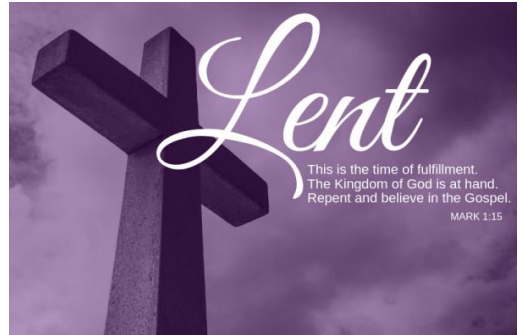


## St. James Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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



Children of God,

We are in the midst of Lent. The “alleluias” have been removed from worship. We continue our journey with Jesus to the cross. On March 31, we will hear the Good News of Christ’s resurrection from the tomb! But for now we journey, we wait...

One of the ways I have personally strived to journey with Jesus so far this Lenten season is through prayer. Our Lenten dinner church series “Crafting Questions” has also focused on asking questions about prayer through conversation and worship. 1 Thessalonians 5:7 urges the church to “rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances.” This is a difficult thing to do during most seasons of our lives, especially when we may ask questions like how do we pray without ceasing *and* does doing so really make a difference in our lives? Perhaps we need to define what prayer means: Anne Lamott, author of *Help. Thanks. Wow.*, says “prayer means that, in some unique way, we believe we’re invited into a relationship with someone who hears us when we speak in silence.” Prayer is conversation with God who invites us to share our thoughts and promises to hear us, whether we are praying with our hands folded and heads bowed, through tears or laughs, in song or dance, or the everyday mundane task of folding laundry or standing in the grocery store line. God invites us in, invites us to be real, and tells us throughout Scripture that we are heard and we are loved.

We will hear of God’s great love for us during Holy Week: On Palm Sunday we will mark Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem and wave our palms, shouting “hosanna,” and during Sunday school time we will “Journey with Jesus” through activity stations to help us prepare for Easter. On Maundy Thursday we will celebrate the Last Supper with our 1st communion students and strip the sanctuary and altar bare. On Good Friday we will cry out to God as we hear Christ’s final words on the cross. Finally, on Easter we will rejoice that death does not have the final word over our lives! Allelu— we’ll wait.

Peace,

Pastor Rebecca



**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, 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.

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

Those who serve Food & Fellowship

VBS volunteers

Confirmation mentors who give of themselves

LWR Quilters-persistent and could use some help

Thank you Pr. Rebecca for all the ways you care for us



**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  
March & April 2024**

**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.



W-ELCA Bible study will be held on Thursday, March 7th at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall kitchen. Shirley 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, March 19 and Wednesday, March 20 from 9:00 am until noon. All help is appreciated!

Visiting Committee for March & April are Karla Schmidt, Deb McWhirter, Paula Anderson and Shirley Wubbena.

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!

The Spring Gathering will be held at Zion Lutheran in Dysart April 13th. It is a day of gifting quilts, kits and other ministries to LWR. It is also a time to gather with Sisters in Christ for fellowship.

God's Blessings-Bonnie



**Wednesdays March 1, 20 27 will be LOL, Food & Fellowship then Dinner Church @ 6:15 followed by Confirmation Mentors**

**Spring Break is March 11-15 so there is no LOL or Confirmation mentors. We will serve Food & Fellowship followed by Dinner Church @ 6:15.**

**First Communion class will be held March 17**

**“Journey with Jesus” Interactive Stations for all ages Palm Sunday, March 24 @ 10:00**

**Maundy Thursday Worship/Holy Communion @ 6:30 with First Communion**

**Good Friday Worship @ 6:30**

**Easter Sunday worship at 6:30 and 9:00 with 7:30 Breakfast & Fellowship**



	January	
	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$11,154.13	\$11,154.13
Expense	\$14,732.67	\$14,732.67



***HOLY BAPTISM***

Presley Helen Abbas, daughter of Greg & Beth Abbas, will be received into the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism Sunday, March 3. Presley's sponsor are Angel Raisty & Denise Reents.



Four of our young people will participate in their first communion! They are as follows:

Presley Abbas daughter of Greg & Beth Abbas

Lorelai Hummel daughter of Derek & Mystie Hummel

Owen Shaull son of Jason & Bethani Shaull

Brylen Stanbrough daughter of Dan & Tiffany Stanbrough

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!



As part of their first communion instruction St. James youth joined other youth from St. Peter's in Greene to create their own chalice (cup) and paten (plate) out of clay. A liturgical potter from Greene helped the youth to shape their pottery and then fired the pieces at her studio. Maundy Thursday the youth will be served their first communion from the pieces they made. We give thanks for this milestone in Presley, Lulu, Owen and Brylen's faith journey!

### ACOLYTES SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

**March 3: Wade Wangsness & Conner Wubbena**

**March 10: Jack Hummel & Jarrett Shear**

**March 17: Gavin Schrage & Wrigley Endelman**

**March 24: Palm Sunday Processional**

**Landon Debner & Isaac Endelman**

**March 31, Easter 6:30: Walker Buss & Jarrett Shear**

**March 31, Easter 9:00: Faith Eberline & Conner Wubbena**



### St. James Church Council Meeting – February 21, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Council President Jim Davies. Present: Pastor Rebecca Baird, Mystie Hummel, Jeremy Idler, John Heeren, Jason Shaull, Duane Folkers, Amanda Wehrhan, Taylor Salge, Leslie Groen, and Financial Administrator Mindy Pecha. Also in attendance were Denny Wiegmann and Randy Brinkman with roof replacement quotes. Meeting opened with devotions from Pastor Rebecca. The agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda by Duane, seconded by Jason. Motion carried.

#### REPORTS:

Treasurer's report given by Mindy. January income was \$11,154.13 with expenses of \$14,732.67. Motion to approve report made by Jason, seconded by John. Motion carried.

### NO SUNDAY SCHOOL MARCH 10th DUE TO SPRING BREAK

### LWR Kits are needed more than ever!

Items needed to complete kits at St. James for the April Gathering are bars of bath soap 4-5 oz. in wrapper, heavy nail clippers, wide tooth combs or hair picks and 70 sheet spiral wide lined notebooks.

Secretary's report: January minutes were reviewed and motion to approve minutes by Duane seconded by Jason. Motion carried.

Secretary's report: January minutes were reviewed and motion to approve minutes by Duane seconded by Jason. Motion carried.

With Denny and Randy in attendance, the Council moved to the new business agenda item #2 - Roof next-steps. Randy presented a quote from Freed Construction of Cedar Falls. Their quote included removing existing asbestos shingles and installation of 30-year synthetic slate for a total bid of \$215,985.36. Denny presented a quote from Harken Lumber which included removing existing asbestos shingles and installation of 50-year steel shingles for a total bid of \$195,887.54. Discussions were held regarding the likelihood of the old shingles containing asbestos and if there is existing water damage. Randy and Denny left the meeting after their presentations.

Standing Committee Reports:

Education/Youth Ministry: Mystie reported that Sunday school will be singing on February 25 and on Palm Sunday. Pastor Rebecca shared plans to have intergenerational stations following Palm Sunday service called 'Journey with Jesus'. VBS planning has begun and a meeting is scheduled for March 20th at 5 pm. Pastor Rebecca also shared that the first communion class with 5th graders was held Sunday, February 18th.

Evangelism: The Lent activity kits were completed and handed out to Sunday school kids.

Property: Previously discussed the roof quotes and the following Council members were willing to be on a roof funding raising project: Duane Folkerts,

Stewardship & Finance: Leslie joined the committee and will reach out regarding meeting dates and times.

Worship & Music: The committee continues to take hymn requests and incorporate them into worship.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Rebecca shared the following activities she has been busy with this month: new member welcome and worship, Allison Care Center and Elm Spring worship services in which she administered 20 ashes to residents, Lent Dinner Church services, First Communion class and ongoing planning for Holy Week and Easter. It was motioned by Jeremy, seconded by Jason to approve the Pastor's Report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Old Business:

The Council reviewed the list of newly elected: officers including: President-Jim Davies, VP-Duane Folkerts, Secretary-Leslie Groen.

The Council also reviewed the list of committees the new council members volunteered to be appointed to: Taylor Salge-Evangelism, Danny-Property, and Amanda-Education with Leslie Groen moving to Stewardship & Finance.

Pastor Rebecca provided the Council with a Greeter Schedule for 2024 with a list of usher teams and their contact information, a devotion schedule with all council members contact information, and list of all the St James church committees with names of those serving on the committees.

Future meeting time and day will be discussed at the March meeting.

New Business:

Pastor Rebecca shared an updated Roles and Responsibilities of Greeters document and explained the changes have been highlighted. A brief discussion was had regarding the need for the handicap parking cones. Motioned by Leslie, seconded by John to approve the Roles and Responsibilities of Greeters document. All ayes. Motion carried.

There was brief discussion regarding the next steps regarding a capital campaign for the roof replacement project and creating a small group of council members and other church members to take on the project.

Discussions regarding the Parsonage were tabled due to time constants with the Lent service beginning and Pastor Rebecca left to lead worship.

Jim Davies shared some concerns and ideas to increase our church membership and asked everyone to continue thinking of ideas.

Motion to adjourn made by Jim and seconded by John at 6:29 pm. Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on March 20th at 5:30 pm.