

ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH EPISTLE

A CONGREGATION OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF AMERICA

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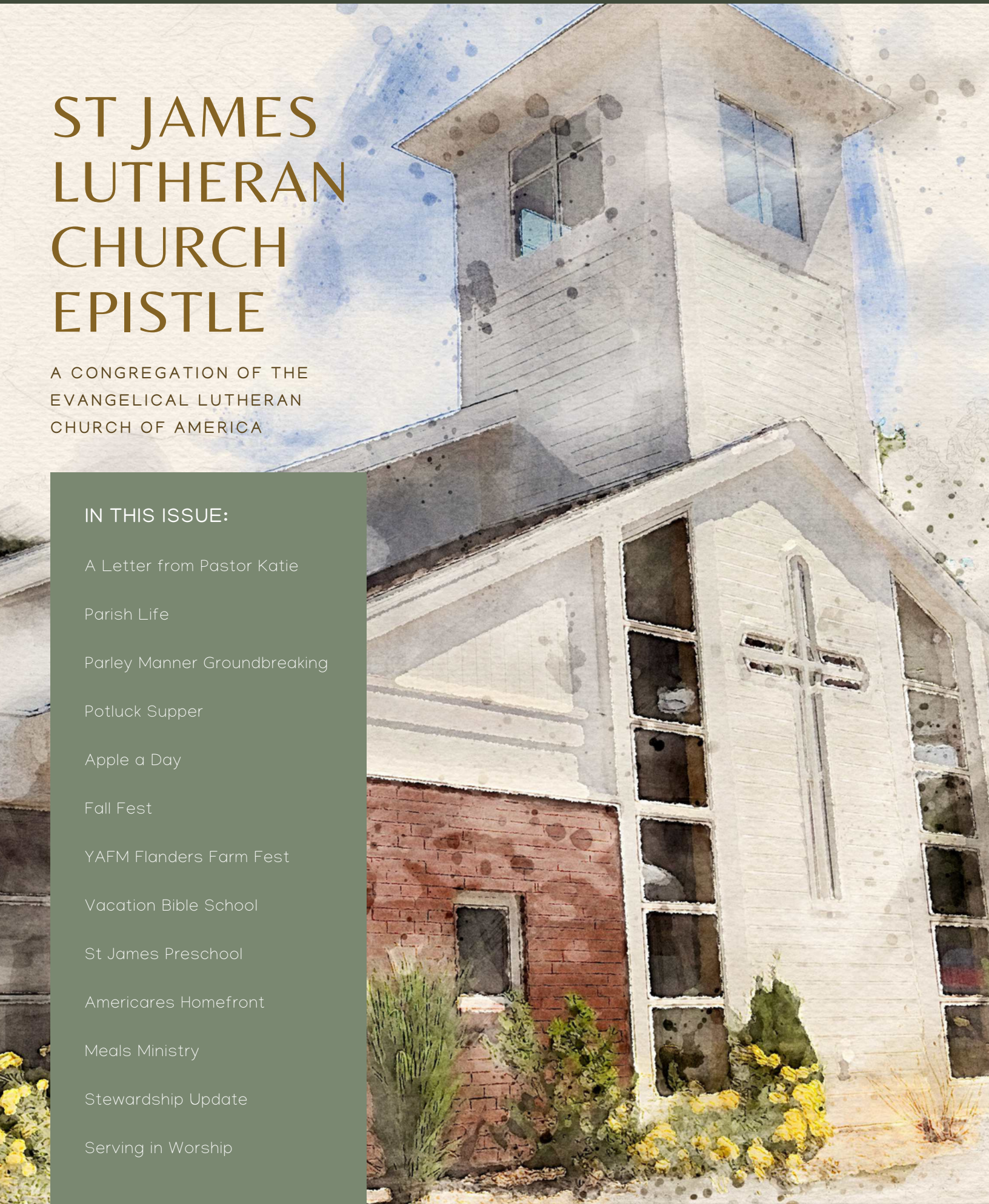
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ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.stjamesct.org

stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com

203.264.6446

Abigail Johnson, Pastor

pastor@stjamesct.org

203-450-6454 (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 June 2022 Epistle is May 15th.

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

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Confirm.	2 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	3 9-12pm Office Open	4 1-3pm Pastor Walk-ins 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	5 9-12pm Office Open 7:30pm YAFM Meeting	6 2:30-5pm Office Open	7
8 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts	9 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	10 9-12pm Office Open 2:30pm Worship Planning	11 1-3pm Pastor Walk-ins 4pm Parley Manor 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	12 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Parish Support Meeting	13 2:30-5pm Office Open	14 5am Forward Leadership 11:30am Rice Shelf Restock
15 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Confim Epistle Contributions	16 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	17 9-12pm Office Open 1pm James Ministries	18 1-3pm Pastor Walk-ins 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	19 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Council Meeting	20 2:30-5pm Office Open 7pm Good Friday Service	21 7am Homefront 10am YAFM Farm Fest (Flanders)
22 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts Group Reports Due	23 9:45am Preschool Stories w/ P Abby 1110-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	24 9-12pm Office Open 9:45am Preschool Storytime w/ P. Abby 12pm NVC Bible	25 1-3pm Pastor Walk-ins 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	26 9-12 Office Open 7pm Preschool Board Meeting 7pm Forward Leadership	27 2:30-5pm Office Open	28
29 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship 4pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Confim	30 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 10:15am Memorial Day Parade 8pm AA	31 9-12pm Office Open				

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 KATIE

Grace and peace to you and a warm hello from Pennsylvania.

This past October, I happened to be preaching on the same text that I preached on for my last Sunday at St. James. Hearing the same text again made me realize it had been 3 years since I left St. James. Believe me, you have all been in my thoughts and on my heart more often than not in those three years! I haven't been able to keep in touch the way I wish I had, so to update you on my life since my last Sunday in Connecticut with you: I worked at an ELCA camp in western Pennsylvania until COVID hit and then finally completed my internship for my candidacy process. I was able to coordinate an internship site that was actually only ten minutes from where my parents live (but not the same church I grew up in). I was officially approved for ordination to Word and Sacrament ministry in the summer of 2021. At the end of my internship, I was able to stay with the church for several more months while I interviewed for a call.

Then 9 years since I started my MDiv program, 8 years since I had my first Sunday at St. James, and 7 years after I started my candidacy process, I accepted my first call at St. John Lutheran Church in Mars, PA (yes, that is the name of the town... and yes, I do get a chuckle when anyone tells me "Welcome to Mars!" haha). The church is on the smaller side in a semi-rural area on the edge of a busy, growing part of the greater Pittsburgh area. They have a committed Sunday School program and are working with a Presbyterian church up the road to develop programming for middle and high schoolers. And they are committed to finding ways to connect with and serve the local community in creative ways. My first Sunday at the church was April 3; it has been a whirlwind start with Holy Week and Easter in my first month at the church! As I'm writing this, I have not yet had my ordination service, but by the time you read this, I will (finally) be an officially ordained pastor of Word and Sacrament ministry!

Throughout this process, I've been asked many times about when and how I felt called to be a pastor. Every single time, I smile because I think of the years I spent in youth and family ministry at St. James. I think of the times when you graciously invited me to leadership in worship services, concerns. I think of the times I stood at the front of the congregation and prayed with you. I think of the times I distributed communion and celebrated that intimate moment of grace from God with each person. I think of the times I stood in front of a room of Vacation Bible School kids and encouraged them to be .



oud and excited for the Bible stories they were learning. I think of the quiet moments when youth would ask crazy questions or difficult questions or theological questions that made me stop and think. I think of all the ways that you as a congregation showed me love and support no matter what was going on. I smile because I know I heard my call to be a pastor while I was at St. James with you. So now, as I finally don the stole and preside over communion, know that you will always hold a very special place in my story and in my life. I would not be here were it not for you.

With so much joy for our time together, with so much gratitude for having you in my life, with so much love for you, thank you. Thank you for being who you are, and thank you for helping me be who I am. Thank you for everything.

*LOVE,
PASTOR KATIE MCNEAL*





PARISH LIFE

On behalf of the Worship Team, with guidance from the Covid Response Team... Beginning Sunday, May 8, you may choose to come forward to the altar to receive communion.

Ushers will invite a row at a time to process up the center aisle. Pastor Abby will distribute the Eucharist. The Assistant Minister will distribute wine in individual cups. Sealed communion kits containing grape juice will also be available in the tray at the front.

In order to maximize options and accommodate different comfort levels, sealed communion kits will still be made available at the door for those who wish to take communion at their seats.

No matter how you chose to receive, all communion is blessed and partaken together by the body of Christ gathered.

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.

ACOLYTES

The lighting of the altar candles in the worship service is a symbol of Jesus coming into the presence of the worshipping 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. If you have any questions and/or are interested please contact Tammy Faulkner

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.

St James Lutheran

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Check Out All Our
Upcoming Events
On Our Calendar!*

**May
10**

10:15am First Communion

During worship, we mark this special moment in the faith journey of Adam Skinski, Gabe Lyons, Kari Alvarado and Ray Carnaroli. These 4 children join all believers in the life-long exploration of Christ's invitation to the communion table. We mark this special moment with a blessing and light reception.

**May
22**

3:00pm Installation of Rev. Johnson

All are invited to this special outdoor worship service in our outdoor chapel. Rev. Abby will be officially installed as Pastor of St. James! Conference Dean Pastor Paul Lutz is presiding and Rabbi Eric Polokoff preaching. There is a light reception to follow, see Linda Bedard to assist.

**June
09**

June 9-11 NE Synod Assembly

Thank you to Janice Salvatore and Tammy Faulkner for attending as St. James Lutheran Church representatives, along with Pastor Abby.

**June
12**

11:30am Congregational Meeting

Each ministry team's report is due to Genie (stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com) no later than Sunday, May 22. Reports will be made available to the congregation on Sunday, May 29 (be sure your email is up to date on our website!)

A Message From Forward Leadership

Good and gracious God, we ask for your guidance as we seek to do your will: Reveal to us this day what you need us to be about; enable our congregation to see more clearly what you are calling us to become; and in your abundant mercy send us help to accomplish all that you call us to be and do. We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Written by Barbara Manville

This is the second in a series of talks on the Forward Leadership program developed by the synod to equip teams of clergy and lay leaders with the skills and strategies needed to attain short and long-term goals. The focus of Forward Leadership is to leverage the results of the CAT (the Congregational Assessment Tool from 2020) and to work toward what was identified as St. James' goals.

This month the "away team" attended a seminar based on the book "Crucial Conversations – Tools for Talking When Stakes are High". The goal of this seminar is to provide tools and techniques that equip church leaders as they model and support healthy crucial conversations.

Have you ever gotten into a conversation and suddenly realized that your emotions were running high and it became difficult to talk and even more difficult to arrive at a good outcome together?

Reminder of CAT goals

Better organization and communication, to strengthen processes where people are called to ministry and leadership, to reach new people and engage families, and foster meaningful relationships in programs & offerings

What we are doing already

- Improved communications channels: website, email, bulletin, Epistle
- Committee leadership has regular meetings with Pastor Abby

Ideas of ways we can expand to support healthy crucial conversations

- Feedback box – to be overseen by Mutual Ministry
- Annual Reflections – reviews for the congregation, Council, committees, and staff, both self-reflect and be in conversation as a group, look at their mission, goals, expectations and outcomes

The key takeaways are:

- We are using the results of the CAT survey – issues we identified as important to St James
- Our initial focus is on helping people know how they can get involved through awareness of opportunities and improved communications

In closing, This is a year-long process so there is much more to come as we learn and reflect. You may notice some changes in how the leadership communicates with the congregation – Someone said this - "you will mess this up, just keep trying". We ask for your support and prayers as we all:

Pause... to take a breath and engage with Christ-like compassion,

As Groups... Keep rooted in our mission and call, to be more inviting and engaging,

As Church... foster a supportive, transparent community culture as we grow.

An Apple A Day



May: Two new Covid-19 Variants

Two new versions of the Covid-19 Omicron covid-19 virus are responsible for the latest increase in coronavirus cases. Both have evolved from the BA.2 subvariant. So far there appears to be no increase in severity of disease than previous variants. The two subvariants can spread rapidly. Scientists aren't sure the two subvariants spread more quickly because of greater contagiousness or the viruses are evading the immune system. One of the new variants has a mutation that allows it to sidestep the immune system. These subvariants have been detected in 40 countries around the world and 30 states across the US.

This week the US has seen an eight percent rise in the number of coronavirus cases. CT state officials show 54 of 169 CT towns are at the highest level of alert or red. That is an increase from last week's total of 25 towns. An additional 56 towns are at the second highest rate of orange. Overall infection rate for CT is 6.5%. Hospitalizations have sharply declined after a spike between December and January. The CDC keeps New Haven County in the green based on total case rates, hospitalizations, and use of inpatient beds. Your best protection against Covid is vaccination, testing if you are symptomatic, wearing a mask indoor public spaces if you are at risk, and washing your hands.

Diane Mladjen, Parish Nurse



Come Hike with Us!

All are welcome! Please contact Lauren Lyons lyonsden1133@yahoo.com 203-982-8415 for info.

May 21 – Come join the Farm Fest at Flanders, 11 AM to 4 PM at the Van Vleck Farm & Nature Sanctuary located at 5 Church Hill Road in Woodbury. Barnyard animals, tractor rides, nature walks. Food trucks available. \$7/person, free under 2.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 9:00am to 10:00am

<https://bit.ly/SundayYAFM>

ADULT FORUM

Sunday 9:00am to 10:00am

<https://bit.ly/SundayAdultForum>

April 24-June 12 is an 8-session book study of "3:16" by Max Lucado. Buy or loan your own copy - all are welcome!

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>.



Join us at Lutheran Winni Week

August 3 - 13, 2022- Ideal for children, youth, adults or seniors, couples, singles and families. "Winni Week" is held at Geneva Point Conference Center, Moultonboro, NH, on beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee, where Lutherans have been gathering since 1931. The week offers a vacation of enrichment, renewal, recreation and Christian fellowship. Morning programs include Bible Study for adults and teens, VBS for children and nursery for infants. Afternoons are whatever you make them - free for swimming, boating, hiking, and just sitting on the beach!

Evenings offer inspiration messages, lakeside services and fellowship time. Accommodations range from simple bunkhouse style units to modern motel-style rooms with private baths. All meals are served buffet style in the dining room. Talk to Lynn and Bob Morrison 203-426-7749, or Paulette Calderone 203-426-6597- all who have been attending over 20 yrs!

SAVE THE DATE!



ST JAMES LUTHERAN

**JULY 25 -29
9AM-12PM**

**PRE K THROUGH
5TH GRADE**

Theme: It's a mystery!

Write in to stjamesyafm@gmail.com to guess this year's theme.

Volunteers can register now via our VBS page on stjamesct.org



St James Preschool

A child's work is play



Class Openings

As the preschool year is coming to a close there are still a few spots open for next year's 4year-old class. Contact Leslie Broch for more information,

stjameslutheranpreschool@gmail.com
m 203-264-6448
stjamesct.org/st-james-preschool

Springtime Greetings

The preschoolers are enjoying the spring and love spending the days in our outdoor classroom! A huge Thank You to the Manville family for continuing to let us borrow the tent and to Jacque and his crew for putting it up! We are exploring seeds, plants and insects and are also looking forward to family celebration days in the next few weeks!

Scholarship Fundraising

The preschool will be holding two fundraisers in May and June for the scholarship fund. One will be a fund opportunity to order some delicious ice cream from Scoopin' ice cream in Union Square Southbury. The other will be a great deal on a kids Taekwondo class package, also in Union Square. Stay tuned for more details.



OUTREACH AND MINISTRIES

God's work, our hands

Help Us Fill Up the Food Bank

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.

May - Alvarado

August-

June - Skinski

September -

July - Jenny Beaudan

October -

Meals Ministry

Reaching out, and helping each other in our faith community here at St. James, is a big part of who we are as Christian disciples! People, occasionally, in our church faith family, can use our reach-out during times of loss, illness, recuperation, new baby arrivals, or times of treatment. Please sign up, as part of our James Ministry, to prepare either a one-dish (casserole), or a salad, or a coffee cake, plate of cookies, or a warm and comforting pot of soup, or a favorite jello salad, which will then be easily delivered by one of our members. Contact Lynn Morrison (edgelake@aol.com or 203-426-7749) for information, and please see her to sign-up for whatever your "helping hand" might be! Thank you so much!

Americares Homefront 2022

Though it may not feel like it quite yet, spring is right around the corner and so is another year of Homefront Day. Join us on the May 21 as we help a 101 year-old veteran homeowner in Southbury. All COVID precautions will be maintained. Please contact Lauren Lyons 203-982-8415 with questions. More details on our website under parish outreach <https://stjamesct.org/outreach-and-ministries/parish-outreach/>

ST JAMES FALL FEST

OCTOBER 1ST

Preparations have begun for our annual St James Fall Fest! This fellowship event includes food, music, and an outdoor market with crafts, decorations, jams, and more!

All proceeds go towards Outreach & Ministries

We are looking for more volunteers! Contact Barbara Manville 203-592-5646 for more details



Run for a Great Cause Zion's Children of Haiti Virtual 5k

Zion's Children of Haiti is a non-profit initiated in Connecticut and one of Saint James' mission partners. Their mission is partnering with Haitians to support education for school aged children in the Hurricane ravaged town of Gonaives. The political situation in Haiti has been very unstable this year so our students desperately need our prayers and support. This major fundraiser is a virtual walk/run held whenever and wherever you'd like the week of August 6-13th. Registration fee is \$20 for 5K, \$10 for those under age 12. Groups of 5 or less can register as a family for \$60, groups of more than 5 can register as a team for \$100. Raffle tickets for some great prizes are also available. 100% of proceeds will go to support the monthly food program for families in need as well as educational support. Online registration is now available at www.brooksee.raceentry.com/annual-running-for-haitis-future/race-information. Sign up and run or walk from wherever you are! Questions or want to pledge support to one of runners? Contact Lauren Lyons 203-982-8415, lyonsden1133@yahoo.com.

DOROTHY DAY HOUSE

Feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless in the Danbury CT area since 1982

Items can be placed in gathering area for collection

The following clothing items:

- Sweatpants and sweatshirts/hoodies
- Men's jeans
- Men's shirts
- Men's non winter jackets
- Men's footwear
- New men's and women's underwear

Items for Grab and Go Bags:

- Fresh fruit
- Cookies
- Granola Bars and Pop Tarts
- Individually Wrapped Snacks

POTLUCK SUPPER

TUESDAY MAY 3RD

Please sign up, in the Gathering Room, for our POTLUCK SUPPER to be held in the Fellowship Room, Tuesday, May 3rd, 5:30 pm to hear from, and support, the Hope Academy Girl's School in Guatemala! We hope for a good turnout, and look forward to seeing you there! See Lynn Morrison, or Pastor Johnson, for sign-up sheet, and further information.



PARLEY MANOR GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY MAY 11 4-6:30 PM

990 Main Street North, Southbury, CT 06488

Kindly RSVP by Friday, May 6 to the admissions Dept 203.264.9135

Special guests include:

Jeff Manville, First Selectman

Kevin Bielmeier, Economic Development Director,
Town of Southbury

Renovations are underway for the Parley Manor at Lutheran Home of Southbury! Join us to learn more about the exciting transformation and plans for the Center's beloved and historic residential care home. Appetizers and refreshments will be served!

Now accepting move in inquiries!





MANY THANKS

Spring Cleanup

Our thanks and appreciation to all those who helped to bring our church and campus back to life at the spring cleanup in April. Thank you to Ellen Hubina, Kathy Haddy, Rich Neeb, Tony Salvatore, Pastor Fred McGee, Steven Ulc, Christian Ulc, Pastor Abby, Judy Katzmark, Karen Lampiasi, Jack Lampiasi, Kevin Bradshaw, Bob Morrison, Lynn Morrison, Priscilla Terhune, Paulette Calderone, Jacque Matthew, and Thule the greeter pup!

New Piano Bench

Our sincere thank you to Pastor Fred McGee for donating a luxurious new “Jansen” piano bench to complement our Steinway piano.

STEWARDSHIP

Let's recall the Stewardship program we ran last Fall. We talked about how we spend our financial resources and coming needs for the new year. As a result of that campaign and your indications of support, we prepared the operating budget for 2022 that the church has been running on this year. The budget enables us to carry on our past programs and support our new called Pastor Abby.

A review of our actual income and expenses through March shows that we are running significantly behind where we expected to be at this point in the year. While not alarming, this status is an important reminder that we need your contributions to stay on track with what is projected for the year.

Let's make sure we are able to sail through 2022 carrying the strong programs we have planned. We want to make Pastor Abby's first year with us outstanding, as we slowly emerge from the pandemic “fog” that has been so difficult the last 2 years.

Let's go forward with the great confidence we have from Easter renewal!

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	Budget	Actual
Jan	16,000.00	9,824.00	2,228.33	1,673.75
Feb	16,000.00	11,510.09	2,228.33	1,843.75
Mar	16,000.00	11,870.09	2,228.33	2,003.75
Apr	16,000.00	3,076.09	2,228.33	643.75
May	16,000.00	3,076.09	2,228.33	643.75
Jun	16,000.00	3,076.09	2,228.33	643.75
Jul	16,000.00	3,076.09	2,228.33	643.75
Aug	16,000.00	3,076.09	2,228.33	643.75
Sep	16,000.00	3,076.09	2,228.33	643.75
Oct	16,000.00	3,076.09	2,228.33	643.75
Nov	16,000.00	3,076.09	2,228.33	643.75
Dec	16,000.00	3,076.09	2,228.33	643.75
Total	\$ 192,000.00	\$ 60,888.99	\$ 26,740.00	\$ 11,315.00

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

Mar 1st

Lector: *Barbara Manville*
Chaplain: *Janice Salvatore*
Cantor: *Lynn Morrison*

May 8th

Lector: *Abby Lyons*
Chaplain: *Lynn Morrison*
Cantor: *Karen Lampiasi*

May 15th

Lector: *Priscilla Terhune*
Chaplain: *Mary Ewert*
Cantor: *Neil Johnson*

May 22nd

Lector: *Janice Salvatore*
Chaplain: *Liz Skinski*
Cantor: *Kaitlyn Franco*

May 29th

Lector: *Marylee Siegle*
Chaplain: *Karen Lampiasi*
Cantor: *Liz Skinski*

CONTACT:

Lectors: Tammy Faulkner
Counters: Curt Haedke
Cantors: Diane Peterson
Prayer Chaplains: Liz Skinski



In Our Prayers

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

Brian Mons
Rachel Nessel
Ethan Nessel
Rose Danieli
Charlie Costello
Conrad & Meg
Isaac
John Richardson
Arlene Richardson
Jordyn Neeb
Rich Neeb
Steve Ulc
Mary Skinski

Andi Lyons
Linda Martin
Diana Larson
Morgan R. Morris
Slava Alvarez
Ned Skinski
Laura Noddin
Father Leo McIlrath
Virginia Swenson
Don Menzer
Mike Carnaroli
Meg Carnaroli
Natalie Carnaroli

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, Fred Weunsch, Vicky Gibb, Janet Behrendt, Ingo Dutzman, Dottie McGinnis, Kendra Iller, Mary Dunn, and Jim.*

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9 am for Sunday School and adult forum, 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.

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 to Lutheran Partners in Russia

Grace and peace be with you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Like many around the world, we the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, have witnessed with grave concern the increased tensions between Russia and Ukraine which have now alarmingly deteriorated to intensified military conflict.

As members together in the Lutheran communion and as companions on the journey in God's mission, I share with you my prayers in this challenging time.

Please know that your brothers and sisters in Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are joining you in prayer. We pray that the God of peace grant comfort to the people in Ukraine and in Russia, that the Holy Spirit guide political leaders to act for peace, in wisdom and humility. We pray for all those who are working for peace in their respective roles and positions: for the politicians who seek diplomatic solutions and for organizations and initiatives that create space for dialogue. We pray for all those providing and receiving humanitarian assistance during this conflict. We pray that our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia will soon live again fully in God's peace without war.

Holy God, out of your great love for the world, your Word became flesh to live among us and to reconcile us to you and to one another. Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit so that we seek to live in unity with all people, breaking down the walls that divide, ending the hostility among us, and proclaiming peace to those who are near and to those who are far away; through Christ Jesus, in whom we all have access in the one Spirit to you, both now and forever. Amen.

In God's Mercy,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

