

# MESSENGER

Volume 8, Number 5

May 2014

## A Word From Pastor Steve

### A SPIRIT-LED TIME OF RENEWAL

On April 27 about 50 members of St James participated in a conversation with Bishop Herman Yoos and Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Ginny Aebischer, who led us in a three part Bible Study and a question and answer session about our life together and our hopes for the future.

The resulting profile information will serve as a guide for:

- Our call committee as they seek a new pastor to lead St James Lutheran Church
- Bishop Yoos in helping the call committee to discern our congregational mission
- Pastoral candidates as they discern a call to this congregation

Here is an abbreviated summary of the profile. The full profile is available in the church office and the narthex. Blank survey forms have been mailed to members not in attendance on April 27. Info from returned forms will be added to the profile. The nine questions follow below, each **UNDERLINED IN BOLD CAPS**.

#### 1. **WHAT IS GOD'S DREAM FOR THE WORLD AND ALL GOD LOVES?**

- Love & forgive one another as he loves & forgives us \*\*\*\*\*
- Peace and Good Will for all \*\*\*\*\*
- For all to be saved or in communion with God, one within God's fold \*\*\*\*\*
- To care for each other, support each other & love one another & God's creation \*\*\*
- Share love for all, Jesus as our example \*\*\*\*
- Help those in need and be one in mission, working together \*\*\*

#### 2. **WHAT IS GOD'S DREAM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS CHURCH?**

- That we become disciples and go out into the world to share God's love and message
- Become more open and accepting; working together, not being offensive \*\*
- Love, Peace, Fellowship, Forgiveness for St James members and all people \*\*\*\*\*
- To be an example for the world and to reach God's children in Red Bank & beyond \*\*\*\*\*

#### 3. **HOW CAN WE BE A PART OF GOD'S DREAM FOR THE WORLD AND THE COMMUNITY WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE?**

- Invite people of our community to come hear the Word of the Lord \*\*\*\*\*
- Seek to serve those in need through the Name and Love of Christ \*\*\*\*\*
- Spread God's love outside the walls of St James congregation, and avoid focusing only on members \*\*\*\*\*
- By sharing our Time, Talent and Resources through Personal Involvement \*\*\*
- Have more support for younger families with children

#### 4. **WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN OUR CONGREGATION'S HISTORY?**

- Facilities added (especially 1992 additions) \*\*\*\*\*
- Tanzania Connection & Puerto Rico Mission Trips \*\*\*\*\*
- Local Outreach (Operation In As Much, Pantry & Back Pack) \*\*\*\*\*
- Baptisms \*\*\*\*\*
- Leaving (prematurely) of Pastors Nathan & Andrea\*\*\*\*\*

**5. ARE THERE ANY WOUNDS IN OUR CONGREGATION'S HISTORY THAT GOD IS HELPING US HEAL?**

- Pastors Andrea and Nathan leaving prematurely \*\*\*\*\*
- Members leaving because 'there is something they don't like' \*\*
- Not working through conflict \*\*\*\*\*
- Disagreement over number of worship services \*\*\*\*\*
- ELCA decisions on issues related to Gays and Lesbians \*\*\*\*\*
- Difficulty welcoming new ideas & new members as leaders and decision makers \*\*\*\*\*
- What size/style congregation do we want to be? (Pastoral vs. Program) \*\*\*

**6. WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL IN MISSION WITH GOD AND WANT TO KEEP DOING?**

- Community Outreach, direct aid (Pantry, Back Pack) \*\*\*\*\*
- Support of LICS\*\*\*
- Support of Community Programs (Scouts & Home School Group) \*\*\*\*\*
- Vacation Bible School\*\*\*\*
- Music program (Worship Experience, Hand Bells, Choir) \*\*\*\*\*

**7. WHAT COULD WE BE DOING BETTER IN MISSION WITH GOD?**

- Staff Concerns (Nursery Worker\*\*\*\*\*; Keep Pastor Steve\*\*\*\*\*
- Include newer members in leadership and using their ideas \*\*\*\*\*
- Care of the sick, visit shut-ins\*\*\*
- Stronger programs for variety of ages and groups, in Community and Congregation (Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Prayer Groups, Bible Studies, Scouts, Home School Group, Support Groups, WELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry \*\*\*\*\*
- Better use of Time/Talent resources, Give more of ourselves; Involvement of more members making ministry happen \*\*\*\*\*

**8. ARE THERE SOME THINGS THAT WE NEED TO LET GO OF (and not do anymore)?**

- Bad feelings toward people in congregation, Grudges, Cruel comments, Bickering and conflict, Gossip, Mean spirits \*\*\*\*\*
- Attitudes like "We have always done it 'this' way," & "We have tried that before and it did not work."
- Sunday School
- Two services\*\*\*

**9. BEING IN MISSION WITH GOD, WHAT NEW THINGS DO WE WANT TO START DOING?**

- Programs for variety of ages and groups (see # 7 above)
- Facilities (Youth Center and Gym, Elevator in education building, Improve restrooms in Fellowship Hall)
- Worship (Embrace new music, Grow early service, Enlarge Choir & Praise Team)
- Transportation of people who need a ride
- Mission Endowment Fund

Thank you to all who participated on April 27, and thank you in advance for you who will send in your forms by May 16.

Blessings as you engage in Mother's Day Celebrations and remembrances, and as you gather with family and friends for other events in the late spring and early summer.

Joy and Peace,  
Pastor Steve Plonk

## 2014 SUMMER WORSHIP - 9:30 Holy Communion

Responding to a recommendation from Worship and Music Committee, Congregational Council approved one worship service beginning June 1 and running through August 31.

Why Worship and Music Committee Members think this is a good idea for the summer:

1. Attendance drops a bit in the summer as folks vacation
2. Palm Sunday and Easter worship affirmed the idea that more folks together leads to more vibrant worship
3. Some folks will appreciate worship ending earlier, allowing them to get to other activities sooner
4. Mot, our musician, will be out of town June 15, 22 & 29

Items Worship and Music Committee Members discussed were:

1. What is best time, considering current schedule?
2. What liturgy/liturgies should we use?
3. How do we set our schedule related to Sunday School?
4. What else do we need to take into consideration?

Congregational Council received the Worship and Music Committee's Recommendation, heard plans from Christian Education Committee about the summer and discussed the above mentioned questions for quite some time. Council then determined the **Summer Schedule** will be:

**9:30** Worship, using the liturgy that originated the 8 AM service several years ago. A combination of instruments (Organ, Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, Bells and others) will be used.

**10:45** Five Sundays in June only, Pastor Steve will lead a class on "Healthy Congregations," using materials approved by SC Synod of the ELCA for use among congregations in the Call Process.

All confirmed members are encouraged to participate in "Healthy Congregations". Additional classes will be offered in June for preschool - middle school.

During July and August Adult Groups may choose to meet before or after the 9:30 Worship Service but there will be no Sunday School Program until after Labor Day.

### MORE ABOUT HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

Healthy Congregations is an ecumenical and interfaith organization that takes seriously the times that we live in and the challenges of thinking clearly about families, congregations, and leadership. Materials are based on a view of life that looks at communities as living systems. Many of the ideas come from work by a counselor and teacher named Murray Bowen. He and students who have followed him focus on something called 'family systems theory'. Lutheran Pastor Peter Steinke helped write the curriculum that applies 'family systems' to church and congregational life.

Pastor Steve is a trained Healthy Congregations presenter and will lead our five week workshop. He appreciates very much the goal to help church members and leaders to communicate in ways that allow us to be clear, calm and connected: Clear about what we think is important and what we believe ought to happen; Calm as we share our ideas, as well as listen to the ideas of others; Connected to folks in our circles of influence (family, work, church) even if/when we do not agree about everything going on in our family, work place or church.)

Cost for the Workshop Booklet is \$10 per person. Attendance all five weeks is NOT required, but of course the more weeks one attends, the more s/he is likely to get out of the experience. Information about registration will follow.

## Backpack Program

The Back Pack Program is running low or is out of many foods that we give the community children. These include microwaveable and canned meals, healthy snacks and juices. We welcome and are thankful for any and all donations that are received. Thank you!

## Guardian Angels

This month, Guardian Angels will meet on **Sunday, May 25** 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.

**All Committee Night** - All Committee Night is scheduled for **Sunday, May 11, 7 PM** Mother's Day evening. If Chairs, Council Liaisons and Members want to meet another time that's fine. Please get Action Items to Robert Sharpe by Wednesday **May 14**.

## Council Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 18** at **7PM**.

## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will continue to meet in the Bible Max room on **Sundays, May 11, and 25**, at **9:15 AM**.

## Rebekah Circle

All are invited to attend an evening of insight on **Tuesday, May 20**, at **7PM**. Meet in our Fellowship Hall to hear guest speaker Mike Polk, local attorney from Belser and Belser, P.A. discuss legal issues of all kinds including wills, living wills, estates, Power of Attorney, etc.

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

## OWLs Monthly Luncheon

St. James' OWLs will eat at Eastern Buffet in Lexington **Thursday, May 15**. Please be there, seated and ready to order by **12PM**. Come join us for good food and wonderful fellowship!



## Lutheran Men in Mission

Lutheran Men in Mission will hold their monthly meeting on **Monday, May 19** at **6:30 PM**.

## Vacation Bible School

St. James will have VBS from **June 16** through **20** 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.

## Sippin' Charleston

Thank you to everyone that signed up for our trip on **Tuesday, May 13th!** We have had tremendous response and look forward to a wonderful day. Please remember to be at St. James by **7:30AM** on that day. The bus will be leaving no later than **8AM** for Charleston. We estimate our arrival back at St. James to be around **7:15PM** that evening.



## Youth Group Meetings

The St. James Youth Group will continue to meet at **5PM** on **May 4** and **18**. Bring a friend!

## Council Notes

Council Met on Thursday, April 24th with 10 members present plus Pastor Steve and Sharon Duke, Treasurer.

-Approved recommendation to outsource our Payroll function to ProCorps

-Approved amended proposal from Worship and Music to have 1 Worship Service for the Summer at 9:30 am

- In addition, decided to conduct a Healthy Congregations Workshop during the Sunday School hour for the 5 Sundays in June, to be led by Pastor Steve for all adult members. Classes for other ages will continue as usual for June. NO Sunday School in July and August.

-Discussed plans for the Congregational Event scheduled for Sunday April 27 with Bishop Yoos and Assistant to the Bishop Ginny Aebischer.

-Discussed upcoming Synod Assembly to be May 29th-31st in Columbia, SC. Lunette Davis, Carin Seward, and Rebecca Koch have agreed to attend. Male Voting member needed—See Pastor Steve

-Elected the following members to serve as the Call Committee: Thom Backman, Jason Davis, Mary Hines, H.O. Sharpe, Lynn Sloan, Carolyn Steele, and Joshua West

Thanks to all who were involved with the great Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Services! It was great to see so many folks involved!

## May Birthdays

05/02	05/17
Lara Backman	Alyssa Jenkins
Zane Price	Lynn Sloan
JustinShealy	Adam Steele, Jr.
05/03	05/19
Jacob Standridge	Doris Sharpe
05/05	05/20
Glenn Hollis	Harold Roland, Jr.
05/06	05/22
Thom Backman	Irma Frye
05/07	05/24
Rosemary Davis	Lily Price
05/08	Alice Raffa
George Knox	05/25
05/09	Joe Joyner
Elaine Sutcliffe	05/27
05/10	Kristie Wilson
Betty Jean Tyson	05/28
05/11	Roberta Pound
Don Harrison	05/30
05/12	Kelly Roberts
Barbara Roland	05/31
05/13	Wendy Frazier
Bobby Frazier, Sr.	Jeff Hibbs
05/14	Sheryl Jeffords
Madelyn Wilson	

## Thank You

Please recall on January 10, 2013 St Paul Lutheran Church in Pomaria lost their facilities in an early morning fire. Members of St James responded to their request for aid. We recently received the following Thank You note. The original is posted on the bulletin board near the church office.

St. James Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$529.00 in support of St. Paul Lutheran Church. We sincerely appreciate your generous response in our time of need. We feel extremely blessed to be part of this community of believers who have responded with such compassion. With God's help and the support of people like you, we will rise above the ashes to a beautiful house of worship. Please continue to pray for our church family.  
May God bless you,

St. Paul Church Family



## 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  
 Kenny Drafts - Brother of Barbara Roland  
 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  
 Billy James - Relative of Virginia Hall

Rick Kyzer - Son of Richard Kyzer  
 Roger Lindler - Brother of Mendel Lindler  
 Cindy Miller - Friend of Tina Poindexter  
 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  
 Bruce Walls - Brother in Law of Gwen Freeman  
 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

# May 2014

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Acolytes 10:30AM</b> May 4 - Emily Enlow May 11- May 18 - Mattie O'Quinn May 25 - Emerson Hibbs							3 9AM -Sat. Sisters
<b>Altar Guild</b> May - Laura Hibbs							10
<b>Lay Readers</b> May 8:00AM 10:30AM 4- Lisa Curtis Krisie Turner 11 - Laney Strickland Brenda Poplin 18- Lisa Curtis Debbie Kyzer 25 - Laney Strickland	4 8 & 10:30 AM-Holy Communion 9:15AM-Sunday School 5PM-Youth	5	6 4:30PM-History Committee 6PM-Girl Scouts	7 7PM-Choir	8	9	10
<b>Ushers</b> Gerry Jeffords Ronnie Shealy Donna Zeigler Tom Zeigler	11 8 & 10:30AM-Holy Communion 9:15AM-Sunday School 9:15AM-Women's Bible Study 7PM-All Committee	12 7PM-Call Committee	13 8AM-Sippin' Charleston (arrive by 7:30AM)	14 7PM-Choir	15 12PM-OWLS at Eastern Buffet	16	17
<b>Sound System</b> Chuck Backman	18 8 & 10:30 AM-Holy Communion 9:15AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Holy Communion 5PM-youth 7PM-Council	19 6:30PM-LMM	20 2PM-Harvest Hope 6:30PM-Girl Scouts 7PM - WELCA with guest, Mike Polk	21 7PM-Choir	22 4PM - Summer Afternooners Old McDonald Fish Camp	23	24
	25 8 & 10:30 AM-Holy Communion 9:15AM-Sunday School 9:15AM-Women's Bible Study 5PM-Guardian Angels	26	27 6PM-Girl Scouts	28 7PM-Choir	29	30	31 2PM-Cub Scouts

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](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**