

FROM PASTOR NORM'S STUDY:

Jesus said to his disciples, *“So be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”* [Matthew 10:16b]

In this text “be wise” and “innocent” are a balance to each other. To be wise can become no more than cunning without the balance of innocence; innocence can become ignorance if not balanced with wisdom.

By the time you read this month's newsletter article a new pastor will have been called and a new era in the life of St. James Lutheran Church will be about to begin. So, as I bring my time among you to a close, I thought that I would give you some wise counsel concerning receiving your new shepherd and family from Jesus' words to his disciples.

Serpent Stuff: DO NOT COMPARE!

It is only human nature to compare things to each other and for the most part that is being a good steward. In buying a new car, we shop around to compare prices, compare features; in buying groceries, we shop around compare prices, compare nutritional values; it is only good common sense to compare two or three products to see which is best for us to purchase.

In ministry, comparing previous pastors with a new pastor is problematic. Each pastor functions very differently from other pastors; we serve communion differently; we teach confirmation differently; we do visitation differently. Is one way better than another—NO, they are simply different.

Nothing undermines a new pastor's energy and enthusiasm than to have them compared to a previous pastor—DO NOT COMPARE!

DO NOT BE CHEAP!

I have been blessed to serve a number of different ethnic background congregations and I have learnt that there are many differences—such as: Norwegian congregations will complain a lot, but they will pay you more; while German and Danish congregations do not complain as much, but they will pay you less.

Nothing steals the excitement and enthusiasm from pastors more than being “nickel and dime” to death over their compensation package. The number one reason pastors move is because the congregations in which they are serving do not stay with their Synod's Minimum Compensation Guidelines and stop caring.

Being a pastor takes every bit of the individual's physical, emotional, and spiritual energy, the last thing a pastor wants to do is fight for an increase in their compensation and benefits package. Minimum

Compensation Guidelines deal with issues of fairness and justice. You want your new young pastor and family to stay awhile then stay with Guidelines—DO NOT BE CHEAP!

Dove Stuff: LOVE YOUR PASTOR!

Pastors do not grow on trees like bananas—each are incredibly unique, and each are a gift from God to the Church. So, I encourage the members of St. James Lutheran Church to love your pastor and family.

Being an ordained minister is a very lonely call. Most pastors have left behind family, friends, and sometimes extraordinarily successful careers to be your pastor. The one thing that they need is for you to include them in your' life and your family's lives—invite them to your' home, children's events, and local community happenings—include them in your life.

The ministry site here in Allison is for the most an extremely exciting place to serve, but your pastor and their family will live a “fishbowl” life in this small rural setting. Eventually, when the Baird resides in the church parsonage, people will know everything that they do or say—nothing will be secret or sacred for them.

As your intentional interim minister, I get to go home every night to withdraw from the pressures of public ministry here in Allison. Your new pastor, residing in Allison, will not have that opportunity which can create a sense of being trapped. So, encourage and support your pastor by making sure they take their day off, uses their vacation time and continuing education time. Also support your new pastor's ministry among you by participating in them.

Please be in prayer for your pastor—**LOVE YOUR PASTOR!**

In Christian Love, *Pastor Norm*



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 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 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!

THANK YOU

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.

LAST LOL AND MEAL WILL BE HELD MAY 17th. There will be cookout that night served by the LOL gang so bring your lawn chairs, we'll move out some tables, and be ready to get "roasted and toasted".



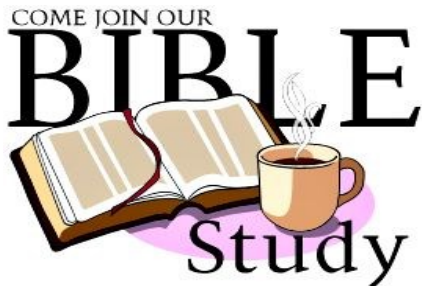
**St. James Visiting Committee for
March & April 2023**

**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 Freeseemann, Austin Greenough, Alice Schwab, Bill McDowell and Shirley Wubbena.



On Thursday, May 4th 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 Connie Wix.

IMPORTANT INFO TO ALL ST. JAMES GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: If you are planning on attending school to further your education W-ELCA 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 beyond a 4 year degree. If interested, check in with Syd at the church office and she can supply you with an application.

The Northeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA will hold their 35th Annual Gathering at Trinity Lutheran in Belmond on June 17th from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. Registration forms [need to be turned in by May 24.](#) Forms can be picked up from Syd.

ALLISON DAY EVENT will be held on Saturday, June 3. W-ELCA will have their BBQ Sandwich lunch that day. Garden Club will also be with us to serve their homemade pies. Volunteers will be needed. If you can help please call Deb McWhirter.

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



ACOLYTES FOR MAY

- May 7: Cora Barnett & Walker Buss
- May 14: Isaac Endelman & Savannah Hummel
- May 21: Tanner Lursen & Gavin Schrage
- May 28: Jarrett Shear & Nadelyn Stanbrough



March

Income	February	YTD
	\$13,171.30	\$35,251.88
Expense	\$16,968.52	\$52,740.24

Included in these figures are expenses for the parsonage update. Donations to the update are accepted and appreciated.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May will be here soon and we are grateful and appreciative of the additional time Pastor Bauer has provided to us. His last Sunday will be May 21, which is also Graduation Recognition Sunday, so we again are thankful for his messages of encouragement as we enter another time of preparing for our new Pastor, Rebecca Baird. Please take time to read PBauer's last newsletter article. There are some important things for us to remember as we welcome the Baird family. We have secured (mostly) the Sunday worship pastors for June and July so please come and support our "in between" time!

The parsonage update is complete except for the cleaning and we appreciate all the help from various members and people who contributed in any way to that project. And we also are enjoying the newly remodeled space in the church basement, particularly directed to our youth. I would be remiss to start naming names because there are so many who work quietly in making things happen both on those projects and to our weekly events at church. It's exciting to see so many things happening at St. James.

Please pray for our new Pastor and family along with our supply pastors and leaders as we prepare for another chapter in the life of St. James. Working together we are stronger!



CONGRATULATIONS to High School graduates Blake Debner, Emma Eberline, Alex Mosher and Brycen Shear.



HOLY BAPTISM

Sunday, April 23, Blake Marie Lammers, daughter of Reid and Kenzie Lammers, was received into the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Blake's sponsors are Kayla Siemens and Rhett Lammers.

We express our deepest sympathy to Linda Heller in the passing of her husband, Jerry. Graveside services will be held at a later date, at Rose Hill Cemetery, Grundy Center.

Sundays in May

Nearly each Sunday in May has a "special" event attached to it. Please read carefully so you know if it includes you or your family.

May 7: A Sending for Jeremy Idler

May 14: Last day of Sunday School, Children Sing, Treats to follow Worship, Mother's Day

May 21: Pr. Bauer's Last Sunday, Graduation Recognition

May 28: Once again we are at the "in between" time but good things are planned for the future!



COMMUNITY GARDEN

St. James is looking for enthusiasm to help create and care for a community garden. If that your passion, call the church office at 319-267-2274 to add your name to a list of helpers.



St. James Council Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2023

Meeting called to order by President Deb McWhirter at 6:30 p.m. opening with prayer. Present: Deb McWhirter, Jill Ford, Dana Uhlenhopp, Mystie Hummel, Jim Davies, Aimee Deuell, Duane Folkerts, Jeremy Idler, Leslie Groen, and Mindy Pecha, Financial Administrator.

The agenda was reviewed. Items were added to new business/other re: agreement with Schumacher Elevator to check lift, a community garden, and Pastor supply for summer. Motion to approve agenda with additions made by Dana, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's report given by Mindy. Reviewed payments to Kidz Zone and parsonage projects. Suggestion was made to use Thrivent balance as needed to cover expenses. Regarding account balances, money will be moved to accounts to earn more interest rather than leaving a large balance in checking. March expenses totaled \$16,968.52 with income of \$13,171.30. Motion to approve treasurer's report from Aimee, seconded by Duane. Motion carried.

Secretary's report: March minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve report by Jeremy, seconded by Mystie. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Repots:

Education committee: Planning has started re: community VBS with Trinity. May use church camp in Bristow and bus kids over for day camp.

Evangelism committee: working on May bags, planning a park service this summer, possibly grilling out in lot next to church for an end-of-summer party, and doing the Christmas cheer project.

Property committee: parsonage work is done except for the bathroom floor and cleaning carpet. Basement carpet at church will also be cleaned.

Stewardship & Finance committee: will work on moving money around to a savings account and/or CDs that earn more interest. Thrivent money to be used on parsonage expenses.

Worship & Music committee: CCLI now done so we can project music from the Praise book on the screen during services. Committee is discussing the possibility of a music service outside in the lot next to church this summer.

Old Business:

No call committee update as Pastor Rebecca will be accepting call and plans to start August 1.

Parsonage updates were discussed during stewardship and finance report.

New Business:

Suggestion to start paying musicians for the care center worship services. Motion to approve by Leslie, seconded by Jeremy. Motion carried. Deb will verify that cantors are being paid as previously approved.

Supply pastors are being sought for June and July.

Allison Fire Department made a request for donations. Dana moved to donate \$100, seconded by Duane. Motion carried.

Deb applied for another grant through Poet who gives community/good neighbor grants.

Allison Wilder Days committee requesting sponsors/donations. Duane moved to give \$50, seconded by Leslie. Motion carried.

Schumacher Elevator maintains our lift. Currently works but it's old and may need updating. A quote to replace will be obtained. A three-year contract is the best price option since we have existing equipment. Need to verify that our contract can be transferred if new equipment is installed. Motion to renew a three-year contract made by Dana, seconded by Duane. Motion carried.

Shirley Wubbena is gathering information and looking into the possibility of St. James sponsoring a community garden. Council will review as more information is provided.

Motion to adjourn made by Jill, seconded by Jim. Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held May 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.