

Saint James Lutheran Church

JANUARY—2019

From the Pastor

As we now make the transition from Christmas to the season of Epiphany, I am reminded that once the presents have all been exchanged, the parties end, and life seems to return to normal, we in the church are reminded that normal has been redefined, *for God is with us*. I offer the following Christmas reflection from our presiding bishop as an opportunity to reflect upon this wonderful reality. *Pastor Tony*

Christmas comes at a descending time. The old year is coming to an end, the new year is not yet here. It is too late to accomplish goals set on the previous New Year's Day, and just enough time to realize that whatever shape or state you are in will be the shape or state in which you end the year. There is a hefty dose of "what-might-have-been."

In the Northern Hemisphere the trees are bare, fields are barren, birds have migrated, animals are hibernating, the days are short and the nights are long. The earth's colors are muted, and when there is snow the world becomes silent. Sometimes during these short days and long nights I find myself thinking about the brevity of life. This conflicts with my tendency to believe that the possibility of self-improvement and renewal is limitless: there is always another day, more time, another chance. I remember watching our first child as she slept in her cradle, thinking about the future before her and, at the same time, the reality that there would be an end. The Ash Wednesday declaration, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," became more pointed and more poignant. The cradle-to-grave progression is our path; the inevitable decline of our strength.

"As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more" (Psalm 103:15).

Maybe this is why the Christmas season can be so fraught. Of course, there is anticipation and celebration, but there is also pressure and stress. Perhaps we are trying to greet the Lord's birth with our best efforts (when I was a girl, Christmas preparations were not complete until the silver was polished, and that job fell to me), but desperation can creep into the urgency to get Christmas right, to hold back the night. "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight" (ELW, 279). This is freight that Christmas can't carry when Christmas depends on us.

But Christmas also comes at an opportune time. God did not come to us that first Christmas when we were at the top of our game or when the world was perfect. Even the circumstances of Jesus' birth were a sharp reminder that all was not well – forced migration to Bethlehem, no room for the young family, born in a stall. Emmanuel – God with us – came to us and comes to us precisely at the time when our need is greatest. Our attempts to bring about perfection actually get in the way of receiving the gift. When we try to fit into an unrealistic ideal of who we ought to be instead of welcoming God into our real self, no matter how messy, then what is left on the 13th day of Christmas? Fatigue, certainly, but also the dull acceptance that life moves from cradle to grave.

On Christmas, God has reversed the cradle to grave progression. The angel announced to the shepherds: *"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: for to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."*

Here is the new reality. Here is the truth. Our lives are not a meaningless trudge from cradle to grave, but a joyful journey – true and lasting joy – from grave to cradle. All our brokenness and death meet life and healing and hope in the child in the manger. His cradle defeats the grave. We are loved. We are alive. Now we are free to greet this holy season.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

BIRTHDAYS for the week of January 6 thru 12

January 6	Jon Miller	10	Hal Merriott
	Karen Rezza		Christine Lovelace
8	Brad Davis	12	David Trott
9	Andrew Propst		
	Heidi Propst		
	Ben Propst		

*Happy
Birthday!*

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.

Alex Barnhardt
Sandy Barnhardt
Betty Beeker
Richard Benz
Nickie Bergreen
Jessie Blackwelder
Lisa Booth (daughter of friend of Dave Burke)
Michelle Brown (friend of Gretchen Walker)
Noah Davis Clifton
Gloria Cole
Lyle Glatz and family
Edith Gonynor
Phyllis Harward

Samantha Hillegass
Robert Klaus (brother of Linda Hartsell)
Jimmy Marlow
Susan Murray (mother of Gretchen Walker & Laurie Miller)
Clary Phillips
Mac Ritchie (grandson of Joan & Buddy McEachern)
Tony Saunders & family (husband of Pam Smith-CCM)
Heather Schwarz (daughter of Al & Dee Pieschel)
Doris Smith
Charlie Vail (uncle of Francie Davis)
Kay Zimmerman (wife of Pastor Charlie Zimmerman)
Our homebound members and all in need of prayer



The Altar Flowers today are given by The Rev. Dr. Tom and Ann Ridenhour to the Glory of God and in memory of their parents.

Next Week's Readings January 13

First Reading:	Isaiah 43:1-7
Gradual:	Psalm 29
Epistle Reading:	Acts 8:14-17
Holy Gospel:	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Christian Education

Children's church is in need of lead teachers and assistants for the months of March, April, and May. You would need to be available to lead between 10:15 a.m.—10:45 a.m. during worship—only 2-3 times a year. Children's church is located in the preschool hallway—rooms 109 and 111. Please contact Renee Hughes at 980-613-3297 or church office at 704-786-0166 for details and let us know if you are willing to help with this amazing ministry to our children and families.

Parish Fellowship/Anniversary Committee

Wednesday Nights Together: 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; 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 January:

January 9 — Baked Potato and Salad; Dessert; Bread; Fruit; and Drink
January 23 — Baked Ziti; Salad; Bread; Dessert; Fruit; and Drink

Lively Leisure's Luncheon Schedule:

January 15 at noon—at the church with the Phoenix Readers presenting the program

Chair/Mat Yoga: resumes on Wednesdays from 1:00—2:00 p.m. Angie Buchanan will be 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/St. John's Lutheran Churches will be hosting My Father's House Ministry, January 21-24, 2019. There are 4 families (15 people) in the ministry. If you can help by providing items for the dinner meals on Monday, January 21 or Tuesday, January 22—please let Sylvia Corl know (704-425-8621). Thanks, *Sylvia*

St. James is providing and serving evening meals for 30 people at the Salvation Army Night shelter from Sunday, January 27 through Saturday, February 2. We are also asked to bring foods such as milk, cereal, fruit, etc. for the next morning's breakfast. We need volunteers to provide and serve these meals. Please see the sign-up sheet on the social Ministry bulletin board in the portico area of the church, or contact the church office at 704-786-0166 or Marcia Klauss at mak-lauss@yahoo.com. Thanks for your loving service to those in our community who need a helping hand!

Stewardship

Living Courageously – 2019 Stewardship Appeal

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait on the Lord. (Psalm 31:24)

They (those who set their hopes on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment) are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of life that really is life. (1 Timothy 6:18-20)

Thank you to Bill Hardister and Mark Murphy for co-chairing this year's stewardship appeal; and to Jean Beasley (coordinator of cottage meetings), Susie Kartheiser (communications), Debbie Wilkinson and Jill Irvin, the families who graciously served as hosts, and for all of you who took time to attend. It was a joy to share a time of bible study, fellowship, and visioning with you.

As of December 31, we have received 34 pledges (\$192,340) and 31 time and talent sheets. If you have not yet responded, pledge cards and time and talent sheets are available in the church office. The time and talent sheet may also be completed on-line on our web page.

As we continue to celebrate our 175 anniversary, there are a lot of exciting ministries taking place at Saint James. Surely the presence and power of the Lord is at work in us, among us, and through us. We ask for your prayers and encourage you to participate as we seek to take hold of life that really is life by being about the work of the kingdom of God.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tony

Youth and Family

2018 was not only a banner year, but one that will be remembered for a very long time. 2018 was the year that two congregations came together to create one Youth Ministry; designed to serve, not only the two churches, but the community as well. 2018 was the stepping stone that opened the door for more opportunities of faith to be experienced. 2018 was the year of making a dream become reality. 2019 will be filled with opportunities of faith designed to build relationships with each other and with God. We will be serving in our community and while on mission trips. We will experience a simpler life of faith when we visit our Amish friends in Pennsylvania. We will grow through small groups, youth gatherings on Sunday evenings, having fun while at the beach and there will be more to come. Thank you God for providing us this opportunity and we look forward to what is waiting for us around the next turn as we journey together.

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

Cabarrus Immersion Preschool at St. James

St. James has always been a big supporter of its community! Did you know through our partnership, you generosity enables these at risk preschool children and adults to graduate programs with the skills they need for success? We can say without reserve these inaugural families at Cabarrus Bilingual Preschool at St. James Lutheran Church are happy, humbled, and thriving. Several moms were able to get jobs recently. These at risk children will enter kindergarten ready, will not have to play catch-up, and are over 95% less likely to drop out of high school. Together, we are fulfilling the mission of St. James, to worship, love, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.



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.

CCM Pantry Needs

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

Our Stewardship:

**Contributions & Receipts for:
December, 2018—\$43,993.00**

**Average per Sunday —\$8,798.60
(*\$7,827.00 needed per week*)**

\$\$ CONTRIBUTE ONLINE \$\$

You may make contributions online by visiting our website at www.sinc.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.

Your Social Ministry and 175th Anniversary Committee are partnering together to bring this ministry event to St. James. The impact it can make on families around the world is amazing! Please join us—Register at the link provided below and look for more information from future Minutes for Mission and through our printed material. This event is for all ages—geared toward individuals and families. A Nursery will be provided for our younger family members.



OUR MISSION

Rise Against Hunger is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Our mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.

Volunteer for Our Meal Packaging Event

Date: February 2, 2019 Time: 9:00am to 11:00am

Meals Goal: 10,152 Funds Goal: \$3,451.68 (has been met)

Location: St. James Lutheran Church

Contact: Debbie Wilkinson

Register here: <http://events.stophungernow.org/StJamesConcord2019>



NOURISHING LIVES—Our organization's approach to ending hunger centers on mobilizing a global network of hunger champions. Rise Against Hunger meal packaging volunteers produce millions of nutritious meals annually that are distributed to partners in countries around the world. The meals are used as a tool to change lives by promoting education, improving students' health and nutrition, addressing gender inequalities, stimulating economic growth and fighting child labor.

CRISIS RESPONSE— Another core focus of Rise Against Hunger is responding to crises – both natural and man-made. From droughts to floods, in conflict zones and transitioning political situations, food is often the most immediate need. When access to food, wages and market systems are destroyed in the wake of emergencies, Rise Against Hunger works through a network of in-country partners to address these needs.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES—Our third approach to eradicating hunger centers around grassroots community empowerment. Rise Against Hunger bolsters agricultural production and incomes through programs promoting improved agricultural methods, business skills and market access. With training and access to quality seeds and fertilizers, farmers can increase production of nutritious crops.

This Month at Saint James

JANUARY - 2019

JANUARY - 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Holiday (Church office closed)	2 1:30 Rise Against Hunger Planning Team (Parlor)	3	4	5 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety
6 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist 11:15 Youth Comm (Parlor) 5:00 Jr. Youth 6:00 Sr. Youth	7 10:30 Quilting Grp 12:00 Safety Team 6:30 Boy/Cub Scouts	8 1:30 Anniversary Committee 6:30 Church Council (History Rm) 6:30 Girls Small Grp	9 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga 5:30 Wednesday Nights Together 6:30 Guys Small Grp 9:30 College Online	10	11	12 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety
13 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist 5:00 Jr. Youth 6:00 Sr. Youth	14 10:30 Quilting Grp 6:30 Boy/Cub Scouts	15 12:00 Lively Leisures 1:30 Anniversary Committee 6:30 Girls Small Grp	16 10:30 Singing Srs. 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Guys Small Grp 7:00 Parish Choir 9:30 College Online	17	18	19 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety
20 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist 2:00 Confirmation Mt. Zion Lutheran Church NO Youth	21 10:30 Quilting Grp 6:30 Boy/Cub Scouts	22 1:30 Anniversary Committee 6:30 Girls Small Grp	23 10:30 Singing Srs. 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga 5:30 Wednesday Nights Together 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Guys Small Grp 7:00 Parish Choir 9:30 College Online	24	25	26 10:00 Celebrating Sobriety
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> My Father's House </div>						
27 9:00 SCS 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Choral Eucharist 5:00 Jr. Youth 6:00 Sr. Youth	28 10:30 Quilting Grp 6:30 Boy/Cub Scouts	29 1:30 Anniversary Committee 6:30 Girls Small Grp Salvation	30 10:30 Singing Srs. 12:05 Chapel 1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga 6:00 Handbells 6:30 Guys Small Grp 7:00 Parish Choir 9:30 College Online Army	31 Night Shelter		

Honorariums/Memorials



The following **Honorarium** has been given to the Glory of God and in honor of *Pastor Tony Bradshaw* by:

- * Dee and Ann Hodges

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

- * Linny & Elaine Baker
- * Al Brown (Cemetery Fund)
- * Nancy Faggart
- * Don and Jo Ann Fowler (Cemetery Fund)
- * Sue Hartsell
- * Dee and Ann Hodges
- * Todd and Gretchen Walker
- * Jim and Pat Weisel (Columbarium Fund)
- * Wayne and Libby Williams

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

- * Linny and Elaine Baker
- * Al Brown (Cemetery Fund)
- * Tony and Ginger Buffkin
- * Nancy Faggart
- * Don and Jo Ann Fowler (Cemetery Fund)
- * Dee and Ann Hodges
- * George and Janet Patterson
- * Jimmy and Patty Propst
- * Todd and Gretchen Walker
- * Jim and Pat Weisel (Columbarium Fund)
- * Wayne and Libby Williams

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

- * Linny and Elaine Baker
- * Mr. and Mrs. GC Brooks and Caroline B. James
- * Al Brown (Cemetery Fund)
- * Dave Burke
- * Nancy Faggart
- * Ray Faggart
- * Don and Jo Anne Fowler
- * Will and Ann Gillon
- * Tom and Carole Grady (Columbarium Fund)
- * David and Mavis Kelley
- * Jim, Laurie and Chris Miller
- * Tom and Ann Ridenhour
- * Sam and Ellen Sain and Hildred Gilchrist
- * Doris Smith
- * Jim and Pat Weisel (Columbarium Fund)
- * Wayne and Libby Williams

The following **Memorial** has been given to the Glory of God and in memory of *Louis A. and Nan Justice Patterson* by:

- * George and Janet Patterson

The following **Memorial** has been given to the Glory of God and in memory of *Louis A. Patterson III* by:

- * George and Janet Patterson (Cemetery Fund)



Dear Friends, thank you so much for the gifts, goodies, and cards and well wishes during Christmas. You are an amazing church family. All were appreciated as well as the thoughts and prayers. Blessings, Peace, and Love, *Your Staff*

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

The Rev. Tony Bradshaw.....Senior Pastor
tony@sjnc.net
Mark D. Frye...Director of Worship & Music/Organist
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Mike Holt.....Youth and Family
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Debbie Wilkinson.....Parish Administrator
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Jill Irvin.....Finance 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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Jodi Ramirez.....jramirez@kannapolisnc.gov

The Liturgy Assistants

Worship Assistants January 6, 2019

USHERS

Dale Merrell, Dave Burke, Gretchen Walker, Robert Davis, Lex Patterson, Randy Peterman, & Samantha Hillegass

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Jay Cruse

ALTAR GUILD

Ann Blackwelder & Laura Patterson

FLOWERS

Tom and Ann Ridenhour

GREETERS

Mary Magdalene Circle

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Today:

Kathryn Radcliffe & Reggie Hardister

Next Week:

Kathryn Radcliffe & Julie Burroughs

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Today:

Joyce Osborne

Lenny Baker

Lois Marlow

Next Week:

Tom Ridenhour

Nancy Faggart

Margaret Garrison

LECTORS

Today:

Brad Davis

Next Week:

Mark Murphy

INTERCESSOR

Today:

Ann Gillon

Next Week:

Kim Haberman

ALTAR SERVERS

Today:

Acolyte: Caroline Bestler

Next Week:

Acolyte:

CHILDREN'S CHURCH/ MUSIC MINISTRY

Today: Christine Lovelace, Golda Jay, and Avery Miller

Next Week: Christine Lovelace, Golda Jay, and Avery Miller

The Parish Events

SUNDAY, January 6

9:00 Sunday Church School
9:00 Parish Choir Rehearsal
10:00 Choral Eucharist

MONDAY, January 7

10:30 Quilting Ministry
12:00 Safety Team Meeting
6:30 Cub/Boy Scouts
7:00 Esther Circle
(home of Sandra Faggart)

TUESDAY, January 8

10:30 Mary Magdalene Circle
(Fellowship Hall)
1:30 Anniversary Committee
6:30 Church Council (History Rm)
6:30 Girl's Small Group

WEDNESDAY, January 9

12:05 Noon Eucharist Service
1:00 Chair/Mat Yoga
5:30 Wednesday Night's Together
6:30 Guy's Small Group
9:30 College Online

THURSDAY, January 10

NO meetings/events planned

FRIDAY, January 11

NO meetings/events planned

SATURDAY, January 12

10:00 Celebrating Sobriety

SUNDAY, January 13

9:00 Sunday Church School
9:00 Parish Choir Rehearsal
10:00 Choral Eucharist
5:00 Jr. Youth
6:00 Sr. Youth

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