

St. James Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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

My last living grandparent, Phyllis, passed away in early March. Tim, the boys, and I recently traveled to Colorado to grieve with loved ones and celebrate her life. I will always treasure her and the memories we shared. Her favorite phrases were "O my stars!" and "Thank you, Lord." No matter what life threw her way, she always found a way to give thanks to God. Her deep faith, especially in the midst of life's challenges, continues to inspire me. 1 Thess. 5:18 resonated with her: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Giving thanks at all times is not easy, but that's the beauty of Lent. This season reminds us that in a world full of challenges, struggles, questions, and grief, we are assured that through it all, we are not alone. We can give thanks that Christ is with us in our sorrows and our joys, trusting that Good Friday does not last forever and Easter is just around the corner. During Lent, we acknowledge the brokenness around us while anticipating the joy and new life Christ's resurrection brings. Amid our struggles, we are reminded that nothing—not even death on the cross or the stone at the grave—can separate us from God's love.

This Lenten season, our series is called "Everything In Between." Through stories, skits, music, and dinner church conversations, we've focused on the places where God meets us in the in-between—between faith and works, growth and rest, and feeling lost and found. As we approach Holy Week, our reflections will lead us into our Easter theme: grief and hope. I encourage you to attend Holy Week worship as we look toward Easter. On Palm Sunday, we will shout "Hosanna!" as Jesus enters Jerusalem. After worship, Sunday School students will participate in activity stations in the Parish Hall. Check out the graphic below for more information on Holy Week worship.

Let us hold hope close to our hearts. Let us prepare to run barefoot to the tomb and celebrate the risen Christ with thanksgiving. In the midst of grief, let us proclaim with anticipation, "Thank you, Lord," for the hopeful promise of new life that Easter brings.

We pray: Loving God, in a world full of grief, help us to cling to Easter's hope. In a world full of grief, help us hear this story of good news. In a world full of grief, we're ready to jump out of our chairs and run barefoot to the tomb. With hope we pray, with hope we listen, with hope we give thanks. Amen. Prayer adapted by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Lenten blessings,
Pastor Rebecca

HOLY WEEK 2025

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH



Palm Sunday
April 13 at 9:00am
Sunday School sings and reads
Sunday School Activity Stations
in Parish Hall after worship



Maundy Thursday
April 17 at 6:30pm
Worship with Holy Communion
with first communicants and
the stripping of the altar



Good Friday
April 18 at 6:30pm
Worship led by confirmation students
with prayer, Gospel readings,
music and nailing of the cross



Easter Sunday
April 20 at 6:30am & 9:00am
Easter Breakfast at 7:30am
Worship with Holy Communion
Luther League arrive at 6am to help with
sunrise service and host Easter Breakfast



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, Kent Gulick , Sylvia Schrage, Will DeBower, Linda West and Jerry & Norma Klingbeil



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

OUTDOOR CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, April 5, will be Outdoor Clean up day at St. James beginning at 8:30. We will need many hands to pick up sticks, rake leaves and general cleaning.



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 April Bible study will be held on **Thursday, Apr. 3@ 9:30.** Linda Thoreson will have the Bible study lesson and serve coffee/treat. Study lesson can be picked up from Syd.

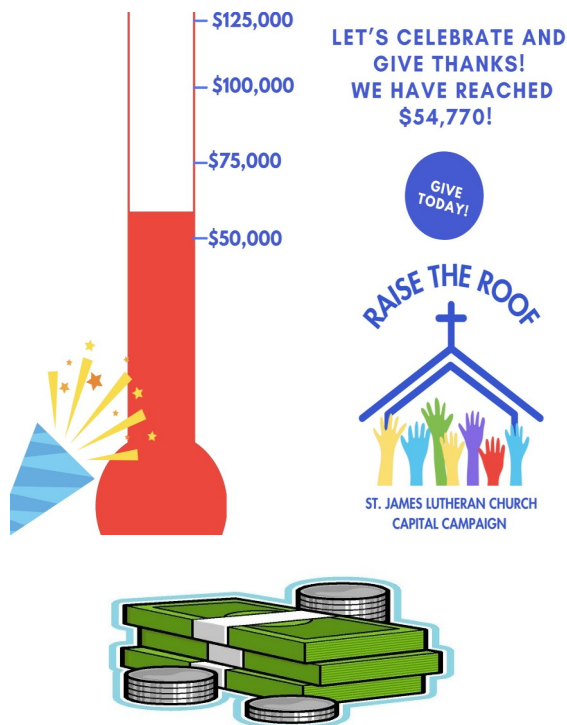


In an effort to streamline the monthly newsletter, the council minutes will be posted on the website , stjamesallison.com, under the heading News & Events and click the current newsletter tab.

**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.



February end

January income was \$17,248.64 with \$4,590.00 of that for the Raise the Roof campaign and total expenses of \$81,015.45 with \$51,770.67 to Jaeger Associates for the roof down payment.

Income~\$12,658.64

Expenses~ \$29,244.78

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Parent Bible Study continues during the Sunday School hour. Join other parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles for a relaxed open forum Bible study. Multiple generations of parents supporting each other in God's Word. Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.



First communicant students will meet on Sunday, April 6 during Sunday School. First Communion will be on April 17 during the Maundy Thursday service.

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

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 Intention & Action	March 12 @ 6:15pm Dinner Church Stranger & Neighbor
March 19 @ 6:15pm Dinner Church Faith & Works	March 26 @ 6:15pm Dinner Church Rest & Growth
April 2 @ 6:15pm Dinner Church Lost & Found	April 9 @ 6:15pm Dinner Church Righteousness & Mercy

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



ACOLYTES SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

April 6: Carter Deuell & Wes Wangsness

April 13: Palm Sunday Processional

Henry Salge & Landon Debner

April 17: Maundy Thursday

April 18: Good Friday

April 20: Easter 6:30: Luther League

Easter 9:00: Braxton Buss & Blake

Wubbena

April 27: Wes Wangsness & Carter Deuell



The office secretary will be out of the office from April 29-perhaps June 16. Volunteers will be in the office during regular hours to help if they can and answer the phone. Regular Sunday materials may be a little different but maybe that's a good thing!

You can always reach Syd at 319-269-3657.



April Notes for Confirmation

April 16, Wednesday, Worship Practice @ 6:00

April 18, Good Friday, Students lead worship @ 6:30 and meet @ 6:15

April 23, Wednesday, Regular class @ 6:30

April 30, Wednesday, Year end PARTY, with Luther League @ 6:30 @ St. James



LWR Quilts

The volunteers sew, fit for design and tie for security. They laugh, they chatter, they coffee. Yet what happens after all that? Where do these quilts go that are made with such love? The quilts will be boxed and driven by Joe Dralle (who deserves much thanks) and taken to St. John's, Buck Creek on Saturday, April 12. The boxes are put in a truck with many others, including assembled school kits and health kits, and head to a LWR distribution center. They are bundled, much like a bale of hay, and sent to grateful people around the world. The W-ELCA gather at their Spring Gathering at St. John's, Buck Creek, to honor their accomplishments.



April notes for Luther League

April 2, Wednesday, serves meal @ St. Peter @ 5:30

April 20, Easter Sunday, arrive @ Church @ 6:00 to assist with Sunrise Service and Easter Breakfast

April 30, Wednesday, Year end PARTY, with Confirmation @ 6:30 @ St. James

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Jim Davies. Present: Danny Bohlen, Robin Lursen, Alyssa Endelman, Kiley Shear, Ted Koester, Aimee Duell, Leslie Groen, Pastor Rebecca Baird and Mindy Pecha, Devotions given by Kiley Shear. Motioned by Leslie, second by Kiley to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: January income was \$17,248.64 with \$4,590.00 of that for the Raise the Roof campaign and total expenses of \$81,015.45 with \$51,770.67 to Jaeger Associates for the roof down payment. Motioned by Kiley second by Aimee to approve the Treasurer's report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Motioned by Ted, second by Alyssa to approve the February 13, 2025, Secretary's report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Stewardship and Finance: Nothing to report.

Property Committee: Randy Brinkman was present and provided an update. The roof removal and replacement will begin May 1st and they will likely be blocking off the street. In addition, the Property Committee met, did a walk around the church and will be planning an outdoor clean-up day on April 5th. Randy provided a list of projects for Council to consider and prioritize.

Projects:

1. New louvers for bell tower – Fabricator to make out of steel, powder coat, and hopefully installation completed by congregation members would be a total cost of \$5696.00. Since this is over \$5000 it will require a congregational vote. Randy recommended to complete this project first since the roof is being replaced.
2. Basement carpet
3. ADA operator on ed unit door
4. New chair lift – Current lift max is 450 lbs, and new lifts can be 650 lb. Randy mentioned to provide a quick approximate cost he noticed a 550 lb lift had an online price of \$16000, not installed.
5. Painting the sanctuary and basement.

Council considered the project list and discussed moving forward with Randy's recommendation to complete the new louvers for the bell tower now to complete all high outside projects. Motion by Jim to move forward with the bell tower louvers and schedule a congregational meeting on May 4th to vote for project approval. Motion was seconded by Aimee. All ayes. Motion carried.

Education/Youth Ministry: Pastor shared during Sunday School the kids made Lent chains with activities to complete each day during Lent.

Evangelism: An indoor cleaning day has been set for May 3rd.

Worship & Music: Nothing to report.

Memorial Committee: Jim shared that no entries made in the memorial book for several years and they have gone through as best they can to see if any specific purpose for memorials has been mentioned. They did not find anything specific for new memorials and that fund currently has a balance of approximately \$50,000. The Council executive team will meet to discuss what and how to use those funds, provide future recommendations and establish bookkeeping procedures. Ted will work on these items in the coming month for everyone to review.

Pastor's Report – Pastor attended a synodical conference meeting, held a service at the care center played bingo there with 5th and 6th graders. With Ash Wednesday services cancelled due to weather, Pastor did ashes on Sunday instead. Pastor will be taking bereavement Sunday March 16th following church through Thursday March 20th for the passing her lovely grandmother Phyllis.

Old Business

1. CD Renewal – 11 Council members responded via email on February 11th and approved to renew a CD due on 02/27/25 for 12 months.
2. Audit Committee members – Leslie will check with Kathy Bruns to see if she would be willing to be on the Audit Committee since Aimee is already on Council.
3. Synod Assembly – 2 representatives – Pastor Rebecca provided details including the dates of June 6 & 7th in Cedar Falls and Jim shared his past experiences. Pastor will announce it again in church on Sunday.

Photo directory – Evangelism will be handling this.

New Business

Parent Bible Study reflections – Aimee spoke on those who attended enjoyed it. There are still some materials available if others would like to join and the next one bible study is March 23rd.

Lent/Holy Week details – Dinner church during Lent will continue with the Everything In-Between theme. Holy week will be the same as last year including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. Kiley has volunteered to help Luther League with Easter Breakfast.

Long-range planning committee goals – Pastor felt that before we start inviting members that council should reflect and come back in April with some goals.

Motioned to adjourn made by Ted, second by Danny. Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m. Next meeting will be held April 9th at 5:30 p.m.