

**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**

December, 2018

# THE EPISTLE

*"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only." James 1:22*



*Advent*  
A Season of Hope  
& Expectation



**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.

**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. 9am- 11am

Ministers: The People of St. James

Sunday School & Bible Study 9am  
 Worship with Holy Communion 10:15am  
 Summer Worship with Holy Communion (June, July, August) 9:30am  
 Coffee and Fellowship follows Sunday Worship; Please Sign-Up!!

## CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Parish Life Teams</b>	Linda Bedard	203.267.1066
	Judy Katzmark, <i>Council President</i>	203.264.4980
	Tammy Faulkner	203.267.6097
	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

<b>Genie Bisch</b>	<i>Parish Secy., Preschool Admin. Asst.</i>	203.264.6446
	<i>M,T,Th 3-5:30pm; Fri. 7:30-10:30am</i>	
<b>Leslie Broch</b>	<i>Director, St. James PreSchool</i>	203.264.6448
<b>John Dressel</b>	<i>Director of Music</i>	203.758.8963
<b>Tammy Faulkner</b>	<i>Coordinator, Youth &amp; Family Ministry</i>	203.267.6097
<b>Gail Fay</b>	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i> \$\$	203.264.1362
<b>Erwin Weissmann</b>	<i>Financial Secretary</i> \$\$	203.264.7563

The Due Date for the January, 2019 issue of *The Epistle* is Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.  
 Please send submissions to Genie Bisch (stjames@snet.net)  
 and Pastor Scott (scottnessel@yahoo.com). Thank You.

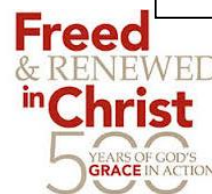
## SERVING IN WORSHIP: December, 2018: THANK YOU!

	December 2 Advent 1	December 9 Advent 2	December 16 Advent 3
Assisting Min	Lynn Morrison	Neil Johnson	E. Goehring
Communion Asst	Judy Katzmark	Diane Iannini	Judy Katzmark
Lector	Barb Manville	Curt Haedke	Sophia Bedard
Cantor	Lucia Dressel	Marion Allen	Neil Johnson
Acolyte	Emilie Ulc	Ernie Danek	Evelyn Kuo
Usher	Bob Morrison	Ed Danieli	Gary Kline
Coffee Hour Counters	S & J Kelbley	Neil J / Bob M	D & J Kuo
	December 23 Advent 4	December 24 Christmas Eve, 4p	December 30 Christmas 1
Assisting Min	Liz Skinski	Lynn Morrison	Barb Manville
Communion Asst	Diane Iannini	Judy Katzmark	Lynn Morrison
Lector	Lynn Morrison	Katie Dressel	Diana Larson
Cantor	E. Goehring	Lucia Dressel	Jenny Dressel
Acolyte	Emma Bensley	Evelyn Kuo	Emilie Ulc
Usher	Jay Kuo	Bob Morrison	Gary Kline
Coffee Hour Counters	S & J Kelbley	Erwin W.	Erwin W.

**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,

It's coming! And it's already here. Welcome to a new church year and the Season of Advent. Together, and with the Church in the World, we'll wait and prepare for the coming of the Lord; both with the birth of Christ at Christmas but also the *second coming* of Christ. Through worship, prayer, song and fellowship we anxiously wait and prepare for this (and these) coming(s).

In a time of anticipation, we wait. In a time of contemplation, we prepare for the Coming of Christ.

However, this is a little different than waiting and preparing to get a driver's license, or even working toward a graduation. With Advent's discipline of waiting and preparing we also build hope; and promise turns into expectation.

*So don't just wait for the Kingdom—See it!*

See the hope that comes with the promise of God. See how promise turns to joy.

Even though the birth of Christ has already happened in the past, and the second coming will happen in the future, we abide somewhere in the middle, but hope, promise, and expectation are right there with us.

The Psalm for the first Sunday of Advent asks for God's teaching and truth. I had a conversation recently that wondered if God was really teaching us anything. My concern is more with our learning than the teaching. There is hope—do we see it? God's promises are there with us in whatever kind of middle we may find ourselves in—do we see it?

*So don't just wait for the Kingdom—See it!*

Our life together in the Gospel at St. James Church has given me more than a few examples of God's abundant mercy, right there in front of us. We wait for a Kingdom that we can also see, and share! *Have a blessed Advent Season, and a very Merry Christmas.*

*I Love you. Peace, Pastor Scott*



## Worship Schedule, December 24<sup>th</sup>

### Christmas Eve Worship

#### **4pm Family Worship**

**The Proclamation of Christmas**

**Blessing of the Nativity Scene**

**Children Singing**

**Holy Communion**

**Silent Night Candlelight Vigil**

**Special Music**

#### **9pm Candlelight Worship**

**Holy Communion**

**Silent Night Candlelight Vigil**

**Special Music**

**Everyone is welcome. Always.**



# U.S. Wildfires



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

## U.S. WILDFIRES

### The Situation:

Wildfires are raging across California, destroying thousands of homes and wiping out the town of Paradise, located north of Sacramento. Multiple deaths have been confirmed and large-scale, mandatory evacuations are in place for multiple communities across the state's impacted areas as first responders work to gain control of the fires.

### Our Response:

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, Lutheran Social Services of Northern California and the California synods to respond to this fire. As the fires are still raging, we continue to assess the ever-changing situation to determine the best ways to respond. Your gifts will help us deliver a robust response to address needs in the devastated communities.

### What you can do:

**Pray:** Please pray for the communities who are in the path of wildfires in California. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn the loss of loved ones and strength to those who are working diligently to contain the fires and care for affected communities.

**Give:** Gifts to "[U.S. Wildfires](#)" will be used to assist those affected by the wildfires until the response is complete.

**Connect:** To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

- Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response [alerts](#).
- Check the Lutheran Disaster Response [blog](#).
- Like Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#) and follow @ELCALDR on [Twitter](#)

NOVEMBER 2018 Wildfires are raging across California, destroying thousands of homes and wiping out the town of Paradise, located north of Sacramento. Multiple deaths have been confirmed and large-scale, mandatory evacuations are in place for multiple communities across the state's impacted areas as first responders work to gain control of the fires. Lutheran Disaster Response is working with Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, Lutheran Social Services of ELCA.org/disaster Northern California and the California synods to respond to this fire. As the fires are still raging, we continue to assess the ever-changing situation to determine the best ways to respond. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "U.S. wildfires" will be used to help those affected by wildfires until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Please give today.

### YES, I WANT TO HELP!

Lutheran Disaster Response: *U.S. wildfires* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0077

Lutheran Disaster Response: *Where needed most* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Give through your congregation or make your check out to  
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center  
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

Write "*U.S. wildfires*" or "*Where needed most*" on your check's memo line.





A video of the  
Southbury /  
Woodbury  
InterFaith  
Thanksgiving Worship  
on  
November 20, 2018 at  
St. James Church can

be found at:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AvhaBrtUAzWKiZEmO6ar1aAIxO5ZVQ>

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



*and thanks to the Southbury InterFaith Thanksgiving Day Meal  
Committee for throwing a wonderful feast...  
at St. James Church! See you next year!*



## What did Jesus SAY?

On November 18 we concluded our four week Stewardship emphasis series. This year we have used the theme, “*What did Jesus SAY*” to remind us of the many comments Jesus made on stewardship.



Many thanks to our four speakers, Bill Siegle, Lynn Morrison, Judy Katzmark, and Jacque Matthew. The four weeks questioned:

- What are our priorities?
- What do we store up, and for who?
- Why do we worry?
- Do we freely give of that which we have received?

We know, of course, that stewardship is a year round endeavor.....whether it be our financial commitment to St James, or rice for the Food Bank, coats for the needy, coins for the UNICEF box, Christmas Child boxes, time spent in service.....or any of the many outreach efforts we support.

One last saying caught our eye just before Commitment Sunday.....from Luke 8:14, where Jesus explains the parable of the sower.....

**<sup>14</sup> The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.’**

Let’s beware of the thorns in life, especially as we approach this special season of Christmas. Our stewardship *is* a year-round effort. By the way, it’s not too late to submit a commitment card for 2019 giving. It can always be adjusted if circumstances change, and it helps us plan and prepare a church budget for 2019.

May you have blessed holidays.



*Welcome to a busy December with Youth and Families at St. James Church!*



*Welcome to a busy December with Youth and Families at St. James Church!*



*We are delighted to welcome Tammy Faulkner as our Coordinator of Youth and Family*

*Ministries at St. James Church!!*

*Thanks Be To God!!*

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**Caroling at the Lutheran Home!**

**All are welcome** to join us for caroling at the Lutheran Home on Sunday **December 9**. Meet in the Lutheran Home parking lot at 215pm. Come back to the church for hot chocolate, popcorn and cookie decorating after!

**Join Us for Advent Wreath Making in Sunday School on December 2, 9am!!!!**

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**Congratulations to Alejandro Alvarado and his whole family for going to Michigan City, Indiana and winning the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP in Under 8 Football! WOW!!**



*All are welcome to join us for Breakfast on December 23, 9am*



# Mark Your Calendar

## » UPCOMING EVENTS



*Worship for the Sundays in Advent*  
10:15am: December 2, 9, 16, & 23



*Christmas Eve Worship,*  
December 24, 4&9pm  
*December 30, 10:15am*  
*Christmas I*  
January 6, 10:15am  
*Christmas / Epiphany Pageant*



*Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting*  
after 10:15am Worship:  
January 20, 2018  
(with a weather date of January 27)



*Ash Wednesday is March 6*  
*PANCAKE SUPPER is March 5*  
*Lenten Soup Suppers, 6:30pm:*  
*March 14, 21, 28, April 4 & 11*



*Palm Sunday: April 14*  
*Maundy Thursday: 4/18;*  
*Good Friday: 4/19*



*EASTER SUNDAY is April 21, 2019*



**Join us at 10:15 Worship on  
January 6, 2019 for our  
Annual Sunday School  
Christmas / Epiphany  
Pageant**

**Rehearsals:  
Saturday, January 5, 10am  
Sunday, January 6 at 9am Sunday School**







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

## Books that have changed my thinking

The original post was titled, "Books that have changed my Life," but that seemed a little over the top. There are some 130 million books that have been published since, well, since books were published. That means my small list represents some fraction so small, that if you have a beef with my selections...go make your own more significant list. Sorry, that was a little in your face, but just trying to make the point...to each his own.

*In no particular order:*

**Memories, Dreams and Reflections by Carl Jung.** I was a sophomore in College when I took a class called the Literature and Psychology of Mysticism. We read a lot of weird stuff and we read some really holy literature. This book led me into Jung's way of thinking about life, faith and why I do some stuff that makes no sense.

**On the Road by Jack Kerouac.** Along with the sequel, Dharma Bums, these books captured my imagination, but more than that it was Kerouac's writing style. I'd never read something that was so fluid, so random, so full of run-on sentences that made sense. It's been 40 years since I read these books, time to break them out again.

**Selected Poems by Mary Oliver.** If nature is where you experience the holy, the divine or just plain wonder, no one communicates the significance of life through the words describing the natural world better than Mary Oliver.

**Leading Change by John Kotter.** I devoured the whole series of his books. As a young pastor trying to figure out how to move a congregation in a direction of openness to its community, Kotter's simple steps (but hard to actualize) were my guides.

**Jesus by Marcus Borg.** Despite four years of seminary education, I still lived with a burden of not fully understanding Jesus and his life & ministry. Borg explained it all here. It was clear, and fit with my both/and view of Jesus and very down to earth and somehow divine at the same time.

**The Millionaire Next Door** by Thomas Stanley. This book, along with the recent new version by his daughter Sarah Stanley Fallaw are insightful research on wealth. The titles may make you think I'm into some kind of get rich scheme. Actually, what these books have done, and the first one especially, is to steer me down a path of living within my means, saving and being generous. This was minimalism and FI movement before it was hip.

**The Freedom of Simplicity and Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster.** If you want to understand and explore Christian spirituality, these are the two books to read. Both have been recently updated by the author, and I highly recommend them for anyone wanting to deepen their lives.

**The Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkien.** You were wondering if there was to be any fiction. I first read The Hobbit while traveling by train throughout Europe in 1979, My brother introduced me. I think it's also safe to say, this might be one of the few times book made it into a movie with success. Though I still would have loved it if Tom Bombadell had made a cameo. :)

That's it. What about you?



Women's  
Fellowship and  
James  
Ministries  
Welcome all to  
join us for our  
Holiday  
Gathering on

December 6, 2018, 2pm  
for Lunch at the Heritage Hotel  
and a tour of the  
Festival of Wreaths



XXXXXXXXXX

*A Note of Thanks from  
Paul and Judy Katzmark  
for all the prayers, love,  
support, prayers, and meals  
these last several months.  
Paul is doing better!  
Thank you!!*



XXXXXXXXXX



**Thanks for being  
Rice Responsible!!**

**Please remember, we  
are asking for BOXED  
Rice. Thank You!!**

*Join Us...*



Presents

# Festival OF Wreaths

THURSDAY, DEC 6, 2018  
HERITAGE HOTEL • 4:30 - 7:30PM

All proceeds of wreath raffle to benefit



**SOUTHBURY  
NEEDY  FUND**

*Premier Sponsor*

**THE  
LUTHERAN  
HOME  
SOUTHUBURY**

*Diamond Sponsors*

**Waterbury  
Hospital**  
WaterburyHEALTH

**Newtown  
Savings Bank**  
The Power of Local

**FOOD | MUSIC | PICTURES WITH SANTA**



**Great UNICEF Hugs** to all these angel merchants, stores and restaurants for their willingness to “host” a UNICEF BOX for the month of October (9 new locations for 2018!) ...and to the trusty team who did

the leg work = Marion Allen, Kathy Bocci, Paulette Calderone, Julie Johnson, Judy Katzmark, Diana Larson, Lynn Morrison, Tim Peterson, Marylee Siegle, and Karen Lampiasi!

When you are in these places, don't forget to thank them personally ...and to our congregation, neighbors, families, UCC and South Britain Congregational....

**OUR 2018 GRAND TOTAL WILL BE COMING IN NEXT MONTH'S EPISTLE!! GOD BE PRAISED!!!**

**MIDDLEBURY -** Nature's Goods Market  
Middlebury Wine & Spirits  
Westside Dry Cleaners

**NEWTOWN -** My Place Restaurant  
Newtown Convenience and Deli  
Newtown Hardware  
Newtown Mobil  
Pizza Palace  
Bagel Deli

Queen Street Cleaners  
Dynasty Restaurant

**OXFORD -** Southford Package Store  
Kiran Market  
Pendulum

Yvonne's Restaurant  
Dunkin' Donuts

**SANDY HOOK -** Sandy Hook Laundromat  
Sandy Hook Perk  
Sandy Hook Wines and Liquors



**Great UNICEF Hugs** *(continued)*

**SOUTHBURY -**

Chatfield's	Rathskeller	Crosscutters
Reliant Pharmacy	Denmo's	DiPalma's
Senor Panchos	Jiffy Car Wash	Laurel Diner
Dunkin' Donuts (Playhouse Corner 14)		Marie's Movers
Jos.A. Bank	The Upper Room	Leo's
Southbury Printing	Stone's Hardware	Nardelli's
Mikee's Place	NewburyPlace	Heritage Liquor
Willow Creek Equestrian		Premier Beer & Wine
Southbury Package and Liquor		Adorn Restoration
Lake Wine and Liquor		Burgers & Burritos
Superior Cleaners and Tailors		Mad Greek Restaurant
The Bakery - Playhouse Corner		Business & Ship Center
Convenience Store	Chips	K&M Smoke Shop
Mani Pedi	Oriental Gourmet	Warehouse Liquor
Hometown Pizza	Playhouse Bakery	Fall Festival
Double Twister Ice Cream		

**WOODBURY -**

Jewelry Cafe	Stepping Out Hair Salon
Dottie's Diner	The Garden
Woodbury Diner	Good News Cafe

**Thank You to all!!**

*“Whoever is generous to the poor, lends to the Lord.” (Proverbs 19:17)*





# December



## 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 am– 2 pm		9:30-noon: SFB (Sby Food Bank) Mon & Fri and on 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat. 8:30-10:30 am	Welcome to Advent		<b>1</b> 10-2p Upper Room
<b>2 Advent 1</b> 9am SS/Bible Study <i>Advent Wreaths</i> 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	<b>3</b> 9:30-12noon: SFB 8:00 AA	<b>4</b> <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pmNVC Bible Study	<b>5</b> 9:30-noon: SFB 10-2p Upper Room 8:00 AA	<b>6</b> 10:30am Worship @ LHS 2pm Women's Fellowship Lunch	<b>7</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>8</b> 8:30-10:30 SFB 10-2p Upper Room
<b>9 Advent 2</b> 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir 2:15p: Caroling/LHS	<b>10</b> 9:30-12noon: SFB 7pm: Parish Support 8:00 AA	<b>11</b> <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pmNVC Bible Study Church Council 7pm	<b>12</b> 9:30-noon: SFB 10-2p Upper Room 10:30&11: Worship at Watermark 7pm: W&Music 8:00 AA	<b>13</b> 12n: WBY Clergy	<b>14</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>15</b> 10-2p Upper Room <i>January Epistle Contribs. are due</i>
<b>16 Advent 3</b> 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	<b>17</b> 9:30-12noon: SFB 8:00 AA	<b>18</b> <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pmNVC Bible Study	<b>19</b> 9:30-noon: SFB 10-2p Upper Room 8:00 AA	<b>20</b> 10:30 SBY Clergy	<b>21</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>22</b> 8:30-10:30 SFB 10-2p Upper Room
<b>23 Advent 4</b> 9am SS/Bible Study <i>Christmas Breakfast</i> 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 9:30-12noon: SFB 4p: Family Xmas Worship 8:00 AA 9p: Xmas Worship	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> 9:30-noon: SFB 10-2p Upper Room 8:00 AA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>29</b> 10-2p Upper Room 10-2pm: Caparella Bridal Shower
<b>30 Christmas 1</b> 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	<b>31</b> 9:30-12noon: SFB 8:00 AA		<b>St. James Church Pageant Rehearsal, January 5, 4pm</b>	<b>St. James Church Christmas / Epiphany Pageant January 6 at 10:15 worship</b>	