

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

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Permit No. 35  
Southbury, CT 06488



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

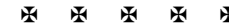
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**Return Service Requested**

**January, 2019**

# THE EPISTLE

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



## 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
	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>	Director, St. James PreSchool		203.264.6448
<b>John Dressel</b>	Director of Music		203.758.8963
<b>Tammy Faulkner</b>	Coordinator, Youth&Family Ministries		203.267.6097
<b>Gail Fay</b>	Assistant Treasurer	\$\$	203.264.1362
<b>Erwin Weissmann</b>	Financial Secretary	\$\$	203.264.7563

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

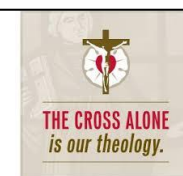
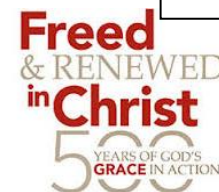
## SERVING IN WORSHIP: January, 2019: THANK YOU!

	January 6 Epiphany of Our Lord	January 13 Baptism of Our Lord
Assisting Minister	Lynn Morrison	Neil Johnson
Communion Assistant	Judy Katzmark	Diane Iannini
Lector	Liz Skinski	Kate Johnson
Cantor	Judy Katzmark	Karen Lampiasi
Acolyte	Ernie Danek	Emilie Ulc
Usher	Bob Morrison	Ed Danieli
Coffee Hour		
Counters	Denise & Jay Kuo	Neil J / Bob M
	January 20 Epiphany 2	January 27 Epiphany 3
Assisting Minister	Elizabeth Goehring	Liz Skinski
Communion Assistant	Lynn Morrison	Judy Katzmark
Lector	Judy Katzmark	Diane Iannini
Cantor	Lucia Dressel	Marion Allen
Acolyte	Emma Bensley	Evelyn Kuo
Usher	Gary Kline	Jay Kuo
Coffee Hour		
Counters	Sylvia & John Kelbley	D & J Kuo

*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 stands to reason. When I go back to the Philadelphia Area for a family gathering, I'm usually asked to say grace before the meal. At these same gatherings, if there is a car question, we go to my one brother, a stock-market or business question we go to my other brother, and we go to my sister for pretty much everything else. It stands to reason, then, that I would pray. I'm also often "put in charge of the weather," sometimes that goes better than others. A few weeks ago, though, I think I lost my job. My great niece (my niece's daughter) said grace and quite honestly made me look silly. She's five years old.

Her innocence and energy and pure love during that prayer was what truly put the whole Christmas message into perspective for me. She can say grace anytime she wants.

That same presence is what delivers the Season of Epiphany to us. Epiphany means "manifestation." The Christ, the Good News, is brought directly to us and among us. Maybe we will see it in the magi's adoration of the Christ child, at Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and at his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. All three of these "epiphanies" come with energy and exuberance, they are a celebration of something new and exciting combined with the finding again something we always knew.

These stories are raw and real—they are exciting and open the mind and soul to all sorts of new possibilities. Not unlike an adorable five-year old saying a prayer for her extended family for the first time.

So follow up the good news and great joy of Christmas with the season of Epiphany here at St. James Church. We'll have our Christmas / Epiphany Pageant, which is actually on the Day of Epiphany this year, which is very cool. We'll also see the work of the Spirit alive and well in one of our own as we install Tammy Faulkner as our new Coordinator of Youth and Families. Real. Exciting. All sorts of new possibilities. Join Us!! Wishing you and yours a blessed Epiphany and New Year.  
*I Love you. Peace, Pastor Scott*



***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)

## Yes, it's 2019 Prediction Time

The odds are good you are not interested in this article, nor are you interested in my Best of 2018 list. But here you are wondering, curious and sitting on your couch trolling the internet. Maybe you have even found this page via a Google search or Exposing the ELCA hacks sent you here in search of some heresy. Good news. I'm about to give you some heresy mixed in with some worthwhile thoughts. The challenge is to discern which is which.

**Prediction # 1:** The coming year will seem like more of a roller coaster ride than any other year. We are in for a wild ride. That's true for geo-political economics as well as restaurants that will open and close. My advice is to find your center, and hold on to that above all else. It's going to get worse before it gets better.

**Prediction # 2:** No matter what you think about New England sports teams, odds are we'll be in the run for championships. This means January, May, June and October are going to have energy. Sorry, rest of America, we are just in one of the phases. Red Sox, Celtics, Bruins and Patriots. It's been a great run since 2000...it'll continue.

**Prediction # 3:** In the life of church world, I'm maintaining that even in the midst of all this change, the basics are still what matter:

Churches that do the following will find life and energy:

- Focus 70% of their energy on serving their neighborhood.
- Hold worship services that are inspiring & meaningful to newcomers
- Engage in helping people grow a healthy mature spirituality
- Care for the poor, widowed and orphaned

I could add a million other items, but I think if you do these four well, the rest will follow. The challenge is doing these four consistently over a long period of time. Yes, this is hard work because there are forces that want you to have cat fights about money, the placement of napkins at coffee hour and Facebook arguments. If you can keep your head and heart about you, and focus on keeping the main things the main things...I believe the Holy Spirit will be reborn in your congregation. If not, then....

**Prediction # 4:** More churches will close.

**Prediction # 5:** I'll finally finish that book I've been working on and it will be published. Working title: How Heresy is What the Church needs Now or Rocky & Bullwinkel discover Boris & Natasha infiltrated the Altar Guild.

# CHRISTMAS 2018



*The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God by the following:*

**Anne Peterson:** *To the glory of God in memory of Donald E Peterson; Oscar & Anna Jackson and Carl & Christine Peterson*

**Bill & Marylee Siegle:** *To the glory of God in memory of departed friends; To the glory of God in honor of our troops.*

**The Skinski Family:** *To the glory of God in memory of Liz's godmother, Kathy Andersson*

**The Terhune Family:** *To the glory of God in memory of David C Terhune*

**The Ulc Family:** *In Thanksgiving to God for our many blessings; to the glory of God in memory of loved ones; and to the glory of God in honor of Stefanie.*

**Robert & Sharon Ventresca:** *To the glory of God in memory of Edwin Balla, Marilyn Balla, and Sharon Ventresca.*

**The White Family:** *To the glory of God in memory of Kurt & Anna Weiss and Helen & Gene White.*

# CHRISTMAS 2018



*The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God by the following:*

**The Bisch Family:** *To the glory of God in memory of our loved ones.*

**The Calderone Family:** *To the glory of God in memory of Ron Calderone.*

**Margaret Greenman:** *To the glory of God in memory of Mother, Brother, and Uncle.*

**Paul & Judy Katzmark:** *In Thanksgiving to God for our many blessings.*

**Gary L. Kline –** *To the glory of God in memory of Loretta Kline and Robert Austin*

**Jacque Matthew & Family:** *To the glory of God in memory of Sonia Matthew.*

**Pastor Scott Nessel & Family:** *To the glory of God in honor of our St. James family.*



**St. James Church**  
God's work. Our hands.

## Join Us January 20, 2019 after 10:15 Worship for our Semi- Annual Congregational Meeting

*Weather Date: January 27, 2019*

*Draft Meeting Packets available January 13*

*On the Agenda:*

*Financial Ministries Reports*

*2019 Proposed Operating Budget*

## Congregational Meeting



*We have had a wonderful autumn and early winter in the preschool!*

We've enjoyed many family events. One of our favorites was a special Thanksgiving Gathering where the children voted via ballots on whether to make corn bread or pumpkin muffins. They smelled, measured and mixed the ingredients and we enjoyed them with the families after reading from the "Thankful" placemats they created.

Everyday the children are engaged at the easel, writing table, building areas, dramatic play, sensory stations, library, puzzles, table toys and playground. They are growing in leaps and bounds, challenging themselves and responding with interest and curiosity to teacher-initiated literacy and math activities as well.

I am so grateful to be a part of the Preschool. It really is a special place to work and play.

*Warmly, Leslie Broch*  
*Director/Head Teacher*



# Mark Your Calendar

## » UPCOMING EVENTS



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



*Shrove Tuesday  
PANCAKE SUPPER is March 5*



*Ash Wednesday is March 6  
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*



**VBS 2019:  
July 29 – August 2, 2019**



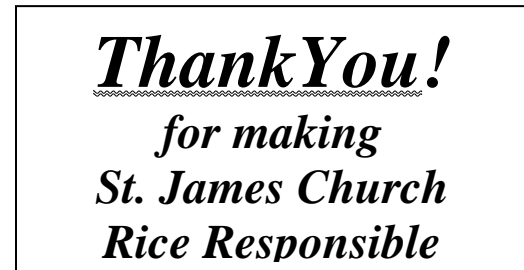
*Interested in becoming part of a food distribution program?*

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.

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The Southbury Food Bank has asked that we make all of our rice donations

**BOXED. Thank You!!**

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**All Who Are Interested in Planning for a New, Alternate Worship** (on Saturdays, perhaps?)  
Join Us!! Our next Meeting is January 9. *All are welcome!*



\*\*\*\*\*



*Please consider signing the petition.*



## An Update from Ben Tino!



*Ben Tino, the nephew of St. James Church member Carol Nadasen, is serving in Guatamala. Here are some clips from his latest update:*

*MY WORK as the music director and missionary is keeping me plenty busy. All throughout the week I am teaching music lessons to church members and non-church members, who I pray will eventually find God. Also, rehearsals for Christmas programs have begun and I pray that everything will run smoothly for my first Christmas here.*

(Pictures from top left to right: Me singing songs with kids in La Trementina, giving voice lessons to a student, singing songs with the youth accompanied by a guitar student, kids of La Trementina)

**Conectado con Cristo 2018:** "Connected with Christ" was the theme for this years National Youth Gathering of Guatemala which happened last weekend, December 7th-9th. In attendance were close to 100 youth from the nine different Lutheran Churches in Guatemala. The weekend was spent in the mountainous city of Totonicapán (10 hr drive west from Zacapa) at a retreat center where we spent three days interacting with other youth, playing games, worshipping together, and learning more about Jesus. From Zacapa were 18 youth who participated this year, and we all had a blast running off of no sleep and experiencing very cold temperatures that are common in that part of the country.



**Apple-A-Day:  
January is Thyroid  
Awareness Month**

The thyroid is a butterfly shaped gland located in the base of the neck just below the Adam's apple. Though small this gland plays a big role influencing the proper functioning of the heart, brain, skin, liver and kidneys. Your thyroid gland is like a car engine that controls the pace at which your body functions. Untreated thyroid disease may lead to high cholesterol, heart disease, infertility, and osteoporosis.

Iodine is the fuel your body extracts from salt and food to make the two hormones, T3 and T4 which regulate almost every cell, tissue and organ in the body. If your thyroid produces too much hormone, body systems speed up (hyperthyroidism) or if your body produces too little hormone your body systems slow down (hypothyroidism).

Thyroid disease is more common than diabetes or heart disease. Thyroid disease effects as many as 30 million Americans. Research shows a genetic link to thyroid disease and other autoimmune diseases such as diabetes, arthritis and anemia.

If you have any family members with thyroid disease, are over the age of 60, or have any symptoms of thyroid disease ask your doctor about the TSH test for thyroid disease. The best way to be sure you don't have thyroid disease is have your doctor test your blood for TSH or Thyroid Stimulating Hormone.

--Diane Iannini, Parish Nurse

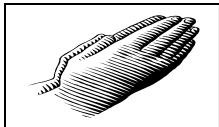


 **In Our Prayers** 

Karen Huber	Arlene Ascenzo	Kay West
Mildred Minervini	Ginny Pucillo	Ramona Cummings
Emileo Alvarado	Kelsey Gerber	Ginny Kenny
Ryan DeRidder	Marilyn Balla	Katie D'Antonio
Peter Katzmark	Barb Gavin	Darice Peruch
Elsa Bowen	Sally Katzmark	Marti Bradley
Jane Breen	Richard Bowen	Diane Duffy
Fred Wuensch	Rebecca Scalera	Mickey Campanile
Richard Prisco	Vinnie Carbone	Sue Bormolini
Margaret Greenman	Lucy Dee	Karl Faulkner
Vicky Manville	Stanley Ulc	Sylvia Yazmer
Chris Best	Margaret Butts	Paul Hubina
Robert Kohler	Steffi Spath	

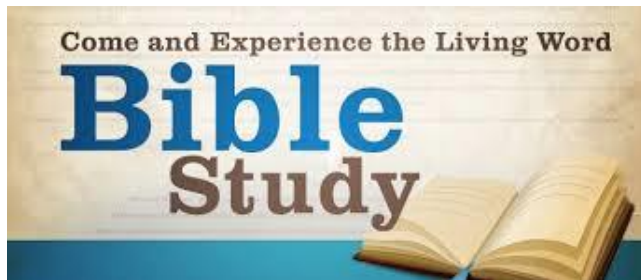


*Please also keep Matt Cheatham, Wilson Owens, Timothy Elwell, Seth Lash, Stephen Danek, and all those who serve in the military, in your prayers.*



*We also pray for All the Saints, especially Laura Rowley, Kenneth Rowe, and all those who mourn the loss of a loved one.*

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***Bible Study is going great!! Sundays at 9am***

*All are invited to join the Adult Bible Study on Sundays – We get a better understanding and appreciation of the weekly readings – it is a wonderful experience! --Bob Morrison*

# January



January	
2	Youth & Families Ministries Meeting
5	Christmas / Epiphany Pageant Rehearsal at 4pm
6	<b>The Day of Epiphany</b> Christmas / Epiphany Pageant Rehearsal at 9am Sunday School
	Christmas / Epiphany Pageant at 10:15am Worship
8	<b>Church Council, 7pm</b>
13	<b>The Baptism of our Lord</b> <i>Installation of Tammy Faulkner as Youth &amp; Family Ministries Coordinator</i>
16	PreSchool Board Meeting, 7pm
18	Youth & Families Movie Night, 6:30pm
20	Congregational Meeting, after 10:15 worship

**Join Us!**



## *Welcome Youth and Family Ministries 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!!*

✠✠✠✠✠



December was a busy month for Y&FM. The kids sang each week, we had Advent Wreath making, Christmas Caroling at the Lutheran Home, and on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, celebrated Jesus Birthday with a breakfast fit for a King! Thanks to the Lyons and the Kuo's for taking the lead on the wreath making and breakfast.

We look forward to the New Year filled with some great activities for all. January starts the excitement. Don't miss our Epiphany Pageant on January 6<sup>th</sup> with practice/review starting at 9:00am. Costume pickup will be on January 5<sup>th</sup> from 3:30pm – 4:30pm. In addition we will also be having a movie night on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm to 9:00pm all ages welcome. Movie to be announced.

*I look forward to working with everyone in my new role as YAFM coordinator.*  
*—Tammy Faulkner*

*...What a December to Remember!!*



*...What a December to Remember!!*



*Christmas Caroling at the Lutheran Home*

*...What a December to Remember!!*



*Advent Wreath Making*



*PreSchool Christmas Program*







*NVP  
Issues  
Asssembly*

# January



**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			
		<b>1</b> <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pmNVC Bible Study	<b>2</b> 9:30-noon: SFB 10-2p Upper Room 7pm Y&FM 8:00 AA	<b>3</b> 10:30am Worship @ LHS	<b>4</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>5</b> 10-2p Upper Room 4pm: Pageant Rehearsal
<b>6 Epiphany</b> 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship <i>Pageant</i> 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	<b>7</b> 9:30-12noon: SFB 8:00 AA	<b>8</b> <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pmNVC Bible Study 1pm Ladies Fell. Church Council 7pm	<b>9</b> 9:30-noon: SFB 10-2p Upper Room 10:30&11: Worship at Watermark 7pm: W&Music 8:00 AA	<b>10</b> 12n: WBY Clergy	<b>11</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>12</b> 8:30-10:30 SFB 10-2p Upper Room
<b>13 Bpt. of our Lord</b> 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship <i>Tammy's Installation</i> 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	<b>14</b> 9:30-12noon: SFB 7pm: Parish Support 8:00 AA	<b>15</b> <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pmNVC Bible Study <i>February Epistle Contribs. are due</i>	<b>16</b> 9:30-noon: SFB 10-2p Upper Room 7pm: PreSchool Board 8:00 AA	<b>17</b> 10:30 SBY Clergy	<b>18</b> 9:30-noon: SFB 6:30pm Youth & Families Movie Night	<b>19</b> 10-2p Upper Room
<b>20 Epiphany 2</b> 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir 11:45 Cong. Mtg.	<b>21</b> 9:30-12noon: SFB 8:00 AA	<b>22</b> <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pmNVC Bible Study	<b>23</b> 9:30-noon: SFB 10-2p Upper Room 8:00 AA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>26</b> 8:30-10:30 SFB 10-2p Upper Room
<b>27 Epiphany 3</b> 9am SS/Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	<b>28</b> 9:30-12noon: SFB 8:00 AA	<b>29</b> <i>Field-Goods Delivs.!</i> 10-2p Upper Room 12pmNVC Bible Study	<b>30</b> 9:30-noon: SFB 10-2p Upper Room 8:00 AA	<b>31</b>		