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PASTOR REBECCA BAIRD



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Dear Children of God,

NOVEMBER 2023 Give Thanks!

Happy November! We are entering the holiday season: Perhaps for you and your family this is a time full of decorating the house for Thanksgiving, baking, starting or continuing family traditions... Or perhaps this is a difficult season. Holidays often serve as a reminder of what we are missing, with empty chairs at the Thanksgiving table, struggling to make the monthly budget, worries of caring for aging parents, traveling to see family... it can all feel so daunting. How can we navigate "giving thanks" when all we can offer is anxiety and lament?

Research suggests that one aspect of the Thanksgiving season can actually lift the spirits, help us give more of our time and gifts, and even alter our brain chemistry, and it's- you guessed it- *gratitude*. The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word *gratia*, which means grace or gratefulness. Gratitude not only helps us give thanks to those who make a difference in our lives, but it also helps us appreciate the little things- the daily abundance God provides, even in and *especially* in the midst of the muck of life.

The Psalms are a beautiful example of how to offer both praise and lament in this season. Psalm 13, a lament Psalm of David, begins "How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?"... and ends "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation." Gratitude and lament often coincide...

I ask, what do you lament this season? And for what do you offer thanks? Personally, I lament another season without my family members that have passed, including my mother-in-law, Susan, and my brother, Tyler. I give thanks for their lives and the blessing it was to love and know them. I lament war, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East. I give thanks for our community and other congregations who serve to be stewards of their gifts, including Luther League who will package Thanksgiving boxes in coordination with the food pantry on Nov. 11. I lament all those who have lost loved ones within the year, knowing this will be the first holiday season without their presence. I give thanks for God's presence in the midst of our sorrow and trust in God's promise of resurrection...



Sunday School, Owen, and Katie Idler lead music on Oct. 22.



Confirmation students actively learning about leadership

And of course, I am thankful for my church family- all of you! I am especially thankful for our confirmands, Cora, Nadelyn, Savannah, and Tanner, confirmed on October 29th. I also give thanks for our council and committees who help our church thrive and function, as well as our many ministries including LOL Wednesday Afterschool Program: Nancy Davies and Daleth Pothast, along with other volunteers, have served many kids in our community offering fun games, snacks, activities, and a place for kids to be kids. Food & Fellowship has also been successful, serving 60-70 people each week. Sunday School, Luther League and Confirmation also continue to serve our youth and our Sunday school teachers are hard-at-work planning our Christmas program for December 10. Thank you to all who give their time and gifts to serve our community.



LOL used creative fall elements for a fun activity

During the month of November, as we celebrate All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) we remember, lament, and give thanks for all the saints who have died in faith. As we celebrate Thanksgiving (Nov. 23) we remember, lament, and give thanks for abundance and pray for God to open our hearts to give to those most in need. As we celebrate Christ the King Sunday (Nov. 26) we remember, lament, and give thanks for the ways God, through Christ, has been at work in our midst throughout the church year. We look forward to another church year, beginning with Advent, and trust that God will continue to walk with us as assured in Psalm 46:

- 7 **The Lord of hosts is with us;**
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- 10 "Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth."
- 11 **The Lord of hosts is with us;**
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Blessings and peace to you from the Lord, who is surely with us.
Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Pastor Rebecca

November Worship at a glance...

- November 5:**
All Saints Sunday
Worship with
Holy Communion and
Candle Lighting
Sunday School @ 10am
- November 12:**
Worship at 9:00
'Tell Your Story' after
worship
Sunday School @ 10am
- November 19:**
Worship @ 9 with Wartburg
College 'Festeburg' Choir
Sunday School @ 10am
- November 23:**
Thanksgiving Eve
Ecumenical Service @
St. James
- November 26:**
Christ the King Sunday
Hymn Fest Worship @ 9
with Holy Communion
Sunday School @ 10am



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 planned and served 2 funerals. Special music during the worship services was especially appreciated!

Wednesday night activities are the best! Thank you for going above & beyond to be a beacon in the community.



Prayers and sympathy are extended to Charlie Mosher, Matthew and Martha, in the death of their beloved wife and mother Linda.

We pray: Comfort them as they bear the pain of his death, and receive us all into your everlasting arms, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

St. James Visiting Committee for November & December 2023

Bonnie Dralle Nancy Davies Ann Chinander Deb McWhirter Roberta Wiegman

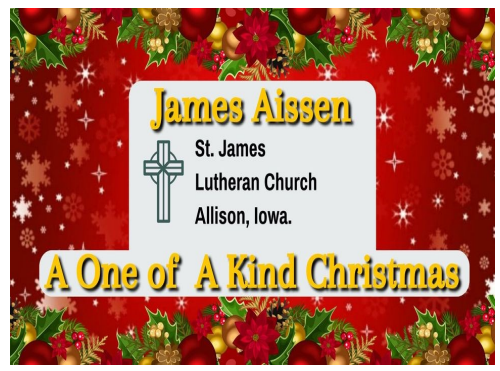
Illness and COVID are an ongoing concern at Care Centers and Asst. Living facilities. Please call first to know what the policy is. Call those homebound members to see what their preference is. You may wish to call or send a note to them.

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.

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, Bill McDowell, and Sarah Hawker



Greetings to all. A special thank you to everyone who donated, worked and/or ate at the WELCA Harvest Festival. The day was very successful due in part to everyone's help. None of this would be possible without your support.

Thursday, November 2, 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 and snacks will be hosted by Connie Wix.

BINGO will played at the Care Center Nov. 16th , provided the COVID virus is resolved.

LWR Quilt making will be held on Monday, Nov. 20 and Tuesday, Nov. 21 beginning at 9:00. Changes in date are due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

Sunday, December 3, James Aissen will present a Christmas show at St. James. The event begins at 2:00 PM and is free and open to the public. What a beautiful way to begin the Advent and Christmas season.

Tell Your Story...

A new series where members tell a topic story of their life and faith. A Q&A style story will be shared once a month after church. You matter! Have a story to tell? Contact Pastor Rebecca.

Sunday, Nov. 12
Parish Hall
~10:00am
(during fellowship time and Sunday School)

Featuring:
Deb McWhirter
Topic:
On being a Pastor's kid...



September

	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$8,647.19	\$195,911.00
Expense	\$12,631.63	\$255,481.30



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 NOVEMBER

- November 5: Wade Wangsness & Wrigley Endelman
- November 12: Walker Buss & Conner Wubbena
- November 19: Isaac Endelman & Gavin Schrage
- November 26: Landon Debner & Jack Hummel



Christmas will be here before we know it. The children at Bremwood will have their Christmas party on December ???. The annual Bremwood Tree will be placed in the lower narthex. Gift tags have been placed on it for \$10 gift certificates to Walmart, Dollar Tree and McDonalds. Gift cards should be wrapped individually and tag taped to the gift. Your generous help in the past is appreciated and it helps these children have a nice Christmas. ALL gift cards must be returned by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER ????**. Gifts can be left at the church office. Cash can also be given if that is easier for you. and Bonnie will make the purchase. Thank you for your help.



St. James Church Council Meeting – October 18, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Council President Deb McWhirter. Present: Deb McWhirter, Pastor Rebecca Baird, Jim Davies, Dana Uhlenhopp, Mystie Hummel, Jeremy Idler, Scott Bruns, Leslie Groen, Jill Ford, and Financial Administrator Mindy Pecha. Meeting opened with devotions from Deb. The agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda by Dana, seconded by Leslie. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Secretary's report: Minutes reviewed and council discussed the new printer referenced below in item 1 in old business. Motion to approve minutes by Jeremy, seconded by Mystie. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Mindy. September income was \$8,647.19 with expenses of \$12,631.63. Printer expenses were reviewed and are addressed further in old business. Motion to approve report made by Leslie, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Education/Youth Ministry: Mystie reported that the education committee met and planning has begun for the Sunday School Christmas program, which will be held on Sunday, December 10, during normal worship time. Pastor Rebecca reported that confirmation is going very well and the students from St. James have had perfect attendance at all classes. Luther League and the education committee both plan to participate in Trunk or Treat. Luther League will be serving a meal of meatloaf and baked potatoes for the November 1 Food and Fellowship.

Evangelism: Next meeting will be held October 23 at 4:00. The committee will be participating in Trunk or Treat. The Harvest Festival was a big success. James Aissen's concert is scheduled for December 3 and the committee will discuss plans for coffee/fellowship that day. Fundraising is being done for Christmas Cheer and a \$500 goal was met through noisy offering. The quilt project money will also be used along with the possibility of a Pizza Ranch fundraising event.

Property: There is a walkthrough of the parsonage being done monthly to make sure there are no issues. There will be an exterior cleanup project at the parsonage to rake leaves, etc. A roofing estimate for the sanctuary was received from Dumont Harken Lumber. Crawford-Miller Lumber also plans to submit a bid. New stairs are needed on the west side of the ed unit as the brick on the current stairs is falling apart. Motion from Leslie, seconded by Dana to order replacement steps at a cost of \$1,785 (plus tax). Motion carried.

Stewardship & Finance: Next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 25, at 5:30 p.m.

Worship & Music: Meetings are now being held on Sunday mornings. The committee hopes to line up special music for most/all Sunday services.

Old Business:

The new copy machine approved at the September council meeting doesn't work properly. The

company has been out to repair it without success. Billing isn't matching what was outlined at the September meeting. The company will be contacted for follow up and also to clarify the billing.

Church cleaning project completed on October 3. Basement carpets were cleaned but new flooring is still needed.

Sanctuary roof (discussed in property committee report).

Volunteers are needed for Wednesday Food & Fellowship and Sunday morning coffee fellowship. Sign-up sheet is located by the Sunday school door.

New Business:

Stewardship and finance committee will meet to discuss budget and the possibility of a letter and/or other information to let the congregation know of upcoming expenses. Reminder about automatic giving, how to sign up, who to contact, etc., and to review amount designated in automated giving to make changes if financially able. Reminder to people watching online to give as they are able. The offering plates will be passed during services again rather than leaving them in the back.

Pastor Rebecca reported on funerals she has conducted and that she attended the fall theological conference. She learned at the conference that churches who have a very concise mission statement are doing very well. She may revise our mission statement next spring. Children and youth plans are thriving and Pastor is hoping to create some more opportunities for the adults. She plans to schedule First Communion on Maundy Thursday. First Communion has been available to 5th grade students for the last two years. Pastor feels this decision should be made within families rather than having a strict 5th grade policy. She plans to conduct one class/retreat rather than having four to five classes and will open the class to anyone whose children are ready and wish to participate.

Motion to adjourn made by Jeremy, seconded by Leslie. Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on November 8, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.

ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY

The Apostle Paul writes,

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...”

[Hebrews 12:1]

Newly Baptized Saints: Blake Lammers: 4.23.2023; Timothy Baird: 10.15.2023; Benjamin Baird: 10.15.2023; Oliver Baird: 10.15.2023

Departed Baptized Saints: Richard Aissen: 12.5.2022; David McWhirter: 2.10.2023; Valda Bohlen: 4.2.2023; LeRoy Gangsei: 4.6.2023; Lyle Scroggin: 4.27.2023; Audrey Freesemann: 10.19.2023; Frances Johnson: 10.18.2023; Linda Mosher: 10.26.2023

On November 5, 2023, St. James Lutheran Church will celebrate the gift of these newly baptized and departed baptized saints to our congregation by officially recognizing them in our Sunday worship service, plus we will celebrate the gift of our living saints among us.



There is a longstanding practice at St James during the Advent season of donating poinsettias to be placed in the chancel in honor or memory of loved ones. They are ordered from the Allison Variety Store through the church office for \$17.50. Deadline dates will be known soon.

Upcoming events at Trinity Reformed

Allison Little Lambs will be holding a hot beef dinner fundraiser on Wednesday, November 1, from 5 -7 PM. Free will donation with carry outs available.

The Gospel Music night is back at Trinity! Come enjoy an evening of music and fellowship at Trinity Reformed Church in Allison. It will be held Sunday, November 12th, beginning at 6:00 PM. There will be a time of fellowship and refreshments following the program.

LUTHER LEAGUE PLANS



Our next meeting is on November 1st in Allison. We are in charge of serving the LOL Meal that night and have decided on a homey-feel meal of baked potatoes, meatloaf, and apple crisp w/ ice cream. We will also be making Thanksgiving treat bags for the shut-ins.

Thanksgiving Dinner Day Meal Boxes - We are partnering with the Allison Community Food Bank again this year. They have requested that we provide: 20 turkeys, 20 (5#) bags of potatoes, 20 half gallons of milk, 40 jars of gravy, 20 turkey baking pans, and 20 tubs of margarine. Items for the meal will be purchased, packed, and picked up on November 11th.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner Meal Donations can be left:

- in the office with Syd
- placed in a separate donation box at the November 1st LOL Meal that the Luther League is providing
- in a specially marked envelope placed in the offering bowl on any Sunday morning.

Wed. Dec 6th: Luther Leaguers plan Christmas Eve worship service w/ confirmation students @ 6:30 at St. James.