

Saint James Lutheran Church

APRIL—2019

From the Pastor

I shared the following article with the council of St. James at our annual retreat. It is a reminder that the One who was rejected, suffered, died on a cross, and was raised on the third day, is still active and faithful and among us forgiving us, strengthening our faith, and sending us out to embody and proclaim new life. That is our hope today and forever.

Pastor Tony

What Is God Up To?

Presiding Bishop Eaton (from February 2019 Living Lutheran)

What is to be done? Our congregations are growing older and smaller. At least 40 percent of our congregations have an average weekly worship attendance of 50 or less. ELCA membership decreases by 70,000 people a year, or roughly the loss of a synod per year. Clergy retirements outnumber new candidates for ministry. Financial pressures and building maintenance create stress. There is a dearth of people in their 20s and 30s in our pews. How do we change this? How do we reverse the trends?

These are anxious questions that come from anxious people across this church. We aren't the only ones asking them—just about every mainline denomination, including the non-Latino population of the Roman Catholic Church, is in the same boat. Even some megachurches are showing signs of plateau or decline. And this is not exclusive to the Christian community. I once attended a national conference of Muslims where one workshop was titled “Un-Mosqued to Mosqued: How to Get the Young Muslim Back to the Masjid.”

Some now see the decline of the church in general, and the ELCA in particular, as inevitable. The response can be to turn our churches into bunkers with our congregations sheltering within the walls or to try every new program that breathlessly promises to attract people to our congregations. Neither is an effective or faithful long-term strategy.

I think we are asking the wrong questions. The questions we are asking have to do about us: “What can we do?” They express loss and grief and fear—loss and grief for what we were and fear about what we will become. Not only do these questions not lead to productive answers, they also don't point to hope. It's as if the church's one foundation rests on us and our efforts. I think we need to ask: “What is God up to?”

It's clear to me that we are living in a time of transition, especially for the Western church. I don't know how long this transition will last nor do I have a clear vision of what the church is becoming.

The good news is that you and I don't have to have a clear vision because God does. “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (*Isaiah 43:18-19*). These words of hope were spoken to the Jews who were stuck in exile. They had lost their land, their temple and their king—the pillars of their identity. Likewise, the church has lost social status and relevance in 21st-century American culture.

For Israel and the church this would be a hopeless situation, except that God is faithful. When the Lord admonished, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old,” this wasn't a command to forget God's past saving work, but to believe that God was still acting. This is true for us today. When we stop asking what we can do to fix the church and start asking what God is up to, we open ourselves up to the life-giving promise of God's future.

Then we are also open to more questions: How is the Spirit reshaping the church? How will Christ use us as Christ's living body in the world?

If we want to attract people to our congregations to rebuild a memory, God will not bless our efforts. But if we—grabbed by the Spirit in baptism, changed by the word, intimately and lovingly connected to Jesus and each other in communion, and set free by grace to serve the neighbor—invite all people into true life, then we shall become part of the answer.

This takes attention and devotion. Worship, prayer, Scripture study, generosity and service—not in order to save the church, but in response to the new life God has given us in Christ.

And one more thing: in God's inscrutable wisdom, God has chosen human hands and voices to tell and welcome. Let's adopt the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod's mission to get more people to know more about Jesus.

BIRTHDAYS for the week of March 31 thru April 6

April 1 Sandra Faggart
Jeff Gilbert
4 Kathryn Craver
Austin Hoadley
6 Mark Murphy
David Clary



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 or making a request online at our website, 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.

Anne Marie (friend—Richard & Judy Benz)
Ralph Acquino (friend—Pieschels)
Malinda Allison
Alex Barnhardt
Sandy Barnhardt
Betty Beeker
Richard Benz
Nickie Bergreen
Jessie Blackwelder
Lisa Booth (daughter of friend—Dave Burke)
Michelle Brown (friend—Gretchen Walker)
Angie Buchanan
Family of Kelly Clevenger
Noah Davis Clifton
Gloria Cole
Linda Corzine (daughter—Mary Edith Jarvis)
Juanita Fitts
Harold Frace (brother-in-law—Weisels)
Dale Gilbert (brother—Jeff Gilbert)
JoAnn Gilley (sister—Juanita Fitts)
Edith Gynor
Jane Gower (friend—Judy McAnulty)
Ken Hardison
Phyllis Harward
Kelly Hill (daughter—Debbie Wilkinson)
Scott Hunt (friend—Robert Davis)

Aaron Hurley
Golda Jay and family (Otis Gouty, grandfather entered Hospice)
Connie King
Robert Klaus (brother— Linda Hartsell)
Jimmy Marlow
Bob Moore (brother-in-law—Hardisons)
Amy Murphy & family (death of her mother—
Barbara Sanford)
Susan Murray (mother—Gretchen Walker & Laurie
Miller)
Clary Phillips
Charlie Pittard & family (death of his father—
JB Pittard)
Glenda Poole & family
Annette Propst & family (death of her mother and
father—Veda and Wilbur Shifley)
Jodi Ramirez & family (death of her nephew)
Family of Joe Ridenhour
Mac Ritchie (grandson—Joan & Buddy McEachern)
Heather Schwarz (daughter —Al & Dee Pieschel)
Doris Smith
Rese Tiller (friend—Judy McAnulty)
Susan Uzzell (friend—Bill Hardister)
Charlie Vail (uncle—Francie Davis)
Kay Zimmerman (wife—Pastor Charlie Zimmerman)
Our homebound members and all in need of prayer

Next Week's Readings April 7

First Reading:	Isaiah 43:16—21
Gradual:	Psalm 126
Epistle Reading:	Philippians 3:4b—14
Holy Gospel:	John 12:1-8

Christian Education

Combined Adult Sunday School Class: The combined Adult Lenten Sunday School Classes being held in Classroom 2 (1st floor) is viewing and discussing the movie: “The Gospel of John”. The movie is the biblical Gospel of John done word-for-word as a movie. It’s the beautiful pure word of the Gospel, without Hollywood embellishment, showing Jesus’ great love for us and the real story of Easter. I hope you will join us! *Frank Irvin*

Christian Education is asking for small Spring-like tea pots and clear or white cake pedestals for a project in May. If you have one or two of each or both that you could share for that month, please contact Renee Hughes at 980-613-3297 or the church office. We are also looking for volunteers for Children’s Church Assistants for the summer months (June, July, and August). If you are willing to assist with this ministry, please contact the church office and let us know.

There will be a Children’s Easter Celebration on Saturday, April 20, from 10:00-11:15 with an Easter Story, Craft, and Easter Egg Hunt. We are collecting plastic Easter eggs filled with small wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please drop off and place in collection bin labeled in the portico area. Renee Hughes is looking for volunteers to assist with this event. If you would like to help—there will be a meeting on Saturday, April 13, at 10:00 a.m. to gather materials for this project. You can also contact Renee and let her know if you are willing to assist.

Parish Fellowship/Anniversary Committee

WELCA: Esther Circle meets Monday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. Golda Jay will host at the church and Susan Miller will have the program. **Mary Magdalene Circle** meets Tuesday, April 2, at 10:30 at the church in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday Nights Together: Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. with a Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke following dinner. Reservations are helpful and can be made on pew pads located on your church pew on Sundays; online; or call the church office. Suggested cost: \$6 per person / \$20 per family. *We invite everyone to join us.*

Menus for Wednesday Nights Together in April:

April 3 — Cranberry Glazed Pork Roast, Green Bean, Salad, Fruit, Dessert, Bread, and Drink
April 10 — Lasagna, Salad, Fruit; Dessert, and Drink

Lively Leisure Luncheon Schedule:

April 16 at noon—at the church with Ed Rand presenting the program
May 2 at noon—with Dr. Gary Freeze presenting the program.

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

The Social Ministry Committee received word that the destination of the Rise Against Hunger meals you helped package on February 2, 2019 has been shipped. A shipping container, holding 285,120 meals, has been sent to Nicaragua for our partner ORPHANetwork. ORPHANetwork is an organization that nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Nicaragua. To learn more, please visit our partner/county spotlight on the Impact Stories tab and click and drag on our World Aid map at <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/world-aid/>. Thank you again for your participation and let’s keep the momentum going—by supporting CCM, Opportunity House, Salvation Army Night Shelter and Soup Kitchen—among others that so need our help—hunger is local, national, and global—we can make a difference!

My Father’s House Ministry—April 15-18, 2019: St. James/St. Johns Lutheran will be hosting MFH. There are 3 families (14 people) in the ministry. If you can help by providing items for the dinner meals on Monday, 4/15 or Tuesday, 4/16, please let Sylvia Corl know (704-786-0296 or cell 704-425-8621). Thanks, *Sylvia*

Mission Quilt Ministry Update: Through the Lutheran World Relief tracking system we know that some of our quilts traveled to Rwanda. Rwanda is one of the smallest countries on the African mainland. It is located in central/east Africa. Rwanda hosts almost 160,000 refugees as of 2017, virtually all of them fleeing conflict in neighboring Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (World Fact Book). We are so happy to know where our gifts of love went and who they are helping. We would also like to take this opportunity to request donations of flat bed sheets to use for quilt backings. New sheets are best but they do not have to be new. If they are not new, the sheets need to be clean and in good condition. Twin and full size flat sheets work best for our quilts. *Thank you for your support of the Mission Quilt Ministry.*

Anniversary Committee

The arrival of spring brings us into the second half of our 175th Anniversary Celebration. Perhaps you had noticed that the bulb planting project last November brought a welcome display of blossoms of daffodils and jonquils around the entrance monument at our historic SJLC graveyard on E. Corban Avenue.

Now the long awaited “Oral Histories Project” begins in May, running thru late June. These interviews, conducted in several casual and comfortable settings, will capture the stories and memories and weave a tapestry of our SJLC history. For additional information about this project—and how your volunteer help will be needed — please contact Jim Summers at 704-782-4982.

The 175th Anniversary Committee, in coordination with the SJLC Lively Leisure Luncheon programs, will sponsor a very special lecture for the May 21 Lively Leisure Luncheon. Dr. Gary R. Freeze, Professor of Humanities at Catawba College, has created a program focused on the early Lutherans in Cabarrus County and the formation of the 1843 founding of St. James Lutheran Church.

Dr. Freeze will speak at 12:30 p.m., after the Lively Leisure lunch meal is completed. Please understand that his address will last a full 50 minutes. If you are not a Lively Leisure member but would like to hear Dr. Freeze speak, contact Jim Summers at 704-782-4982 as there are a limited number of guest seats.

Dr. Freeze has been researching the history of Cabarrus and adjacent counties for the past four decades. His dissertation on the Odell Cotton Mills of concord was a finalist for the Allen Nevins Award from the American Historical Association. Aspects of that research continue to appear in labor history studies in both the United States and Europe. His best known work is the local heritage trilogy, *The Catambans*, a social history of Catawba County. He most recently authored a survey of Lutheran denominational history for a book on North Carolina religion. He also has been dabbling in his longstanding study of sharecropping in Poplar Tent after the Civil War. His talk includes a new source about Rev. Adolph Nussman that has just been found in the papers of Benjamin Franklin.

CCM Pantry Needs

Please note the need — CCM is running low on food compared to this time last year. Please help us to help CCM as they continue to serve our community.

Sugar Free Items, Low Sodium Items, Instant Potatoes, Corn, Canned Fruit other than Pears, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Carrots, Spaghetti Sauce, Toilet Paper, and Bars of Soap

Be sure to join our St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups—send Jeremy Jay any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at jeremy@pbnjay.com.

Our Stewardship:

**Contributions & Receipts for:
March 24, 2019
\$4,573.00**

(\$7,827.00 needed per week)

\$\$ CONTRIBUTE ONLINE \$\$

You may make contributions online by visiting our website at www.sjnc.net. You may contribute toward your pledge or to a designated fund. Look for the link “**On-Line Giving**” on the St. James home page.

Stations of the Cross

St. James plans to participate in a community Stations of the Cross Walk on Friday, April 19, beginning at 3:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. Grace is located at 59 Chestnut, about 1/4 mile from St. James. We will walk in the Logan community this year. The walk should take about 75 minutes. We hope to have a number of churches participate. The purpose of the walk is to honor Christ for his sacrifice on the cross. Questions: please contact Mark Murphy (704-301-2816).



Dear St. James Lutheran Church Family,

Never are we more aware of how much our church family means to us than at the loss of a loved one. The warmth and welcome I received on my last visit brought consolation, peace and the beginning of the healing process. I will remain eternally grateful for your outpouring of love, prayers, and support in helping me through this difficult time.

Peace, Blessings, and Love,

Glenda Poole



Honorariums/Memorials

The following Memorials have been given to the Glory of God and in memory of *Eric Wright* by:

- * Terry and Sandy Brummeyer

The following Memorials have been given to the Glory of God and in memory of *Jerry Poole* by:

- * Linny and Elaine Baker
- * Fuller and Jean Beasley
- * Richard and Judy Benz
- * Keith and Margaret Fink
- * Joe Grady
- * Doris Smith

The following Memorials have been given to the Glory of God and in memory of *John Kelley* by:

- * Fuller and Jean Beasley

The following Memorials have been given to the Glory of God and in memory of *Lee David Ballard* by:

- * Ed and Betsy Ballard

The following Memorials have been given to the Glory of God and in memory of *Peggy Faggart* by:

- * Emery and Kim Ashley
- * John and Jan Griffin

Youth and Family

The month of March is coming to an end and as it does, our Youth Ministry is starting to kick into high gear. This Sunday, March 31 we will have a gathering of youth and their families to talk about the upcoming spring and summer plans for the youth ministry. Lunch will be provided so jump in right after worship and discover what the youth ministry looks like. The Amish Experience is a very special experience and will be here before we know it. We will talk about where and when we be heading out to make a difference to others while on a our mission trips. The Beach Retreat to Kure Beach, NC is a very popular trip and is a great introduction to the youth ministry. This gathering is open to all rising 6th graders through graduating high school seniors. Hope to see you then.

The Youth Ministry will be heading out to Rebersburg, PA. over Spring Break and you don't want to miss this. Rise and shine at 5:00am to milk the cows and then return to the afternoon milking at 5:00pm. Clean up the barn, muck out the stables and enjoy working on the farm. We will do a little shopping at what we refer to as the Amish Walmart, an Amish General Store that has everything and anything you would ever need. We may visit an Amish School House just in time to enjoy recess with the children and then take a tour of a buggy factory. This is a once in a lifetime experience; home cooked country meals, wonderful friends, fellowship and a while lot of laughter while we grow together in our faith.

There are a lot of events coming up and it would not be the same without you being part of the experiences. We hope you will step out on faith and step out of your comfort zone so we can enjoy creating memories of faith that will last a lifetime and we can do it together. Hope to see you at Youth very soon.

Thanks and peace, *Mike*

Also—It's time to start thinking about the Youth Ministry Summer Experiences. Sign up and mark your calendar for the:

Jr. High Beach Trip	June 23 - 25
Sr. High Beach Trip	June 25 - 29
Jr. High Mission Trip	July 7 - 12
Sr. High Mission Trip	July 14 - 20



Link to Youth Newsletter (from Mike) - <https://clconcord.org/newsletter-1>

Invitation from First Presbyterian Church, Concord

Our 'near neighbors' are invited to an Open House at The Commons,
A community prayer space at First Presbyterian, Concord

Sunday, April 7th
12:00 — 3:00 p.m.
75 church Street, North

We are excited to share this space with your church family!

This Month at Saint James

APRIL - 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:30 Quilting Grp 6:30 Boy/Cub Scouts 7:00 Esther Circle (F. Hall)	2 10:30 Mary Magdalene Circle (F. Hall) 1:30 Anniversary Committee 6:00 Executive Comm 6:30 Social Ministry (History Rm) 6:30 Property Comm (Parlor) 7:00 Girls Small Grp 7:00 Sea Scouts	3 10:30 Singing Srs (The Laurels) 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga 5:30 Wednesday Nights Together 6:30 Guys Small Grp 7:00 Parish Choir 9:30 College Online	4	5 Set up for Heavenly Oats Event (F. Hall)	6 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety Heavenly Oats (F. Hall)
7 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist Baptism—Evalina Matthews 11:15 Parish F. Ship (Parlor) 5:00 Jr. Youth 6:00 Sr. Youth	8 10:30 Quilting Grp 3:00—7:00 p.m. ADK (Parlor)	9 6:30 Council (History Rm) 7:00 Girls Small Grp	10 10:30 Singing Srs (Caremoor) 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga 5:30 Wednesday Nights Together 6:30 Guys Small Grp 7:00 Parish Choir 9:30 College Online	11	12	13 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety 10:00 Easter Celebration Planning Mtg.
14 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist	15 10:30 Quilting Grp 1:30 CROP Walk (Parlor) 6:30 Boy/Cub Scouts My ←	16 12:00 Lively Leisures 1:30 Anniversary Committee 7:00 Girls Small Grp 7:00 Sea Scouts Father's	17 10:30 Singing Srs. (Morningside) 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga 7:00 Parish Choir House	18 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service (joint service with Calvary @ St. James) Ministry →	19 12:05 Good Friday Service 3:30 Stations of the Cross Walk beginning @ Grace Lutheran	20 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety 10:00—11:15 Easter Celebration & Easter Egg Hunt
21 7:00 Easter Sunrise (Cemetery) (breakfast following) 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist—Easter	22 Holiday—Church Office closed ←	23 12:00 Lively Leisures 1:30 Anniversary Committee Youth	24 NO Singing Srs 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga NO Parish Choir Amish	25 Experience →	26	27 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety
28 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist	29 10:30 Quilting Grp 6:30 Boy/Cub Scouts	30 11:30 Finance Comm (Parlor) 1:30 Anniversary Committee 7:00 Girls Small Grp				

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



@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

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tony@sjnc.net
Mark D. Frye...Director of Worship & Music/Organist
mark@sjnc.net
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Debbie Wilkinson.....Parish Administrator
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Cindy Cruse.....Hospitality Director
ccruse98@twc.com
Kathryn Radcliffe.....Nursery Coordinator
krad3700@gmail.com

THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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The Liturgy Assistants

Worship Assistants

March 31, 2019

USHERS

Brad Baker, Jon Miller, Chip Harward, Taylor Pruette, Al Pieschel, Andy Yoos

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Brad Baker (704-756-1284)
Jon Miller (704-780-0081)

ALTAR GUILD

Francie Davis and Jill Irvin

GREETERS

Mary Magdalene Circle
(Joyce Smith)

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Today:
Kathryn Radcliffe & Gretchen Walker

Next Week:

Kathryn Radcliffe & Lisa Folino

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Today:
Linn Baker
Tom Ridenhour
Joyce Osborne
Next Week:
Dale Merrell
Dave Burke
Nancy Faggart

LECTORS

Today:
Dee Pieschel
Next Week:
Margaret Pruette

INTERCESSOR

Today:
Sandra Faggart
Next Week:
Sandra Faggart

ALTAR SERVERS

Today:
Acolyte: Hudson Davis
Next Week:
Acolyte: Monty Hughes

CHILDREN'S CHURCH/ MUSIC MINISTRY

Today: Golda Jay and Laura Baker,
& Elizabeth Hurley
Next Week: Renee Hughes,
Julie Burroughs, &
Elizabeth Hurley

The Parish Events

SUNDAY, March 31

9:00 Sunday Church School
9:00 Parish Choir Rehearsal
10:00 Choral Eucharist
11:30 Youth/Family Interest Luncheon (St. James)
5:00 Jr. Youth (Calvary)
6:00 Sr. Youth (Calvary)

MONDAY, April 1

10:30 Quilting Group
6:30 Cub/Boy Scouts
7:00 Esther Circle

TUESDAY, April 2

10:30 Mary Magdalene Circle
1:30 Anniversary Committee
6:30 Social Ministry (History Rm)
6:30 Property (Parlor)
7:00 Sea Scouts
7:00 Girl's Small Group

WEDNESDAY, April 3

10:30 Singing Seniors
12:05 Noon Eucharist Service
1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga
5:30 Wednesday Nights Together
and Bible Study
6:30 Guy's Small Group
7:00 Parish Choir
9:30 College Online

THURSDAY, April 4

NO meetings/events planned

FRIDAY, April 5

NO meetings/events planned

SATURDAY, April 6

10:00 Celebrating Sobriety
10:30 Heavenly Oats (F. Hall)

SUNDAY, April 7

9:00 Sunday Church School
9:00 Parish Choir Rehearsal
10:00 Choral Eucharist
Baptism—*Evalina Matthews*
11:15 Parish Fellowship (Parlor)

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