

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

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 July/August 2022 Epistle is June 15th.

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



June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1-3pm Pastor Walk-ins 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	2 9-12pm Office Open	3 2:30-5pm Office Open	4
5 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship 11:30 Forward Leadership	6 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	7 9-12pm Office Open 2:30pm Worship Planning 7:30pm YAFM	8 1-3pm Pastor Walk-ins 4pm Parley Manor 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	9 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Parish Support Meeting	10 2:30-5pm Office Open	11 5am Forward Leadership 11:30am Rice Shelf Restock
12 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship 11am Cong Meeting	13 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	14 9-12pm Office Open 12pm Pez Factory Tour	15 1-3pm Pastor Walk-ins 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA Epistle Contributions	16 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Council Meeting	17 2:30-5pm Office Open	18
19 10:15am Worship @ Ballantine 11am Church Picnic	20 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	21 9-12pm Office Open 4pm Fellowship Team/Fall Fest	22 1-3pm Pastor Walk-ins 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	23 9-12 Office Open	24 2:30-5pm Office Open	25
26 9:30am Worship	27 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	28 9-12pm Office Open	29 1-3pm Pastor Walk-ins 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	30		

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



Greetings beloved community of St. James,

Of all the words in the dictionary, my favorite is “petrichor.” Its why I named my personal blog ThePetrichorPrayer.com. Petrichor means, “a pleasant smell that frequently accompanies the first rain after a long period of warm, dry weather.” You may not of heard it spoken this way but I bet you can recall the smell if you close your eyes. It is that quick indicator when you step outside in the morning of an early shower passing through while you slept in. It is that breath in through your nose which alerts your brain to the presence of spring again. It’s an obscure word for a familiar smell; the sign that earth is alive and a reminder of the ecosystems alive around us.

If I’m honest, nature is my first church. Buildings are beautiful and the traditions kept inside them are holy but so too is the woods and desert and mountain summits. The places where tradition is not confined to a few generations but thousands; the endless life cycle of earth humming, sprouting, evolving, and persisting. To stand in front of the altar each Sunday morning is to work as an instrument of sharing God’s peace. To stand in front of a field each Sunday afternoon is to take in that peace myself, to be overwhelmed by it like the smell of honeysuckle. In one sanctuary, I am helping to hold the space for others and conduct order from plans. In the other sanctuary, the space is held without my doing and I am just a passive witness and devoted fan. Both are sacred in the delicate balance of pouring out and filling up which marks our spiritual life.

Where are your sanctuaries? Take a moment to list them: the rooms of your childhood, the buildings of your faith communities, the land that grounds you, the spaces you’ve entered where the feeling changed, the places you come up close to God in ways there may be words for – familiar or obscure – or no words at all. I pray you visit them often if you can; with your fancy church shoes, your hiking boots, or with your memory. And may the presence of nature fill you with a peace that passes all the understanding of our manmade ways and touches on the many earthy, dirty, rain-dropped altars of the sacred.

PEACE AND GRATITUDE

PASTOR ABIGAIL JOHNSON AND THULE



PARISH LIFE

Summer worship schedule begins on June 26, with the service beginning at 9:30 AM. Weather permitting, worship will be held outside in the outdoor chapel on the first Sunday of the month.

Sunday worship on June 19 will take place outside at Ballantine Park at 10:15 AM, followed by the church picnic. We will all partake of Communion with the sealed kits that day, from our chairs, benches and picnic blankets.

Comfortable clothing, bug spray and sunscreen are recommended. Feel free to sign up in the gathering area to bring a dish.

FORWARD LEADERSHIP

On March 14, the Forward Leadership Away Team attended their 3rd seminar, entitled "Finding Your Why." The Home Team will be sharing a summary and new insights with the congregation during June 19 worship. Forward Leadership is a year-long educational program of the New England Synod Office. Forward Leadership seminars will not be held over the summer and resume in September 2022.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum is reading "3:16" by Max Lucado. Join the conversation on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM in the Prayer Chapel. The last Adult Forum of this academic year will be June 12, before going on break for the summer. It will resume on Sept 11.

ADULT BIBLE

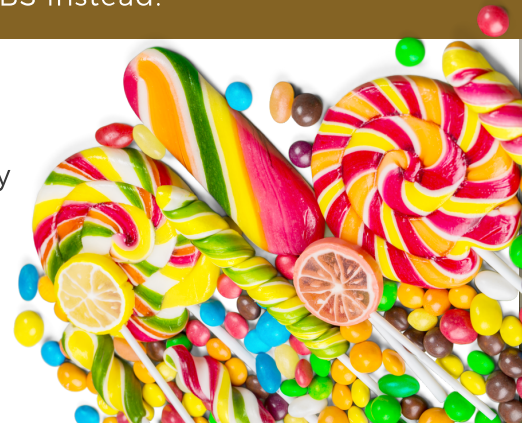
Adult Bible Study continues on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM on Zoom, all are welcome to join the casual conversation focused on Sunday's upcoming readings

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will continue to meet for part of June. The last session of this academic year will be June 12, before going on break for the summer. It will resume on Rally Day - Sunday, September 11. Please join us for VBS instead!

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP FACTORY TOUR

June 14th, in the afternoon Join us on June 14th as we journey to Orange to tour the PEZ factory followed by lunch. Please meet in the church parking lot at Noon and we will carpool from there. The cost for the tour is \$4.00 each and you never know what we may find at the end in the store so be prepared.





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! Contact Lauren Lyons lyonsden1133@yahoo.com 203-982-8415 if interested....

July 16 – Southford Falls

August 27 – Bent of the River.

Help wanted! No experience necessary. Volunteers needed for VBS 2022. Dates are July 25th – July 29th from 9am-12pm . Can't work all of the dates, no problem we will work with your schedule. Openings for Teachers, Teacher's assistants, photography, arts and crafts as well as other types of tasks.

Interested? Contact Tammy Faulkner at StJamesYAFM@gmail.com or 203-512-4471.



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!

ST JAMES ANNOUNCES



ST JAMES LUTHERAN

JULY 25 - 29
9AM - 12PM

PRE K THROUGH
5TH GRADE

JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE FAMOUS BIBLE STORIES IN THE BIBLE THROUGH GAMES, CRAFTS, MUSIC, AND MORE!

- **Where:** 111 Peter Rd, Southbury, CT
- **Cost:** FREE!!
- **How:** Access the [OnRealm registration](#) via the Youth and Families VBS page on stjamesct.org - please enter the camper or volunteer's information in the first form.



Class Openings

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

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

End of Year Greetings

The end of the school year is always busy! Between exciting plant and insect observations, Family Fun Day, Field Day and our End of the Year Celebration, the days are bursting with JOY but go by in the blink of an eye. The teachers are grateful for the past year (or two!) we've shared with our preschool families and for all of the support they, and the church, have provided. We are blessed to be part of such a caring.

Scholarship Fundraiser

Happy Spring Everyone! We are so excited that the warm weather is back and so is our favorite local ice cream shop...Scoopin'! The owners of Scoopin', Arbana and her family, have partnered with St. James Preschool in order to help us raise scholarship funds. We have tried to make it as easy as possible to order using the form below! Scoopin' will donate \$3 for each ice cream sundae kit sold to St. James. You will pay Scoopin' directly when you pick up your kit. If you have any additional questions, please email Nicole at 732-232-6066. **Orders are due by 6/6** and people can choose a pick-up date of 6/10, 6/11 or 6/12.

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.

June – Skinski

August – Lyons

July – Jenny Beaudean

September - OPEN



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.

Americares Homefront Day!

Many thanks to all who participated in this year's Homefront project to help an older gentleman in need in the community.

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 gearing up for this event which will be held on Saturday, October 1st. In the meantime, keep an eye out for ways that you can help:

- Sign-up sheets for various activities will be posted in the narthex on June 12th – We really need everyone to help!
- Previously Owned Boutique – If you are doing spring cleaning, please set aside your coolest treasures. DON'T bring them to church yet – we'll be collecting them in September! (no clothing or electronics please)
- Garden Center – If you are thinning out your perennials or bulbs, stick them in a pot and keep them alive until the Fall Fest!
- Next planning meeting will be held on June 21st at 4pm – WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

This will be a fun day with music, food, tractors, crafts and more! If you have any questions please let me know – Barbara Manville 203-525-2450



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**





MANY THANKS

Our sincere "thank you" to Kevin Bradshaw for his work around our St James entrance. Thanks to his hard work, our congregation has enjoyed many years of beautiful flowers as we drive in.

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 As Of April 30th, 2022

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	17,272.09	2,228.33	3,937.75

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Join us after worship on June 12th for our semi annual congregational meeting. At our June meeting we receive reports from all committees and staff and elect new council members. The meeting agenda will be sent out ahead of time through a dropbox link, however limited printed copies will be available this Sunday at church.



Join in person or via zoom
Meeting ID: 851 3210 0031
Passcode: 379721

SERVING IN WORSHIP

PRAYER CHAPLAINS, LECTORS, USHERS,
CANTORS, COUNTERS

June 5th

Lector: *Emilie Ulc*

Chaplain: *Janice Salvatore*

Cantor: *Lucia Dressel*

Counters: *Bill Siegle, Donna Peterson,
Diane Mladjen*

June 12th

Lector: *Barbara Manville*

Chaplain: *Karen Lampiasi*

Cantor: *Ben Dressel*

Counters: *Jim Mix, Gale Mix, Barbara
Manville*

June 19th

Lector: *Alejandro Alvarado*

Chaplain: *Lynn Morrison*

Cantor: *Karen Lampiasi*

Counters: *Bob Morrison, Catherine Ulc,
Steven Ulc*

June 26th

Lector: *Curt Haedke*

Chaplain: *Lynn Morrison*

Cantor: *Lynn Morrison*

Counters: *Diane Larson, Rich Larson, Bill
Siegle*

CONTACT:

Lectors: Tammy Faulkner

Counters: Curt Haedke

Cantors: Diane Peterson

Prayer Chaplains: Liz Skinski



In Our Prayers

Jordyn Neeb
Rich Neeb
Mary Skinski
Slava Alvarez
Virginia Swenson

Alejandro Alvarado
Priscilla Terhune
Brian Mons
Paul Meberg
Janet Benzell

Nadasen Family
Melody Joy
Judy Katzmark
Conrad
Meg

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 Frank Haddy, Linda Martin, and Steve Danek

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.

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for summer worship (beginning June 26th) 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.

Peace I leave with
you; my peace I
give to you. I do
not give to you as
the world gives.
Do not let your
hearts be
troubled, and do
not let them be
afraid
John 14:27

ELCA Response to the School Shooting in Uvalde, Texas

Gracious God, news of the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, has ripped our hearts and torn our souls. We are walking through the valley of the shadow of death. In the depths of pain and anger, we come before you, O God, our rock and our refuge. You are our only comfort. You are our only hope. Merciful God, you know the depth of our suffering. We have only begun to mourn those we have lost.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America grieves with the families of the 19 students and two teachers killed in Tuesday's mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Mass shootings in this country over the past two weeks have deepened the wounds of grief and sorrow. This follows the racially motivated shooting of 10 people in Buffalo, N.Y.; the shooting in Laguna Woods, Calif.; and the 27 other school shootings that have occurred in 2022. Many of the shooters have targeted children and older adults — some of the most vulnerable in our society.

We reaffirm our commitment in calling for greater gun safety, including preventing easy access to assault-style weapons and strengthening our federal system of background checks for all gun sales. As people of faith, we hold on to our belief in caring for our neighbors and striving for justice and peace in all the earth. We ask for continued support for all first responders that arrive at a moment's notice and place their lives in harm's way for the sake of others. We ask for continued support for those providing medical, mental and emotional support as we grieve over this tragedy. We lament for those who have perpetrated violence against others. We thank the leaders of the Southwestern Texas Synod responding to the shooting in Uvalde and for ecumenical and interreligious partners committed to accompanying this community for the long term.

The ELCA social message "*Community Violence*" (1994) calls on our church to continue partnering with other religious and community groups in anti-violence initiatives that offer vital spiritual and moral resources, and that replace the fear and violence plaguing our homes, schools, communities and nation with hope and reconciliation. We join with others in pushing to stem the proliferation of guns in our streets, schools and communities, and to end the culture of violence that pervades our media and society.

