

MESSENGER

Volume 9 Number 12

December, 2015

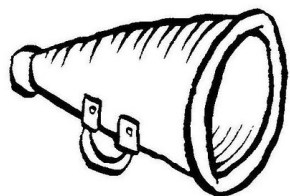
Dear Members of the St. James Family,

The story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as told both by Matthew and Luke tells how God is greater than even the greatest empires the world has known. There is no power greater than God. In Luke's story, God uses the hated system of census and taxation to move Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem "A decree went out from Caesar Augustus..." Ironically, Caesar in the capital of Roman Empire – Rome – made a sleepy hick town in Judea – Bethlehem – the capital of the universe. In Matthew's gospel, evil Herod believes he can consolidate his power by killing children. Instead, Jesus shows him through the rest of the story, that not even death can stop God from bringing joy and salvation to his people.

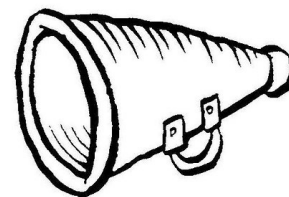
In this holiday season, consider how God is constantly, urgently turning the powers of this world on their head to bring us redemption and joy. Knowing that, you will know peace!

Pastor Kevin





Monthly Announcements



A Birthday Party For Jesus - This year we are inviting our whole community to join us as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday. We will begin the fun at 3:00PM Sunday, December 20 with Abraham, the camel, in the parking lot then move inside as we listen to our own Joby Castine read his latest book, "Cami Camel's Christmas Carol". We'll encourage all of the children who want to, to participate in creating the nativity scene. With your help we will serve a supper of ham, macaroni and cheese, and green beans, and birthday cake, of course. During the Trunk or Treat we handed out fliers advertising this event so we hope to have many visitors. Please feel free to invite as many children and families as you can.

We need your help with the dinner preparations. We'll need about 4 spiral cut hams, 4 large macaroni and cheese, rolls, and 4 large cans string beans. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please join us in making this a memorable occasion for our community as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

ARC Blood Drive - Come share the gift of life by donating blood on **Monday, December 7th** from **2PM** until **7PM** in St. James' Fellowship Hall.



Owl's Luncheon - Our next OWLs luncheon will be at Lizard's Thicket on Hwy 1 at Kitti Wake Dr. on **December 17th** at **12PM**.

LMM - Lutheran Men in Mission will meet again on Sunday, December 20 at 8:30 AM. Beginning in January, Lutheran Men in Mission will again meet on every third Monday evening of each month at 6:30 PM.

Lutheran Men will hold their annual Christmas party at Tom's Den on **Thursday, December 10th** beginning at **7:00 PM**. Those interested, please sign up in the narthex.

Backpack Program - Thank you for the ongoing support for our Backpack Program. St. James has accepted an opportunity to increase the number of tummies we help fill. We now assist with feeding **125 children** in the Red Bank community. With this increase comes an increased need. For December, we are in need of individual snacks, including Jell-O, fruit cups, puddings, etc., however, all donations are welcome.

Gifts of Hope - Have you been wondering what to give family members or friends this Christmas? Is there someone on your list that is so blessed that he or she doesn't need anything? Or have you been asking how you can make your gifts more meaningful to reflect the season of Christ's birth? This Advent season, the SC Synod is offering an alternative gift-giving program called Gifts of Hope. Beginning **November 29** and continuing through **December 20**, Gifts of Hope will be sold in the narthex after worship service. The catalog of gift choices offers 31 gifts ranging in price from \$5 to \$150. Forms are located in the back of the Newsletter for your convenience. Simply designate your gift for 'Gifts of Hope'.



St. James Debt Reduction Gifts - Honor a loved one, memorialize a relative or friend who has died by making a gift to the Debt Reduction Fund this year end. Use the form in the back of the bulletin and designate your purchase for Debt Reduction! St. James' Debt has been steadily paid off. If we can pay off the remaining debt, more money will be freed for ministry! Forms are located in the back of the Newsletter for your convenience. Designate your gift for 'St. James' Debt Reduction'.

Worship Assistants - St. James is looking for Worship Assistants. If you are able and willing, won't you volunteer to help one Sunday? Sign up sheets will be available in the narthex for anyone interested in helping in one or more areas. Thank you!

CHURCH BUSINESS

Annual Congregational Meeting – December 13, 2015

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday morning, Dec. 13th for the following business items:

- ♦ Election of Church Council Members (5 to be elected)
- ♦ Action on the Proposed 2016 Budget (Budget Summary included below)

The following members* have been nominated, and have agreed to serve if elected:

Chuck Backman	Katrina Shealy
Rosemary Davis	Adam Steele
Jeff Hibbs	Kevin Turner
David Kirby	Hilda West

Additional nominations will be taken from the floor at our meeting, but PLEASE confirm ahead of time with the person you would like to nominate.

* Nominee Bios will be made available to the congregation within the coming week. Thank you.

2016 Proposed Budget

EDUCATION	\$2,907.00
EVANGELISM	\$250.00
FAMILY LIFE	\$750.00
SOCIAL MINISTRY	\$100.00
STEWARDSHIP	\$500.00
YOUTH MINISTRY	\$650.00
WORSHIP AND MUSIC	\$5,225.00
OUTREACH	\$20,000.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$145,561.00
FINANCE	\$15,000.00
PROPERTY	\$21,149.00
OFFICE	\$7,650.00
UTILITIES	\$19,488.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$2,500.00
<u>BB&T Loan Annual Amount</u>	<u>\$17,780.00</u>
Total	\$259,510.00

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/02 Taylor Boone	12/15 Dollie Pounds
12/05 Tammy O'Quinn	12/16 Kristie Joyner
12/06 Faith Wright	Matthew Monts
12/07 Anthony Hutto	12/17 Sam Metts
12/08 Jeanette Harmon	12/23 Callie Poplin
Brenda Janson	12/25 Katrina Shealy
Krisie Turner	12/27 Marshall O'Quinn
12/09 Marshall Hibbs	12/31 Chris Lyles
12/13 Baylee Backman	
12/14 Laura Hibbs Guy West	



Memorials

Betty Jean Tyson

By:

Mary Alice Lookabill
Macie Ross
Allen & Doris Hallman
Jimmy & Sue Leaphart
Rogers Manufacturing Co., Inc.
Clayton & Brenda Rawl
J.C. Wilkie Construction, LLC

Thank You

Pastor Kevin and Congregation,

The Columbia Fire Department and the SC Forestry Commission Incident Management Team would like to extend our sincere thanks for the vital role you played in providing support to the Joaquin Flood first responders. Your ability to meet the needs of our personnel on such short notice and in such a cooperative manner enhanced our ability to carry out our life-saving mission.

Neighbors helping neighbors in time of need is what SC is all about. South Carolinians are thoughtful, generous and first to respond during disasters like the unprecedented Joaquin Flood that devastated so many of our communities. We came together to take care of one another and through your generosity, you have embodied that spirit that makes our state such a great place to live.

Thank you for your support,
Aubrey D. Jenkins, Fire Chief
Columbia Fire Department

A Note From Your Church Office

Please be aware that there are deadlines before which the church office must be contacted if you want announcements or prayer requests in either the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter. These deadlines are to insure that publications are complete and in print form in a timely manner and are as follows:

Weekly Bulletin—Noon on Wednesday each week.

Monthly Messenger—By 2PM the third Wednesday of each month.

Thank you for understanding and helping us present to you the most complete and thorough publications possible.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
U.S. FLOODING

OCTOBER 2015

www.ELCA.org/disaster

The Carolinas have endured catastrophic rainfall that has shattered records and left unprecedented scenes of flooding in its wake. The flooding has led to the death of nine people, tens of thousands are without power, major highways and interstates have been closed, and homes have been completely destroyed.

Lutheran Disaster Response will work to bring God's hope, healing and renewal to those who have been affected by the floodwaters. In the days, weeks and months ahead we will continue to work

with our partners on the ground, helping to restore communities. Your gifts will help address the unmet needs of those impacted by the flooding, and together we stand ready to provide assistance for long-term recovery efforts.

Prayers and support are needed now to help assist those impacted by flooding to rebuild their homes and lives. Gifts designated for "U.S. Flooding" will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted by the floodwaters. Thank you.

Yes, I want to help!

- Lutheran Disaster Response: *U.S. Flooding* \$ _____ DDG0069
- Lutheran Disaster Response: *Where Needed Most* \$ _____ DDG0010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email Address _____

Give through your congregation.

Make your check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center,

P. O. Box 18009, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

write "U.S. Flooding" or "Where Needed Most"

on your check's memo line.



SPECIAL GIFTS OF THE SEASON



Please accept my gift of \$ _____ for _____

Gifts of Hope

St James' Debt Reduction

Other: _____

In honor/memory of _____

My Name



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**St. James Lutheran
Church**

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www.stjameslex.com

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Kevin Ogilvie
pastor.kevin@stjameslex.com

Music Director

Martha Caulder

Secretary

Amy Walker

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30AM Holy Communion
10:45AM Faith Formation
Sunday School

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

P-A-I-D

Permit No. 64

Lexington, S.C.



St. James
LUTHERAN CHURCH