

NOVEMBER 2023

# ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH EPISTLE

A CONGREGATION OF  
THE EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF  
AMERICA

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And more...



# ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

111 Peter Road, Southbury CT 06488

[www.stjamesct.org](http://www.stjamesct.org)

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

203.264.6446

[stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesctlutheran@gmail.com)

Rev. Abigail Lilja Johnson, Pastor

(she/her)

[pastor@stjamesct.org](mailto: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

*Digital Coordinator*

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!*

# A WORD FROM ELCA LEADERS



*“As the crisis between Hamas and Israel continues, the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to the unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time, the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty... the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to the unspeakable loss of life and hope.”*

*- Presiding ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (read her full statement on [elca.org](http://elca.org))*

*“...As I write this letter to you on Saturday evening here in the US, I am offering up prayers for the entire region, and especially our partners in ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). I ask you to lift up Bishop Ibrahim Azar, the pastors and people of the ELCJHL, as well as our ELCA missionaries Revs. Meghan and Gabi Aelabouni. As this situation unfolds, I will keep you abreast of the needs of our companion synod in the Land called Holy. In the meantime, please pray for peace.”*

*- New England Synod Bishop James Hazelwood, 10/07/2023 synod-wide notice (subscribe on [nelutherans.org](http://nelutherans.org) or read Bishop's blog, [jameshazelwood.net](http://jameshazelwood.net))*

Dear beloved community,

When we read the Bible, we are challenged to do so holding thousands of years of historical events, political consequence, contexts of cultural, linguistic, literary and spiritual significance and nuance. It's enough to make our head spin, call in the professional scholars, or close the book. And yet, still we can call the Good News good because it is; spilling from this holy book of God. This book is at its core a book of relatable, faithful people, their lives, and the ways God has been at work in each one.

The situation in Israel and Palestine carries within it astounding complexity - historical, contextual, political, cultural, a similar list in fact, for decades past. As our heads spin, our heart also breaks. The professionals report and they argue about sides. We try to turn it off. And yet, we can still call atrocities evil because they are. They hurt God's people - all God's beloved people. When evil acts spills into the world, spill blood in streets of Gaza and Israel alike, we can hold all the considerations and still call it unjust, still mourn for the innocent lost on both sides, and still pray unceasingly for peace from our God of Good News in whom we place our trust.

Peace, Pastor Abby

# ORDINARY TIME *In Autumn*

Oct. 2 - Dec. 2

## **Stories of God's People**

*Where the first half of the church year focuses on the story of God in Jesus, this second half 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.*

### **Season's Guest Preachers:**

Deacon David Hope-  
Tringali

Rev. Linda Kraft

Rev. Andrea Hoslett

### **Special Observances:**

10/29 Reformation

11/5 All Saints

11/26 Christ the

King/Cosmic Christ

(end of church year)

### ***Did you know...***

Pope Pius XI instituted "The Feast of Christ the King" in 1925 to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations, something he was witnessing in the pain of World War 1. Pope Pius XI sought to remind and recommit people to their primary identity as Christ followers before their nationality.

### ***"Cosmic Christ"***

In the new millennium, "Cosmic Christ" or "Christ the Cosmic King" Sunday became popular, to shift away from older monarchy language and embrace the universality of Christ in creation.



# November 2023

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

S M T W T F S

		31	1	2	3	7	
		6pm 20/30s Halloween Pub Theology				9-3pm Fall Clean-Up Day	
Stewardship Campaign	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	All-Saints Sunday 7pm YAFM	3pm Worship @ The Watermark	10am Worship & Music Team	7pm Preschool Board	10:30am Worship @ TLH		9:30am Men's Fellowship 11:30am Rice Restock
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	12pm Field Trip to Native American Museum 	Pastor at Convocation			7pm Finance & Properties		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
		1pm Ladies' Fellowship	Epistle Submissions				
		1pm Evangelism 7pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service					
				Thanksgiving			
26	27	28	29	30			
Christ the King/Cosmic Christ Sunday	9am & 7pm Advent Bible Study (1/4)		7pm Council				

## WEEKLY EVENTS

S M T W T F S

9:00am Confirm. class	8:00pm AA	9am-12pm Parish Admin.	1:30-3:30pm Community Fika @ Starbucks	9am-12pm Parish Admin.	Pastor Sabbath  2:30-5pm Parish Admin.	Pastor Sabbath
10:15am Worship with Sunday School		11:00am Staff Meeting  12:30pm Meditation Call	8:00pm AA			

# Stewardship, Gratitude, Thanksgiving!



## WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

A biblical view definition is, “Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation”.

## WHAT IS GRATITUDE?

Gratitude is the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation, and to return kindness..

This month we are combining these 2 thoughts as we ask, “How we can best support the ongoing work of St James in 2024?”.

We ask for a pledge commitment\* by November 19, as we enter Thanksgiving week..... A fitting way to conclude our decisions on how we wish to commit a portion of our resources for sustaining His church here in Southbury.

The poor widow in Mark 12:41-44 gave all she had. The rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-27 went away dejected because he couldn't follow Jesus' command to sell what he had and give to the poor. We ask you in these weeks of November to examine where you stand along this spectrum of sacrifice and commitment.

Then let us all celebrate a time of Thanksgiving with joy!



*\*(pledges can always be adjusted if circumstances change!)*

# OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

FIKA  
with PASTOR

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

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



## SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

*In Autumn Bible Study, we learned Psalm 37 is an acrostic poem of the Hebrew alphabet, with each line echoing a piece of advice. What makes advice good? Who in your life provides advice? What is God advising you today?*

Write an acrostic poem using the English alphabet, each line sharing advice that God has given you.



## 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:

(203) 450-6454  
pastor@stjamesct.org

*While observing Sabbath on Fridays & Saturdays,  
Pastor does not receive texts or emails.  
With pastoral emergencies, please call.*

## REPORTS & NEWS

### **New Membership at St. James**

On Reformation Sunday, we formally installed Council and welcomed new members into our congregation. Thanks be to God! *New membership cycle opens again in the spring.*

- Lucia Stevens
- Ruth Mueller
- Paul Hubina
- Lori Hubina

### **Ecumenical Relations**

We are called to collaborative ministry - not just among our own church members but throughout our shared community. Pastor Abby is working with Pastor Ellie of UCC Southbury to share monthly youth and young adult programming; with middle/high school groups hosted by UCC and young adult hosted by St. James. Southbury Interfaith Clergy group meets monthly for mutual support and local community organizing.

### **Nov. 13-15: Synod Convocation**

Assembly for all Rostered ELCA Ministers in New England, held in Southbridge, MA.

# CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL



**Meets 4th Wednesday, 7-8:30pm**

*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.*

## REPORTS & NEWS

Council representatives have been very busy this fall! The team continues ongoing work on congregational goals, review of finances, protocols and procedures, along with continual follow through on questions and concerns.

Thank you, Bill Dreska, for his incredible effort in creating our updated Church Directory! The Music Director subcommittee (Pastor Abby, Jan Carnaroli, and Kathy Haddy) completed the search process to select a Music Director (see the Worship page) and the Preschool Liaisons (Barbara Manville and Liz Skinski) are busy working on the Preschool self-study (see Preschool page!) The Human Resource (HR) subcommittee (Pastor Abby and Donna Peterson) also is in full swing to begin conducting annual reviews for the preschool director, parish administrator, and digital coordinator positions this fall.

Please reach out to any Council member if you have any questions or suggestions. We welcome your input!

## NEW ENGLAND SYNOD & ELCA CHURCHWIDE

Anti-Racism Event:

**The Myth that Made Us: Beliefs about How Racism and Meritocracy Broke Our Economy (And How to Fix It)** with Jeff Fuhrer

2 online discussion opportunities:

Monday Nov. 20th 6:30-7:45 pm

Tuesday Nov. 21st 9:30-10:45 am

Sign up on the synod website,

[nelutherans.org](http://nelutherans.org)

## MEMBERS

### Officers

- Kathy Haddy,  
*President*
- Donna Peterson,  
*Vice President*
- Bill Dreska,  
*Secretary*
- Neil Johnson,  
*\*Treasurer*
- Ellen Hubina,  
*\*Assistant Treasurer*
- Curt Haedke,  
*\*Financial Secretary*

### Liaisons

- Jan Carnaroli,  
*Worship*
- Lucia Dressel,  
*Fellowship*
- Barbara Manville,  
*Preschool*
- Liz Skinski,  
*Preschool*
- Lynn Morrison,  
*Evangelism &  
Outreach*
- Tony Salvatore,  
*Properties*
- Rev. Abigail Johnson,  
*Faith Formation*

*\*non-voting*



# Worship & Music

Join our planning meeting 1st Tuesdays @ 10-11 AM



## Look Ahead

**Sundays Nov. 5, 12, 19**  
Stewardship Talks

*Hear stories of gratitude and generosity from members in worship, as part of our annual giving campaign.*

**Tuesday, Nov. 21**

Thanksgiving Interfaith Service, 7:00 pm @ St Paul's Church, Woodbury

**Sunday Nov. 26**

Welcome guest preacher & presider, Rev. Andrea Hoslett

**Sunday, Dec. 3**

Start of new church year  
*Year B, Mark Gospel*

*Pet blessing on Oct. 1, Feast of St. Francis of Assisi during outdoor worship.*

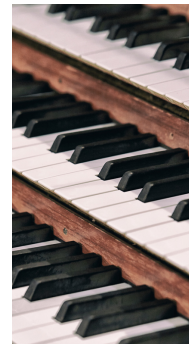


## Welcomed Guest

On Oct. 8, Deacon David Hope-Tringali, the Executive Director of Tree4Hope visited and preached on the importance of taking care of relationships, even when it is hard to do, so we don't lose them.

## Music Staff Changes

Our organist, Diane Peterson is stepping down for greater family time. With bittersweet well wishes and gratitude, we celebrate her last Sunday on December 3. Welcome our own John Dressel as new Music Director! God is good!



# SERVING IN WORSHIP

LITURGY MEANS "THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE" IN GREEK

## November 5

*All-Saints Sunday &*

*Stewardship Sunday 1/3*

**Preach/Preside:** Rev. Abby Johnson

**Altar Guild:** Judy Katzmark

**Asst. Minister:** Mary Ewert

**Lector:** Jennifer Beuadean White

**Ushers:** Judy Katzmark, Tony Salvatore

**Counters:** Catherine Ulc, Steven Ulc

**Sunday School:** Bill Siegle, Jan Carnaroli

## November 12

*Stewardship Sunday 2/3*

**Preach/Preside:** Rev. Abby Johnson

**Altar Guild:** Paulette Calderone

**Asst. Minister:** Jan Salvatore

**Lector:** Jan Salvatore

**Ushers:** Bob Morrison, Gary Kline

**Counters:** Diane Mladjen, Donna Peterson

**Sunday School:** Ellen Hubina, Mary Ewert

## November 19

*Stewardship Sunday 3/3*

**Preach/Preside:** Rev. Abby Johnson

**Altar Guild:** Lynn Morrison

**Asst. Minister:** Lynn Morrison

**Lector:** Barbara Manville

**Ushers:** Jacque Matthew, Judy Lee

**Counters:** Jan Carnaroli, Kathy Haddy

**Sunday School:** Lauren Lyons, Jan Salvatore

## November 26

*Christ the King/Cosmic Christ*

**Sunday Preach/Preside:** Rev.

Andrea Hoslett

**Altar Guild:** Judy Lee

**Asst. Minister:** Karen Lampiasi

**Lector:** Gary Kline

**Ushers:** Bill Siegle, Marylee Siegle

**Counters:** Bill Siegle, Curt Haedke

**Sunday School:** Mike Lyons, Jan Carnaroli

Share your gifts - the church is the people!

CONTACT

**Music:** 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



# Faith Formation

## MEDITATION CALL

TUESDAYS 12:30PM

*Original, quick  
guided meditations*

*recorded by Pastor Abby;  
subscribe on our website  
homepage to receive recorded  
call or listen on the podcast.*



## PUB THEOLOGY

1st THURSDAY 6-7PM

**\*\*\*Note change of day**

@ BLACK HOG BREWERY CO.  
*Especially for Young Adults  
(20/30s), a casual meet up to  
explore ideas and questions on  
religion and faith, in the world  
today and this season of life.  
Trivia Night follows, if desired.*



## BIBLE STUDY

ADVENT SERIES (4-WEEKS)

*The Light of Grace: This series enlightens the heart, mind and soul  
with the Good News that the Light of the World graces us with his  
presence every day of our lives. A time of study, discussion, prayers  
and reflections to receive by grace the gifts of hope, peace, joy and  
love, as Zechariah, Isaiah, Elizabeth and Mary did.*

WHEN: Mondays, November 27 - December 18 +

- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM, at church
- 7:00 - 8:00 PM, virtual online

(Same session at either time of day)



## Podcast: A Steadfast Branch

A weekly podcast for all ages, listen for free on our website or on Spotify. Faith-formation offerings such as sermons, devotionals, blessings, meditations, and interviews with the wider church community. Tune in!



FAITH FORMATION...

FOR KIDS!

### Sunday School

Sundays midworship  
Grades PreK-5

*Dismissed mid-worship for a brief lesson and activity in art, music, storytelling, games, and more. Lead by rotating teachers.*

### Confirmation

Sundays  
9:00-9:45 am  
Grades 6+

*A deeper study in Lutheran tradition and Christian faith in affirmation of baptism, with Pastor Abby, Lynn Morrison, and Neil Johnson.*

No class Nov. 26

### Milestone Ministries

Year-long integrated programming for children & families

*Each year, kids learn & explore a new faith tenant, in their church life supported by the congregation and in their home life with their families. See Pastor to join in.*

A small but mighty group is working hard to continue youth and family programming this year. Thanks to all who are helping with teaching Sunday school during services. Join us for the following intergenerational fellowship activities:

Nov 23rd – Walk or run for a good cause! Join the Saint James Lutheran Church team at the Southbury Turkey Trot – 830 am on Thanksgiving day. Sign up at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Southbury/SouthburyTurkeyTrot5K>

Benefits the Southbury Food and Fuel Bank as well as Needy Fund.

Dec 3rd – Advent wreath making! 10am in the old sanctuary

ALL are welcome to join!!!! If you have interest in helping with any of the YAFM programming, please contact Lauren Lyons [lyonsden1133@yahoo.com](mailto:lyonsden1133@yahoo.com). Meetings are held every other month (Next November 5th at 7pm).

Thank you to Pastor Abby for her hard work making the incredible Milestone Ministry materials and kits.



Milestone Ministry Kick- Off at the 10/15/23 Children's sermon. What a blessed way to kick off this wonderful journey.



# Fellowship

## FIELD TRIP

*Institute for American Indian  
Studies Museum*  
*Sunday, November 12, 12-4pm*

\$12 adults; \$10 seniors; \$8 kids

Sign up in narthex by Nov. 5

<https://www.iaismuseum.org/>



### **'The Hive' Youth Group**

Sundays 4:30 - 6:30 PM @ UCC Southbury

1st Sunday: Grades 6-8    3rd Sunday: Grades 9-12

2nd Sunday: Teen Worship Band for Grades 7-12 - *bring an instrument!*

### **Young Adults (20s/30s) Group**

1st Thursday 6:00 PM @ Black Hog Brewery, Oxford; see Pastor

### **Ladies' Fellowship**

2nd Tuesday 1:00 PM @ church; see Judy Katzmark

### **Men's Fellowship**

2nd Saturday 9:30 AM; see Bill Siegle or Jacque Matthews

St James Men's Fellowship continues to meet on the second Saturday of the month. At our October 9th meeting, we celebrated our first meal preparation and delivery to Dorothy Day House in Danbury. This tray of chicken pot pie, prepared at church by Bill Siegle & Rich Larson, was delivered and served September 26th in Danbury. (Our next service will be October 24th)

We also delivered St James monthly rice contributions to the Southbury Food Bank after our October 9th meeting.



*Seeking friends for an outing? Event you'd like to host? Yay! See Pastor*



Dear Church Family, I am so grateful that we had such a wonderful turnout at Fall Fest! Each year there are more folks involved, our sense of fellowship and community grows – sharing our gifts in response to God's love. Special thanks go to the Guatemala team who helped to organize and to the vendors who helped to make our event a success - God's abundance is all around us!

~ Barbara Manville





# An Apple A Day:

## Prostate Cancer

from our Parish Nurse, Diane Mladjen

Prostate cancer is common among American men. About 13 percent of men receive this diagnosis. The prostate is a small gland that sits below the bladder in front of the rectum. Risks include age greater than 50. African American, Hispanic men have higher rates. Asian American men have the lowest rate. If you have a father or brother with prostate cancer you are more likely to develop this cancer. If you have family genes of BRCA 1 or 2 breast cancer you may have higher risk for prostate cancer. Obesity brings an increased risk.

Monitoring for prostate cancer is usually a blood test called PSA or Prostate Specific Antigen. This test can be high in men with enlarged prostate gland(BPH) or with prostate cancer. The digital rectal exam is another test for the size and texture of the prostate gland. Newer DNA urine tests predict Prostate cancer risk . MRI of the Prostate can also predict probability of being at risk for this cancer. The definitive test is biopsy of the prostate tissue looking for cancer cells.

Treatment depends on whether the prostate cancer is in the prostate or spread to surrounding tissue and other parts of the body. It also depends on your age and overall health. Watchful waiting or active surveillance monitors the cancer which is slow growing and not spread outside the prostate. Surgery removes the prostate. Radiation kills cancer cells and shrinks tumors. Hormone therapy stops the body from producing testosterone (Androgen Deprivation). Chemotherapy for the more advanced stages.

Prevention of Prostate therapy include regular PSA screening, Maintaining a healthy weight, exercise regularly, healthy balanced diet.



# Outreach

## CELEBRATE UNICEF

Pray for our world's children and share through the St James UNICEF drive

**November 5th** is the last day to donate... Total coming during November

**EVERY PENNY DONATED THIS YEAR WILL BE MATCHED!**



**unicef**  
For every child



**In person**  
w/ envelopes



**Online**  
w/ QR code



### Thank you!

To all who donated socks for SOCKTOBER! Many warm feet in the local shelters thank

### THE SOUTHBURY NEEDY FUND TREE

The Southbury Needy Fund Tree will be set up soon. Pick an ornament or two to provide Christmas gifts for a needy family in our community. Please return gifts UNWRAPPED to the gathering area by December 3rd.

### BLANKETS AND COATS DO NOT MEAN AN AWFUL LOT UNLESS IT IS COLD AND YOU DO NOT HAVE ONE!

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.

### Don't forget the rice shelf!

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:

November – Colasanto

December – Morrison

January - Salvatore

February - Men's Group

Food Bank Stocking Hours:

2nd Saturday of @ month from 11:15-12:30 pm and 4th Sunday of the month from 9-10am

Call (203)721-0377 to make other arrangements.



# St James Preschool

We are enjoying all of our fall activities, including tasting, describing and rating different apple products, going on a field trip to March Farm, enjoying story time with Pastor Abby, a visit from the firefighters and music.

We are also having fun using leaves and pumpkins to explore our creativity and practice concepts.

Our upcoming Family Halloween Sing and Thanksgiving Celebration are always days of family, friends and fun.



## Upcoming Preschool Assessment

At the June 2023 congregational meeting, it was agreed that one of our goals for the upcoming year would be to conduct a preschool self-study to mutually assess relationship, mission, and responsibilities with church.

### Why does St James Preschool exist?

*From the Preschool Board of Directors handbook:*

#### **Mission Statement**

The Saint James Lutheran Pre-School is an outreach of the Saint James congregation in response to God's love. We believe it is essential to live in a relationship with God. To that end, the Pre-School is dedicated to providing for the social, emotional, cognitive, and spiritual development of pre-school children. This is accomplished within a warm, nurturing Christian environment that fosters and supports the constitution and mission of Saint James Lutheran Church. Children and their families are gifts from God and as such, need to be accepted, affirmed, and respected regardless of creed, color, race, national origin, or gender.

*Continues on next page...*

## **Strategic Planning**

The Board is tasked with the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the mission and vision of the preschool program, the board is regularly observing and gathering information from within the classroom setting that will assist it in helping and affirming the students, families, and staff members.

In addition, the board will:

- annually review the results of family, staff and program surveys
- set goals for the upcoming school year
- provide monthly updates to Church Council
- issue a yearly report for the annual Congregational Meeting
- publish financial reports to the congregation annually

## **Why are we doing this assessment?**

From time to time, the congregation of St. James would like to assess the relationship between the preschool and the church to ensure that the mission of the congregation is reflected in the program. To ensure the effective stewardship of our resources, we will assess the school financials, the shared use of the space, and the congregation's ability to support the preschool with volunteer staff.

## **Why now?**

The Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA) recommends that we put into place a regular process for self-review and evaluation. We should reevaluate the relationship of the school ministry and congregation every few years or when major changes happen in either the congregation or school. Change often puts stress on relationships even within a congregation's ministries. Continued review of that relationship will keep it healthy and strong for the children and families that are involved in the program.

Since the last assessment in 2009, things have changed greatly at St James Church and Preschool - St James called a new pastor, appointed a new Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Financial Secretary and key members of the property support committee have changed. On the preschool side, we hired a new director and since then 2 long term staff members retired, effectively creating a complete turnover of preschool staff. Oh – and then there was the pandemic!

## **What next?**

The new council met in August and liaisons for each subcommittee were named. Liz Skinski and Barbara Manville were named as liaisons to the preschool, whose board met in September to discuss the upcoming school year. Ellen Hubina did a financial assessment, and we are working to incorporate her findings into the upcoming budget process. There will be opportunities for the congregation to provide input and to participate in this process. We will work to keep the congregation informed and we ask that you offer your prayers and support for this effort.

# Finance Team

Meets 3rd  
Thursday @  
7PM

Through faith, we believe that our lives and blessings are gifts from God and that He blesses us with the privilege of being stewards of all that He entrusts to us. Our responsibility as stewards is to manage what we've been given to honor and please God.

In his book, *The Power of Pure Stewardship*," the sainted Carl W. Berner, Sr., wrote, "The faithful God and the faithful steward working together—that's the winning combination. No one can improve on that. If a man is as faithful in his stewardship as God is in His gifts and promises, failure is impossible, success inevitable."

Lynn Morrison, *Council Member*

	Operating Income			Mortgage Income		
Month	Budget	Actual	Diff	Budget	Actual	Diff
Jan	16,500.00	10,427.00	(6,073.00)	2,266.25	1,825.00	(441.25)
Feb	16,500.00	24,804.00	8,304.00	2,266.25	1,065.00	(1,201.25)
Mar	16,500.00	11,727.00	(4,773.00)	2,266.25	2,480.00	213.75
Apr	16,500.00	13,004.00	(3,496.00)	2,266.25	1,680.00	(586.25)
May	16,500.00	50,191.80	33,691.80	2,266.25	6,335.00	4,068.75
June	16,500.00	7,451.00	(9,049.00)	2,266.25	1,930.00	(336.25)
July	16,500.00	9,463.55	(7,036.45)	2,266.25	3,945.00	1,678.75
Aug	16,500.00	10,223.67	(6,276.33)	2,266.25	5,510.00	3,243.75
Sept	16,500.00	10,008.00	(6,492.00)	2,266.25	4,015.00	1,748.75
Oct	16,500.00	5,895.00	(10,604.00)	2,266.25	2,515.00	248.75
<b>Total YTD</b>	<b>165,500</b>	<b>153,195.02</b>	<b>(11,804.98)</b>	<b>22662.50</b>	<b>31,300.00</b>	<b>8,637.5</b>
<b>Last year to Oct 15th</b>		<b>151,009.37</b>			<b>22,269.00</b>	

# In Our Prayers



Rich Neeb	Fran Vezina	Joan Waldorf
Janet Benzell	Karl Faulkner	Karen Prodo
Caroline Kaiger	Dorian Malloy	Fae Guerin
Tim Peterson	Sheryl	Chris
Paul Hubina	Vivian DeVito	Heidi Varanko
Paul Meberg	Jay	Diana Larson
Ed Mueller	Nicole Keller	Doug Calderone
Margaret Greenman	Traudl	Cassie
	Sue Cheatham	Laura Neeb

**Please also keep** *Tim Peterson, Thomas Chappa 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, Peter Adler, Annamarie McCabe, George Senerchia, Krzysztof Gutowski, Don Helender, Brian Mons, Joanne Boyle, Hester Long, Hans Dittmer, Dave Desmarais, and Pr Michael Ross.*

## **Prayer List Updates:**

*The prayer list is edited by request and the full prayer list will be reset in November, following All Saints Sunday. To add to the prayer list or request a name remain on the list when reset **THIS MONTH**, please see Pastor Abby or Liz Skinski.*

*Prayer concern alerts are sent with the consent of the family via email; subscribe on our website. If you wish to receive alerts by phone call or text, please see Pastor Abby.*

*Join us for worship service of Word & Holy Communion on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am at 111 Peter Road, Southbury, CT 06488.*