

St. James Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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



Children of God,

The stories, traditions, and scriptures of the seasons of Advent and Christmas have been passed down through the generations. Our Advent and Christmas theme “From Generation to Generation” will help us hear the ways God has been at work through storytelling, memory, tradition and time. First, all are welcome to read the St. James 2024 Advent Devotional, full of stories of tradition, recipes, memories, and family- written by many of *you*! Thank you to all who contributed. Copies of the devotion will be available in the office.

We will also hear our theme as we gather for worship together. Here are some topics and events at St. James you can expect during this month:

December 1: “There’s room for every story;” *Saltlight* Concert at 1:00pm

December 8: “We can choose a better way”

December 15: “Twas the Night Before Christmas” Children’s Program; Celebration to follow!

December 22: “We see God in each other”

December 24: “We tell this story;” Confirmation and Luther League leads worship

December 29: “God dwells with us;” Worship of Lessons and Carols

The story of Christ’s birth weaves us in and reminds us of the ways God has shown up and will continue to do so, in our own lives, stories, traditions, through the generations... In this season may you remember that you have a place in this story of God’s love. God is Love, and Love, the Lord, is on the way...

Peace, Pastor Rebecca

Council report cont. Pastor Rebecca explained the December 29th has historically been a low attendance service and she will be on vacation. Therefore, they are preparing a Lesson in Carols service for that day. The council discussed occasionally kneeling at the rail for Communion vs. doing it continuously all the time. Pastor shared appreciative comments she has received because kneeling is hard and Danny shared some comments he received that members miss kneeling. Council members shared their opinions and brainstormed some ideas. Pastor Rebecca will consider all the opinions and future discussions will be had.



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. 5th. CONFIRMATION CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 15th 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.

Many thanks to the volunteers who sit in the office

Thanks to those who have had special music

Thanks to those who decorate for Advent

Thanks to the Meals on Wheels Delivery volunteers



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
Nov. & Dec. 2024**

**Bonnie Dralle, Nancy Davies, Ann
Chinander, Deb McWhirter, &
Roberta Wiegmann**

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.



St. James will be hosting the Advent Service at Elm Springs on Saturday, Nov. 30. Help is always welcome for this service. We remember 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 January Bible study will be held on **Wednesday, January 8th.** Bonnie will have the Bible study lesson and serve coffee/treat. Study lesson can be picked up from Syd.

Visiting for Jan/Feb are: Linda Thoreson, Kathleen Fisher, Robin Morton and Syd Brinkman.

All women of St. James are members of W-ELCA. Women of the Evangelical Church of America. All women are invited to join the Bible study each month. Chairperson-Bonnie Dralle

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Travis Terry, Tracy Hoodjer, Jeff Dreier, Dale Thorne, Deb Steere and Sylvia Schrage



October end

	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$25,614.50	\$130,940.46
Expense	\$11,922.76	\$147,923.44



The **Evangelism Committee** is collecting needed clothing items for NB Elementary school going into the cold weather season. The youth are from ages 3 - 11 and grades Pre-K through 5th grade. Items needed include:

Boots
Snow Pants or Bibs
Coats
Stocking caps
Mittens or gloves
Underwear and Socks (must be new)
Sweat Pants & Sweat Shirts

If you have gently used items above that may have been outgrown at your home please share also. There will be a container in the entryway of the church. If you prefer, a cash donation of any amount will be used to purchase items also.

Thank you for your participation in this outreach program.



ACOLYTES SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

December 1: Blake Wubbena & Landon Debner

December 8: Henry Salge & Wes Wangsness

December 15: No Acolytes

December 22: Jack Hummel & Braxton Buss

December 29: Carter Deuell & Henry Salge



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 \$12.00. Deadline to order is **SUNDAY DEC. 8. Order envelopes are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary or the church office.**



SALTLIGHT MUSIC will perform at St. James, Dec. 1 beginning at 1:00 PM with fellowship to follow.

They play and create music to glorify God and point people to the truth of the Gospel message.

Many of the songs played are originals, written by our lead singer, Darla Erskine, and arranged by the group. Though none of us are related, our love for music and for Jesus are two things we have in common.



The mission of St. James Lutheran Church is to connect people to God and one another, welcoming all and changing lives!

Your support of the capital campaign will not only help us "Raise the Roof" but help us continue to live out our mission. We have enclosed an envelope for gifts that you are invited to place in the mail or in the offering plate on Sunday. More envelopes are available for pick-up in the church office. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity.

Please see the back to learn more about giving options.

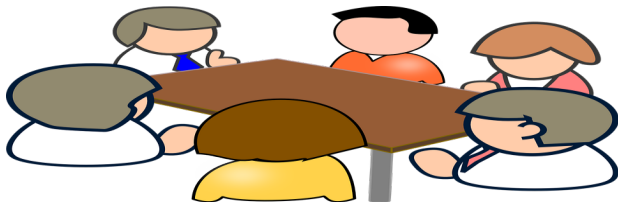


St. James will hold its Annual Meeting Sunday, Jan. 19 immediately following worship.

Christ In Our Home devotional booklets are now available on the narthex table or the church office.



You are invited to join the St. James youth, Sunday, Dec. 15 during the 9:00 worship for the telling of a Christmas story. There will be brunch following the service.



James Council Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Jim Davies. Present: Danny Bohlen, Taylor Salge, Aimee Deuell, Leslie Groen, Jeremy Idler, Amanda Wehrhan, Financial Administrator Mindy Pecha and Pastor Rebecca Baird. Devotions given by Pastor Rebecca. Motioned by Jeremy, second by Talyor to approve the agenda with the addition to add a Communion kneeling discussion to New Business. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report was provided by Mindy prior to the meeting. October income was \$25,614.50 with \$13,400 for the Raise the Roof campaign and total expenses of \$11,922.76. Motioned by Leslie, second by Danny to approve the Treasurer's report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: October minutes were reviewed. Motioned by Pastor Rebecca, second by Jim to approve the Secretary's report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Stewardship and Finance: Nothing new to report.

Property Committee: Council reviewed the minutes from their November 3rd and Danny summarized the projects discussed.

Education/Youth Ministry: Nothing new to report

Evangelism – They are hosting fellowship again following the Sunday School's Christmas program.

Worship & Music – They are planning the Christ the King program for November 24th which will be fol-

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lowed by Christmas decorating and the Church-giving potluck for all.

Pastor's Report: Pastor completed some visits and calls, officiated Don Henrichs funeral, and attended Region 5 Boundaries training. She is working on the church Advent devotional, Advent worship planning, and the Allison Care Center worship will resume this week. Pastor also shared a film she recently watched called "A Time for Burning" with the Synod Racial Justice Network, a group of rostered and lay leaders. She meets with them monthly.

Old Business: Leslie will contact Dana about scheduling a Steward & Finance Committee meeting for budgeting. Council discussed being available to help with Church-giving potluck and providing drinks.

New Business: Council met with a Cub Scout rep via Zoom to share information about St James being a charter for a new Allison pack. Pastor Rebecca shared with the Cub Scout rep that there is an active pack in Greene and our church and students are closely tied to Greene. Pastor thanked the Cub Scout rep for her time and presentation. Motioned by Danny, second by Aimee not to pursue chartering a Cub Scout pack over concerns of competing with an established pack in Greene. All ayes. Motion carried. Jim emailed the roof contractor and we are scheduled for spring 2025. Discussions were held regarding the nominating committee and process. Since the current Council only has 10 members, discussions were held regarding the need for 6 new council members total to get back to 12, which consists of four new three-year terms, a one-year term vacancy and a two-year term vacancy. Pastor Rebecca will review the constitution to be sure we are filing the positions correctly. Aimee shared that a new adult Bible study will begin in January and take place 2 Sundays per month. She will be hosting with Jim and Nancy Davies and it will center around the subject of parenting.

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