



ST. JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2024 and January 2025 The Journal

December Worship Services

Advent Evening Services

**Wednesdays, December 4, 11, & 18,
at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Advent Bible Study at 4:30 pm
Dinner at 5:15 pm**

**First Sunday of Advent, December 1st
Worship at 11:00 am**

**Second Sunday of Advent, December 8th
Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am**

**Third Sunday of Advent, December 15th
Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22nd
Worship at 11:00 am**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24th
Preservice at 6:15 pm
Worship with Holy Communion at 6:30 pm**

**First Sunday of Christmas, December 29th
Worship at 11:00 am**

Sunday Mornings

***Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Fred
9:15- 9:45 am
Sunday School at 9:45 am***

A message from Pastor Fred...



Unto us a child is born.

What a gift! In this Advent season, we are preparing for the arrival of God's Son. God is coming to be with us, and this is news to shout from the rooftops!

As we gather in anticipation, what do we expect?
Can we truly anticipate everything that is to come?

In this past month, I've learned that no matter how many people tell you that a new baby means hundreds of diaper changes, it's a completely different experience when you're actually doing that many changes yourself.

We look forward to Christ being with us, but when Jesus arrives, he truly surpasses our expectations. We know that God loves us, but now we embrace that love in a whole new light. It even changes our lives. We realize that we can no longer remain in darkness; instead, we are drawn to be a part of God's love expressed in this world.

This is a wonderful time to prepare for something we may never fully comprehend, and it's a great opportunity to celebrate God being with us—dwelling among us, not just as a human, but as a child. It's a love beyond words, and it's for you.

Let's take what we read in Isaiah 9:6 into consideration.

1. Think about it before we knew Christ was in this world.
2. Reflect on it as Jesus walked the earth.
3. Pray about what it means now that we understand he died and rose again to give us life through God's abundant love.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Christ's peace and love to you in this wonderful season of Advent and Christmas,

Pastor Fred



Upcoming Events

Advent Bible Study: Wednesdays, December 4, 11, & 18, at 4:30 pm

Advent Evening Services & Dinners: Wednesdays, December 4, 11, & 18

Dinner will be served in the fellowship hall at 5:15 pm.

Advent Worship will be held in the sanctuary at 6:00 pm.

If you can provide soup, sandwiches, or dessert, please call or email Kathy or sign up on the sign-up sheet outside of the office.

Please join us in this time of anticipation!



Church Council will meet on Sunday, December 8, at 5:00 pm.

Tie Blankets will not meet in December.

**WELCA/LMM will meet on Monday, December 16, at 1:00 pm
for a Christmas lunch together.**

2025 Church Council Members

Caroline Andrews, Lisa Bryant, Charles Busbee, Patti Cutshall, Ashton DeRemigio,
Phil Homan, Carol Horsley, Garrett Maroney, Mike Willis, Ronald Wood

Thank you to Mike Willis for his service on church council.



Poinsettias given for the beautification of the sanctuary and in memory or in honor of someone are available for purchase through the church office. The poinsettias are red in color and in 6-inch pots. ***The cost is \$16 each. Checks should be made payable to Saint James Lutheran Church.*** Order forms are available in the bulletin and in the narthex. Please place the completed form and payment in the offering plate or in the box on the secretary's desk. ***Deadline for orders is December 16th.***



ACTS Heater Drive

Give the gift of warmth for Christmas.

Donations are being accepted through December 31st for ACTS to purchase small heaters for clients. The cost of a heater is \$25, but you may give any amount that you wish.

Please make your check payable to St. James and earmarked for "Heaters."

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, after worship with a covered dish meal in the fellowship hall.

All information for the Annual Report is due in the church office by Monday, January 13. Please email reports to stjamesnewsinfo@gmail.com.

New Offering Envelopes will be placed in your St. James mailbox by the end of December. Please do not use 2024 envelopes after December 31st as some of the envelope numbers have changed. Please remember that using the offering envelopes helps ensure that your contributions are recorded correctly.

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Robert Coleman, Ben Sharpe, Kim Tarabek (Daughter of Milton Rogers), Ben Parrott, Johnny Hodson, Garred McClendon (Friends of Georganne Weeks) Dottie Iritz (Sister of Gloria Sloan), Bruce Ashby (Brother of Karmen Spletzer), Allison Ashby (Niece of Karmen Spletzer), John Allen Eidson (Cousin of Cathie Valentine and Mike Willis), Kensley Napier (Daughter of Philip Napier), Benny Hydrick (Friend of Tony Carroll), Libby Scott **Anchor:** Mary Ellen Johnson **Trinity:** Bobby Reece **Silver Bluff Grove:** Vicki Bolton **May the Lord bless them with His healing presence and keep them in true faith. Amen.** Please review the prayer list and contact the church office with updates.

Thank
you!



Thank you to everyone who donated non-perishable food items, coats, gloves, socks, and underwear for 2nd ACTS. Also, thank you to Thrivent for supporting our Food & Coat Drive.

LMM & WELCA thank you for your generous donations given at the Oktoberfest lunch fundraiser to support relief efforts for those affected by Hurricane Helene. With your support, \$2,942 was donated to Lutheran Disaster Relief of the Carolinas.



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Apollo Elliot Suire,
son of
Taylor Coleman & Brandon Suire,
was born on Wednesday, November 6th.
Congratulations to Taylor & Brandon
and the proud grandparents,
Robert & Tiffany Coleman.

Share your good news and church events with your church family! Email the information to:
StJamesNewsInfo@gmail.com

Offering Option

You can now give online on our website! You can give a onetime offering or set up a recurring offering. In the description box, please note where your offering should be directed (for example, Current and Benevolence, Backpack, etc.)

www.stjamesgraniteville.com/giving/

December Volunteer List

Lay Readers & Lay Assistants

December 1: Angela Vandegrift (Lay Reader)
December 8: Gloria Sloan (Lay Reader & Lay Assistant)
December 15: Lang Entrekin (Lay Reader & Lay Assistant)
December 22: Barbara Cobb (Lay Reader)
December 24: Garrett Maroney (Lay Reader & Lay Assistant)
December 29: Georganne Weeks (Lay Reader)



Worship Team

December 1: (A) Zoe Ford (C) Brayden Weed
December 8: (A) Justin Joiner (C) Brayden Joiner
December 15: (A) Dominic Price (C) Spencer Johnson
December 22: (A) Brayden Weed (C) Zoe Ford
December 24: Dominic Price (A/C), Justin Joiner (Word)
Spencer Johnson & Brayden Joiner (Torches)
Brayden Weed (Banner)
December 29: (A) Brayden Joiner (C) Justin Joiner

Altar Guild: Jim & Barbara Cobb

Ushers: Mike Cutshall & Gaines Entrekin

Sound Technicians

December 1: Lane Rogers
December 8: Robbie Franklin
December 15: Lane Rogers
December 22: Robbie Franklin
December 24: Andy Cone & Lane Rogers
December 29: Andy Cone

Greeter: Carol Horsley

Altar Flowers

December 1: Donna Hair in memory of Tom Hair
December 8: Janalyn and Garrett Maroney- \$ ACTS Heaters
December 15: Open Date
December 22: Gaines & Lang Entrekin in honor of their wedding anniversary
December 24: Bill & Elese Cegelis in memory of Elese's grandparents,
Rev. J. Virgil & Mrs. Elese Addy and Mr. L.T. & Mrs. Deasaux Fulmer
December 29: Open Date



December

Happy Birthday

Ronnie Gordon	5
Brent Spletzer	9
Garrett Maroney	12
Ben Sharpe	12
Carol Gibson	13
Kyle Vandegrift	21
Karmen Spletzer	26



Happy Anniversary

Jim & Carol Horsley	December 6th
Ronald & Helen Wood	December 14th
Gaines & Lang Entrekin	December 22nd

January



Happy Birthday

Tanya Odom	12
Angela Vandegrift	13
Jaxen Coleman	21
Shelley Jones	22
Katie Rogers	30

January Volunteer List

Lay Readers & Lay Assistants

January 5: Teddy Weeks (Lay Reader & Lay Assistant)

January 12: Caroline Andrews (Lay Reader & Lay Assistant)

January 19: Mike Willis (Lay Reader & Lay Assistant)

January 26: Ralph Abreo (Lay Reader)



Worship Team

January 5: (A) Zoe Ford (C) Brayden Weed

January 12: (A) Justin Joiner (C) Brayden Joiner

January 19: (A) Spencer Johnson (C) Dominic Price

January 26: (A) Brayden Joiner (C) Justin Joiner

Altar Guild: Gloria Sloan & Karmen Spletzer

Ushers: Mike Cutshall & Gary Bryant



Sound Technicians

January 5: Robbie Franklin

January 12: Andy Cone

January 19: Robbie Franklin

January 26: Lane Rogers



Greeter: Patti Cutshall

Altar Flowers

January 5: Open Date

January 12: Ronald & Helen Wood in memory of Allison Katherine Wood- \$ Backpack

January 19: Kenneth Johnson & Melissa Johnson in memory of Kevin Johnson- \$ Backpack

January 26: Open Date



January Worship Services

**Second Sunday of Christmas, January 5th
Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am**

**Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 12th
Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am**

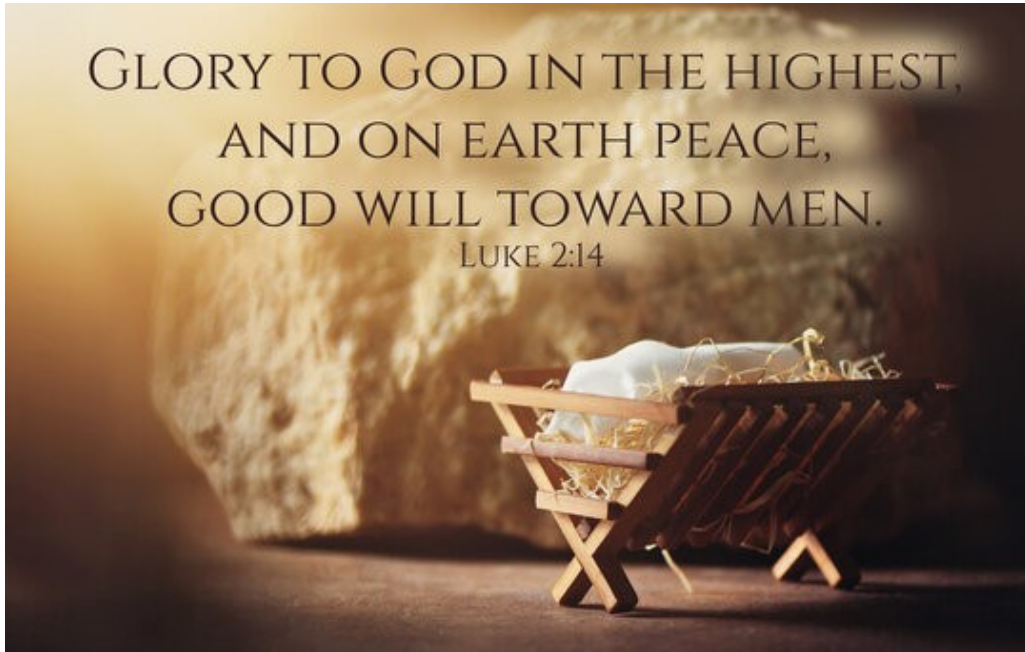
**Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 19th
Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 26th
Worship at 11:00 am**

*Sunday Mornings
Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Fred
9:15- 9:45 am
Sunday School at 9:45 am*



GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE,
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.
LUKE 2:14



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor: Rev. Fred Klinker

President: Lisa Bryant

Director of Music/Organist: Tonia Busbee

Secretary: Kathy Rogers

Treasurer: Caroline Andrews

Newsletter Editor:

Kathy Rogers

Newsletter Designer:

Tonia Busbee

Share your good news and church events with your church family!

Email the information to: StJamesNewsInfo@gmail.com