

St. James Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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



Lent is a season for individual and communal reflection on how we can return to God, seek forgiveness, and embrace God's love for all creation. This Lent, we will be using a series from Sanctified Art titled "Everything In Between." This series will guide us in reflecting on how we can meet God in the extremes of our lives and faith- such as *stranger & neighbor*, *lost & found*, and *grief & hope*. Our world is riddled with extremes, from polarized views on politics and theology, current issues, parenting, you name it... But what if the world isn't as black and white as we make it out to be? What if Christ is calling us to release him from the boxes we've placed him in? As we learned from Jesus' Sermon on the Plain the past few weeks, God's love for us is bigger than we can imagine. God enters the places we would least expect to bring about transformation, love, and new life. Where might we find ourselves in the extremes of our lives and faith? Where might Christ surprise us this Lent?

On Sundays during Lent, we will follow different themes and stories, from the Parable of the Good Samaritan and Lost Sheep to Mary & Martha's ways of discipleship. Each week worship will have a skit, children's message and bulletins. On Wednesdays at 6:15pm during "Dinner Church," we will continue diving deeper into the weekly theme through discussion, videos, and prayer. The dinner church themes can be found on the next page.

On March 5, Ash Wednesday, we begin Lent, the 40-day journey (excluding Sundays) where we follow Jesus from the mountaintop of his transfiguration to the cross, where Christ pours out his love and grace, conquering sin and death, offering us of new and eternal life. You will hear the words: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" ... Come for the imposition of ashes, Communion, and to hear of God's love for you- God's unending, unfathomable love that crosses all boundaries and meets us in both our grief, hope, and *everything in between*.

Peace,
Pastor Rebecca Baird

Both, Please Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

It's one thing to speak of **love**. It's another
to hold a newborn in your arms,
to sing someone to sleep,
to lean down and listen for their breathing.
It's one thing to speak of **faith**. It's another
to press your forehead to the floor,
to cry out in prayer,
to ask the hard questions and still
thank God for the meal.

It's one thing to speak of the **Divine**.
It's another
to walk under a tunnel of wisteria,
to stand barefoot at the edge of the sea,
to hear the birds sing as the sun returns
and whisper,
Thank you, thank you, thank you.

It's one thing and another, so I pray,
Give me **both**, please. Show me both, please



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.

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Travis Terry, Jeff Dreier, Dale Thorne, Kent Gulick, Sylvia Schrage, Will DeBower, and Linda West



On March 23 worship will be led by Pastor Rebecca with guest preacher Emily Tull from Camp Ewalu. Come hear about the awesome ministry at one of many ELCA-affiliated camps. Students are encouraged to attend camp and scholarships are always available!

CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, March 29, will be GWOHouse at St. James. It's a clean up day beginning at 8:30. We will need many hands!



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 March Bible study will be held on Thursday, Mar. 6 @ 9:30. Shirley Wubben will have the Bible study lesson and serve coffee/treat. Study lesson can be picked up from Syd.



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
Mar. & Apr. 2025**

**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.

study. Multiple generations of parents supporting each other in God's Word. Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.



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 **SOON!**



January end

Monthly YTD

Income \$5,1290.19 \$5,1290.19

Does not include roof campaign or earned interest

Expense \$1,5828.46 \$1,5828.46

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

March 9: Parent Bible Study begins! During the Sunday School hour, join other parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles for a relaxed open forum Bible

**2025 ST. JAMES LUTHERAN
LENT DINNER CHURCH
WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15-6:45PM**

Our Lent Theme for 2025 is "Everything In Between," meeting God in the midst of the extremes in our lives. Join us for Lent dinner church where we will explore the extremes of life. Each week worship will be centered around music, prayer, discussion and short videos.

March 5 @ 6:15pm Ash Wednesday Worship <i>Intention & Action</i>	March 12 @ 6:15pm Dinner Church <i>Stranger & Neighbor</i>
March 19 @ 6:15pm Dinner Church <i>Faith & Works</i>	March 26 @ 6:15pm Dinner Church <i>Rest & Growth</i>
April 2 @ 6:15pm Dinner Church <i>Lost & Found</i>	April 9 @ 6:15pm Dinner Church <i>Righteousness & Mercy</i>

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Jim Davies. Present: Danny Bohlen, Robin Lursen, Kiley Shear, Ted Koester, Taylor Salge, Andrew Morton, Leslie Groen and Pastor Rebecca Baird. Devotions given by Ted Koester. Motioned by Ted, second by Kiley to approve the agenda with the addition of the North Butler After-Prom Committee funding request to New Business. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: January income was \$14,311.77 with \$6,540.00 of that for the Raise the Roof campaign and total expenses of \$15,828.46. Motioned by Kiley, second by Andrew to approve the Treasurer's report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Motioned by Ted, second by Robin to approve the January 22, 2024 Secretary's report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Stewardship and Finance: Ted shared information from the Raise the Roof Committee Meeting held on February 11th. Total giving as of February 10, 2025, was \$53,720.67. Ted highlighted a few grant updates, and the council discussed if Thrivent could be utilized for if a fundraising event.

Property Committee: They have not met, and Pastor Rebecca shared she got a baby monitor for the office to watch people coming if she was not in the office.

Education/Youth Ministry: Pastor shared they still need a chair and additional members for this committee, and they will be meeting next Wednesday and 5:30.

Evangelism: Jim shared they met and will be doing a lot of the same events this year. They sent cards & treats to homebound members for Valentine's Day. They discussed doing a new photo directory which was last done in 2017.

Worship & Music: Pastor Rebecca mentioned they will be meeting on Sunday, Feb. 19th and they are planning for Lent. She is looking at series for Lent called Everything in Between and briefly described some ideas. Wednesday night lent services will be a half an hour dinner church service.

Pastor's Report: Pastor shared she officiated the funeral Cecil Radcliffe on Tuesday, Feb. 11th. Pastor and Jim have completed annual reviews for church staff and she has had member visits to Clear Lake, Waterloo and Cedar Falls.

Old Business

1. Memorial fund monies - Ted has been looking into this and hasn't found a lot of answers yet but will continue to do some research on what was done in the past. Pastor Rebecca and Ted have received suggestions for these funds. There is a Memorial Committee that is not active, and Pastor Rebecca would like to re-establish the committee to be responsible for recording, approving and overseeing the usage of memorial funds.

Potluck – Chili cook off is scheduled for February 23. Council discussed how to handle voting, a prize for the winner and chili toppings, cinnamon rolls and cornbread.

New Business

1. Council was asked to help John Heeren with Food & Fellowship meal on February 19th. Kiley, Ted, Danny and Jim will be helping.
2. Roof down-payment check needs to be sent for \$61,947.50. Motioned by Danny, second by Leslie to direct the Financial Administrator to utilize the Raise the Roof fund and then the balance from the Building fund for the down payment. All ayes. Motion approved.
3. Member photo director – The council agrees to doing a new member photo directory and letting the Evangelism Committee to move forward with making plans.
4. A new business CD is being established as Lincoln Savings Bank due to an account being closed at the bank's request. Karla

Schmidt, Mindy Pecha and Syd Brinkman shall be authorized signers, and it was motioned by Kiley, seconded by Ted to establish a 12-month CD with the current special rate of 4.05%. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. Committee roles and assignments – Council reviewed the current list and new council members choose the committees they wanted to be on. Council discussed the roles of the Education and Youth & Family Mistry Committees and possible meet to define their purpose and roles. The Long-Range Planning Committee and Memorial Committee are not currently active, and Pastor Rebecca would like to get those re-established. She will announce in church.

6. Need Two-Three Audit committee members – Aimee is on council and should be replaced on the Audit committee. Leslie will check with Lisa Beadle about finding a replacement.

7. Needs: Two representatives for synod assembly - Jim explained what happens at the synod and invited council members to consider attending.

8. Approve membership of Taylor Wedeking – Motioned by Pastor Rebecca, second by Kiley, to approve the membership of Taylor Wedeking. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. North Butler After-Prom Committee donation request - Motioned by Kiley, second by Robin to donate \$50 to North Butler After-Prom Committee. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motioned to adjourn made by Kiley, second by Andrew. Meeting adjourned 6:40 p.m. Next meeting will be held March 12 at 5:30 p.m.