FROM PASTOR NORM: **Holy Week**

"The Lord said to Moses, 'The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you…'" [Exodus 12:13]

"Blood marked the lintel and doorpost of every house among the Israelites in the land of Egypt. One by one, each household among the captives had obtained a lamb, killed it, and set it to roast over the fire. At twilight each household collected the blood of its sacrificial lamb and used it to stain their entryway overhead and around the edges. Once marked, these doorways would never again be places of entry. The slaves would go out never to come back again." [Sundays and Season – page 170, 1999]

Holy Week, which includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, is our Christian Passover. These days are sacred—a time that flows backwards, upside down, inside out. These days are many—but they're not. It is one liturgy or movement that we enter, pause from and reenter, one mystery of such depth that we need these days to begin to absorb, articulate, and respond to it. We leave our homes and enter into the liturgy of these days never to come back through our doorways the same. We approach our time of vigil ready to be freed from captivity. We come out on the other side singing our praise of the God who triumphed gloriously whose love everlasting. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 2, 2023, with the procession of palms to symbolize the Jesus triumphed entry into Jerusalem.

So, I invite you to join me, and the rest of the Christians throughout the world, in worship during this most sacred time of Holy Week. Come and hear God's story of salvation again; a story that does include you and me. Come and hear God's words again—you are free—you are forgiven—you are washed clean. Come and sing praises to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and who knows, maybe you will never be the same again.

In Christian Love,

Pastor Norm

Beginning on April 1, Pr. Bauer will travel to Allison for appointments only. If there is no appointment [s] he will work from home

Council President's Report

Church council has some good news to share this month. We had applied for a grant from the Community Foundation for the Kidz Zone project early in 2023. The Committee met recently and we were awarded a $4000 grant for the improvements we have made in the church basement to facilitate the program and our youth groups. We are especially grateful to the members and friends who have donated personally to this project also. We continue to accept designated donations to the Kidz Zone project. With the leadership of the LOL group, Luther League, Sunday School Staff and volunteers we are utilizing this space in new and exciting ways.

We are also excited to plan for a Congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday April 2. The Call committee presented the name of a pastoral candidate to the church council who voted on Sunday March 19 to extend a call to the candidate with the approval of the congregation. Pastor Brackett from the Synod office will be present at worship and the meeting to answer any questions. We are excited and pleased to have a candidate to consider and vote on. Please mark your calendars and join us that morning.

And we continue to give thanks for Pastor Bauer for being with us for this extended time. We have been blessed and are planning a farewell for him at the end of May when he plans to "retire" again. As he would say "God is Good - all the time".

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
421 N. main St. | P.O. Box 25 | Allison IA 50602
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – ELCA
Rev. Norm Bauer, Intentional Interim Pastor
Cell-563-379-1041 nlbauer@hotmail.com
Pastor's Office Hours: W & SA. 9:00-Noon
Church Office 319-267-2274 | Parish Secretary: Syd Brinkman
Office Hours: M-TH 8:00-Noon
Email-office@stjamesallison.com
Website-www.stjamesallison.com
St. James Dumont Cable channel-1004

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 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 first and fourth Sundays of the month. During public worship, communion will be distributed at the communion rail with the option of taking communion in the pew if a member so desires. Thank you for joining us in creative means as we continue to worship!

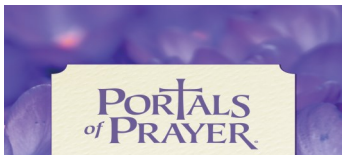
It takes many people to keep this congregation running smoothly and efficiently. Thank you to the many members who have given of their gifts. It makes our worship services special and inviting to attend. Your service shows in our communities as a witness to mission and it is appreciated.

Wednesday nights are full of joy and fellowship. Thanks to all!

Thanks to those who have donating time, games, funds, etc. for the Kidz Zone. It is beyond our wildest dreams.

Thank you to those preparing and serving Weds. Night meals. It is a treat to dine out!

Thanks to all who watch the weather and make tough choices for the sake of our safety.



Devotional materials for April-June are now available on the narthex table or in the office.

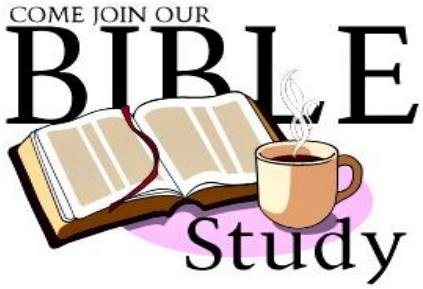
St. James Visiting Committee for March & April 2023

Karla Schmidt, Deb McWhirter, Paula Anderson, Jennifer McCready and Shirley Wubbena

Illness is 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.

THOSE NEEDING PRAYER

Rev. Paul and Eileen Schaedig, Audrey Freesemann, Austin Greenough, Valda Bohlen, Alice Schwab and Bill McDowell.



On Thursday, April 6th 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 given by Linda Thoreson.

LWR quilts and kits gathering will take place at Redeemer Lutheran, Waverly, on April 15th. Waverly. care kits will be sent. A huge thank you to Joe & Nadean Dralle for taking our mission items that day. Thank you to the ladies that made the quilts for LWR and to everyone that contributed the items needed for the school kits and personal care kits. A special thank you to Carole Franken, Thelma Wiegmann, Joy Schueler and Frances Fank from Elm Springs for tying 5 quilts for us.

IMPORTANT INFO TO ALL ST. JAMES GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: If you are planning on attending school to further your education WELCA awards a $150 scholarship to help you. There is an application form you need to fill out and it can be obtained by contacting Deb McWhirter.

HARVEST FESTIVAL!!!! The St. James Harvest Festival will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 19th in the Parish Hall. We are going to offer lunch and this year there will be a Bake Sale Table, Crafts Table and Produce Table. We are looking forward to returning to our normal festival. If you have a craft you like to donate or bake goods and produce, we would love to have them to sell. All proceeds go toward our mission projects.

SCHOLARSHIP-The Northeastern Synodical Women offer a scholarship for women who are interested in getting a post graduate degree. This is education is beyond a 4 year degree. If interested, check in with Syd at the church office and she can supply you with an application.

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

Due to supply chain issues and change of ownership at the Allison Floral, there will be two large spring floral arrangements for Easter services instead of individual gifts of potted flowers. I know this is a change from the norm and want to thank you for your patience as we move forward.
Linda Thoreson, Altar Guild Chair

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.

February

Income	February	YTD
	$10,807.17	$22,080.58
Expense	$17,198.21	$35,771.72

ACOLYTES FOR APRIL

April 2: Conner Wubbena & Cora Barnett

April 9 (Easter): 6:30 Service-Walker Buss & Isaac Endelman 9:00 Service-Wrigley Endelman & Savannah Hummel

April 16: Tanner Lursen & Gavin Schrage

April 23: Jarrett Shear & Nadelyn Stanbrough

April 30: Wade Wangness & Conner Wubbena

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday April 2, 1st Communion Class will begin at 10 AM.

Sunday, April 2, is Palm Sunday and the Sunday School Youth will sing during worship.

Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, there will be LOL and Meal Fellowship but NO Dinner Church.

Thursday, April 6, is Maundy Thursday and there will be worship at 7 PM with Team 3 serving.

1st Communion commune

Friday, April 7, Good Friday is observed with worship at 7:00 PM with Team 4 serving.

EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 Worship with Holy Communion Team 5

Breakfast Fellowship hosted by Luther League

9:00 Worship with Holy Communion Team 6

NO Sunday School

I'm so sorry for the technical difficulties during the Temple Talk that was given for the Luther League Mission Trip. The short version is that 4 young adults from St. James are going with St. Peter's group. Stops include Deadwood, Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone and staying 5 nights just outside of Bozeman, MT. for their mission work. This is not only a great opportunity to see the west but to experience a mission field in a different landscape and culture. Please support them as you are able!

St. James will hold Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Holy Communion on Thursday, April 6, at 7:00 PM.

Five of our young people will participate in their first communion! They are as follows:

Braxton Buss son of Shane & Lori Buss

Carter Deuell son of Daniel & Aimee Deuell

Faith Eberline daughter of Dave & Lisa Eberline

Wes Wangsness son of Dave & Sheila Wangsness

Blake Wubbena son of Matt & Amy Wubbena

The youth will be served their first communion from clay chalices (cup) and patens (plate) that a liturgical potter from Greene helped to shape and then fired the pieces at her studio. We give thanks for this faith journey milestone for these youth.

There are a few areas for which we could use some volunteers. Please volunteer to provide treats for coffee fellowship following worship for Sundays April 16, 23, & 30th.

There are still a couple opportunities to provide supper on Wednesday nights 4.19 & 5.17. Please sign up or let the office know if you are willing to help.

AND...as always don't forget that LOL can always use help and treats on Wednesday afternoons

St. James Council Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2023

Meeting called to order by President Deb McWhirter at 6:50 p.m. following Food & Fellowship and Lenten service. Present for the meeting: Deb McWhirter, Mystie Hummel, Jason Shaull, Scott Bruns, Jim Davies, Duane Folkerts, Jeremy Idler, Jill Ford, and Mindy Pecha-Financial Administrator. Meeting opened with a prayer from Deb.

The agenda was reviewed. Items were added to new business relating to the basement carpeting and first communion. Motion to approve agenda made by Scott, seconded by Jeremy. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report given by Mindy. February expenses totaled $17,198.21 with income of $10,807.17. Discussion regarding the Thrivent money received and the purpose or use for it. The current balance of the Thrivent funds is $17,844. Some of these funds can be moved to the general fund to be used as needed. Motion to approve by Scott, seconded by Jason. Motion carried.

Secretary's report: February minutes were reviewed. Jason moved to approve report, seconded by Mystie. Motion carried.

Pastor Norm's report: Written report was reviewed. Motion to approve report and accountable allowances made by Jason, seconded by Scott. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Education committee: No report.

Evangelism committee hasn't met but will be meeting/planning soon.

Property & Stewardship and Finance Committees: No meetings/reports.

Worship & Music: Jeremy reported that the CCLI license for the Praise book has not been purchased. Price is unknown, but Jeremy moved for council approval to move forward on getting a quote and obtaining the license. Scott seconded the motion. Deb will notify Syd that she can move forward on this.

Youth Ministry: No formal report, but Kidz Zone is going well.

Old Business:

Call committee update from Ted. Discussion re: salary and benefits, etc., for any new hire. Compensation Guidelines were given to council members. More resources and information can be found on Synod website.

Parsonage updates. Work and clean-up projects continue. Carpet cleaning and airduct cleaning will also be needed.

Basement kitchen: $4,000 grant applied for. A decision regarding the grant should be known by the end of March. Pastor Norm and Carol generously donated an air hockey table to the Kidz Zone. Kelly Wubbena asked about replacing carpet in basement. Council feels it's best to finish current projects first before looking at replacing the carpet, but Deb will get an estimate from Heaven's Best to have it cleaned in the meantime.

Repurposing of pews/tables. Tables and chairs are all gone. Korey and Laci Hummel would like one pew. There is one pew remaining for anyone who is interested.

New Business:

Proposal for new copier/printer/scanner from Access Systems. Current machine is leased which includes paper and ink. Decision to leave everything as is for now.

Kelly Wubbena requested the council discuss offering First Communion to younger kids who are ready. Currently it is offered to fifth graders. Decision will be left to the parents as some families prefer to have First Communion along with Confirmation and others prefer taking early communion.

Request was made to fill communion wine cups a little more. Altar Guild will be notified.

Motion to adjourn by Scott, seconded by Jason. Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held April 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.