

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

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MAY, 2020

THE EPISTLE

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

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠



Easter / The Day 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

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.

✠ ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH ✠

www.stjamesct.org

email: stjames@snet.net

The Rev Paul D. Sinnott, Interim Pastor

Pastor: 860.868.4040

Church: 203.264.6446

Ministers: The People of St. James

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic Saint James is holding church services virtually and the services can be accessed on both the church website <https://stjamesct.org/listen/> as well as directly on the soundcloud website <https://soundcloud.com/user-941164141>

CHURCH COUNCIL

Linda Bedard	<i>Fun & Fellowship, Y&FM</i>	203.267.1066
Karen Furr	<i>Outreach, Fall Fest, Y&FM</i>	203.267.1481
Ryan Furr	<i>Younger Person Representative</i>	203.267.1481
Diane Iannini	<i>Health & Wellness, PreSchool Board</i>	203.240.4438
Judy Katzmark	<i>Council President</i>	203.264.4980
Denise Kuo	<i>Council Secretary</i>	203.405.1137
Karen Lampiasi	<i>Worship & Music, James Ministries</i>	203.586.1492
Richard Manville	<i>Treasurer</i>	203.232.8099
Jacque Matthew	<i>Stewardship, Parish Support, Y&FM</i>	203.233.9581
Tim Peterson	<i>Council Vice-President</i>	203.442.3705
Steve Ulc	<i>Outreach, Green Team, Y&FM</i>	203.262.6526

STAFF & MINISTRIES

Genie Bisch	<i>Parish Secy., Preschool Admin. Asst.</i>	203.264.6446
	<i>M,T,Th 2-4:30pm; Fri. 8:00-10:45am</i>	
Leslie Broch	<i>Director, St. James PreSchool</i>	203.264.6448
John Dressel	<i>Director of Music</i>	203.758.8963
Tammy Faulkner	<i>Coordinator, Youth&Family Ministries</i>	203.267.6097
Gail Fay	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i> \$\$	203.264.1362
Erwin Weissmann	<i>Financial Secretary</i> \$\$	203.264.7563

The Due Date for the June, 2020 Epistle is May 15th.

Please send submissions to Genie Bisch (stjames@snet.net).

Thank You.



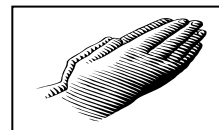
In Our Prayers



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	Robert Kohler	Darice Peruch
Fred Wuensch	Richard Bowen	Diane Duffy
Richard Prisco	Janet Benzell	Mickey Campanile
Margaret Greenman	Vinnie Carbone	Sue Bormolini
Vicky Manville	Lucy Dee	Karl Faulkner
Margaret Butts	Stanley Ulc	Rose Danieli
Bruce Burns	Angel Guel	Andrew Hubina
Nicole Peterson	Gabi Adler	Henri Bigelow
Beth Alvarado	Peter Adler	Julie Johnson
Jim	Neil Chaudry	Iliia
Ben		



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 *Elsa Bowen, Marie McClain, Gloria Rapp, Ellen Savickas, Rebecca Scalera and all those who mourn the loss of a loved one.*

We also pray for all suffering during this time with this malady, those who shelter, those who toil in healthcare and service to others at great risk, and those who have no one else but us to pray for them.

“Please don’t forget your church during this crisis. You can mail your offering to 111 Peter Road, and the mail is collected daily. We are doing our best to provide care and concern for all of our members from the youngest to the elderly and home bound. As you are able, please help us keep being the hands of Christ.”

KEEPING TOGETHER APART

It is an understatement to say that these are challenging times. Not the first challenging times, but the most challenging of times for many of us. And there is no road map, **or is there?** Perhaps we can look to scripture to see how God's faithful people met the obstacles to community, continuity and calamity. So I want you to go to work: send me an email with some examples you have found in the New Testament or the Old Testament, where God's people were faced with things such as we face that challenged our ancestor's faithfulness, and how they met the challenge. I will send a gift to each response.

As you do this work, consider this:

- We continue to worship each week with our Radiochurch® format, courtesy of a team of lectors, music director John Dressel, Rev. Seminarian Elizabeth Goering, Tech wizard Tim Peterson and producer Abby Manville.
- We are working toward an outdoor Drive-in movie format that will allow us to congregate in our automobiles. Details to follow when we have the technology in hand.
- Each Wednesday at 7:45 PM, there is a prayer call-in and if you haven't been invited, please let me know and we will send the phone call in information.
- Sunday mornings at 9:30 is Zoom Sunday School, and Tammy Faulkner and the YAFM team send out craft and lesson materials to families.

KEEPING TOGETHER APART

- Our sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation for no more than 5 persons (observing safety guidelines) on Thursdays 4-6 PM; Saturdays 2-4 PM and Sundays 12 noon -2 PM.
- Rice donations have been taken to GWIM, since the Southbury Food Program has temporarily stopped accepting donations.
- Council and Committee meetings continue on line.
- Generous stewards among us continue to send tithes and offerings by mail, while we perfect online giving opportunities.
- Many of you have completed the CAT, if not please do so!
- You are calling me and each other with regularity, holding together the fabric of our congregation.
- Our public witness of thankfulness is displayed on giant signs. And our civic leaders and first responders and our healthcare professionals are doing superb work in the name of the Risen Christ! Thank you!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

You are God's blessings,

Pastor Paul

Let's Look Ahead and SAVE THE DATE!

September 13th is our time to celebrate 50 years of St. James. Bishop Hazelwood will join us at morning services and in the afternoon we will gather at the Heritage Hotel to share a meal, meet and greet old and new members and friends, and look back at our accomplishments and forward to our shining future. Please join us for this celebration!

Stewardship – a year round season

It was last fall when we last spoke of stewardship! How the world has changed since then! A dictionary definition of stewardship (courtesy Google) is “***the job of supervising or taking care of something.....***”. During our usual fall program we are thinking of how we deal with our assets, and our sharing with St. James. But, during this extraordinary season, this definition takes on much broader implications. “***Taking care of.....***” includes ourselves, but especially family, friends, neighbors, our community, the nation and our world! It shouldn't take a pandemic to remind us of this responsibility, but the “lockdown” gives us ample time to think about steps we might take, even if it's only contacts with friends and family. St. James, of course, continues to need your traditional stewardship support. The absence of our usual “in person” services makes it harder to keep our giving up-to-date. Sending a check to the church may be the most straightforward way to keep giving current. We are also piloting an online giving tool that provides a paperless way of giving. One way or another, we need your continuing support to “keep the lights on”, and sustain our staff and programs. Of the many pertinent scripture passages, this one seems especially apt:

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” **Luke 6:38**



What We Do in Worship: And Why!

SANCTUS (Latin for "holy")

The Sanctus is the angelic hymn described in the heavenly vision of Isaiah 6. In this vision, the seraphim are gathered around the throne of God, proclaiming His holiness and glory! By singing this hymn in the Worship Service, the congregation participates in that heavenly chorus: *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: The whole earth is full of His glory!"* Isaiah 6:3

And the crowds that went before Him and that followed Him were shouting *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"* Matthew 21:9. So now we come to the SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION, also known as the Holy Eucharist. In the Prayer of Thanksgiving, we praise God for the gift of Jesus as the incarnate Son whose death on the cross is the once-for-all sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. Second, we ask God to deliver what He has promised and that the Spirit would strengthen the faith and prepare the hearts of all those who will receive (not "take" not "get" - but truly "receive") Holy Communion!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD: The Pastor speaks these, The WORDS OF OUR LORD to consecrate, or set apart, the bread and the wine for God's special use! In the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ gives His true body and true blood in, with and under the forms of consecrated bread and wine. Jesus Himself is present and forgives our sins!

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST: Therefore, as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26

LORD'S PRAYER: The LORD'S PRAYER is the chief prayer of the Christian Church, just before the Sacrament. As children of God, we call upon "our Father" as we prepare to encounter Jesus in His Supper, acknowledging that in the Sacrament He will answer our petitions.

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever." Amen



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



HOMEFRONT DAY – MAY 3rd

Postponed at this time. More info to come as we know more in the coming weeks.

An Update from the Southbury Food Bank:

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, SFB has suspended its normal onsite operations to protect the health of our many clients and volunteers. Over the past month, we have mailed Shoprite gift cards to clients to assist with their grocery needs and have continued delivery to our shut-in clients. Those that were able could shop in-store, order through Shoprite-At-Home (Shoprite provided special accommodations for us), or they could call us directly and we provided a volunteer to shop and deliver to their doorstep.

As of April 15th, we will begin providing “grab and go” bags for clients to pick-up without leaving their vehicle. In addition, we will deliver to all Grace Meadows clients and many seniors in Heritage Village. Since we are unable to practice social distancing inside our storefront space to sort and stock donations, we are requesting your monetary donations at this time to help us purchase large quantity items from CT Food Bank and other vendors. This is a difficult time for all of us, and SFB is supporting our community in the best way we can.

Thank you for your compassion and commitment to help. Thank you in advance for your generosity during this unprecedented time to help us continue to provide food to those in need in Southbury. You can donate online at southburyfoodbank.org

Social Isolation is SOOOO Hard!

Please know we think about and miss you all daily. Imagine how hard it is for those in nursing homes who cannot get any visitors now!!!! We were able to send a collection of 55 cheery thoughts to the Lutheran Home last month. Continued donations of cards, kid’s artwork, anything uplifting would be great! You can send them to Kaitlyn Furr (124 Southwoods Terrace, Southbury) or Lauren Lyons (1133 Kettletown Rd, Southbury). We will make sure they get those who need them! Be safe. Stay well. In faith. Lauren Lyons

God’s Global Barnyard

A reminder that the mission project of the SCS for the months of March and April is the ELCA World Hunger Project through God’s Global Barnyard. The kids have come up with their goal to earn \$175 with the help of the congregation:

- 10 chicks (\$10)
- 1 rooster (\$15)
- Honeybees (\$20)
- 1 pig (\$30)
- 1 goat (\$50)
- 1 set seeds and gardening tools (\$50)

We have raised \$51.71 toward Gods’ global barnyard! We are aware that in these times, funding for world hunger relief will be ever more critical in the months to come. We encourage you to continue to find ways to contribute toward the global barnyard efforts even while we are not meeting in person. Contributions can be made to the church with the memo: Global Barnyard/ELCA world hunger or via electronic church giving with the memo ELCA world hunger.

Join us in Prayer

We have been uplifted by being able to gather in prayer via conference call weekly on Wednesday evenings. Please feel free to join us to participate or just listen and be bathed in community prayer led by Pastor Paul. Call in to 712-451-0839, access code 337751 at 7:45pm on Wednesday evenings.

To You Who Bring Small Children to Church



There you are sitting in worship or Bible study. Your child, or toddler, is restless. Perhaps they're even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and

nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the auditorium. All the while, you're a little embarrassed. Maybe you're a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid."

I want you — you mothers and/or fathers — to know just how encouraging you are to so many.

The little elderly woman who often fills alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. To see young parents and their small children brighten her day, and she may have just received bad news this week about her health, but seeing the vitality of young ones removes — if but for a moment — her fears.

The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of good. But, he sees you — a young family — in church, and you don't miss any gathering. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

To You Who Bring Small Children to Church

Then there's everybody else. Some people will honestly become frustrated by noisy children in church. They have this warped idea that reverence includes absolute silence. It doesn't. When parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples rebuked them (Matt. 19.13-15), but Jesus rebuked His disciples. He said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." The term translated "children" in Matthew and Mark is *paidon*. The root of the word "pedagogue" is from this word. It defined children of either an infant state, or more particularly, it was with reference to those who were half-grown and could be either males or females.

When Luke wrote his account of this narrative, he used the word *brephos*; which means "infants." Luke wasn't contradicting Matthew and Mark's account, because Luke wrote that they brought the infants "also" (Luke 18.15-17). They would have squirmed, maybe even cried. This was likely why the disciples rebuked the parents; as well as that they might have thought that the children were too young to understand the blessing Christ pronounced over them.

Bring your children to church. If you don't hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it might be for you as a parent who's half-asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives as you should

Article by Steven Hunter

<http://aflchurch.org/index.php/programs/mens-page-2/current-mens-link/729-to-you-who-bring-small-children-to-church>



The St James Preschool staff have been busy creating and delivering activity bags to the Preschoolers. What an amazing way to stay in touch and continue learning and sharing.



St James Sunday School will be having Virtual Sunday School Time via scheduled Zoom meeting on Sunday mornings:
YAFM sends out materials for the lesson virtually so the Sunday School children can

actively participate in the lesson from home.

Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministry (GWIM) is distributing packaged food to those in need. The St. James rice donation will be donated to GWIM so please continue to drop off rice to the bin outside the St James' door. It will be greatly appreciated.



Hearts of Appreciation Courtesy of Jacque Matthew and Lynn Morrison!



Pastor Paul Making Masks

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



ONLINE EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY 1	SATURDAY 2
<i>Holy Communion is offered at all worship services</i>						
3 Easter 4 Noon-2pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation SS Zoom 9:30am	4	5	6 7:45 call in opens Weekly Prayer call	7 4-6 pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation	8	9 2-4 pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation
10 Easter 5 Noon-2pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation SS Zoom 9:30am Mother's Day	11	12 YAFM Zoom 5/12 7:30pm	13 7:45 call in opens Weekly Prayer call	14 4-6 pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation	15	16 2-4 pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation
17 Easter 6 Noon-2pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation SS Zoom 9:30am	18	19 Church Council Virtual meeting	20 7:45 call in opens Weekly Prayer call	21 4-6 pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation	22	23 2-4 pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation
24 Easter 7 Noon-2pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation SS Zoom 9:30am	25 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26	27 7:45 call in opens Weekly Prayer call	28 4-6 pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation	29	30 2-4 pm St James Open for Prayer & Mediation
31 Day of Pentecost Noon-2pm St James Prayer & Mediation SS Zoom 9:30am						

2020