

The Messenger

Saint James
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH • LIFE • PEOPLE



June 2025
Volume 41, Issue 6

Worship - Christian Education / Youth - Fellowship -

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Pentecost

Pentecost is June 8th this year. The festival celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension, held on the seventh Sunday after Easter.

This event, described in Acts 2:1-31, is considered the "birthday of the Church" as it marked the beginning of the public ministry of the apostles empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to bear witness to Christ, understand the world, and experience unity and purpose. It is seen as a gift from God that transforms lives and enables believers to live in accordance with God's will.

Believers often wear red clothing during Pentecost to symbolize the "tongues of fire" that descended on the disciples from the Holy Spirit; and the altar is commonly dressed in a red frontal cloth.





One of the most challenging parts of being pastor at St. James (and probably any congregation in Fayetteville) is how much people come and go, and how much a congregation's make-up can change from year to year.

In my first few weeks (2014) I was overwhelmed by the number of "visitors" in worship there were on any given Sunday. Usually, there were more on one Sunday than my previous congregation would have in six months. Looking over the attendance sheets from last Sunday's worship, I count over people who were not a part of this congregation two years ago. We are definitely a changing congregation.

No doubt, that kind of change is good, exciting, and welcomed. But it also brings new levels of activity in order to make the welcome complete.

We are working on the new pictorial directory that will offer folks the opportunity to become more familiar with faces and names. Newly revised name tags (inside card only) will be available by mid-summer, along with a new rack for holding the name tags. Please begin the habit of wearing name tags on Sunday mornings, as it will help us get to know each other better.

Several summer events are being planned for fellowship and conversation times. We build community through interaction with one another. If you have ideas to help make that happen, please let me know.

There is an article in this newsletter that highlights five families who have been a part of this congregation in the past and who have renewed that participation recently. I encourage you to find those families on Sunday morning and get to know them.

Four young people have been acknowledged recently for their successful completion of high school. Two of them are recent new members of St. James, and two have been a part for a number of years. We are part of their support system as they move to college, military, and other endeavors. They have asked for our prayers for consistency, encouragement, safety, and finding new community.

God is blessing us with the ministries of presence, welcome, and hospitality. Where will God be calling us to share God's love? To teach, feed, heal, clothe, grow, support ...?

Thanks to you all for being a part of this faithful community of grace!

~~ Pastor John

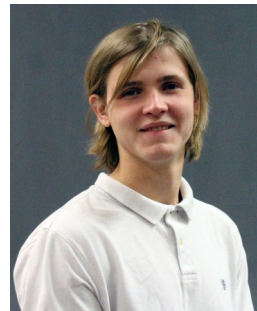
Congrats to our recent Graduates!



Sophia Min



Campbell Burks



Wade McLamb

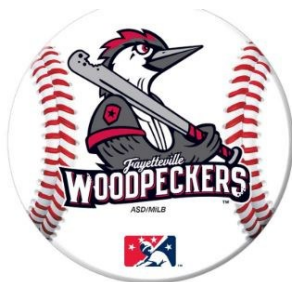


Keyarah Myers

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!!!

Sunday, June 15, 5:00 PM

Fayetteville Woodpeckers versus **Fredricksburg Nationals**



Join other St. James folk at Segra Stadium on Sunday, June 15, for a 5:00 pm first pitch. Group tickets are being purchased, and will be available on a first-come first-served basis. Enjoy the fun, the food, the fast action on the diamond, and some good laughs and conversation with friends. Ticket price to be announced.

A sign-up [here](#), on the church web site or in the gathering space on a Sunday morning. You may also call the church office.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR JUNE and JULY

JUNE 7 – Saturday – ALMS House (5536 W Patterson St., Hope Mills)

We need at least 4-5 youth, and 2-3 adults.

We'll meet at church at 10:30, and carpool to ALMS House by 11:15 (NLT). We'll leave about 12:45, get our own lunch on the way back to the church. Arrive back to St. James, approx. 1:45.

To sign-up, please:

Call church office (910) 484-8052 and leave info, or

Text Sue Rink (910) 627-7579, or

Text Pr. John (704) 530-9969.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY JUN 4!!!

JULY 23 – Wednesday – Day trip to CAROLINA BEACH AND KURE BEACH ...

9:00 AM meet at church. Carpool to Carolina Beach. Spend day in sun, fun, sand, and fellowship. We'll take some food for the day.

Mid-afternoon we'll close up beach activity, change clothes, grab some dinner, and make our way to Kure Beach (about 10 min. south) to lead worship for Kure Memorial Lutheran weekly beach worship.

Following worship, we'll return to Fayetteville. Arrive 9:30-10:00 p.m.

***All those going will be invited to help plan the worship service and prepare to lead it. Planning session sometime in mid-July.*

SIGN UP needed to plan for number of vehicles, adults, food, etc.

To sign up, please:

Call church office and leave info, or

Text Pr. John (704) 530-9969 and leave info,

Please, sign up by Wed. July 16!!!

Sundays in June / July at 9:00 am - Youth Conversations

Starting Sunday, June 1, 9:00 A.M. in room 127 (across from kitchen) ... And Each week in June and July ... For all middle and high school youth.

Each week we'll have conversation with Pastor John and/or another adult(s) about your questions of faith, life, Scripture, theology, or whatever ... you bring the topic or question, and we'll jump in and see where the Spirit leads us.

There's only a couple of requirements –

- 1) We'll have fun, but we'll treat each topic with some seriousness
- 2) We treat and trust each other with respect and openness;
- 3) We'll probably pray a lot!

COMING HOME AGAIN ...



Thomas Wolfe, famous North Carolina author, never checked with Fayetteville folks when he wrote “You can’t go home again.” He never checked with the Hewins, Habermehl, Linkous, Van Pelt, or Gibson families. All of these families have recently become re-associated with St. James Lutheran Church after a few – or many – years.

Jessie Hewins

Teenager Jessie Hagen arrived in Fayetteville with her family in 2003. But by 2014, her career path took her in a different direction as she joined the Army. Not a total surprise, the Army brought her back to Ft. Bragg a few years ago, but this time there was a name change as she brought husband Dan Hewins. It only seemed natural that they would be part of the St. James family. Henry (better known as Hank) came along a couple years later, and Hilde was born in 2024.



Judy, Josh, Jessie, and Marshall



Jessie Hagen and Maddie Crecelius

As an Army brat, Fayetteville has been my "hometown" because this is where I spent the most time growing up. Returning to Fort Bragg as a soldier myself, it has been incredibly comforting to have this special support system so close at hand, especially after welcoming children of my own. Although we are moving on to our next chapter soon (a move to Iowa is planned soon), I have cherished having Dan, Hank, and Hilde welcomed by St. James just like my family was over twenty years ago.—

Jessie Hagen Hewins

Did you know?
Jessie's Mother, Judy Hagen, gifted St. James with her talent painting the mural in the Fellowship Hall and the Transfiguration over the entrance to the Sanctuary.



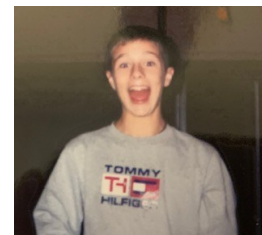
2025:
Dan Hewins, Jessie, Hank and Hilde



COMING HOME AGAIN ...

Alex Habermehl

Alex Habermehl was with us as a 14-yr old around 2004, and particularly remembers confirmation. As he and wife Amber bring sons Jameson and Jesse to worship, he now knows the value of the cry room that used to be over the altar area (pre-renovation). Living in the house next door (now the parsonage) kept him very involved in church life. He felt as welcomed when he returned as before the family moved 21 years ago. He and Amber are here for a few more years.



The last time I was a parishioner at Saint James was 2004. I was 14 years old, my dad was retiring from the Army, and we were moving to Virginia. I remember an unfinished hallway below the sanctuary for Sunday School for the younger children. The middle schoolers were in the last room across from the fellowship hall. Pastor Louise and Intern Pastor Manesha led my Confirmation class; I did indeed Affirm my Baptism at Saint James.

The Sanctuary itself was a complete 180 from its current orientation. The front entrance and cement stairs lead into the sanctuary where the altar now sits. Above that entrance was a "cry" room for children (I admittedly wish we still had one, as I'm sure some folks have noticed my children tend to get loud during service). The parsonage, where Pastor John and Anna Lisa currently live, was actually my house during my time in Fayetteville. There was a small house next to the admin office where Pastor Manesha lived while here.

To come back and see the faces of friends (or parents of friends) again after so long and to see the look of realization when I introduce myself has been amazing. To see how much the Church has (and hasn't) changed is really great. It still feels as welcoming as it did 21 years ago when I left. I am happy to have a family of my own to share the community of Saint James with this time around and we look forward to at least the next 3 years worshipping with everyone.

Alex Habermehl



Christy, Sarah and Alex Habermehl



2025



COMING HOME AGAIN ...

Daniel Linkous

Daniel Linkous

Daniel Linkous was a teenager in 1997-'98. He participated in various youth events, along with his sister Kelli, and remembers the change in pastors from Pr. Rudy Byer to Pr. Louise Hilbert. He has returned to St. James with his wife Jennifer and his son Holden. You'll see them on Sunday mornings with his mother Patsy, and his niece Willow.



My family attended St. James during my childhood. I remember attending a few lock-ins with the youth group, and I was confirmed when I was in the 7th grade, which would have been the 1997-1998 time frame.

When my family first started attending, the pastor was Pastor Rudy Bayer, and then Pastor Louise. The layout of the sanctuary might have changed drastically in my time away, but the feeling I get is still the same. Maybe even stronger now that I am able to bring my own family to worship as an adult.



Lukah, Daniel B, Patsy, and Daniel P.



2025: Daniel Linkous



COMING HOME AGAIN ...
Richard and Sharon VanPelt
(with Kelli and Thomas)

We first started attending St James in 1998. Our son Thomas was baptized by Chaplain John Kallerson in January 1999. Both of our children were confirmed here. Our daughter Kelli was active in the youth group and Thomas was a member of the scout troop here. We left sometime around 2008. We returned in February 2024 and were very warmly welcomed. Since then 3 of our grandchildren have been attending with us. We are very happy to be here. It feels like home. ~ Sharon VanPelt



Thomas VanPelt



Kelli VanPelt at



Sharon and Richard VanPelt with grandkids, Troy, Benita and Ricky (by Thomas VanPelt)



COMING HOME AGAIN ...

Dan and Ann Gibson

(with Lore and Ian)

The Gibsons began their involvement with St James around 2017 when the Army assigned Dan to Ft. Bragg. It was a good fit, as Ann has parents and family in Winston Salem, NC. Ian began his journey into Boy Scouting with Troop 747 (St. James).

Lore began high school at Fayetteville Academy.

PCS orders arrived in 2021, and the family relocated to Missouri. But, as fate – and the US Army – would have it, they returned in 2023 to Fayetteville and St. James. Lore attends Roanoke University and Ian just finished his junior year at Fayetteville Academy.

We are thrilled to welcome The Gibson family back to St James.



HOSPITALITY ROOM almost completed.

The room adjacent to the Gathering Space is almost ready for dedication and use. Final touches should be completed in the next couple of weeks. The property team is working on an updated and more detailed listing of furniture and accessories listing, for those who would like to express generosity by funding some of the items.

Many thanks to Todd Burns, Dave Runkle, and Tom Leidig for their tireless efforts to keep this project moving along.

Social Ministry - Serving God's Children

Focus for June

Kids Assistance Program Plus - KAPP



The ALMS HOUSE coordinates with the Hope Mills area school social workers to provide packs of food items each Friday for those children who might otherwise have nothing to eat over the week-end.



This month we are collecting
Chef Boyardee Microwavable Pastas

(Spaghetti & Meatballs, Lasagna, Beefaroni, Beef Ravioli)

The Eastover Summer Concert Series!

Featuring RIVERMIST

Saturday, June 14, 7:00-10:00 pm

Let's surprise Rivermist with a large group of the St. James community. Not only is this band one of Fayetteville's best, they are individually some of the best folks you'll ever meet. They have helped St. James celebrate the Christmas season each of the last four years—and they did so purely out of friendship.

So, here's an opportunity for us to support them, have fun together as a group (we'll find a way to save a space for St. James folk), and celebrate summer fun with a Rivermist party!

Bring your family, lawn chairs, maybe a blanket or two ... we'll enjoy an evening of great music, food (food trucks will be on site), and fun.



Hope to see you at Eastover Community Park
2721 Ballpark Rd., Eastover – Saturday, June 14!

By the way – did we say IT'S FREE!!





May 6, 2025

On behalf of the staff and the board of directors, thank you for the 10 comfort blankets, snacks and juices that were donated to the Child Advocacy Center. We sincerely thank you for your continued support, and the children will enjoy the items that you donated.

Without you and your support, we would not be able to help those children begin the healing process. Thank you again for your support and compassion for Cumberland County's children.

Sincerely,

John Webster
Executive Director
john@cacfaync.org
www.cacfaync.org

*Marcia,
Many thanks to you and the
people at St. James for your
ongoing and generous support
of the CAC.
John*





presents

PENTECOST *Praise*

*On this Pentecost Sunday,
experience the outpouring
of the Holy Spirit through
hymns, praise songs,
and gospel music.*

3pm - Sunday
JUNE 8, 2025

**St. Luke AME Church
522 Hillsboro St.
Fayetteville, NC 28301**



Fellowship Opportunities



Fellowship opportunity for women!

Our monthly breakfast group (**Salty Women**) meets on second Thursdays, **June 12th at 9am** at Maple Street Biscuit Company (Freedom Pkw shopping center).

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



Men's Fellowship -- June 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



Join us every first Tuesday, at Noon!

Potluck Lunch in our Fellowship Hall

June 3rd

The Prime Timer group is designed as a fellowship opportunity for all members over 55. Gatherings are once a month on the first Tuesday of each month at 12:00 noon.

Each person is encouraged to bring a dish of food to share.

There are occasional programs, but sharing conversation seems to be the most uplifting and consistent activity.



Our 10:00 Sunday worship service is being streamed live, and is also available for later viewing. Click [here](#) to watch

Tech folk are also needed to help with audio and video controls. Training is available.

Contact office or Pastor John.

Receive Text Updates

If you are not currently on our email news list, sign up on our website: <https://saintjamesfay.org/>

To receive text messages as well, or instead of email, here is how to sign up

To receive messages via text,

**Text @8bhg3
to 81010**



You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @8bhg3'.

Trouble using 81010? Try texting @8bhg3 to (910) 401-3357 instead.

Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Click on the times to connect

Property Team - (June 10)
- 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](#)



Assisting Ministers

6/01 Ruth Ann Crecelius
 6/08 Jane Boelke
 6/15 Jacky Hummel
 6/22 Scott Marosek
 6/29 Ruth Ann Crecelius

Lectors

6/01 Nancy Oliver
 6/08 Valerie
 6/15 Anna Lisa Johannessen
 6/22 Matthew
 6/29 Diana

Communion Assistant

6/01 Tonie Neal
 6/08 Paula Burns
 6/15 Tonie Neal
 6/22 Jane Boelke
 6/29 Dave Runkle

Ushers

6/01 Roscoe Killelt, Teri Bumphrey
 6/08 Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
 6/15 John & Gayle Frinak
 6/22 Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
 6/29 Tonie Neal, James Peterson

Acolytes

6/01 Ian Gibson
 6/08 Henry Orellano
 6/15 Gianna Orellano
 6/22 Gabriel Thomas
 6/29 Angelus VanDervoort

Greeters

6/01 Teri Bumphrey
 6/08 Barbara Azzarelli
 6/15 Gayle & John Frinak
 6/22 Sharon VanPelt
 6/29 Sonia Nazario

Rover

6/01 Todd Burns
 6/08 Dave Runkle
 6/15 Tom Liedig
 6/22 Edward Samulian
 6/29 Dave Runkle

Nursery

6/01 Erika Stockwell
 6/08 Sue Rink, Kathy Brown
 6/15 Valerie Brewer
 6/22 Heather VanDervoort,
 Kathleen Heinrich
 6/29 Tonie Neal, Heather VanDervoort

Around the Parish



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)

- Charlotte Davis
- Claudia Doyle
- Brenda Killett
- Carolyn Uchtorff

Prayer Concerns:

- ◇ Joe & Dara Lehner
- ◇ Angel Davis
- ◇ John Tucker
- ◇ Beth Sessoms
- ◇ Orose Family
- ◇ Thomas Oliver
- ◇ Mark & Ann Mabe
- ◇ Brenda Tinney
- ◇ Ashley Littman
- ◇ Chris Yerton
- ◇ Joseph San Miguel
- ◇ Carol Garcia
- ◇ David Herring
- ◇ James Peterson, Jr.

Military Members

(* *Deployed*)

- Earl Stockham
- Jessie Hewins
- Joshua Trogdon
- Darian Dix
- David Oliver
- Bella Fish
- Rob Whitt
- Dan Gibson
- Tristan Bonde
- Jacob Rea
- Zach Turner
- Hochang Min*
- Alex Habermehl



- 6/06 Cynthia McLamb
- 6/13 Jane Boelke
- 6/14 Lindsey Smith
- 6/16 Shelby McLamb
- 6/20 Frank Vittoe
- 6/23 Megan Burks
- 6/23 Megan Slaymaker
- 6/24 Lela Pell
- 6/26 Gary Eissinger

Anniversaries



- 6/04 Rick & Jane Boelke
- 6/05 Herman & Amy Allison
- 6/18 Bill & Diana Vittoe
- 6/19 Paul & Erin Orose

**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

1424 Morganton Road
P.O. Box 53276
Fayetteville, NC 28305



www.saintjamesfay.org

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