

MEET THE PASTOR

*Want to get to know
Pastor Rebecca?
Pastor Rebecca wants to get
to know YOU!*

*Schedule a time to meet with
her here:*
calendly.com/pastor-rebecca
or
email Pastor Rebecca:
pastor@stjamesallison.com



PASTOR REBECCA BAIRD



STJAMESALLISON.COM



St. James Lutheran Church - Allison, IA
@stjamesallison

People of God, I welcome you to the season of Advent, the season of waiting for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Waiting is difficult to do.... The last few seasons of Advent were challenging for my family, as Tim and I struggled with infertility. The last thing you want to hear as someone longing for a baby is the story of a promised One coming into the world miraculously. As someone now on the other side of infertility, celebrating my first Christmas season with my 8 month olds, Ben and Oliver, I hear the Christmas story in a new light...

One of my favorite shows on Apple TV+ is "Lessons in Chemistry." The main character discusses his favorite book and says "a great book is slightly different every time... for the book stays the same, *but you don't*." I think that is the beauty of the story of Christmas: Every year when we hear the story of Christ's birth, we hear it with new ears and heart, with different sorrow or joy, with new life experiences that shape our stories. And Advent reminds us that God enters our human story when we least expect. Perhaps this year you will relate to Mary, answering God's call to do wondrous things, perhaps you will relate to the shepherds, who dropped everything and ran to tell of the Good News of Jesus, or perhaps you will relate to God's people, who suffered, struggled, cried out, and waited for a Messiah, won-

dering when that day would come...

Isaiah 9:2 says "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them." These words told the coming of the Prince of Peace and of the light and life He would bring. During this season of waiting, we will pay particular attention to the candles of the Advent wreath which point us to *Christ: the light of hope, peace, joy, and love*. Each week our theme will be centered on "How does our weary world rejoice?" In a world full of much heartache, discord, and fear, Jesus enters into our story and assures us of the promises of his love and grace. Jesus was, is, and is to come. Christ is Emmanuel: God with us!

We have many ways to gather together this season, including these programs:

- Dec. 2: WELCA Christmas service at the care center, 9:00am
- Dec. 3: 9am worship; James Aissen presents "A One of a Kind Christmas," 2:00pm
- Dec. 10: 9am worship: "A Cowboy Christmas" Sunday School Program and Celebration
- Dec. 17: 9am worship; "Tell Your Story" with Jim & Nancy Davies, after church at 10:15am

Continued on pg. 4



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.



There will be NO LOL Dec. 20-27.



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 ones who decorated for Advent

Special music during the worship services have been especially appreciated!

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



ST. JAMES WILL HOLD IT'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JAN. 21st IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

**St. James Visiting Committee for
November & December 2023**

**Bonnie Dralle Nancy Davies Ann
Chinander Deb McWhirter Rob-
erta 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.



The Advent and Christmas season comes so quickly after we have all finished the Thanksgiving turkey meal. Advent starts on Sunday, December 3rd. A time we remember Christ's birth and wait for His return. Maybe a time to think of the people in the Old Testament and how they longed for the Messiah to be born. We wait with the same anticipation as they did for Christ's second return. May each one have a blessed Christmas with family and friends. Thank you for the support given throughout the year so we can continue to do our 12 mission projects amounting to \$3,200. Without your support this would not have been possible.

LWR Quilt making will be held on Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec. 19 & 20, beginning at 9:00.

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 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.

Please help out Bremwood by taking a gift tag from the tree. More information is highlighted in this news-

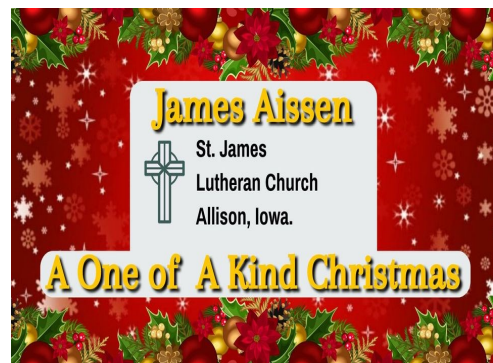
letter.

Thanks to all those who helped with funeral lunches in November.

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, Robert Vieker and Sarah Hawker



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.



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 to order is **DEC. 6. WEDNESDAY**

DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE COMING YEAR ON THE NARTHEX TABLE OR IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.



November

	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$13,108.24	\$209,019.24
Expense	\$19,694.32	\$275,175.62



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!

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Dec. 17- Dec. 31. CLASSES WILL RESUME JAN. 7th. CONFIRMATION CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 10th AT 6:30 PM.



ACOLYTES SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

- December 3: Jarrett Shear & Wade Wangsness**
- Decemberr 10: NO Acolytes**
- December 17: Faith Eberline & Isaac Endelman**
- December 24: 9:00 AM-Landon Debner & Jarrett Shear**
- December 24: Candlelight-Walker Buss & Jack Hummel**
- December 31: Gavin Schrage & Jarrett Shear**



Christmas will be here before we know it. The children at Bremwood will have their Christmas party the first part of December. The annual Bremwood Tree will be placed in the lower narthex by November 26. Gift tags have been place 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 10**. 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.

Pastor Rebecca's article continued from pg. 1
 Dec. 24: 9am worship; Candlelight service at 5:00pm, led by Confirmation & Luther League
 Dec. 31: 9am worship

As the story of Christ's birth comes to us once again this year, may we be assured that Christ enters our lives with the light of His hope, peace, joy, and love. We do not walk alone. And Christ is surely coming soon...

God's peace,...Pastor Rebecca Baird



LUTHER LEAGUE PLANS

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

Wed. Dec. 13: White Elephant Christmas Party! Bring a wrapped gift- free or under \$10! *Feel free to find something laying around in the basement, at Goodwill...The funnier or weirder, the better! We will have a few extra gifts in case students cannot bring one.*

Sunday, Dec. 24: Host the Candlelight Worship service at St. James at 5:00 PM



A COWBOY CHRISTMAS will be presented by the Sunday School youth of St. James Sunday, Dec. 10th. Below are dates to remember. It is very important that your child attend practices.

Practice times: December 3rd -10:00-11:00

December 6th -5:30-7:00

December 9th -9:30-11:30-Practice and Party

December 10th -9:00 Program @ St. James



Luther League will host the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion Dec. 24th, Sunday, at **5:00 PM.**



Thelma Wiegmann will celebrate her 90th birthday Sunday, Dec. 17th. Her family will host treats and fellowship after the worship service. If you'd like to mail a greeting to Thelma, her address is 900 7th St. Box 645 Allison, IA 50602

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, Dec. 17
Parish Hall
~10:00am
 (during fellowship time and Sunday School)

Featuring:
 Jim & Nancy Davies
Topic:
 Fostering and Adopting



St. James Church Council Meeting – November 8, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by President Deb McWhirter. Present: Deb McWhirter, Duane Folkerts, Jim Davies, Mystie Hummel, Jeremy Idler, Scott Bruns, Jill Ford, Financial Administrator Mindy Pecha, and Pastor Rebecca. Meeting opened with devotions from Deb. The agenda was reviewed. New member transfers were added to new business. Motion to approve agenda by Jim, seconded by Mystie. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Secretary's report: October minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes made by Duane, seconded by Jeremy. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: October income was \$13,108.24 with expenses of \$19,694.32. Expense total includes payment for some of the parsonage renovations. Motion to approve report by Jim, seconded by Jill. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Education/Youth Ministry: Currently planning the Christmas program which will be held December 10. LOL and confirmation continue to go well.

Evangelism: Planning family time following the Christmas program including games, food, etc. The James Aissen concert will be held Sunday, December 3, at 2:00 p.m. with coffee and fellowship to follow. Wednesday night Food and Fellowship has volunteers scheduled through the end of the year, but volunteers will be needed beginning in January.

Property: No formal report. Roof discussions continue. There will be a date selected for raking the parsonage once the leaves drop.

Stewardship & Finance: Letter will be sent to church members following the committee's October meeting.

Worship & Music: Next meeting will be held Novem-

ber 19 following worship. Tim Baird is working on a choir for the Christmas Eve service.

OLD BUSINESS:

Roof update: Nothing new to report at this time.

Stewardship plans including budget discussion moved to December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Christmas worship schedule: Christmas Eve Sunday will have our normal 9:00 a.m. morning worship. The Christmas Eve evening service will be held at 5:00 p.m. There will be no worship held on Christmas Day. Thanksgiving Eve service to be held November 22 at 6:00 p.m.

Noisy offering destination: Mystie will check with the school to see if the noisy offering could be used for winter supplies (coats, hats, etc).

Nominating Committee is working on contacting people to serve on the council.

Request to transfer membership from St. Paul to St. James for Pastor Rebecca Baird and Family. Motion to approve made by Jeremy, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

Samantha Bergmann and family have requested to become members of St. James. Pastor Rebecca sent a transfer request to Bethel Reformed in Aplington and moved to add them as members, which was seconded by Duane. Motion carried.

Update from Pastor Rebecca: Three funerals were held in October. She made visits to the care center and attended a lot of continuing education. She is planning for Christ the King Sunday and the Advent season.

Motion to adjourn by Scott, seconded by Jim.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.