

MESSENGER

Volume 8, Number 12

December 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Blue paraments and a wreath with candles in the sanctuary; soon to be added a tree and garlands. Something is up! Ah, it is Advent, the season of hopeful anticipation of the coming of the Christ. Advent heralds a new liturgical year. So Happy New Year!

Interested in a New Year resolution? Make weekly worship a priority starting November 30th, the First Sunday of Advent. Gather with us for our new worship schedule: 9:30 Holy Communion and Faith Formation/Sunday Church School at 10:45. We continue our family friendly Faith5 in the Fellowship Hall and an Adult Class meets in the Parlor.

ADVENT WORSHIP PREVIEW

In our Sunday worship we shall make ready for Christmas by hearing mostly Luke's version of the incarnation. Here's what a Sunday by Sunday outline looks like.

November 30 – Advent I - We share the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, an older couple who as yet have no children. Zechariah, a priest, on occasion serves in the temple in Jerusalem. He and Elizabeth are favored by God, who hears their prayer for children. No ordinary child will their boy be, but a prophet who will prepare the way for the Messiah of the world.

Hope is the theme of our first Advent candle. We wait and place our hope in God's promise.

December 7 - Advent II - We hear the story of Gabriel's visit to young Mary, a cousin of Elizabeth. Mary is favored of God also and receives the news that she has been chosen mother the incarnate one. "Let it be with me according to your word," Mary says.

Peace is the theme of the second candle, peace that passes human understanding.

December 14 – Advent III - We follow Mary as she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth. The Holy Spirit is present there also, confirming the news of two children related by blood and destined by God to change the world forever. Mary sings a song we call the Magnificat which praises God for raising up the lowly.

Love is the theme of our third candle. "Lord, reveal your love, and make us new."

December 21 – Advent IV - We shift to Matthew's account of the incarnation to hear about an angel's visit to a man named Joseph. He is a carpenter by trade but is about to become the earthly father of God's anointed and appointed savior. With Mary, Joseph will protect the child from those who would harm him.

Joy, the theme of our fourth candle, reminds us joy comes from abiding in God's love.

December 24 – Christmas Eve - Candle Light Holy Communion, 6 PM. Gather with family and friends for this annual celebration of God's gift of love.

December 28 – First Sunday after Christmas - Simeon and Anna are as faithful as they are old. When Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to 'dedicate him to the Lord,' Simeon and Anna thank and praise God for letting them see the salvation promised of old.

May Hope, Peace, Love and Joy be yours as we make our way to the manger during this Advent season.

Pastor Steve

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

It is Gift Giving Time Again. Have you ever asked yourself the following questions?

- What am I going to give my family members this Christmas?
- Everyone is so blessed that no one really needs anything. How can I make my gifts more meaningful to reflect the season of Christ's birth?
- What are places that have needs where I can make a difference?

This Advent season, you have two options for honoring your loved ones by giving gifts to someone else. Details about the two options and help from Stewardship and Finance Committee members are available in the narthex before and after worship each Sunday.



1) The SC Synod is again offering an alternative gift-giving program called Gifts of Hope. Through this program we Lutherans in SC Synod can purchase meaningful gifts which demonstrate God's love for all God's children.

Gifts of Hope will be 'sold' in the narthex before and after each worship service from now until December 14. The catalog of gift choices offers 31 gifts ranging in price from \$10 to \$100 and include such choices as new shoes or a backpack for impoverished children, lunch for a seminarian or a break for family caregivers. The common element is generosity demonstrated by purchases of Gifts of Hope.

Be a witness this Christmas. Buy a present and send someone a card telling of the truly needed gift that you purchased in his or her honor. Immediately when you make your gift selection, you will be given your choice of a card or "pillow" folder and an insert describing your gift. Come see the catalog for yourself and choose a gift that blesses in many ways!

St. James Debt Reduction

2) The second option offered by Stewardship Committee and Congregation Council is to make a gift, in honor or memory of loved ones, designated to the debt reduction fund of St. James Lutheran Church.

From now through December 14 there will be a DEBT REDUCTION GIFT form insert available for you to fill out and submit with your check. We currently owe \$89,800 on properties we bought in 2002.

Church Council Notes and Action Items from November 16, 2014

Meeting was called to order and devotions were given by Mike Crumpton from Mark Allen Powell's Belonging to God.

Minutes from the October council meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed and accepted.

Pastor Steve's report was received and accepted.

Call Committee is in the process of interviewing and moving forward.

A defibrillator will be purchased from the Memorial Fund.

Finance and Stewardship Committees will consider projected income verses expenses and decide whether we at St James have resources to share end of the year gifts with synodical institutions.

Nominating Committee reported they are continuing to recruit candidates to stand for election to council at the December 7th congregational meeting.

Congregational meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2014. Agenda items include approval of The Endowment Fund proposal, approval of the 2015 Budget and election of six council members (four for three year terms, one for a two year term and one for a one year term).

Finance Committee liaison Kevin Turner presented the proposed 2015 budget. Proposed budget was approved with the request that sub-totals for each section of the budget be added for presentation to the congregation.

Motion carried that we adopt a 'St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church Non-Discrimination Policy', in order to be in full compliance with our insurance policy.

Decorating for Christmas will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday December 2, 2014. The Christmas Cantata will take place on Sunday December 14, 2014 at 4 p.m. The Christmas Eve Service will take place at 6 p.m.

Motion carried to sell our extra (unused) keyboard to Mot Caulder for \$800.

Council members viewed synod video titled 'Where is God Doing Something New in the SC Synod?' Our own Adam Steele is featured in the video. Adam is the convener for the COMMUNICATIONS TABLE , a working group charged with enhancing communication amongst all of us who are part of the SC Synod.

Proposed Changes to the St. James Constitution and Bylaws

At the direction of St. James Church Council, the Finance Task Force (John Harmon, Tom Booz-er, Dale Hutto, Larry Kyzer) investigated the establishment of an Endowment Fund at St. James. After research and consultation with the Synod office and other congregations, the Financial Task Force recommended St. James establish such a fund. Council approved the recommendation at the August 2014 meeting. The establishment of an endowment fund requires a change to our constitution and by-laws. In this regard, the following changes are submitted for member review and will be voted on at the annual congregational meeting which is scheduled for December 7, 2014.

Amend St. James Constitution by adding to Chapter 5 POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION, paragraph C5.05 as follows:

C5.05 This congregation shall have a mission endowment fund that will operate as specified in the congregation's bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of the mission endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation.

Amend the St. James Bylaws by adding under Chapter 5, POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION the following:

C5.01 The Congregational Council shall establish and maintain a separate fund which shall be known as the St. James Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund. The purpose of this fund shall be to enhance the mission outreach of St. James Lutheran Church. All assets of the fund shall be held in the name of St. James Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund.

The fund may receive bequests, charitable remainder and other trusts, charitable gift annuities, assignment of life insurance, and transfers of property (cash, stocks, bonds and real estate) which are designated for the fund by the donor. The Congregational Council shall determine which un-designated gifts shall be conveyed to the fund.

Except where authorized otherwise in the terms of the gift, all principal amounts held by the fund shall be retained and the income expended. Such income shall include the income generated by gifts which are held in trust on behalf of St. James Lutheran Church, when such income has been conveyed to the fund by act of the Congregational Council. The recipients of the income generated by the fund shall be designated at least annually. The income shall be distributed at such times as deemed necessary to accomplish the purposes of the fund.

Income from the fund shall be distributed in accordance with the following purposes:

- Grants for outreach into the community beyond that funded by the congregation's annual budget including, but not limited to, grants to institutions and agencies to which this congregation relates; and to special programs designed for those persons in our community who are in spiritual and/or economic need;
- Grants to institutions and agencies of the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA and for missions of the ELCA at home and overseas;
- Grants to members of St. James Lutheran Church for the purpose of attending an ELCA seminary, for church related camping or leadership conferences, or such other mission related training which enables this congregation to grow in Christian faith and service to God's people;
- Grants for capital improvements, debt reduction or a building program of St. James Lutheran Church not normally funded by the congregation's annual budget.

Such grants shall be made for specific programs or needs for a specific term. No grants shall be used to fund the annual operating budget of the congregation, except in extreme emergencies. Such emergencies must be declared by a three-fourths majority vote of the Congregation Council.

Congregational Meeting is scheduled for December 7 following 9:30 Worship. Agenda includes: 1) Approval of Endowment Fund Proposal; 2) Approval of 2015 Operating Budget; 3) Election of six Council Members (Four for three year terms; One for a two year term; and One for a One year term.)

Christmas Cantata Rehearsals - Mark your calendars now for Sunday, December 14th at 4:00 PM for an afternoon of music and holiday festivities.

Lutheran Men in Mission Christmas Party - Will be held at Tom's Den Monday, December 15 at 7:00PM. Tickets are \$10; Please sign up in the Narthex or call the church office, 803-359-2122.

Owls Luncheon - Covered dish in the fellowship hall on Thursday, December 18th at 12:00PM.

Backpack Program - This school year, St. James is supporting Saxe Gotha Elementary School with their backpack program. There are so many children in this school that need food for the weekend. Currently we are in need of snack items (**individual packs of cookies, crackers, chips, drinks**). All donated items may be left in the designated tote in the narthex. Thank you for your ongoing support - it is much needed & appreciated!

Food Pantry - We are in need of donations of anything that comes in a pack that you only need to add water (Grits, Bisquick, Muffins, etc.). Donations may be left in the designated tote inside the Narthex. Thank you for your ongoing support with this program!

Pennies! Please add pennies from your pocket or pennies from the dish to put in the Penny Tower. Through October 31, 2014 we have moved 7,250 pennies symbolizing 7,250 lives touched with the Love of Christ.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 Tammy O-Quinn Mike Summer	6 Faith Wright	7 Anthony Hutto	8 Brenda Jansen Jeanette Harmon
9 Marshall Hibbs	14 Laura Hibbs	15 Dollie Pounds	16 Kristie Joyner Melissa Standridge
17 Samm Metts	20 Chris McLeod	23 Callie Poplin	25 Katrina Shealy
27 Brad Boone Marshall O'Quinn	30 Carrigan Gossett		



We Pray for Our Members, Friends and Family:

Prayer List

Members

Sarah Freeman

Clara Prevost

Virginia Hall

Floyd Prevost

Gerry Jeffords

Anna Ree Roland

Evelyn Knox

Dot Shealy

Norma Moore

Betty Jean Tyson

Dollie Pounds

Miranda West

Friends & Relatives of Church Members

Gina Amick-Niece of Russell Taylor

Cindy Miller - Friend of Tina Poindexter

Courtney Cagle-Granddaughter of Dollie Pounds

Jack Morich - father of Krisie Turner

Darren Corley-Cousin of Randy Summers

Loretta Nettles - Cousin of Hilda West

Clarence Davis-Father of Jason Davis

Violet Porth - Sister of George Steele

Donna Florence - Mother of Megan Joyner

Frankie Pounds - Grandson of Dollie Pounds

Gracelyn Goodman & Family -Niece, Hank Poplin

Jerry Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds

Mildred Gunter - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland

Randy Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds

Lee Hamilton - Grandson of Norma Moore

Pam Presley - Friend of Charlene Crumpton

Vera Havird - Aunt of Miranda West

Janice Satterfield - Wife of Jean

Kenneth Long - Father of Mike Long

Miller's Nephew

Our Military Workers:

Michael Anderson - Friend of St. James
Dwight Barrs - Grandson Eunice Backman
Ryan Caulder - Son of Mot Caulder
Daniel Herb - Son in Law of Mot Caulder
Jeremy Jolly - Grandson of Hazel Rawl
Wayne Watkins - Nephew of S. Jeffords
Keith Zeigler - Son of Tom Zeigler

Our Shut-ins:

Jerry Hutto
Roberta Pound
Kathleen Smith
Alvin "Jr." Sharpe
Dot Shealy

Members of St. James,
Thank you for all the calls, card, prayers and visits during my recent surgeries, hospital stay, and recovery. I really appreciate the Love and Concern shown to me. We are blessed to be part of the caring Christian Family at St. James. During this Thanksgiving Season, I am thankful for each of you!
Robert Sharpe

Worship Assistants

December 2014

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Acolytes</i> December 7 Callie Poplin December 14 Emily Enlow December 21 Matthe O'Quinn December 24* Emerson Hibbs Crucifer 24* Marshall Hibbs December 28 Marshall Hibbs		1 7PM - Cub Scouts	2 6PM - Girl Scouts	3 7PM - Chancel Choir	4	5	6 9AM - Saturday Sisters 9AM - Cantata Rehearsal
<i>Altar Guild</i> Lynette Steele							
<i>Sound Board</i> Jan Sharpe							
<i>Announcements</i> December 7 Robert Sharpe December 14 Carin Seward December 21 Gwen Freeman December 24 Pastor Steve December 28 Carolyn Steele	7 9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45 Sunday School 3PM - Confirmation 4:30PM - Youth 6PM - Cantata Rehearsal	8 7PM - Cub Scouts	9 6PM - Girl Scouts	10 7PM - Chancel Choir	11 6PM - Boy Scouts Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall	12	13 10:00AM - Cantata Dress Rehearsal 4:30PM - Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall
<i>Assisting Ministers</i> December 7 Susan Thisell December 14 Kim Backman December 21 Lisa Tyson December 24 Robert Sharpe December 28 Adam Steele	14 9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45 Sunday School 4:00PM - Christmas Cantata 7:00PM - All Committee Night	15 7PM - Cub Scouts	16 6PM - Girl Scouts	17 7PM - Chancel Choir	18 12PM - Owls Luncheon	19	20
<i>Communion Assistants</i> Dec. 7 Susan Thisell Dec. 14 Lynn Sloan Bill Barley Dec. 21 Gwen & Ben Freeman Dec. 24 Tracy Shealy Dec. 28 Laura & Jeff Hibbs	21 9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45 Sunday School 3PM - Confirmation 4:30PM - Youth 7:00PM - Council Meeting	22 7PM - Cub Scouts	23	24 6PM - Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!	26	27
<i>Lectors</i> December 7 Rebecca Koch December 14 Chuck Backman December 21 Tammy O'Quinn December 24 Krisie Turner December 28 Laura Hibbs	28 9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45 Sunday School 5:00PM - Guardian Angels	29 7PM - Cub Scouts	30	31 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!			
<i>Ushers</i> Jason Davis, David Kirby, Guy West							

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

P-A-I-D

**St. James Lutheran
Church**

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(803) 359-7803

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Visit us on the web at
www.stjameslex.com

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

G. Steven Plonk

Music Director

Martha Caulder

Secretary

Meredith George

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 Holy Communion

10:45 Faith Formation

Sunday Church School

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



St. James
LUTHERAN CHURCH