

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

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

Dated Material  
Please Deliver Promptly

**Return Service Requested**

September, 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](http://www.stjamesct.org)

email: [stjames@snet.net](mailto:stjames@snet.net)

✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘

**THE ST. JAMES PRESCHOOL**

Leslie Broch, Director 203.264.6448

✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

St. James Church is handicapped accessible and family friendly.

**GROW**  
with us

# ✠ 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. 9am- 11am

Ministers: The People of St. James

Summer Worship with Holy Communion 9:30am

Coffee and Fellowship follows Sunday Worship; Please Sign-Up!!

Our 10:15am Worship AND SUNDAY SCHOOL return September 9

## CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Parish Life Teams</b>	Linda Bedard	203.267.1066
	Judy Katzmark, <i>Council President</i>	203.264.4980
	Mike Urban	203.264.3234
	Karen Lampiasi	203.586.1492
	Elizabeth Goehring	203.819.3135
<b>Parish Outreach Teams</b>	Tim Peterson, <i>Council Vice-President</i>	203.442.3705
	Jacque Matthew	203.233.9581
	Denise Kuo, <i>Council Secretary</i>	203.405.1137
	Kathy Bocci	203.695.5180
	Michaela Bedard, <i>Younger Person Rep.</i>	203.267.1066
Richard Manville, <i>Treasurer</i>	203.232.8099	

## STAFF & MINISTRIES

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

The Due Date for the October, 2018 issue of The Epistle is September 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Please send submissions to Genie Bisch (stjames@snet.net)  
and Pastor Scott (scottnessel@yahoo.com). Thank You.

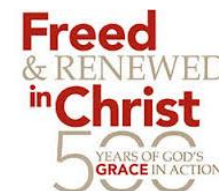
## SERVING IN WORSHIP: September, 2018: THANK YOU!

	September 2 Pentecost 15	September 9 Pentecost 16	September 16 Pentecost 17
Assisting Minister	Jim Mix	Sandi Pascoe	Lynn Morrison
Commun. Assist.	Judy Katzmark	Diane Iannini	Katie McNeal
Lector	Jenny Dressel	Diana Larson	Mike Urban
Acolyte	Ernie Danek	Evelyn Kuo	Emilie Ulc
Usher	Bob Morrison	Ed Danieli	Gary Kline
Coffee Hour	The Kuo Family	Sunday Sch.	Faulk / Av.
Counters	Gale & Jim Mix	Neil J./Bob M.	D&J Kuo
	September 23 Pentecost 18	September 30 Pentecost 19	Worship Times: September 2 worship is 9:30am Beginning 9/9 worship is 10:15am
Assisting Minister	E. Goehring	Liz Skinski	
Commun. Assist.	Judy Katzmark	Diane Iannini	
Lector	Kate Johnson	Lucia Dressel	
Acolyte	Emma Bensley	Evelyn Kuo	
Usher	Jay Kuo	Bob Morrison	
Coffee Hour		Carn/hub/haddy	
Counters	S&J Kelbley	Gale & Jim Mix	

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.





## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

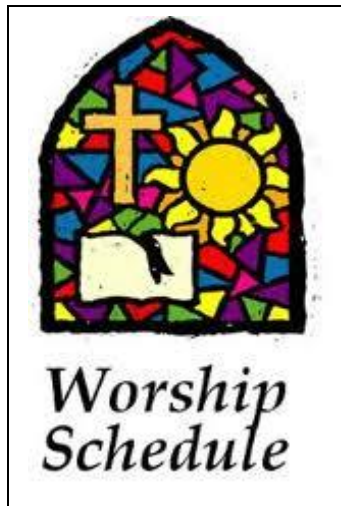
*Dear friends and members of St. James Church,  
Grace and peace to you in the Name of the Lord who brings us all  
together in faith, prayer, and service. Amen.*

**VBS WAS AWESOME!!** Honestly we have had a wonderful and blessed summer here at St. James Church. Continuing to grow into our new worship space, we have had A TON of visitors this summer! We have also had some wonderful new groups and new opportunities to take advantage of a new fellowship hall, truly turning it into an outreach center. We also spent a lot of time bringing together a new church council, building up leaders and spending time planning, dreaming, and visioning. A great summer.

And then we had three funerals within one week, putting on the palpable display of compassion it takes to demonstrate that God blesses all who mourn.

***And then...there was VBS!*** What a great journey and made possible by so many volunteers! Thanks to all, especially to Katie. Katie, by the way, our Director of Youth and Family Ministries, was (among other things) a science major in college. Our “Science Teacher” at VBS is (among other things) an Art Major in college. Our “Arts & Crafts Teachers” for VBS were a physical therapist and a retired marketing executive. Our “Music Teacher” for VBS is a history/social studies teacher, our “games teacher” is (hopefully) a future nurse, and the list goes on and on. The work of the Spirit in this place, and at VBS, puts people in places and spaces we might not expect, all adding up to a great and vibrant ministry to children and families. ***And those kids and their families are so fascinating and full of hope too!!***

Just a great and blessed summer. September, the Fall, and the coming school year look to be one of our best yet. We are also grateful and indebted to our search team and preschool board for finding the absolute best candidate in Leslie Broch we could have hoped for as our new PreSchool Director. *Welcome Leslie!* VBS and this past summer was a great journey, and the year ahead will be a blessed journey as well. *Come to St. James for a great ride! I love you. Peace, Love, Pastor Scott*



**Worship with  
Holy Communion  
at 10:15am  
starts Sunday,  
September 9.  
Join Us!!**



**And Sunday School Starts at  
9am on September 9 with our  
welcome back breakfast!!**





Bishop Hazelwood's recent Blog [www.bishoponabike.com](http://www.bishoponabike.com):

## In Defense of the Practical Bishop

I've been enjoying a summer of reading, writing and arithmetic this summer. In the last week I came across a speech delivered in 1962 by [William F. Winter](#) at Centre College in Kentucky. Winter later became the governor of Mississippi, and now continues his efforts in the area of racial reconciliation through a center he founded in Jackson, Mississippi. The speech is titled, "[In Defense of the Practical Politician](#)." It outlines an approach to politics that was challenging then, and even more so today.

Winter suggests the great value in getting things done. My favorite lines from the speech:

*"In many cases, perhaps in most, the willingness to compromise involves great courage, and the more sharply defined the issues and the more deeply divided the partisans, the greater the courage that is required. Some of the most courageous public officials I know have been the quietly dedicated people of reason who have worked under the most unrelenting pressures to gain acceptance of unpopular but necessary agreements, while bombastic orators denounce them as traitors or worse."*



In many ways Winter has captured for me a central theme of what it means to serve as a bishop. Winter had his convictions, as I have mine, but we both understand that in order to get things done there is a need to work with those with whom we do not agree.

*William F. Winter*

Compromise is not in vogue these days - in politics, religion, education, culture or little league parents. If one mentions compromise, you are considered a wimp, or worse a shill for the opposition. One of the most distressing comments I heard while attending a lecture this summer on the work of reconciliation and mediation was by the executive director of a midsize city. "The process of mediation works. The problem is getting people who are willing to participate. Our biggest challenge is not the issues that divide us, it is the fact that people don't want to participate, they'd rather hold their positions. And this is true all along the spectrum."

In 2014, I participated in a program at Duke Divinity school for new denominational leaders. During the three days of learning, we participated in a session on change theory. The basic idea was that people tend to gravitate toward one of three camps when it comes to change - resistance, pragmatics, and enthusiasts. In America, about 20% are resisters by nature, they just don't like change of any kind. Another 20% are enthusiasts, they want change on a daily basis, they love variety. But, 60% are pragmatists. These folks want to look at the options, discover the reasons and evaluate the pros and cons, all with an eye on "will it work.?"

These seemingly random paragraphs are verses in a hymn titled "In Defense of the Practical Bishop." While inwardly I am very much a mystic driven by intuitive expressions of God, I am outwardly a practical guy. I ask the questions of pragmatism, what can be accomplished and how can we do it together. On the inside I am all about the possibilities, on the outside I am all about the practicalities.

In another post, I'll have to write about the mystics, poets and prophets along with a few demons that inhabit my soul. But, that's for another day.





**Welcome to our 42<sup>nd</sup> School Year!**

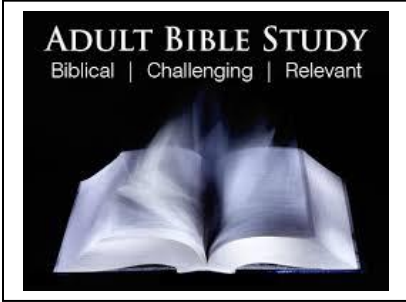
**We are so excited to welcome our New Director Leslie Broch!!**

**Our Annual PreSchool Welcome Teas for the beginning of another great school year are scheduled for September 12 & 13, 9am.**

**To participate, or donate baked goods, see Julie Johnson or Pastor Scott.**



**Sunday, September 9, 9am**  
**All are welcome!**  
**Come to Breakfast!**



**Bible Study for also starts September 9!**  
**Sundays, 9am,**  
**Join Us!!**



**The Rev. Dr. T.A. Gustafson**  
**Educational Aid Fund of**

**St. James Church has awarded a grant of \$400 to Kaitlyn Furr, attending Misericordia University**



*The primary purpose of the Educational Aid Fund is to encourage active confirmed members of St. James Church to pursue higher education (post-high school), either through academic institutions or training programs.*



**What a week at Vacation Bible School we had in the beginning of August!** With the new spaces available to us, we were able to really let VBS spread out and take advantage of the completed building project! We

had families join us from past years and new families as well. Everyone had a good time, and we're already looking forward to next year! We love hearing about the kids telling the stories from the week to their families and singing the songs. We love hearing about how new families come to us because of what their friends and neighbors have told them about our program. This was our 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row of this VBS model, and while we continue to look for ways to grow and improve it, we are excited for it to continue into the summers to come!



Each year at VBS we support a different mission project to carry the joy of VBS beyond the walls of St. James. This year, we filled backpacks for 24 children in the town of Santa Isabel, Puerto Rico as they got ready for the new school year. We even had enough school supplies to provide for some local efforts too!

None of this would be possible without the incredible volunteers who dedicate their precious time and energy to the kids. This program is run 100% through donations collected – donations of time decorating the space, donations of items in kind, and donations of money to aid in general costs associated with the program. We appreciate your continued support in prayer, time, talents, and treasures towards this remarkable week.

And now, after another fantastic VBS, we turn to the Sunday School year starting up on September 9 at 9am! We are excited to have a new curriculum for all of our age groups this year! And be sure to check out the calendar of events for the entire year on our Youth and Family Ministries bulletin board! If you'd like to be a part of this wonderful ministry, contact Katie!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, contact Katie McNeal (stjamesyafm@gmail.com or 412-508-4557).



**Interested in becoming part of a food distribution program?**

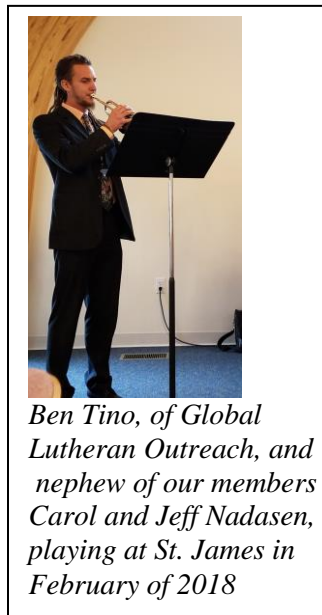
St. James Church has become a distribution center here in Southbury for Field Goods, a "rapidly growing company on the forefront of reinventing food distribution." (from their website).

There are many ordering options to fit many types and sizes of families. For more information, go to [www.field-goods.com](http://www.field-goods.com), or see Elizabeth Goehring or Pastor Scott.



Dear Pastor Scott and the congregation of St. James Lutheran Church,

I greet you on a sun-filled afternoon from God's mission site here in Zacapa.



*Ben Tino, of Global Lutheran Outreach, and nephew of our members Carol and Jeff Nadasen, playing at St. James in February of 2018*

It has been a wonderful four months serving the Lord in the small town of Zacapa, Guatemala, and although some days are not easy I can assure you God's work is being done. My music ministry is going well, and I pray everyday for the Lord to provide me with patience and understanding as I work to not only form musicians in the various congregations, but also for me to be a continuous light of Christ during my time in Guatemala.

I want to thank you all for the prayers and contributions towards my ministry thus far, because even though I am just one missionary here in Zacapa, we are all part of God's team with the same mission: to spread the love of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Thank you again and I hope to visit St. James Lutheran Church sometime in the near future.

In the Master's grip,  
Ben Tino







*from the mailbag...*



We Share Hope & Help after Floods & Other Disasters

July 14, 2018

Dear St. James Lutheran Church,

We have seen a tremendous amount of hope and help in the two months of our recovery response out of Southbury this spring and summer. We have now officially closed down our operations as of July 14. We were able to cut up tons of tree debris off of 198 of 317 homeowner's properties within five towns. We have saved vulnerable or financially challenged homeowners an estimated \$2,970,000 in clean up or contractor fees. There is still a tremendous amount of debris needing cleaning up from non-essential property, but we have been able to return yards to normal function again and make them safe.

We could not have done so without the generous support of many of our volunteers, our churches and friends like you.

Thank you for your generosity in this event and joining with us to be the gracious hands of our Lord Jesus Christ who first loved us.

May God richly bless you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Disaster Relief New England Director

## What will happen to hospital and medical care in the Naugatuck Valley after October 1, 2019?

Almost 2 years ago ago, Waterbury Hospital was sold to a for-profit company, **Prospect Medical Holdings Inc. (PMH)**.

As of October 1, 2019, Prospect Medical Hospital (Waterbury Hospital) will not have to accept Medicare, accept Medicaid, have an emergency room, or make charity care available, among other things.

*Countdown  
Clicker:  
367  
days as of  
September 30*

## FIND OUT WHAT WE CAN DO:

*Please see Pastor Scott—You could sign the petition!*



An Organization of

**BAPTIST CONVENTION  
OF NEW ENGLAND**

87 Lincoln St. ~ Northborough, MA  
508-393-6013 ~ BCNE.net/DisasterRelief

**BCNE Disaster Relief Team:**  
Director: Tim Buehner  
White Hat Commander & ME Coordin.  
Tim Brown



# LivingLutheran **We are the branches**



--An Article by The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,  
presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America, also available on  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

Is it possible to be Lutheran and an ecumenist? Of course, the answer is yes. The ELCA has continued the work of our predecessor churches—the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the American Lutheran Church, and the Lutheran Church in America—all of which engaged in dialogues with other denominations. When the ELCA was born, its

DNA included the will toward unity. The 1991 Churchwide Assembly adopted “A Declaration of Ecumenical Commitment: A [Policy Statement](#) of the ELCA”—we were barely 4 years old.

Where did this impulse come from and why is it so deeply important to us?

We have just marked the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We were a little restrained about celebrating because division in the church is nothing about which to rejoice. (Though when explaining this sensibility to a Roman Catholic colleague and dialogue partner, he did say the reformers’ insistence on the primacy of the gospel is something to be celebrated.) It was never Martin Luther’s intention to divide the church. Loathing the thought that this new movement should be called “Lutheran,” he wrote: “How should I, a poor stinking bag of worms, become so that the children of Christ are named by my unholy name?”

The intent of Luther and the reformers was to give the gospel free course in the world, to make the evangelical case that it is God’s good and gracious will to reconcile the world to God’s self, and that this has been accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ apart from any human effort.

Early on, in 1530, the Augsburg Confession not only clarified and defended the evangelical position of the Reformation but made it clear that the reformers’ work was consistent with the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. (You should all study the confession. I know of congregations that have read and studied this and all the Lutheran Confessions found in the *Book of Concord*. Ask your pastor.)

This wasn’t a departure from the Christian tradition, nor a break with the church. The Seventh Article of the Augsburg Confession laid out the basis and the possibility for church unity and a variety of expressions of how the gospel could be communicated: “For the true unity of the church it is enough to agree concerning the teaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments.”

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**We all are not only connected to the same vine, but we have no life apart from that vine.**

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But this is really Christ’s intention and the reality that we have in him. Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches” ([John 15:5](#)). We all are not only connected to the same vine, but we have no life apart from that vine. In Holy Communion, we live Christ’s current and our future reality that we are already one. The ELCA humbly tries to embody this truth in the [six full-communion partnerships](#) we already have with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, the Moravian Church, and the United Methodist Church.

We are scripturally, confessionally and even constitutionally wired to be an ecumenical church. This month’s cover story highlights the ecumenical ministries of congregations and the work of [ELCA Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations](#). It is possible to be Lutheran and an ecumenist.

But let me pose this—it is not possible for Lutherans to be ecumenists if we are not Lutheran. This might sound counterintuitive, but I believe it is true. If we aren’t clear and conversant about the Lutheran movement’s way of telling the Jesus story, if we are not clear about the grace that sets us free, if we waffle on the conviction that the reconciliation and redemption of the world is God’s work and not ours, how can we enter into dialogue and relationship with other branches of the Christian tradition?

I called on us to read the Small Catechism during 2017. If you have put your copy away, dust it off and start studying.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.





# VBS: What an Awesome Journey!!

St. James VBS 2018

This Week We Went on a.....

## Journey with God!!!



# VBS: What an Awesome Journey!!





# September



## St. James Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*God's work. Our hands.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Holy Communion is offered at all worship services</i>		Upper Room Thrift Shop at Church of the Epiphany: Tues, Wed & Sat 10-2 pm	9:30-noon: SFB Mon & Fri and on 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat. 8:30-10:30 am			<b>1</b> 10-2pm Upper Room
2 Pentecost 15 9:30 am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	<b>3</b> <i>Happy Labor Day!</i> 8:00 AA 	<b>4</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 12NVC BibleStudy	<b>5</b> 9:30-noon: SFB 10:30&11 Worship @ Watermark 7pm Fall Fest Plan 8:00 AA	<b>6</b> <i>Preschool Starts!</i> 10:30 LHS Worship 3-6 pm S'bury Farmers' Market	<b>7</b> <i>Preschool Starts!</i> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>8</b> <i>Come Volunteer to help with our Landscaping!</i>  8:30-10:30 SFB 10-2pm Upper Rm.
9 Pentecost 16 9am SS Breakfast 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	<b>10</b> 7pm Parish Support 8:00 AA	<b>11</b> 10-2pm Upper Rm. 12NVC BibleStudy Church Council 7pm	<b>12</b> 9am PreSchool Welcome Tea 10-2pm Upper Rm. 10:30 Watermark 7pm W& Music 8:00 AA	<b>13</b> 9am PS Welcome T 12Woddbury Clergy 3-6 pm S'bury Farmers' Market	<b>14</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>15</b> 10-2pm Upper Rm.  <i>October Epistle Contributions are due</i>
16 Pentecost 17 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir Council Inst & Picnic	<b>17</b> 8:00 AA	<b>18</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 12NVC BibleStudy	<b>19</b> 10-2pm Upper Rm. 9:30-noon: SFB 8:00 AA	<b>20</b> 10:30 SBY Clergy 3-6 pm S'bury Farmers' Market 7pm PreSch. Board	<b>21</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>22</b> 8:30-10:30 SFB 10-2pm Upper Rm. 11am VBS Reunion 4pm Band Practice
23 Pentecost 18 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	<b>24</b> 8:00 AA	<b>25</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 12NVC BibleStudy	<b>26</b> 10-2pm Upper Rm 9:30-noon: SFB 7pm Fall Fest Plan 8:00 AA	<b>27</b> 3-6 pm S'bury Farmers' Market	<b>28</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>29</b> 10-2pm Upper Rm.
30 Pentecost 19 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir		<i>September 9 in Worship we are installing Teachers and 'Blessing the Backpacks'</i>	 <i>October 6!!!</i>	<i>Bible Presentations September 16 in Worship</i>		