

OCTOBER 2022

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

Rev. Abigail Johnson, Pastor

(she/her/hers)

pastor@stjamesct.org 203-450-6454 (call or text)

Walk-Ins Welcome:

Mondays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM & Wednesdays 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

or by appointment to suit your availability

Pastor observes Sabbath on Friday and Saturday.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Kathy Haddy	<i>President</i>
Linda Bedard	<i>Vice President</i>
Donna Peterson	<i>Secretary</i>
Jan Carnaroli	<i>Worship</i>
Liz Skinski	<i>Faith Formation</i>
Lucia Dressel	<i>Fellowship & Comm.</i>
Diane Mladjen	<i>Preschool</i>
Lynn Morrison	<i>Outreach & Evang.</i>
Tony Salvatore	<i>Finance & Properties</i>
Emilie Ulc	<i>Youth Rep.</i>
Rev. Abigail Johnson	<i>ex-officio</i>

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Genie Bisch	<i>Parish Secretary Preschool Admin. Asst.</i>
Abigail Manville	<i>Media & Communications</i>
Leslie Broch	<i>Director, St. James Preschool</i>
Diane Peterson	<i>Organist</i>
Curt Haedke	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
Neil Johnson	<i>Treasurer</i>
Ellen Hubina	<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>

The due date for the November 2022 Epistle is October 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

October 2nd

Usher: Judy Katzmark

Lector: Abby Lyons

Asst. Minister: Karen Lampiasi

Cantor: Lucia Dressel

Counters: Rich

Larson, Donna Peterson, Diana Larson

October 9th

Preaching &

Presiding: Rev. R.

Woodroofe

Usher: Marylee Siegle

Lector: Linda Bedard

Asst. Minister: Jim Mix

Cantor: Neil Johnson

Counters: Jim Mix, Gale Mix, Bill Siegle

October 16th

Usher: Jim Mix

Lector: Lucia Dressel

Asst. Minister: Jan

Salvatore

Cantor: Liz Skinski

Counters: Diane

Mladjen, Neil Johnson, Gary Klein

October 23rd

Usher: Jacque Matthew

Lector: Gary Kline

Asst. Minister: Liz

Skinski

Cantor: Karen Lampiasi

Counters:

October 30th

Reformation Sunday

Usher: Bob Morrison

Lector: Bill Siegle

Chaplain: Lynn Morrison

Cantor: Lynn Morrison

Counters:

CONTACT:

Lectors: Tammy Faulkner

Counters: Curt Haedke

Cantors: Diane Peterson

Asst. Ministers: Liz Skinski

Ushers: Jacque Matthew



A WORD FROM PASTOR ABBY

Dear Beloved Community,

I stand on the back deck of my family's northern cabin and admire the change of season in the mountains before me. In just a few months, there will be skiers swaying down the white gaps in the trees. And just a few months before, the slopes were bursting with electric green. But today they seem afire; maples topped with orange and birch trees accenting with gold. Thule's paws make a soft crackling noise as he rustles around the yard seeking out a tennis ball hidden under the fallen leaves. I pull at my wool sweater, grateful to bring it out from the closet and back into regular rotation. Afternoon tea never does taste so good as on a chilly day.

For all its beauty and coziness, we sometimes overlook that autumn is centered around loss. It is her whole being. The leaves die and fall, the harvests end but not before one last, big, proud display of life; color bursting across the mountains, the earth heaving a final feast at Thanksgiving. Then winter comes; still, silent and barren, sometimes unbearably cold and long. But then, always, the spring. Bursting in with warmth and life, buds and green grass. Always the spring. I can't help noticing the connection between the changes of the mountains, the promises of our faith, and our resurrection God.

Perhaps this is a happy coincidence or a whimsical picture of the Divine? A fun trick; a little game of hide-and-seek sprinkled into the earth? Or, perhaps, it is more than a metaphor or an accident. Perhaps the world was intentionally fashioned with this in mind. Mountains are not metaphors - they are the thing itself. They are more than the vessel that carries the message; they are the message fully embodied. When that sinks in - when we realize God doesn't hid the greatest promises for us to stumble upon only if we are lucky but rather, places us directly within their grand, physical, literal existence - it is an overwhelming revelation. God wants us to have such assurance in the promise of love, of spring, of new life that God built these truths into the very fabric

A WORD (CONTINUED)



of earth, into our home. There is indeed a time for all things under the sun, time which cannot be rushed in desire for the next season or change of the leaves but in all times, Christ's truth is present; in the Word, in the world, in the evidence of autumn all around us. Sometimes the Spirit speaks in subtleties, whispers, and nudges. And sometimes She is loud, bold, and painted with striking colors across the vast mountain ranges to get her point across. Praise God for that.

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12

PEACE AND GRATITUDE

PASTOR ABIGAIL JOHNSON AND THULE

An Apple A Day



What To Expect With New Covid-19 Booster Shots

The new booster shots target the Omicron subvariant BA.5, the dominant variant of the virus now. The expectation of epidemiologists is that Covid-19 may have a fall-winter seasonal surge.

The new shot is a bivalent vaccine targeting two versions of the coronavirus. It targets the original strain and the omicron sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5. The previous boosters targeted only the original version of the virus.

The new shots are available as boosters for people age 12 and older. Anyone who has not received the original first doses of the vaccine will receive those first. Pfizer booster is available for anyone 12 and older. Moderna vaccine is available for adults 18 and older.

The recommendation for vaccination booster is at least two months after your last vaccination. Many immunologists recommend four to six months after your last dose or infection with Covid-19. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for the booster antibodies to take effect. The new vaccines are available at pharmacies and community health centers.

SOUTHBURY FARMER'S MARKET

A reminder that locally grown produce will continue to be available through October at the Southbury Farmer's Market, held each Thursday from 3-6pm at the Southbury Town Hall. Stop by for great fresh, local produce and help support local farmers.





Fellowship

Meets 3rd Tuesday @ 4PM

Please sign-up for helping with COFFEE FELLOWSHIP on Sundays after Worship! This is a wonderful fellowship event! The more hands make light the work - see Bob or Lynn Morrison (203-426-7749) for more information.



Men's Fellowship Group

Meets 2nd Saturday @ 9am in Fellowship Hall

Men's Fellowship held its second meeting in September at the church. We have had 10 men come out to either the August or September meeting. We've learned a lot about each other as we shared our stories of how it is, that here in 2022 we find ourselves at St James. As you might imagine, spanning 8 decades, there was plenty of variety in the stories! Our next meeting is planned for October 8th, 9am at church. We'll have an interesting discussion topic to kick around!

Ladies' Fellowship Group

Meets 2nd Tuesday @ 1pm in Fellowship Hall

The ladies of St James gathered September 15th for a luncheon meeting to launch Ladies Fellowship for the new school year.





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). See Lynn Morrison or Pastor Abby to enroll.

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.

WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

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

ADULT FORUM

Sundays @ 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 Team is diligently preparing a pilot Sunday School program to begin soon. During the worship service and following Pastor's Children's Sermon, kids will be invited to leave the sanctuary with a pair of adult facilitators to explore the day's Bible readings in a fun filled, child friendly and intentional way. The vision entails a collaborative approach and invites interested members of the congregation to join in and engage with our children in a direct way. All curriculum and materials will be provided by the YAFM team.

As we organize and prepare to launch this new program, we continue to welcome and seek to engage our youngest members during the Worship service. In addition to Pastor's Children's Time, the ushers will have "pre-reader" and "reader" children's bulletins available with the weekly bulletins for anyone who is interested.

Thank you for your continued support and patience. Stay tuned for further announcements in the weekly emails.

PODCAST: A STEADFAST BRANCH

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



Regarding Youth & Family Director Position

Over the last several years, St. James Lutheran Church - as with nearly all congregations - has experienced declining membership, particularly with families of younger children and exacerbated by the global pandemic. The church at large is in a time of transition, but we hold fast to our faith in a steadfast God who is always at work in the world. Despite new and changing realities, we listen for the voice of the Spirit and discern together how we are called to be church in the world today. We strive to do this while maintaining faithful leadership and responsible stewardship of our resources.

After reviewing options, the members of the Congregational Council voted to eliminate the position of Director of Youth and Family Ministry (YAFM) effective immediately. The salaried position of twenty-hours per week does not meet the needs of the St. James community at this time. As the governing body, Council took considerable time in August to discuss and research this decision. We appreciate the hard work and dedication Tammy Faulkner has brought to this role in helping the youth and families of St. James over her years of service and recognized her with eight weeks of severance pay. On behalf of our entire congregation, we want to thank Tammy for her contribution to Youth and Family Ministry, recognizing and celebrating God's call to ministry in her life, and wish to continue supporting her future passions at St. James.

To be clear, programming specifically for our children and youth at St. James will continue; in fact, fresh, new programming is on the near horizon. The Youth and Family Ministry Team invested intentional time this year to evaluate its needs and circumstances, and brainstorm with joy and creativity prior to planning stages this autumn. They are organizing around a collaborative leadership style, prioritizing consistent, quality offerings, and exploring multigenerational engagement and interdenominational relationship building. This ministry team, as with all at St. James, is open to all who feel called to serve directly and greatly welcome your involvement.

We as Council do not make this decision lightly and fully understand that such an announcement may cause some to react with fear, disappointment, or concern. The decision to eliminate this YAFM Director position is not a declaration of "giving up," nor is it an act of lowering youth and families on our St. James priorities list. Rather, it is a committed effort and bold invitation to reengage as a church community for this area of high priority; to shift from an old model of singular responsibility towards that of sustainable, shared leadership for these changing times. God has equipped every one of us with unique gifts for ministry; each one an opportunity to grow and flourish when joined together.

As the Apostle Paul writes, we too "can do all things through Christ who gives us strength" (Philippians 4:13), including difficult, new, and brave things. We seek to honor where we have come from and respect where we are now when bridging into where we are going next. Our hope remains in a God of possibilities, who works in mysterious and beautiful ways beyond our imagination or fears, both in us and through us.

Faithfully yours,

Congregational Council of St. James Lutheran Church

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

God's work, our hands



Unicef... Flash!

The usual children's "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" is not happening by the organization this year. The traditional orange boxes are gone as the organization broadens its programs to meet the many demands of refugees: illness, hunger, vaccinations, shelter, clean water and poverty around the world --- all of which have huge impact on children!



We at St James will continue to help UNICEF meet the needs of the world's children. There will be envelopes at church for your contributions, October 23rd and 30th, due back by November 13th. We will add to that coins and bills that came in after the close of our campaign last year. Each penny will be matched!

Let's all reach out to help kids all over the world, especially Ukraine in 2022. As the saying goes,

"You always stand taller, when you kneel to help a child!"



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. There are still some months available for food bank stocking: contact Lauren Lyons if you are able to help.

October- Siegle

November- OPEN

December- Morrisons



OUTREACH (CONT)



SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH'S CHILDREN REACH OUT TO KIDS IN NEED!

130 Spanish and bilingual books are being sent to Hope Academy in Santa Lucia Milpas Altas, Guatemala to help develop their K-5 library. This collection comes from a mission project at Saint James' Vacation Bible School this past summer. For more information visit www.tree4hope.org. Pictured (l to r) Elizabeth Lyons, Madeline Colasanto, Gabriel Lyons, Abigail Lyons, Abby Colasanto, Kariann Alvarado, Elizabeth Colasanto.



SOCKTOBER

The preschool, in conjunction with other local elementary schools, will be collecting new socks for donations to local shelters throughout the month of October. Socks are one of the greatest needed and least donated items. It's very hard to stay warm when your feet are cold!!! There is a bin for sock donations in the gathering area.

Outreach (cont)

**GOD'S WORK,
OUR HANDS**

MANY THANKS

Big SHOUT OUT to all of the James Ministry folks who greeted the Pre-School parents the beginning of the new season - along with balloons, decorations and WELCOME sign!! Marion Allen, Judy Katzmark, Karen Lampiasi, MaryLee Siegle, Lynn and Bob Morrison (our coffee man), Pastor Abby and even Thule! Thanks to all.

FALL CLOTHES CLEANOUT?

Saint James is planning to hold a coat drive beginning in November through December 3rd. Set aside gently used coats, hats, gloves and blankets when you are doing fall cleanout to be donated to outreach programs in Waterbury or Danbury. We will be collecting items in the medical closet shed as well as in the bin in the gathering area.



ST JAMES REACHES OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

100 prayer pockets, knit by members of James Ministry, will be passed out free at the doors of our October Fest.

These simple knit squares have a card attached with, "A reminder to pray in times of JOY, HOPE, SADNESS, THANKS, AND NEED" and the verse, "The power of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16). On the reverse side is information about our church, address, phone, website, time of church, email address, and a QR code!

This is a great evangelism tool and act of friendship to our guests that day. Help us reach out to our neighbors!

The Evangelism Team and James Ministry

Storytime with Pastor

Tuesday, Oct. 25 &
Wednesday, Oct. 26

@ 9:45AM with the Preschool

Reading the book "We Move Together" by Kelly Fritsch, in celebration of Disabilities Awareness Month



The beginning of the school year is flying by! Many thanks to the church groups and individuals who helped make the first few days extra special! The children are so happy to be at school, exploring, socializing, learning and having fun! We have been adapting to new routines, getting to know each other and investigating fall themes. We even got in an apple-picking and pumpkin field trip!

Parish Support

Financial Team & Property Team meets together 3rd Thursday @ 7PM

Financial Report

"Season of Gratitude" Stewardship Campaign

Temple Talks by Ministry Teams:
November 6, 13, 20

Congregational Luncheon:
November 20
following worship, sponsored by Council

More info to come

2022 Monthly Budget to Actual

As Of August 31st, 2022

Month	Operating Income		Mortgage Income	
	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
June	16,000.00	12,826.00	2,228.33	1,858.75
July	16,000.00	17,732.37	2,228.33	1,668.75
August	16,000.00	19,141.00	2,228.33	2,228.75

Current Fund Amounts

Your offering may be mailed to 111 Peter Road and the mail is collected daily, or your donation may be made online on our website. As you are able, please continue to help us be the hands of Christ.



\$21,138.03

Bell Tower



\$1,852.00

Organ



\$805.00

Organ & Music



\$1,075.00

Flowers

October 2022

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 10am-3pm Fall Fest
2 10:15am Outdoor Worship w/ Council Installation	3 	4 2:30pm Worship Team 7:30pm YAFM	5	6	7	8 9am Men's Group 11:30am Rice Shelf
9	10	11 1pm Ladies' Group	12	13	14	15 <i>Epistle Contributions</i>
16 10:15am Baptism	17	18 1pm Evangelism 4pm Fellowship	19 <i>Council Reports Due</i>	20 7pm Finance & Properties	21	22 9am-3pm Forward Leadership
23 10:15am Unicef Talk	24	25 7pm Council	26	27	28	29
30 10:15am Unicef Talk Reformation Sunday	31 	Holy Communion is offered at all worship services. Gluten free wafers and grape juice available				

WEEKLY EVENTS

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
9:00am Adult Forum	10am-12pm Pastor's Walk-Ins	9-12pm Office Open	1-3pm Pastor's Walk-Ins	9-12pm Office Open	2:30-5pm Office Open	
10:15am Worship	8:00pm AA	11:00am Staff Meeting	7:00pm Bible Study 8:00pm AA			

In Our Prayers



Jordyn Neeb	Paul Meberg	Dory Kutz
Rich Neeb	Janet Benzell	Tena Chiappetta
Marie Salvatore	Melody Joy	Caroline Kaiger
Slava Alvarez	Conrad	Diana Larson
Virginia Swenson	Meg	Bruni Dreher
John Magalhaes	Peter Adler	Tammy Faulkner
Priscilla Terhune	Grace Warren	Taylor Morrison
Brian Mons	Roy Warren	Pat Flynn
Bill Martin		

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, Christine Granskog, Stanley Ulc, and Paul Calderone

Prayer List Updates:

The prayer list is edited by request and the full list is reset every six months; the first Sundays of May and November, following All Saints Sunday. Ample notice to these reset times will be provided, should you request names remain on the list.

Prayer alerts are sent via email by Pastor Abby; subscribe on our website. If you wish to receive alerts by phone call or text, please see Karen Lampiasi to be added to the list.

To add to the prayer list, please see Pastor Abby or Liz Skinski.

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.