

*Want to get to know
Pastor Rebecca?
Pastor Rebecca wants to get
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pastor@stjamesallison.com*



MEET THE PASTOR

PASTOR REBECCA BAIRD



STJAMESALLISON.COM



St. James Lutheran Church - Allison, IA
@stjamesallison

Beloved Children of God,

OCTOBER 2023
Happy Fall!

Summer has officially come to an end, and last month was full of amazing ministry:

- On 'God's Work, Our Hands' Sunday, Sept. 10, we were sent out to serve all over our community, including the Care Center, Pool, Wilder Park, downtown, and more. Thanks to all who helped coordinate, cook, and serve, answering God's call to love and serve our neighbors.
- Wednesday, Sept. 13 was the start of LOL (after school program), Food & Fellowship, Luther League (High School Youth Group), and Confirmation (7th and 8th grade students.) This year, we are partnering with St. Peter, Greene, for confirmation. Combined we have 22 amazing students and 5 adult volunteers!

Thanks to all who volunteer their time and energy to make all of our Wednesday programming thrive. Though it's always a very long day for many of us, I love Wednesdays and the ministry we do together. We can always use more help at these events- please consider volunteering to cook, serve and spend time with our youth. Sign-up sheets for Food & Fellowship can be found on the table in the entryway.

- *Rally Sunday was on Sept. 17. We had over 140 people in worship and over 30 kids prek-6th grade in Sunday School! It was a fun day with ice cream and balloons adorning the Sanctuary. (Church is always more fun with balloons.) We also presented Bibles to our third graders. I am so thankful for our amazing Sunday School teachers and volunteers who are serving our kids and church this school year. We are truly blessed by you.*
- *Harvest Fest and Bake Sale was Sept. 19. Thank you to WELCA and all who donated food, treats, crafts and their time to make the day such a success!*

Harvest Fest was the perfect kick-off to fall... football, sweaters, apple cider, pumpkin patches, God's creation showing off with colorful leaves and crisp evening air... Fall is my favorite season and I love everything about it...



Many churches use this new fall season as a time to talk about community and stewardship. Hebrews 13:16 says “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” What can you do to serve your neighbor this fall season? I pray in this season we continue to be good stewards of our gifts, thankful for God’s creation, and intentionally form community with one another.

In this spirit, I want to introduce a new series called “Tell Your Story.” Each month, a member’s story will be told Q&A style, focusing on a topic story of faith and life. If you have a story of faith and life you want to share, please let me know. We will meet together ahead of time to plan. Perhaps you want to share your journey with grief and loss, work, cancer, raising kids, growing up or becoming Lutheran, a moment that had impact on you, your family, or your journey to find your vocation and calling. Any age welcome. You are important and your story matters! Discussion and fellowship will follow each “Tell Your Story” time.

Our first “Tell Your Story” event will be after church on October 1 from 10:15-10:45am in the Parish Hall. Join Tim and me as we share our story of pregnancy loss and infertility (in honor of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month in October.) All are welcome!

I’m looking forward to this fall season: Baptizing my boys, confirming our 9th graders, learning more about our community, growing alongside our students, “telling my story,” anticipating the holiday season, and of course, drinking lots of pumpkin spice chai lattes (the best fall drink.)

May the Spirit of the Lord surround us with peace and hope of new life in this and every season. Remember that God loves you, and I do, too!

Peace,

Pastor Rebecca



Thanks to Fawn Wiebke for the great photos!

October Worship at a glance...

October 1:
Worship with Holy Communion; ‘Tell Your Story’ after church, Parish Hall
Sunday School @ 10am

October 8:
Worship at 9:00

October 15:
The baptism of Tim, Oliver and Ben Baird
Sunday School @ 10am

October 22:
Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday School @ 10am

October 29:
Reformation and Affirmation of Baptism
NO Sunday School

*Join us after church to celebrate our confirmands:
Cora, Savannah, Tanner and Nadelyn!*



The St James church office would appreciate announcements for the bulletin by Weds. morning for the weeks printing. Articles for the months newsletter are due by the 20th of the month. The church office is open M-TH 8:00 AM-12-noon.



Currently St. James is holding public worship via YouTube, and Dumont cable channel 1004. If you need assistance accessing worship virtually, please call the church office. Worship with Holy Communion will occur each Sunday of the month.



LOL Community After School Program is held Wednesdays, from 3:30-5:00



It takes many people to keep this congregation running smoothly and efficiently. Thank you to the many members who have given of their gifts. It makes our worship services special and inviting to attend. Your service shows in our communities as a witness to mission and it is appreciated.

Thanks to the one who cares for the outside decorations. Lovely as always!

Thank you to those who worked hard to get ready for the WELCA Harvest lunch and make it successful!

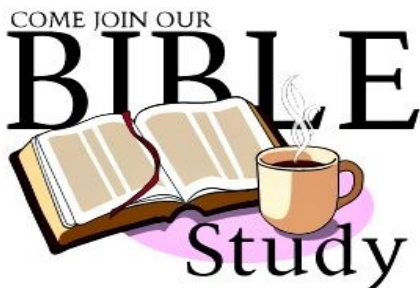
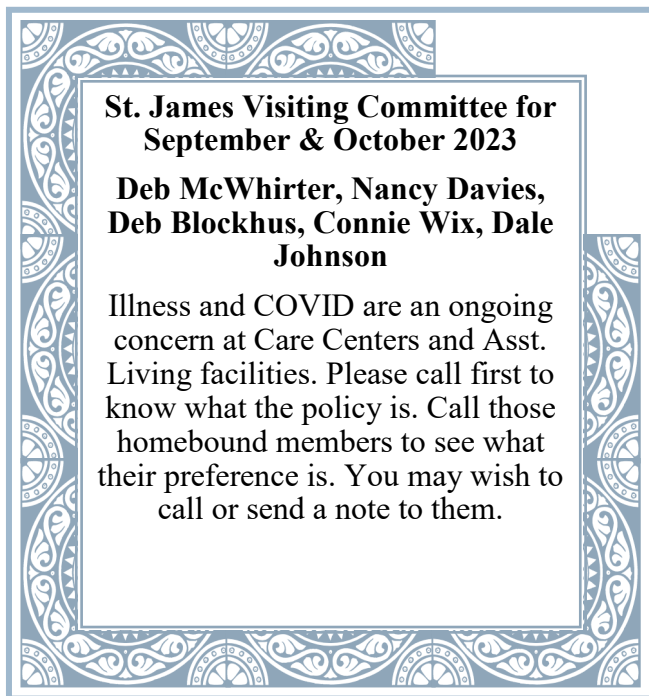
Grateful to volunteers who office sit when the secretary is always! I am blessed :)

GWOH Day was the best and all because of YOU!

Grateful to those who are getting ready for a new program year!



Devotional books are now available for Oct-Dec, 2023. They are on the narthex table or in the church office.



Greetings to all. We are in the harvest season and one harvest is over, the W-ELCA Harvest Festival. A special thank you to everyone who donated, worked and/or ate. The day was very successful and was good to see many we had not seen for awhile. Folks generously gave a donation for lunch and bake sale/crafts produce tables did well also. The proceeds will be used for our mission projects. None of this would be possible without your support.

Thursday, October 5, we will have our monthly Bible study at 9:30 a.m. in the kitchen of the Parish Hall. We use the Gather magazine for our Bible study. All are invited to attend. We have great discussions as we study God's word. If you do not get the Gather, Syd can furnish you with a copy of the lesson. Of course there is always coffee and a snack. Bible study will be led by Linda Thoreson and snacks by Deb Blockhus.

BINGO was not played at the Care Center Sept. 21 due to an uptick in COVID numbers.

Our next big event will be the Advent Service at Elm

Springs on Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Help is always welcome for this service. We need to remember most of the residents at Elm Springs cannot get out to attend worship at their own church and so bringing them an Advent Service is special for them.

Thank you for the HUGE response for school supplies for LWR. The school kits will be sent out in the spring.

The list of members unable to be out and about continues to grow. Help is needed to visit these members. The women visit each member who is homebound, once every two months. Those who presently visit find this a rewarding experience and are so glad they did the visit. Please give this prayerful consideration and join those who already visit. If you would like to help call Bonnie at 319-493-4404.
God's Blessings Bonnie Dralle

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Rev. Paul Schaedig, Audrey Freeseemann, Bill McDowell, and Sarah Hawker

From the Council President

It's been a month or so since I've written a report so just to touch base with you I'm including a brief update. We are beyond happy and grateful to have the Baird family in our congregation. Pastor Rebecca has jumped right in with both feet taking part in activities, getting out to meet people and committees and being part of our church family. It's been nice to have Tim, Ben & Oliver join us also for various events and activities and we are hopeful that they feel our appreciation for all they're doing.

There are so many people to thank for all the activities and events we've done this summer from worship both in church and outside the church with other congregations and enjoying nature and its surroundings. We've had Family Fun night, the beginning of LOL, Confirmation, Luther League and Wednesday Food & Fellowship along with God's Work - Our Hands Sunday. So many people contribute in numerous ways to make our outreach successful and fun. So as always, continue to participate, volunteer, invite others to join our events. We have a wonderful message of Faith & Love from our Lord to share with all.

Deb McWhirter, President



	August	
	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$10,075.21	\$187,263.81
Expense	\$14,416.63	\$242,849.67



ALLISON CARE CENTER WORSHIP

Worship with Holy Communion at the Allison Care Center is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month @ 9:15 A.M. Thanks to all who lead this service.



The list of members unable to be out and about continues to grow. **Help is needed to visit these members.** WELCA visits each member who is homebound once every two months. **But this group could really use some additional help.** Those who presently visit find this a rewarding experience. Those being visited are very thankful you came to see them and giving them a connection to their church home. Please give this prayerful consideration and join those who already visit. Contact the church office 267-2274 if you'd like to help!



ACOLYTES SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

- October 1: Walker Buss & Jackson Hummel**
- October 8: Landon Debner & Wrigley Endelman**
- October 15: Faith Eberline & Wade Wangsness**
- October 22: Jackson Hummel & Jarrett Shear**
- October 29: Confirmation Sunday-Gavin Schrage & Conner Wubbena**



Linda Thoreson, Altar Guild Chair, has called a meeting of the guild members Sunday, October 8 @ 10:15 in the front pews of the sanctuary. This will be a time to update general duties, review expectations and meet/visit with Pastor Rebecca regarding any changes. Feel free to bring any questions or concerns. **PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND.**



St. James Church Council Meeting – September 6, 2023.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Dana Uhlenhopp. Present: Dana Uhlenhopp, Mystie Hummel, Jason Shaull, Scott Bruns, Jim Davies, Aimee Deuell, Jeremy Idler, Jill Ford, Pastor Rebecca Baird, and Financial Administrator Mindy Pecha. Devotions given by Pastor Rebecca. The agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda made by Scott, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

Sandi Schnetter representing Visual Edge IT addressed

lease is up on the copy machine used in the church office. Sandi explained the available options and costs. The current monthly expense is \$139.89. Motion by Jeremy to use updated equipment through Visual Edge IT at a monthly expense of \$142.51, seconded by Scott. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report was given by Mindy. Written report was reviewed. Motion to approve report by Jim, seconded by Mystie. Motion carried.

Secretary's report: August minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve report made by Jason, seconded by Jeremy. Motion carried.

Pastor Rebecca's report: Wilder Park service on August 27th was well attended. Sunday school begins September 17. St. Peter's council president contacted Pastor Rebecca and requested that she teach their confirmation class as they are still without a pastor. Pastor Rebecca provided a proposed covenant for council's review to have combined confirmation with St. Peter. Classes would meet weekly at St. James on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Adult leaders would need to attend from both congregations. Motion to approve by Jeremy, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Education/Youth Ministry: Sunday School kickoff will be September 17th.

Evangelism: No report.

Property: Jason indicated that information is still being gathered for the roof project and a bid will be forthcoming. The steel trim around windows needs to be painted.

Stewardship & finance: Dana will be scheduling a meeting with Pastor Rebecca.

Worship & Music: Plan to meet September 24th.

Old Business:

Discussed upcoming God's Work Our Hands scheduled for September 10.

Discussion re: findings from kitchen and parish hall cleaning tabled until October meeting.

New Business:

The new copy machine contract was approved.

Council meetings will remain scheduled at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. Subject will be revisited after confirmation begins and Pastor Rebecca can see how scheduling goes with confirmation/council meeting on the same night.

Floor/carpet cleaning discussed. Council and Pastor Rebecca walked through the entryway/office area, parish hall, and basement to check the condition of the carpet and flooring. A cleaning estimate has been received from Heaven's Best. The estimate for cleaning the basement, entryway, and office/entry areas (excluding parish hall at this time) would total \$1,654.76. Motion to approve made by Scott, seconded by Jason. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Scott, seconded by Jason. Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on October 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, October 29th, 4 young people will participate in the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism. God's blessing to Cora Barnett, Savannah Hummel, Tanner Lursen & Nadelyn Stanbrough as they live out their faith in Christ.



There's a sign up sheet asking if you'd like to help Pr. Rebecca serve communion (it's open to youth and adults alike)

There's a sign up sheet asking for volunteers to get the coffee ready and supply treats for fellowship after worship

There's a sign up sheet for volunteers to make the meal for Wednesday night Food & Fellowship