

ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH EPISTLE

A CONGREGATION OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF AMERICA

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ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.stjamesct.org

stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com

203.264.6446

Abigail Johnson, Pastor

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

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> <i>T,Th 9-12pm; Fri. 2:30-5pm</i>
Leslie Broch	<i>Director, St. James PreSchool</i>
Diane Peterson	<i>Director of Music</i>
Tammy Faulkner	<i>Coordinator, Youth & Family</i>
Gail Fay	<i>Assistant Treasurer \$\$</i>
Curt Haedke	<i>Financial Secretary \$\$</i>

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

stjameslutheranpreschool@gmail.com

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we ask that those in attendance please practice social distancing and wear masks in church. Communion is served individually in service and the Peace is shared from a distance.

In addition, Church service is held at St James on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am 111 Peter Road. Drive in Church will remain an option on 88.5 FM.

The due date for the February 2022 Epistle is January 15th.

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

“
GLORY TO GOD
IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH
PEACE, GOOD
WILL TOWARD
MEN.

LUKE 2:14
”

CHRISTMAS 2021

THE POINSETTIAS ARE
GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF
GOD BY THE FOLLOWING:

Steve and Ann Danek: To the glory of God in memory of our parents; Mrs. Anna Danek and Mr. & Mrs. Frank Formica.

Judy Katzmark: To the Glory of God in memory of family & friends

Gary L. Kline: To the glory of God in memory of Patricia & Gary Kline, Loretta Kline, and Robert Austin

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

The Furr Family: In Thanksgiving to God for our many blessings.

The Manville family: To the glory of God in memory of Jeannette Deegan; To the glory of God in memory of Dot & Dick Manville.

To the glory of God in memory of Fred and Sabine

The Bisch Family: To the glory of God in memory of Tom and Naomi Griffin and all those we have loved.

Diane & Steve Peterson: To the glory of God in honor of our cantors: Ben, Kaitlyn, Karen, Liz, Lynn, Lucia, and Neil.

Diana & Richard Larson: To the glory of God in honor of Ellen & Sven Larson and Erna & Hans Polley

Karen & Jack Lampiasi: To the glory of God in memory of Mary & Nick Lampiasi; Rev. Aubrey and Alice Kelloway

Allison Kipp: To the glory of God in memory of Sonia Matthew; To the glory of God in honor of Jacque Matthew. With love from Allison, Al, and family.

Jacque Matthew: To the glory of God in memory of Sonia Matthew.

The White Family: To the glory of God in memory of Lennie White; Helen, Gene, & Karen White; Kurt & Lena Weiss.

Bill & Marylee Siegle: In memory and to honor those who perished with Covid; To celebrate the life of Pastor Scott Nessel and his family we love.



A WORD FROM PASTOR ABBY

Sacred

'sākɹəd/ adj.

- 1. connected with God for a special purpose*
- 2. dedicated or set apart for religious worship*
- 3. holy; deserving of veneration*

Dear beloved community of St. James,

I love mugs, handmade especially. The collection in my cupboard reminds me of the places I call home or potter's I've befriended. This time of year, as we begin anew and start each day with that January chill, nothing beats the morning ritual of filling a mug with hot coffee.

And I believe mugs are sacred things. When invited to an intimate space, they tangibly embody the essence of the intangible; warmth, permanence, beholding, whatever is most needed. They bring us back to our bodies by touch and smell and taste. Hands - such busy creatures - are quieted gently. When a heart is sore or a mind is tried, an empathetic offering of a mug can soothe. A mug is not a thing of the road or movement but an object of home and of somewhere settled. A teacup is can be formal but a mug is casually relatable. It is just itself and content so. Mugs can be diplomats and peace treaties. They can be mediators and healers of worn relationships - relationships with someone else, with ourselves, with the Spirit. We hold mugs and somehow, gracefully, become held, too.

We believe our God is Love. If there is Love in a space, it is the Spirit present. To connect and care for ourselves and for others in Love is to join in worship of God. And if that seems too simple, that such an ordinary object as a mug can be sacred, think of the ordinary man who took ordinary ingredients on a table. He blessed them and used them for profound purposes, a meal we are still invited to attend, in order to reveal his extraordinary nature and his extraordinary Love.

I look forward to sharing the sacred space of warm mugs and thoughtful conversation with you this winter. Stop by during office hours for a coffee or tea, a snuggle from Thule, or just some time to share presence. Each simple day is sacred, each "clink" of mugs is a sound of welcome.

PEACE & GRATITUDE,

PASTOR ABBY JOHNSON ... AND THULE, THE ST. JAMES GREETER PUP

An Apple A Day



Covid 19- Booster Shot versus Third Dose(Additional Dose)

There is a difference between the Covid Booster and the Covid19 third shot(Additional Dose). The Covid third dose is a third dose of the same series(i.e. Moderna or Pfizer) for people whose immune systems because of comorbidities or chronic disease states that are unable to mount a strong immune response to the Covid 19 vaccine. It is typically a full dose of vaccine. Examples of people in this category are those receiving chemotherapy, with HIV, received an organ transplant, people with chronic immunosuppressive therapy such as chronic prednisone therapy. A person who falls into this category can receive a third dose 28 days after their second shot.

The Covid booster is a third shot given to boost immunity as it starts to wane in a normal immune system. Sometimes it is only a half dose of the original vaccine(Moderna). Boosters are readily available to all ages over 16, more recently because of the spread of the new variant, Omnicron.

Booster shots are found to reduce more severe illness, hospitalizations and death. Boosters are recommended for the J and J vaccine after two months, and Moderna or Pfizer after six months.

OUTREACH AND MINISTRIES

God's work, our hands



Help Us Fill Up the Food Bank

The food bank often struggles during the cold winter months, 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.

January – Lyons

February –

March - Morrisons

April -

May -

June -

July -

August-

September -

October -

November -

December –

BLANKETS AND COATS DO NOT MEAN AN AWFUL LOT UNLESS IT IS COLD AND YOU DO NOT HAVE ONE!

Many thanks for the generous outpouring of gently used coats, blankets, hats and mittens for all ages that were distributed to the less fortunate in greater Danbury.

Christmas Thanks!

Your amazing generosity supplied gifts for 8 different children from 5 different families in need! 20 shoeboxes were sent to children overseas with Operation Christmas Child as well. Thanks to all who participated in the amazing outpouring of love for those in need in the community and around the world. Small lights shine brightly in the darkness....

Lutheran Disaster Response assists after tornado outbreak

On the night of Dec. 10, an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. So far, 94 people are reported dead across five states, more than 80 of those in Kentucky. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and over 300,000 people were without electricity. Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners to assess the damage and develop both immediate and long-term response plans. With your support, Lutheran Disaster Response can accompany survivors on the long road to recovery.

Your gifts to “U.S. Tornadoes” will be used in full (100%) to help people impacted by the tornadoes until the response is complete.

At St James we're been talking about Stewardship throughout the Fall season. We're still tallying, and delighting in those results, and preparing a budget for Congregational review in January.

But these discussions have been very inwardly focused. Let's not forget that there is a whole world out there, and our Stewardship must look beyond our immediate interests as well.

We've been, through this season of Advent, doing an ELCA study on World Hunger. We have all seen the heartbreaking images of emaciated children in some of the most impoverished countries of the world. ELCA World Hunger supports effective programs in over 60 countries, including the United States. As we reflect on this season of Christmas plenty, let us remember to share our wealth with our hungry brothers and sisters, wherever they may live.

Although there are many agencies that support food needs, we can always donate through ST James, noting ELCA World Hunger.

We can help provide a Happier New Year to many who struggle.

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

PRESCHOOL

The preschool enjoyed a fun and engaging holiday season. The children learned about St. Martin (thank you, Mrs. Skinski!) and St. Lucia (thank you, Pastor Abby!) and then discussed ways they show care and help others. As we come into the winter months, we are looking forward to snow. It provides so many opportunities for discovery, collaboration and unabated joy!

Almost 100 pairs of socks were collected during the month of October to be distributed to local shelters. \$650 was raised for the preschool scholarship fund through the cards for a cause fundraiser. Thanks to all who supported!



Come Hike with Us!

St James YAFM is doing their best to stay socially connected from a safe distance in this challenging time. We are still meeting monthly to hike (socially distanced and weather permitting). All are welcome!

Please contact Lauren Lyons
lyonsden1133@yahoo.com 203-982-8415 or
Tammy Faulkner syjamesyafm@gmail.com if
interested. Meet at 10am

Dec 18 – Platt Farm
Jan 29 – Bent of the River
Feb 26 – Southford Falls
March 19 – Fairfield Hills



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 9:00am to 10:00am

ADULT FORUM

Sunday 9:00am to 10:00am

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday 6:30pm to 8:00 pm

In-Person biweekly @ Immanuel Church,
Oxford

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday 7:00pm to 8:00 pm

Please join us Wednesday evenings
at 7pm for bible study, and 8pm for
prayer.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83375037969pwd=Ly9LaFlLKzBJSjQ1bGlvdC96WlYwUT09>

You can dial in using: +1 646 558
8656 US

Meeting ID: 833 7503 7969
Passcode: 110997

Rev. T. A. Gustafson

Educational Aid Fund

The Rev. T. A. Gustafson Educational Aid Fund supports active confirmed members of St. James to pursue higher education. Awards are based on future promise, participation in St. James and financial need. Application forms are available from Pastor Abby or Priscilla Terhune or online <https://stjamesct.org/outreach-and-ministries/parish-life/gustafson-fund/> and must be submitted by March 15, 2022.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A reminder that the Congregational meeting will be held on January 30th, 2022. Please mark your calendars; We need a minimum of 25 voting members to attend. We'd love for all of you to join us.

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)

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 stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com) or Liz Skinski 203- 267-5742 or 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.

In Our Prayers

Frank Haddy
Doris Schoppmann
Diane Defazio
Karen Huber
Gisella Bachelie
Peter Adler
Gabi Adler
Edward
Marie Salvatore
Marilyn Balla

Mary Skinski
Gloria Trede
Janet Benzell
Stanley Ulc
Brian Mons
Rachel Nessel
Dottie McGinnis
James Brady
Rose Danieli
Ellen DiBenedetto

Charlie Costello
Conrad & Meg
Issac & Mike
Ethan Nessel
John Richardson
Arlene Richardson
Hannah Neeb
Rich Neeb
Steve Ulc
Mary Dunn

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 pray for All the Saints, especially Mykola Majorczak, Angela Decortin, Lynn Dalderone, Jeff Tinley, Rosemary Martin, Khloe Robinson, Fred Weunsch, and Vicky Gibb, and all those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

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 and the mail is collected daily or your donation may be made online. As you are able, please continue to help us be the hands of Christ.



January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Holy Communion is offered at all worship services in one kind only.						1 9am Small Parish Room
2 9am Christian Ed 10:15am Worship 6:30pm Confirmation	3 10-12pm Pastor in Office 7pm AA	4 9-12pm Office Open 12pm NVC Bible	5 1-3pm Pastor in Office 7pm Bible Study 7pm AA 8pm Prayer	6 9-12pm Office Open 7:30pm YAFM Meeting	7 2:30-5pm Office Open	8 11:30am Rice Shelf Restock
9 9am Christian Ed 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts	10 10-12pm Pastor in Office 7pm AA	11 9-12pm Office Open 12pm NVC Bible 1pm James Ministries	12 1-3pm Pastor in Office 7pm Bible Study 7pm AA 8pm Prayer	13 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Parish Support Meeting	14 2:30-5pm Office Open	15 Epistle Contributions Due
16 9am Christian Ed 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Confirmation	17 10-12pm Pastor in Office 7pm AA	18 9-12pm Office Open 12pm NVC Bible 6:30pm Council Meeting	19 1-3pm Pastor in Office 7pm Bible Study 7pm AA 8pm Prayer	20 9-12pm Office Open	21 2:30-5pm Office Open	22
23 9am Christian Ed 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts	24 10-12pm Pastor in Office 7pm AA	25 9-12pm Office Open 12pm NVC Bible	26 1-3pm Pastor in Office 7pm Bible Study 7pm AA 8pm Prayer	27 9-12 Office Open 7pm Preschool Board Meeting	28 2:30-5pm Office Open	29
30 9am Christian Ed 10:15am Worship 11am Cong Meeting 4pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Confirmation					Regular calendar updates on website https://stjamesct.org/calendar/	

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

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