

OCTOBER 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

[@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!*



SEASON OF CREATION

Sept. 10 - Oct. 1

A Mighty River: Let Justice & Peace Flow

Prophet Amos cries out: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24) and so we are called to join the river, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. As the people of God, we must celebrate Creation and work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

**10:15 am Worship
Resumes**

Special Observances:
Feast of St. Francis,
Oct. 1 (outside)



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 Cosmic Christ



A WORD FROM PASTOR

Dear beloved community,

When something bad happens to someone we love, we struggle to find the words. Perhaps we fidget in awkward silence, hold off the check-in phone call a little longer, or create some distance. *I just don't know what to say.* Other times, we might attempt to talk away the awkwardness; filling space with plenty of questions, opinions, and attempted answers. *I just don't know what to do.* Whether paralyzed with silence or spiraling with chatter, the tension we feel in that moment comes from love's impulse to help, to fix or remove that which harms someone we care about, yet often finding, at least in the immediate moment, we simply cannot. This painful reality does not sit comfortably.

What we all need most in a moment of dizzying uncertainty is to know where we are and who is there with us. God designed us to be creatures of community. A primal need of existence is to belong and from that, feel safe. The moment pain explodes, the body, brain, and heart can't hop to understanding and planning mode - they are too busy spinning. Even a well intended, "How do you feel? What do you want to do? How do you want us to help?" can be an overwhelming request far out of reach. When your heart is breaking for the broken hearted there with you, here is a simple helper to guide what to say and do in that delicate, immediate moment:

UP - DOWN - IN - OUT

1. **Up** - Connect to the higher power above us all. Send up a simple silent prayer. Take a breath to remember God's presence in and with you.
2. **Down** - Where is the ground underneath? Affirm the moment by naming the reality out-loud. *"Wow, this is so heavy and painful. Today is an awful day. Tell me your story."*
3. **In** - Who is in with them? *"I love you and I'll be here the whole time; Your family/church/friends/etc. are with you; God is right here now."*
4. **Out** - What happens outside this space? Instead of expecting your loved one to lead and teach you, educate yourself. Provide basic support, like food. Be present, even with silence. If the event calls for greater involvement, research information to ease the burden and later, provide options - not decisions. It's important the person going through this event have the ownership of it.

And above all, trust. The Spirit works in and through you. The peace that surpasses even our understanding always has a way of showing up (Phil. 4:7)

Peace, Pastor Abby

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

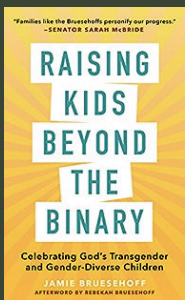
FIKA
with PASTOR

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

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



FROM HER BOOKSHELF



**Raising Kids beyond
the Binary:
Celebrating God's
Transgender and
Gender-Diverse
Children**

*by Jamie Bruesehoff,
a member of the ELCA*



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

*Observes Sabbath on Fridays & Saturdays.
With pastoral emergencies, please call.*

REPORTS & NEWS

New Membership at St. James
Those interested in membership at St. James, please confirm by returning completed new member paperwork to Pastor by Oct. 15.

Storytime with Pastor
Monthly story time in the Preschool resumes this month. Each month, both classes will read stories that follow the fruits of the spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, hope, gentleness, and self-control.

Oct. 19-26 Pastor on PTO
Pastoral emergencies to Pastor Ellie Strathdee, UCC Southbury, (203) 564-3767

Nov. 13-15: Synod Convocation
Assembly for all Rostered ELCA Ministers in New England, held in Southbridge, MA

IN LOVING MEMORY



Brain Edward Mons
March 7, 1951-Sept. 6,
2023

*Celebration of Life at St.
James was held on
Saturday, September 16.*



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

St. James Church Council had a wonderful August meeting/get together at Kathy Haddy's home. The meeting focused on fellowship, welcoming new members, (Bill Dreska, Barbara Manville,) financial updates, electing officers and liaisons, and St. James three Organizational Goals that were agreed upon at our June 2023 Congregational meeting.

As a reminder, these organizational goals are:

- 1. Develop a debt reduction strategy, addressing mortgage and expenses**
- 2. Conduct a Preschool self-study to mutually assess relationship, mission, and responsibilities with Church**
- 3. Bolster meaningful fellowship events with outreach component, to strengthen congregational and ecumenical relationships**

NEW ENGLAND SYNOD & ELCA CHURCHWIDE

Fall Retreats at Camp Calumet

- Fall Flavors Lutherhostel, Oct. 2-5
- Autumn Mid-Week Getaway, Oct. 3-6
- Harvest Weekend, Oct. 6-9

Visit calumet.org or see pastor for details

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

Sunday Oct. 1

Feast of St. Francis
Outdoor worship; bring your pet!

Sunday Oct. 8

Guest preaching by
Deacon David Hope-
Tringali from Hope
Academy

Sunday Oct. 15

YAFM Milestone Ministry
program launch in worship

Sunday Oct. 22

Guest presider Rev. Linda
Kraft; UNICEF Talk

Sunday Oct. 29

Reformation Sunday
with blessing of new members

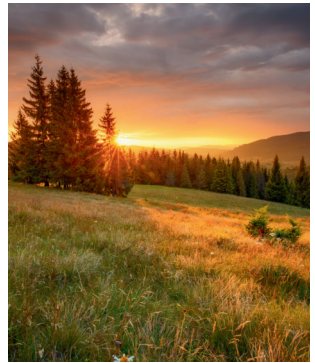
Sunday Nov. 1

All Saints Sunday
Bring a picture or memento of a passed loved one for the remembrance table



Season of Creation Finale

For four weeks, we explored celebration, connection, stewardship and blessing of God's natural creation in our worship.



School Year Blessings

In early September, we blessed students and teachers of all kinds. Help yourself to extra blessed backpack keychains in the narthex.



October 2023

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

S M T W T F S

10:15am Blessing of the animals (bring a pet!)	11am & 7pm Bible Study (4/6)	10am Worship & Music Team	6pm Pub Theology			
11:30am Tree4Hope Potluck 1pm Guatemala Team Mtng	3pm Worship @ Watermark 11am & 7pm Bible Study (5/6)	1pm Women's Fellowship	7pm Preschool Board	10:30am Worship @ TLH		9:30am Men's Fellowship 11:30am Rice Restock
Milestone Ministry launch	11am & 7pm Bible Study (6/6)	1pm Evangelism		7pm Finance & Properties		
Epistle Submissions						
UNICEF fundraiser begins			7pm Council			
Reformation Sunday						



WEEKLY EVENTS

S M T W T F S

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

SERVING IN WORSHIP

LITURGY MEANS "THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE" IN GREEK

October 1

Blessing of the animals

Preach/Preside: Rev. Abby Johnson

Altar Guild: Judy Katzmark

Ushers: Bill & Marylee Siegle

Lector: Kathy Haddy

Asst. Minister: Jim Mix

Counters: Steven & Catherine Ulc

October 15

with Milestone Ministries

Preach/Preside: Rev. Abby Johnson

Altar Guild: Lynn Morrison

Ushers: Bob Morrison & Gary Kline

Lector: Priscilla Terhune

Asst. Minister: Lynn Morrison

Counters: Jan Carnaroli & Kathy Haddy

Sunday School: Mike Lyons & Jan Carnaroli

October 29

Preach/Preside: Rev. Abby Johnson

Altar Guild: Priscilla Terhune

Ushers: Bill & Marylee Siegle

Lector: John Dressel

Asst. Minister: Liz Skinski

Counters: Bill Siegle & Barbara Manville

Sunday School: Meghan Colasanto & Kathy Haddy

October 8

Preach: Deacon David Hope-Tringali

Preside: Rev. Abby Johnson

Altar Guild: Paulette Calderone

Ushers: John Dressel & Judy Katzmark

Lector: Liz Skinski

Asst. Minister: Liz Skinski

Counters: Neil Johnson & Rich Larson

Sunday School: Ellen Hubina & Marylee Siegle

October 22

Preach/Preside: Rev. Linda Kraft

Altar Guild: Judy Lee

Ushers: Jacque Matthew & Jeff Nadasen

Lector: Gary Kline

Asst. Minister: Karen Lampiasi

Counters: Donna Peterson & Gary Kline

Sunday School: Lauren Lyons & Janice Salvatore

Share your gifts - the church is the people!

CONTACT

Special 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 WEDNESDAY 6-7PM
@ 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.*



BIBLE STUDY

6-WEEK FALL SERIES

Songs of the Faithful: Studies in Psalms

The book of Psalms contains one hundred-fifty prayers, songs, liturgies, and poems that express the full range of human emotion, displaying the highs and lows of the life of faith. This season's study explores 6 big questions based in the Psalms.

WHEN: Mondays, September 11 - October 16

- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, at church
- 7:00 - 8:00 PM, 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!**

YAFM
Planning
Team meets
every other
1st Tuesday,
7-8:30pm

Sunday School

**Sundays 10:30am
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 9:00am
Grades 6+**

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

Youth Group

**Monthly meet-ups
with fellow
Lutheran churches
Grades 6-12**

None this month.

Our children thank you!

Many thanks to all those who have stepped and been willing to help teach Sunday School for PreK-Grade5 during worship each week. This year's SCS will kick off Sept 17th and it is such a blessing to have our children get to learn from so many different faces and walks of life.

If you are interested in volunteering as a teacher or learning more about how you might be able to help with the Sunday School program, please contact Pastor Abby or Lauren Lyons.



St James Preschool

This month at St James

We have had a wonderful start to the school year! Materials are being used in new and creative ways and children who have never been in school are already forming friendships. They are also enthusiastic about our new art gallery wall, inspired by the book "The Dot." We are excited for all of our fall exploration and activities.



Many thanks to the evangelical team for the very warm welcome for the Parent Tea & Handbook Meeting!

Socktober Fundraiser

The preschool, in conjunction with other local elementary schools, will be collection 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.



An Apple A Day



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

According to the Center for Disease Control each year in the US 264,000 women get breast cancer. About 42,000 die from the disease. Men also get breast cancers. About one of every 100 breast cancer diagnoses are men.

Most breast cancers occur in women over fifty. About nine percent of all new cases are women under age 45. Breast cancer in young women are more likely to be hereditary. In younger women the cancer appears to be more aggressive. It is more common among African American women.

It is the second most common cause of cancer for women. Some types of skin cancer are the most common. Mammograms are the best way to diagnose breast cancer. Mammograms find the cancer in earlier stages when it is easier to treat.

The symptoms include 1) Any change in size or shape of breast. 2) Nipple discharge other than milk 3) Pain in any area of the breast. 4) A new lump in breast or underarm.

The risk factors are being a women, Being older than 50 years old. Having changes in BRACA 1 or BRACA 2.

Lower your risk by keeping a healthy weight and exercise regularly. Choose not to drink alcohol or drink alcohol in moderation. If taking hormone replacement or birth control pills discuss your risks with you. Breast feed your children if possible. Schedule your mammogram every year.



Outreach

Fall Clothes Clean-Out

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.

Socktober

The preschool, in conjunction with other local elementary schools, will be collection 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.

Prayer Pockets

The Evangelism team knitted/crocheted more than 135 Prayer Pockets for handouts at the October Fest! The enclosed cards remind folks of the importance of prayer, and the gift of communicating with God who promises to always "hear" us

In the Community

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.



Hablar un poco de español

Our team heading to Guatemala in February is starting to learn some spanish and you can join them! Look for a new Word or phrase each week in the bulletin to learn a little bit of spanish! Our team is planing to bring bags of simple school supplies for the 125 girls in the school. We are still in need of notebooks, erasers and highlighters. Donations can be placed in the box in the gathering área.

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:

October – Men's Group
November – Colasanto
December – Morrison
January - Lyons

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.



UNICEF

EVERY PENNY DONATED THIS YEAR WILL BE MATCHED!



CELEBRATE UNICEF

October 23 @ 10:15 October 29 @ 10:15

About this year's Unicef

St. James will celebrate the amazing and far-reaching work of UNICEF on two Sundays, October 23 and 29. Flyers and donation envelopes will be available for all to support this work again as we have for the past 15 years!

 **In person w/ envelopes**











 **Online**



Scan to Donate

UNICEF Accomplishments

UNICEF'S top 10 achievements in the past year include:

- Prevented malnutrition in 356.3 million children under 5 
- Vaccinated 77.9 million children 
- Education made available to 37.9 million children and adolescents 
- 7.4 million in child advocacy programs 
- Water, sanitation/hygiene services to 26 million people 
- Disability inclusive programs to 4.5 million children in 142 countries 
- Formal recognition of children and youth as agents for change in climate action 
- Mental health and psycho-social support to 25.2 million, double the previous year 
- Supported Governments to reach 129 million children with cash transfer programming 
- Programs to prevent violence, exploitation and harmful practices, reaching 11.8 million caregivers 

Finance Team

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

I wanted to thank everyone for their generous donations so far this year. As of September 15th, our contributions are about \$11,000 more than last year at the same time for the Mortgage and Operating funds combined. At this rate of giving, we may be able to close our budgeted deficit. - see chart of monthly giving to September 15th for details and comparison to budget.

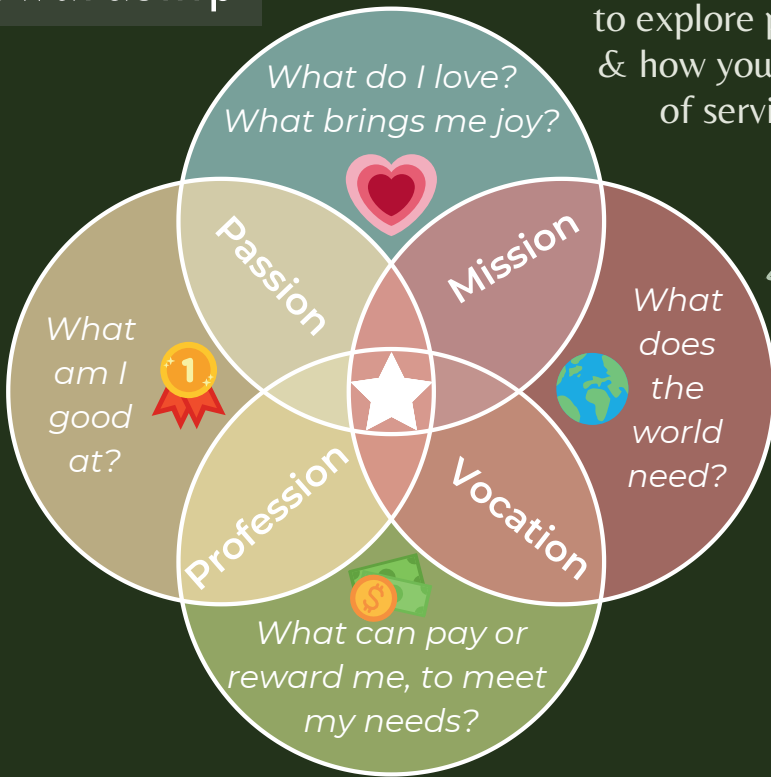
As you may have noticed, you have not been receiving your giving statement by mail for this year. For those that have an email account registered with St James, you should have received electronic versions of the statement. I will be sending out hard copies for the 3rd

Curt Haedke, *Financial Secretary*

Month	Operating Income			Mortgage Income		
	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	4,504.00	(11,996.00)	2,266.25	2,760.00	493.75
Total YTD	148,500	141,796.02	(6,703.98)	20,396.25	27,530.00	7133.75
Last year to Sept 15th	137,359.37			\$ 20,684.00		

Stewardship

Try this exercise to explore purpose & how you can be of service!



PURPOSE: Ourselves Among Others

Feeling fulfilled in our purpose is never doing or acquiring just one thing; it's an ongoing balance of our passion, mission, profession, and vocation. God speaks to us throughout our lives in all areas, encouraging our inward reflection and outward attention. Taking time to explore our joys, our strengths, and the needs of both ourselves and the world invites us to observe where things overlap and investigate or create opportunities to engage in meaningful ways of self-interest.

Selfishness = none of you, all for me

Selflessness = none of me, all for you

Self-Interest = "ourselves among others," where you and me meet

As you craft routines and commitments this autumn, take a moment to consider... Of the many things that call on your time, money and attention in life, where does your church fit? How could St. James be a place to live into your unique passions and missions, even professions and vocations? As a community which engages, strengthens and shares in these important parts of your life, where do our purpose as people of faith meet together? Church is a space unlike any other in our lives. How do we tend to it faithfully as we tend to our many gifts from God?



God, Who has created all things and sustains all things, has called us to be His instruments through which He shares His grace, love, and mercy with the world. It is amazing that, in spite of our sinful ways, God calls us to participate with Him on His team in sharing the good news of the Gospel. He wants to work with us to bring about His will on earth. God “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4), and He blesses us with the honor and privilege to be in partnership to help others enjoy His kingdom now on earth and to be with Him forever in eternity.

Through faith, we understand our need to be generous and willing to share. The giving of our money is merely returning to God what He has already given to us (1 Corinthians 4:7). God gives and keeps on giving. Through God’s Word, we learn that we are to make giving a priority (Proverbs 3:9), to give “on the first day of every week” (1 Corinthians 16:2), to give in proportion to how we are blessed (2 Corinthians 8:12), and to give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7). May God help us all experience the joy in giving.

~Lynn Morrison, *Stewardship*

In Our Prayers



Rich Neeb	John Raslear	Traudl
Janet Benzell	Margaret	Sue Cheatham
Caroline Kaiger	Greenman	Joan Waldorf
Tim Peterson	Fran Vezina	Karen Prodo
Paul Hubina	Karl Faulkner	Fae Guerin
Paul Meberg	Dorian Malloy	Pr. Michael Ross
Ed Mueller	Sheryl	Heidi Varanko
	Vivian DeVito	Diana Larson
	Jay	
	Nicole Keller	

***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 Becky Cavanagh, Al Pacheco, Peter Adler, Annamarie McCabe, George Senerchia, Krzysztof Gutowski, Don Helender, Brian Mons, Joanne Boyle, and Hester Long*

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 **next 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.

