

St. James Lutheran Church Mission Statement

~To connect people to God and one another, welcoming all and changing lives!~



Happy Fall, St. James!

Fall is my favorite! I love this time of year. It is a busy time for many in our congregation and I give thanks and lift up prayers for all our farmers, their families, and all who tend to God's creation in this season. Creation really shows off this time of year in the falling and changing of the leaves- change. Yes, change! Change is scary, but it is inevitable. In the season of Fall, God shows us how all creation goes through changes to bring about rest, renewal, and eventual flourishing. Fall prepares us for the ending of things to get ready for winter. Fall points us to death... And we don't like to talk about death. It is something the church talks about every Sunday, while acknowledging that through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, death does not have the final word over our lives. However, the church also struggles to talk about death, especially literal and metaphorical death in our lives that causes us to grieve. It is a scary topic and we often are unsure about where to even begin...

So, let's 'change' that! Let's talk about it. Please join us for a night to gather in small groups for conversation all about death, grief, and loss. I will guide conversation using question prompts and short readings. If you aren't quite sure if this is a place for you, please know that the experience of death is often not just a person, but can be the loss or change of a vocation, season, health, or other life experience. All are welcome to join in the conversation.

We all carry with us grief and the heavy burden of loss: Let's talk about it the way it should be- over chocolate... Join us Monday, Oct. 21 at 6:30pm. Desserts & Coffee will be served.

God's peace to you all in this autumnal season,

Pastor Rebecca

Council minutes continued:

checking account ending in 6212 and the companion savings ending in 0551 with authorized signers to be Mindy Pecha, Karla Schmidt and Jeremy Idler and we wish to remove Kiley Shear as an authorized signer on those accounts. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motioned by Leslie, second by Jeremy to approve a "Raise the Roof" committee and a separate grant task force to handle all the capital campaign activities. All ayes. Motion carried. Pastor Rebecca shared a drafted letter she is working on that will be sent to all members regarding the "Raise the Roof" campaign and Jim shared some of the grant content, including our church's community involvement. In addition to LOL, weekly Food & Fellowship meals, and Our Work, God's Hands projects, Jim suggested hosting a blood drive. Leslie also mentioned using the fellowship hall as a future voting location.

Motioned to adjourn made by Jason, seconded by Jeremy. Meeting adjourned 6:23 p.m. Next meeting will be held October 9th at 5:30 p.m.



The St James church office would appreciate announcements for the bulletin by Weds. morning for the weeks printing. Articles for the months newsletter are due by the 20th of the month. The church office is open M-TH 8:00 AM-12-noon.



It takes many people to keep this congregation running smoothly and efficiently. Thank you to the many members who have given of their gifts. It makes our worship services special and inviting to attend. Your service shows in our communities as a witness to mission and it is appreciated.

To those who have assisted with Food & Fellowship
 To ALL those who educate and guide the children
 To those who are willing to try new ministries!



Currently St. James is holding public worship via YouTube, and Dumont cable channel 1004. If you need assistance accessing worship virtually, please call the church office. Worship with Holy Communion will occur each Sunday of the month.



“Christ in Our Home” devotional book is now available for Oct-Dec, 2024. This is the only devotional we now offer. They are on the narthex table or in the church office.

ALLISON CARE CENTER WORSHIP

Worship with Holy Communion at the Allison Care Center is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month @ 9:15 A.M. Thanks to all who lead this service.

**St. James Visiting Committee for
Sept. & Oct. 2024**

**Deb McWhirter, Nancy Davies,
Deb Blockhus, Connie Wix, Dale
Johnson**

Illness and COVID are an ongoing concern at Care Centers and Asst. Living facilities. Please call first to know what the policy is. Call those homebound members to see what their preference is. You may wish to call or send a note to them.



St. James W-ELCA Bible Study with Linda Thoreson will be held on Thursday, Oct. 3 @ 9:30. Deb Blockhus will provide refreshments.

As the Fall season crept upon us, St. James hosted a Harvest Festival lunch and other items for sale. A HUGE Thank you to all who ate, worked and/or donated to the Harvest Festival. Our net income for the day was \$1,400. These funds will be used for our mission projects. Our mission projects are: graduating senior scholarships, Bible Camp donation, community Bible school, Camp Courageous, Three-House Ecumenical at UNI, Comprehensive Systems in Charles City, One Vision in Clear Lake, Local Good Samaritan Fund, Cedar Valley Friends of the Family, Iowa City Hosp. Chaplaincy, Wartburg Seminary Student and materials for quilts sent to LWR.

We continue to need volunteers to visit members who are homebound or in a facility. These members need and enjoy your visit. They can no longer attend worship and visit with you there. SO please give this need your prayerful consideration. If you can help give the church office a call or call Bonnie Dralle at 319-493-4404.

Enjoy the fall and we pray for the safety of those gathering in the crops.
God's blessings, Bonnie



	August end	
	Monthly	YTD
Income	\$10,702.62	\$92,614.15
Expense	\$14,186.72	\$123,201.76
		(\$30,587.61)

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Travis Terry, Tracy Hoodjer, Deb Hummel, Jeff Dreier and Deb Steere.



St. James will have a booth at the **Harvest Moon Festival** at Wilder Park on **Saturday October 5** from 2:00 - 4:00. Mark your calendars to come out to this community event and enjoy a family friendly time.



**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

On Sunday, October 27th, 7 young people will participate in the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism. God's blessing to Walker Buss, Isaac Endelman, Wrigley Endelman, Gavin Schrage, Jarrett Shear, Wade Wangsness & Conner Wubbena as they live out their faith in Christ.

**ADVENT DEVOTION WRITERS NEEDED!!!
SIGN-UP ON BACK!**

**St. James 2024 Advent Theme: From Generation
to Generation**



For Advent 2024, we will be walking through the theme “From Generation to Generation” hearing stories of how the birth of Jesus has brought hope and joy through the generations of our congregation. In the spirit of sharing our story as a community, I will be compiling an Advent Devotional with YOUR help!!

I need writers, and even people who don’t think of themselves as writers, to share a devotion relating to generations, family, and Christmas stories. Each entry can be typed or handwritten and either dropped off at church or emailed to pastor@stjamesallison.com. Entries must be submitted no later than **November 3!** This seems early but will give the office plenty of time to compile the books. We need at least **20 people** to help with this project! Pastor Rebecca can also write your story for you if you are willing to tell it to her over the phone or in-person. Call the church to set-up a time.

Need some inspiration? Here are prompts to think about:

Send me a story of a Christmas tradition your family shares.

What is your favorite character in the Christmas story? Why?

Write about a Christmas play you were in as a child.

Write about your favorite Advent/Christmas carol. Share the lyrics. Why is this your favorite?

Write a short story about a cherished memory with a loved one at the holidays.

Grief/loss: Write a poem about the grief or loneliness you feel during the Christmas season OR Write about an empty chair you will have at your Christmas table this year. What will you

miss most about their presence? Pray for those who have empty chairs at their tables.

Write about encouraging others to add “giving” items to their Christmas shopping list, such as extra food for a food pantry or gift cards to low-income families to buy gifts.

Share a recipe of a favorite holiday dessert or dish. Any memories or history to add?

Reflect on the importance of sharing the Christmas story with future generations.

What brings you hope or peace during the holidays?

New parents/grandparents: What are you most excited about for the first Christmas with your child/grandchild? Any traditions you hope to share?

Adults and kids alike: Paint art or include an illustration of the Christmas story.

Any other prompt you feel compelled to share!

You can relate it to the holiday season, Advent, Christmas Eve or Day, snow, family, etc. Be creative and have fun!

Pro Tips:

Photos included are a bonus! Please share photos of your family, recipes, home, etc. to add to your devotion. Photos can be emailed or brought in-person to be scanned.

If you use poetry or words that are not your own, PLEASE give credit to the author!

Please “title” your devotion entry

Approx. Max of 400 Words! If you have a photo to share/add, aim for shorter.

You are invited to add a Bible verse, questions, or prayer for reflection. Please include any Bible verses, prayers, etc. in your word count.

Handwritten entries are welcome.

Pr. Rebecca has prepared some examples available on the foyer table.

SIGN-UP TO WRITE A DEVOTION BY NOV. 3



ACO-

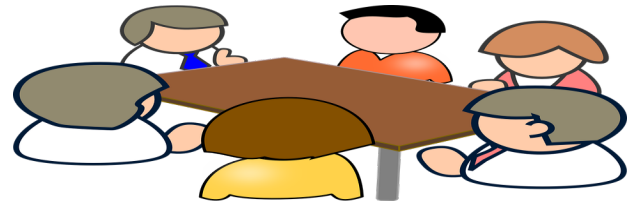
LYTES SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

October 6: Braxton Buss & Blake Wubbena

October 13: Henry Salge & Landon Debner

October 20: Carter Deuell & Wes Wangsness

October 27: Confirmation Sunday-Jack Hummel & Blake Wubbena



PLEASE consider using your skills as a baker or organizer of meals for the opportunities that we have to fellowship together. We **NEED** folks to provide treats for fellowship time following service which also includes treats for the Sunday School youth and also needed are Wednesday night food crews for the meal we all love so much! There are sign up sheets for both on the foyer table. Please help us out!

St. James Council Meeting Minutes – September 2024

Meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Jim Davies. Present: Jason Shaull, Aimee Deuell, Leslie Groen, Amanda Wehren, Mystie Hummel, Jeremy Idler, Financial Administrator Mindy Pecha and Pastor Rebecca Baird. Devotions given by Amanda Wehren. Motioned by Leslie, second by Aimee to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer’s report was provided by Mindy prior to the meeting. August income was \$10,702.62 with total expenses of \$14,186.34. Motioned by Aimee, second by Jason to approve the Treasurer’s report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Secretary’s Report: August minutes were reviewed. Jim discussed amending the banking sections of the minutes to ensure Lincoln Savings Bank can act on the minutes. Motioned by Jim to approve the Secretary’s Report with the amendments to the banking information, second by Jason. All ayes. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Stewardship and Finance: Nothing new to report.

Property Committee: Nothing new to report.

Education/Youth Ministry: LOL and confirmation will begin again on September 18th and Rally Sunday for Sunday school classes will be on September 15th. Sunday school curriculum is ready to go, and Pastor Rebecca commented on Luther League needs more St. James participation.

Worship & Music: Rally Sunday is the week and Pastor Rebecca is beginning a new 6-week sermon series called “You don’t hear that in Sunday school.”

Evangelism: Hosted Family Fun Night.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor discussed monthly thank you notes to send members for volunteering their time and talents to the church. Pastor has the wedding of Emily Russel and Zack Stone scheduled on Saturday, September 14th, she continues work her upcoming sermon series and has been working on the Raise the Roof campaign.

Old Business: Jim has signed the roof contract, and it has been submitted to the contractor. The council discussed having a church potluck this fall for adult fellowship.

New Business: Council continued to review bank accounts and approved the following authorized signer changes:



The mission of St. James Lutheran Church is to connect people to God and one another, welcoming all and changing lives!

Your support of the capital campaign will not only help us “Raise the Roof” but help us continue to live out our mission. We have enclosed an envelope for gifts that you are invited to place in the mail or in the offering plate on Sunday. More envelopes are available for pick-up in the church office. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity.

Please see the back to learn more about giving options.

Raise the Roof Committee

Dana Uhlenhopp, chair Lisa Beadle, Ted Koester, Karla Schmidt, Jason Shaull, Beryl Wubbena