

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)

*There will be no set "Walk-in Welcome" hours for the pastor's office over the summer. Contact Pastor Abby to schedule a meeting
Pastor observes Sabbath on Friday and Saturday.*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Rev. Abigail Johnson	<i>Pastor</i>
Linda Bedard	<i>Council Member</i>
Jan Carnaroli	<i>Council Member</i>
Lucia Dressel	<i>Council Member</i>
Kathy Haddy	<i>Council Member</i>
Diane Mladjen	<i>Council Member</i>
Lynn Morrison	<i>Council Member</i>
Donna Peterson	<i>Council Member</i>
Tony Salvatore	<i>Council Member</i>
Liz Skinski	<i>Council Member</i>
Emilie Ulc	<i>Youth Representative</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>
Neil Johnson	<i>Treasurer \$\$</i>
Gail Fay	<i>Assistant Treasurer \$\$</i>

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for worship at 111 Peter Road, Southbury, CT. Masks are optional; we ask all to review CDC and CT guidelines to make appropriate choices for your household.

The due date for the September 2022 Epistle is August 15th.

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

SERVING IN WORSHIP

PRAYER CHAPLAINS, LECTORS, USHERS,
CANTORS, COUNTERS

July 3rd

Lector: Diane Larson

Chaplain: Karen Lampiasi

Cantor: Neil Johnson

Counters: Neil Johnson,
Donna Peterson, Bill Siegle

July 10th

Lector: Diane Mladjen

Chaplain: Jim Mix

Cantor: Karen Lampiasi

Counters: Jim Mix, Gale
Mix, Bob Morrison

July 17th

Lector: Donna Peterson

Chaplain: Janice Salvatore

Cantor: Liz Skinski

July 24th

Lector: Abby Lyons

Chaplain: Liz Skinski

Cantor: Neil Johnson

July 31st

Lector: John Dressel

Chaplain: Lynn Morrison

Cantor: Ben Dressel

August 7th

Lector: Liz Skinski

Chaplain: Mary Ewert

Cantor: Lucia Dressel

August 14th

Lector: Jan Carnaroli

Chaplain: Karen Lampiasi

Cantor: Ben Dressel

August 21st

Lector: Judy Katzmark

Chaplain: Jim Mix

Cantor: Kaitlyn Franco

August 28th

Lector: Barbara Manville

Chaplain: Janice Salvatore

Cantor: Lynn Morrison

CONTACT:

Lectors: Tammy Faulkner

Counters: Curt Haedke

Cantors: Diane Peterson

Prayer Chaplains: Liz Skinski





July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 2:30-5pm Office Open	2
3 9:30am Outdoor Worship	4 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	5 9-12pm Office Open 2:30pm Worship Planning 7:30pm YAFM	6 5:15pm Mutual Ministry 8pm AA	7 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Parish Support Meeting	8 2:30-5pm Office Open	9 11:30am Rice Shelf Restock
10 9:30am Worship	11 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	12 9-12pm Office Open 1pm Women's Fellowship	13 8pm AA	14 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Council Meeting	15 2:30-5pm Office Open	16 10:00am YAFM Hike
17 9:30am Worship	18 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	19 9-12pm Office Open 4pm Fellowship Meeting	20 8pm AA	21 9-12 Office Open 7pm Preschool Board Meeting	22 2:30-5pm Office Open	23
24 9:30am Worship	25 10-12pm Pastor Walk-ins 8pm AA	26 9-12pm Office Open	27	28 9-12pm Office Open	29 2:30-5pm Office Open	30

Vacation Bible School!

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

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



August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30am Worship	1 8pm AA	2 9-12pm Office Open 7:30pm YAFM Meeting	3 8pm AA	4 9-12pm Office Open	5 2:30-5pm Office Open	6
7 9:30am Outdoor Worship	8 8pm AA	9 9-12pm Office Open 1pm Women's fellowship	10 8pm AA	11 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Parish Support Meeting	12 2:30-5pm Office Open	13 11:30am Rice Shelf Restock
14 9:30am Worship Epistle Contributions	15 8pm AA	16 9-12pm Office Open 4pm Fellowship Team	17 8pm AA	18 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Council Meeting	19 2:30-5pm Office Open	20
21 9:30am Worship	22 8pm AA	23 9-12pm Office Open 2:30pm Worship Planning	24 8pm AA	25 9-12 Office Open 7pm Preschool Board mtg	26 2:30-5pm Office Open	27 10:00am YAFM Hike
28 9:30am Worship	29 8pm AA	30 9-12pm Office Open				

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A WORD FROM PASTOR ABBY

Dear Beloved Community of St. James

This summer, I've been invited to serve as a chaplain and guest faculty member to Pinecrest Lutheran Camp in New Jersey, to teach classes on meditation and environmental theology. If you've ever wondered what Environmental Theology is, here's a little introduction...

What is Environmental Theology?

Well, "theology" means the study of God, a deeper look at the sacred and our relationship with it. In specialized theology, certain truths are held close to the heart when pursuing an understanding of divinity. Environmental theology holds truths focused on natural creation: the fundamental belief that God made and loves the world, the history of science and evolution, the beauty of land and living creatures with the very real and painful effects of climate change. Keeping these points in mind and in heart influences the way we interact with biblical study, worship, service and outreach, internal beliefs, and external lifestyle. Functioning like an added lens, specialized theology is a unique emphasis when looking through the camera to view the world.

Is that in the Bible?

When we read the Bible as environmental theologians, we come to see Creation as its own character in our larger faith narrative. From the creation stories in Genesis, through the salvation of the Gospels, to the restoration in Revelation, earth is more than just the setting for the story. Earth is in relationship with God, too. Lovingly created through a process of time and change, God spoke inherent goodness into each form of water, air, plant, and animal. Humanity, set apart in image and purpose, was given unique responsibilities to care for the earth, to "till and keep it" (Genesis 2:15). We are not above or removed from creation - we are a part of it and God desires us to be in active relationship with it. The promises of Christ, which bring community and belonging, salvation and forgiveness, restoration and wholeness, they are not just for people but for planet.

A WORD (CONTINUED)



What does that mean for us?

If we begin to think of the earth more as our responsibility and less our resource, more as our community and less our commodity, it deeply changes how we live in communion with creation. In our worship, it may carry us outside to new spaces for liturgy and praise. We may draw deeper meaning from the elements of sacraments – water, wine, and bread – as agricultural products of the land. We may find reminders of environmental theology showing up more in sermons, prayers, and Sunday School lessons. We may investigate new ways our building and activities can produce a lower carbon footprint and waste production. Flower beds along the parking lot may become a prayer garden or produce vegetables that get donated to the local food pantry. We may begin to see that the causes we fight for, the injustices we march against, all share a common connection to environment. And science is celebrated as God’s revelation, not God’s enemy. Environmental Theology encourages an active hope, not a passive one. It roots us back to what is most elemental in our lives. It brings our faith home to the garden, as God first create it to be.

PEACE AND GRATITUDE

PASTOR ABIGAIL JOHNSON AND THULE

An Apple A Day



Apple A Day: Update on Coronavirus, More Omicron Variants

Omicron has provided us with two new variants BA.4 and BA.5. They represent 13 percent of new coronavirus cases as of 6/11/22. The origin of these new variants is South Africa. A surge in South Africa in April and May fueled by these new variants caused a large wave but less than previous waves with fewer deaths. As the omicron variants before, these variants are skilled at evading the protective immunity of vaccination and previous infection.. Thus they can spread more easily than variants before them. Omicron is adept at infecting cells in the nose. The two new subvariants are replacing BA.2 as quickly as BA.2 replaced the original Omicron.

The US is averaging 100,000 new cases daily. The Northeast case rate is declining, Case rates in other parts of the US are rising, most in Southern US. The case rates are highest in Arkansas , Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas.

Moderna is developing a vaccine for the fall configured to offer more protection against Omicron and subvariants. Initial studies show 50-60 percent efficacy against Omicron.

Best protection against hospitalization and death from Covid-19 are vaccination, mitigation with mask wearing, distancing and washing your hands.



PARISH LIFE

Summer worship schedule began 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.

ADULT BIBLE

Bible Study will not have regular meeting times over the summer, resumes Wednesday, September 14. You're invited to join in reading through the books of Psalms, Proverbs and Song of Solomon independently through the summer, bit by bit every day.

ADULT FORUM

School is on break over the summer, resumes Sunday September 11.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

School is on break over the summer, resumes Sunday September 11.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Have you noticed what a good job the ladies do in getting together monthly for a time of fellowship and outreach? Bill Siegle and Jacque Matthew would like to organize a monthly St James men's meeting . If you'd be interested in being part of such a group let's hear from you! We have no predefined agenda, but typically such a group would meet for a time of Christian sharing and fellowship, once a month at church or some mutually agreeable location. If you might be interested in finding out more, let Bill (billsiegle@comcast.net or 408-332-3502) or Jacque (Jacque.matthew@charter.net or 203-233-9581) know, and what time would work for you for an initial organizing meeting.



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 VBS MISSION PARTNER HELP US FILL THE BOOKSHELF!

There are more than 800 families living in the rural village of El Aguacate, Guatemala. The average family has eight children and exists well below the poverty level. Many girls are kept home from school to help with household chores and to care for their younger siblings.

In 2019, Tree 4 Hope (www.tree4hope.org) opened Hope Academy in Aguacate. This bilingual STEAM school promotes a global focus on science, arts, engineering and business, blending Western and Latin American teaching methods for multi-cultural learning. Taught in a positive learning environment, the curriculum will emphasize women's rights, global relationship-building, and self-esteem, cultivating these girls' intellectual, social, and spiritual development. Because educated women are more likely to have fewer children and larger incomes, graduates will change the entire economic outlook of their village.

Tree 4 Hope is in need of new or gently used Spanish and bilingual books from levels K-5 to help fill the small library and nourish their voracious readers! During VBS July 25-29, we will be accepting donation of books or monetary donations that will be used to purchase books to send to Guatemala. Every \$15 in donations will place another book on the shelf. Help us fill the bookshelf!!! You may make a donation through the offering plate, memo: VBS mission. For further information contact Lauren Lyons (203-982-8415, lyonsden1133@yahoo.com) or Pastor Abby Johnson (203-450-6454, pastor@stjamesct.org)



For further information
contact

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982-8415,
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or

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(203-450-6454,
pastor@stjamesct.org)



A child's work is play

While we've held our breath many times over the past year, the end of the year was pure joy at the preschool! The Pirate Days, Water Day and End of Year Celebrations were full of love, laughter and excitement. We can't wait to see what next year brings!



The preschool celebrated the close of another great year educating our community's youngest. There are still a few spots open for next year's 4year-old class. Contact Leslie Broch for more information,

stjameslutheranpreschool@gmail.com
203-264-6448.

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.

July – Jenny Beaudean

August – Lyons

September - Faulkner/Alvarado

October- 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.



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**

FALL FEST NEEDS YOU

We are gearing up for this event which will be held on Saturday, October 1st.

Calling all artistic individuals and local suppliers of crafts or home-grown products

St James is offering a table at our 3rd Annual Fall Fest to showcase your gifts.

Details:

Table rental is only \$20 and the donation of one item to be used by St James for our Silent Auction or Raffle.

On the day of the event, doors open for set-up at 8am.

You can register and pay online at <https://tinyurl.com/FallFest2022> or use the paper forms that are located in the gathering area.

The deadline for registration AND payment is Sept 28th and we have 20 vendor tables "available"



Southbury Farmer's Market

The Southbury Farmer's market began on June 16 and runs until October on Thursdays from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Southbury Town Hall. Part of caring for God's creation is being a good steward – we can help this by eating locally produced foods to cut down on use of fuel for transportation. Plus it tastes GREAT!!!





TEAM GROWS

Christian Ulc joins the St James landscaping team of Kevin Bradshaw, Tony Salvatore, and Jacque Matthew. Join our team for just one Saturday a month!! Call Jacque at 203-233-9581.

STEWARDSHIP

2022 Monthly Budget to Actual As Of May 31st, 2022				
	Operating Income		Mortgage Income	
Month	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Jan	16,000.00	10,602.00	2,228.33	1,673.75
Feb	16,000.00	11,434.00	2,228.33	1,843.75
Mar	16,000.00	11,794.00	2,228.33	2,003.75
Apr	16,000.00	16,746.00	2,228.33	3,937.75
May	16,000.00	15,626.00	2,228.33	1,978.75

Landscaping Fund	\$ 5,485.00
Bell Tower Fund	\$ 21,138.03
Organ Fund	\$ 1,647.00
Organ & Music	\$ 805.00

In Our Prayers

Jordyn Neeb
Rich Neeb
Mary Skinski
Slava Alvarez
Virginia Swenson

John Magalhaes
Alejandro Alvarado
Priscilla Terhune
Brian Mons
Paul Meberg
Janet Benzell
Melody Joy

Conrad
Meg
Peter Adler
Grace Warren
Roy Warren
Dory Kutz
Karen Lampiasi

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, Steve Danek, and Lou Pesce*

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 worship at 111 Peter Road, Southbury, CT. Masks are optional; we ask all to review CDC and CT guidelines to make appropriate choices for your household.

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.