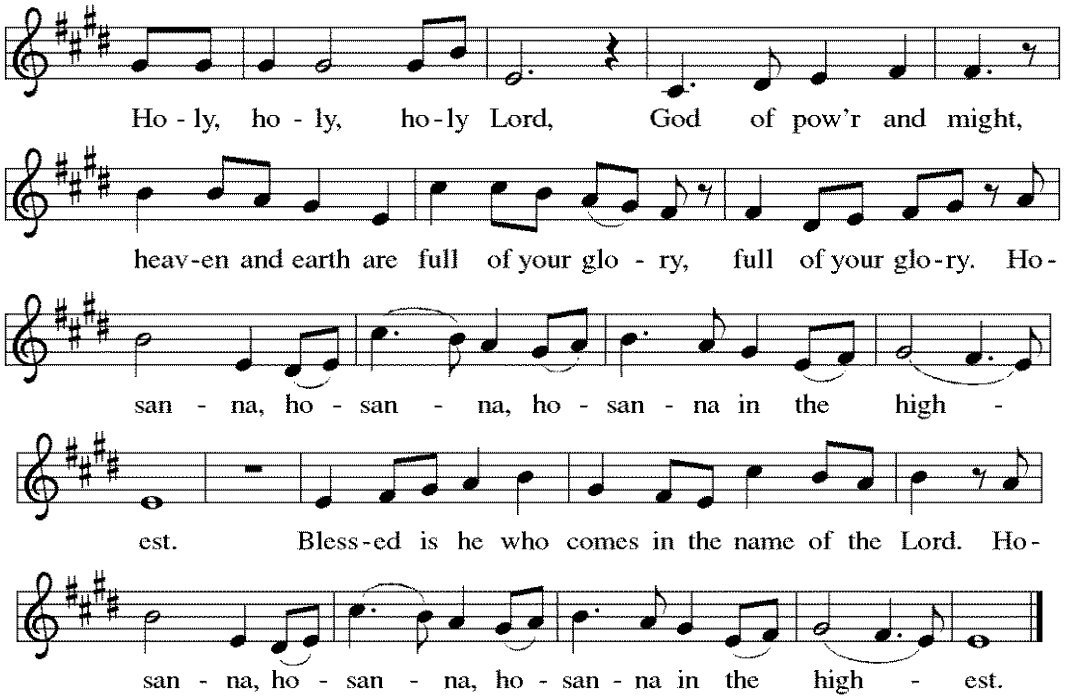
DIALOGUE

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)



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

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

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.
Thanks be to God.

We sit.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

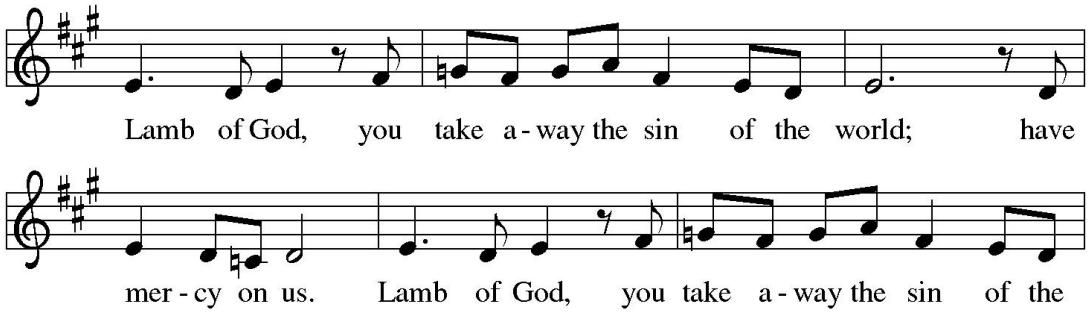
All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are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

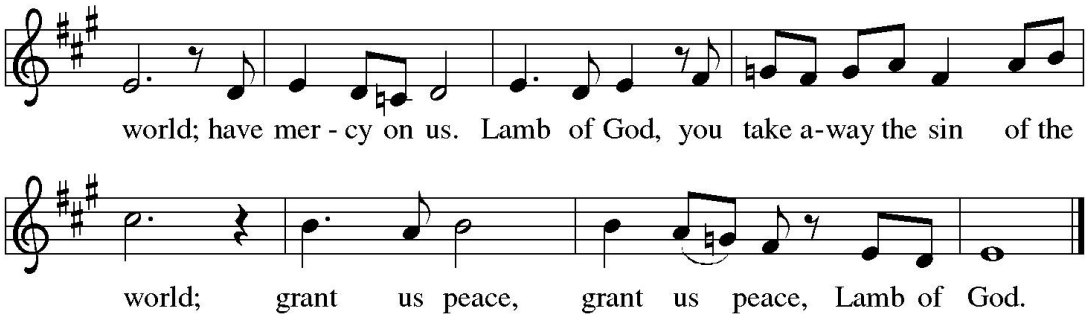
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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)





Taste and See ELW 493

Lord of Light ELW 688

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

Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out, awake to your presence,
now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

BLESSING

The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* ELW 632

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS
November 11/10/26

The list in the weekly bulletin is intended to be for persons in immediate crisis. Generally, those names are 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 · Paul Orose

Friends & Family
· Diane Stultz · Stasha ·Katie Maxwell · Charlotte Choice and family · Mindy Quinby · Morgen Jensen · James Rose · Ethan Thompkins · Simone Ryan · Mike Crecelius · Connie Vargas · Priscilla Unger · Irene Ferguson ·Sal LoGalbo · Kathy Huling · Karrie Hawkins · Betty Beale · Nicole Bordley · Jason Everage · Alan Carlson · Family of Dennis James Heinrich (son of former member Kathleen Heinrich)

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 · Robert Bradley · Angelus VanDervoort · Mustafa Alshamari

Ministry at St. James … November 15 - 22, 2026

Sun. Nov 15	***25th Sunday after Pentecost***	
	9:00 am	Sunday Morning Faith Formation
	10:00 am	Worship and Blessing of the Boxes of *Operation Christmas Child*
	11:30 am	Choir Practice
Mon. Nov 16	9:00 am	Quilting Ministry (Annex)
	6:00 pm	Cub Scout Den Meeting
Tue. Nov 17	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 747
	7:00 pm	Fellowship on Zoom
Wed. Nov 18	6:30 pm	Handbell Choir
Sat. Nov 21	7:30 am	Honeycutt Park clean up (352 Devers Street). JOIN US!
	8:30 am	Property Team Work Day (Saint James campus) Everyone is welcome!
Sun. Nov 22	***Christ the King Sunday***	
	9:00 am	Sunday Morning Faith Formation
	10:00 am	Worship and renewal of Vows for Agnes and Georgette
	11:30 am	Choir Practice

Upcoming Worship Highlights:

Nov. 22	Christ The King Sunday Renewal of Vows for Agnes and Georgette (10-year anniversary)
Nov. 29	First Sunday of Advent; Baptism of Colt Broding (Riley and Caitlyn)
Dec 11	Annual Christmas – Advent Fellowship Dinner with ***Rivermist***



If you know someone you think has skills, passions, or gifts for Council, please speak with one of the nominating team members below; and remember, self-nominations are allowed. Elections are scheduled for December 27.

Nominating Committee 2026

Edward Samuelian	910-551-9082	**Joan Eissinger**	910-850-8444
Amber Habermehl	864-704-3482	**Daniel Linkous**	910-527-6633
Lindsey Smith	812-272-8161	**Illya Tietzel**	504-334-1166



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

In the mid-sixties, Ray E. Adkins designed a seal for the congregation. After studying the church constitution, he incorporated the open bible with a superimposed cross.

A scallop shell, taken from the shield of James the Apostle was added to the design. A lovely banner featuring the seal was made and hangs in the sanctuary today.





A community Thanksgiving worship will be held on **Monday, November 23, 7:00** at

The Church of The Latter Day Saints
6420 Morganton Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28314

This is a wonderfully ecumenical gathering:
LDS, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Fayetteville Friends, Community Church UMC, St. James Lutheran.