

## St. James Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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

Spring has sprung!

On April 28 we celebrated Rogation Sunday, a time for us to celebrate and bless the planting of the fields and all those in the agricultural business. We also asked God to help us care for and love all animals, people and creation. It was fun to gather outside together after worship and bless the soil, seeds, water and machinery that helps us tend the earth. In May we look forward to celebrating our graduates, as well as the conclusion of another year of Sunday school, LOL, and confirmation classes. To all our volunteers who serve our kids and youth, thank you for all you do and all the ways you share and live out the message of God's love and grace to our students.

In May we continue to journey through the season of Easter until Pentecost on May 19. Last month I encouraged us to be on the lookout for the ways "new life" is springing up around us. One place I have seen new life is at our LOL afterschool program, where we have been able to play outside more and have also helped plant seeds starters for the community garden (which can be seen growing in the parish hall.)

I studied the Psalms in an undergraduate May Term class at Wartburg College. My professor, Rev. Dr. Ramona Bouzard, sent us outside one spring morning and instructed us to shout (yes, shout) this Psalm line by line. Looking back, it was a fun and memorable way to get us college students to hear God's voice in creation. It was a practice that obviously stuck with me, and so I share it with you. Take a moment to step outside as you read (or proclaim loud for all to hear) this Psalm. A reading of Psalm 8:

**1** O LORD, our Sovereign,

How majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

**2** Out of the mouths of babes and infants, you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

**3** When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

**4** what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

**5** Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

**6** You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

**7** all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

**8** the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**9** O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

I love verses 3 and 4 as they remind me that God who created all things, even the moon and stars, cares for each of us. God is constantly creating us anew, granting us presence, mercy, and grace in our daily lives. *Where do you see God in this Psalm today? How might God be calling for you to care for yourself, others, and all creation this season?*

In Christ,

Pastor Rebecca

\*After prayerful conversation and consideration, the council is recommending to the congregation the sale of the parsonage. There will be a congregational meeting **MAY 5TH** after worship for the purpose of moving to sell the parsonage of St. James Lutheran Church. This will be the only business discussed at the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact anyone on the church council prior to the meeting.



**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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, Sheryl Hull, Duane & Lorna Feltz, Bud Bahnsen, Jill Wiegmann, and Eugene Maifield



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.

Those who deliver meals on Wednesday night to folks in the community

Those who serve Food & Fellowship

Joe E for installing a new kitchen sink

The Spring Cleaning crew for their hard work



**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  
May & June 2024**

**Bonnie Dralle, Nadean Dralle,  
Roberta Wiegmann & Karla  
Schmidt,**

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.



W-ELCA Bible study will be held on Thursday, May 2nd at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall kitchen. Connie Wix will be the leader for the Bible study and Nancy will provide treats. We use the Gather study guide and you can get this from Syd.

**Looking ahead:** The Synodical Women's Organization Convention will be held June 18th at Redeemer Lutheran in Waverly from 8:30-2:00. The in-kind gifts this year will be given to Bremwood in Waverly. Items needed are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Women's Educational Scholarships:** *Need help in furthering your graduate education? You can apply for a scholarship to help with your education. The form can be gotten from the church office. The winners of the scholarships are announced at the convention. The scholarships are usually around \$600-\$700 and 3 are given.*

Allison Days lunch stand will be on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers are needed to help prepare food for the lunch stand and to serve.

Visiting Committee for May & June are listed in the above box.

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 prayerful consideration and join in that GOOD FEELING!

God's Blessings-Bonnie

**ALL WOMEN'S BIBLE  
STUDY RETREAT**

Pastor Rebecca will host a retreat at Wilder's Park on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The retreat is for women of all ages. We hope women who are unable to attend our monthly Bible studies will be able to attend the retreat. Lunch will be provided. All you need to bring is your Bible and yourself. A time for you to relax with each other. More details to come!

**In-Kind Gifts for Bremwood**

**Women & Men's body wash, deodorants, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste & tooth brushes**

**These Items will be taken to the women's convention June 18th. A tub is under the foyer table for your gifts. Thanks in advance for your help.**



	March	YTD
Income	\$16,618.17	\$36,681.88
Expense	\$13,681.66	\$42,322.74



### ACOLYTES SCHEDULE FOR MAY

May 5: Wrigley Endelman & Gavin Schrage

May 12: Jack Hummel & Faith Eberline

May 19: Wade Wangsness & Conner Wubbena



Welcome Lucas Dean to the family of Zach & Renae,  
Jackson & Olivia Smith  
Grandparents are Denny and Jill Wiegmann.

Congratulations to Taylor and Andrea Wedeking on  
the birth of their daughter Aurora May. The proud  
grandpa is Jay Schrage!



**CONGRATULATIONS to High School graduates Griffin Buss, Mollie Buss, Macy Endelman, Natalie Heeren & Kaycee Wiebke. Sunday, May 19th St. James will honor ALL graduates-H.S., College and Post-Graduates during the worship service. Please wear your graduation robe or clothing item with your school's logo on it if you are a post high school graduate. If you were a part of the graduates faith formation, we'd like to honor you along with the graduate during a time of blessing.**



### To Honor Arleen Radcliffe

**Please join St. James Sunday, May 12th, as we honor Arleen upon her retirement as organist for St. James. We hope to fill her day with special memories.**

### *Festival of Music*

St. James will sing a joyful noise during its May 5<sup>th</sup> Festival Worship Service. As we continue to celebrate Christ's resurrection during the Easter season, the service will include several of the Easter hymns we all know and enjoy. St. James has the great gift of so many talented musicians. We will have brass, flute, piano and of course several joyful voices providing special music! This is the season to celebrate. While you may sing one or two more hymns than usual, you will be filled with the joy that Easter brings to all of us.



### St. James Council Meeting Minutes - April 10, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Jim Davies. Present: Leslie Groen, Mystie Hummel, Jason Shaull, Danny Bohlen, Jeremy Idler, Amanda Wehran, Duane Folkerts, Financial Administrator Mindy Pecha and Pastor Rebecca Baird. Devotions given by Jim Davies. Motioned by Jason, second by Jeremy to approve the agenda with a change in standing committee reports to have the Property Committee go first with Randy in attendance and Duane Folkerts requested to address the council. All ayes. Motion

carried.

Duane Folkerts resigned from church council effective immediately and excused himself from the meeting. Motioned by Danny, second by Leslie to accept Duane's resignation. All ayes. Motion carried. The Council will add discussion of the vacancy to the May agenda.

#### REPORTS:

Treasurer's report was provided by Mindy with a short discussion regarding parsonage ongoing costs and reviewing past trends in income and expenses. March income was \$16,618.17 with expenses of \$13,681.66. Motioned by Jason to approve the Treasurer's report, second by Mystie. All ayes. Motion carried.

Secretary's report: February minutes were reviewed with motion by Taylor to approve, second by Amanda Wehrhan. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### Standing Committee Reports:

Property: Randy Brinkman provided an update to quotes for the roof. Through word of mouth a company named Jaeger Associates from Tiltonka, IA, asked to bid on the church roof. Their quote for installing new steel shingles, including removal of the old shingles, for a total of \$123,895. This quote is more than \$70,000 less than previous quotes. Randy shared that Denny Wiegmann has reviewed the quote and Randy has checked with several references the company provided. The company is reputable and works with churches often. They would require half the money down to start and were not concerned about a start date. The Council thanked Randy for this update and Randy left the meeting.

Education/Youth Ministry: Pastor Rebecca shared the Journey with Jesus stations were a success, VBS planning is underway and Luther League has a bunco tournament coming up on April 21st. Pastor would like the committee to meet in May.

Stewardship and Finance: does not usually meet this time of year, but with the potential sale of the parsonage and a capital campaign getting underway for the roof fundraising, the committee may need to meet in the near future.

Worship & Music: Jeremy shared they are busy the

next few weeks with special music and Sunday School sings on May 12th.

Pastor's Report: Pastor shared she continues helping with care center worship, delivered palm branches during homebound visits and has been asked to participate in North Butler Baccalaureate service on May 15th. Pastor also participated with bingo at the care center and attended a junior high track meet at Denver to cheer on over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the confirmation kids that participate in track. Confirmation will be done on May 1st for the year because attendance has been so great throughout the year.

Old Business: The meeting date/time was discussed to determine a set date/time for future planning. Motioned by Jason, second by Jeremy to set church council meetings for 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### New Business:

Discussions were held regarding the Property Committee's recommendation to sell the parsonage. The Council discussed the pros and cons of the recommendation and the timing of bringing the recommendation to a congregational vote. Due to the upcoming events after church and the summer months approaching, everyone felt we should get the process underway. Motioned by Amanda, second by Jason to present to the sale of the parsonage to the congregation for a vote on May 5th. All ayes. Motion carried. The Council will make an announcement on Sunday, April 14th. Jim will announce at church on Sunday that the Property Committee has recommended to sell the parsonage and the Church Council is recommending to bring the sale of the parsonage to a congregational vote on May 5th.

Motioned to adjourn made by Jason, seconded by Mystie. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m..