

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

pastor@stjamesct.org

413-455-6940 (9AM-6PM or emergencies)

Throughout the week, I am often called into community engagements, committee meetings, education groups, worship preparation, administrative duties, and pastoral visits. Ensuring intentional space to welcome and be present with you, these are times I'm guaranteed to be in the office ready to receive walk-in visitors.

Monday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Wednesday 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

I'm happy to schedule time with you outside these office hours to suit your availability.

Pastor observes Sabbath on Friday and Saturday.

CHURCH COUNCIL

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Linda Bedard | <i>Council Vice-President</i> |
| Emilie Ulc | <i>Youth 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</i> |
| Kathy Haddy | <i>Council Member</i> |

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Genie Bisch | <i>Parish Sec., Preschool Admin. Asst. 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> |
| Curt Haedke | <i>Financial Secretary \$\$</i> |

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9 am for Sunday School and adult forum via zoom, and at 10:15 am for worship at 111 Peter Road, Southbury, CT. In agreement with the New England Synod's Covid guidance, masks are recommended whenever in the building and social distancing in the sanctuary is to be upheld.

The due date for the May 2022 Epistle is April 15th.

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



April 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 2:30-5pm Office Open | 2 |
| 3 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Confirm. | 4 10-12pm Pastor in Office 7pm AA | 5 9-12pm Office Open 12pm NVC Bible 2pm Worship Planning | 6 1-3pm Pastor in Office 7pm Lenten Bible Study 7pm AA | 7 9-12pm Office Open 7:30pm YAFM Meeting | 8 2:30-5pm Office Open | 9 9am Church Cleanup 11:30am Rice Shelf Restock |
| 10 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts | 11 10-12pm Pastor in Office 7pm AA | 12 9-12pm Office Open 12pm NVC Bible 1pm James Ministries | 13 1-3pm Pastor in Office 7pm Bible Study 7pm AA | 14 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Parish Support Meeting | 15 2:30-5pm Office Open 7pm Good Friday Service Epistle Contributions | 16 |
| 17 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts | 18 10-12pm Pastor in Office 7pm AA | 19 9-12pm Office Open 12pm NVC Bible | 20 1-3pm Pastor in Office 7pm Bible Study 7pm AA | 21 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Council Meeting | 22 2:30-5pm Office Open | 23 |
| Easter Day | | | | | | |
| 24 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship 3pm Katie McNeal Ordination 4pm Girl Scouts | 25 9:45am Preschool Stories w/ P Abby 10-12pm Pastor in Office 7pm AA | 26 9-12pm Office Open 9:45am Preschool Storytime w/ P. Abby 12pm NVC Bible | 27 1-3pm Pastor in Office 7pm Bible Study 7pm AA | 28 9-12 Office Open 7pm Preschool Board Meeting | 29 2:30-5pm Office Open | 29 10am YAFM hike Southford Falls |

Holy Communion is offered at all worship services in one kind only.

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

A WORD FROM PASTOR ABBY



Photo of youth group making pancakes in the old church kitchen from the 2006 pancake supper.

Greetings beloved community of St. James,

During the last month, I had the opportunity to go on a long-postponed family ski trip to Colorado. Every household has their traditions and skiing is a big one for us. But it's not just the act of the sport itself or the chairlift rides with momentous views; it's the whole gathering of a day. It's crowding around lodge tables for warmth and lunch, tossing sandwiches back and forth. It's thawing-out on the couch by the fire, board games spread on the coffee table between all of us. It's the act of holding hands to speak our gratitude before diving into hot chili. It's the gathering piece around a whole day outside - moving, and laughing, challenging, and enjoying one another that I treasure most.

"Gathering" seems a simple concept. People coming together and being near one another - birthday party, concert, traffic on the freeway. Two years ago, gathering would have seem straightforward but through this pandemic, gathering got seriously reevaluated. The simple act of sharing space churned up broad feelings, from fearful to homesick. New vocabulary words like "social-distancing" were spoken daily. I looked around that lodge table and realized it was the first time since 2019 all these people had been seated inside a warm lodge together. That's a long time to miss the



table. That's true of our churches, too. Coincidentally, that was the same week CDC guidelines permitted masks to become optional and we could once again see each other face-to-face. We are slowly rediscovering gathering.

So, what does it mean to gather? And what have we learned from its absence? For one, there is no substitute to sharing space. We may have known it before, but we feel that reality differently as a result, deeper somehow. All the online streaming in the world can't heal the need of belonging quite like physical attendance - like sitting down next to someone, greeting them, passing the peace with hug or handshake. That said, we've also learned that technology can be a gift. However imperfect, seeing someone's face, hearing someone's voice, being mutually attentive and present in a virtual space is a form of gathering. It is not solely dependent on physical space. We can still be with each other, care for each other, when we are apart. We can still be church without a building.

Gathering is important to God; we see this through the act of becoming human, sharing our lives, attentively ministering around table when he could and moving town to town to hold presence with people. My faith and my pandemic experience have taught me the most important aspects of gathering is presence and attention. You helped teach me that, too. When the pandemic began, you all at St. James decided gathering was important enough to your lived faith that you sought out ways to continue it safely. You intentionally decided to be present and attentive with one another, in the parking lot, from chairs and cars. That is a strikingly beautiful thing, don't you think? As we look back on where we've journeyed, as we thoughtfully maneuver where we are now, as we celebrate where we are headed, let us carry with us that we have learned, what is important to us, and the love God has shown.

PEACE & GRATITUDE,

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

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.

April - Colasantos

May - Alvarado

June - Skinski

July - Jenny Beaudean

August-

September -

James Ministries/Women's Fellowship

It is a good thing when we can be there in times of need for our church family. Times of illness, times of loss, times when a new baby has arrived and a casserole at the door is surely helpful! St. James Ministry is gathering a list of folks who would like to prepare a casserole, a soup, a special fruit bread, coffee cake, or a ham and macaroni salad, etc., which can be delivered to the door of one of our families! Sundays, after Worship, see Lynn Morrison who will be happy to add your name to the list of those eager to reach out with a food item! Call Lynn for any questions/details: 203-426-7749. Join in this Meals Ministry!

COMING SOON.....

AMERICARES HOMEFRONT DAY 2022 . . .

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 tentatively scheduled for May 7th. All COVID precautions will be maintained. They are currently looking for a Volunteer Coordinator, Please Contact Lou Valenti @ (203) 770-5206 if interested or Lauren Lyons, 203-982-8415 with questions.

APRIL 22, 2022

Earth Day



A few simple ways we can reduce our impact on the environment this Earth Day:

- Clean up some trash when you are out on your walk! Be sure to wear gloves and wash your hands immediately after coming home.
- Change your bulbs - Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.
- Try your hand at compost. Non-meat and dairy food scraps decompose into wonderful soil when given time and a protected place. Coffee grounds are a wonderful addition.
- Recycle – you can save 2400 pounds of carbon dioxide by recycling half of your household waste.
- Move your thermostat up 2 degrees in the summer and down 2 degrees in the winter can save 2000 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.
- Plant a tree – each tree can absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.
- Turn off electronic devices when not using them.
- Purchase Lutheran World Relief or Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee. A portion of all coffee sales through the LWR Coffee Project supports LWR partners and projects overseas.

Talk to Lauren if interested.



PARISH LIFE

In the CAT survey, our members expressed the desire to feel more connected to one another and meaningfully involved with parish life and worship. To address these hopes and pandemic circumstances, the Parish Life Committee has instituted some new opportunities in worship and prayer life.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Abby has introduced this new moment to worship, as we seek to be intentional and personal in praying for the gathered community each Sunday. This serves as another way for us to deepen connection and relationship with one another. Before the Prayers of Intercession, Pastor Abby will open a time of brief sharing for anyone to speak, where we might pause and be present with the ones around us. The prayer chaplain will not repeat these petitions; but God will hear them and we will share more deeply one another's concerns and joys. You will notice too, that the assembly will be asked to remain seated for the prayers of intercession thereafter.

CHAPLAINS

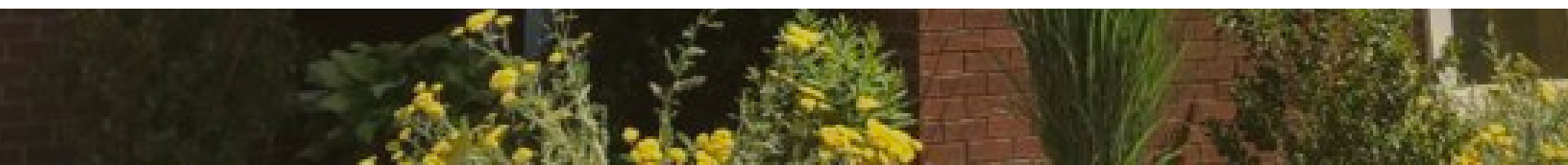
These individuals serve on Sundays to offer up our petitions to God during the worship service. Always uplifted in our hearts and prayers are the specific names offered by members, including saints who have left this earth, and active military members. The leader of the Prayer Chaplains, currently Liz Skinski, prepares the prayers weekly.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES

We would like the list of names we raise up as a community each Sunday to be as current as possible. Last year we asked members to review the lists and let us know whether the names you had placed on the list could be removed or continue to remain for weekly petitions. Moving forward, we will edit the lists on request and also create new lists every six months; the first Sunday of May and following All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday of November. We will give everyone ample warning to request names remain or be removed at that time.

As we continue to our worship practices, please know we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

As it says in our bulletin each week, "wherever you are on your walk with or towards God, you are affirmed, belong and beloved here at St. James. Our community welcomes YOU!" May the "Prayers of the People" be our action in support of these words! All are welcome and embraced.



An Apple A Day



April: Covid Risk Category for New Haven

Currently there are high levels of vaccination and population immunity from infection with the virus Covid-19. The risk of significant disease, hospitalization and death from Covid-19 is reduced for most people.

But, there are people within the community such as those over 65, immunocompromised, disabilities, comorbidities such as diabetes and obesity, and the chronically ill that are at higher risk for serious illness. They have to be more careful in making risk choices in the Covid world. A good person to ask if you are not sure what your risk category is, is to ask your health care provider. They can guide your decision to wear a mask, test yourself based on exposure and ask if you are a candidate for the anti-viral medicines now available.

The new CDC guidelines are based on three measurements in each state county community.

- 1) Covid-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 in the past 7 days
- 2) Percentage of hospital beds occupied by Covid-19 patients
- 3) Total new Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population in past 7 days

Our New Haven county will be measured every 7 days for the level of community Covid-19 infectivity. The data also predicts stress on the local health care system.

Using this data, the Covid-19 community level is classified as low, medium or high.

YAFM ANNOUNCEMENTS



ACOLYTE HISTORY

The word acolyte is derived from the Greek word *akolouthos*, meaning companion, attendant, or helper, who waits continually upon another: a follower. The Acolyte ministry has its roots in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible, where the prophet Samuel is seen assisting Eli, the Levite priest, and Elisha is seen assisting Elijah the Prophet.

Today, acolytes continue to assist the pastor through their service in lighting candles, distributing and receiving back the offering plates, collecting the individual cups during communion, and other duties as necessary. They are important participants in worship and perform vital tasks.

ACOLYTES NEEDED

The lighting of the altar candles in the worship service is a symbol of Jesus coming into the presence of the worshiping community. Just as the Israelites were led through the desert by a pillar of fire, we are led by Christ, the light of the world.

We are looking for individuals who would be willing to act as acolytes starting again with the Lenten season. Adult and youth acolytes are needed, all are welcome.

For More Information

Tammy Faulkner
stjamesyafm@gmail.com
203-512-4471

CELEBRATE!

Join us in congratulating our former youth minister Katie McNeal as she is ordained and accepts her first call. Watch the live stream on April 24th at 3pm
tinyurl.com/ORLCyoutube



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 for info. Meet at 10am

April 30 – Southford Falls



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 9:00am to 10:00am

<https://bit.ly/SundayYAFM>

ADULT FORUM

Sunday 9:00am to 10:00am

<https://bit.ly/SundayAdultForum>

Join us as we journey through the Filled to the Brim devotional. Print copies available at church.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday 6:30pm to 8:00 pm

In-Person biweekly @ Immanuel Church, Oxford

MIDWEEK MEDITATION

Wednesday 12:00pm

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday 7:00pm to 8:00 pm

<https://bit.ly/WedStJames>.

Parish Support

St James Budget

At our congregational meeting last month, we went over the St James accounts for 2021 and the proposed 2022 Budget. All members can find the relevant documents in our church dropbox <https://bit.ly/StJamesFeb6> along with the meeting agenda and minutes.

Saint James Lutheran Church 2022 Monthly Budget to Actual

| Month | Operating Income | | | Mortgage Income | | |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | Budget | Actual | Diff | Budget | Actual | Diff |
| Jan | 16,000.00 | 9,824.00 | (6,176.00) | 2,228.33 | 1,673.75 | (554.58) |
| Feb | 16,000.00 | 11,510.09 | (4,489.91) | 2,228.33 | 1,843.75 | (384.58) |
| Mar | 16,000.00 | 3,076.09 | (12,923.91) | 2,228.33 | 643.75 | (1,584.58) |
| Apr | 16,000.00 | 3,076.09 | (12,923.91) | 2,228.33 | 643.75 | (1,584.58) |
| May | 16,000.00 | 3,076.09 | (12,923.91) | 2,228.33 | 643.75 | (1,584.58) |
| Jun | 16,000.00 | 3,076.09 | (12,923.91) | 2,228.33 | 643.75 | (1,584.58) |
| Jul | 16,000.00 | 3,076.09 | (12,923.91) | 2,228.33 | 643.75 | (1,584.58) |
| Aug | 16,000.00 | 3,076.09 | (12,923.91) | 2,228.33 | 643.75 | (1,584.58) |
| Sep | 16,000.00 | 3,076.09 | (12,923.91) | 2,228.33 | 643.75 | (1,584.58) |
| Oct | 16,000.00 | 3,076.09 | (12,923.91) | 2,228.33 | 643.75 | (1,584.58) |
| Nov | 16,000.00 | 3,076.09 | (12,923.91) | 2,228.33 | 643.75 | (1,584.58) |
| Dec | 16,000.00 | 3,076.09 | (12,923.91) | 2,228.33 | 643.75 | (1,584.58) |
| Total | \$ 192,000.00 | \$ 52,094.99 | \$ (139,905.01) | \$ 26,740.00 | \$ 9,955.00 | \$ (16,785.00) |

WHAT IS ONREALM?

OnRealm is the Church's online giving platform. Members are able to set up automatic contributions, check their latest giving, update their address and household information and more. Links to give online can be found on our website. In the upcoming months, we will also be using realm to send out group updates, keep track of parish records such as baptisms, and more! Contact Curt Haedke for more information.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

PRAYER CHAPLAINS, LECTORS, CANTORS,
COUNTERS

April 3rd

Lector: *Lauren Lyons*

Chaplain: *Mary Ewert*

Cantor: *Lucia Dressel*

April 10th

Lector: *Linda Bedard*

Chaplain: *Lynn Morrison*

Cantor: *Liz Skinski*

April 17th

Lector: *Liz Skinski*

Chaplain: *Liz Skinski*

Cantor: *Karen Lampiasi*

April 24th

Lector: *Lucia Dressel*

Chaplain: *Karen Lampiasi*

Cantor: *Ben Dressel*

CONTACT:

Lectors: Tammy Faulkner

Counters: Curt Haedke

Cantors: Diane Peterson

Prayer Chaplains: Liz Skinski





Covid Response Team Update

New Haven County is currently in the “Yellow” or (Medium Community Covid Level). Based on CDC guidance and St. James Covid Response Team assessment, masks are still optional in the building. People at higher risk should consider appropriate precautions. We will continue to monitor the level and adjust protocol as necessary. Chart below found on CDC website.

Covid Response Team Chair/Parish Nurse
- Diane Mladjen

Please take the time to fill out our covid worship survey!
bit.ly/StJamesCovidResponse

| Low | Medium | High |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinesGet tested if you have symptoms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautionsStay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinesGet tested if you have symptoms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear a mask indoors in publicStay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinesGet tested if you have symptomsAdditional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness |

People may choose to mask at any time. People with [symptoms, a positive test, or exposure](#) to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. Masks are required on [public transportation](#) and may be required in other places by local or state authorities.

In Our Prayers

Frank Haddy
Doris Schoppmann
Diane Defazio
Karen Huber
Gisella Bachelie
Peter Adler
Gabi Adler
Edward Soto
Marie Salvatore
Marilyn Balla
Gloria Trede
Janet Benzell

Stanley Ulc
Brian Mons
Rachel Nessel
Ethan Nessel
James Brady
Rose Danieli
Ellen DiBenedetto
Charlie Costello
Conrad & Meg
Isaac
John Richardson
Arlene Richardson
Hannah Neeb

Rich Neeb
Steve Ulc
Mary Dunn
Marian Allen
Andi Lyons
Linda Martin
Diana Larson
Morgan R. Morris
Mitchell Nadasen
Slava Alvarez
Ned Skinski
Laura Noddin
Leo McIlrath

Please also keep *Tim Peterson, Ryan Benson, and all those who serve in the military, in your prayers*

We also give thanks for All the Saints, *especially Angela Decortin, Rosemary Martin, Khloe Robinson, Dottie McGinnis, Fred Weunsch, Vicky Gibb, Janet Behrendt, Ingo Dutzman, and Kendra Iller*

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9 am for Christian education 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.

"Blessed are
the
peacemakers,
for they will be
called children
of God"

Matthew 5:9
NRSV

Bishop Eaton on Ukraine

I watch with grave concern as tensions continue between Russia and Ukraine, and I fervently pray that a peaceful resolution to the conflict will be reached. I affirm the statement of the Lutheran World Federation's general secretary, the Rev. Dr. Anne Burghardt: "We urge all parties to de-escalate the situation and work for peace and stability. A peaceful solution must be found."

Our social statement For Peace in God's World offers guidance:

We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America share with the Church of Jesus Christ in all times and places the calling to be peacemakers. . . . [T]he basis of the Church's peace-calling is in God's final peace, the peace of God's eternal reign. That calling is to proclaim the Gospel of God's final peace and to work for earthly peace.

Join with me in praying for peace for the people of Ukraine and that the international community will play a constructive role in this regard. We pray also for the Ukrainian diaspora in our context, that they may know God's peace.

In peace,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

