

*Want to get to know
Pastor Rebecca?
Pastor Rebecca wants to get
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*Schedule a time to meet with
her here:
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or
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pastor@stjamesallison.com*



MEET THE PASTOR

PASTOR REBECCA BAIRD



STJAMESALLISON.COM



St. James Lutheran Church - Allison, IA
@stjamesallison

Children of God,

We have traveled through Epiphany together: We have heard the stories of Jesus revealed as the Messiah through the wise men, through Jesus' baptism, and through his ministry of teaching, healing, and calling his disciples.

This month we will enter the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb 14 through March 27. The season of Lent has been known as a time to turn back to God, repent, and remember all that Christ has done for us. Many spiritual practices are common for Christians during Lent, including fasting or "giving up" something that may be getting in the way of our connection to God. I know of people who have treated this season as a time to give their New Year's Resolutions another go, giving up caffeine or chocolate or social media! But does this actually help us turn back to God? Rather than giving up something for Lent, I invite us into a more intentional practice... let's take something *on*: Let's take on the spiritual practice of *prayer!*

"Would anyone like to open us in prayer?" This is a question that sends most of us sinking in our seats... it may be due to a number of reasons... fear of public speaking, unsure of what to pray, or just unsure of where to start in the first place! Prayer is an important part of our life and faith, as it connects us to God and one another. So "to whom do we pray? What/where/how can we pray?" We will seek to ask and answer these questions during our Wednesday evening Lenten services, after Food & Fellowship at 6:15pm. Titled "Crafting Questions," we will dive into questions

about prayer. Each week we will have time to sing, read Scripture, answer questions in small groups, and make crafts! Get it? "Crafting" questions? ☐ This will be a time for all ages to practice prayer and join in conversation together, connecting to God and one another.

Lastly, on Ash Wednesday, 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...

In Christ,

Pastor Rebecca

Council Minutes continued:

New Business:

1. Election of Officers: Jim Davies will serve as President, Duane Folkerts will serve as Vice President, and Leslie Groen will serve as Secretary.
2. Volunteer appts. to committees: New members include Danny Bohlen (serve on Prop. Comm.), may be shared via group text.
5. Other: N/A

Motion to adjourn from Jim, seconded by Jason. The next meeting will be **February 21, 2024 at 5:30pm.**



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.

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

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

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.

The office sitters who attend the office when the secretary is away. They do such a FABULOUS job!

The council leadership for 2024. Thank you for volunteering your time.

Those who serve Food & Fellowship

Those who make worship decisions in the harshest of weather



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 January & February 2024

Linda Thoreson, Syd Brinkman, Robin Morton, Kathleen Fisher

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.



Wartburg College's *Rosenchor* or "Choir of Roses" will be singing during the St. James worship service on Feb. 18. This women's group, the female version of "Festeburg", is a student a cappella group at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA.

A special Thank you to the members of Resenchor for being with St. James and sharing some of the best of the best.



W-ELCA Bible study will be held on Thursday, February 1st at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall kitchen. Syd will be the leader for the Bible study. We use the Gather study guide and you can get this from Syd.

Sewing and quilting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 20 and Feb. 21 from 9:00 am until noon. All help is appreciated!

Visiting Committee for January/February are Linda Thoreson, Syd Brinkman, Robin Morton, and Kathleen Fisher.

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 out prayerful consideration and join in that GOOD FEELING! God's blessings, Bonnie



The Allison Community Garden is having an organizational meeting Feb. 25 at 11:30 at the St. James Parish Hall to make plans for this Spring. If you have a passion for gardening or would like to be a financial contributor, please join us.



	December	
	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$32,031.88	\$252,561.17
Expense	\$16,911.35	\$305.092.66



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 home-bound 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 FEBRUARY

- February 4: Wrigley Endelman & Jarrett Shear**
- February 11: Walker Buss & Wade Wangsness**
- February 18: Landon Debner & Faith Eberline**
- February 25: Isaac Endelman & Gavin Schrage**



Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 5:15pm

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Pastor Rebecca Baird. Present: Pastor Rebecca, Scott Bruns, Jim Davies, Mystie Hummel, Jason Shaull, Danny Bohlen, Leslie Groen, which later included by phone call, Taylor Salge, Duane Folkerts, and Jeremy Idler. Meeting opened with devotions and prayer by Pastor Rebecca. The agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve amended agenda made by Leslie, seconded by Scott. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Given at annual meeting on Jan. 21, 2024.

Financial Administrator Mindy Pecha was called on cell, but had no further updates.

Secretary's Report: December minutes reviewed. Pastor Rebecca noted 'Venmo' would not be set up at this time. We will stick with tithe.ly and hope that more people sign-up for online giving with new pew 'QR Code' cards. Motion to approve reports made by Scott, seconded by Jason. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rebecca reported her ministry from January, including 14+ Epiphany house visits and blessings, various home and hospital visits, Lent planning, First communion class and 1 baptism preparation, and continuing education and wedding preparation for a 2024 fall wedding. Worship and communion was done at Elm Springs. Pastor met with area pastors for ecumenical planning. Midweek Lent services will be on Wednesdays at 6:15, including Ash Wed. at 6:15. Holy Week services will be Maundy Thurs. at 6:30pm, Good Friday at 6:30pm and two services on Easter Sunday.

Terry & Linda West would like to become new members. Motion to approve by Scott, second by Jason. Motion carried.

Education/Youth Ministry: Pastor Rebecca has begun preparation for First Communion instruction for 5th grade students (classes held Feb 18 during Sunday school and at St. Peter in the afternoon, and Mar 17 during Sunday school). 6 volunteers have agreed to serve as Lent Mentors for confirmation students. On Palm Sunday, after church in the Parish Hall, there will be 'Journey with Jesus' intergenerational and interactive stations for people to walk the stations of the cross. Luther League will host a Bunco tournament after church on April 21.

An ecumenical VBS meeting will be on Feb. 4 at 11:30am at St. James.

Evangelism: Report from Annual Report reviewed.

Property: Report from Annual Report reviewed. Noted that the council will need to make discussion and decisions on the new roof a priority.

Stewardship & Finance: Report from Annual Report reviewed.

Worship & Music: Report from Annual Report reviewed.

Old Business:

1. Roof project information named at Annual meeting.

Motion to approve reports by Jason, seconded by Mystie. Motion carried.

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