



MESSENGER

Volume 8, Number 1

January 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. James,

Thank you for allowing us to be your pastor for these 5 ½ years and for the many wonderful ways that you have made this such a blessed time for us. Thank you for making us a part of your family and for sharing those special moments in each of your lives. St. James is a lovely congregation and we are happy to have been a part of God's work in this place.

We have met with the mutual ministry committee and some of the council in the past few weeks and shared with them the strengths and areas of concern for St. James that we have observed. We know that as you begin the study process and call process that must happen to call your next pastor that these comments will be shared with you in some form. We wanted to take a moment here, in this last newsletter article, to share with you three wonderful strengths you have as a congregation

First, You are willing to try new things. St. James is willing to try something new. You might not like it after you've tried it, but you will give it the old college try. This is a wonderful trait for a congregation to have, and I think a very rare one. You should be proud of it. You were willing to try Operation Inasmuch, A Night in Bethlehem, Spooky Stories of the Bible, Communion Every Sunday, Video and Powerpoint in worship. We remember some of the looks on your faces when we introduced Spooky Stories of the Bible to you. You looked at us like we were crazy, but you went with it. Thank you for that, and please don't change. The Holy spirit is always at work, and it is often in unexpected ways.

Second, You are developing a wonderful sense of mission. St. James has changed drastically over the last five years. You have gone from an inward focused congregation to an outward focused church. When we first arrived the discussion at committee meetings was about what we could do for ourselves. Now, these meetings are often focused on those outside the walls of this church. The mission field is not inside the walls, it is out there in the world. Jesus says in Acts 1.8, "But, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Finally, You have many outreach ministries in place and functioning. You are already out in the community. You have an active food pantry and backpack program. You have boy scouts, girls scouts, and home schoolers that use our facilities. You have a yearly outreach blitz in Operation Inasmuch. You have a youth group that plans events to raise money, not for themselves, but for others. These ministries will all continue.

Our prayer for you, as we leave this place with grieving hearts, is that you will continue to be witnesses of God's love and redemptive power to the ends of the earth. We love you and will fondly hold you in our thoughts and prayers.

In Christ,

Pastors Andrea and Nathan Rice

All Committee Night

Our next All Committee Night will be on Sunday, **January 12** at 7PM, beginning in the sanctuary.

Council Meetings

We will have a special Council meeting with the Bishop on **January 14** at 7PM. Our next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held on Sunday, **January 19** at 7PM.

Confirmation

Confirmation will meet again as scheduled on Sundays, **January 5** and **19**. Pastor Mike will lead the confirmands in the Education Building, and Thom will lead the Youth in the Fellowship Hall. Come along and bring a friend!

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will continue to meet in the Bible Max room on Sundays, **January 5** and **19**, at 9:15 AM.

WELCA

All Women are invited to attend our WELCA meeting on Tuesday, **January 21**, at 7PM.

OWLs Monthly Luncheon

Our next OWLs luncheon will be at noon on Thursday, **January 16**. All are welcome to join us for good food and fellowship.



Christmas Decorations

Everyone is invited to help take down decorations this Sunday, **January 5** after church for 30 minutes. We will continue on Tuesday evening at 6PM until we are done.

Lutheran Men in Mission

On the 3rd Monday of each month, Lutheran Men in Mission will meet at 6:30PM in our Fellowship Hall. All men of the congregation are invited to attend for an evening of Christian Fellowship, good food, some Bible Study and/or guest speakers! Please make it a New Year's Resolution to become a part of LMM in 2014!



Youth Group

The St. James Youth Group will continue to meet at 5PM on the same days as Confirmation is scheduled. Join us again on **January 5** and **19** and bring a friend!



Church Retreat

All who signed up and paid for our church retreat, remember it is being held Friday-Sunday, **January 17-19** at Lutheridge. If you have any questions about the weekend, please contact Laney Strickland. For church members who did not sign up for the retreat, you will be missed, but don't worry! Regular worship will be held at St. James on that Sunday, the **19th**, at 8AM and 10:30AM with Sunday School at 9:15AM.

A note from the Council President:

Happy New Year!

I hope that each of you had a great Christmas and New Year's Holiday! Ready or not, 2014 is here! With it comes lots of opportunity and change at St. James. I look forward to the new year and working with each of you as we move into it! I appreciate the effort by all to "send off" Pastors Nathan and Andrea in a fitting St. James style. They appreciated the outpouring of well wishes, the gifts presented to them, and the reception and dough-nut gathering in their honor. Their last Sunday with us was an emotional yet uplifting service and another great "Pastor Nathan" sermon and challenge for us! We must carry on! And we will!!

We will miss the Rices and all that they did for St. James during their 5 ½ year Ministry with us! As we send them off, we pray that their new Ministry in Summerville will be Spirit led and wish them all the best! The Mutual Ministry Committee and I met with Pastors Andrea and Nathan for an exit interview and shared strengths, successes, highlights, learning points, and concerns regarding their ministry with us. It was a good meeting and an important part of the transition process.

The Council's first meeting with the Bishop will be on Tuesday evening, January 14th at 7:00 PM in the parlor. I have had several conversations with Bishop Yoos and with Assistant to the Bishop Ginny Aebischer. They are looking forward to working with us in our process to Study, Interview, and issue a New Call. We will also be working to select an Interim Pastor. More to come regarding all that after the 14th. We will keep you informed throughout this process. I have lined up Pastor Marion (Rion) Cobb to lead us in Worship this Sunday, January 5th. Many of you may remember the late Rev William (Bill) Cobb that served St. James many years ago. Rion is his youngest son. Then, Pastor Steve Plonk will be with us on the 12th. We look forward to having both with us.

Please pray for St. James and our future as we work through this transition time together. I recently read a prayer (from our ELW, page 317) and commentary(written by Jim Johnson) from Redeemer Lutheran's newsletter that is applicable:

"O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet un-trodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord." The commentary that followed then said that " Faith, as expressed in this prayer, is a reminder that we need to trust God with all things...! Total trust in God allows us to get out of our "box" and go into the world of unknowns for the sake of the Gospel and allow God to direct our spiritual journey. Faith at this level allows us to listen to the voice of God, to live daily in prayerful discernment of what God would have us do and how God would have us use the gifts we have been given for ministry in a way that brings the Good News to others." It went on to say that "New Year's resolutions are popular at this time of year. We may resolve to lose weight, exercise more, create a better family budget, spend more time with loved ones, or a host of other things. Let us resolve this year that faith, as expressed in this beloved prayer, and in our very lives, will always be the foundation of who we are as God's people in Jesus Christ."

What are your New Year's resolutions?

Thanks for all you do to further our Ministry together at St. James.

GO Share God's Peace! Make Christ Known!

Robert Sharpe, Council President

Please feel free to contact me or the church office during our time without a pastor and we will work to arrange assistance as needed and as we are able. Cell: 803-261-1854

Home: 803-359-8634 or e-mail risharpe@windstream.net

Council Notes

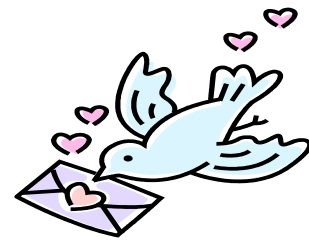
- The Council met on December 15 after the Christmas Cantata and Reception for the Pastors.
- Approved motion to only have the 10:30AM service on December 29, no Sunday School, and a Dough-nut gathering in the Fellowship Hall.
- Pastor Mike Watson from Nazareth Lutheran Church will continue working with confirmation students while we are without a pastor.
- Thom Backman has volunteered to continue working with the Youth Group and Youth ministry committee. Thanks Thom!
- Approved motion to allow the Property Committee to evaluate septic system problems and make the needed repairs. The septic system has been pumped at this time.
- Discussed and referred to Property, the idea of purchasing a defibrillator for St. James.
- All year Committee Reports should be submitted to Robert or the church office by January 12, 2014.
- Thanks to the outgoing Council members for their dedicated service: Cheryl Austin, Dick Kyzer, Steve Pullie and Laney Strickland.
- The 2014 Council will meet with the Bishop on Tuesday, January 14, and have our Organizational meeting on Sunday, January 19.
- THANKS to the Pastors Rice for their 5 1/2 year ministry with us! We appreciate their dedication, vision, Outreach, Pastoral Care, youth Ministry and the countless other efforts to work with us and through us to Make Christ Known!

January Birthdays

01/02	01/16
Betty Clark	Josie Price
Mollie Harrison	Pat Taylor
01/03	01/18
Scott Summers	Tina Poindexter
01/05	Steve Pullie
Lunette Davis	01/19
01/07	Louie Lanford
Brandy Crumpton	Don Price
01/08	Janet Taylor
Mandy Jenkins	01/22
01/09	Mackey Monts
Carolyn Steele	01/24
01/11	Patton Gossett
Shelby Duke	Hazel Rawl
Tommy Tyson	01/25
01/12	Eric West
Anthony Head	Tom Zeigler
01/13	01/26
Allison Shealy	Anna Ree Roland
Robert Sharpe	01/27
01/14	Beverly Christenburg
Elizabeth Peeples	Mike Crumpton
01/15	01/28
Nick Roberts	Eric Janson
Kevin Steele	01/31
Miranda West	Byron Roberts



Notes of Thanks and Hope



Thank You

Thanks to all who participated in and attended our Christmas Cantata. The Christmas Choir, handbell Choir and musicians did an outstanding job and presented a beautiful performance! Special thanks to Mot Caulder, our Organist/Choir Director for all of the work involved in planning, selecting, organizing practices, securing musicians, playing and directing the entire effort! It was one of the best ever!

Gifts

St. James Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Your support provides help and hope to families in need in the United States and around the world.

Peace,

Jessica Fairfax

Dear St. James Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting the ministry of Epworth Children's Home. For so many children, your gift and support has helped aid in transforming them from abused, neglected children into children living lives of self-respect, productivity and responsibility, thus breaking the cycle of abuse. Thank you for supporting Epworth and the children who live here. Together we are making a difference.

Sincerely,

The Rev. John E. Holler, Jr.

Memorials

Woody Duke

By: William and Marjean McRoberts

St. James Backpack Program in

Honor of Woody Duke

By: Mark, Kim and JoAnn Drafts



We Pray for Our Members, Friends and Family:

Gina Amick - Niece of Russell Taylor
 Courtney Cagle - Granddaughter of D. Pounds
 Darren Corley - Cousin of Randy Summers
 Richard Culliver - Student of Mot Caulder
 Clarence Davis - Father of Jason Davis
 LB Davis, Jr. - Friend of G & L Steele
 Woody Davis - Father of Tim Davis
 Randy Dickerson - Friend of D & M Hines
 Katie Dunn - Friend of Lunette Davis
 Donna Florence - Mother of Megan Joyner
 Ralph Frazier - Brother of Bobby Frazier
 Jean Gould - Sister in Law of Hank Poplin
 Mildred Gunter - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland
 Virginia Hall - Church Member
 Vera Havird - Aunt of Miranda West
 Freida Hibbs - Mother of Jeff Hibbs
 Lanell Hicks - Mother of Miranda West
 Billy James - Relative of Virginia Hall
 Rick Kyzer - Son of Richard Kyzer
 Roger Lindler - Brother of Mendel Lindler
 Mary Margaret Lytle—Sister of Rosemary Davis
 Judy McGee - Sister of Miranda West
 David McMichael - Cousin of A R Roland

Cindy Miller - Friend of Tina Poindexter
 Dan Monts - Friend of Mot Caulder
 Norma Moore - Church Member
 Paul Pilkington - Church Member
 Colby Poplin - Nephew of Hank Poplin
 Dollie Pounds - Church Member
 Frankie Pounds - Grandson of Dollie Pounds
 Jerry Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds
 Randy Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds
 Janice Satterfield - Wife of J Miller's Nephew
 Maria Sampson - Daughter of H.O. & D Sharpe
 Rachel Sandy - Friend of Kayte Backman
 Fred Sharpe - Friend of Danny & Cheryl Austin
 Sandra Shealy - Friend of George & Lynette Steele
 Johnny Starnes - Brother of Anna Ree Roland
 Jerry Steele - Brother of George Steele
 Herbert Stockman - Father of S. Hollis & L. Long
 Lynn Sloan - Church Member
 Frank Taylor - Church Member
 Mary Jane West - Mother of Eric West
 Emily Whitten - Mother of Lynn Sloan
 Tina Wilson - Granddaughter of Eunice Backman

Our Military Workers:

Michael Anderson - Friend of St. James
 Dwight Barrs - Grandson Eunice Backman
 Ryan Caulder - Son of Mot Caulder
 Brandon Harmon - Cousin of Mike Long

Our Shut-ins:

Mollie Harrison
 Jerry Hutto
 Roberta Pound
 Anna Ree Roland
 Kathleen Smith

Worship Assistants

Acolytes 10:30AM

January 5 - Callie Poplin

January 12 - Emerson Hibbs

January 19 - Casey Roberts

January 26 - Alyssa Jenkins

Altar Guild

January - Tammy O'Quinn

Lay Readers

January 5 - Robert Sharpe

Ushers

Ben Freeman

Gwen Freeman

Luke Roland

Sound System

Jan Sharpe

JANUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 9AM - Sat. Sisters
5 8AM - Holy Communion 9:15 AM - Sunday School 10:30AM - Holy Communion 3PM - Confirmation 5PM - Youth	6	7 9AM - Home School 6PM - Girl Scouts	8 7PM - Choir	9	10	11
12 8AM - Holy Communion 9:15AM - Sunday School 10:30AM - Holy Communion 7PM - All Committee Night	13 7PM - Handbells	14 9AM - Home School 6PM - Girl Scouts	15 7PM - Choir	16 12PM - OWLS Lunch- eon	17 St. James Retreat	18 St. James Retreat
19 St. James Retreat	20	21 9AM - Home School 2PM - Harvest Hope 6PM - Girl Scouts 7PM - WELCA	22 7PM - Choir	23	24	25
8AM - Holy Communion 9:15AM - Sunday School 9:15 AM - Women's bible Study 10:30AM - Holy Communion 3PM - Confirmation 5PM - Youth 7PM - Council	6:30 PM - LMM 7PM - Handbells					
26 8AM - Holy Communion 9:15AM - Sunday School 10:30AM - Holy Communion 5PM - Guardian Angels	27 7PM - Handbells	28 9AM - Home school 6PM - Girl Scouts	29 7PM - Choir	30	31	

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

P-A-I-D

St. James Lutheran Church

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Visit us on the web at
www.stjameslex.com

Church Staff

Pastors: Rev. Andrea Rice
Rev. Nathan Rice

Worship Service: 8:00 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Worship Service: 10:30 AM

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday

9:00 AM—2:00 PM



St. James
LUTHERAN CHURCH