

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

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October 2021

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 stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com

ST. JAMES PRESCHOOL

Leslie Broch, Director

203.264.6448

email: stjameslutheranpreschool@gmail.com



**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 stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com

Abby Johnson, Pastor

Church: 203.264.6446

Ministers: The People of St James

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Saint James church services are available in person and via FM radio. Some sermons and gospels can be accessed on the church website <https://stjamesct.org/listen/>

CHURCH COUNCIL

Linda Bedard	<i>Council Vice-President</i>
Emilie Ulc	<i>Younger Person Representative</i>
Karen Furr	<i>Council Member</i>
Jan Carnaroli	<i>Council Member</i>
Judy Katzmark	<i>Council President</i>
Karen Lampiasi	<i>Council Member</i>
Neil Johnson	<i>Treasurer</i>
Jacque Matthew	<i>Council Member</i>
Lynn Morrison	<i>Council Member</i>
Jeff Nadasen	<i>Council Secretary/Council Member</i>
Kathy Haddy	<i>Council Member</i>

CHURCH COUNCIL

Genie Bisch	<i>Parish Secy., Preschool Admin. Asst.</i>	203.264.6446
	<i>M,T,Th 2-4pm; Fri. 8-10:45am</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 November, 2021 Epistle is October 15th.

Please send submissions via the form on our epistle page (stjamesct.org/epistles)

Thank you



In Our Prayers



Lynn Calderone	Marie Salvatore	Rachel Nessel
Doris Schoppmann	Frank Haddy	Jonathan DeCortin
Diane Defazio	Marilyn Balla	Dottie McGinnis
Karen Huber	Mary Skinski	Rose Daniel
Gisella Bachello	Gloria Trede	Bernie Jones
Peter Adler	Janet Benzell	Charlie Costello
Gabi Adler	Stanley Ulc	Conrad & Meg
Edward Soto	Brian Mons	Isaac
Angela DeCortin	Edward	Mike
Paulette Calderone	Ethan Nessel	



Please also keep *Scott Newdeck, Wilson Owens, Timothy Elwell, Seth Lash, Stephen Danek, Timothy Peterson, Thomas Sinnott and all those who serve in the military, in your prayers*

We also give thanks for All the Saints, especially *Jeff Tinley, Tom Rodbell, Paul Katzmark, John Moehring and all those we name with hearts and voices.*

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

Your offering may be mailed to 111 Peter Road (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.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

October 3rd

Lector: Curt Haedke
Cantor: Lynn Morrison
Chaplain: Janice Salvatore
Counters: Catherine & Steven Ulc



October 10th

Lector: Barbara Manville
Cantor: Kaitlyn Franco
Chaplain: Karen Lampiasi
Counters: Jeff Nadasen, Barbara Manville

October 17th

Lector: Diane Mladjen
Cantor: Liz Skinski
Chaplain: Liz Skinski
Counters: Bob Morrison, Bill Siegle

October 24th

Lector: Lynn Morrison
Cantor: Karen Lampiasi
Chaplain: Tammy Faulkner
Counters: Diane & Rich Larson

October 31st

Lector: Mary Ewert
Cantor: Neil Johnson
Chaplain: Mary Ewert
Counters: Neil & Julie Johnson



A WORD from Pastor Abby

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.” –
Philippians 1: 2-3

When I think of new beginnings, my mind takes me to Julie Andrews singing about them while riding through Austrian streets. As she suggests, beginnings are indeed “a very good place to start.” Everything feels fresh, people are excited, there is energy and hope resonating all around, like music in the air. Not mentioned in the song is that beginnings can also feel awkward and clunky, with much to learn and no doubt changes ahead. They may make us feel nervous, hesitant, or even nostalgic for what was. Truly, a bit of everything mixed in.

Here we are, at our own beginning – coming together with all the anticipation and vitality of a fresh start. The Spirit has been at work in the hearts of each of us, preparing for collaborative work and faithful life in this our shared place. The call process is not a simple one, for candidate or for church, and requires much planning, organizing, and prayerful discernment, which we have thoughtfully done. Your Call Committee took on the responsibility of representing the voices of this congregation. Your Church Council accepted the charge of preparation and provisions. And your synod facilitated the partnership of our gifts as pastor and church. This is a particularly big beginning for me, as a first-call pastor soon to be ordained but I come confident in God’s blessing on this call.

One of the beautiful things about beginnings is often they nestle themselves into the middle of an even bigger story. This may be a new chapter of life for St. James, but this community has been growing, changing, and doing God’s work for many seasons prior and will for many seasons to come. I have learned of the rich history here; beloved traditions and deep relationships established among your community. I’m coming in eager to hear your stories and hold them well while we progress forward into new shared experiences in Christ.

I am delighted to be at this faithful beginning with this particularly welcoming community, undoubtedly, “a very good place to start.”

Peace and Gratitude, *Pastor Abby*



An Apple a Day

So much for the summer of "freedom". Early this year the US had 10,000-15,000 Covid cases a day. We are 10 times that number now. Hospitals have numbers rising in 44 states. Many

Southeastern states have ICU's at 100 percent capacity or close to that number. The US is in the fourth wave of our pandemic due to the Delta variant. Delta's path in the US has varied based on conditions due to vaccination rates, social behaviors and weather. This variant is more contagious than the original alpha variant.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention released data collected on 600,000 cases collected in three studies and 13 states in different US regions. Overall non-vaccinated individuals are more susceptible to infection and death from Covid. Unvaccinated individuals are 4.5 times more likely to get infected, 10 times more likely to be hospitalized and 11 times more likely to die from the coronavirus. Vaccinations are preventing infection, hospitalizations and death. The vaccine effectiveness dropped from 91 to 78 percent with the Delta variant. One study showed a decrease to 80 percent for ages 66 and older. A second study showed a decrease in vaccine effectiveness dropped off at age 75.

There is a debate engulfing the necessity for booster shots. Immunity tends to wane as the 6-8 month time passes post vaccination. There are concerns about the ethics of global supply when one dose helps in preventing death in poor countries with limited access to vaccines. At present the US appears to lean towards boosters for the elderly and immunocompromised. Decisions are expected by late September.

Vaccination is your best protection against the Covid virus. Mask wearing and social distancing are also effective in preventing infection.



Christian Education!

- Christian education began again in September.. Join us at 9am for education for all ages. Keep your eye on the website and emails for more information.
- This coincides with our switch to our school year schedule with worship beginning at 10:15am.

Come Hike with Us!

St James Youth and Family ministries is restarting our monthly hikes. All are welcome to join us for fellowship and a little exercise!!! Our tentative schedule is as follows. Meet at 10am and contact Lauren Lyons 203-982-8415 if questionable weather....

- Oct 30 – Bent of the River
- Nov 20 – Southford Falls
- Dec 18 – Platt farm





Abigail Johnson completed her graduate studies at United Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia, PA in May 2021, earning a Master of Divinity with concentrations in Environmental Theology and Congregational Faith Formation. While at ULS, Abby held leadership positions as Student Body President amid the institutional merger, Sustainability Coordinator for the urban campus, and member of the Student Services Committee for the Board of Trustees. Her academic interests lie in social and ecological ethics, particularly how faith can foster responses to environmental injustice.

Prior to her graduate studies, Abby earned a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and minor in Studio Art from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA. She went on to participate in the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer program, serving as an elementary school art teacher in South Africa 2015-2106. Over the last year, Abby interned as vicar to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Arlington, MA and worked as an interfaith chaplain at Beverly Hospital. Abby has a heart for youth and family ministry, rooted in years at a Christian camp in New Hampshire, from camper to counselor, and up to managing director. She is an active member of the synod's Global Mission Team, Lutherans Restoring Creation, and co-founder of Mustard Seed Ministries, which creates original youth ministry educational resources.

Abby is originally from Granville, MA, a small town in the Berkshire Mountains and raised in the Evangelical Covenant Church. Her family has since relocated back to roots on Cape Ann in Gloucester, MA, where she joined St. Paul Lutheran Church shortly before beginning seminary. Abby is a passionate artist who loves to paint and create. She enjoys using free time for gatherings with friends and traveling to new places. Abby is an avid outdoors-woman; skier, runner, climber, and long-distance hiker. She also has an adorable year-old golden retriever name Thule, who enjoys swimming, tennis balls, and naps in the church office.

Change is the Breath of Life

The above is an old Irish proverb and certainly reflects St. James recently. We have finally taken that next step which means in October we will welcome a new pastor to lead us.

Her name, for those who were unable to be with us the weekend of the 19th, is Pastor Abby Johnson. She will be serving her first call here with us. We will be learning along with her as she begins her ministry on Reformation Sunday, October 31st. Please plan to be at church to welcome her.

Between then and now many moving pieces are falling into place as we help Pastor Abby transition to a new home, area, and parish. On October 3rd, she will be ordained in Gloucester, MA at 2:00 PM. We have made arrangements for this to broadcast here in our Fellowship Hall.

This transition creates opportunities for each of us to step out of our old shells and into new forms as we together change St. James into a new creature transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Judy Katzmark,

Council President

HEALTHY TRANSITIONS
RESOURCES FOR HEALTHY TERMINATION OF CALL

Covenant for Departing Rostered Ministers (Not Retiring)

It has been my privilege to support the mission and ministry of St. James at Southbury, CT as pastor/Deacon.

In prayerful conversation with the Congregation Council of St. James I have discussed the Healthy Transitions policies and expectations of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and I enter into the following Covenant.

I agree:

- to pray for the ongoing mission of the congregation and for their new pastor/deacon;
- to respect the terms of the attached Covenant of Pastor Simnett;
- to communicate to the congregation, in writing and conversation, the terms of the Covenant, which terminates this ministry relationship;
- to not be involved in any leadership or advisory role (public or private) in this congregation and to refrain from behaviors that seek in any way to control the transition process, including any attempt to influence the choice of a successor;
- to refrain from language or behavior that could undermine the development of the relationship between the congregation and a new pastor/deacon (temporary or successor);
- to not support or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement;
- to refuse requests for ministerial services made by members of the congregation, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, anniversaries, visiting the sick and homebound, etc., except as invited by the current rostered minister(s), and to consult with the current rostered minister(s) regarding attendance at worship and special events;
- to encourage my family members to support me in maintaining this Covenant and to support the ministry of the congregation's new rostered minister(s).

(Other items may be added that are consistent with the particular relationship and mission of this congregation.)

It is understood that this Covenant does not affect or require termination of friendships with individuals who are members of this congregation.

Signature of Pastor: [Signature] Date: 8/31/24

Witnessed by President (Vice-President): Judith Katzmaier Date: 8/31/24

Describe how shared with congregation, including dates: _____

After sharing this Covenant with the congregation, please email a copy of the completed and signed document to your Associate to the Bishop, it will be kept in the departing rostered minister's file



October 10th During Service

We welcome Pastor Bruce Potteiger to share the good news about *Food for the Poor*. Pastor Bruce has served our Lord in 40 years of parish ministry in the ELCA. His ministry was spent in Northeast Pennsylvania near Reading, Pa. He has been on over 30 mission trips with his parish churches, rebuilding homes throughout the United States, and has most recently visited Haiti and Nicaragua with *Food for the Poor*.

Over the past 38 years *Food for the Poor*, a Christian based nonprofit organization, has worked in 17 countries in the Caribbean Islands and Latin America, working with local pastors to serve the poor and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Over 94% of all gifts including donated goods, go directly to help the poor, providing not only food but also emergency relief, clean water, medicines, educational material, building homes, micro-enterprise projects, prison ministry, support of orphans and the aged. We welcome Pastor Bruce and encourage your support in the ministry of *Food for the Poor*.

“TRICK OR TREAT for UNICEF - 2021”



....is different this year! Because of COVID, UNICEF is again not having a Halloween box campaign. However, at St. James we have enough boxes from the past to send home with preschoolers and families in church. In addition, we will also include envelopes for all to help children in need.

Please share your prayers and donations in the envelopes or boxes (back by November 1st) to help aid children everywhere, especially in Haiti and Afghanistan where the devastation is so great.

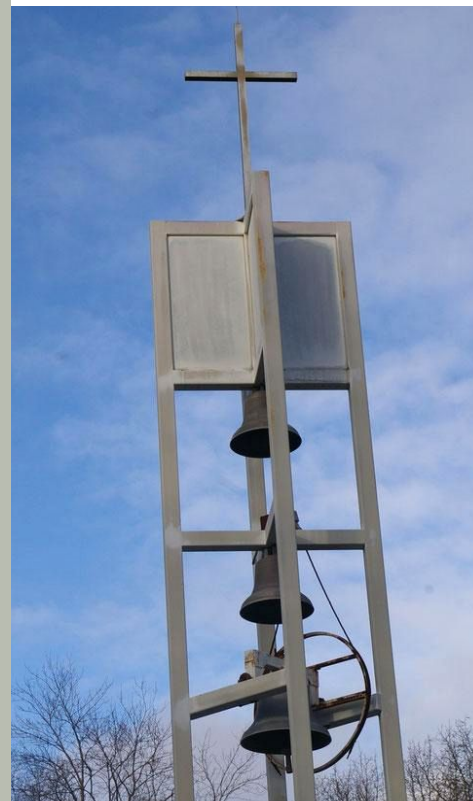
Our donations, which will be matched again this year, will go to food, clean water medicines and education. The look of “Trick or Treat for UNICEF” might be changed a bit, but the need is the same! Remember...

Marylee Siegle, coordinator



“Call Them All” System

Presently, we have 145 telephone Numbers listed to receive a wonderful 2-minute weekly devotion, and prayer. Also included are St. James Church important news items, and reminders. If you would like to submit your telephone number to receive these calls, please register at the bottom of our homepage, call Lynn Morrison 203-426-7749 or email her at atedgelake@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 complement 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 “Bell Tower Repair!” For further information, please check with Lynn Morrison (203-426-7749) or Jacque Matthew 203-233-9581).

Thanks so much to the James Ministries for their generous donation to “Trick or Treat” for Unicef. Kids helping kids! . Every penny is matched! Thank you!!



Give Thanks

All ways and Always

This month as we greet our new Pastor, we also begin our Fall stewardship campaign. Our theme is portrayed on an iron plate that Pastor Paul contributed to our effort with embellishment by Lynn Morrison. It reminds us that we are to **give thanks, always and all ways**. Grateful for the bounty we receive each day, we're reminded that there many ways to express our thanks.....financially, and with gifts of time and talent.

This year we are going to tell the story of how we use the financial resources you entrust to us. Not with columns of figures on a spreadsheet, but with a graphic portrayal along with words from our committee.

On the right you see a graphical display of how we are spending our money at St James in 2021. Each slice of the pie represents a portion of our ~\$250,000 budget allocated to the mission topic -----**Worship, Education, Outreach, Evangelism and Congregational support....and our mortgage**. The graphic only shows our financial expenditures.....we simply don't have the data to show how time and talent are used.

Each week, starting October 10, a member of our committee will speak about one of these "slices".....reminding you of what we are already doing. As we prepare to enter a new season of ministry in 2022 with a new Pastor, we are searching for added opportunities for greater impact. On November 7th we will ask for a commitment for our 2022 program.



You may be surprised at the large the differences in the different slices. Perhaps that instructs us where we need greater emphasis, and how we might do that. So stay tuned this month to hear how your contributions are helping us tell the St. James story.....and how we can do more!!

Stewardship committee – Rich Larson, Jim Mix, Jacque Matthew, Lynn Morrison, Bill & Marylee Siegle



Socktober

The preschool, in conjunction with other local elementary schools, will be collection new socks for donations to local shelters throughout the month of October. Socks are one of the greatest needed and least donated items. It's very hard to stay warm when your feet are cold!!! There is a bin for sock donations in the gathering area.

Fall Clothes Clean-Out?

Saint James is planning to hold a coat drive beginning in November through December 5th. Set aside gently used coats, hats, gloves and blankets when you are doing fall cleanout to be donated to outreach programs in Waterbury or Danbury. We will be collecting items in the medical closet shed as well as in the bin in the gathering area.

Back to school at the Preschool

The preschool is back in full swing with active and vibrant classes. There are still a few spots available if you know anyone with an interested 3 year-old. Please talk to Lauren or Julie or email the director, Leslie Broch at lesliebroch@gmail.com if interested of it you know someone who might be.



Southbury Food Bank Collection

Fall finds the food bank busier than ever! Thank you for your donations of (BOXED ONLY) rice! There is a blue bin outside the old church office as well as in the gathering area for donations. We are looking for helpers to get the rice to the food bank in the coming months. The food bank volunteers will take our donations outside the building and they will do the shelf stocking. Please contact Lauren Lyons if you'd like to help stock!

Lyonsden1133@yahoo.com, 203-982-8415

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

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

Many thanks 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)

Oct –	Feb–
Nov– Jenny Beaudean-White	March–
Dec– Morrisons	Apr–
Jan- Ingrid	May-

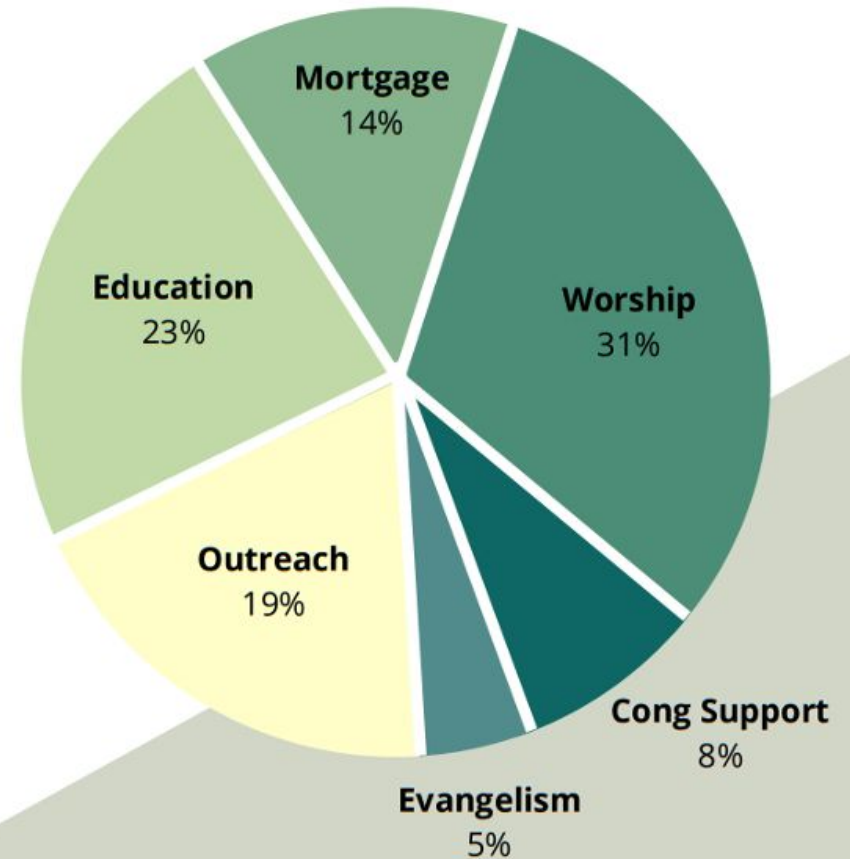
Southbury Farmer's Market



A reminder that locally grown produce will continue to be available through October at the Southbury Farmer's Market, held each Thursday from 3-6pm at the Southbury Town Hall. Stop by for great fresh, local produce and help support local farmers.



2021 Budget By Mission




GIVE THANKS

All ways... and always!

October 2021 Calendar



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts Pastor Abby Ordained	4 7pm AA	5	6 7pm AA	7 7pm YAFM Meeting	8	9 11:30am Rice Shelf Restock
10 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts Food for the Poor	11 7pm AA	12	13 7pm Bible Study 7pm AA 8pm Prayer Call	14 7pm Parish Support Meeting	15 Epistle Contributions due	16
17 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts	18 7pm AA	19 7pm Council Meeting	20 7pm Bible Study 7pm AA 8pm Prayer Call	21	22	23
24 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts	25 7pm AA	26	27 7pm Bible Study 7pm AA 8pm Prayer Call	28 7pm Preschool Board Meeting	29	30
31 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts Reformation Sunday Pastor Abby Johnson				Holy Communion is offered at all worship services in one kind only.		