

*Want to get to know
Pastor Rebecca?
Pastor Rebecca wants to get
to know YOU!*

*Schedule a time to meet with
her here:
calendly.com/pastor-rebecca
or
email Pastor Rebecca:
pastor@stjamesallison.com*



MEET THE PASTOR

PASTOR REBECCA BAIRD



STJAMESALLISON.COM



St. James Lutheran Church - Allison, IA
@stjamesallison

The New Year brings with it new beginnings. Phrases like "a fresh start" or "new year, new me" ring out, and a new year often gives us permission to let go of the past, change, grow, and be hopeful about new opportunities. But how can we do so when we hear statistics like "only 9% of people complete their *New Year's Resolutions*?" How can we "let go" of things like grief and shame and despair when they cling to us, or when we've tried and tried again... surely a new calendar year can't change it all...

This is where our faith enters... January reminds me of baptism. Baptism promises us the grace to let go and to let die those things that wish us ill, such as shame, regret, and despair. Things we struggle with drown in baptismal waters. In these same waters, through Christ, God raises us to things that provide life, healing, and wholeness. That's the work of God. And this does not just happen on January 1st, but every moment of every day.

In the month of January, we emerge from the story of Christ's birth to hear the journey of Jesus' early ministry. We first hear about Jesus' baptism and the start of his ministry: The calling of the disciples, the work of healing and miracles, the promises of his hope, peace, joy, and love fulfilled to our world.

Our annual meeting will be on *January 21st* after worship. We will have a movie day for Sunday School students so parents and teachers can attend the meeting. We look at the past year of our ministry with

thankfulness: 2023 was a year of transition, growth, tradition, as well as new beginnings, as we began our ministry together in August. As we look forward to a new year of ministry together, I ponder what kind of 'beginnings' does God have in store for our church? Where does God call us to see new life at work? Where do the waters of baptism lead us to serve our community and world? How can we reflect on our mission and live it out? All by the grace and the call of God.

May we embrace 2024 with faithful stewardship, discipleship, and hope in our God who loves us, who calls us, and who makes all things new, through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Peace,

Pastor Rebecca

20 * C + M + B + 24

Pastor Rebecca would like to offer you the opportunity for a Home Blessing. Pastor would come to each of your homes at a time you've reserved on Jan. 8 & 9. She would join you in a brief visit (~15 minutes) and together offer an Epiphany home blessing. Please call the church office to set up a time if you so desire.



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL RESUME JAN. 7th. CONFIRMATION CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 3rd AT 6:30 PM.



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 ones who made the Advent season so special

Special music during the worship services have been especially appreciated!

Thank you Jay Doeden for sharing the floral arrangements with us again this year. Lovely and so special!



ST. JAMES WILL HOLD IT'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JAN. 21st IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

**St. James Visiting Committee for
January & February 2024**

**Linda Thoreson, Syd Brinkman,
Robin Morton, Kathleen Fisher**

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.



The busy December is over and we welcome the New Year 2024 into our lives. Thanking and praising God for all He gave us in 2023 and looking forward to His blessing in this New Year. Also, remembering the many ways we can share Christ's love to others.

W-ELCA Bible study will be held on Thursday, January 4th at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall kitchen. Bonnie will be the leader for the Bible study. We use the Gather study guide and you can get this from Syd.

Sewing and quilting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 16 and Jan. 17 from 9:00 am until noon.

Bingo at the Care Center on Thursday, Jan. 18th at 2 pm. We need 8 people to help the residents.

Visiting Committee for January/February are Linda Thoreson, Syd Brinkman, Robin Morton, and Kathleen Fisher.

Thank you to all who donated to the Bremwood Christmas tree. All 45 gift tags were taken. They were so appreciated by the staff at Bremwood. These gifts allow the children living there to have an outing with a staff person and enjoy shopping.

God's blessings, Bonnie

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Rev. Paul Schaedig, Bill McDowell, Robert Vieker, Sarah Hawker, Sheryl Hull, Vivian Green, and Duane & Lorna Feltz



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.



Thank you for your leadership Deb!!

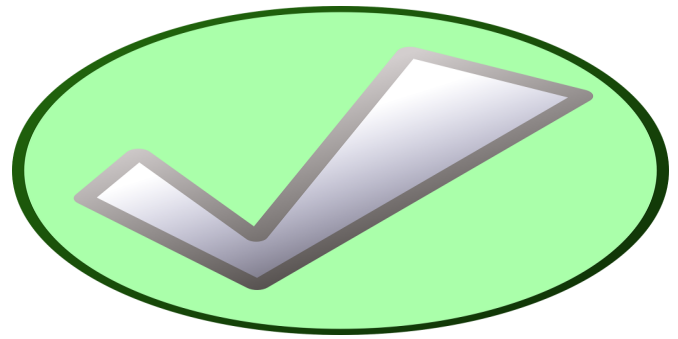
I am coming to the end of my three year term on Church Council and would like to express my thanks to all of St. James membership for the help and support you have given me during my last three years as council president. I won't detail the information I have for the annual report but want to thank the current council for all their help this year also. And especially a huge thank you to Pastor Rebecca and Tim Baird for accepting our call and coming to join our church family. It has been a blessing for all of us.

I want to remind you that your gifts of service to the church as well as your financial gifts are what keep our church growing and thriving. We are blessed to be able to offer worship opportunities through the Dumont Cable channel and are able to reach people who may have not been able to join us before. But there are also costs to that outreach so again, your financial support is vital to our ability to provide so many things we do including the Sunday service as well as our vibrant youth program and Wednesday meals. We are grateful for any and all of your gifts.

Thank you again to all who support our mission in any way.



	November	
	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$11,510.05	\$220,529.29
Expense	\$13,005.69	\$288,181.31



Check out the additions to the St. James website.

Click the link [here](#)



Happy Anniversary!

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 home-bound 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!

Bob and Venita Bruns will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary with an open house in the Parish Hall of St. James, Jan. 20th, from 2:00-4:00 pm. If you'd like to send a greeting their address is 316 S Main, Allison, IA 50602. Bob and Venita were married Jan. 31st. Congratulations!



ACOLYTES SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

January 7: Faith Eberline & Wrigley Endelman

January 14: Jack Hummel & Isaac Endelman

January 21: Landon Debner & Gavin Schrage

January 28: Conner Wubbena & Jack Hummel

A very special holiday Thank You to the St. James council, the Evangelism Committee and especially Bethani Shaull for inviting James Aissen to perform. It is always a special treat to hear holiday selections. Thanks to the cookie bakers for the fellowship time.

Darrell & Mary Aissen

Thank you to W-ELCA for the flowers that are placed in memory of members who died in 2023.



St. James Church Council Meeting - December 13, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Council President Deb McWhirter. Present: Deb McWhirter, Aimee Deuell, Scott Bruns, Mystie Hummel, Dana Uhlenhopp, Leslie Groen, Duane Folkerts, Jason Shaull, John Heeren, Jim Davies, Jill Ford, Pastor Rebecca, and Financial Administrator Mindy Pecha. Meeting opened with devotions and prayer from Pastor Rebecca. The agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve amended agenda made by Scott, seconded by Leslie. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report was given by Mindy. November income was \$11,510.05 with expenses of \$13,005.69. Discussion regarding 2023 parsonage expenses which totaled approximately \$35,000. Stewardship and Finance Committee's 2024 budget proposal was discussed. A St. James Venmo account will be set up for easy, convenient giving. Parsonage decisions need to be made at some point as it has now sat empty for three years. Motion to approve reports made by Scott, seconded by Jason. Motion carried.

Secretary's report: November minutes reviewed. Motion to approve by Jim, seconded by Scott. Motion carried.

No formal report from Pastor Rebecca other than the positive update that St. James is doing very well overall.

Standing Committee Reports:

Education/Youth Ministry: The children's program was held December 10th, and the kids and teachers did a fantastic job. Pastor Rebecca has a Confirmation goal for Lent including a midweek service where the students can meet with a mentor following the service. There are 10 kids in the class so 10 mentors will be needed unless the students pair up to share a mentor. The meetings would last approximately 20-30 minutes.

Evangelism: The committee has been very busy with planning the James Aissen concert, Sunday School program and activities, and Wednesday night Food and Fellowship meals. Volunteers are needed for the

Wednesday meals. There will be no Food and Fellowship on December 27. Christmas caroling will be held on Friday, December 22.

Property: Written report from the committee was reviewed. Discussions continue regarding the church roof project. If anything is going to move forward, a minimum of one-third of the money needed for the roof will need to be raised before any work commences. The committee expects a second bid for the project will be forthcoming.

Stewardship & Finance: Proposed budget discussed along with treasurer's report.

Worship & Music: No report.

Old Business:

Roof project. (Discussed in property committee report).

Nominating committee report. Three incoming council members have been established and the committee is working on the fourth.

Snow removal update. (Outlined in written Property Committee report).

New Business:

Annual meeting will be held January 20, 2024, following worship service.

Motion to adjourn from Dana, second from Leslie. The next meeting will be held on January 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.