

JUNE 2023

ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH EPISTLE

A CONGREGATION
OF THE
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AMERICA

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Ringin' Bell

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And more...



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

111 Peter Road, Southbury CT 06488

www.stjamesct.org

[@stjamesctlutheran](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesctlutheran)

203.264.6446

stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com

Rev. Abigail Lilja Johnson, Pastor

(she/her)

pastor@stjamesct.org

203-450-6454 (call or text)

Mission

We affirm and spread the Word of God in all areas of life. We focus on nurturing, serving and uplifting our members and local community by practicing love in action as exemplified by Jesus Christ through our preschool and other outreach services.



Vision

We believe we are saved by God's grace through faith alone, proclaiming our faith in the Holy Trinity. As church, we manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ, by joining in prayer and action. We worship together as a community through reading of the Word, celebration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness and service. We see our shared Christian faith as an integral part of our daily lives and use the gifts of the Spirit for our lives together and for our callings in the world.

CHURCH STAFF

Genie Bisch

*Parish
Administrator*

Abigail Manville

*Media &
Communications*

Diane Peterson

Organist

Leslie Broch

*Director of
St. James Preschool*

Please contact the office **before** dropping by should you require assistance.
Building is locked at all times for security. Thank you!

June 2023

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

S M T W T F S

					1	2	3
<div style="background-color: #8B4513; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block;"> Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 4 after service Voting in New Council Members! </div>							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11:30am All-Church Meeting	3pm Worship @ Watermark	10am Worship & Music 7pm YAFM	No Fika @ Starbucks		NE Synod Assembly		9:30am Men's Fellowship 11:30am Rice Restock
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
10:15am Worship @ the Park 11:30am Church Picnic		Preschool Last Day		10:30 am Worship @ TLH 7pm Finance & Property July/August Epistle Contributions			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
9:30am Worship Starts! <i>Father's Day</i>	 <i>Juneteenth</i>	1pm Ladies' Luncheon	 <i>Start of Summer</i>		7pm VBS Planning		
25	26	27	28	29	30		
11:30am YAFM Snack Pack Outreach			No Fika @ Starbucks 7pm Council				

WEEKLY EVENTS

S M T W T F S

JUNE 4 & 11 10:15am Worship		9am-12pm Parish Admin. 11:00am Staff Meeting	1:30-3:30pm Fika Fellowship w/ Pastor 8:00pm AA	9am-12pm Parish Admin.	2:30-5pm Parish Admin.	
*JUNE 18 -SEPT. 3 9:30am Worship Outside	8:00pm AA	12:30pm Meditation Call			<i>Pastor Sabbath</i>	<i>Pastor Sabbath</i>



A WORD FROM PASTOR

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

- Philippians 4:13

Dear beloved community,

My grandma was an exceptionally hard working and determined woman. She valued productivity, efficiency and loved juggling many projects. So when she repeatedly advised, "you can do anything but not everything, so chose wisely," I believed her, and I still do. Yet - how can it be that one day I may accomplish so many things, efficient and productive, and the next, its hard to complete even one? Some seasons of life I feel I can handle anything and everything, and in others, I'm praying for help and strength every day. In the scripture above, often repeated as motivational encouragement, Paul is writing about his own struggles and feelings of inadequacy. There is so much he wants to do for the Kingdom of God, and yet so much weight to carry. He is frustrated with his current capacity, knowing his full capability.

In Christ, we are reminded that capability and capacity are different things, not to be judged the same. Our *capability* is the sum of all the gifts God equips us with. We are all capable people in different ways. Our *capacity* is our availability based on our circumstances. Just as one day you might run 5 miles but the next feel too sore or tired to repeat, you know you are *capable* of such but your *capacity* has changed due to the need for restoration. This is faithful listening - so be gentle and kind to yourself. You cannot do all the things - but *in all* the things you *do* do with whatever capacity is available today - you can do them through Christ. There is no task too big, no burden too heavy, no pain too sharp that Christ does not come and strengthen us. At times, this may be strengthening our ability to do more but other times, it may be strengthening our confidence to say enough is enough today. Christ affirms our ever changing capacity and confirms we can always trust the unshakable capability we have with Him.

In context of chapter 4, Paul is thanking the Philippians, for the when his capacity was low, they lived into their own capability and shared their gifts with him. By this generous act, Paul declares "I know what it is to have plenty" (4:12). Christ strengthens us and we strengthen each other for all things.

Peace, Pastor Abby

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

FIKA
with PASTOR

Wednesday
June 14 & 21
ONLY

1:30 - 3:30 PM
at Starbucks
in Southbury

All are welcome to this daily Swedish tradition of a coffee break with friends



TIME AWAY

Pastor Abby is away
June 28 - July 12
August 9-12

Pastoral emergencies:
Rev. Paul Sinnott
(781) 626-2871
Chaplain Leo McIlrath
(203) 264-9135

Guest Preachers:
July 2, Rev. Linda Kraft
July 9, Rev. Dewey
Strohmeier



MEET PASTOR ABBY

Whether in celebration, grief, doubt, or curiosity of faith, she is happy to meet with you at a time and place that suits you well. Reach out to connect.

Observes Sabbath Fridays & Saturdays. Please call for pastoral emergencies.

MEMBERSHIP AT ST. JAMES

MEMBERS 189

- Baptized (23)
- Confirmed (21)
- Voting (103) *declared & active (i.e. annual communion & contribution)*
- Seasonal (4) *active @ St.J; member of other ELCA Lutheran church*
- Associate (38) *active @ St.J; member of other Christian church*

FRIENDS 226 *nonmember, in church system*

Spring 2023 New Members (15)

- Grete Arthur
- Jenifer Beaudean-White
- Meghan Buchanan
- Bill Dreska
- Amy, Matt, Aidan, Kate, Anna & Sarah Gilchrist
- Kevin & Kristen Peterson
- Milo Jaymes Roller (*baptized member*)
- Frank & Heidi Varanko

Next new member installation is in October





MISSION & VISION

Let's celebrate all the ways we have worked together towards our top 4 priorities, as set by our 2020 CAT survey. These new and revised efforts listed have been implemented over the last year and a half alone!

Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church

1

- a. Welcome practices for new guests on Sunday; i.e. ushers as greeters, guest connection cards available in sanctuary, follow up letters and calls by Evangelism Team
- b. Redesigned communication modes, i.e. weekly email, Sunday print program, Epistle
- c. Enhance digital platforms, i.e. meditation calls, Facebook, Instagram, website, podcast
- d. New Member joining process, held biannually with info session meal, supported discernment, installation ceremony and reception

Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church

2

- a. Adopted shared leadership structure for YAFM Team, emphasizing intergenerational relationship building, congregational engagement, and sharing responsibilities broadly for long-term endurance
- b. Redesigned educational programs to fit family needs; i.e. mid-worship Sunday School, collaborative CT Lutherans Youth Group
- c. Incorporating kids interests in new Fellowship and Outreach efforts; i.e. Bingo Night, Hope Academy
- d. Affirming kids' belonging and value in Worship and cultivating a "family friendly" culture of patience and flexibility in sanctuary; i.e. Children's Message, music offerings, serving roles, busy bags, books
- e. Creative Worship offerings; incl. All-In Christmas Pageant, art projects, dance, outdoor services
- f. Life passages education and celebration; i.e. kid's involvement in rite of Baptism, 1st Communion ed.
- g. Ensure a trustworthy environment by enhanced building security, volunteer training, SAFE church policies for all volunteers

Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc)

3

- a. Sharing of joys & concerns during worship, to connect and check-in with lived experiences
- b. Men's Fellowship Group breakfasts and expanded Women's Fellowship Group luncheons & outings
- c. Fika with Pastor, for community drop-in fellowship
- d. Regular Adult Forum book discussion and scripture studies
- e. Return of Fall Fest, potluck dinners, coffee hour after worship
- f. Meals ministry and ride share offerings
- g. "Lent on the Road" ecumenical dinners and worship; "Gratitude Feasts" October 2023

Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership

4

- a. Restructured Council roles and responsibilities, meeting expectations, action items and task forces
- b. Overhauling church administration forms, protocol, processes, job descriptions, budget oversight
- c. Reunifying ministry teams and setting regular meetings; including Worship, Fellowship, Evangelism.
- d. Outreach Tree display board to outline projects, partnerships and point-people
- e. Time and Talents online survey
- f. Completion of the NE Synod Forward Leadership education program
- g. Church support of members pursuing theological study (seminary, lay-ministry)



"NOW YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST, AND EACH ONE OF YOU IS A PART OF IT. AND GOD HAS PLACED IN THE CHURCH FIRST APOSTLES, SECOND PROPHETS, THIRD TEACHERS, THEN MIRACLES, THEN GIFTS OF HEALING, OF HELPING, OF GUIDANCE, AND OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF TONGUES. ARE ALL APOSTLES? ARE ALL PROPHETS? ARE ALL TEACHERS? DO ALL WORK MIRACLES? DO ALL HAVE GIFTS OF HEALING? DO ALL SPEAK IN TONGUES? DO ALL INTERPRET? NOW EAGERLY DESIRE THE GREATER GIFTS AND I WILL SHOW YOU THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY." - 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27-31

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL



The role of Council includes leading in mission, goals and priority; overseeing administration; involving members in all areas of church; responsible for financial and property matters of the church, including staffing, and general oversight of governance.

St. James' members are voted to Council at the June congregational meeting, and positions are decided by Council members annually. Members may serve up to 2 consecutive 3-year terms.

REPORTS & NEWS

- St. James was recently awarded a \$9,538 grant through the Southbury Nonprofit Assistance Program. The Program is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act and is administered by the Town of Southbury. Thank you to Kathy Haddy, Ellen Hubina, and Genie Bisch for drafting the application and submitting all the requested documents. The funds were requested for assistance with our utility expenses, Preschool fencing, and Preschool scholarships. Council and Finance will discuss distribution at their upcoming meetings.
- Council members are getting accustomed to the new google drive and emails. This system allows us to have a centralized place for all files and emails, and an easier transition between members

June Congregational Meeting

The June congregational meeting is a once a year meeting where we discuss report from all of our ministry teams, as well as nominate new council representatives

The reports for this year can be found here:
bit.ly/2023JuneMeeting

MEMBERS

Officers

1. Kathy Haddy, President
2. Linda Bedard, VP
3. Donna Peterson, Secretary
4. Neil Johnson, Treasurer
5. Ellen Hubina, Assistant Treasurer
6. Curt Haedke, Financial Secretary

Liaisons

1. Jan Carnaroli, Worship
 2. Lucia Dressel, Fellowship
 3. Diane Mladjen, Preschool
 4. Lynn Morrison, Evangelism & Outreach
 5. Tony Salvatore, Properties
 6. Liz Skinski, Faith Formation
- Emilie Ulc, Youth Rep.
Rev. Abigail Johnson

An Apple A Day

Lyme Disease Isn't The Only Tick Borne



The CDC reports Babesiosis has doubled in the Northeast in the past 10 years. The disease presents as flu with fevers, chills, and muscle aches. The disease was rare for years is deemed endemic in the northeastern states. The rising temperatures and deer populations are fueling the survival of ticks.

Babesiosis is caused by parasites which are living in mice and rodents. Poppy seed size ticks known as deer ticks transmit Lyme and Babesiosis spreading the disease to humans after feeding on infected mice. The disease is most common in New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut. According to experts the disease is "moving North" due to climate change.

The ticks prefer warm, wet, conditions. Deer are the preferred food source for adult ticks.

Babesiosis is treated with antibiotics. It can be prevented by avoiding tall grass and underbrush. Wear long pants and tick repellent. Daily tick checks help remove the arachnids before they can transmit the parasite.

SOUTHBURY FARMER'S MARKET

A reminder that locally grown produce will continue to 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.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Join our planning meeting 1st Tuesdays @ 10 AM



Worship @ the Park

Sunday June 11

WHEN: 10:15am

WHERE: Ballantine Park
611 Old Field Rd
Southbury CT

WHAT: Come for joyful
outdoor service with youth
leadership, end of school
year celebrations, honoring
teachers, students, and
graduates!

Picnic to follow



Summer

Sun. June 18 - Sept. 3

9:30 am

**Outside weekly
(weather permitting)**

Baptism

On May 7, a most beautiful spring day, we celebrated the baptism of Milo Jaymes Roller outside, child of Sarah & Matt Roller.



Mother's Day

On May 14, flowers were given to each of those who provide mothering love in our congregation. We are so grateful for the "mothers and motherly others" in our lives!

SERVING IN WORSHIP

LITURGY MEANS "THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE" IN GREEK

June 4 - Holy Trinity

Semi Annual Meeting After Service

Preach/Preside: Rev. Abby Johnson

Altar Guild: Judy Katzmark

Ushers: Bob Morrison & Gary Kline

Lector: Tammy Faulkner

Asst. Minister: Liz Skinski

Cantor: Liz Skinski

Organist: Karen Lampiasi

Counters:

Coffee Hour Hosts:

June 11 - Worship @ the Park

with Church picnic following

Preach/Preside: Rev. Abby Johnson

Altar Guild: Paulette Calderone

Ushers: Bob Morrison & Jeff Nadasen

Lector: YAFM

Asst. Minister: Mary Ewert

Cantor: Judy Katzmark

Organist: Diane Peterson

Counters:



June 18 - 9:30 AM OUTSIDE

Father's Day

Preach/Preside: Rev. Abby Johnson

Altar Guild: Lynn Morrison

Ushers: Bill Siegle & Marylee Siegle

Lector: Jim Mix

Asst. Minister: Jan Salvatore

Cantor: Karen Lampiasi

Organist: Diane Peterson

Counters:

Coffee Hour Hosts:

June 25 - 9:30 AM OUTSIDE

with Baptism of Henry Joseph Franco

Preach/Preside: Rev. Abby Johnson

Altar Guild: Judy Lee

Ushers: John Dressel & Jacque Matthew

Lector: Diane Mladjen

Asst. Minister: Lynn Morrison

Cantor: Kaitlyn Franco

Organist: Diane Peterson

Counters:

Coffee Hour Hosts:

CONTACT

Cantors: Diane Peterson

Assistant Ministers: Liz Skinski

Sunday School: Lauren Lyons

Ushers: Jacque Matthew

Altar Guild: Paulette Calderone

Lectors: Judy Katzmark

Counters: Curt Haedke

Coffee Hour: Lynn Morrison



"LIVING FAITH"

May 28 - June 11

Church in the World

In **Pentecost**, the Holy Spirit joins believers in their walk of faith, equipping them with gifts and firing them up for a life lived as church in the world. The **Holy Trinity** demonstrates God as inherently dynamic, relational, and beyond our full understanding or imagination.

Pentecost - May 28

Color: Red

Guest Performance by
Kiva Dance Group

Holy Trinity - June 4

Color: White

Church Picnic - June 11

at Ballantine Park,
Southbury

ORDINARY TIME

In Summer

June 18 - Sept. 3

Deepening our Sabbath

*Enriching our spiritual
practices as we embrace
simplicity, restoration and
sunny creation.*

Liturgical Color:
Green

**Season's Guest
Preachers:**

Rev. Linda Kraft
Rev. Dewey Strohmeier
Tammy Faulkner
Jenifer Beaudean-White

Summer Worship:
9:30 AM outside weekly,
weather permitting



Faith Formation

ADULT FORUM

ON SUMMER BREAK

Studies of books, scripture, or social issues where faith and the world meet.

BIBLE STUDY

ON SUMMER BREAK

A casual conversation on Sunday's assigned readings and time for prayer. Come as you are, no preparation needed.

CONFIRMATION

Resumes this fall! *Grades 6+ A deeper study in Lutheran tradition and Christian faith in affirmation of baptism. See teacher Lynn Morrison to enroll for the fall.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ON SUMMER BREAK

Grades PreK-5 Dismissed mid-worship for a brief lesson and activity in art, music, storytelling, games, and more.

Midweek Meditation

Tuesdays @ 12:00 PM, via phone call

Original 2-minute guided meditations recorded by Pastor Abby; subscribe on our website homepage or listen on the podcast

Podcast: A Steadfast Branch

A weekly podcast for all ages, listen for free online or on Spotify. Faith-formation offerings such as sermons, devotionals, kids chats, blessings, meditations, and interviews with the wider church community



Youth and Family Ministries Update

A small but mighty group is working hard already planning youth and family programming for next year. The tentative kickoff for Sunday School is September 17! Thanks to all of our teachers from this past year: Lynn Morrison, Liz Skinski, Meghan Colasanto, Meghan Buchanan, Mike Lyons, Lauren Lyons, Barbara Manville, Emilie Ulc, Kathy Haddy, Ellen Hubina, Katia Hubina, Janice Salvatore, Jan Mons, Donna Peterson, Linda Bedard, Mary Ewert, Jan Carnaroli and Bill Siegle. If you are interested in being a teacher for Sunday School next please contact Lauren Lyons lyonsden1133@yahoo.com or yafm@stjamesct.org.

July 17-21 Operation Restoration

Our kids can be menders of the Earth

VBS
2023

We are so excited for the plan for this year's VBS July 17-21 (9:15-12:15) "Operation Restoration" where kids and adults explore many ways to be menders in God's world. Through music, art, science and movement, we will make connections between Bible stories and mending actions to discover how we can live out our faith in daily life. We will explore themes of feeding, healing, forgiving, praying and resting with practical ideas for how to care for God's earth with our everyday actions. We do still have a few volunteer needs! Looking for:

Adults (over age 18) to help with games and arts and crafts

Pop-up tents to provide extra shade - talk to Jacque Mathew

White or light oxford shirts - talk to Barbara Manville

Help with set up on July 16 after worship - talk to Jacque Mathew

Help with clean up July 21 after 12:30 - talk to Jacque Mathew
You can volunteer for one day or more than one! Any help is appreciated. Please talk to Lauren Lyons if interested or email





Fellowship

Meets 3rd Tuesday @
4PM via Zoom,
See Barbara Manville

The church picnic, Sunday, June 11th at Balentine Park, Southbury, at 10:15 Worship Service, picnic to follow immediately. Sign-up in The Gathering Room for dishes you will bring., i.e., salads, deviled eggs, jello salads, desserts. Must have a head count for hot dogs and hamburgers!!! Gathering Room for sign-up!



Women's Fellowship

Meets 2nd Tuesday @ 1pm in the small chapel

We invite all the ladies of the church to join us June 20th (Tuesday) at Julio's Restaurant, Southbury, at 1 pm. Need a head count for an outside patio reservation...

Please see Judy Katzmark, for further information - 203-264-4980.

Naugatuck Valley Conference Women of the ELCA 2023





Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship met on Saturday, May 13th. We had 6 in attendance, the "regular core" of our monthly crew. Bill Siegle was back to join us. Bill told us the story of his leg fracture in March, a timely reminder as we age of the need to be careful in avoiding accidental "trips"! We opened with Jacque providing a demonstration of the ringing of the restored bell, which we haven't heard for a long time. A great sound, now regularly heard as part of Sunday worship!

We also discussed our interest in a service project at Dorothy Day House in Danbury, engaging in a service of meal/food preparation that we might do on a regular basis. Further details to be worked

out in the coming month, but the idea is to develop a support activity that the group (or part of it) could do on a monthly basis.

Rich Larson shared the results of his efforts to document the history of the wooden cross, and the more recent stained glass background for that cross. The plan is to have a brief history noted on a plaque to be posted in the sanctuary. A rich history, with roots older than St James!!

The group was also involved with Spring clean-up (conveniently scheduled on the day of our regular meeting), which was very productive in getting Jacque's list polished off. The campus is all ready for spring and summer. The place looks terrific!

Our next meeting will be June 10th. Plan to join us!

Bill and Jacque



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 7TH**

Let's get ready!

ST JAMES FALL FEST

THIS WILL BE A FUN DAY WITH:

- Food
 - Music
 - Outdoor Market
 - Crafts
 - Decorations
 - Jams
- and More!

All proceeds go to support the 2024 Guatemala Mission Trip



Sign-up sheets for various activities will be posted by June 11th – Many hands will make for light work!

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)


Jelly/Jam Making - this was a hit last year. If you have home grown berries, please consider freezing them so that we can make goodies to sell at the festival. Last year we had blueberry, elderberry, peach and strawberry jams and jelly... yummm!

Craft Vendors - If you or someone you know would like to rent a table at the festival to sell your items, there will be signup forms soon. Please keep this in mind when you meet someone with a cottage industry business.

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 20th at 4pm

**QUESTIONS?
BARBARA MANVILLE 203-525-2450**

 111 Peter Road, Southbury CT



EVANGELISM

Meets 3rd Tuesday @ 1PM in the Prayer Chapel
See Lynn Morrison

We are ALWAYS looking for folks who would like to join our Evangelism Team - this is a beautiful and wonderful opportunity to engage with others focused on spreading the Good News of Christ, and our only and true Salvation. Contact Lynn Morrison (203-426-7749, edgelake@aol.com) for an update of planned activities/events!

James Ministries - Meals Ministry

If you have ever faced a difficult time, you know how comforting it is to receive a casserole, or a fruit bread, etc., from a friend. We have organized, and been in "operation" now for over a year, with 12 team members on our Meals Ministry, and have delivered to 40+ folks at St. James. A time to reach out when there is a need - such as a new baby, a death in the family, serious illness, recuperation from surgery, shut-in, etc. If you would like to be part of this "caring ministry" email or call Lynn Morrison (edgelake@aolcom or 203-426-7749).

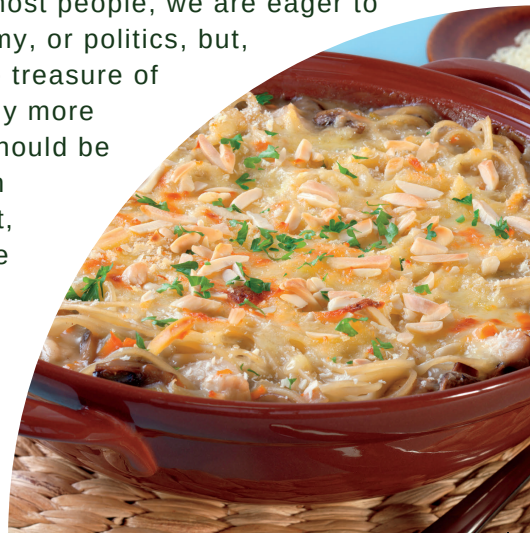
A Word on Evangelism....

In his letter, Peter wrote, "Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). God blesses us with minds to learn and mouths to speak. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God will give us the words and the courage to use them. Along with most people, we are eager to talk about the weather, sports, economy, or politics, but, as Christians, we have been given the treasure of the Gospel message—something vastly more important to talk about. Our attitude should be like that of Peter and John, who, when commanded to stop speaking of Christ, said, "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20)

-Lynn Morrison

Rides Ministry

Are you able to give someone a ride to church? Help us by joining our rides ministry!



ST JAMES PRESCHOOL

203-264-6448

stjameslutheranpreschool@gmail.com

Leslie Broch, Director

Love the early childhood stage of development? Enjoy supporting young children as they learn and grow? The Preschool is looking for a part-time assistant teacher or teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. If you or someone you know would like more information, please be in touch with the director, Leslie Broch.



As the preschool year is coming to a close there are still a few spots open for next year's 3 and 4 year-old class.

3-Year Old Program:

Tues & Thurs, 9-12*

4-Year Old Program:

Mon, Wed & Fri, 9-12/1:55*

*Lunch Bunch available Thursdays from 12:00-1:00. 10\$ per session.

*Extended Day available from 12:00-1:55 on a regular or "as needed" basis

Contact Leslie Broch for more information,

stjameslutheranpreschool@gmail.com

203-264-6448.



ST JAMES PRESCHOOL

203-264-6448

stjameslutheranpreschool@gmail.com

Leslie Broch, Director

It's hard to believe we are coming into the final stretch of the school year! Between field trips, family days, seed/plant observations and art, insect songs and a caterpillar/butterfly grow kit, we have been busy! We are looking forward to celebrating all of the connections, fun and learning as the year come to an end mid-June.



Celebrating Mrs. Tomas and Her 20 Years of Service to the Preschool



After more than 20 years at the preschool (guiding roughly 500 children!) Diane Tomas will be retiring at the end of the school year. We will celebrate her during our End of Year Program on Wednesday, June 14th. If you would like to make a financial contribution toward her retirement gift, please connect with Ellen Hubina. If you would like to contribute or participate in another way, please be in touch with Leslie Broch.

Outreach



This is an incredibly generous congregation with a lot of heart for outreach locally and globally. A small group met in May and started putting some details into the outreach tree in our gathering area so all can be aware of upcoming outreach projects and who to contact. If you help with an outreach project but weren't able to attend, please get an update to Lauren Lyons so it can be included. 203-982-8415
lyonsden1133@yahoo.com. We plan to meet again this fall.

Many Thanks

Americares Homefront

Many thanks to all who participated in this year's Homefront project to help a homeowner in need in the community.

YAFM Snack Packs

Southbury Food Bank

The YAFM is working with the Southbury Food Bank in making 100 Snack Packs for campers this summer. We are looking for donations of #50 count individually wrapped snacks. We will need to service 100 snack packs, each including 3 snacks each. We are looking for granola bars, goldfish bags, applesauce, Cookies, etc. YAFM will have a box labeled in the Narthex for this Community event. Please leave in box and help us stuff the snack packs after church on **Sunday June 25th.**

Any questions, please reach out to Meghan Colasanto
(Meghan.Colasanto@gmail.com)

Don't forget the rice shelf!

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.

Food Bank Stocking Hours:
2nd Saturday of month
from 11:15-12:30 pm. Call
(203)721-0377 to make
other arrangements.

June – Colasanto family
July –
August –
September –
October – YAFM



After 8 years silent the bell is ringing loud and clear again!!!
 Stay tuned this summer for a fresh coat of paint

Congratulations Graduates!!!

We are so proud of the hard work of all our students and applaud all who are finishing up their studies for this year. We'd especially love to recognize those who are celebrating graduations:

Preschool:
 SJ Hubina

High School:
 Emilie Ulc
 Kate Gilchrist

Synod School of Lay Ministry:
 Lynn Morrison

Elementary School:
 Jose Alvarado
 Madeline Colasanto
 Abigail Lyons
 Jayda Swiger

College:
 Michaela Bedard
 Hannah Dreska
 Jack Pesce
 Kaitlyn Furr (Master's Degree)



Please excuse us if we missed anyone! We are trying to update our young people directory so please reach out to yafm@stjamesct.org with any updates about students.

Parish Support

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

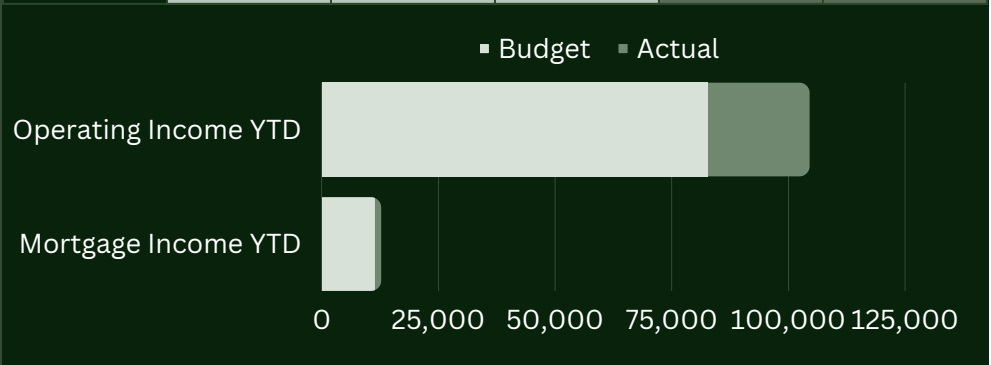
Financial Report as of May 16, 2023

Stewardship

In Acts 20:35 we read Jesus' words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." God uses our generosity to fund the missions of our churches; to provide for the needs of others; to support our pastors and other church workers. Bought by the blood of Christ and brought into faith by the Holy Spirit working through Word and Sacrament, we are to give our first fruits to God, a proportionate amount of our incomes. We are to give regularly, generously, even sacrificially. As we give, we find ourselves enriched. We experience the joy of giving, the satisfaction that comes from being a channel of God's blessings to us. God promises that He will sustain us as we give. "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

- Lynn Morrison

Month	Operating Income YTD			Mortgage Income YTD	
	Budget	Actual	Diff	Budget	Actual
January	16,500	10,427	(6,073)	2,266.25	1,825.00
February	16,500	24,804	8,304	2,266.25	1,708.75
March	16,500	11,727	(4,773)	2,266.25	2,480.00
April	16,500	13,004	(3,496)	2,266.35	1,680
May	16,500	44,505.80	28,005.80	2,266.35	5,615



In Our Prayers

Rich Neeb	Paul Hubina	Karl Faulkner
Brian Mons	Paul Meberg	Dorian Malloy
Janet Benzell	Ed Mueller	Norma
Caroline Kaiger	John Raslear	Olga
Tim Peterson	Fran Vezina	Guenter Schuetz
	Margaret Greenman	

Please also keep Tim Peterson and all those who serve in the military, in your prayers.

We also give thanks for all the saints, especially Christine Granskog, Julie Johnson, Becky Cavanagh, Al Pacheco, and Peter Adler

Prayer List Updates:

This is a gentle reminder that our prayer lists was reset at the beginning of May. Recognizing that our loved ones are not suddenly "all better" in May or November, and certainly they are not forgotten, we ask that you let us know if you would like a name to remain or be added to the list. This includes our "saints." If it provides you with comfort and you would like your loved one to remain on the saint list for a while longer, please don't hesitate to share that with us as well. Please see Pastor Abby or Liz Skinski with any requests or questions. And please know, all of our loved ones are lifted up in prayer within this community, whether verbalized aloud or held close in our hearts. Thank you.

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am during the summer 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.