

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

Rev. Abigail Johnson	<i>Pastor</i>
Kathy Haddy	<i>President</i>
Linda Bedard	<i>Vice President</i>
Jan Carnaroli	<i>Worship</i>
Lucia Dressel	<i>Fellowship</i>
Diane Mladjen	<i>Preschool</i>
Lynn Morrison	<i>Evangelism</i>
Donna Peterson	<i>Secretary</i>
Tony Salvatore	<i>Support</i>
Liz Skinski	<i>Faith Formation</i>
Emilie Ulc	<i>Youth Representative</i>

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Genie Bisch	<i>Parish Sec., Preschool Admin. Asst.</i>
	<i>T,Th 9-12pm; Fri. 2:30-5pm</i>
Leslie Broch	<i>Director, St. James PreSchool</i>
Diane Peterson	<i>Director of Music</i>
Tammy Faulkner	<i>Coordinator, Youth & Family</i>
Curt Haedke	<i>Financial Secretary \$\$</i>
Neil Johnson	<i>Treasurer \$\$</i>
Ellen Hubina	<i>Assistant Treasurer \$\$</i>

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 10:1 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 October 2022 Epistle is September 15th.

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



September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9-12pm Office Open	2 2:30-5pm Office Open	3
4 9:30am Outdoor Worship	5 8pm AA	6 9am PreK Welcome 9-12pm Office Open 11am Staff Meeting 2:30pm Worship Planning 7:30pm YAFM	7 9am PreK Welcome 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	8 9-12pm Office Open 7pm Parish Support Meeting	9 2:30-5pm Office Open	10 9am Men's Group 11:30am Rice Shelf Restock
11 9:00am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship	12 10am Pastor's Office Hours 8pm AA	13 9-12pm Office Open 11am Staff Meeting 4pm Fellowship Team	14 1pm Pastor's Office Hours 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	15 9-12pm Office Open 1pm Ladies' Luncheon Epistle Contributions	16 2:30-5pm Office Open	17
18 9:00am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship	19 10am Pastor's Office Hours 8pm AA	20 9-12pm Office Open 11am Staff Meeting 4pm Fellowship Team	21 1pm Pastor's Office Hours 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	22 9-12 Office Open 7pm Preschool Board mtg	23 2:30-5pm Office Open	24 5pm Forward Leadership
25 9:00am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship TBD Family Fun night	26 10am Pastor's Office Hours 8pm AA	27 9-12pm Office Open 11am Staff Meeting	28 6pm Council Meeting 7pm Bible Study 8pm AA	29 9-12 Office Open	30 2:30-5pm Office Open	1 10:00am Fall Fest

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

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

SERVING IN WORSHIP

PRAYER CHAPLAINS, LECTORS, USHERS,
CANTORS, COUNTERS

September 4th

Usher: Bob Morrison

Lector: Donna Peterson

Chaplain: Liz Skinski

Cantor: Neil Johnson

Counters: Neil Johnson,
Donna Peterson, Barbara
Manville

September 18th

Usher:

Lector: Emilie Ulc

Chaplain: Mary Ewert

Cantor:

Counters:

September 11th

Usher: Bill Siegle

Lector: Janice Salvatore

Chaplain: Lynn Morrison

Cantor: Liz Skinski

Counters:

September 25th

Usher:

Lector: Kathy Haddy

Chaplain: Karen
Lampiasi

Cantor: Lynn Morrison

Counters:

CONTACT:

Lectors: Tammy Faulkner

Counters: Curt Haedke

Cantors: Diane Peterson

Prayer Chaplains: Liz Skinski

Ushers: Jacque Matthews



ORDINARY TIME

in autumn

GUEST VOICE

Sunday, Nov. 20
Rev. Steven Wilco
Associate to the
Bishop, New
England Synod



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Sunday, Sept. 25,
Activity

Sunday Oct. 30,
Activity



ADULT FORUM BOOK STUDY

"Moral Leadership
for a Divided Age"
by Gushee &
Holtz



FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Fall Fest
Saturday, Oct. 1

SEPT. 11 - NOV. 26

*Stories of God's People
... Heart & Mind*

"Ordinary Time" is the second half of the church liturgical year. Where the *first* half of the church year focused on the story of God in Jesus, the *second* focuses on the story of God in God's People.

This autumn season, we explore who we are and how God is at work in us, through our history, identities, and traditions.

OUTREACH

United Nations
International
Children's Emergency
Fund
(UNICEF)



With the "Trick or Treat" fundraiser, we support UNICEF work to provide humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.

WORSHIP

- Resume 10:15 AM Services
- 09/11 - Back to School Blessings
- 10/30 - Reformation Sunday
- 11/06 - All-Saints Sunday
- 11/20 - Cosmic Christ Sunday
- 11/22 - Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

A WORD FROM PASTOR ABBY

Dear Beloved Community of St. James,

The close of summer may bring a disappointing end to relaxed pace, vacations, and homework-free evenings but along with it, the return of cozy autumn, regular schedules, and fresh school supplies. Have you ever wondered what's up with the church calendar? After all, it doesn't quite follow our Gregorian calendar, academic calendar, even the lunar calendar. But just like the rest, just like our lives, it rotates through seasons in a cyclical fashion. In the same way we expect snow and school vacation in December, we anticipate the start of a new church year and the preparation for Christ during Advent. This rolls into His coming at Christmas, through his Epiphany teachings and Lenten reflections, onto the cross at Holy Week, and the celebration of His resurrection all through Easter.

Pentecost is the moment of transition, when Christ returns to heaven and leaves us with the Holy Spirit. In that moment, the story shifts: from the story of God in Jesus to the story of God in the Spirit - a Spirit which exists in and between each of us. So therefore, it becomes the Story of God in Us. We join the story - the story of God in God's People. We explore who we are and how God is at work in us and through us. Funny that we should call this season "Ordinary Time," for such a time sound anything but ordinary. And yet, this shift speaks to beautiful truths in our Christian faith and collective church life.

The Christian church calendar is a balance of Christ's life (what was) and our lives (what is) and our world going forward (what is to come). So we can't just fixate on the past, consumed by nostalgia, because God is present in new and ever-expanding ways. We also can't narrow our vision on just the realities of today, because God has shared wisdom and truth throughout the ages. And we can't just think ahead, to the Kingdom of God as it will be, because in many ways, it's already here and needs our faithful engagement now for the good of all people. The Kingdom of God is then and now and becoming; that's the beauty of a post-Pentecost world! An ever-widening expression of Christ.

A WORD (CONTINUED)



Fall Hammonasset 2006

Like a dance, we gently swaying between the “then” and “now” of each season, before waltzing into the next. Each season of the church year carries themes which can deeply enrich our journey of faith in this cyclical rhythm. Some are not all that surprising; Advent is about preparation; Lent is about repentance. In the summer season of Ordinary Time, we danced through the story of God’s people “body and soul” as we rested, vacationed, meditated, and played. Now, in this autumn season of Ordinary Time, we dance into the story of God’s people “heart and mind.” You’ll see these themes make their way into all church life - from worship, to faith-formation, even outreach. We’ll explore what we think and believe as Christians and Lutherans in resumed faith-formation classes. We’ll honor our history on Reformation Sunday, All Saint Sunday, even Southbury community anniversaries. As a new season ends and we dance into the next, let hold the traditions of old they welcome back, full gratitude for the present moment, with creativity and curiosity of what could...

PEACE AND GRATITUDE

PASTOR ABIGAIL JOHNSON AND THULE

An Apple A Day



Apple A Day: Update on Coronavirus, More Omicron Variants

Polio eradication has been decades in the making. Recent news reports by public health officials in New York state wastewater samples show the polio virus is present.

Polio is highly contagious and sometimes deadly. Polio spreads flu like symptoms It can ravage the nervous system and cause paralysis. One in 200 cases results in paralysis or disability of some kind. The virus is spread through contaminated food, water and ultimately feces.

Before 1955 the virus could paralyze up to 15,000 children in the US per year. Even though US has high vaccination rates it has pockets of low vaccination that keep the children and adults in those populations at risk. There is no present serious risk of polio infection for CT citizens.

There are oral and injectable vaccines. The nuance of the vaccines is that they do not always protect others from infection due to shedding of virus in feces. People may not have symptoms of illness but carry and shed virus to the vulnerable . The virus finds its way to non vaccinated people and spreads infection. The samples of wastewater that recently detected polio in New York were of the vaccine related polio.

Only inactivated vaccine has been used in the US since 2000. This vaccine is more stable than the oral vaccine. It is also less likely to mutate to the form which causes paralysis. The US vaccine is effective at preventing paralysis but not as effective in preventing spread of the disease. The CDC recommends children receive a series of 4 injections the last one being between 4-6 years of age.



PARISH LIFE

Worship Team

Meets 1st Tuesday @ 2:30 in Prayer Chapel

Sunday, Sept. 11 - 10:30 AM worship resumes, includes "Back-to-School Blessing" of teachers & students

Sunday worship is outside the 1st Sunday of the month, weather permitting



FELLOWSHIP TEAM

Meets 3rd Tuesday @4:00 (contact Barbara Manville, chair)

Fall Fest – Saturday, Oct. 1 @ 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Women's Group – meets 2nd Tuesday @ 1:00 PM, Fellowship Hall (contact Judy Katzmark)

Men's Group – meets 2nd Saturday @ 9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall (contact Bill Siegle)



Upcoming Dates:

September 10th: 2nd Men's Fellowship meeting
September 11th: Blessing of teachers and students
September 15th: Ladies' fellowship Luncheon
October 1st: Fall Fest



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Luncheon

Join the ladies of St. James as we begin our new year of fellowship and outreach in September. We will be gathering for luncheon at the 1850 House on the 15th at 1 PM. Have arranged a lovely spread from salad through dessert at a cost of \$20.00 per person. Please contact Judy Katzmark or Karen Lampiasi by the 10th so we can let the catering staff now how many to prepare for that day. Come and meet some of the other faces you see on Sundays.



MEN'S GROUP

We think men need a chance to sit down with other men, share part of their lives and enjoy a bit of friendly fellowship. We had our first meeting on August 13, and will meet again 9am September 10 (2nd Saturday of the month). We meet in Fellowship Hall, enjoy a bit of coffee and pastry, and talk about "stuff". In our first meeting, we asked the question, "How do you come to be at St James in August 2022?" What followed was a wide ranging set of conversations of personal history and faith walks.

We haven't settled on a regular format yet. We'll discuss that in September, but we intend to keep things loose till we find a pattern that works for all. We're open to ideas. A breakfast or lunch out? A mission project? Sharing about our work careers? Think about it and we'll talk more on September 10th!



FAITH FORMATION

YAFM meets 1st Tuesday @ 7:30 – 9:00 PM, on Zoom

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation class for Jr. High students (6th, 7th or 8th Grade) will be delayed as we revamp our format. Details to come; see Lynn Morrison or Pastor Abby to enroll.

WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

Wednesdays @ 12:30 PM o Original 2-minute guided meditations by Pastor Abby sent right to your phone; subscribe on our website homepage

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study resumes Wednesday Sept. 7 @ 7:00 PM, on Zoom

Join us for casual conversation on the upcoming Sunday's assigned readings and prayer.

ADULT FORUM

Resumes Sunday Sept. 11 @ 9:00 AM, Prayer Chapel

Join us for a book study of "Moral Leadership for a Divided Age" by Gushee & Holtz (11 weeks, Sept. 11 – Nov. 26)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth and Family Ministries is taking time to thoughtfully reflect, review and reinvent our programming. As a result, Sunday School will have a delayed start this year. We'll come back with quality, organized, engaging, and faithful programming for the youth and families in October. Thank you for your support and patience, especially with the recent medical emergencies of our leadership.

PODCAST:

A STEADFAST BRANCH

A new offering to enrich your faith journey with devotionals, recorded sermons, weekly meditations, and interviews by Pastor Abby. Listen anytime for free, subscribe on Spotify. New episodes uploaded weekly.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



FILL THE SHELF

This year's mission focus for VBS was to collect Spanish and bilingual books for Tree for Hope School in Guatemala. Over 40 books were collected and almost \$800 was donated to allow the purchase of many more to expand their library. Many, many thanks for your generosity!

GOD BLESSES THE CHILDREN

The last week in July, 47 children, 7 middle school counselors in training, and 20 adult volunteers spent their week with us to learn about God's love. Our theme was "God Blesses the Children" - told via biblical stories involving children. Many, many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped to make the week possible - it takes a village and we are so grateful for the community that supports our young people.

Ulla McGEE Scholarship Fund

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the scholarship fund in the past. This year we have more families requesting financial assistance in order to send their kids to St. James Preschool than in previous years. If you are able and interested, please consider supporting the scholarship fund so that we may continue to support families in need. ♥



We are so excited for the new year and getting to know our families. We are looking forward to our days filled with learning, creativity and fun! In the weeks ahead we will be adjusting to the new school routine, learning about ourselves and each other, exploring apples and going on a field trip to pick apples and pumpkins!

Come welcome new and returning students and their families as they arrive on the first days of school for St. James Preschool: Tuesday, Sept. 6 for 3-year old program & Wednesday, Sept. 7 for 4-year-old program @ 9:00 AM. Bring your smiles!

The preschool is getting ready to open their doors for another great year! 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.



OUTREACH AND MINISTRIES

God's work, our hands

Help Us Fill Up the Food Bank

Saint James is doing a great job keeping up support of the rice shelf at the Southbury Food Bank – keep up the great work!!!! The food bank serves about 100 families in the community – each family is allowed to visit twice monthly and can take a rice item at each visit.... That's a LOT of rice. The VBS program will also be collecting rice to support the food bank. There are still some months available for food bank stocking: 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.

September - Colasanto

October- OPEN

November- OPEN

December- Morrisons

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

THANK YOU

Our virtual race was a HUGE success.
**WITH YOUR HELP WE WERE ABLE TO
RAISE A GRAND TOTAL OF \$5,727!!**

Whether you raced, bought raffle tickets, bought a t-shirt, or made a general donation - we can't thank you enough!

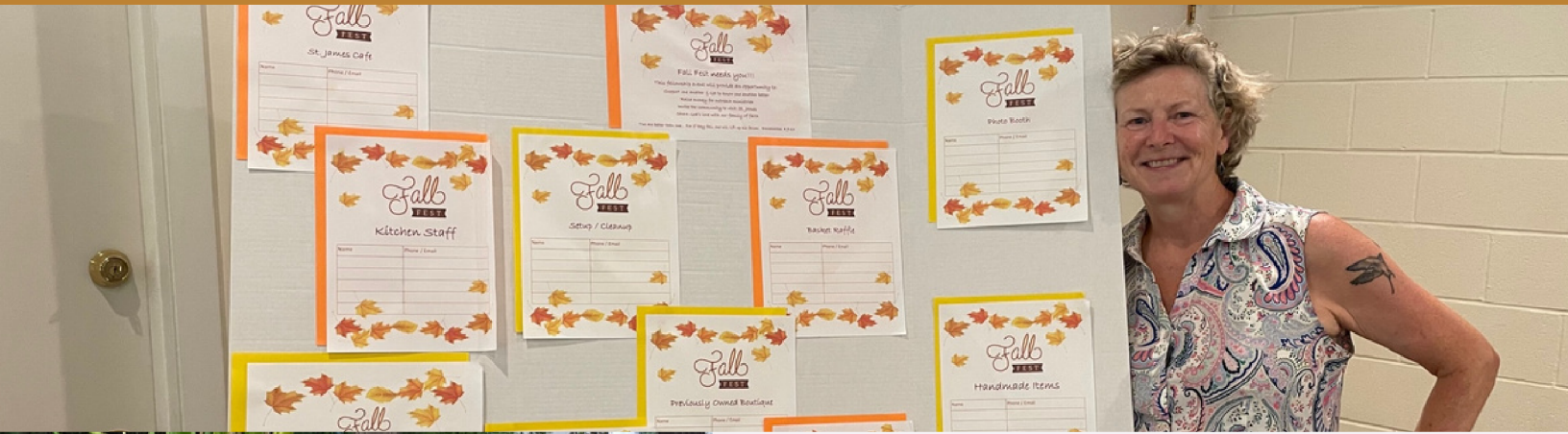
These funds will go towards purchasing food for the families in Gonaives, Haiti. Our students in Haiti ran a bit last month with us as well! They had to be more conservative and careful this year due to the unstable political situation but take a peek at any of our social media platforms to view videos of them running the race.

Thank you, again. Our hearts are full!



Fall Fest

All proceeds from this event will go towards outreach ministries, please help to make this event a big success!



October 1st

Fall Fest will be here before we know it! Please consider donating some nice used items for the White Elephant sale - beginning on September 1st you can bring items in and leave them in the small chapel.

If you have houseplants or you're thinning out perennials, we'd love to add them to the plant sale part of the festival.

We are still accepting table reservations from craft or cottage industry vendors. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor a table you can register on the website or use the paper forms in the gathering area. We could use a few more vendors so please register for a table.

With 6 weeks to go there is much to do. I'll be asking for volunteers each week so please prayerfully consider how you can help!



LETTERS

AND COMMUNITY
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Dates of November 11 - 13, 2022 for an important commemoration as our community celebrates the 85th anniversary of how in 1937 the citizens of Southbury stopped America's most prominent Nazi organization from establishing their largest training camp in Southbury. A series of events are planned from Friday night through Sunday morning further exploring this history, and what has been learned in recent years.



An outline of the weekend can be found at www.southbury-ct.org/1937. The commemoration is a collaboration of the Town of Southbury, Region 15, the Southbury Historical Society, numerous religious organizations in Southbury (including our own St. James Lutheran Church), and Tribury Rotary, and is funded in part by the Southbury Community Trust Fund at Connecticut Community Foundation. Join in celebrating Southbury's unique history!

To All – Thank you so much for supporting me in so many ways throughout my lifetime! Your love and generosity means the world. Most recently, thank you for the Rev. T. A. Gustafson Educational Aid Fund Scholarship! I am entering my 5th and final year of an accelerated occupational therapy program; I'm so excited to pursue this passion of mine as a career in the near future! Please know that this community (including YOU) has shaped me as a person and will forever impact the way I show up in this world. Thank you for leading with love

Hugs, Kaitlyn Furr

Dear Saint James congregation,

Thank you so much for awarding me with the Rev. T. A. Gustafson Education Aid Scholarship. It means a lot to me and I will be using the aid to help fund my service trip over my spring break where I go to the Appalachia region and do community service.

Many thanks to you all -
Ryan Furr

In Our Prayers

Jordyn Neeb
Rich Neeb
Marie Salvatore
Slava Alvarez
Virginia Swenson
John Magalhaes
Priscilla Terhune
Brian Mons
Paul Meberg

Melody Joy
Conrad
Meg
Peter Adler
Grace Warren
Roy Warren
Dory Kutz
Tena Chiappetta
Stanley Ulc

Diana Larson
Bruni Dreher
Tammy Faulkner
Joyce Lyons
Taylor Morrison
Pat Flynn
Jenny Beaudean-White
Caroline Kaiger
Janet Benzell

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, Lou Pesce, and Christine Granskog*

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 10:15 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.