

St. James Lutheran Church Mission Statement

~To connect people to God and one another, welcoming all and changing lives!~

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 "1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

As followers of Jesus Christ, it is our call and privilege to advocate for justice and engage in matters that deeply affect our neighbors. We are called to live out God's love in all we do and our church does this in many ways!

I wanted to share an important project that Deb McWhirter recently brought to my attention. A friend of Deb's attends the United Methodist Church in Algona, and their church creates sleeping mats for people experiencing homelessness. These mats can offer a lightweight and water-resistant place for people experiencing homelessness to use outdoors. Dignity, warmth and a dry place to sleep are constant worries of the unhoused. Deb gave Dale Pothast a loom pattern, and he built a loom out of wood. It takes 600-800 plastic grocery bags to create one mat. Deb recently donated a mat to the Salvation Army in Waterloo, where they were very grateful, as mats are needed but not often donated. Daleth Pothast and Nancy Davies, leaders of St. James' 1st-6th grade afterschool program (LOL - Live on Love), invited Deb to share the project with the kids. They all joined in to help make another mat!



I thank God for the creativity and care of so many in our church and I encourage each of us to consider the ways God may be calling us to live in active love for our neighbors in need. Perhaps this looks like helping make sleeping mats, joining W-ELCA in sewing or tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), serving a meal, having healthy conversations about creation care and policy even with people we disagree with, or praying for and supporting organizations of our wider church that advocate for just policies and care for God's children: Some organizations to consider supporting include Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) which helps those affected by disasters; and Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and Global Refuge, who provide resources and advocacy to refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers.

In a recent pastoral message to the church, The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, said "This church is committed to upholding the humanity of everyone, regardless of who we are or where we come from. We are a church called to love our neighbors and accompany all people in their joys and struggles. We must remain steadfast in this calling. As the ELCA, we will continue to proclaim the radical inclusivity of Christ's love. And we will deepen our local and global partnerships with those working to build a just and compassionate society, especially through our ecumenical and interreligious networks."

Please reach out if you'd like to talk about life and faith or have ideas on how our church can continue to serve and advocate. Thank you to everyone who makes a difference in so many ways! I leave you with 1 Cor. 13:13: "And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love." Let us always strive to live in active love and care for one another, especially those in the margins of our society, in response to Christ's unconditional love for us. Remember how much God loves and cares for *you*!

Peace, Pastor Rebecca Baird



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.



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.



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 the 1st and 4th Sunday's of each month.



The February Bible study will be held on **Thursday, Feb. 6 @ 9:30.** Syd Brinkman will have the Bible study lesson and serve coffee/treat. Study lesson can be picked up from Syd.



THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Travis Terry, Jeff Dreier, Dale Thorne, Kent Gulick
 Cecil Radcliffe and Sylvia Schrage

In an effort to streamline the monthly newsletter, the council minutes will be posted on the website , stjamesallison.com, under the heading News & Events and click the current newsletter tab.

St. James Visiting Committee for Jan. & Feb. 2025

Linda Thoreson, Robin Morton, Kathleen Fisher, Syd Brinkman

Illness and COVID are an ongoing concern at Care Centers and Asst. Living facilities. Please call first to know what the policy is. Call those homebound members to see what their preference is. You may wish to call or send a note to them.



Holy Communion instruction will be on **Sunday, March 30th at noon** at St. Peter in Greene, where we'll create pottery and learn about Holy Communion. We will also meet on Sunday, April 6 during Sunday School. First Communion will be on April 17 during the Maundy Thursday service. Please consider whether your child is ready to receive Communion instruction. It's important that this decision is made as a family, as you know your child best! If you feel it's the right time for your child to learn more about Holy Communion, they are welcome to join! Please contact Pastor Rebecca (pastor@stjamesallison.com) if you have any questions. If your child is interested, please RSVP for the classes by February 16.



The mission of St. James Lutheran Church is to connect people to God and one another, welcoming all and changing lives!

Your support of the capital campaign will not only help us "Raise the Roof" but help us continue to live out our mission. We have enclosed an envelope for gifts that you are invited to place in the mail or in the offering plate on Sunday. More envelopes are available for pick-up in the church office. All donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your generosity.

Please see the back to learn more about giving options.



Let's enjoy your chili!

Sunday, Feb. 23 a chili cook-off will be held at 11:00 in the Parish Hall. The number of chili entries is limited to 6. This can be an individual or team effort. Vote for your favorite-a prize for the winner! Creativity/ different types of chili - Classic, white chicken chili, spicy hot chili, ground turkey, etc... is encouraged. There are spots for people to sign up to bring cinnamon rolls and cornbread as well so we have something to accompany the chili. Not everyone likes chili so feel free to bring a favorite soup to share.



December end

	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$29,637.06	\$146,439.91
Does not include roof campaign or earned interest		
Expense	\$16,370.33	\$177,078.06

St. James Council Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Jim Davies. Present: Danny Bohlen, Taylor Salge, Aimee Deuell, Jason Shaull, Amanda Wehran, Kiley Shear, Ted Koester, Mystie Hummel, Jeremy Idler, John Endelman, Robin Lursen, Alyssa Endelman, Financial Administrator Mindy Pecha and Pastor Rebecca Baird. Devotions given Pastor Rebecca. Motioned by John Endelman, second by Aimee to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report was provided by Mindy Pecha. December income was \$48,849.47 with \$21,850.67 for the Raise the Roof campaign and total expenses of \$16,370.33. Motioned by Pastor Rebecca, second by Kiley to approve the Treasurer's report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: December minutes were reviewed. Motioned by Pastor Rebecca, second by Kiley to approve the Secretary's report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor shared the Christmas Eve service went well and she is currently planning for Lent. She is once again planning for Lent mentors to meet each week with Confirmation students during Lent on Wednesday. She has also started doing house blessings.

Old Business: Council held a couple of impromptu meetings in December to act on items prior to the annual meeting. The following are the notes from those meetings to be included in the January minutes:

Council communicated via email on 1/6/25. Motioned by Pr. Rebecca, second by Jim, to receive Trevor Brinkman as a new member of St. James. All ayes. Motion carried. The Council communicated via email and met briefly following worship on 1/12/25. Pr. Rebecca, Jim Davies, Mystie Hummel, Jason Shaull and Danny Bohlen were present. Motion by Pr. Rebecca, second by Jason, to approve the 2025 annual meeting agenda and council recommendations for 2025. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motioned by Jason, second by Aimee to approve these notes be included with January meeting minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

New Business: Discussions were held regarding the council executive committee. Motioned by Danny, second by Kiley to appoint the following individuals to council executive committee:

President: Jim Davies

Vice President: Ted Koester

Secretary: Leslie Groen

Treasurers: Danny Bohlen and Kiley Shear

Pastor Rebecca shared the purpose and details of holding a council retreat. Proposed times were sent prior to the meeting and the best date for the majority was February 9th following the church service.

Discussions were held regarding the devotions schedule, usher schedule and duties.

The council also discussed authorized signers for the bank accounts including adding one consistent authorized signer to all accounts and updates needed for existing signers. Motioned by Alyssa, second by John to approve the authorized signer updates. Motion to make changes to accounts listed below held with Lincoln Savings Bank and to have Sydney J Brinkman as the authorized individual on the Resolution.

Discussions were held regarding the monies in the building and memorial funds as this was asked during the annual meeting. Ted Koester will follow up on this.

The Council discussed hosting another congregational potluck and it was decided to have a chili cook-off on February 23rd at 11:00 am.

Motioned to adjourn made by Kiley, second by Taylor. Meeting adjourned 6:39 p.m. Next meeting will be held February 12th at 5:30 p.m.