

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

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Southbury, CT 06488

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April & May, 2021

THE EPISTLE

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



Easter / The Day of Pentecost / The Holy Trinity

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ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

111 Peter Road, Southbury, CT 06488

203.264.6446

www.stjamesct.org email: stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com

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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 church services are available virtually. 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>Council Vice-President</i>
Ben Dressel	<i>Younger Person Representative</i>
Karen Furr	<i>Council Member</i>
Diane Iannini	<i>Council Member</i>
Judy Katzmark	<i>Council President</i>
Karen Lampiasi	<i>Council Member</i>
Richard Manville	<i>Treasurer</i>
Jacque Matthew	<i>Council Member</i>
Lynn Morrison	<i>Council Member</i>
Jeff Nadasen	<i>Council Secretary</i>
	<i>Council Member</i>

STAFF & MINISTRIES

Genie Bisch	<i>Parish Secy., Preschool Admin. Asst.</i>	203.264.6446
	<i>M,T,Th 2-4:00pm; Fri. 8:00-10:45am</i>	
Leslie Broch	<i>Director, St. James PreSchool</i>	203.264.6448
Diane Peterson	<i>Organist</i>	
Tammy Faulkner	<i>Coordinator, Youth&Family Ministries</i>	
Gail Fay	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	\$\$
Curt Haedke	<i>Financial Secretary</i>	\$\$

The Due Date for the June, 2021 Epistle is May 15th.

Please send submissions to Genie Bisch (stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com).

Thank You.



In Our Prayers



Karen Huber	Arlene Ascenzo	Kay West
Mildred Minervini	Eanna Callahan	Ramona Cummings
Emileo Alvarado	Kelsey Gerber	Charlie Costello
Fred Wuensch	Marilyn Balla	Katie D'Antonio
Richard Prisco	Neil Chaudry	Darice Peruch
Margaret Greenman	Liz Skinski	Diane Duffy
Vicky Manville	Janet Benzell	Mickey Campanile
Margaret Butts	Lucy Dee	Sue Bormolini
Jacque Burns	Stanley Ulc	Karl Faulkner
Nicole Peterson	Beth Alvarado	Rose Danieli
Mike Harman	Brian Mons	Paul Katzmark
Peter Adler	Joe Giordano	Gary Peterson
Gabi Adler	The family of	Marie Horton
Gloria Trede	Rachel Nessel	Ethan Nessel
Diane Miritello	Bernie Jones	Cathy McMullin
Amelia Broch &family	Tim McMullin	Eva Houlihan
The Call Committee		



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



We also give thanks for All the Saints, especially Ryan Rutledge, Marilyn McKeown, Joyce Kaplan, Kenny TaLuba, Norbert, and those we name with hearts and voices.

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am at 111 Peter Road. The appropriate safety protocols are in place and will be adhered to. Drive in church continues as an outdoor option. Zoom Sunday School, 9:00am.

Your offering may be mailed to 111 Peter Road, and the mail is collected daily or your donation may be made online. As you are able, please help us keep being the hands of Christ.



*2021 Easter Flowers were given to the glory of God
by the following:*

The Bisch Family- To the glory of God in memory of Tom and Naomi Griffin; Roger and Dorothy Bisch and all our Loved Ones.

Janet Benzell- To the glory of God in memory of Gretchen Englert.

Paulette Calderone - To the glory of God in memory of Ronald Calderone.

The Danek family - To the glory of God in memory of Mother and Mother-in-law Anna Danek; To the glory of God in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Formica – In –Laws and Parents.

The Horton family- To the glory of God in memory of Marie Horton.

Diane Iannini- To the glory of God in memory of Alice and Peter Mladjen & Craig and Lauren Scott.

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

Gary Kline - To the glory of God in memory of Patricia and Gary S. Kline, Loretta Kline, and Robert Austin.

Jack and Karen Lampiasi - To the glory of God in memory of our parents, Nick & Mary Lampiasi and Alice & Aubrey Kelloway.

Richard and Diana Larson- To the glory of God in loving memory of Sven & Ellen Larson and Hans & Erna Polley.

Hank Rapp – To the glory of God in memory of Gloria Rapp.



*2021 Easter Flowers were given to the glory of God
by the following:*

The Lyons and Siegle families – In Thanksgiving to God for our many blessings

Allison, Al and the Boys Kipp - To the glory of God in memory of Sonia Matthew; To the glory of God in honor of Jacque Matthew.

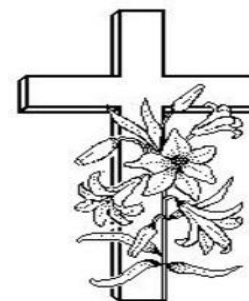
Jacque Matthew & Family - To the glory of God in memory of Sonia Matthew by her husband Jacque Matthew & Family.

Jeff and Barb Manville- In Thanksgiving to God for our many blessings.

The Morrisons - To the glory of God in memory of Pastor Scott, Kenny Tulaba, and Loved Ones.

The Siegles- To the glory of God in honor of the congregation of St James and all its' wonderful leaders.

Priscilla Terhune – To the glory of God in memory of David Terhune.





APPLE A DAY April 2021:

In Connecticut as of April 5, all adults will be allowed to seek Covid 19 vaccine shots. In the US the pace of vaccinations has accelerated to 2.5 million shots per day. CT remains in the top five states for the percentage of the population vaccinated. Cases, deaths and hospitalizations across the US have fallen sharply. Infection rates in the have plateaued about 50,000 new cases per day. In CT the governor has expanded indoor capacity in restaurants, churches, schools, salons and other community events. Infectious disease experts are viewing the current moment as a sprint between the vaccination rate and new cases of virus. In Connecticut 28 percent of people have received the initial shot, 15 percent are fully vaccinated.

Infections in the US that continue to spread are being influenced by the new variants that can be more contagious. Multiple variants in the US have been identified, including three globally from the United Kingdom, Brazil and South Africa. The UK variant is expected to be responsible for most new cases in US by the end of March. The states most affected by variant cases at this date are California, Florida and New York.

No vaccine is yet authorized for ages less than 16. The studies are being conducted now to assess the efficacy of vaccinations for children, infectivity rates among those that are already vaccinated and the efficacy of current vaccines against variants.

As this process unfolds it is still important for everyone to wear a mask, social distance, avoid large gatherings, practice good hand hygiene and isolate and get tested if sick.



A WORD from Pastor Paul

April 2021

By the time you will be reading this, if all goes according to plan, Carol and I will have gotten both of our COVID vaccine doses. Many of you of a certain age or occupation at Saint James will welcome us into that fortunate fraternity. But we will continue to wear our masks, wash our hands, distance in public spaces and be alert. I hope all of us will have the privilege of it by the projection of the CDC, July 4th. A peculiar spin on “Independence Day.”

For a year or more, Saint James has been experiencing a time of “liminality,” What expert theologians call the time of “already/not yet.” And this is the phenomenon of Holy Saturday after Good Friday. We experience the death of Jesus on the cross. We hear the stories of sweeping change through the lens of scripture, and then we wait and watch for the promised resurrection. In a way, we are between life and death, promise and fulfillment; like after we order something and watch expectantly for the UPS driver (well, maybe that’s a stretch.)

Together since January 2020, we have been preparing for, working through, the process of calling a “settled” pastor for Saint James. This is its own kind of liminal space and I want to thank the transition team, church council and supportive members and visitors for the diligent work of focus groups, surveys, historical reflection, listening and patiently waiting. Our Associate-to-the-Bishop, Pastor Steven Wilco, has begun to work with the Call Committee, and I am certain that there are pastors that would consider Saint James a great place with a great bunch of folks who haven’t missed a beat in serving the community during this interim.

Moreover, The Holy Spirit knows who this person is, even if they don’t know it for themselves. The great and expected resurrection story is not lost on any of you, and I look forward to the outcome. It’s not easy to be in the “Already/not-yet” but it’s exciting to have the assurance that God has great things in store!

God’s blessings, Pastor Paul



Our nation (our world) is weary of a good number of things. The list is long and troubling. But there is something especially troubling about the increased level of gun violence and mass shootings this year in our country.

Russian author Anton Chekov long ago held that if a rifle or musket is seen in Act One of a play, before the end of Act Three, it will have been used to an evil end. (Chekov said further that if it wasn't used after Act One, it wasn't integral to the play and should be eliminated.) Fact: There are seven firearms for each man, woman and child in the United States. It is clear to me that these firearms are itching to be used, not for a hunter feeding their family, but by a person aware of the enormous capacity to harm and disrupt.

Full disclosure: As a college student I was held at gunpoint and robbed. In 1978 my best friend died of preventable gun violence. These two incidents were the most profound, and by far the most personal. Thus, I have a complicated relationship with weapons.

We have become too blasé about the reports of these mass shootings. The Sandy Hook shootings appear not to have taught us much, because there have been many such shootings since then and manufacturers continue to make newer and more powerful automatic weapons.

I ask us, people of Saint James, to include the families of these senseless crimes in our prayers. I ask that in your prayerful deliberations, you employ the creative mind that God gave you to empower legislation that will curb the proliferation of such weaponry. I ask you to seek ways in which gun violence is not normalized.

The shortest verse in the Bible is perhaps the most powerful.

“Jesus wept.” (John 11:35)

Jesus weeps with us, for us, about us. Could we not find a way to love our way into a solution?

I'm asking. I value your thoughts. Please share them.

God's blessings,

Pastor Paul



APPLE A DAY

May 2021:

In the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, many experts advised vigorous surface cleaning to avoid contacting coronavirus infection by touching a contaminated surface and then one's face, eyes or nose. They based this advice is based on the fact that the virus could survive on plastic or steel for 48 hours. The Covid-19 droplets were thought to be heavy and easily fall onto objects and hard surfaces. Americans responded by wiping down all their groceries, quarantining mail and Clorox wiping all door knobs, telephones and keyboards. People were so compliant they cleared the grocery shelves of cleaning supplies and paper goods.

The new updated evidence points to infection by touching a contaminated surface is less than 1/10,000. There is actually no real evidence that anyone has ever contacted Covid-19 from a contaminated surface. It has become clear that the virus is spread primarily through the air in large and small droplets. The droplets can hang in the air longer than previously thought. Theoretically one could catch the virus from a surface but it would require many things to go wrong. A large quantity would eventually have to make it to one's face. Cleaning at this point recommended is soap and water. Disinfection is recommended in indoor areas such as schools and homes if needed for a suspected case of Covid-19 within the past 24 hours.

The guidelines do suggest that if a person is positive for Covid-19 and has been in a space within the last 24-48 hours, all surfaces should be cleaned. The focus of prevention is shifting from surface cleaning to improved air ventilation and filtration. This supports the premise that Covid-19 is primarily contacted by droplet infection



Call 'em All Outreach Program."

Presently, we have 145 telephone numbers listed to receive Pastor Paul's wonderful 2-minute weekly devotions, and prayers. Also included are St. James Church important news items, and reminders. If you haven't submitted your telephone number to receive these calls, please call Lynn Morrison, 203-426-7749 or email her at edgelake@aol.com. Please join us!"



"LET'S RING THE BELL AGAIN!"

The Bell Tower, which has been in need of repair and restoration, is a wonderful and important compliment to our St. James Church. We miss the ringing of the bell during the worship services. In an effort toward repairing and restoring our bell tower, donations may be made to help us achieve that goal!

Offerings may be made to "Bell Tower Repair!"



For further information, please check with Lynn Morrison (203-426-7749) or Jacque Matthew (203-233-9581)."



St James YAFM:

Thank you for such a generous and thoughtful care package. I really appreciate the goodies, essentials, and handmade love. I hope that you are doing well. I miss my St James family.

Love always, Kaitlyn

"Welcome, everyone, to this house of God. Let us be thoughtful, reverent and silent. Before the Worship Service, speak to the Lord! During the Worship, let the Lord speak to you!

After the Worship, let's speak to one another!"



Media and Communications Team

"You may have noticed some changes to our emails and website lately. That's thanks to the newly formed media and communications team! Meeting monthly, the mission of this new group is to provide consistent, deliberate, and timely communications through printed, online, and social media content. We were formed to reach out to those inside and outside the church as well as to keep members informed and actively engaged. The group works together to maintain our current communication methods such as our emails and calls, explore new platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, and create a sustainable communications plan. We welcome anyone who wants to help with this new ministry, especially those with experience with print media, reaching out to newspapers, and social media. If you are interested in being involved please contact Abigail Manville at manville.abigail@gmail.com.

Summer Educational Opportunities

Each Wednesday evening, **Bible Study** begins at 7 PM, followed by the prayer circle at 8.

Readings are based on the lectionary for the next week.

Lutheran 101, Saturday conversations about what it means to be a Lutheran. Offered in the Fellowship Hall on May 22, June 11 and June 18 from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. For members new to St James, seekers, and longer-term folks wanting a refresher.

Eucharistic Visitor training: Do you feel called to visit members unable to come to church? Would you like to be trained to do this important and rewarding ministry? Pastor Paul will lead the session after church on May 2.

Confirmation Boot Camp: Two weeks for intensive study in preparation of confirmation. Offered in August (Date TBA)

Vacation Bible School: A safe, more traditional model than last summer, run by Youth and Family Ministries. Open to all children at a very reasonable cost. Stay tuned for details.

St. James Call Committee Update

The Call Committee wanted to provide an update on what has occurred thus far. The committee has had two meetings, the first of which was primarily an orientation. The members of the committee are:

Meghan Colasanto (Chairperson)
Neil Johnson
Mike Lyons
Jeff Nadasen
Prisilla Terhune
Janis Carnaroli (Alternate)

We met for the second time this past week, at which time Linda Bedard presented and answered questions relating to the results of the congregational Church Assessment Tool (CAT Survey) and the St. James Ministry Site Profile (MSP) that was created from those answers. Additionally, Pastor Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop of the New England Synod and our liaison at the Synod for this phase, provided an overview of the Call Process and answered our questions. You can stay updated on our Call Committee page on the website.

In addition to providing you with a brief update, the committee has two requests of the congregation:

1. Please keep St. James, and the work of our Call Committee in your prayers. Ask that the Lord guide us, provide us with patience and the gift of clear communication, and help us as we walk down this path to the next chapter in the life of the St. James Congregation.
2. We are in the phase now of preparing interview questions to be asked of Pastoral candidates as they are identified. The objective is to have a consistent set of questions for each candidate, and we welcome any input from the congregation in this regard. If you have a question that you would like us to consider asking each candidate, please email them by April 11th to: Meghan Colasanto: meghan.colasanto@gmail.com or Neil Johnson: ijn1995@msn.com



Along with our weekly Sunday School Zoom, we had 4 different Covid safe events.

Pancakes with Pastor, **Pretzel Making with the Ulc family**, **Our monthly hike** and **the Dorothy Day Hospitality House**.

Virtual "Pancakes with Pastor" was a great time. Pastor Paul presented Bible trivia to the joy of all. Everyone had a chance to participate in answering questions, turnout was wonderful as were all the pancakes that were consumed.

Zoom Pretzel making was amazing! Thanks to the Ulc family for putting together kits, delivering them, and teaching us how to make them so we didn't have to miss our annual pretzel making event. Sorry we could not share them, but we look forward to it next year!

Thanks to all for your generous donations to help support our first Dorothy Day Hospitality House mission work. We fed 60 people by making 120 sandwiches providing fruit, chips water and lots of cookies, and cookies and cookies! .



Mission Endowment Fund:

The semi-annual meeting of the Mission Endowment Committee will be held in May. The St James mission endowment fund provides the congregation with money for us to contribute to charitable causes. We are always open to suggestions for how the funds should be disbursed and welcome congregational input. If you have any suggestions that you would like brought to the committee meeting please send to committee co-chairs Karen Furr, ksfurr@gmail.com or Linda Bedard, linda.bedard@sbcglobal.net prior to the May meeting.



STEWARDSHIP IN 2021

“Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies is?” This humorous rhyme is often quoted at this time of year as we begin, at long

last, to see the undeniable signs of spring.

So we don’t need to think about Stewardship till Fall, right? Well, not exactly! Stewardship, the job of *supervising or taking care of something*, (according to the dictionary) needs to be a year-round concern.

We’re grateful, that we can see light at the end of the Covid tunnel. Through this challenging season we have been able to persevere, and even grow as a church. Although we’re not there yet, we can look forward to increasing “normalcy” as the year progresses.

Financial health has been difficult, though, and we need a vaccine “shot”! In 2020 we had significant cash loss due to reduced income. And through the first quarter of 2021 we are also seeing a significant cash drain.

Fortunately, we have received some help in the form of PPP “loans” from the federal government. This unprecedented support line has helped churches and many other organizations. We were able to keep our pre-school operating last year, and it will assist with the church operating fund this year. But we cannot depend on, or expect, such unusual support to continue. We have to carry our own load.

In the Fall, we’ll talk Stewardship for 2022, but we need your help **NOW** to stay healthy this year. So we are asking not only that you stay current on your planned giving for 2021, but that you also dig a little deeper right **NOW** to help out.

With your support we will continue to prosper, not only this year, but also into a Covid free future!

Bill Siegle for the Stewardship committee.....



AMERICARES HOMEFRONT DAY 2021

Though it may not feel like it quite yet, spring is right around the corner and so is another year of Homefront Day. IT does sound like we will planning an **OUTDOOR** only event – pushed back a

month to June 5th. All COVID precautions will be maintained. We are still in the process of selecting a project for 2021 so if anyone has a suggestions of someone in the community who needs assistance with the **EXTERIOR ONLY** physical maintenance of their home please contact Joe Battaglia, joebatts@gmail.com or 203-910-2849. Any questions contact Lauren Lyons, 203-982-8415.

Don’t forget the rice shelf!!

The food bank continues to be very busy serving the needs of our neighbors. Please be sure to continue to provide donations of boxed rice so we can keep the shelf well stocked. Many thanks to the following families for signing up to help with getting our rice donations to the Southbury Food Bank (88 Main Street South, in the same complex as the Rathskeller Restaurant). There are a few open months – contact Lauren Lyons if you are able to help. You will drop the rice outside the food bank and their staff will stock the shelf. Mask required please.

Food Bank Stocking Hours:

2nd Saturday of @ month from 11:30-12:30 pm

Call (203)721-0377 to make other arrangements.

May - Peterson

June - Siegle

July –

Aug – Jenny Beaudéan-White

Sept –

Oct –

Nov – Jenny Beaudéan-White



Thank you to everyone who turned out for the St James annual spring cleanup! It was an amazing



turnout and we were blessed with beautiful weather. Volunteers streamed in from 9 to 3 bringing their time, talents, AND tools. God is good! Many hands made light work as we worked through the to-do list put together thanks to Jacque Matthews. The church and preschool is looking beautiful both inside and out. Many thanks to James Ministries for providing refreshments for all our busy workers



COUNTER TRAINING May 2nd and May 16th

Curt Haedke, our Financial Secretary, has arranged two one hour training sessions after church on 5/2 and 5/16 for new and returning counters. Please contact him at curt.haedke@gmail.com or 1-646-734-5561 to schedule your participation. Thank you for your "hands on" support of St. James.



Southbury National Day of Prayer

Thursday May 6, 2021.

Southbury Town Hall flagpole

Two Services Noon and 6 pm

If weather is inclement, Town Hall room # 205.

Per order of Town Hall, wear masks and social distance.

For additional information contact Patti Struski 203 264 0332

With much appreciation – Thank you from St. James Lutheran

Thank
You

Dear Erwin,

On behalf of the St. James Council and Congregation we want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation in recognition of your many, many years of loyal service and dedication as our Financial Secretary and Maintenance Monitor.

Your integrity and attention to detail and the degree of thoroughness and accuracy in maintaining all of our numerous funds, accounts and the checks and balances you had in place are a testament to the accountability and high standards that you set for yourself and for those around you.

You were always discreet, persistent and demanding in assuring that parishioner's confidentiality be maintained at all times which was a hallmark of your tenure in office.

Your meeting attendance and interaction with staff and parishioners, and on many occasions with outside vendors regarding maintenance issues was critical in supporting the needs of our congregation and our facilities.

We are also very appreciative to you for your cooperation and willingness to assist in passing the baton to your successor. But most of all Erwin, we are most grateful and truly blessed to have been in your trusting and capable hands all these wonderful years.

You and Cathy and your parents were both founding and active members for many years, and we would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge and say thank you to Cathy for sharing you with us all those years.

We will be forever indebted to you! May God bless you as we look forward to continuing our journey together doing God's work in our hands.

Sincerely, *St. James's Church Council and Congregation.*

MAY 2021



St. James Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Holy Communion is offered at all worship services in one kind only.</i></p>						1
<p>2 Easter 5 9am Zoom SS 10:15am Worship Lector J Katzmark Cantor Lucia Dressel Organist K Lampiasi Dorothy Day House</p>	<p>3 6pm Communications Team Meeting</p>	4	<p>5 7pm Bible Study 8pm weekly Prayer call/ call in 7:45</p>	<p>6 Y&FM meeting 7:30 pm</p>	7	<p>8 11:30am Rice Shelf Restocking</p>
<p>9 Easter 6 9am Zoom SS 10:15am Worship - Lector Lauren Lyons Cantor Neil Johnson</p>	10	11	<p>12 7pm Bible Study 8pm weekly Prayer call/ call in 7:45</p>	<p>13 Parish Support meeting 7pm</p>	14	<p>15 <i>June Epistle Contributions Due</i></p>
<p>16 Easter 7 9am Zoom SS 10:15am Worship Lector Liz Skinski Cantor Liz Skinski</p>	17	<p>18 7pm Church Council meeting</p>	<p>19 7pm Bible Study 8pm weekly Prayer call/ call in 7:45</p>	20	21	22
<p>23 Day of Pentecost 9am Zoom SS 10:15am Worship Lector Donna Peterson Cantor Karen Lampiasi</p>	24	25	<p>26 7pm Bible Study 8pm weekly Prayer call/ call in 7:45</p>	<p>27 Preschool Board Meeting 7pm</p>	28	29
<p>30 The Holy Trinity 9am Zoom SS 10:15am Worship Lector Beth Alvarado Cantor Ben Dressel</p>	<p>31 Memorial Day</p>	<p>MEMORIAL DAY </p>				