

# MESSENGER

Volume 8, Number 6

June 2014

## A Word From Pastor Steve

Summer Greetings St. James Family Members,

It is typical for congregational activities to slow down some in the summer. I pray you have refreshing breaks from your routine and enjoy vacation time with family and friends. There is still work to be done of course, by staff and members even as we make time for leisure. The Council, Call Committee and a revived Long Range Planning Committee will all have their plates full even during the summer lull.

On the personal front, I'll be busy June and July with the tasks of planning a wedding. Susan Thisell and I are exchanging vows at Christ Chapel on the Southern Seminary campus in Columbia, 3 PM on July 20. You are invited and you'll find particulars about RSVP in the Sunday bulletin.

For the remainder of my article I'd like to share with information about the recent SC Synod Assembly. Thursday through Saturday, May 29-31 I attended the Synod Assembly with four voting members from our congregation. Bill Barley, Lunette Davis, Rebecca Koch, and Josh West joined me for two and one half days of Bible Studies, Key Note Addresses, Elections and Mission Moments. Here are some highlights for you.

It was the 198th meeting of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina, with 503 registered voting members and 53 visitors in attendance. This year's theme was: *Living Lutheran in a Changing World*. The theme verse was "My grace is sufficient for you." (II Corinthians 12:9a).

Pastor Rich Melheim, of *Faith Five* fame, led three high energy Bible Studies during the Assembly, plus two workshops, one before and one during the Assembly. His spirited argument that the home should be the primary place where God and God's people connect is persuasive. More to come later I think as we reevaluate Educational Ministry here at St James.

The Reverend Doctor Mary Sue Drier, Professor at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, gave three Keynote Addresses. Her focus was the shifts that are occurring in USA Christianity and our growing awareness of what Mission now means and what Missional Leaders and Missional Churches will be about in the future.

On the 'mission' front, there was much excitement as three SC congregations shifted from Mission Status to Chartered Organized Congregations. They are: Breath of Life Lutheran Church, Blythewood; Crossroads Lutheran Church, Indian Land; and, Faith Lutheran Chapel, Pickens. (The first of those congregations, Breath of Life is where my fiancé, Susan Thisell serves as Vicar, a 'minister in training' role, sometimes called Internship.)

(Continued on Page 2)

We also celebrated diverse ministry partnerships, through in-state Latino mission congregations, Young Adults in Global Mission, and of course the institutions of the church; Newberry College, Southern Seminary, Retreat and Conference Centers, and Lutheran Services of the Carolinas. Another partnership ministry celebrated was water missions in Tanzania. South Carolina's Lutheran Church Youth announced that they have raised over \$18,000 to build a safe water system in Tanzania.

The synod-wide Growing in God's Mission appeal has reached 94% of its goal, or \$1,650,000 of its goal of \$1,750,000. In a related decision the combined offerings from the three worship services were designated as seed money toward a Growing in God's Mission Candidacy Scholarship to be named in honor of Michael S. Kohn, Vice President, South Carolina Synod, 2008-2014. Offerings for the three services totaled \$5,049.38.

**The Rev. Herman R. Yoos III** was re-elected to serve a second six-year term as bishop of the ELCA South Carolina Synod. Bishop Yoos was re-elected on the first ballot (not unheard of but pretty unusual) receiving 348 of the 423 votes cast (318 were needed for an election). Prior to becoming bishop in 2008, Yoos was pastor of congregations in Charlotte, N.C., Charleston, S.C., and Columbia, SC. He graduated from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia. He earned a doctorate in ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia. Bishop Yoos was ordained in 1979.

**Lexanne Kimball Graves** was elected as Synod Vice President! She serves as Director of Faith Formation at Living Springs Lutheran Church, Columbia. She graduated from The University of South Carolina in 1996 and received her Associate in Ministry Certification from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 2000. She has served St. Andrew's Lutheran, Columbia, and Bethlehem Lutheran, Irmo. She and her husband, Scott, have a daughter, Anna Leigh, and a son, Wesley. Speaking of her leadership style Lexanne says, "Through prayerful listening, I like to gather data, listen to feedback, pray, and then proceed with clear decisions for the team."

I invite you to turn to page 3 to read a resolution in support of immigration reform, passed by voting members at this year's assembly. Blessings on your summer adventures, and please, do worship with us as your schedules allow.

Joy and Peace,

Pastor Steve

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMMIGRATION REFORM

The following resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority at 2014 SC Synod Assembly.

WHEREAS Jesus and his parents found safe refuge in a foreign land;

And WHEREAS we as Christians are called to love our neighbors and provide hospitality to strangers [“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.” --Leviticus 19:33-34];

And WHEREAS the current system of Federal immigration law in the United States was last updated in 1986, is outdated, and is in need of reform;

And WHEREAS the enforcement of the current system breaks up families whose members have different statuses, [Between July 1, 2010 and Sept. 21, 2012, 204,810 deportations were issued for parents with citizen children];

And WHEREAS current detention centers are private for-profit institutions that make a profit by detaining as many people as possible, at great expense to taxpayers, and are documented to practice systematic abuse of those being detained [From 2005 to 2012, the budget for ICE detentions operations more than doubled, moving from \$864 million to more than \$2 billion in 2012; Private prison corporations, (CCA & GEO) showed a 72% increase in revenue (from \$128 million to \$474 million) from their contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement between 2005 and 2010];

And WHEREAS Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and the ELCA Bishops have signed a document calling for reform of the current system;

And WHEREAS there is a lot of misinformation about existing immigration law in the United States that leads to prejudice against and racial profiling of immigrants;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the congregations of the South Carolina Synod be encouraged to study the issue of immigration with the help of resources provided by LIRS and the ELCA;

And be it further resolved that the South Carolina Synod endorse immigration reform that includes the following points recommended by LIRS and the ELCA Bishops:

- Provide an earned roadmap to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
- Ensure the humane and just enforcement of U.S. immigration laws, specifically by reducing the use of immigration detention and expanding the use of community support programs for immigrants who do not need to be detained.
- Protect families from separation and ensure an adequate supply of visas for families seeking to reunite.
- Provide adequate resources and protections to ensure the successful integration of refugees, asylees, survivors of torture and trafficking, unaccompanied minors, and other vulnerable migrants.
- Ensure the protection of U.S. citizen and migrant workers.

And be it further resolved that the South Carolina Synod support our Bishop and other members of the Synod that advocate for immigration reform with our state and federal legislators.

Respectfully submitted, Pastors Mark A. Cerniglia, Mark Buchan, Anne Christiansen, Maria Miller, Sean Miller, P. Shannon Mullen, and Ginger Litman-Koon; and lay members of SC Lutheran congregations, Alejandro Mejia, Chelsea Jones, Carl Yount & Dru Yount.

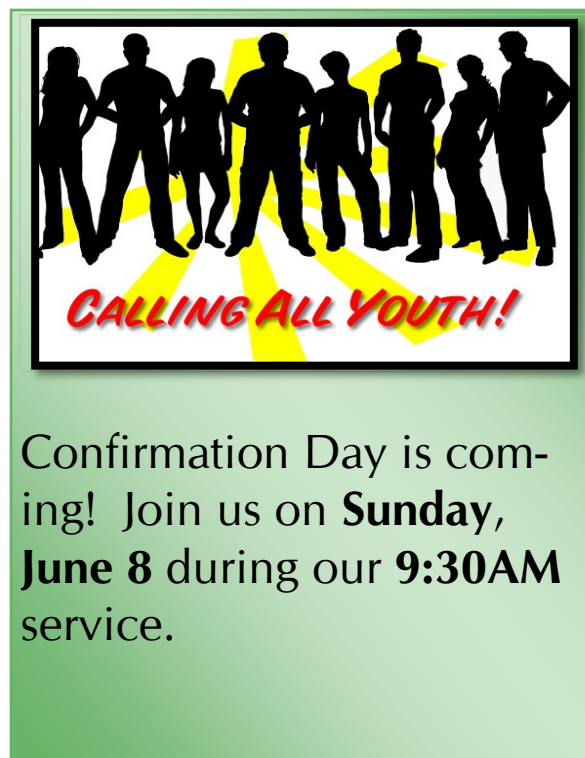
## **Guardian Angels**

This month, Guardian Angels will meet on **Sunday, June 22** at **5:00PM**. Don't forget the prayer box is located in the back of our sanctuary, if you would like to leave prayer requests for yourself or a loved one.

## **Vacation Bible School**

St. James will have VBS from **July 22** through **24** starting at **6:30PM**. This year, Vacation Bible School is for everyone! We will have adult classes and children's classes also. Come join us for a week of fun activities and fellowship.

There will be a meeting on **June 24** at **6:30PM** to finalize plans, for those interested in helping.



**All Committee Night** - All Committee Night is scheduled for **Sunday, June 8, 7 PM**.

## **Council Meeting**

Our Council meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 22** at **7PM**. Please mark this date change on your calendars. Thank you.

## **Rebekah Circle**

All are invited to attend an evening of insight on **Tuesday, June 11**, at **7PM**. Meet in our Fellowship Hall to hear guest speaker Robert G. Lollar from Barr-Price Funeral Home.

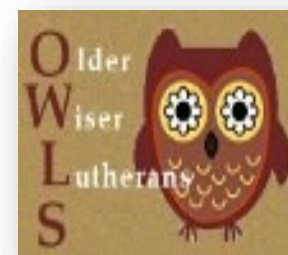
During the months of July and August, the Rebekah Circle will not meet. We will start meetings again on **Tuesday, September 16** at **7PM**.

## **Lutheran Men in Mission**

Lutheran Men in Mission will hold their monthly meeting on **Monday, June 16** at **6:30 PM**.

## **OWLs Monthly Luncheon**

St. James' OWLs will eat at Lizard's Thicket on Highway 1 at Kittiwake Drive in Lexington **Thursday, June 19**. All are welcome to join us for great food and fellowship!



## **Back Pack Program**

During the month of June, we will be collecting drinks for our Back Pack Program. Donations may be placed in the designated bucket inside the narthex. Thank you to everyone for all of your continued support of this program. Without you, we could not make this happen for our community children each week!

## Council Notes

### Council Mini Minutes

Council met on May 18 with 11 members present plus Pastor Steve and Treasurer, Sharon Duke.

-Devotions by Gwen Freeman

-Sharon shared reports from the new system, reported that numbers balanced in system, and that the first Direct Deposit Payroll thru ProCorps had gone well

-Pastor Steve shared detailed report of his activities and duties

-Approved list of delegates for Synod Assembly and a motion to reimburse related expenses if desired by those attending.

-Approved recommendation by Financial Task Force to establish a Mission Endowment Fund for St. James including a Committee to oversee it. More info to come!

-Received report from the organizational meeting of the Call Committee

-Approved motion to allow Girl Scouts to continue using facilities, with Carolyn Steele and Gwen Freeman to serve as liaisons

-Discussed Christian Education issues regarding Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Committee Reorganization for going forward

-Approved motion to Confirm Emily Enlow on June 8.

-Approved motion to allow for collection of money to cover purchasing participant booklets for Healthy Congregations Workshop to be held for 5 Sundays in June.

-WELCA to have guest speaker for Funeral Planning on June 11

-Boy Scouts to have Blue and Gold Banquet on May 31

-Agreed to have next Council Meeting on Sunday, June 22, to avoid meeting on Father's Day



## June Birthdays

06/02	06/19
Jackie Metz	Chuck Backman
Tracy Shealy	Todd Feaster
06/05	Jett Joyner
Jay Peeples	Stella Kate Joyner
06/09	Savannah Lanford
Lisa Curtis	06/20
Aaron Frazier	Norma Moore
Bill Kyzer, Sr.	Zachary Standridge
MariKatherine Pullie	06/22
06/10	Isabella Lanford
Wayne Areheart	Steven McLeod
06/11	Jim Poindexter
Jonathan Dattilio	06/23
Connor Pullie	Heather Carter
06/13	David Hines
Hannah Frazier	06/25
06/14	Bob Koch
MJ Maurer	Dorothy Shealy
06/15	Maria Wyville
Mildred Hicks	06/26
06/16	Emerson Hibbs
Tim Davis	Scott Strickland
Asa Gossett	06/27
06/17	Katie Dattilio
Melissa Roland	Carin Seward
Tabatha Summers	06/28
06/18	Kathryn Kyzer
Dalton Freeman	06/29
	Hannah Turner

Thank you to everyone for the cards sent, the many calls and prayers as well as the visits made to the hospital while ill. These gestures are appreciated and are graciously accepted. -Mendel Lindler



## Members

Virginia Hall  
 Mendel Lindler  
 Norma Moore  
 Paul Pilkington  
 Floyd Prevost  
 Dollie Pounds  
 Dot Shealy

## Friends & Relatives of Church Members

Gina Amick - Niece of Russell Taylor  
 Harold Boone - Brother of George and Evelyn Knox  
 Courtney Cagle - Granddaughter of D. Pounds  
 Darren Corley - Cousin of Randy Summers  
 Richard Culliver - Student of Mot Caulder  
 Clarence Davis - Father of Jason Davis  
 Rose Derrick - Cousin of Miranda West  
 Randy Dickerson - Friend of D & M Hines  
 Chris Farmer-Friend of Joel & Lisa Tyson and Mike Long  
 Donna Florence - Mother of Megan Joyner  
 Ralph Frazier - Brother of Bobby Frazier  
 Rachel Gould - Mother of Hank Poplin  
 Mildred Gunter - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland  
 Vera Havird - Aunt of Miranda West  
 Lanell Hicks - Mother of Miranda West  
 Tim Jackson - Friend of Gwen & Ben Freeman  
 Billy James - Relative of Virginia Hall

Rick Kyzer - Son of Richard Kyzer  
 Roger Lindler - Brother of Mendel Lindler  
 Cindy Miller - Friend of Tina Poindexter  
 Sherrie Musselman - Friend of Gwen & Ben Freeman  
 Loretta Nettles - Cousin of Hilda West  
 Colby Poplin - Nephew of Hank Poplin  
 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  
 Fred Sharpe - Friend of Danny & Cheryl Austin  
 Johnny Starnes - Brother of Anna Ree Roland  
 Jerry Steele - Brother of George Steele  
 Mary Jane West - Mother of Eric West  
 Emily Whitten - Mother of Lynn Sloan

The Family of Sandra Shealy-Friend of George and Lynette Steele  
 The Family of Herbert Stockman - Father of S. Hollis & L. Long

### 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:

Mollie Harrison  
 Jerry Hutto  
 Roberta Pound  
 Anna Ree Roland  
 Kathleen Smith  
 Alvin "Jr." Sharpe

## Worship Assistants

# June 2014

### Acolytes 10:30AM

June 1 - Emily Enlow  
 June 8 - Marshall Hibbs  
 June 15 - Callie Poplin  
 June 22 - Casey Roberts  
 June 29 - Emerson Hibbs

### Altar Guild

June - Laney Strickland

### Communion Assistants

June 9:30AM  
 1 - Rebeca Koch  
 8 - Carin Seward  
 15 - Bill Barley

22 - Cheryl Austin  
 29 - Jim Poindexter

### Lectors

1 -  
 8 -  
 15 -  
 22 George Steele

29 -

### Ushers

John Harmon  
 Jeff Hibbs  
 Gerry Jeffords  
 Byron Roberts

### Sound System

Joshua West

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b>	9:30 AM-Holy Communion 10:45AM- Healthy Congregations	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30PM-Girl Scouts	<b>4</b> 7PM-Choir (Last Practice)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9AM -Sat. Sisters
<b>8</b>	9:30AM-Holy Communion 10:45AM-Healthy Congregations 7PM-All Committee Night	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7PM-Rebekah Circle Guest, Robert Lollar	<b>12</b> 6:	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	9:30AM-Holy Communion 10:45AM-Healthy Congregations	<b>16</b> 6:30PM-LMM	<b>17</b> 2PM-Harvest Hope	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12PM-OWLs Luncheon Lizard's Thicket	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	9:30AM-Holy Communion 10:45AM-Healthy congregations SPM-Guardian Angels 7PM - Council Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30PM - VBS Planning Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	9:30AM-Holy Communion 10:45AM-Healthy Congregations	<b>30</b>					

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

P-A-I-D

## St. James Lutheran Church

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Lexington, SC 29073

(803)359-2122

[office@stjameslex.com](mailto:office@stjameslex.com)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.stjameslex.com](http://www.stjameslex.com)

### Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Steve Plonk

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**