

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

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September, 2019

# THE EPISTLE

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



HUNGER  
ACTION  
MONTH

Taking a stand against hunger.



✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘

## 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)

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## THE ST. JAMES PRESCHOOL

Leslie Broch, Director

203.264.6448

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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
Sunday Worship with Holy Communion	10:15am
Saturday Worship with Holy Communion	5pm
Summer Worship with Holy Communion (June, July, August)	9:30am
<i>Coffee and Fellowship follows Sunday Worship; Please Sign-Up!!</i>	

## CHURCH COUNCIL

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

## STAFF & MINISTRIES

<b>Genie Bisch</b>	Parish Secy., Preschool Admin. Asst.	203.264.6446
	M, T, Th 3-5:30pm; Fri. 7:30-10:30am	
<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

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

	Sept 1 Pentecost 12 9:30am	Sept 8 Pentecost 13 10:15am	Sept 15 Pentecost 14 10:15am
Asst. Minister	Jim Mix	Sandi Pascoe	Liz Skinski
Communion Asst.	Judy Katzmark	L. Morrison	J Katzmark
Lector	Sandi Pascoe	Kate Johnson	Curt Haedke
Cantor	---	E. Goehring	J. Katzmark
Acolyte	Ernie Danek	E. Bensley	Emilie Ulc
Usher	Bob Morrison	Ed Danieli	Jay Kuo
Coffee Hour Counters	Gale & Jim Mix	S & J Kelbley	J & D Kuo
	Sept 22 Pentecost 15 10:15am	Sept 29 Pentecost 16 10:15am	
Assisting Minister	E. Goehring	Barb Manville	
Communion Asst.	Diane Iannini	Liz Skinski	
Lector	L. Morrison	Diana Larson	
Cantor	Karen Lampiasi	Lucia Dressel	
Acolyte	Evelyn Kuo	Ernie Danek	
Usher	Gary Kline	B. Morrison	
Coffee Hour Counters	Church Council Neil J / Bob M	G & J 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.*

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



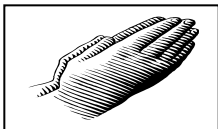
## In Our Prayers



Karen Huber	Arlene Ascenzo	Kay West
Mildred Minervini	Ginny Pucillo	Ramona Cummings
Emileo Alvarado	Kelsey Gerber	Charlie Costello
Ryan DeRidder	Marilyn Balla	Katie D'Antonio
Steffi Spath	Sally Katzmark	Darice Peruch
Elsa Bowen	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	Rose Danieli
Margaret Butts	Angel Guel	Andrew Hubina
Bruce Burns	Robert Kohler	George Senerchia



*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 Margaret Gehres, Jean Vensel, Carol Lynn Dreska, Eric Ericson, Daniel Pisano, Sr., Louise Green, Jane Breen, Robert Mosca, Robert Polley, Lenora White, and all those who mourn the loss of a loved one.*



**St. James Church and Preschool continue to support the rice shelf at the Southbury Food Bank. We have been requested to avoid donating bagged rice as there have been issues with bags breaking and tearing - **boxed rice preferred please!!****



Many thanks to all for their support and generosity!!!

## A MESSAGE



## FROM PASTOR

*Dear friends and members of St. James Church, peace to you.*

September is a funny time of year. For one thing, My Mother celebrates a birthday every September, as do two of my siblings, and the other sibling celebrates a wedding anniversary. Big month.

Some other things happen for me every September as well. For one, I can never get that Rod Stewart song out of my head that begins, *“Wake up Maggie, I think I got something to say to you!”* And then eventually we hear, *“Its late September and I really need to get back to school.”* Can’t get through a September without Rod Stewart, believe it or not.

And then those lyrics get me thinking about back to school images, and a commercial from years ago where back to school shopping marked *“the most wonderful time of the year.”*

Well, my kids are back in School, but for me one of the most wonderful times of the year around here at St. James has become VBS.

Over the summer we read quite a bit in worship from the Book of Hebrews, including the image of a “cloud of witnesses.” That was so well timed for me because with our 5<sup>th</sup> year of VBS, we really have become a VBS community. Volunteers, families, the kids, and everyone else didn’t just form a cloud of witnesses, ***but this ministry has become a force of nature.*** It is such a privilege to be part of that with you—thank you.

But wake up, Maggie! September is the most wonderful time around here as well. September is Hunger Action Month, we’ll have Sunday School, Bible Study, the Harvest Walk, and even celebrate 100 years of the Lutheran Home. ***Join us!!***

*I Love You. Peace, Pastor Scott*



## VBS WAS AWESOME!!

With over 60 registrations and 30 volunteers,  
2019 was awesome and we could really  
**SENSE GOD'S LOVE!**

**Mission Projects Update:** Thank you again for your generous support of VBS mission projects this year.

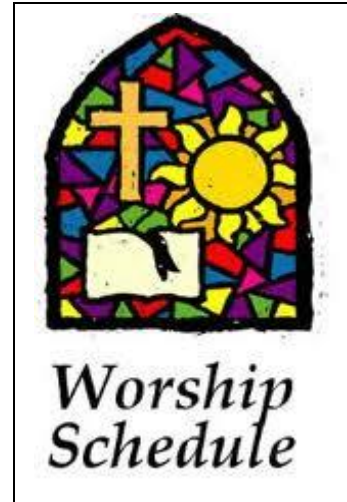
Wow!!!! What a wonderful outpouring of love:

- 30 filled backpacks were sent to Lutheran World Relief for international distribution
- 3 hand tied quilts were completed by the kids during VBS also to be sent to Lutheran World Relief
- 4 Bags of school supply extras were split between the Southbury Women's Club Operation Backpack and New Haven United Way Back to School Drives
- Over 85 pairs of eyeglasses were donated to the Southbury Lion's Club for distribution to those in need

We are blessed to be part of such an incredible community and thank you for showing our children how to reach out to others in God's love.

Thanks to Tammy Faulkner, all of our volunteers and the entire St. James Family for a great VBS.

**Mark your calendars:  
VBS 2020 is July 27-31, 2020!**



Worship with  
Holy Communion  
at 10:15am  
starts Sunday,  
September 8.  
**Join Us!!**



**And Sunday School Starts at  
9am on September 8!**





## Bishop Hazelwood's Blog:

[www.jameshazelwood.net](http://www.jameshazelwood.net)

***Can one be both a citizen and a follower of Jesus at the same time?***

In a former life, not so long ago, I served a congregation that included a wide variety of people. We weren't very diverse in our ethnicity, but we had the whole

range of people, economically, politically as well as understandings of the Christian faith. The parking lot had everything from beat-up old Datsun's (pre-Nissan) to brand new convertible Mercedes. One summer, two families told me they were leaving the church because of what they described as "your politics." One family expressed their dismay that I was not preaching about the most critical issue of the day. For them that would be abortion, they were staunchly conservative in their perspective. The other couple announced that the congregation, particularly its pastor (that would be me), was not prophetic enough in denouncing the current policies around war.

Despite my attempts to broaden the conversation, try to help different perspectives see the others way of thinking (even if you didn't agree) - I felt like a failure. Until I realized it wasn't about me.

It happened again last week. I received an email complaining about my lack of issuing a public proclamation celebrating the 4th of July. As the example, the sender attached an Email newsletter from another denomination extolling the virtues of America. If only I had more respect for the flag, our country and could provide appropriate leadership as a Christian leader. That was the implied message. The week before someone expressed displeasure with my recent encouragement for people to speak out, write to their representatives regarding the imprisonment and separation of children along our southern border. In the same batch of mail was an angry email that I was not doing enough to stop Donald Trump.

Ah, the life of a leader in Post-Civil America. How does one embrace both loves of country and love of God? How does one honor the way of Jesus who embraced the outcast, and live in consumer-oriented US America?

Sure it was easier for liberals to be supporters of Barack Obama and see in him a desire to embrace an ethic of the Christian faith via the lens of Christian ethicist Reinhold Niebuhr. On the other hand, the current President has supporters from different views of Christianity, and see in his policies an explanation of their perspective of the faith. ***What do we do?*** The temptation is to fall into the current polarity of our political culture and claim your side is right, and their side is wrong. (A Reading of Dr. Suess [The Butter Battle Book](#) if you need a refresher). That is indeed one option, and many are taking that road.

I want to suggest a third way. It begins with getting very clear on what one believes and why — articulating that belief clearly and concisely, while at the same time acknowledging possible shortcoming to one's position. Then allowing others to respond, offer their opinions. Let's listen and ask clarifying questions. In the end, maybe no one changes their point of view, perhaps there is a shift, but hopefully, there is at least respect.

For instance, I'll give it a try here: Immigration. I'm very much for a path to citizenship for people. We need immigration for cultural, economic, and spiritual reasons. I believe our country is enhanced in its diversity of people. I'm also well aware that immigration, when done correctly, increases the economic well being of families and the nation as a whole. I also believe that the United States is a unique place and a beacon of hope for people who are suffering and oppressed. I also think that people coming to this country should do so through a proper and orderly system that includes documentation. The current system is broken, and there is no genuine interest in fixing the system. Various proposals from the so-called Gang of 8 plan to President Obama's approach with Dreamers have been attacked from all sides. My position would allow for people already here to become citizens based on several factors, including family relations, economic activity, and evidence of positive contribution to civic life. A system for those not here would be similar. Yes, I also believe we should continue to be a refuge for the world's distressed and oppressed. All of this is not without shortcomings, not the least of which is coming up with a functional immigration system, refugee resettlement program on both the public, private, and non-profit sectors. I'm also aware of the abuses that can and have occurred within our current situation. These need to be addressed, but not in the present manner, which is cruel, vicious, and costly. In brief, I'm for an orderly immigration system, recognizing that there are benefits to all while acknowledging risks that are challenging.

My argument above is ultimately rooted in my faith, my understanding of a wide swath of scripture that calls for an embrace and welcome of the stranger, hospitality for the sojourner, and welcome of the refugee. I'm also holding this position because I genuinely believe it's best for our democracy as well as the economic well being of our nation.

I recognize there are those who disagree with my position or parts of it. Those who claim the faith of Jesus and affirmation of our constitution may hold somewhat different perspectives. That does not make them evil or wrong.

Democracy is hard. Following Jesus is hard. If we want something easy and straightforward, it likely leads toward fewer freedoms and a more restrictive faith. I'm not interested in those options. I'll take the hard work of being a patriot and a Christian every single day, warts and all.



**5K**  
**HARVEST WALK**  
*To End Hunger*

**SUN. SEPT 15**

**MITCHELL  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
— **WOODBURY** —

*Online Reg [www.swim-ct.org](http://www.swim-ct.org)  
On-Site Registration: 12 noon  
Walk Start: 1 pm*



**\$20 PER PERSON / \$50 MAX PER FAMILY UNDER 12 YRS FREE**

**f FACEBOOK.COM/SWIMCT**




*Fall*  
**FEST**

**St. James Lutheran Church**  
**Saturday October 6th**  
**From 10am – 3pm**

**Join us for some family fun!**

**Food • Games • Fun • Music • Crafts • Bake Sale**  
**AND SO MUCH MORE!**

**111 Peter Road • Southbury**  
**203-264-6446**      **<https://stjamesct.org/>**



## COMING SEPTEMBER 29TH ---- A PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR

We all have plans for the disposition of our assets ---- either intended or un-intended. We know the state will direct the disposition of our estate if we pass on without a will or estate plan, so most of us have hopefully created a plan for what we want to have happen with our assets after we have completed our earthly use of them.

After you have provided for family, are there any organizations that you would like to remember as part of your estate planning?

We know that a straightforward way to do this is through specific stipulations in our wills. But there are other creative ways to provide for others that may have tax benefits. Remember, retirement savings plans (that have featured deferred tax) will incur significant tax liability when passing to a beneficiary.

The ELCA Foundation is a part of the greater ELCA church that exists to help members think about and plan for gifts from our estate.

We are pleased to offer a seminar on September 29 after worship to discuss this subject. Yvonne Lembo, who is a Regional Gift Planner with the ELCA Foundation will visit with us, and share information about the Foundation. She will explain the work of the Foundation, and how it might help us implement our wishes in this area.

Come join us during the coffee hour on September 29<sup>th</sup> for this seminar!



The Lutheran Home of Southbury  
Volunteers & Guild will be honored  
at the Southbury Volunteer  
Appreciation Event on September 8,  
1:30pm at Ballantine Park.



And Join us at the Lutheran Home on  
September 14 from 11am-3pm for  
our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

September is Hunger Action Month!  
 Join us Sunday September 15 for  
 Special Sunday School Activities and  
 The Rev. Holly Ostlund, guest preacher  
 from Food for the Poor. Then we can go  
 to the Harvest Walk to End Hunger!



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*St. James PreSchool is getting ready for our  
 43<sup>rd</sup> Year!! Our 3 & 4-year-old classes are  
 filling up fast, but a few spaces are open!  
 Call 203.264.6448 for registration info.*

Our PreSchool Welcome Teas, to  
 welcome

PreSchool Parents and families to a  
 great new school year, are scheduled  
 for September 12 & 13, 9am.  
 Want to help? See Pastor Scott.



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**SOUTHBURY FARMERS MARKET**

Don't forget that the Southbury Farmers Market!  
 It will run through October 10 on Thursdays from  
 3-6 pm on the Town Hall Green. Part of caring for  
 God's creation is being a good steward – we can  
 help this by eating locally produced foods to cut  
 down on use of fuel for transportation.  
 Plus it tastes GREAT!!!



✂✂✂✂



*All are welcome!  
 Saturday Worship is  
 going great! Join Us  
 Saturdays at 5pm!*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Dear siblings in Christ,

As many of you know, last week the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution that, among other things, declared the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) a sanctuary denomination. Many of you are asking, "What does this mean?"

Our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith. In our baptismal covenant we promise to strive for peace and justice in all the world. One of the ways we live out this vow is through our commitment to welcoming the stranger. With this declaration, we publicly state that walking alongside refugees and immigrants is a matter of faith.

We have prepared [talking points](#) to provide a better understanding and further clarification on what sanctuary means for you and your congregations. We acknowledge this will look different in different contexts across the ELCA.

We also hope this resource will help guide conversations with your parishioners and your community about what our faith says about immigration.

*"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Romans 15:7).*

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
 Presiding Bishop





*What a Week it was!*

*Our denomination, the ELCA, holds a churchwide assembly triennially - to worship, vote on matters of governance and policy, and be church together for the sake of the world. The churchwide assembly was full of important votes and actions, including:*

- Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was reelected for a second six-year term on the first ballot.
- A declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association, with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.
- Approved resolution declaring the ELCA is a sanctuary church body, encouraging participation in the ELCA AMMPARO initiative for migrant children, discernment of care for our immigrant neighbors in our context, and the promise of forthcoming resources for this work.
- Approved support for the World Council of Church's *Thursdays in Black*, an awareness movement for a world without rape and violence.
- Voted to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance, in honor and remembrance of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9.
- Approved a declaration for inter-religious commitment, reaffirming ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.
- Approved the recommendations from a strategic task force which has been studying how to work toward authentic diversity in our church.
- Approved memorials: affirming, but not endorsing the Poor People's Campaign; care for immigrants and refugees; and other statements.
- Adopted a new social statement, Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Lutheran Call to Action, and its implementing resolutions.
- Elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer as Churchwide Secretary, a full-time position which acts as executive administrator and leader on all constitutional matters and interpretation.
- Constitutional change for Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) to be ordained, from the previous practice of consecration.
- Celebrated the milestones of 50 years of women's ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy.



***Welcome to our 43<sup>rd</sup> School Year!***

***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.***





Stay Tunes for more info on our upcoming Stewardship Emphasis on

## “Choice”



We'll begin our Stewardship Emphasis on October 13, running through November 3 with a Luncheon to follow.

Our Topic Include:  
*Trusting God is a Choice*  
*Serving God is a Choice*  
*Loving God is a Choice*  
*God is my Choice*

Join Us!

## “Children Helping Children”



\*\*\*\*\*

Over 85 pairs of glasses!



*Presenting donated glasses from VBS to Debbie Molsick, Lions Club President, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right, who spoke to our large group during VBS.*



Thanks to Bill Siegel and Sophia Bedard, our VBS Photographers

# September



## St. James Church

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Holy Communion is served at all Worship Gatherings		 delivered Tuesdays usually before 11a	Southbury Food Bank (SFB): 9:30-12 noon Wed & Fri plus 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat	 Southbury Food Bank		Upper Room Thrift Shop Church of the Epiphany: Tues, Wed, Sat 10am–2pm
<b>1 Pent 12</b> 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 10:45 Quick fall Fest Mtg	<b>2</b> Happy Labor Day 8pm: AA	<b>3</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 12pm NVCBible Study	<b>4</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB 8pm: AA	<b>5</b> 10:30am Worship at LHS Preschool Begins	<b>6 Hammo Retreat</b> 9:30-noon: SFB Preschool Begins	<b>7 Hammo Retreat</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB 11a: Cathy J gathering 5 pm: Worship!
<b>8 Pent 13 Hammo Retreat</b> 9am SS /Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 1:30p Sby Volunteer Appreciation	<b>9</b> 8pm: AA	<b>10</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 12pm NVCBible Study 1pm Ladies Fellowship	<b>11</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB 10:30&11 Watermark 7pm Worship & Music 8pm: AA	<b>12</b> 9am: Preschool Welcome Tea 12noon Woodbury Clergy 7pm: FallFest Plng.	<b>13</b> 9am: Preschool Welcome Tea 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>14</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 10a: LHS 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. 5 pm: Worship! Guest Preacher from Food for the World
<b>15 Pent 14</b> 9am SS /Bible Study 10:15am Worship Guest Preacher from Food for the World 11:15am Fellowship 1p SWIM Harvest Walk	<b>16</b> 7pm: Fall Fest Planning 7pm Parish Supp. 8pm: AA	<b>17</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 12pm NVCBible Study 7pm Church Council	<b>18</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB 8pm: AA	<b>19</b> 10:30a Sby Clergy 7pm: Fall Fest Planning	<b>20</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>21</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB 5 pm: Worship!
<b>22 Pent 15 Council Inst.</b> 9am SS /Bible Study 10:15am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 4 pm Council Picnic	<b>23</b> 8pm: AA	<b>24</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 12pm NVCBible Study 7pm: James Ministries	<b>25</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 9:30-noon: SFB 7pm: PreSchool Brd. 8pm: AA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30-noon: SFB	<b>28</b> 10-2pm Upper Room 12: Korenчук/Albright Wedding 5 pm: Worship!
<b>29 Pentecost 16</b> 9am SS /Bible Study 10:15am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:45a: ECLA Estate Planning Seminar	<b>30</b> 8pm: AA	 Taking a stand against hunger.		<b>OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup>: 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL FALL FEST</b>		<b>2019</b>