



MESSENGER

1358 South Lake Drive † Lexington, SC 29073 † 803-359-2122 † www.stjameslex.com

What's That Smell?

-A Word from The Pastors Rice

Advent is the great scent of our lives. It's like that fragrant apple pie fresh out of the oven, or that aromatic cup of coffee first thing in the morning, or that evergreen limb, whose strong smell wafts through our homes and into our nostrils and makes us sit up and take notice. "Wake Up!" Advent calls to us. "Get out of bed. Stop dozing off. Jesus is on the way!"

Advent is a time in the church year when we have a chance to take notice, to open our eyes and really examine who we are. In the middle of all of the chaos and cheer of Christmas shopping and wrapping and baking, the season of Advent has us stop and hold our horses, slow down for a second, and light a candle (or four) as we count down to Christ's ultimate return. It gives us a chance (if we will take it), to consider the real purpose of our lives. It's no coincidence that characters like George Bailey from *It's A Wonderful Life*, or Scrooge from *A Christmas Carol* spend their Advent days learning about what really matters in life just in time for Christmas.

Advent comes at a time of year that can be bittersweet. It's a time when the joy of a Thanksgiving gone by and the anticipation of an upcoming Christmas morning makes us long for days gone by, when we place our presents around the tree and think back to our own childhood, when we look at the empty chairs

around our table and miss those who are no longer with us. Advent reminds us of just how fleeting our lives are, just how fragile each moment is. It screams for us to wake up and soak it all in, for us to open our eyes and seize the day.

Advent greets us every year during a time when we are getting ready to face a new day, with our hopes set and our resolutions ready to be written for a fresh new year. "I'm going to do this differently," we will say, as Advent ticks away. "Next year, things will be better," we promise, as we pick up the pen and check off the last days of this year.

I hope you'll catch a whiff of Advent this year and REALLY celebrate it. I hope you'll put down your shopping list and take a moment to light candles and reflect on Christ's return. I hope that in the midst of your tears and your longing for those who are no longer with you that you'll know the love of Christ as he reminds you of the urgency of His call to follow him. I hope you'll wake up and examine your life during this Advent season and look for God to guide you into 2012. Advent is a blessing from our Lord. May this year's Advent season lead you into a most meaningful and Christ-filled Christmas!

At A Glance

Pastors' Message,	1
Upcoming Events	2-3
Birthdays and Prayer List	4
Notes of Thanks	5
Worship Assistants	6
Calendar	7

Men And Women of the ELCA Christmas Party

The Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission invite all men and women of St. James to join us for our annual Christmas party. This year, we will be dining at the Grecian Gardens Restaurant in West Columbia on Tuesday, **December 1**, at 6:30PM. Please be sure and sign up in the Narthex as soon as possible so that we will know how many people to reserve seats for. We'd love to have as many of you as possible to share with us in the joy of this glorious season!



God Rockz

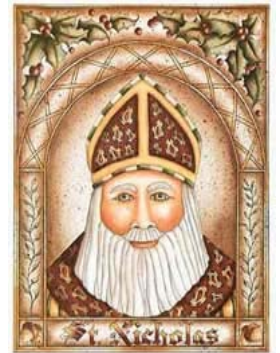
All kids of the church in fifth grade and under are invited to be a part of our God Rockz Handbell choir. Our next practice will be held on Thursday, **December 1**, and our first time to play in church will be Sunday, **December 4**, at 10:30AM. As we continue to prepare for Christmas this year, we also invite all God Rockz kids and their parents and friends to join us for The Lights Before Christmas at Riverbanks Zoo on Thursday, **December 15**, at 6:30PM. We will meet at the front gate of the zoo to walk in together. If you are not a member of the zoo, please let us know. The pastors have some free passes leftover from our last zoo excursion.

Prayer Groups at St. James

The Guardian Angels Prayer Group will meet again on Sundays, **December 4 and December 18**, at 5PM. All are welcome to join us.

St. Nicholas Day Service

All kids of the church and their friends are invited to celebrate St. Nicholas Day with us this Tuesday, **December 6**, at 6:30PM. We will have an interactive worship service especially for children, where we will sing well-known children's hymns and get out of our seats and participate during the sermon. St. Nicholas will make an appearance while we are there as well. Each child will be invited forward for a blessing, and cookies and hot chocolate will be provided afterwards. Hope to see you there!



Christmas Cantata

St. James' Choir and Handbells invite you to *Night of The Father's Love*, a Christmas Cantata that is open to the whole Red Bank community. It will be held at 5PM on Sunday, **December 11**. A reception will follow immediately afterwards.

Refreshments for Christmas Cantata

We are in need of volunteers to contribute refreshments for our Christmas Cantata on Sunday, **December 11**. We need cookies, sheet cakes, candy, cheeses straws, cheese balls, finger sandwiches, and other sweet and savory snacks (please no items with tree nuts or peanuts). Please contact Janet Taylor at 957-3273 to let her know what you can bring. Thank you.



Youth and Confirmation at St. James

Confirmation and Youth Group will meet again on Sundays, **December 4** and **18**. This month, Confirmation Students will study some more about the History books of the Bible. Our dinners will be provided by Shawney Shealy on December 4 and Kelly and Byron Roberts on December 18. Also, all Youth and Confirmation Students are invited to The Lights Before Christmas at Riverbanks Zoo on Thursday, **December 15**, at 6:30PM. We will meet at the front gate of the zoo to walk in together. If you are not a member of the zoo, please let us know. The pastors have some free passes leftover from our last zoo excursion.

OWLS Luncheon

St. James' OWLs will eat at the Eastern Buffet (955 Main St in Lexington) on the third Thursday of the month, **December 15**. Please be there and seated by 12 noon, ready to place your order. As always, our congregation and friends are invited to join us for good food and Christian fellowship.

An Afternoon of Historical Reflection

The Long Range Planning Committee invites you to *An Afternoon of Historical Reflection* after our 10:30AM worship on Sunday, **December 18**. We will begin with a pot luck dinner and then hold an exciting time of looking back at and celebrating the history of St. James Lutheran Church until now. Don't miss out on this enlightening event as we continue to give thanks for all of the things that God has done and is doing here at St. James Lutheran Church.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Services

Remember the real reason for the season! Celebrate with us at St. James as we worship the Christ Child and give thanks to God for sending his Son. Make plans to be at our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on **December 24** at 6:30PM. On this evening as our gospel story is being read, all kids of the church are invited to take part in a live nativity scene. Also, rise and shine on Christmas morning and join us for a single service at 9:30AM on **December 25**. There will be no Sunday School that day.

Team 2012

The 2012 sign up lists are up in the narthex! We are looking for volunteers to help in several areas of our church for the upcoming year: lay readers, nursery attendants, altar flowers, communion bread for Sunday services, and helpers to carry out food for our food pantry distribution every third Tuesday of the month between 2-3PM. Thank you.

Lutheran Girl Pioneers

The Lutheran Girl Pioneers will meet in the fellowship hall on Saturday, **January 14**, at 1PM. Lutheran girls of all ages are invited to join us! This month, we will hear the bible story of Queen Esther and learn the art of makeup and skin care. Also this month, each of our Lutheran Girls has the opportunity to have their own Lutheran Girl charm bracelet with charms that go along with all of the skills we have learned so far. Each bracelet costs \$5, and the charms are \$1 apiece. We will have charms for gardening, knitting, cake decorating, and the Lutheran Girl logo. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Andrea or Frauke Avent.

Birthdays

12/04	12/16
Jayden Roland	Krisie Joyner
	Matthew Monts
12/05	Melissa Roland
Mike Summer	
Tammy O'Quinn	12/17
	Sammie Metts
12/06	
Katy Wallace	12/20
Faith Wright	Chris McLeod, Sr.
12/07	12/23
Anthony Hutto	Kevin Kyzer
	Callie Poplin
12/08	Graeme Taylor
Jeanette Harmon	
Brenda Janson	12/25
Krisie Turner	Katrina Shealy
12/09	12/27
Marshall Hibbs	Brad Boone
	Marshall O'Quinn
12/14	
Laura Hibbs	12/28
Guy West	Marion Gable
12/15	12/30
Dollie Pounds	Carrigan Gossett

Military Workers:

Michael Anderson	Dwight Barrs
Ryan Caulder	Eric Janson
Zachary Hilty	Jeremy Jolly
Ryan Rawl	Mike Rollinson
Christopher Summers	Keith Zeigler

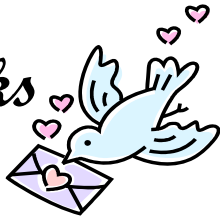
Prayer List

Jim Abrams - Cousin of Mot Caulder
Carol Biering - Church Member
Lizzie Caulder - Grandmother of Tabatha Summers
Susan Cook - Friend of Margaret Hollis
Donna Conger - Friend of Deana Gunter
Brian Corley - Cousin of Linda Gable
Riley Crumpton - Great Niece of M&C Crumpton
Libby Fertick - Friend of Michelle Feaster
Allen Goings - Brother-in-law of Kathy Goings
Dennis Gossett - Brother of B Poplin & K Gossett
Mildred Gunter - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland
Melissa Harvey - Friend of Michelle Feaster
James Hibbs - Father of Jeff Hibbs
Tricia Hood - Former St. James Music Director
Jerry Hutto - Church Member
JoAnne Hutto - Church Member
Lynette Koon - Friend of Sharon Duke
Stacey Lanford - Church Member
David McMichael - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland
Phillip Moore - Son of Norma Moore
Jim Poindexter, Sr. - Father of Jim Poindexter
Clark Riddle - Nephew of Hank and Brenda Poplin
Kathryn Robinson - Friend of Cheryl Austin
Anna Ree Roland - Church Member
Harold Roland - Church Member
Helen Rosenfield - Friend of Miranda West
Gene Schofield - Father of Tina Poindexter
Larry Shealy - Uncle of Mike and Lisa Long
Joan Simmons - Friend of Jean Miller
Johnny Starnes - Brother of Anna Ree Roland
Graeme Taylor - Son of Lauren and Grant Taylor
Sherri Taylor - Granddaughter-in-law of Vondolla Goff
Mary Jane West - Mother of Eric West

Shut-Ins:

Mollie Harrison, Kathleen Smith, Charlie Webb

Notes of Thanks and Hope



Congratulations

Mallanie Beth Sampson and Daniel Rudolph Cronin III were married on December 1 at St. Joseph The Worker Roman Catholic Church in St. Lucia. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melville Douglas Sampson, Jr. and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.O. Sharpe.

St. James welcomes a new secretary to work in our church office. Her name is Amy Walker. We are so happy to have Amy in our church staff. Please stop by sometime and say a word of welcome to Amy. She is in the office on Mondays-Thursdays from 9AM-2PM.

Thank You

Thanks to all of you who so willingly gave of your time and talents to bake and donate cakes for our cake auction in November and to those who so generously purchased those cakes! We earned more than \$400 for the water project in Tanzania. What a blessing you are to our brothers and sisters across the world. Thank you for shining Christ's light into their lives.

Not only did the Gamecocks win the annual Carolina/Clemson rivalry game...the Gamecocks also won the 2011 Carolina/Clemson food drive! A BIG thank you to everyone who donated to this food drive. With your donations, we collected over 500 food items to help those in need. Way to Go, St. James!



*Lutheran Girl Pioneers Learn The Art of
Cake Decorating*

St. James Helps Families In Need

You have the opportunity to help families who are in need this Christmas. St. James is spreading our Christmas joy to three different needy families this year. If you'd like to be a part of this special project, stop by the Christmas tree in the narthex with tags on it. Each tag lists a gift that someone is longing for this Christmas. Help us shine Christ's light into the darkness during this season as we share Christ's love with others.

Blood Drive at Red Bank Methodist

Don't just give gifts in boxes and wrapping paper this year! Give the gift of life. Our next community blood drive will be held at Red Bank United Methodist Church on Monday, December 5, from 2PM-7PM. You may call the church office to make an appointment at 359-4031.

Backpack Project

Children at Red Bank Elementary School need our help. In the narthex there is a basket for Red Bank's children who go hungry on the weekends. We are filling back packs with individually wrapped items, including microwaveable cups of mac & cheese, microwaveable Chef-Boyardee items, individually wrapped grits, oatmeal, and cereal packets, boxed juices, granola bars, packs of crackers, pop-tarts, fruit cups, applesauce cups, and pudding cups. Thanks for your help!



*Happy Birthday, Martin Luther!
From the God Rockz Kids at St. James*

Worship Assistants

Acolytes 8AM

December 4 - Elisa Rice

December 11 - Jocelyn Rice

December 18 - Aaron Frazier

December 25 - Aaron Frazier

Acolytes 10:30AM

December 4 - Courtney Rikard

December 11 - Courtney Rikard

December 18 - Taylor Newman

December 25 - Taylor Newman

Altar Guild

Lynette Steele

Communion Bread

December 4 - Melaine Juergens

December 24 - Tammy O'Quinn

Lay Readers

December 4 - Larry Kyzer

December 11 - Lisa Tyson

December 18 - Lynn Sloan

December 25 - Josie Price

Nursery Attendants

December 4 - Carole Collins and
Tammy O'Quinn

December 11 - Debbie and Aaron Areheart

December 18 - Jeremy and Shelley Joyner

December 25 - Glenn and Susan Hollis

Ushers

Scott Summers

Guy West

Jason Davis

Brandon Crumpton

Sound System

Chuck Backman

Tellers

Kristie Joyner

Adam Steele

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 8:00 AM - Holy Communion 9:15 AM - Sunday School 10:30 AM - Holy Communion 3:00 PM - Confirmation 5:00 PM - Youth - Guardian Angels 6:00 PM - Handbells 7:00 PM - Council	5	6 7:50 AM - Prayer Service 6:30 PM - St. Nicholas Service	7 7:00 PM - Choir	8	9	10 9:00 AM - Cantata Rehearsal
11 9:15 AM - Sunday School 10:30 AM - Holy Communion 5:00 PM - Christmas Cantata	12 6 - 8:00 PM - Cub Scouts	13 7:50 AM - Prayer Service 6:30 PM - Zumba 7:30 PM - Yoga	14 7:00 PM - Choir	15 12:00 PM - OWL's Luncheon 6:30 PM - Lights Before Christmas at the Zoo	16	17
18 8:00 AM - Holy Communion 9:15 AM - Sunday School 10:30 AM - Holy Communion 12:00 PM - Afternoon of Historical Reflection 3:00 PM - Confirmation 5:00 PM - Youth - Guardian Angels	19 6:30 PM - Zumba 7:30 PM - Yoga	20 7:50 AM - Prayer Service 2 - 3:00 PM - Harvest Hope 6:30 PM - Zumba 7:30 PM - Yoga	21	22	23	24 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service
25 9:30 AM - Holy Communion	26 6:30 PM - Zumba 7:30 PM - Yoga	27 7:50 AM - Prayer Service 6:30 PM - Zumba 7:30 PM - Yoga	28	29 5-7:00 PM Cayce Food Pantry	30	31

St. James Lutheran Church
1358 South Lake Drive
Lexington, South Carolina 29073
(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)

Church Staff

Pastors: Rev. Andrea Rice
Rev. Nathan Rice

Worship Service: 8:00 AM
Sunday School: 9:15 AM
Worship Service: 10:30 AM

Church Office: 359-2122 or 359-7803
Web Page: www.stjameslex.com
E-mail: office@stjameslex.com

Office Hours
Monday–Thursday 9:00 AM—2:00 PM

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