

## **St. James Lutheran Church Mission Statement**

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

**Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

During the season of Easter we celebrate what God has done through Jesus Christ. As a resurrection people, we are called to proclaim the hope of Christ which assures us that death does not have the final word over our lives. The Holy Spirit, through Christ's resurrection, breathes new life into all creation...

Creation in the Earth's Northern hemisphere accompanies the seasons of the church well (most of the time... I apologize if this letter gets to you after we have a snow storm. They don't teach meteorology in seminary!) In Advent our nights become longer as we await the light of Christ to be born into the world. In Lent, creation turns from a wintry barren landscape to one filled with buds of springtime and new life. Just as creation constantly reminds us of the cycle of life and death and resurrection, so does our worship and faith. As followers of Christ, our year revolves around Easter. As we continue through the next 50 days of the season of Easter, I encourage you to look for the ways new life is springing up all around. Maybe that is through creation, new plants and butterflies, or perhaps it is through something new God is calling you to take on or accomplish through service.

Some highlights of service from March include the Feed My Starving Children mobile food pack in Aplington on March 23. We had 18 people from St. James and St. Peter join many other churches and groups to serve and pack over 29,000 meals! W-ELCA also made many school and hygiene kits with donated supplies and 118 quilts were blessed on Palm Sunday to send to Lutheran World Relief- what a blessing! Thank you to all our children, youth, and adults who helped with worship during Holy Week and Easter, especially for the fun "Journey with Jesus" stations on Palm Sunday and the yummy breakfast hosted by Luther League on Easter! For many others unnamed, your service, gifts and love poured out to our neighbors near and far does not go unnoticed. I am grateful for you!

This season, may we keep watch for the ways God is creating us anew and inviting us to share the Good News of God's love, grace and new life for all our neighbors. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Peace,

Pastor Rebecca



**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS**

Bill McDowell, Robert Vieker, Sarah Hawker, Sheryl Hull, Vivian Green, Duane & Lorna Feltz and Eugene Maifield

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.

Those who deliver meals on Wednesday night to folks in the community

Those who serve Food & Fellowship

LWR Quilters-persistent and driven

Thank you for Confirmation Mentors

Those who volunteered for the food pack



**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.

**St. James Visiting Committee for  
March & April 2024**

**Karla Schmidt, Deb McWhirter,  
Paula Anderson, Shirley Wubbena**

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.



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

Quilts for LWR have been finished and blessed for the "Spring Gathering" on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at Zion Lutheran in Dysart. Approximately 100 quilts were made, 24 school kits and 12 personal care kits were completed. Joe and Nadean Dralle will load them on Friday, April 12 at 10:00 am and help is needed to load them for Saturday delivery. **Some men to help would be appreciated.** Thank you to the confirmation students who tied several of the quilts. Thanks men in advance for helping.

**Looking ahead:** The Synodical Women's Organization Convention will be held in June at Redeemer Lutheran in Waverly. The in-kind gifts this year will be given to Bremwood in Waverly. A list of items needed will be given later.

Allison Days lunch stand will be on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers are needed to help prepare food for the lunch stand and to serve.

Visiting Committee for March & April are Karla Schmidt, Deb McWhirter, Paula Anderson and

Shirley Wubbena.

Please remember those who are housebound or temporarily unable to be out and about. The church office would appreciate those names so that the church members can visit them. Even though the list continues to grow, it is a rewarding experience that makes the visit memorable. Please give helping prayful consideration and join in that GOOD FEELING!

The Spring Gathering will be held at Zion Lutheran in Dysart April 13<sup>th</sup>. It is a day of gifting quilts, kits and other ministries to LWR. It is also a time to gather with Sisters in Christ for fellowship.

God's Blessings-Bonnie



|         | February    |             |
|---------|-------------|-------------|
|         | Monthly     | YTD         |
| Income  | \$8,909.58  | \$20,063.71 |
| Expense | \$13,908.41 | \$28,641.08 |



**To Our St. James Family**

**Thank you all for your caring thoughtfulness and prayers since Allen's surgery, my fall and follow-up surgery. We appreciate your cards, Christmas carolers, and everyone that has delivered Wednesday "Food and Fellowship" meals. We are blessed to have our St. James family and Pastor Rebecca. We appreciate your continuing prayers as we complete our healing.**

**God bless!**

**Vivian and Allen Green**



### ACOLYTES SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

- April 7: Wade Wangness & Landon Debner**
- April 14: Walker Buss & Faith Eberline**
- April 21: Isaac Endelman & Wrigley Endelman**
- April 28: Walker Buss & Conner Wubbena**



The St. James Evangelism Committee is hosting a Church Spring Cleaning Day on Saturday April 13 beginning at 8:30 a.m. We hope to get a bigger group of people to come and help "spring clean" the church and grounds. The plan is to divide into groups and work in sections of the church - sanctuary, parish hall, entry area, basement. With more hands, this job will be much easier. Hopefully a couple of hours with more people will accomplish alot. There will be sign-up sheets passed at church for men, women, and youth of all ages. All are welcome to come and lend a hand. We ask that you bring some of your own cleaning supplies and tools. Please see this as a way to "give back" to St. James. Hope to see you there!



**A Big thank you to Di Miller for the donation of food and condiments to the Food and Fellowship meal supplies. Her help and donations are greatly appreciated!**

Devotional materials are now available for the months of April, May & June.



Congratulations to Michael and Kourtney Wiegmann on the birth of their son Conrad Dean. Grandparents are Denny and Jill Wiegmann.



### St. James Church Council Meeting – March 20, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Jeremy Idler. Present: Pastor Rebecca Baird, Danny Bohlen, Jim Davies, Aimee Dueull, Duane Folkerts, Leslie Groen, Jeremy Idler, Mystie Hummel, and Taylor Salge. Also in attendance was Randy Brinkman with information and recommendations from the Property Committee. Meeting opened with a music devotion shared by Duane Folkerts. Motioned by Leslie to approve the agenda with the addition of Randy’s review of the Property Committee, seconded by Mystie. All ayes. Motion carried.

### REPORTS:

The Treasurer's report was previously emailed by Mindy. The February income was \$8,909.58 with expenses of \$13,908.41. Discussion regarding the ELCA, ME IA Synod donations and splitting them up into \$500/mth for the year vs. \$1000/mth through June. Pastor Rebecca shared the intention of the Steward & Finance Committee when they budgeted the \$6000 for the first six months and then revisit the donation amount after June. The Board will discuss with Mindy in April. The committee also discussed being able to see past financials in a table or graph form to find trends. Leslie will email Mindy to see if the software has any options. Motion to approve report made by Jeremy, seconded by Aimee. Ayes: Mystie, Taylor, Leslie, Danny, and Jim Nays: Duane Motion carried.

Secretary’s report: February minutes were reviewed and motion to approve minutes by Jeremy, seconded by Danny. All ayes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Rebecca shared the following activities she has been busy with this month: Lent Dinner Church services, a baptism, premarital counseling, planning the special services during Holy Week and incorporating our youth into these services. In addition to services Pastor shared she preached at Trinity Reformed church in March, they are planning for the Journey with Jesus worship stations on Palm Sunday and LOL starting seeds for the community garden. Pastor participated in committee meetings including VBS, Evangelism, Property and Mutual Ministry. ongoing planning for Holy Week and Easter. In addition, Pastor Rebecca worked with Liz fro Synod office to create a welcome packet for first call pastors and participated in continuing education at the Three River Conference.

#### Standing Committee Reports:

Education/Youth Ministry: Pastor Rebecca shared continued work on the worship stations following Palm Sunday service called 'Journey with Jesus'. Pastor Rebecca also shared the variety and ages of our youth participating and leading services during Holy Week.

Evangelism: Jim shared information from the last Evangelism meeting including: the 4 worship stations on Palm Sunday, a cleaning day scheduled for April 13th called God's Work Our House, and future funding opportunities being reviewed include: Pizza Ranch busing tables and a quilt auction.

Property: Danny said now that we have their recommendations we need to first move forward with a congregational vote regarding the parsonage.

Stewardship & Finance: The committee may need to meet earlier in the year depending on the congregational vote on the parsonage.

Worship & Music: The committee continues to work on scheduling special music through the spring season.

#### Old Business:

The Council discussed the update greeter responsibilities Pastor Rebecca previously emailed.

After the Property Committee's report indicated there would be additional, Aimee motioned to table the Roof Next Steps agenda item to April, seconded by Mystie. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### New Business:

The Council discussed meeting start time and recognized 5:30 pm will be difficult for some members. It was decided to set the meeting

time for 7:00 pm with Pastor Rebecca joining the meeting after confirmation class. Jim will discuss with Pastor Rebecca to be sure that will work.

The Board took action on the following donations requests: Allison Fire Department - Motioned by Leslie, seconded by Danny to donate \$100. All ayes. Motion carried. North Butler After Prom - Motioned by Jeremy, seconded by Aimee to donate \$50. All ayes. Motion carried. Relay for Life - Motioned by Leslie, seconded by Taylor to table request to April. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Board discussed opportunities to bring in new members. Leslie suggested a welcome packet that could be made available to those with children attending LOL, fellowship meals or attending worship. Jim will work with Pastor Rebecca.

Jim also shared his 2017 church directory and felt maybe it was time for an update. He will again reach out to Pastor Rebecca for ideas on a new directory, costs, etc.

Motion to adjourn made by Danny and seconded by Jeremy at 6:55 pm. Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on April 10th at 7:00 pm.