

# MESSENGER

Volume 8, Number 11

November 2014

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

As our summer worship schedule came to an end a number of folks shared very positive reactions to the combined worship experience. Worship and Music Committee members designed a survey to get more detailed feedback. Here are the results of the survey, broken down into categories:

Numbers, Chart of Responses, and Take-a-ways.

**NUMBER** of Surveys – 55 (57 Participants as 2 couples signed 1 survey)

# Surveys Signed 46, Unsigned 9

# with additional comments regarding Summer Worship - 21

# with additional comments regarding Future Worship - 22

## **RESPONSES TO “EVALUATE SUMMER 2014 WORSHIP”**

	Positive	Negative	Neutral
Time - 9:30AM	34	6	10
Together in one service	41	1	10
Liturgy-contemporary	27	7	12
Mix of Traditional & Contemporary Songs	36	2	9
No Choir in Front	3	25	25
Praise Team	28	5	17
Projection on wall	31	8	15

## **RESPONSES TO ‘PLANNING FOR FUTURE’**

What is most important in determining your worship choice? Time 19 Style 19

Time Preferences 8:00 9 9:30 26 10:30 17 & (1 Write-in for 10 AM)

Style Preference Contemporary 18 Traditional 24

## **TAKE A WAYS**

Summer Worship was a positive experience for most who filled out the survey. Only one of the items in the survey was clearly negative. Here follows a summary of what Worship & Music Committee members think the survey says.

Only one issue was weighted on negative end of scale.

1) **47 % of those responding missed having the choir leading worship.**

‘No Choir Up Front’ - 3 Positive, 25 Negative, 25 Neutral

## **TAKE A WAYS (continued)**

- 2) There is **strong appreciation for One Service Together**. 79 % enjoyed being ‘Together in One Service’ – 41 Positive, 1 Negative, 10 Neutral
- 3) **Combination of Traditional Hymns & Contemporary Songs well received**. 76 % enjoyed ‘Combination of Styles’ – 36 Positive, 2 Negative, 9 Neutral
- 4) **Choosing start time for one service is difficult choice**.  
A) 68 % approved of 9:30 summer start time  
    ‘9:30 Start Time’ in Summer – 34 Positive, 6 Negative, 10 Neutral  
B) Personal Preference for Future Worship was mixed -  
    8:00 9 9:30 26 10:30 17 10:00 1 (write-in)  
    17 % 49 % 32 % plus, 2 % No Response
- 5) Use of a **Contemporary Liturgy** (“Now the Feast”) **Praise Team Leadership** and **Projection of the Service** were weighted slightly on positive end of the scale with responses about 57 % Positive, 15 % Negative and 28 % Neutral.

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Worship and Music Committee members sees as goals:

- + Providing Vibrant and Meaningful Worship, and
- + Using well the Gifts of our Pastor, Music Director and Talented Members

We recommend the following:

- That we go to one service at 9:30 AM, starting November 30, 2014 to be followed by Faith Formation/Sunday Church School at 10:45 AM
- That the Pastor and Director of Music recommend specific liturgies for seasonal use on a rotating basis. We’ll use both traditional and contemporary and these will be approved by the Worship and Music Committee
- That we use a combination of Traditional Hymns and Contemporary Songs
- That the Chancel Choir and Praise Team share leadership responsibilities in liturgy, songs and anthems
- That the Bell Choir and Guest Musicians be added at the discretion of the Music Director

Following a thorough discussion of current attendance trends, Faith Formation and Sunday School participation, a desire for unity and fellowship in one timeframe, and a willingness to try something different, all in attendance agreed on the Worship and Music Committee’s plan. Full copies of the Survey Summary, including comments are available in the Narthex. Thank you all, who filled out surveys. Thank you Worship and Music Committee and Council Members for your careful deliberation on this important issue.

## Faith 5 Update

St. James' congregation launched Faith5 a while back when Pastors Nathan and Andrea Rice were here. So it is not totally new to most of us. If you have gotten out of the habit, or never really got into the habit, I invite you to take another stab at it. Beginning on November 2 we will make available for all worshippers an activity sheet to use at home. Sometimes it will be a book mark, other times a coloring sheet and other times a game or puzzle of some kind. It will match either the Bible Song lesson we are using in Sunday Church School or something from that Sunday's scripture lesson or sermon. It will always encourage Faith5 sharing in family groups or in St. James' committees or small groups.

In a recent SC Synod email, Assistant to the Bishop Ginny Aebischer shared two stories of how FAITH5 has impacted two households in a nearby congregation:



Share

\*\*God has been acting in a FAITH5 household recently and it has brought smiles and laughter and deep conversation. A couple with two teenagers have seen so many positive benefits recently. They are talking openly and helping each other cope with daily struggles. They are praying for and with each other. The teens are seeing that every afternoon/evening the parents are putting down the electronics and really focusing on each other and God. This family is claiming the promise made to Abraham and Sarah long ago, as they see themselves, 'Blessed to be a Blessing!'



Read



Talk

\*\*God has been acting in and through a unique FAITH5 experience between a couple whose children are grown. This couple makes sure that at some point throughout the day (nighttime isn't the best time for them so they do it during the day!) they are taking time for each other, and experiencing how God has been at work in their separate lives. One day they chose to experience FAITH5 over a luncheon with co-workers. It was a low-key, simple way of finding out more about the people they interact with daily. This experience led to deep insight, great conversation, and the presence of God over a meal. Indeed it was a grace-filled lunch. They also are Blessed to be a Blessing!



Pray



Bless

If you want to see a household actually experiencing FAITH5 go to this site, <http://faith5.org/about/>. See how simple and easily you can bring Jesus into every household, every night. And come join us for our Faith5 experience Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Proposed Changes to the St. James Constitution and Bylaws**

At the direction of St. James Church Council, the Finance Task Force (John Harmon, Tom Boozer, 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 which was approved by church council at their 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 the 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 undesignated 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.

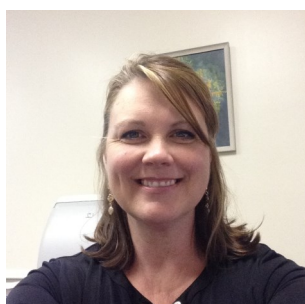


Income from the fund shall be distributed in accordance with the following purposes:

- 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.

Please welcome Meredith George as our new secretary. Meredith started working with us on October 20th. Meredith is a native of Columbia and resides in Lexington with her three children Olivia, Jake and Nickolas and their golden retriever, Molly. She previously worked as a Marketing/Sales Coordinator at a local retirement community and has now joined us part-time and plans to attend the University of South Carolina to finish her bachelors degree.



## Greetings from St. James Stewardship Committee

*“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse . . . see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” Malachi 3:10*

Several members of the Stewardship Committee recently participated in “Ventures in Growing Stewards”. These workshops, facilitated by the SC Synod Office, were attended by St. James members, as well as members from several other local churches. The workshops were very informative and helpful. The narrative spending plan, distributed in July, was a result of our participation in these workshops, and our hope is that the narrative spending plan is helpful to you.

We’d like to thank you all for your faithful stewardship of God’s money for ministry here at St. James. We are currently \$11,700 behind in our 2014 Spending Plan. Financial statements were distributed several weeks ago; please take a few minutes to review your statement. Are you where you planned to be in your giving to our ministry? We have 117 giving units who support our \$252,460 Spending Plan which equals to about \$41.50 a week per family. Please consider an increase in your giving or perhaps sign up for Simply Giving, our direct deposit program that guarantees that the church still receives your offering even when you are unable to attend on Sundays.

In the coming months we will share a year-round stewardship emphasis, which will focus on Stewardship Education and opportunities for giving beyond the annual budget. For instance, we are partnering with the Music and Worship Committee to offer opportunities for giving during the Christmas season. In lieu of purchasing poinsettias to honor or memorialize loved ones, we will offer two different ways for our church family to bring honor to their loved ones. Gifts of Hope <http://www.giftsofhopesc.com>, a program of giving through our Synod will be available, as well as an opportunity for gifts to be applied to St. James’ Debt Retirement. We ask that those gifts be made by December 14th as we plan to present them during this year’s Cantata. (See the next page for more information or speak to a member of the Stewardship Committee.)

Also, as part of our wider stewardship, we have asked Mary Hines to share news from our Food Pantry via a temple talk during the month of November.

May God bless you in your loving and generous support of St. James’ ministry, as we serve Jesus, our Lord. We have a beautiful church and a wonderful church family. We need your support to continue to do God’s work.

Kind regards,

Your Stewardship Committee

(Larry Kyzer, John Harmon, Bill Barley, Mike Crumpton and Cheryl Austin)

# Gifts of Hope

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, 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 beginning mid-November and running through December. 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*

The other option offered by Stewardship 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.

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



## Council Notes and Actions - Robert Sharpe, President

St James Council met Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 8 of 9 members present plus Pastor Steve  
Devotions were shared by Carin Seward

- Minutes from the September meeting were received and approved
- Treasurer's Report was reviewed and accepted
- Pastor Steve's report was received and accepted
- Request from Novus Way Ministries (Lutheridge, Lutherock, Lutheranch, Luther springs) requesting consideration in our budget planning; referred to Stewardship.
- A SC Synod video titled "**Where is God Doing Something New in the SC Synod**" has been received and will be reviewed at next meeting. *(It is very well done and folks we know, Adam Steele, Jeremy Frazier, and Ginny Eiwien are in it. If you would like to see it, please see Robert Sharpe!)*
- Nominating Committee members prepared a list of names and are recruiting candidates for election to Church Council at our December 7<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting
- We reviewed Survey results and recommendation by Worship and Music Committee regarding our Sunday morning schedule at St. James. We thoroughly discussed current attendance situation, the Faith Formation/Sunday Church School participation, the need for unity and fellowship in one timeframe, and the need to try something different. All voted in favor of the Committee's plan. Survey Summary and Recommendations are on pages 1 & 2 of this Messenger.
- Approved Special Christmas offering during the month of December for two causes: Christmas Gifts of Hope and Donations to Debt Retirement. (Details on page 4)
- Discussed and reviewed Committee Budget requests for 2015 to be submitted to our Financial Task Force
- Discussed sending a participant to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2015 and planning for financial support
- Received as information that our St. James WELCA group has suspended meetings for now. Hopeful to resume at a later time. Bereavement duties will have to be handled differently going forward.
- Reminder that "Trunk or Treat" will be Oct 31 from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Please come, decorate vehicles, give treats, and share in the fun of Halloween!
- Reminder that Donations towards the purchase of Defibrillator are being accepted through the end of November
- Reminder: Please continue to Pray for St. James our Ministry together!
- Happy to hear about the hiring of our new secretary, Meredith George, who began work on Oct 20<sup>th</sup>!

Welcome Meredith!!



**Food Pantry** - We are in need of donations of peanut butter and jelly for our food pantry. Donations may be left in the designated tote inside the narthex. Thank you for your ongoing support with this program!

**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 breakfast items. All donated items may be left in the designated tote in the narthex. Thank you for your ongoing support - it is much needed & appreciated!

### **Trunk or Treat**

Thanks to everyone who participated in Friday night's Halloween gathering. Fun was had by all!

### **OWLs Monthly Luncheon**

St. James' OWLs will eat at **Creekside Restaurant (located in the Old Mill)** in Lexington on **Thursday, November 20th** at noon. All are welcome to join us for great food and fellowship!



### **November Birthdays**

11/2  
Bree Areheart  
Jennifer Bond

11/5  
Bill Barley

11/6  
Cora Nevitt  
Mackenzie West

11/10  
Frank McLeod  
Ken Long

11/11  
Olin Slice

11/20  
Anthony Maurer

11/26  
Richard Kyzer

11/28  
Danny Austin

11/30  
Kayte Backman  
Dalton L. Summers





## We Pray for Our Members, Friends and Family:



### Prayer List

#### Members

Virginia Hall

Dollie Pounds

Evelyn Knox

Anna Ree Roland

Mendel Lindler

Dot Shealy

Norma Moore

Betty Jean Tyson

Floyd Prevost

Miranda West

Clara Prevost

#### 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 of 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 Miller's Nephew

Kenneth Long - Father of Mike Long

Johnetta Self - Friend of Faye Kirby

#### 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



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: G. Steven Plonk

Music Director: Martha Caulder

Secretary: Meredith George

Worship Service through  
November 23rd:

8:00 AM

10:30AM

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00 AM-2:00 PM



**St. James**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**