

# Saint James Lutheran Church

## SEPTEMBER—2019

### From the Pastor

On September 29, our celebration and recognition of 175 years of ministry comes to a close, but our ministry of living together in God's faithfulness and being about Christ's work does not. As we continue forth in faith, Bishop Eaton's article provides a wonderful lens through which to consider our life and common witness as Lutherans.

Grace and peace, *Pastor Tony*

### **From the Presiding Bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton:**

One of the distinct privileges of this call as presiding bishop is seeing the church at work at home and around the world. The Lutheran movement is alive and well, speaking the gospel in a distinctive voice. Sunday after Sunday the good news is proclaimed in accordance with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. In hundreds of languages and dialects, God's promise of grace, reconciliation and freedom is received and celebrated in places Martin Luther never knew existed. We are part of a worldwide family.

In many ways, and in the most important ways, we are alike. The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. A clear understanding of human brokenness and our inability to save ourselves sets us apart from societal and even some theological pressures that would try to draw us away from the source of our life and freedom. A world built on works and individualism promises salvation based on our own effort and denies salvation if we fail. The Lutheran movement points to another way. This is our common witness.

There are also glorious expressions particular to regions, countries and history: governance; organization; the role of laity, deacons, pastors and bishops; and the age for first communion, to name a few. And that's just the ELCA! Around the world the expression of Lutheranism takes on many different flavors—literally and figuratively.

In the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, porridge is a staple at all meals, so they pray, "Give us today our daily porridge." Spiritual healers are an important part of the life and ministry in the Lutheran church in Madagascar. Lutherans in Mexico celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which falls just a day away from the Swedish celebration of Santa Lucia. Lutherans around the world hold fast to the core and adapt to make the gospel accessible.

Part of Luther's genius was to make Scripture, preaching and worship available in the language of the people. All these variations make the Lutheran movement richer, especially when we share across borders and cultures.

Just two years ago we commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It was interesting to see the different ways congregations and synods marked the event. Luther roses sprang up everywhere, even on an NCIS episode. There were Luther movies and Luther seminars. Ecumenical worship services were held, notably with Roman Catholics. I think the Small Catechism made the best-seller list. I can almost imagine a Lutheran Y2K-like montage of celebrations as the sun rose on Oct. 31, 2017, across the globe. If Lutherans are allowed to be proud, we were.

Now it's time to move forward. It's good to remember the events of the 16th century, but we shouldn't get stuck there. We need to ask what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century.

Now it's time to move forward. It's good to remember the events of the 16th century, but we shouldn't get stuck there. We need to ask what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century. What it means for the Lutheran World Federation's 148 member churches, representing over 75.5 million members in 99 countries, that are exploring Lutheran identity. For some member churches with a state church tradition—Sweden, for example—Lutheran identity is a novel concept. The Lutheran church was "The Church," and there was no need to think about identity. Now many churches in Africa and Asia are forging an indigenous expression of what it means to be Lutheran. Yes, they still sing hymns set to German, Swedish and American hymn tunes, but they are also developing music and worship using traditional instruments and styles.

What will our Lutheran identity be in the ELCA? We still treasure our immigrant roots—and we should. But if our ethnic identities become synonymous with Lutheran identity, we are missing the mark. The gospel, and Luther's clear exposition of it, transcends human boundaries. When a single culture's vernacular becomes the established language of the people, we hinder the gospel's free course in the world. We can become an alternative face of Christianity in the culture—one that moves across divisions, is meant for all, and that is a free and liberating gift.

(From the *Living Lutheran*, August 2019)

## BIRTHDAYS for the week of August 25 thru August 31

August	25	Will King Audrey Baker	30	Hunter Huss Carson Crainshaw
	26	Dave Burke		Donna Sloop
	27	Abigail Bestler Lily Kartheiser		Monty Hughes
	29	Richard Benz Marcia Klaus	31	Connor Gale



**Included here are prayer requests for the month.** We invite you to have your prayer requests listed by calling the Church Office at 704-786-0166, Ext. 0, sending an e-mail to [debbie@sjnc.net](mailto:debbie@sjnc.net) or making a request online at our website, [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net). Full listings for prayer list will be monthly with additions listed on a weekly basis. We will remove names after several weeks—if you wish to have your request to remain on list—please let us know.

Alex Barnhardt  
Ralph & Sandy Barnhardt  
Richard Benz  
Jessie Blackwelder  
Lisa Booth (daughter of friend of Dave Burke)  
Michelle Brown (friend of Gretchen Walker)  
Clifford and Ernestine Caffrey  
Noah Davis Clifton  
Gloria Cole  
Don Fowler  
Edith Gonynor  
Phyllis Harward  
Gib Heilig

Richard Jones (father of Jeff Jones)  
Martha Kelley  
D. L. Locklear (father of Theresa Steel)  
Pat Mahoney (husband of Joan)  
Jimmy Marlow  
Susan Murray (mother of Gretchen Walker & Laurie Miller)

Clary Phillips  
Heather Schwarz (daughter of Al & Dee Pieschel)  
Marc Sloop (son of Phil Sloop)  
Doris Smith  
Charlie Vail (uncle of Francie Davis)

*Students and Teachers; our homebound members,  
and all in need of prayer*



**The Altar Flowers today are given** to the Glory of God  
by Chip and Ann Blackwelder.

***“Thank you for being a friend...”***

For those of you that are too young and have never heard the theme song from the Golden Girls – I ask you to google it. ***“Travel down the road and back again...”*** is where I am right now in this period of my life and I do want to thank you all for being a friend!!! I plan to retire as of November 1 of this year. Life has not turned out exactly as I planned, that is for sure – but I have come to realize – life is short, and it is what we make it. It was always Johnny’s and my plan for me to retire at this point. Obviously, a lot of what we planned will not happen – but I know I will follow my passions and do more of what I enjoy most (family, friends, and outreach). I do not know exactly where this new journey may lead – but I have faith in God, that He is with me and I am very comfortable with my decision.

For you who are familiar with the Golden Girls – you will know they were all different – different personalities, different opinions, varying views – but at the same time really good friends! That is how I look at my life here at St. James – and I thank you for allowing me to be “me” – with all my passions and opinions.

I cannot begin to tell you what St. James Church as an extended family has meant to me over the past 6 years. Working with friends has been a joy. Please know I love the people of St. James and will continue friendships for sure.

Blessings, Love, and Peace,

*Debbie*

## Christian Education

**Thank you to all who donated to the VBS Coin Drive!** We were able to buy 8 goats, 3 groups of chicks, 2 groups of honeybees, 1 rooster, and 1 pig through ELCA Good Gifts to send to people in developing countries.

**There are several opportunities for Adult Sunday School this Fall.** The Augsburg series of Bible lessons will be covered in Classroom 120 and C9. The Growing in Christ series will continue in the History Room (204) covering Judges and Kings. The Revised Lectionary will be taught in the Pastor's class in the Parlor (220). Hope to see you there!

**Christian Education is gearing up for another year of Children's Church!** Children ages ~4-9 are welcome to join us as we learn the stories of the Bible through art, crafts, games, story telling, and more. Volunteers will teach for two consecutive weeks and rotate throughout the year. If you have any questions or are interested in being a lead teacher or assistant, please talk with Golda Jay or Christine Lovelace.

## Parish Fellowship/Anniversary Committee

**Lively Leisure luncheon** will be at the church on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at noon. Program is pending.

**Mary Magdalene Circle will meet** Tuesday, September 3 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Jean Beasley is the chairperson.

**Esther Circle will meet** Monday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Martha Matthews. Nancy Faggart will have the program. Sandra Faggart is the Chairperson.

**Wednesday Nights Together start back September 11.** Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. with program following. Reservations are helpful and can be made on pew pads located on your church pew on Sundays; or call the church office. Suggested cost: \$6 per person / \$20 per family. *We invite everyone to join us!*

Menus for September:

September 11	Ham, Potato Casserole, Salad, Bread, Drink, and Dessert
September 25	Chicken Rice Casserole, Green Beans, Salad, Bread, Drink and Dessert

**Whether you are a lifelong member of St. James, a recent member, a former member, a once-in-a-while attendee, or simply a friend of St. James, you are invited to**

**COME HOME TO ST. JAMES  
Sunday, September 29, 2019  
175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming**

Join the celebration of 175 years of loving and living within the embrace of St. Lutheran Church.

The Reverend John C. Propst, a son of St. James and a brother or cousin to numerous church members bearing the Propst surname, will serve as guest preacher. John is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne University and Lutheran Southern Seminary. He and his wife, Liz, live in Arden near Lutheridge and are parents of three adult children and four grandchildren.

The September 29 homecoming will include the service at 10 a.m. with special music, followed by a luncheon in King Fellowship Hall, a video featuring participants in the Oral History project, and tours of the building.

**Lunch reservations are required for table setup and food planning!** Please RSVP by Monday, Sept. 23 to Debbie Wilkinson at 704-786-0166 or [debbie@sjnc.net](mailto:debbie@sjnc.net). The luncheon will be served by the combined youth of St. James and Calvary Lutheran.

In keeping with the tradition of our church women sharing homemade baked items for special events, the Anniversary Committee is asking volunteers to supply favorite desserts for the meal. They can be placed on the designated "dessert table" in the fellowship hall before the service.

You are part of the legacy that has flourished through the years since St. James' founding in 1843. Please join the celebration on September 29!

**Chair/Mat Yoga:** Wednesdays from 1:00—2:00 p.m. Angie Buchanan is the instructor. The cost is \$3.00 a class. Come and join us! For information, please call Angie @ 704-467-3321.

## Social Ministry

**St. James will be serving meals** at the Salvation Army Night Shelter from September 15—21. Sign up sheets are posted in the portico area—please sign up for a night to provide a meal (or a portion of a meal) to folks in our community that need our support. **Also, we are asking folks to donate preferably homemade (but store bought works too) cookies** to be delivered to our area fire departments and law enforcement offices. We will be packing the donated cookies on Saturday, September 14 and also ask for folks and families to help deliver on Sunday, September 15 following worship. Contact Dee Pieschel if you are willing to donate; pack; and/or deliver. **Again this year we will be collecting supplies for Cabarrus Immersion Preschool at St. James.** Needed items are: paper towels; trifold towels; Lysol spray; hand soap — if you have items to donate, please place in bin inside door in portico area.

**CCM Current needs are:** Green Beans (ideally lower sodium); Canned Fruit (except for fruit cocktail, and ideally with no added sugar); Soup—all kinds (ideally lower sodium); Canned Carrots; Canned Mixed Vegetables; Canned Beans (except for kidney); Spaghetti Noodles and any other dried pasta; Canned Chicken and other canned meats besides tuna, beef stew, or spaghetti & meatballs; Toilet Paper and Paper Towels; Diapers sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Currently—they have plenty of Canned Kidney Beans, Canned Corn, Canned Peas, Diced Tomatoes; Fruit Cocktails

**September 8, is the annual Cabarrus County Fair Food Drive.** Between 1—3 that day there is free gate admission with: 4 canned food items per adult and 2 canned food items per child. The food is distributed to CCM and several other Cabarrus County food pantries.

## Scouts

**Our church sponsors three scouting units that will resume meeting this Fall.** Cub Scouts is for grade K-5. We currently have a boy's group, but could start a girls group with two registered female leaders. Boy Scouts is for young men ages 10 1/2 to 18 years old, and Sea Scouts ages 14 to 21 years old.

Our first combined Pizza party meeting will be Monday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about our programs is invited to participate. The more the merrier!

Cub and Boy Scout meetings are on Mondays at 6:30 p.m., and Sea Scouts meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

## Cabarrus Immersion Preschool at St. James

St. James thank you! 2019 will be the first preschool experience for many families. Our vision together is to 'serve the least of these' and attract all families, enhancing the learning and development experience through diversity. Thank you St. James for your strong confidence and volunteering. Last year we learned that *"In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge"* (Proverbs 14:26). Please watch for a sign-up sheet if you would like to tour and see the impact you are having on multiple generations.



## The Bells of St. James

**We currently have several openings in our handbell choir, The Bells of St. James.** If you have a basic understanding of music and would like to join the handbell choir, please contact our Director of Music/Organist, Mark Frye at mark@sjnc.net. He would be happy to discuss this opportunity with you. The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:00—7:00.

## Youth and Family

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Chapter 5 from the book of John shares a story about a man that could not walk and had been laying beside a pool for a very long time, with the hope of being healed. As the story goes, when the water in the pool became disturbed by the brushing of the wings of an angel, the first one in the pool was healed from their illness. The man in the story had been there for 38 years. Jesus came through one day and noticed the gentleman laying there and asked him, "Do you want to be made well?" The man didn't answer at first but gave excuses as to why he had been there for so long and why he wasn't healed as to that moment. Jesus asked him again, "Do you want to be made well?" The man said yes and then Jesus said to him, "Pick up your mat and go."

What a gift the man was given. Was it a healing? Maybe it was? Or, was it strong words of encouragement to step out of his normal way of life? Either way, the man walked away and was able to experience a whole lot more than watching life go by while sitting beside a pool.

And so it is with us. The Youth Ministry has so much to offer that it would be a shame to miss out on what God is doing and has in store for us. I'm not saying that we have been sitting around the pool all of our lives, but I am saying that if a person would step out of the normal, one will experience a lot more of what Jesus has to offer. The Youth Ministry offers close relationships that can last a life time as well as creating memories that you will always remember. The ministry does step out of the comfort zones in order to experience newness while receiving the love of Christ, as well as sharing the love of Christ. We grow and learn because we walk on this journey of faith together. We serve others and that is an experience in it's self. We accomplish things that we would never think was possible and we do all of this because we are called not to sit still but to get up and move! That's putting our faith into action.

September is the start of a New Youth Ministry Year and we would like for everyone to step out of their comfort zone and join in. You are invited to join in the fun and the excitement of participating in the ministry. You are invited to step away from the normal so that you might experience even more and make a difference to others in the process.

We will be kicking the Youth Ministry New Year off on Sunday, September 8 at the Propst Farm with a cook out, fishing, games, a whole lot of fun and would like for everyone, from a new 6th grader through current high school senior, to join in.

So, Happy New Year and we will see you at Youth very soon!

Today, August 25 the youth will gather for an ice cream social and games at Calvary. Invite a friend and come on. We will gather from 5:00 to 6:00. Hope to see you then.

The Youth Ministry Kick Off will take place on Sunday, September 8 at the Propst Farm starting at 5:00. This is for the whole family to come together, eat a hamburger and a hot dog, go fishing, play some games, hang out and enjoy each others company. Please bring a dessert to share and sign up at the youth bulletin board. Hope to see you then.

September 8 is going to be a very busy day! Starting around 11:30 we will go out and serve others. The youth ministry will be removing a wheel chair ramp, making some improvements to two porches, installing a gutter, making a stand for a rain barrel, making a rain barrel, cutting some grass, blowing off a roof, doing some electrical work and then we will head out to the farm for some fun and dinner with all of the fixins.

September 29 is a very special day in the life of St. James and we have been asked to jump in and give a hand. Mark your calendar as we participate in celebrating the 175 Anniversary/Homecoming of St. James Lutheran Church. We have been asked to help make it even more special by serving the celebration luncheon after the 10:00 worship service. We are asked to wear usual white shirt or top with a black skirt or pair of pants. Gentlemen wear a tie as well. We will be doing what we do best and that is to serve. There will be more details to follow soon.

Small groups will be starting up soon, watch for the dates and times.

College online will also be starting up after the dust has settled from moving back in and everyone gets acclimated. If we do not have your email address, please send it to the church office so we can invite you to join in the conversation. College online usually last about 30 minutes and starts up around 9:30 at night. Hope to see you online!

Peace, *Mike*



**To the Members of St. James,**

We are so grateful of people who make choices that change the lives of others. Thank you for being one of them!! Your contribution to the AYA House is very appreciated. As you may or may not know, this house exists to provide an affordable, home-like environment for adult males who have successfully completed primary residential treatment for substance dependence and who have the sincere desire to remain in a supportive recovering community as they practice and develop their sober lifestyle and continue to grow mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially.

The challenges and possibilities are endless but your prayers and contributions help us ensure that we can help these men build a better tomorrow through our program.

Thank you again for your generous gift and continue to think of the AYA House as we strive to accomplish new heights in this ministry.

Sincerely, *Rev. Alexander Porter*

**Dear Pastor Tony and St. James Family,**

*God sent His blessings through you!* Your recent donation and continued support is greatly appreciated. Together, we're impacting lives one soul at a time!!

Forever Grateful, *The Esther's Heart Team*

**Dear Friends,**

The Salvation Army would like to thank you for the generous monetary donation of \$1,000.00 for our New Center of Hope.

We see so many people of our community in need. It is only through the generosity of supporters like you that we are able to continue to assist them with the basic needs of life.

Thank you for helping us to make a difference in someone's life.

May God bless you!

Sincerely, *Lts Josh and Amanda Keaton, Corps Officers*

### **Next Week's Readings September 1, 2019**

First Reading:	Proverbs 25:6-7
Gradual:	Psalm 112
Epistle Reading:	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Holy Gospel:	Luke 14:1, 7-14

### **Our Stewardship:**

**Contributions & Receipts for:  
August 18, 2019—\$6,424.41**

***(\$8,135.00 needed per week)***

# This Month at Saint James

## SEPTEMBER - 2019

SEPTEMBER - 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist	<b>2</b> Happy Labor Day Church Office Closed....	<b>3</b> 10:30 Mary Magdalene Circle 5:00 Executive Cte 6:00 Social Ministry (History Rm) 6:30 Property (Parlor)	<b>4</b> 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety
<b>8</b> 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist 11:30 GWOH-Yth 5:00 Youth @ Propst Farm	<b>9</b> 10:30 Quilting Grp 6:30 Boy/Cub Scouts Pizza Party (F. Hall) 7:00 Esther Circle (home of Martha Matthews)	<b>10</b> 6:30 Church Council (History Rm)	<b>11</b> 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga 5:30 Wednesday Nights Together	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety 10:00 Package cookies to be delivered to fire departments And Law enforcement offices
<b>15</b> 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist Deliver cookies to Fire/Police (after worship) 5:00 Jr. High 6:00 Sr. High	<b>16</b> 10:00 Mission Fund Committee Mtg. 10:30 Quilting Grp 6:30 Boy/Cub Scouts Salvation	<b>17</b> 12:00 Lively Leisures (F. Hall) 7:00 Sea Scouts Army	<b>18</b> 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Guys Small Grp 7:00 Choir Reh 9:30 College Online Night	<b>19</b> Shelter	<b>20</b> Meals	<b>21</b> 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety
<b>22</b> 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist 5:00 Jr. High 6:00 Sr. High	<b>23</b> 10:30 Quilting Grp 6:30 Boy/Cub Scouts	<b>24</b> 12:00 Lively Leisures 1:30 CROP Walk Team Mtg. (History Rm) 6:00 Cristian Ed Cte. (Parlor)	<b>25</b> 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga 5:30 Wednesday Nights Together 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Guys Small Grp 7:00 Choir Reh 9:30 College Online	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety
<b>29</b> 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist 175th Anniversary Celebration/ Homecoming	<b>30</b> 10:30 Quilting Grp 6:30 Boy/Cub Scouts					

# SAINT JAMES

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

CONCORD

NORTH CAROLINA

104 UNION STREET SOUTH  
PO BOX 684  
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28025  
Church Office 704.786.0166  
Website [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net)



@stjamesnc

Office Hours M-Th, 9:00—5:30

*Closed for lunch from 12 Noon until 1:00 p.m.*

The Parish Office is closed on Fridays

### THE DIRECTORY

The Baptized Members of St. James.....Ministers  
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton.....Presiding Bishop  
The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

### THE SAINT JAMES STAFF

The Rev. Tony Bradshaw.....Senior Pastor  
[tony@sjnc.net](mailto:tony@sjnc.net)  
Mark D. Frye...Director of Worship & Music/Organist  
[mark@sjnc.net](mailto:mark@sjnc.net)  
Mike Holt.....Youth and Family  
[mvholt1957@yahoo.com](mailto:mvholt1957@yahoo.com)  
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Kathryn Radcliffe.....Nursery Coordinator  
[krad3700@gmail.com](mailto:krad3700@gmail.com)

### THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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Jodi Ramirez.....[jramirez@kannapolisnc.gov](mailto:jramirez@kannapolisnc.gov)

## The Liturgy Assistants

### Worship Assistants August 25, 2019

#### USHERS

Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin, Tony Mosley, Tony Folino, and Mike Downs

#### BUILDING SUPERVISOR

#### ALTAR GUILD

Gretchen Walker, Dianne Lambert, and Jill Irvin

#### FLOWERS

Chip and Ann Blackwelder

#### GREETERS

Esther Circle

#### NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Today:

Kathryn Radcliffe & Gretchen Walker

Next Week:

Kathryn Radcliffe & Laura Patterson

#### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Today:

Nancy Faggart

Kenny Propst

Dave Burke

Next Week:

Dianne Lambert

Liny Baker

Frank Irvin

#### LECTORS

Today:

Mark Murphy

Next Week:

Marvene Rose

#### INTERCESSOR

Today:

Margaret Pruette

Next Week:

Ann Gillon

#### ALTAR SERVERS

Today:

Acolyte: Jodi Ramirez

Next Week:

Acolyte: Casey Gale

#### CHILDREN'S CHURCH/ MUSIC MINISTRY

Today: Vero Grady and Lori

Stephens

Next Week:

## The Parish Events

### SUNDAY, August 25

9:00 Sunday Church School

9:00 Parish Choir Rehearsal

10:00 Choral Eucharist

5:00 Youth Group Ice Cream Social

### MONDAY, August 26

10:30 Quilting Ministry

### TUESDAY, August 27

NO meetings/events planned

### WEDNESDAY, August 28

12:05 Noon Eucharist Service

1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga

### THURSDAY, August 29

4:00 Open House —

Cabarrus Immersion Preschool at St. James

### FRIDAY, August 30

NO meetings/events planned

### SATURDAY, August 31

10:00 Celebrating Sobriety

10:00 Kitchen Clean-Up

### SUNDAY, September 1

9:00 Sunday Church School

9:00 Parish Choir Rehearsal

10:00 Choral Eucharist

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