

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 35  
Southbury, CT 06488



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Dec 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](http://www.stjamesct.org) [stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com)

## ST. JAMES PRESCHOOL

Leslie Broch, Director

203.264.6448

*email: [stjameslutheranpreschool@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.stjamesct.org)    [stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com)

Church: 203.264.6446

Abigail Johnson, Pastor

Office Hours: Mondays 10AM - 12PM and Wednesdays 1PM – 3PM

[pastor@stjamesct.org](mailto:pastor@stjamesct.org)    413-455-6940 (9AM-6PM or emergencies)

Days Off: Friday & Saturday

## 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 ADMINISTRATION

Genie Bisch	<i>Parish Sec., Preschool Admin. Asst.</i>	203.264.6446
	<i>M,T,Th 2-4:30pm; Fri. 8:30-11am</i>	
Leslie Broch	<i>Director, St.James Preschool</i>	203.264.6448
Diane Peterson	<i>Organist</i>	
Tammy Faulkner	<i>Coordinator, Youth &amp; Family Ministries</i>	
Gail Fay	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	\$\$
Curt Haedke	<i>Financial Secretary</i>	\$\$

The due date for the January 2022 Epistle is December 15th.  
Please send submissions via the form on our epistle page ([stjamesct.org/epistles](http://stjamesct.org/epistles))  
Thank you



## In Our Prayers



Peter Adler	Rachel Nessel	Dottie McGinnis
Gabi Adler	Ethan Nessel	Marie Salvatore
Gloria Trede	Rose Danieli	Frank Haddy
Marilyn Balla	Arlene	James Brady
Janet Benzell	Richardson	Ellen
Stanley Ulc	John	DiBenedetto
Karen Huber	Richardson	Isaac
Conrad & Meg	Angela DeCortin	Mike
Gisella Bachelle	Edward	Doris
Charlie Costello	Brian Mons	Schoppman
Mary Skinski		Diane Defazio



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

**We also give thanks for All the Saints**, especially Jeff Tinley, Lynn Calderone, and Mykola Majorczak

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9 am for Sunday School and at 10:15 am for 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



## December 5th

Lector: Judy Katzmark  
Cantor: Kaitlyn Franco  
Chaplain: Liz Skinski  
Counters: Jim Mix, Steven Ulc,  
Catherine Ulc

## December 12th

Lector: Marylee Siegle  
Cantor: Neil Johnson  
Chaplain: Janice Salvatore  
Counters: Donna Peterson, Diane Mladjen, Gary  
Kline

## December 19th

Lector: Linda Bedard  
Cantor: Karen Lampiasi  
Chaplain: Lynn Morrison  
Counters: Bill Siegle, Rich Larson, Jacque  
Matthew

## December 24th (4:30pm Christmas Eve)

Lector: TBD  
Cantor: TBD  
Chaplain: TBD  
Counters: TBD

## December 26th

Lector: Tammy Faulkner  
Cantor: Curt Haedke  
Chaplain: Jim Mix  
Counters: Jim Mix, Neil Johnson,  
Bob Morrison



## A WORD from Pastor Abby

Advent greetings, beloved St. James community -

Hidden in this season are little traditions of cultures worldwide, like that of St. Lucia Day. As a kid, I loved this day. I'd pop out of bed, Swedish heritage pumping like adrenaline, and smash the itchy, candle-clad wreath over my blond braids. My early-rising mom was shooed back to bed so I could properly complete the tradition of serving one's parents breakfast. Then, with my tray of goodies and matching American Girl doll, Kirsten, I'd travel about; from church elder to godparents to school classroom, sharing a sweet surprise. Sentimental or silly as it may be, I still dress each year.

If this all sounds very foreign and strange, quick history lesson: Saint Lucia was a 3<sup>rd</sup> century Christian woman, born in Sicily. Deeply devoted to her faith, she gave her entire inheritance to feed poor Christians, much to the chagrin of her appointed fiancé. He took her to court and sentenced her to death. The story of St. Lucia's martyrdom traveled north and resonated greatly with the Scandinavians. Lucia, which means "light," was a joyful image contrasting their long, cold, dark winters and legends of sighting spread through Sweden. It was said that she wore a crown of candles to light her way and free up her hands to do more good work. On December 13 in Sweden, eldest daughters will continue the tradition and towns will host grand festivals to remember St. Lucia.

The story of St. Lucia carries a message of light coming into the darkness. For some, it is a story that celebrates community and tradition. For all, it is a story that speaks to faithfulness and kindness.



*Photo: Me at 7 years old with faithful companion, Kirsten, visiting my godmother.*

During this Advent season...

May we celebrate the communities which root us and the traditions that connect us.

May we be encouraged to share our inheritance in its many forms with those in need, those God loves richly.

May we be patient and gracious with ourselves and others, because sometimes the crown is itchy but both hands are freed for faithful work.

And may the story of St. Lucia point us further to that expectant coming of Christ, the true Light in this world of long, cold, dark seasons in life.

May the light of Christ fill our lives and hearts.

Peace & gratitude, Pastor Abby... and Thule



## 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....

## Dec 18 – Platt farm



## Help Wanted!

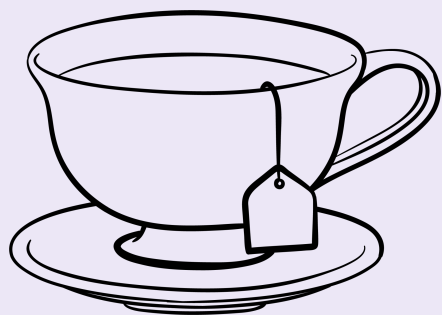
St James Church has a growing number of members and friends who would love to join us for worship, but could use a ride. **YOU can help!**

If you are willing to help with a "transportation ministry" - which would simply be helping get out friends to Sunday Worship, please contact Karen Lampiasi (203-586-1492)



### "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).



The Womens' Fellowship/St. James Ministries are back meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. We meet at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a sandwich or your lunch to enjoy we will provide coffee, tea, and water for your beverage.

## UNICEF GOAL GOES OVER THE TOP!

Generous hearts of many members, friends, neighbors, and preschool families pushed the total over it's \$5000 goal to **6133.10!!**

Congratulations and great thanks to all for helping needy children around the globe!

*"Truly I tell you, in as much as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it onto Me". (Matthew 25:40)*



## St James Preschool



The children enjoyed many fall activities and materials, including sewing felt leaves, using nets to scoop acorns from the sensory table, painting on bubble wrap, an indoor obstacle course, making up stories about squirrels and thinking about what they are thankful for. We are excited as we get ready for the holidays, special time with family and winter activities! Our 4s class is full but there is space in our TTh (3 to early 4 year old) class. Wishing you peace, love & joy during this busy time of year!



## Christmas Poinsettias

Once again the chancel will be decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas Season. All members and friends of the congregation are invited to donate for plants at the cost of \$10 each.

Please complete the form below and return to the church office or the offering plate no later than Sunday, December 19th. For more information or questions, call the Church Office at 203.264.6446.

~~Your name as you would like it to be printed in the Christmas bulletin~~

\_\_\_\_\_ *In Thanksgiving to God for my/our many blessings*

\_\_\_\_\_ *To the glory of God in memory of* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *To the glory of God in honor of* \_\_\_\_\_

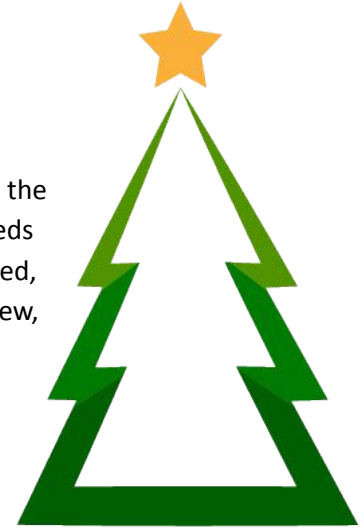
**Total # of plants ordered** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_ *cash* \_\_\_\_\_ *check* \_\_\_\_\_



### The Southbury Needy Fund Tree

The Southbury Needy Fund has identified some local families who do not have the resources to provide for gifts this holiday season. The tree in the gathering area has ornaments indicating the needs and wishes of these children. If you are interested, please take an ornament or two and bring the new, UNWRAPPED gift back to put under the tree by December 5th. Contact Lauren Lyons with questions, 203-982-8415.



### Winter Coat Drive

**BLANKETS AND COATS DO NOT MEAN AN AWFUL LOT UNLESS IT IS COLD AND YOU DO NOT HAVE ONE!** Thank you for your generous outpouring of coats and blankets which will be well used by the shelters in Danbury and Waterbury. (Drive runs through Dec 5th)

### Southbury Food Bank Collection

Thank you for your donations of (BOXED ONLY) rice! There is a blue bin outside the old church office for donations as well as one in the gathering area. 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.

Food Bank Delivery Hours: **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of month from 11:30-12:30 pm**  
Call (203)721-0377 to make other arrangements.

Dec– Morrisons

Feb–

Jan– Ingrid

March–

# STEWARDSHIP 2021

Thanks for paying such good attention during our Stewardship presentations in October, and for your pledge returns in November!!

A congregation can be likened to a big chorus. During October we practiced and sang all the stanzas of “OUR CHURCH”.



The first verse spoke of *Worship*, the second verse of *Education*, the third verse of *Outreach*, the fourth verse of *Evangelism*, and the fifth and final verse of *Congregational Care*.

It takes everyone’s contribution to make proper harmony. Your financial commitment and time and talent pledges reflect that practice. We’ve received many of those, *but we could use more to hit peak volume and harmony.*

Let’s get ready to sing “**Hallelujah**” as we tally up our “voices”!!

**Always.....GIVE THANKS.....All Ways!**

## A New Ministry at Saint James!

A new ministry has been developing at Saint James over the past several months—a Eucharistic Lay Ministry. Members of our congregation are trained to bring the gifts of God’s word and sacramental meal to those who are unable to be present in public worship. This ministry provides us with at least two blessings. Eucharistic Ministers provide a means for the sick, homebound, or imprisoned to participate in the worship of the whole assembly; it also reminds those gathered publicly to recognize our oneness with our sisters and brothers who are absent.

Currently we have six members available and willing to bring communion to you and your loved ones, whether in your home, hospital, residential nursing home, or even outdoors in your garden. Given the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, we especially recognize the need to keep one another as safe as possible; all precautions are taken to be sure those visited feel comfortable.

If you would like a communion visit from Pastor Abby or one of our lay ministers, please contact the church office (203-264- 6446 or [stjamesclutheran@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesclutheran@gmail.com)) or Liz Skinski 203- 267-5742 or [liz.skinski@earthlink.net](mailto:liz.skinski@earthlink.net)).

If you think you might be interested in participating in this special ministry and bringing communion to others, please reach out to Pastor Abby or Liz Skinski as well.

What a blessing and opportunity this is to remember our connection with one another and our Lord, Jesus Christ.



# December 2021 Calendar

Regular calendar updates on  
website  
<https://stjamesct.org/calendar/>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Holy Communion is offered at all worship services in one kind only.			1 12:30 Meditation Call 7pm Bible Study & Prayer (zoom) 7pm AA	2 All Day: Cheerleading 7:30pm YAFM Meeting	3	4
5 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts	6 7pm AA	7	8 12:30 Meditation Call 7pm Bible Study & Prayer (zoom) 7pm AA	9 7pm Parish Support Meeting 7pm Preschool Board	10	11 11:30am Rice Shelf Restock
Angel Tree and Coat Drive Ends						
12 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts	13 7pm AA	14 1pm James Ministries/ Women's Fellowship 6:30pm Council Meeting	15 12:30 Meditation Call 7pm Bible Study & Prayer (zoom) 7pm AA Epistle Contributions Due	16	17	18 10am YAFM Hike (Platt Farm) 1pm Living Nativity (Christ Church Lutheran)
19 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts	20 7pm AA	21	22 12:30 Meditation Call 7pm Bible Study & Prayer (zoom) 7pm AA	23	24 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service 	25  Christmas Day
26 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship	27 7pm AA	28	29 12:30 Meditation Call 7pm Bible Study & Prayer (zoom) 7pm AA	30	31	