

MESSENGER

Volume 8, Number 3

March 2014

A Word From Pastor Steve

Lenten Greetings,

I am still getting settled in to my work and life in Lexington County. Thank you for your kind welcome so far. Special thanks to folks who helped me with house painting and furniture moving: H. O. Sharpe, Larry Kyzer, Gwen Freeman, Robert Sharpe, John Harmon, Joel Tyson, Bill Barley, Henry Poplin, George and Adam Steele, Jimmy Shealy and Guy West. I am working through a list of meetings to schedule with leaders and visits to make among members. Please feel free to call me Office – 803-359-2122 or Cell – 843-509-0438 if I've not yet made an appointment with you and you'd like to see right away.

Now a word about Lent.

WHAT IS LENT ANYWAY?

Lent is a season of the church year remembered by most of us as solemn and penitential. We begin on Ash Wednesday with Confession and a Cross of Ashes. With our truths laid bare, we acknowledge our unfaithfulness to God, our lackluster love for our neighbors, our neglect of suffering and injustice in the world. In the same breath, we ask God to wash us, to purge us, and to create in us clean hearts. We are washed clean through the love of Christ. We leave Ash Wednesday worship still carrying the cross-shaped trace of sin and death upon us. Following our confession, we continue during Lent to listen for the perpetual call to return to the Lord our God who is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love

The Lenten season is grounded in and modeled after the forty days Jesus spent in the desert, tempted by the devil. (Lent is forty days, not counting Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter) This season is an opportunity for us as people of faith, to focus less on the accumulation of material goods and to take up a faith practice which deepens our piety and serves others in the world. The three classic practices of Lenten Piety are Prayer, Almsgiving, and Fasting. I invite you to take on an additional time of prayer or designate additional offerings to a cherished cause or give up some favorite food or drink for the entire season.

Like many churches we'll retire the 'Alleluia' and 'Hymn of Praise' from the weekly liturgy for the duration of the season. The Acclamation, sung before the reading of the Gospel will be, "Return to the Lord Your God".

These liturgical gestures and the practices of piety mentioned above are not terribly difficult to implement. But 'simple' gestures should not be thought of as 'little' things. When we make changes in our lives for the sake of our relationship with God, even simple things or brief moments have great potential. Large oak trees start out as acorns. Our Lenten practices though they seem small at first, when done faithfully might just grow into life changing and world improving events. Let us not underestimate what God does with even a little faith.

OUR LENTEN WORSHIP

In addition to worship changes mentioned above we will switch the Sunday Morning 10:30 worship liturgy from Marty Haugen's *Now the Feast and Celebration* to *Bread of Life* liturgy from the *With One Voice* hymnal. Here's a preview of Sunday Morning Gospel Texts.

March 9 - 1st Sunday in Lent: Temptation of Jesus

March 16 - 2nd Sunday in Lent: Nicodemus

March 23 - 3rd Sunday in Lent: Samaritan Woman (John 4)

March 30 - 4th Sunday in Lent: Man born blind (John 9)

April 6 - 5th Sunday in Lent: Raising of Lazareth (John 11)

On Wednesdays in Lent we'll use Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer for worship and include a Lenten Study on Making Change.

March 12 - Week of Lent 1: Change of Season

March 19 - Week of Lent 2: Change of Habit

March 26 - Week of Lent 3: Change of Circumstances

April 2 - Week of Lent 4: Change of Heart

April 9 - Week of Lent 5: Change of Plans

Gather with us as your schedule allows so that we may support each other, grow in faith and make ready for the joys of Easter and resurrection.

Joy and Peace,
Pastor Steve

Shrove Tuesday

Join us for our Pancake Dinner on **Tuesday, March 4** from **6PM** until **8PM**, when we will eat our fill of pancakes and sausages before Ash Wednesday.



Wednesday Evening Lenten Service

During this Lenten season, we will be offering a Wednesday evening service and study led by Pastor Steve. We will enjoy a light meal at **6:00PM** followed by service at **6:30PM**. Choir practice will begin at **7:30PM**. Mark your calendars for our service, beginning on **March 12**.

Safe Water Project

Over 300 million people in Africa do not have access to safe drinking water. Every 21 seconds, a child dies due to disease from unsafe water. Lutheran Men in Mission and the LCY of the SC Synod are leading the effort to raise money to finance at least 2 additional Safe Water villages in Tanzania. These are being provided in conjunction with the South-west Diocese of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania – our companion Synod. We are raising awareness for this project during the month of March, culminating on **Water Sunday, March 23**.

Backpack Program

We would like to thank everyone for all of the ongoing support we have received for our kids at Red bank Elementary. The faculty at RBES has asked that we please refrain from donating foods that have nuts or nut products in them as some of the children in the program have allergies. As you shop for donations, please take a moment and check labels to make certain what you want to give is free of nuts and nut products. Again, thank you for all you have done to keep the program going!

All Committee Night

Our next All Committee Night will be on **Sunday, March 9** at **7PM**, beginning in the sanctuary.

Council Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 16** at **7PM**.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will continue to meet in the Bible Max room on **Sundays, March 2, 16** and **30**, at **9:15 AM**.

WELCA

All Women are invited to attend our WELCA meeting in the parlor on **Tuesday, March 18**, at **7PM**. All ladies of St. James are invited to come.

OWLs Monthly Luncheon

St. James' OWLs will eat at Shealy's in Batesburg-Leesville on **Thursday, March 20**. Congregation and friends are invited to join us for a great meal and good fellowship. If anyone needs a ride, please contact Margaret Hollis at 359-6633 by **Wednesday, March 19**. Riders will meet at the church at **10:30 AM**, and we will leave at **10:45** sharp. If anyone has extra seats for riders, please let Margaret know. We will meet outside Shealy's and go in together at **noon**. See you then!



Easter Lilies

We will be accepting orders for Easter Lilies beginning this **Sunday, March 9**. The deadline is **April 6**. Please contact the church office for more information.

Guardian Angels

This month, Guardian Angels will meet on **Sunday, March 23** 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.

Lutheran Men in Mission

Lutheran Men in Mission will hold their monthly meeting on **Monday, March 17** at **6:30 PM**. All men are welcome to come!



Confirmation

Confirmation will meet again as scheduled on **Sundays, March 2** and **16**, at **3:00PM**.

Youth Group Meetings

The St. James Youth Group will continue to meet at 5PM on the same days as Confirmation is scheduled. Join us again on **March 2** and **16** and bring a friend!

Youth Lock In

We will have a Youth Lock In beginning with a "Boxing For Hunger" event on **March 28** and **29** starting at **6PM**. Youth are asked to be here at **5:30PM** to help set up. Once we collect 1000 cans, we will have a lock in which will include games and activities, a Bible study and bowling. All youth are invited. Bring along your friends! Parents, if you would like to chaperone, please contact Thomas Backman at 308-529-7198 or email backmath@email.sc.edu.

Council Notes

St. James Council Mini Minutes from meeting on February 16, 2014

- Concluded devotional and Directional Goals and Prayers Goals of Council Members from Jan meeting
- Reviewed January Minutes, Treasurers Report, and Report from Pastor Steve

- Discussed possible nominees for our Call Committee

- Pastor Steve and Robert plan to meet with Bishop regarding "Healthy Congregations" Workshop

- 2013 Congregation Report to be completed and filed with the ELCA

- Approved Proposal to plan 5th Sunday Events for 2014 during Sunday School hour

- Approved Purchase of Training Materials for new software, \$336.00

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 4
- Ash Wednesday Service – March 5

- Lenten Services each Wednesday in Lent with light meals at 6 pm, Service at 6:30 pm

Meals to be provided by Committees:

- March 12 - Worship and Music and Personnel
- March 19 – Education and Evangelism
- March 26 – Social Ministry and Finance
- April 2 – Property and Youth
- April 9 – Family Life and Stewardship

SECURITY and SAFETY

We continue to have an issue with doors being left open (not closed completely) and/or unlocked in all areas of our facilities. For the security of our buildings, furnishings and equipment, AND for the SAFETY of all those using our buildings, it is IMPORTANT and a REQUIREMENT going forward that if you unlock a door, YOU must lock it back when you leave (even if people are still in the building)! We must ALL take responsibility and make sure that all doors are CHECKED, CLOSED, and LOCKED, when Services, meetings, gatherings, etc. are ended.

Thank You!

Robert Sharpe

Council President

American Red Cross Blood Drive

On **Monday, March 24**, we will open our doors to the American Red Cross. At **2PM** you can come and join in giving the gift of life. Don't forget the summer months are ahead of us and a time of year when SC runs low on these precious donations.

Volunteers Needed

Sign up today and use your gifts to help in various areas of the church. We have a need for **Lay Readers, Communion Assistants** and **Nursery Attendants**. We also have dates left for **Altar Flowers**, so take a moment and sign up for one Sunday. Or two!

Prayer Vigil

Jesus asked his disciples to pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane before he went to the cross. He asks us to pray, as well. We are holding a 24 hr prayer vigil at the end of Holy Week this year. Sign up for a 30 minute time slot when you would like to pray. You may come to the church during your time slot, or you may wish to pray at home. Prayer booklets will be available. The prayer vigil will begin after Maundy Thursday service and end with the start of Good Friday service.

March Birthdays

03/01

Brandon Crumpton
Joretta Martin

03/03

Kenneth Gossett
Tammy O'Quinn

03/04

Steve Plonk

Margaret Roland

03/10

Lauren Taylor

03/11

Sandy Lyles
Kip Duke

03/13

Steven Areheart
Morgan Davis

03/17

Midge Lane

03/18

Zachary bond

03/19

Travis Areheart

03/21

Carole Collins

03/22

Debra Lindler

03/23

Jeremy Joyner

03/26

Jake Poindexter

03/27

Erin Areheart

Ausitn Roland

03/28

Christopher Summers

03/30

Rebecca Standridge

03/31

Jenn Curtis

Thank You

Dear Friends of LICS,

On behalf of the Lexington Interfaith Community Services board of directors and staff, I would like to thank you for your investment in LICS during 2013 in the amount of \$451.33. With generous donations from you and many others, we were able to serve over 20,000 people in Lexington County...11,500 received food either once or monthly, almost 7,000 received free clothing, 640 received financial assistance and over 1,000 referrals were given to other agencies to help prepare families for a sustainable lifestyle. We helped place 17 people in jobs from July through September and intend to continue our efforts in job placement with an ultimate goal to get people back to work and financially stable. You have glorified God by helping your neighbors in crisis. May you be blessed beyond measure in the coming year.

Robin Bowers, Executive Director

Dear Members of St. James,

Thank you for your generous support of the South Carolina Synod. Your support is making ministry happen for the good of the Gospel! Together we live in love with and grace and courage of Jesus!

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Herman Yoos

In Sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Getha Braswell, Shelley Joyner's Grandmother, who died on February 22. May God's peace be with Mrs. Braswell's family and friends, and may the light of Christ shine upon her forever.

In Honor Of

Anna Ree Roland

By: Pastor Bill and Kathryn Kyzer



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

Lunette Davis - Church Member

Woody Davis - Father of Tim Davis

Randy Dickerson - Friend of D & M Hines

Nina Dooley - Cousin of Margaret Hollis

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

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

O'Dell Jeffords - Father in Law of Amy Walker

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

Cindy Miller - Friend of Tina Poindexter

Norma Moore - Church Member

Loretta Nettles - Cousin of Hilda West

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

Dot Shealy - Church Member

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

Frank Taylor - Church Member

Mary Jane West - Mother of Eric West

Emily Whitten - Mother of Lynn Sloan

Tina Wilson - Granddaughter of Eunice Backman

The Family of Getha Braswell - Grandmother of Shelley Joyner

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

March 2014

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Acolytes 10:30AM March 2 - Marshall Hibbs March 9 - Alyssa Jenkins March 16 - Emily Enlow March 23 - Emerson Hibbs March 30 - Callie Poplin							1 9AM -Sat. Sisters
Altar Guild March - Carolyn Steele			4 Shrove Tuesday 9AM-Home School 6PM-Pancake Dinner				
Lay Readers March 2 - Lynn Sloan March 9 - Rebecca Koch March 16 - March 23 - Jim Poindexter March 30 - Tammy O'Quinn	2 8 & 10:30 AM-Holy Communion 9:15AM-Sunday School 9:15AM-Womens Bible Study 3PM-Confirmation 5PM-Youth 6PM-Handbells	3		5 7PM-Choir	6	7	8
	9 8 & 10:30AM-Holy Communion 9:15AM-Sunday School 6PM-Handbells 7PM-All Committee	10	11 9AM-Home School 6PM-Girl Scouts	12 6PM- Meal 6:30PM-Lenten Service 7PM-Choir	13	14	15
	16 8 & 10:30 AM-Holy Communion 9:15AM-Sunday School 9:15AM-Womens Bible Study 3PM-Confirmation 5PM-Youth 6PM-Handbells 7PM-Council	17 6:30PM-LMM	18 9AM-Home School 2PM-Harvest Hope 6PM-Girl Scouts 7PM-WELCA	19 6PM - Meal 6:30PM-Lenton Service 7PM-Choir	20 12PM-OWLS Luncheon	21 7PM-Cub Scouts	22 8AM-Cub Scouts
Ushers Kip Duke Sharon Duke Gerry Jeffords Jim Maurer	23 8 & 10:30 AM-Holy Communion 9:15AM-Sunday School 5PM-Guardian Angels 6PM-Handbells	24 2PM-ARC Blood Drive	25 9AM-Homeschool 6PM-Girl Scouts	26 6PM-Meal 6:30PM-Lenten Service 7PM-Choir	27	28 Youth	29 Lock In
Sound System Chuck Backman							
Tellers Mike Crumpton Lunette Davis	30 8 & 10:30 AM-Holy Communion 9:15AM-Sunday School 9:15AM-Women's Bible Study 6PM-Handbells	31 7PM-Cub Scouts					

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

P-A-I-D

St. James Lutheran Church

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office@stjameslex.com

Visit us on the web at
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