

St. James Lutheran Church
111 Peter Road
Southbury, CT 06488

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Freed
& RENEWED
in Christ
500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

Dated Material
Please Deliver Promptly

Return Service Requested

June, 2018

THE EPISTLE

"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only." James 1.22



The Season of Pentecost

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

111 Peter Road, Southbury, CT 06488

203.264.6446

www.stjamesct.org

email: stjames@snet.net

THE ST. JAMES PRESCHOOL

Mary Tinley, Director, 203.264.6448



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

GROW
with us

St. James Church is handicapped accessible and family friendly.

✠ ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH ✠

www.stjamesct.org

email: stjames@snet.net

Pastor: The Reverend Scott D. Nessel

Church: 203.264.6446 / Cell: 203.592.0945

scottnessel@yahoo.com and csnessel@juno.com

Pastor's Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8am– 11am

Ministers: The People of St. James

Sunday School, Bible Study, Confirmation Class (thru June 17) **9:00am**
Worship with Holy Communion **10:15am**
Summer Worship with Holy Communion (starting June 24) **9:30am**
Coffee and Fellowship follows Sunday Worship

CHURCH COUNCIL

Tim Peterson	President	203.442.3705
Jim Mix	Vice-President	203.232.6856
Gary Kline	Secretary	203.758.2383
Richard Manville	Treasurer	203.262.6237
Kaitlyn Furr	Younger Person Rep.	203.267.1481
Rob Sweeney	Younger Person Rep.	203.881.3664
Kathy Bocci	Altar Guild	203.695.5180
Elizabeth Goehring	Worship & Music	203.819.3135
Diane Iannini	Past. Supp., Health & Wellness, PSB	203.240.4438
Denise Kuo	Y&FM, Outreach & Green	203.405.1137
Steven Ulc	Nominating Cte., Y&FM	203.262.6526
Michael Urban	Evangelism	203.264.3234

STAFF & MINISTRIES

Genie Bisch	Parish Secy., Preschool Admin. Asst. <i>M,T,Th 3-5:30pm; Fri. 7:30-10:30am</i>	203.264.6446
John Dressel	Director of Music	203.758.8963
Mary Tinley	PreSchool Director	203.264.6448
Katie McNeal	Director, Youth & Family Ministries	412.508.4557
Gail Fay	Assistant Treasurer	203.264.1362
Erwin Weissmann	Financial Secretary	203.264.7563

Due date for the July / August, 2018 DOUBLE issue of The Epistle is June 15th. Please send submissions to Genie Bisch (stjames@snet.net) and Pastor Scott (scottnessel@yahoo.com). Thank You.

SERVING IN WORSHIP: JUNE, 2018: THANK YOU!

Please Sign Up for Coffee Hour!

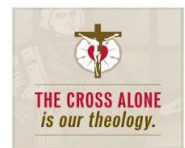
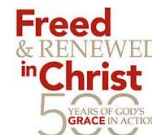
	June 3 Pentecost 2	June 10 Pentecost 3
Assisting Minister	Lynn Morrison	Jim Mix
Communion Assistant	Elizabeth Goehring	Judy Katzmark
Lector	Jenny Dressel	Marylee Siegle
Cantor	Karen Lampiasi	Lucia Dressel
Acolyte	Ernie Danek	Evelyn Kuo
Usher	Bob Morrison	Ed Danieli
Coffee Hour	<i>It's the PICNIC!!</i>	The Nadasens
Counters	Gale & Jim Mix	Sylvia & John Kelbley
	June 17 Pentecost 4	June 24 (9:30 am) John the Baptist
Assisting Minister	Barb Manville	Elizabeth Goehring
Communion Assistant	Katie McNeal	Diane Iannini
Lector	Kate Johnson	Diana Larson
Cantor	Marion Allen	Elizabeth Goehring
Acolyte	Emma Bensley	Emilie Ulc
Usher	Jay Kuo	Gary Kline
Coffee Hour	(field goods)	Siegles
Counters	Denise and Jay Kuo	Morrison / Johnson

Our VISION Statement:

We envision St. James Church as a growing, Christ-centered community entering new space: to reach out to all people on a journey of faith; to glorify God through inspired worship, intergenerational fellowship; and to addressing human needs in Jesus' name.



St. James Church
New England Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



 **In Our Prayers** 

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Karen Huber | Arlene Ascenzo | Kay West |
| Mildred Minervini | Ginny Pucillo | Ramona Cummings |
| Emileo Alvarado | Lou Juracek | Ginny Kenny |
| Ryan DeRidder | Jack Grainger | Katie D’Antonio |
| Peter Katzmark | Marilyn Balla | Darice Peruch |
| Elsa Bowen | Barb Gavin | Marti Bradley |
| Jane Breen | Sally Katzmark | Diane Duffy |
| Fred Wuensch | Richard Bowen | Mickey Campanile |
| Richard Prisco | Rebecca Scalera | Abby Hoats |
| Laura Bacon | Vinnie Carbone | Sue Bormolini |
| Vicky Manville | Lucy Dee | Karl Faulkner |
| Stanley Ulc | | Sylvia Yazmer |



Please also keep Matt Cheatham, Dennis O’Connor, Wilson Owens, Timothy Elwell, Seth Lash, Stephen Danek, and all those who serve in the military, in your prayers.



We also pray for All the Saints, especially Martin Allen, Gerald Phillips, Ron Calderone, Elsa Crane, William Smith, and for all those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

XX

Stay Tuned for Details about our First Ever



*Saturday, October 6, at
St. James Church*



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

Dear Friends and members of St. James Church, grace and peace to you in the name of the Lord who brings us all together in faith, worship, and service. Amen.

At the time of this writing, its 85 degrees, low humidity, and not a cloud in the sky. Virtually no evidence at all of the devastation and violence brought by “the weather” to this area barely a week ago. It just seems to me that a storm of that magnitude would lead to poor and inclement weather for weeks to follow. Not even close. Not a cloud in the sky.

No evidence at all, until you talk to people. Memories and stories, destruction and loss last longer than any weather pattern.

This is not my first tornado. The first official tornado in the history of Woodbury, CT, as I understand it, hit in 2011, and took my car with it. This is different.

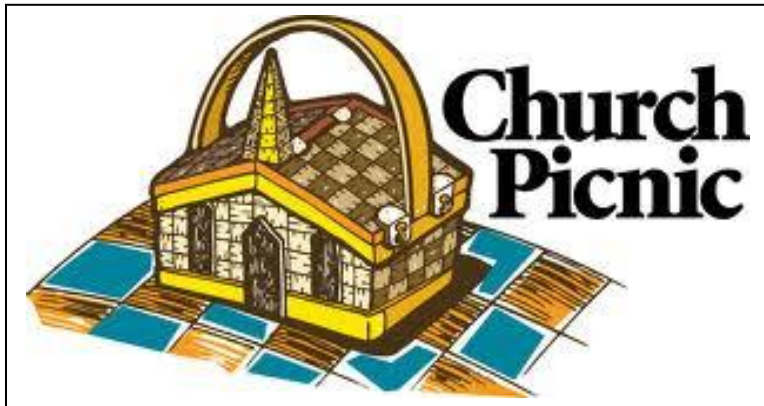
As much as can change in the blink of an eye, or the falling of a tree, the Spirit is every bit as unpredictable and life-altering. The coming of this storm coincides with a time in worship when we are celebrating the work of the Spirit, even when we don’t always understand it.

*“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone in the Spirit.” – John 3.8—*We’ll hear this on June 3 as part of Holy Trinity Sunday. This will lead us directly to John 3.16, perhaps the most revered part of scripture ever.

So the spirit, and God’s love for you, is stronger, longer lasting, and more powerful than any storm. As church we celebrate this, even if we can’t explain it.

But we do not have to, because we talk to people. Stories last; memories survive, and so does witness. What I have witnessed this last week is a community that stands up for one another, perseveres through adversity, and collectively believes that sunnier days are ahead. Amen.

May God bring you peace; I Love you, Pastor Scott



St. James Church

Annual Summer Picnic & Worship at the
Ballantine Park Pavilion is

June 3, 10:15am!

Join Us for worship followed by
a grand picnic and games.

Ballantine Park is off of Old Field Road
in Southbury.



Local Support Groups Focus on Emotional Health

- What:** Emotions Anonymous is a 12-Step program, based off the recovery program of AA
- Who:** Anyone experiencing emotional difficulties who is ready to try this program of recovery. *All are welcome.*
- Why:** To gain knowledge and support from others who have had or are currently experiencing similar issues.

FAQs

Do I have to accept everything you tell me? *EA believes in 'take what you like, leave the rest' - you accept what works for you.*

Are you a cult? *No! EA is a registered 501c(3) nonprofit organization. There are no dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is a desire to be well emotionally.*

Do I have to believe in God? *All 'anonymous' programs are based in spirituality, not religion. Your personal "higher power" can be whatever you choose, outside of yourself.*

Who runs the meetings? *All group*

Meetings Close By:

St. James
Lutheran Church
111 Peter Road
Southbury

**Fridays, 7-8 pm
OPEN STEP MEETING**

Internet/Phone meetings:
Skype, phone, and chat meetings are also available!
Visit
emotionsanonymous.org
and click on 'Find a Meeting'. Then select "Skype phone & internet chatrooms" on the right of the page!

Look for the good.

A meeting list can be found on our website,

www.emotionsanonymous.org. International Service Center: 651.647.9712

PLEASE!!



Always thankful for those who sign-up for Coffee Fellowship! It's a special addition to Sunday mornings, and appreciated by all of us. Please consider signing-up for one of our upcoming Sundays. Here's a "How To" list that might be helpful:

Pastor usually makes the coffee - which is a big "plus" and very wonderful!

Please bring: Large Juice for the children (apple is a good choice), along with small paper cups, 1/2 and 1/2, or whole milk, for the coffee
Cookies without nuts (i.e., Chips Aho, Ginger Snaps, Oreos, etc., or any homemade) or/and Cake
or/and Cupcakes or/and Sliced fruits
or/and Cheese slices with crackers

Small paper plates and napkins are set out with the goodies! Our St. James coffee mugs are placed by the coffee pots, and put in the dishwasher afterwards for clean-up.
Any questions, call Lynn Morrison 203-426-7749



*Join us for
Youth Sunday
June 17, 2017
at 10:15am*



*Celebrate the
impact of Youth
and Family
Ministries at St.
James Church.*





**St. James Church will hold its
Semi-Annual
Congregational Meeting
on June 24, 2018
after (9:30am) worship**

*June congregational meetings at St. James Church
focus on ministry updates from all of our
Parish Life, Parish Support, and PreSchool
Ministries.*

*We will also have...
Elections to Council and other Boards.
Please plan to attend.*



**AN APPLE A DAY:
*Why You Should Get The
New Shingles Vaccine***

The new vaccine is Shingrix. It's approved by the Food and Drug Administration after studying 16,600 people showed it to be more effective at preventing the disease than the first vaccine, Zostavax. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends people age 50 and older, even those who received Zostavax get the new vaccine.

Many older adults are at risk for shingles which is caused by the same virus as chicken pox. Once infected with chicken pox the virus can lie dormant for decades in nerve roots. Once the immune system is weakened by stress, medication, trauma or disease one third of Americans will get shingles. As a person ages their immune system becomes weaker. The risk rises with age and by 85 half of adults will have at least one outbreak of shingles.

Studies indicate that 99 percent of American adults aged 40 or older have had chicken pox even if they don't remember. The risk for shingles infection is much lower for those who have had the chicken pox vaccination in their youth as opposed to a natural infection.

Most commonly the shingles virus infects the torso or face. It usually runs a two week course of crusty scabs that eventually disappear. For 15 percent of people shingles leaves them with chronic nerve pain that can last for months or years. More than half of the chronic nerve pain patients are over 60.

What makes the new vaccine so much better is an additive to the vaccine that boosts the immune system response to the vaccine. The old vaccine was a live virus. The new vaccine is not live virus making it available to those who already have weakened immune systems. The Shingrix vaccine shot may cause a sore arm at the site of injection. Some recipients also complained of headache and low grade fever. Check with your primary care giver to see if you are a candidate for this immunization.

--Diane Iannini, Council Member and Parish Nurse



May 5 was HomeFront Day, 2018

Thank you HomeFront Volunteers!

We greatly appreciate all of your time, hard work, donations and prayers which resulted in a successful and safe HomeFront Day and a very happy family. We hope you all feel a great sense of accomplishment because without your assistance we wouldn't have been able to make it happen. The house looks wonderful! You all did a terrific job.

-- From Joseph Battaglia, our HomeFront Volunteer Coordinator



Join our Ladies Fellowship, James Ministries, and all who are interested in a Palace Theatre Tour and Luncheon



Tuesday, June 12, \$17/person
meet at St. James at 10:30am
see Judy Katzmark for details



June 3:

10:15am Summer Picnic at Ballantine Park Pavilion

June 17:

9am Last day of Sunday School / Youth Sunday

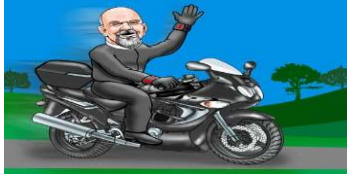
June 24:

Sunday Worship begins at **9:30am**, *through the summer*

September 9:

First Day of Sunday School, **9am**,
Return to **10:15am** Sunday Worship.





Bishop Hazelwood's recent Blog

www.bishoponabike.com: *What does a Bishop Do?*

A short snapshot of three days.

I walk, I talk, I listen. I wish I drove less.

In the last few days, in a non-chronological order, this has been my work. I talked with several different pastors from around our synod. They had various challenges they were facing. One has a staff member who is not playing well with others and this pastor sought advice and counsel on how best to address the matter. We came up with some ideas. Another was facing the challenge of boundaries, not sexual boundaries, but professional. At what point is it appropriate to engage a colleague regarding their behavior? How do we maintain the interests of the church, even when it calls on us to put our friendship with someone at risk? Tough questions. I later heard back from the pastor, and so far so good - but it was not an easy conversation.

I met with a congregation that is in the middle of a call process, but their finances have restricted them to searching for other models of ministry. We discussed part-time pastors, part-time ministers from another tradition, lay leadership, partnering with other congregations. The conversation was honest and open. It reflected the changing times we are in, and the need to think differently about parish ministry.

I walked with someone who had some very creative ideas about how to address the clergy shortage, train a new generation of ministers and offer them an experience in community. The ideas were alive, and fraught with all kinds of landmines, but suggested a new vision that is emerging.

I sat with our deans, leaders of conferences, as we learned the value of how to apply organizing principles to congregational renewal. It was challenging, thoughtful and inspiring. Our speaker framed every single step in a context of Biblical reflections. I saw hope coming to life.

In the office, I sat with our Synod Assembly planning team coordinator. We reviewed details and plans, made lists of tasks to be accomplished along with deadlines. After three hours, I returned to my office exhausted and exhilarated. I then sat and signed 60 some certificates for graduates from our coming School of Lay Ministry, and another 40 plus certificates for deacons and pastors celebrating anniversaries at our coming Assembly.

My hand in a spasm from all the signings, I headed to the car. On the way home, I listened to a pastor as we talked on the phone. She shared her sorrows and disappointments in her work. Her multi-year efforts to teach, preach and visit. Yet, so many in her congregation don't seem to care or value the teachings of Jesus.

Another conversation centered around concerns for people in the LGBTQ+ community. How can we as a church, a synod, and I as bishop, best understand, support, challenge, encourage, celebrate.

Three days. A glimpse into the work I do. In the words of a colleague of mine, "This work is relentless." True, but it is also good work.



ELCA presiding bishop's pastoral message on situation in Gaza

May 15, 2018

Like so many here in our country and around the world, I am appalled and saddened by yesterday's escalation of Israeli military action against protestors in Gaza. Many reports indicate that at least 60 Palestinians, including six children, have died and more than 2,000 have been injured as a result of Israel's disproportionate use of force. Our church will support a planned medical mission from The Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem to Gaza to assist the wounded.

I join Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar of our partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), who today said:

We mourn with the families of the dead and dying and pray for the recovery of the injured. We believe that violent actions against the Palestinian civilians will hinder the potential for peace and reconciliation efforts between Israel and Palestine and will only lead to more violence and bloodshed.

I endorse his call "upon the Israeli government to show restraint and to pursue negotiations with Palestinian leaders rather than choosing violent action against unarmed protestors."

Yesterday's events should also be seen in the context of the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. When that decision was announced late last year, I said:

This unilateral action would not support the cause of peace and a two-state solution but rather would unnecessarily create further tensions and possible violence that would make efforts to bring them back together for talks much more difficult.

I also support the ELCJHL's long-standing position, affirmed by Bishop Azar today, that "any final status agreement will include Jerusalem as a shared city for Jews, Christians and Muslims with free access to holy sites for all and that it must serve as capital of both Palestine and Israel."

Always, but especially in this time of deep distress, I urge us all to join his call to "continue to pray, advocate and faithfully work towards a peaceful and just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

God's Peace,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



*Thanks to James Ministries and all who contributed, in May we sent out **18** Health Care Kits through Lutheran World Relief. **THANK YOU!!***





New England Synod Assembly

June 7-9, 2018



The 2018 New England Synod Assembly will be held at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield, Mass. from Thursday, June 7th through Saturday, June 9th. Our 2018 theme, “Stir it Up”, is what we plan to see happen across the New England Synod this coming year. We’re opening ourselves to be stirred up by the Spirit. Will the Spirit of God encourage New England Lutherans to connect their faith and everyday lives? We’ll be discovering how to stir up those connections so that faith may come alive in the sharing of our stories! Stir up your power, O Lord, and come!

We’ll be joined by our ELCA Representative Stephen Bouman, who will guide us through the Bishop’s election process that will begin Thursday afternoon shortly after the opening of assembly. The Rev. Jeff Thiemann, CEO of Portico will be with us and presenting a Keynote on Discipleship. The Rev. Carrie Smith of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jerusalem will be preaching, as well as presenting a session on her work in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). She’ll be joined by Deacon Adrainne Gray, Communications Coordinator for the ELCJHL. In addition, we will receive greetings from Aida Mansour of the Islamic Association of Greater Hartford. This year we are planning 245’s, which are two hundred and forty-five second glimpses into some of the unique ministries of our congregations, new missions and experiments.



PROJECT
STATUS –
JUNE 2018

As we get comfortable with our beautiful new sanctuary, and other revisions to our St James space, (it’s wonderful isn’t it?) we need to note that an important milestone occurred in May. On May 9th, our construction loan with the Mission Investment Fund was formally closed, and the outstanding balance converted to a long term (25 year) mortgage. We retain the attractive interest rate that was granted at the time of our initial MIF loan approval of 3.875%

We were able to pay down the loan from the peak borrowing of approximately \$590,000 with available funds from the 3 year GROW capital campaign. So the resulting mortgage is \$545,143.22, with payments starting June 1. Payments will be \$2858/month, or \$34,296/year.

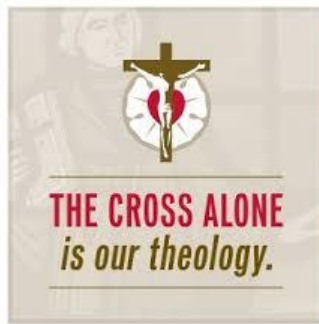
We’ve retained enough funds in the GROW campaign account to handle the mortgage payments for about the next 2 years. But we need a game plan for the longer term. A combination of a debt reduction campaign at some point, and a “permanent” increase in our annual operating budget will be necessary. At some point the mortgage payment will become an ongoing part of our operating budget.

Stay tuned for more discussion at the June congregational meeting on June 24th.

OUR CAMPUS HAS GROWN!

PRAY THAT WE LEARN TO “GROW” IN CHRIST

Life Together....



Life Together....



June




St. James Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>All Worship Services will have Holy Communion</i>	Southbury Food Bank (SFB): 9:30-12 noon Wed & Fri plus 2 nd and 4 th Sat	 delivered Tuesdays usually before 10am	10-2pm Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB 8p: AA	Upper Room Thrift Shop Church of the Epiphany: Tues, Wed, Sat 10a-2p	1 9:30-noon: SFB 7-8p: EA 8pm: Party Set-up	2 10-2pm Upper Room 3pm Recital
3 Pent 2 9am SS /Bible Study 10:15am Worship AT THE PARK 11:15am Fellowship Join us for the Picnic! 2pm: Recital	4 8p: AA	5 <i>Field-Goods Delivery</i> 10-2pm Upper Room 12pm NVCBible Study	6 10-2pm Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB 7pWorship &Music 8p: AA	7 7a-1p: LHS Healthcare Symposium at St. James 10:30a: Worship at the Lutheran Home	8 9:30-noon: SFB 7-8p: EA	9 9:30-noon: SFB 10-2p: Upper Room 12noon: Party
10 Pent 3 9am SS /Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	11 7p: Parish Support 7p: SWIM Meeting 8p: AA	12 <i>Field-Goods Delivery</i> 10-2pm Upper Room 10:30a: Ladies Fell. Trip to the Palace 12pm NVCBible Study 7pm: Church Council	13 10-2pm Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB 10:30&11a:Worship @ the Watermark 8p: AA	14 10a: PreSchool Closing Program 12noon Woodbury Clergy	15 10a: PreSchool Closing Program 9:30-noon: SFB 7-8p: EA	16 10-2p: Upper Room 11am: Recital
17 Pent 4 9am SS /Bible Study 10:15am Worship Youth Sunday 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir Happy Father's Day	18 8p: AA	19 <i>Field-Goods Delivery</i> 10-2pm Upper Room 12pm NVCBible Study	20 10-2pm Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB 8p: AA	21 10:30amSby Clergy	22 9:30-noon: SFB 7-8p: EA	23 10-2p: Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB
24 John The Baptist 9:30a: Worship 10:30a: Fellowship 10:45a: Congregational Meeting	25 8p: AA	26 <i>Field-Goods Delivery</i> 10-2pm Upper Room 12pm NVCBible Study 7p: James Mins	27 10-2pm Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB 8p: AA	28	29 9:30-noon: SFB 7-8p: EA	30 10-2p: Upper Room

2018