

FROM PASTOR NORM: “S-H-M-I-L-Y”

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” [John 3:16]

Living by faith is not living without questions. Living by faith means living without reservations. Living by faith is staking our lives on the belief that what we know about God through Christ and the Holy Spirit is enough to sustain us in this world and the world to come.

“Let me tell you about little girl who discovered a great secret from her grandparents. Ever since she could remember, her grandparents had played this secret game. They would leave the words **“SHMILY”** around the house for one another. Her grandfather would stuff little notes with the word **“SHMILY”** in grandmother’s sock drawer. Her grandmother would trace the word **“SHMILY”** in the steam on the bathroom mirror so her grandfather would see it when he was done with his morning shower. Over the years, they competed to see who could find the most creative way to leave a **“SHMILY”** note for the other. When her grandmother lost her ten-year fight with cancer on her casket with a yellow ribbon around the bouquet of flowers was the word, **“SHMILY”** The thing that held her grandparent’s marriage together, the thing that nourished them in life and sustained them in death – **“SHMILY.”**

What does **“SHMILY”** mean?

See how much I love you.” [Author unknown]

As a pastor, I long to answer people’s questions about life and God. Especially as I stand beside a grave with a grieving family wondering “why?”; or as I lead a group of young people in confirmation class into a better understanding of faith; or as I lie awake in the middle of the night struggling with God’s direction in my life. But there are questions that I cannot answer. All I can do is take you to the foot of the cross and say to you, **“everything you need to know is here – See how much God loves you.”**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22, 2023. Please join me and all the Christians around the world in our annual journey with Jesus to the cross and to be reminded of Jesus’ **“SHMILY.”**

In Christian Love,

Pastor Norm

Council President's Comments

2022 ended on a very positive note for St. James and we especially want to thank Pastor Norm again for staying with us another seven months and leading us in challenging ways. He is a blessing to all of us. And thank you to outgoing council members Bonnie Dralle, Denny Wiegmann, DJ Palmer and Ted Koester. New members elected at Annual Meeting January 15 are Jim Davies, Aimee Deuell, Duane Folkerts, and Leslie Groen. A big thank you to all those who have served and continue to serve.

Two other groups I would like to highlight this month are the Altar Guild. The members are mostly unseen volunteers who prepare the church for worship each Sunday in the sanctuary under the leadership of Linda T. Their work enhances our worship and is much appreciated. The W-ELCA sewing group is busy sewing and tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Nadean Dralle is the guide and there are several volunteers who come a couple of days each month to work in the parish hall. There are also many people who donate fabric and time at home cutting and sewing quilt tops. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all our members for the many gifts they share with our congregation and the greater community.



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!



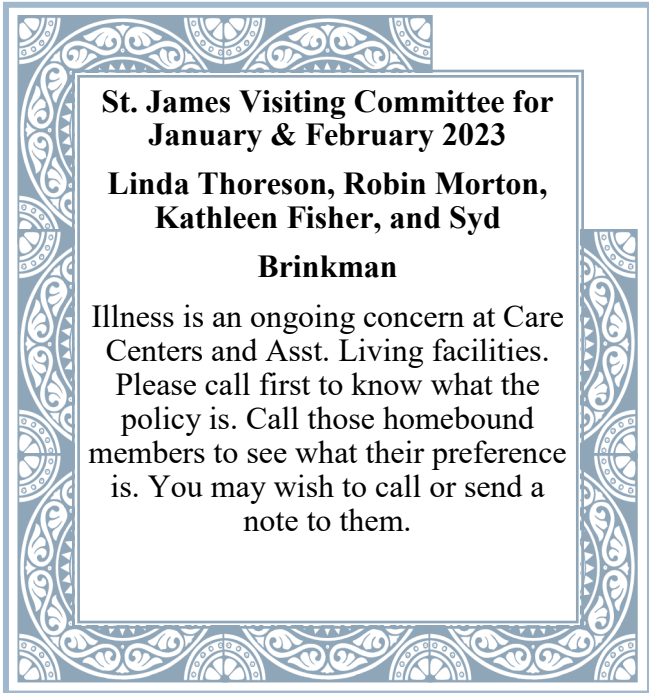
It takes many people to keep this congregation running smoothly and efficiently. Thank you to the many members who have given of their gifts. It makes our worship services special and inviting to attend. Your service shows in our communities as a witness to mission and it is appreciated.

St. James Committee chairs who sent in their Annual Meeting reports. It was a good meeting!

Those in charge of Wednesday activities who adjust to anticipated weather.

Those who have spent countless hours, and those who worked when they could, to make the KIDZ ZONE a happy place. You can not imagine the first squeals of excitement!

Thank you for the gift of patience and discernment as we wait...



**St. James Visiting Committee for
January & February 2023**

**Linda Thoreson, Robin Morton,
Kathleen Fisher, and Syd
Brinkman**

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, Matthew Anderson, Austin Greenough and Lyle & Norma Scroggin



Winter is reminding us with snow showers that we still have a few months before the lawn mowers can be brought out. The white covers the blackened snow and makes things beautiful again. A reminder that our sins are covered by the death and resurrection of Christ our Savior. Maybe this is a good way to think when we see those white flakes falling.

On Thursday, February 2nd 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 Syd Brinkman.

LWR Quilting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 21 and

Wednesday, Feb. 22. Sewing, tying and cutting begins at 9:00 am and finishes at noon. Help with non-sewing jobs are needed so don't be shy in coming. Just being with others is uplifting and enjoyable. If you know someone who would like to join this mission work please bring them along, anyone is welcome. Fabric is always needed and all donations appreciated. Cutting and sewing of quilt squares is also needed. Thank you to those who are sewing quilt squares together. As you can see there are several things not requiring sewing skills. Give this mission need some prayerful thought.

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.

W-ELCA 2023 Yearbooks are available and are on the table under the bulletin board. Dates of Bible study and other things we do are in the book.

God's blessings, Bonnie



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.



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday service will be held February 22 at 7:00 PM at St. James. Each Wednesday of Lent there will be a brief Midweek service following Food and Fellowship beginning at 6:22 PM.

THERE WILL BE NO CONFIRMATION WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 DUE TO THE ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



Income	Monthly	YTD
	\$19,177.94	149,276.03
Expenses	\$12,904.94	130,650.96



DON'T FORGET TO JOIN YOUR FRIENDS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP SERVING BEGINNING at 5:15



LOL, community after school program, will run from 3:30-5:00 while school is in session. Now meeting in the newly designed KIDZ ZONE. NO SCHOOL-NO PROGRAM! Offered are adult supervision, different activity centers and snacks. ALL are welcome. Contact Nancy Davies (563.422.8255) or Daleth Pothast (319.415.9683) for additional information.

If you can help as a mentor or provide snacks, there is a sign up sheet on the foyer table or chat with Daleth or Nancy.



Acolyte Schedule for January

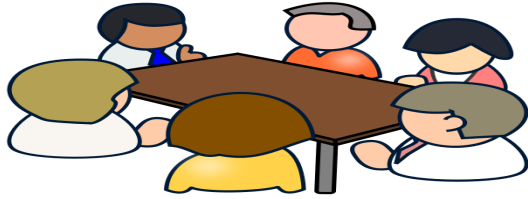
February 5– Tanner Lursen & Gavin Schrage

February 12-Jarrett Shear & Nadelyn Stanbrough

February 19-Wade Wangness & Conner Wubbena

February 26-Cora Barnett & Walker Buss

Please contact a fellow student to switch if you have a conflict!



St. James Council Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Council President Deb McWhirter at 5:00 p.m. after a time change due to incoming weather. Present: Deb McWhirter, Aimee Deuell, Mystie Hummel, Leslie Groen, Jim Davies, Dana Uhlenhopp, John Heeren, Jeremy Idler, Scott Bruns, Duane Folkerts, and Jill Ford. Meeting opened with devotions from Deb.

The agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda by Dana, seconded by Leslie. Motion carried.

Council addressed the election of officers for 2023. After some discussion, Duane moved to keep the current officers in place with the exception of treasurer as a new council member needs to be elected for that position. Officers for 2023 are Deb McWhirter as president, Dana Uhlenhopp as vice president, Jill Ford as secretary, and Jeremy Idler as treasurer. Mindy Pecha remains as the financial administrator. Duane's motion was seconded by Scott. Motion carried.

Committee selections discussed. Ongoing members staying on their current committees. Jim Davies and Leslie Groen will join the evangelism committee, Duane Folkerts joins worship & music, and Aimee joins the youth ministry.

Reports:

Treasurer's report reviewed. December income was \$25,374.29, with expenses of \$13,762.11. YTD balance is \$174,650.32 with expenses of \$144,413.07. Motion to approve the report by Scott, seconded by Jeremy. Motion carried.

Secretary's report: December minutes reviewed. Motion to approve report by Scott, seconded by Dana. Motion carried.

Pastor's written report was reviewed. Motion to approve accountable allowances by John, seconded by Scott. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports not given/reviewed.

Old Business:

Call committee update. No news to report at this time.

New cabinets are at the parsonage waiting to be installed.

Deb applied for a grant to pay for part of the Kids' Zone project.

New Business:

A new table has been offered to be built and donated for the fellowship area following church services. Motion to approve the donation by Leslie, seconded by Jeremy. Motion carried.

There are some pews, tables, and children's chairs currently being stored in areas where the space could be better used for other purposes. Discussion about finding ways to donate or offer the items where they can be repurposed and used. Pews may be sold by silent auction or donated depending upon interest. Motion to repurpose these items made by Leslie, seconded by Aimee. Motion carried.

Choir robes are currently in storage and are not being used. Deb will meet with the worship & music committee to determine if they can be moved to an area that's less accessible and could free up needed space in the entry closet.

Discussion regarding the purchase of four new tables and 24 chairs for the basement. Motion to approve purchase by Aimee, seconded by Scott. Motion carried.

Other: New ushering teams assigned.

Motion to adjourn by Scott, seconded by Aimee. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held February 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.



The Church Council voted at our January meeting to offer two pews, some older 8' tables and small wooden chairs for sale, donation, or gift to any member who may be interested. These are items that have been in storage for some years and we feel it's important to repurpose them to people who could use them. Please contact a council member or church office for more information.