

FEBRUARY 2024

# 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*

John Dressel

*Music  
Director*

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 PASTOR



Dear Beloved Community

As St. Peter frequently began letters to his own congregations, I too lift up gratitude to my God for you, “for I have witnessed your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all people.” (Ephesians 1:15) It is truly a blessing to be your pastor and to join you in celebrating where we are as a congregation. Over the past several years, St. James Lutheran Church has seen transitions of pastoral and lay leadership, reform and restructures, homegoing of beloved members and friends; all this amidst a global pandemic, on an ever evolving religious and cultural landscape. Yet, this church has also seen growth in new membership, baptisms and births; a mindset of abundance with outpouring of gifts, talents, and time; the return and continuation of beloved traditions, as well as the emergence of new ideas and expressions of being Church in the world today. Friends, there is much joy, hope, love and above all faith in this community we share and diligently care for.

Given where we are as a congregation, it is the perfect time to check in with who we are; our shared mission and vision. As a church, mission is what we do to reflect God's love and presence. Vision is how we do it; the specific ministries we organize and invest in to live out our unique calling in our current context. At the start of this new year, you may have found yourself setting resolutions or recommitting to goals based on what is important to you at this point of life and how you discern the Holy Spirit is speaking to you. That is the same kind of conversation we as a church seek to have on a larger collaborative scale this year. This process of exploring is a congregation-wide commitment; as we hold space together to pray, share, discern, and define our current mission and vision. You can look forward to opportunities to gather in small and large groups for discussion, led by a professional facilitator. Through this good and faithful work, we'll find connection, inspiration, and common language to share with more people who we are as a faith community, how we serve God, and what kind of a home they too can find at St. James Lutheran Church.

The commitment of thoughtful time and intention action is a marker of health and vitality. By doing so together, we are demonstrating a posture of faithful listening and courageous following, of a loving Spirit that is forever speaking and directing. I may be the pastor, but you are the ministers of St. James. You are the body of Christ in the world; the hands, feet, hearts and minds of Jesus in our unique and precious community. As we come together and invest in this process, we celebrate not only where we are now but where we are growing and going with the Spirit in the future.

Peace, Pastor Abby

# February 2024

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

| S  | M  | T                       | W   | T  | F   | S  |
|--|--|-------------------------|---|--|---|--|
|  |  |                         |   | 1  | 2   | 3  |
| 4<br>10:15 1st Communion Blessing<br>4:30pm MS Youth Group | 5<br>11am Bible Study (5/5)<br>3pm Worship @ Watermark<br>8pm Guate BS | 6<br>7pm YAFM           | 7<br>7pm Worship & Music  | 8<br>10:30am Worship @TLH                            | 9   | 10<br>9:30am Men's Group<br>11:30am Rice Restock |
| 11<br>10:15 Blessing of Guatemala Trip                     | 12   | 13<br>1pm Women's Group | 14<br><br>12pm & 7pm Ash Wed. Services | 15<br>6pm Pub Theology<br><i>Epistle Submissions</i> | 16<br> | 17   |
| 18   | 19   | 20                      | 21  | 22   | 23  | 24   |

Guatemala Service Trip to our mission partner, Tree 4 Hope

|                       |    |                           |   |                             |  |  |
|-----------------------|----|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 4:30pm HS Youth Group |    | 1:00pm Evangelism         | 7pm Finance Team                            | 7pm Synod Bible Study       |  |  |
| 25                    | 26 | 27<br>7pm Synod Book Talk | 28<br>9:30am Synod Book Talk<br>7pm Council | 29<br>7pm Synod Bible Study |  |  |

## WEEKLY EVENTS

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|                                 |           |                              |  |                              |                           |                |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 9:00am Confirm.                 | 8:00pm AA | 9:00am-12:00pm Parish Admin. | 1:30-3:30pm Community Fika @ Starbucks | 9:00am-12:00pm Parish Admin. | Pastor Sabbath            | Pastor Sabbath |
| 10:15am Worship, with S. School |           | 12:30pm Meditation Call      | 8:00pm AA                              |                              | 2:30-5:00pm Parish Admin. |                |
| 11:30am Choir Rehearsal         |           |                              |  |                              |                           |                |





# EPIPHANY

Jan. 6th - Feb. 13th

## ***Discover & Connect***

*Epiphany is the season of introductions and "ah ha" moments. As the Wise Men travel to see and know the Messiah, we treasure that God sees and knows us deeply. In this time, we seek to create new connections and deepen relationships; with our faith family, our neighbors, and with God.*

### **Guest Voices:**

Temple Talks by participants  
in the Guatemala Service  
Trip

### **Special Observances:**

01/06 Epiphany  
01/07 Jesus' Baptism



# LENT

Feb. 14th - March 24rd

## ***Reflect & Repent***

*Lent is the season of penitence and reconciliation. For 40-days, Jesus retreated to the desert for solitude with God and so we too journey in thoughtful reflection for 40-days (excluding Sundays), confessing our sins and shortcomings, facing the brokenness of our world, and recommitting to live more faithfully.*

### **Guest Voices:**

02/18 Rev. Will Baumgartner,  
02/25 Jenny Beaudean-  
White, *ULS Seminarian*  
03/10 Rev. Will Baumgartner  
03/17 Ben Tino, *Missionary  
serving in Guatemala*

### **Special Observances:**

02/14 Ash Wed.  
Lent on the Road

# ELCA LEADERSHIP



Pastor will away in Guatemala leading our team mission trip, February 17-24. On-call pastor for emergencies:

**Rev. Samantha Perret**  
**Cross of Christ**  
**Lutheran Church**  
**Waterbury, CT**  
**860-790-1108**



## PASTOR ABBY

Whether in celebration, grief, doubt, or curiosity of faith, she is happy to meet with you when and where suits you well.

(203) 450-6454    [pastor@stjamesct.org](mailto:pastor@stjamesct.org)

*While observing Sabbath on Fridays & Saturdays, Pastor does not receive texts or emails. Call with pastoral emergencies.*

*St. James is part of the New England Synod's*  
**NAUGATUCK VALLEY CONFERENCE**

## NEW ENGLAND SYNOD

*For more info, visit [nelutherans.org](http://nelutherans.org)*

### **NE Synod Lutherans Book Study**

"How to Fight Racism" by Dr. Jemar Tisby, on Zoom with author

Tues 02/27 7pm OR

Wed. 02/28 9:30 am

\*Free\* Register on synod website

### **Retreats at Camp Calumet**

Roster Ministers Retreat, Feb. 5-8

Confirmation Retreats, March 1-3 &

April 12-14

### **New England Synod Assembly**

**June 6-8, 2024**

**Worcester, MA**

*Thank you to Kathy Haddy and Donna Peterson for volunteering to*

*serve as Synod Assembly*

*Representatives for St. James!*

## ELCA CHURCHWIDE

*For more info, visit [elca.org](http://elca.org)*

### **Bishop on Leave**

The Church Council of the ELCA appointed Michael Burk as presiding bishop pro tempore after its

Executive Committee approved

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's request for a 4-6 month leave of absence.

### **North American church leaders call for peace in Holy Land**

The leaders of the ELCA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada and The Episcopal Church have released the Churches Beyond Borders 2023 Advent Cycle of Prayer, which calls for justice and peace in the Holy Land

# 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

The Council is excited for 2024 and the promise of this New Year. We thank God for His role in the lives of all of us in the Congregation and Our Community of St. James.

We are especially thankful to everyone for the hard work to plan, manage, and develop the 2024 church budget. Our diligent effort and teamwork bode hopeful for our future at St. James!

The Council is praying for a successful mission trip to Guatemala this month. Thank you, Pastor Abby, Abigail, Barbara, Kevin, Kristen, Lauren, and Ruth for representing St. James! Tree4Hope represents a beautiful vision and cause to educate, while emphasizing women's rights, global relationship-building and self-esteem for the students of Hope Academy.

God Bless Each of you!

Peace,  
Church Council

## 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,  
*ex-officio*

*\*non-voting*

# Worship & Music

Join our planning meeting 1st Tuesdays @ 7PM; See Pastor



## Look Ahead

### Sunday, February 4

First Communion  
Blessing  
*Celebrate with Grade 2 students, as they join us at the altar to receive!*

### Sunday, February 11

Blessing of Guatemala Team, Trip & Supplies

### Wednesday, Feb. 14

Ash Wednesday  
Services at 12pm & 7pm.  
Ashes-to-go at Fika 1:30-3:30pm.

### Sunday, February 18

Welcome guest preacher & presider, Rev. Will Baumgartner

*Thank you to the Property Team for caring for our church facilities, inside and out. It looks beautiful!*



## Choir Returns!

What a gift to hear joyous anthems in Advent and Christmas! See John Dressel to join choir; rehearsals resume Feb. 4

## Relating to Mary

On Advent 4, we meditated on the diverse faces of Mary through *Lectio Divina*, an ancient scriptural practice.



## Christmas Eve

We celebrated the birth of Christ by candlelight with 160 friends, plus a baby sheep and goat at the Children's Message.

# The All-In Christmas Pageant

On Advent 3 Sunday, Dec. 17, **everyone** got to join in the fun and journey with the Holy family towards Christmas - dressed as angels, shepherds, wise people, and animals! A joyful service filled with childlike wonder and holy playfulness. Thank you to ALL!



THE 2ND ANNUAL

## SOUTHBURY & WOODBURY LENT ON THE ROAD

Tuesdays  
6:00 PM Supper  
7:00 PM Worship



***Come journey with our local siblings in faith!***

Feb. 20 @ St. Paul's Episcopal, Woodbury; Rev. Tuesday Rupp

with Church of the Epiphany; Rev. Marston Price

Feb. 27 @ Woodbury Methodist Church, Woodbury; Rev. Herb Miller

March 5 @ St. James Lutheran Church, Southbury; Rev. Abby Johnson

March 12 @ South Britain Congregational; Rev. Jeff Lukens

March 19 @ UCC Southbury; Rev. Shawn Garan



# SERVING IN WORSHIP

LITURGY MEANS "THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE" IN GREEK

## February 4 - Epiphany 5

**Altar Guild:** Judy Katzmark

**Ushers:** Jacque Matthew & Judy Lee

**Lector:** Gary Kline

**Cantor:** Curt Haedke

**Asst. Minister:** Karen Lampiasi

**Counters:** Bob Morrison & ?

**Sunday School:** Lauren Lyons & Janice Salvatore

## February 14 - Ash Wednesday

12:00 PM

**Asst. Minister:** Liz Skinski

**Lector:** Judy Katzmark

7:00 PM

**Altar Guild:** Judy Lee

**Usher:**

**Lector:** Lynn Morrison

**Asst. Minister:** Lynn Morrison

## February 25 - Lent 2

**Altar Guild:** Judy Lee

**Ushers:** Jacque Matthew & Judy Katzmark

**Lector:** Jan Salvatore

**Cantor:**

**Asst. Minister:** Mary Ewert

**Counters:**

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

## February 11 - Epiphany 6

"Transfiguration of Our Lord"

**Altar Guild:** Janice Salvatore

**Ushers:** Gary Kline & Tony Salvatore

**Lector:** Gary Kline

**Cantor:** Marion Allen

**Asst. Minister:** Jan Salvatore

**Counters:** Rich Larson & Curt Haedke

**Sunday School:** Meghan Colasanto & Kathy Haddy

## February 18 - Lent 1

**Preach/Preside:** Rev. Will Baumgartner

**Altar Guild:** Lynn Morrison

**Ushers:** Bob Morrison & Jeff Nadasen

**Lector:** Lucia Dressel

**Cantor:** Judy Katzmark

**Asst. Minister:** Lynn Morrison

**Counters:** Neil Johnson & Jacque Matthew

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

## CONTACT:

**Music/Cantors:** John Dressel

**Assistant Ministers:** Liz Skinski

**Sunday School:** Lauren Lyons

**Ushers:** Jacque Matthew

**Altar Guild:** Paulette Calderone

**Lectors:** Judy Katzmark

**Counters:** Curt Haedke





# Faith Formation

## MEDITATION CALL

TUESDAYS  
12:30PM

*Original, brief  
guided meditations  
recorded by Pastor Abby;  
subscribe on our website  
homepage to receive recorded  
call or listen on the podcast.*



## PUB THEOLOGY

3rd THURSDAY  
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.  
Non-alcoholic options available.  
Pub hosted trivia follows.*



## BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS IN LENT  
7-8PM  
VIRTUAL,  
w/ NEW ENGLAND SYNOD



**Synod-Wide Lenten Series:**  
*“Encountering God: Moving Forward  
with a Changing Church”*

*Join St. James with New England  
Synod congregations, clergy, and  
ecumenical partners in a collaborative  
bible study as we explore encounters  
with God through the lens of change.  
Each Monday, facilitators will release  
3-5 minute video via email,  
introducing the theme. The following  
Thursday, we’ll spend time in  
conversation, sharing, and prayer.*

- FEB 22: Flood Subsides (Genesis 8)  
with Rafaela Radcke
- FEB 29: Valley of Bones (Ezekiel 37)  
with Rev. Elizabeth Nees
- MAR 7: Canaanite Woman (Matt 15)  
with Rev. Dr. Richard Simpson
- MAR 14: Nicodemus Visits (John 3)  
with Cassandra Wilson
- MAR 21: Walk to Emmaus (Luke 24)  
with Ryan Heckman

*Inquiries & Zoom registration via  
Synod Admin. Martha Whyte,  
mwhyte@nesynod.org*

## Podcast: A Steadfast Branch

A podcast for all ages with faith-formation offerings such as sermons, devotionals, blessings, meditations, and interviews with the wider community. New episodes weekly!  
*Listen for free on [stjamesct.org](http://stjamesct.org) or on Spotify.*





FAITH FORMATION...

FOR KIDS!

### Sunday School

SUNDAYS  
10:30-11:00 am  
Grades PreK-5

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

### Confirmation

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

A 2-year study in Old and New Testament, Lutheran history, and Christian faith. Taught by Pastor Abby, Lynn Morrison, and Neil Johnson.

### Milestone Ministries

YEAR-LONG  
INTEGRATED  
PROGRAMMING

Each year, kids 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.

### Youth Group

Hosted by our friends at UCC Southbury; Sundays 4:30-6:30pm  
1st Sunday: Middle School  
3rd Sunday: High school

### Vacation Bible School

The Planning Committee is assembling and seeking help planning this summer's program!  
See Lauren Lyons for details

## CELEBRATING MILESTONES




Sunday, Feb 4th  
@10:15 am Worship


—  
First Communion  
Blessing  
& Reception

Join us in celebrating with our younger baptized members as they explore this sacrament more deeply and accept Christ's invitation to the table!

# Fellowship



Tues. Feb 13th  
@ 6-8pm –  
Pancake Dinner &  
Bingo



Sat. March 9th  
@ 11-12:30pm  
–  
Eagle viewing at  
Shepaug Dam

ALL are welcome to join these YAFM events above!  
If you are interested in helping with any YAFM activities  
please contact Lauren Lyons [yafm@stjames.org](mailto:yafm@stjames.org)

**Community “Fika” for All**  
Wednesdays 1:30 - 3:30pm @ Starbucks  
Join Pastor for this daily Swedish tradition of a coffee break and chat with friends

**Young Adults Group (20s-30s)**  
3rd Thursday 7pm social team trivia @ Black Hog Brewery; see Pastor

**Women’s Fellowship Group**  
2nd Tuesday 1pm; tea and conversation; see Judy Katzmark

**Men’s Fellowship Group**  
2nd Saturday 9:30 AM morning coffee and conversation; see Jacque Mathews

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

# An Apple A Day:

National Heart Month, Hypertension

from our Parish Nurse, Diane Mladjen



High blood pressure is called the “silent killer” because it usually doesn’t cause any symptoms. If it stays elevated over 130/80 for an extended period it can cause serious health problems including heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and dementia. There is a simple way to know if you have high blood pressure which is painless. It can be measured with a blood pressure cuff. If you find out you have high blood pressure you can take preventative measures to prevent serious health issues including being disabled and premature death.

Some inherited or life style habits can put you at greater risk for high blood pressure. As we age blood pressure tends to get higher. It does affect younger people too. Before age 50 men tend to have a higher rate of high blood pressure. After age 60 more women than men. African Americans tend to get it at a younger age. Hispanic Cuban, Puerto Rican and Dominican peoples are at higher risk.

Life style risks include excessive dietary salt, drinking too much alcohol, sedentary life style. Watching your weight, staying active and smoking cessation can prevent the complications of high blood pressure. Seek out professional help to set healthy blood pressure numbers for yourself. Your primary care provider can help you to assess your blood pressure, prescribe medication if needed and set those goals to keep you healthy.



# Outreach

**Sat. Feb 10**

Dorothy Day House  
Sandwich Making  
and Snow Play Day

**Fri. March 15**

Gustafson  
Scholarship  
Deadline. See Pastor  
or Priscilla to apply

**Sun. March 17**

Help us pack care  
boxes for our college  
students



## Don't forget the rice shelf!

Thank you for your donations of (BOXED ONLY) rice! We are looking for helpers to get the rice to the food bank in the coming months.

Many thanks 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)

February – Men's Group

March – Lyons

April –

May –

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.



# Lauren & Abby Lyons

2024 Guatemala Mission Trip:  
Tree4Hope, Guatemala  
Hope Academy Girl's School  
Miguel Magone Orphanage

## What hopes do you have for yourself as a trip participant?

**Lauren:** This has been a huge motivation for me to work on learning some basic conversational Spanish. I hope to be able to engage in some (simple) conversation with the students and staff, to get practice and learn from them to expand my comfort with conversational Spanish. I am looking forward to meeting the child we sponsor and to have a great time hanging out, getting to meet, play and bond with the students.

**Abby:** I am excited because I will be able to see the kids and relate to some of them. I also hope to find a use for the Spanish that I am learning in school.

## What hopes do you have for St James as a congregation?

**Lauren:** I am excited for St James to have a new physical mission partnership. It is meaningful to financially support an outreach project – it is LIFECHANGING to actually see and meet the faces that are impacted. I can not wait to bring back pictures and stories to make this partnership tangible even for those who were unable to attend the trip.

**Abby:** I am excited for St. James because if you are sending money or writing a check to Tree for Hope, you aren't just sending money to kids, but you know and can relate to the kids there, so you are putting more heart into that.

## What hopes do you have for St James in this ministry partnership?

**Lauren:** Service trips were a huge part of my growing up years, and, I think, gave me a heart for mission work that extended into my adulthood. I would love to see many more members (especially young people!) have the opportunity to take service trips. Experiencing a different culture, way of life and perspective on the many gifts we enjoy here in the US is a gift I hope many others get to experience. There are few better ways to see how God provides that being out of your comfort zone.

**Abby:** I am excited for St James in this ministry partnership because I hope that more people can go in the years to come. I also think that it would be good for younger kids to go like me because then they can think back to it over the years when they get older.



# Support the Mission Trip:

The Guatemala Service Trip Team is getting excited for our trip February 17-24! This is the last issue where you will get to learn a little about each team member traveling and our hopes for the trip!

## Thank you:

- To those praying for the team and Guatemala as a country
- To those who donated books – we will be bringing 64 books to fill out their library!
- To those who donated vitamins – we have over 30 bottles to bring!
- To those who donated school supplies – 125 school kits are assembled and ready for loving distribution – including prayer pockets and notes for each child thanks to the Women's Group
- To all who have made donations to offset some of the personal cost of the Guatemala Service Trip
- To Thrivent who supported the purchase of Spanish books with a \$250 grant

## Other ways to get involved:

- Please continue to pray for all the children and staff of Hope Academy and Miguel Magone Orphanage
- Please continue to pray for political stability in Guatemala
- Please continue to pray for the health and safety of those traveling to Guatemala in February

**We are so blessed! Thank you for all your support!**





Preschool Registration is now open for the 2024-2025 school year!

There are limited spots available for the current TTh (3-4 year old) class as well



The children are enjoying winter at the preschool! We have played in and painted real snow, created "snow" and "ice" paintings and had fun with novel indoor gross motor activities. We have read many books and used them for engaging activities, including "The Snowy Day" (social/emotional learning as children related to Peter, a child living in an urban setting), "Snowmen at Night" (literacy as children used a writing prompt to add their own story element) and two versions of "The Mitten" (mathematical development as children matched and measured mittens, counted how many plastic bears would fit in a mitten and worked on Venn diagram comparing the two books)...just to name a few! We are looking forward to our upcoming Valentine's family day mid-month!

# Finance Team

Meets 3rd Thursday  
@ 7PM

We will all begin 2024 with a new resolve, but so often that resolve fades before the first week is ended. The Apostle Paul advised the Corinthians, "A year ago [you] started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have" (2 Corinthians 8:10-11). By ourselves, we grow tired or get bored or just plain lazy. Let us ask the Lord to give us the desire to give generously, to serve joyfully, and to expend our time eagerly in response to what God has given to us and done for us.

Lynn Morrison- *Stewardship Team*

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**Have you submitted your 2024 pledge/estimate yet and/or set up recurring donations on <https://onrealm.org/StJamesLutheranSouthbury/>**

Each January, your Council and financial teams carefully prepare a budget for your consideration at their Annual meeting of the congregation --- January 28th this year. The budget you approve will guide our spending decisions for the year. But this budget is only as good as the inputs we have to work with. Ideally, everyone submits a 2024 Pledge (which can always be adjusted if circumstances change). Without that input, we have to guess what our income will be.

If you haven't already submitted a pledge, you can use the form found here or a facsimile, attention Curt Haedke, Financial Secretary. Help us out so we don't have to guess, and so we can go forward in confidence as we set this years programs and commitments...

Bill Siegle- *Stewardship Team*



# In Our Prayers

Janet Benzell  
Caroline Kaiger  
Tim Peterson  
Paul Hubina  
Dorian Malloy  
Chris  
Heidi Varanko

Diana Larson  
Cassie  
Dick Dunseith  
Adran  
Mary McDonald  
Inge Treser  
Meghan Smalley

Priscilla Terhune  
Paul Meberg  
Tiffany Randall  
Ellen Hubina  
Pat  
Jeff Nadasen

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 Brian Mons, Nathan Giacomini, Vivian DeVito, Christine Pascoe, Nina Persing, Nicole Keller, Fae Guerin, and Dominic Prisco

## Prayer List Updates:

*The prayer list is edited by request and the full list is reset twice a year. To add to the prayer list or request a name remain on the list, please see Pastor Abby or Liz Skinski.*

*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.*

*Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am for  
worship at  
111 Peter Road, Southbury, CT.*