

MESSENGER

Volume 9 Number 1

January 2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I pray that the joys of 2014 give you encouragement as you move into a new calendar year. May the sorrows of last year diminish with each passing day and may God bless you with the Holy Presence as you adjust to and learn from even the harshest of things from this last year.

I am thankful for generous Christmas gift shared at Christmas Eve worship and for all the cards and treats you gave to Susan and me. I am happy that church council members approved the extension of my Interim Contract for an additional six months. I enjoy our worship time together and it is an honor to serve as pastor among you while the Call Committee works to discern who will be called to lead you into the future. I trust God will continue to bless us as we live into the vision St. James has claimed.

In our January worship life we enter the Epiphany season and witness The Epiphany and The Baptism of our Lord. We follow that with two weeks scripture of Jesus calling normal folks to be his disciples. This season is a time of learning about Jesus' life and ministry and how he drew human ones into his reconciling work.

Though Epiphany always falls on January 6th we will celebrate on January 4th this year. It is the day when we, as the whole Christian church, commemorate the visit of the Magi (Wise Men) to Jesus and his parents. They are visitors from afar who recognize the power and importance that this child holds. They come bringing gifts that are fit for a king. This is an important story in our life of faith because it is a reminder that no matter what authority exists in the world, we are called to worship the Prince of Peace.

The Baptism of our Lord story invites us to see and hear how the heavenly Father honors Jesus and commissions him to be about his ministry in the world. We are brothers and sisters of the one, "with whom God is well pleased." Let us joyfully, if humbly claim the promise of Genesis that we too are made in God's image.

The Calling of the Disciples stories in late January may give us pause about taking up our own calling. But they also give us encouragement to trust that God in Christ and Holy Spirit are with us as we dare to follow Jesus in lives of reconciling love.

I invite you to recommit to lives of faithful service to Jesus, the Christ. I encourage you to come to worship regularly, here at St. James. I challenge you to join an education and/or fellowship group as well as attending worship weekly. Growing in discipleship happens more effectively as we give ourselves over to the Lordship of Jesus and participate more fully in the Fellowship of Believers.

May God continue to bless and guide you in 2015 and beyond.

Joy and Peace,
Pastor Steve

Church Council Notes and Action Items

COUNCIL MINI-MINUTES, December 21st Regular Council Meeting

- Council met on December 21 with 3 members absent
- Minutes of the November 16th Meeting and the December 7th Annual Congregational Meeting were approved
- Treasurers Report received as information. While we are still behind projected income for the Adjusted Spending Plan, income for 2014 has exceeded expenses.
- Approved Motion to pay 2014 Property Taxes before end of December.
- Approved Motion to renew Interim Pastor agreement for up to six months at same rate of pay.
- Approved Motion to designate Christmas Eve offering for our own St. James Food Pantry and Snack Pack Program
- As previously approved, an AED (Defibrillator) has been ordered through Cintas at a cost of \$1383.90 (to be purchased with Memorial Funds).
- Installation of Church Council Members will be on January 4, 2015.
- All Year End Committee Reports are due by January 10,2015.
- Next meeting will be our Organizational Meeting / Retreat on Saturday, January 10, 2015 from 9 am to 1 pm.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, December 7, 2014

Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, December 7th for the purpose of 1) Electing Council Members; 2) Voting on the Proposed Budget for 2015; and 3) Making a decision on the Proposed Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws for establishing and managing a St. James Endowment Fund.

Both the Proposals were approved by the congregation and the following members were elected to serve on Church Council: Cheryl Austin, Mary Hines, Dick Kyzer, Hazel Kyzer, George Steele, and Russell Taylor.

Here is the full list of council members and term expirations:

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Gwen Freeman	Dwight Bachman	Cheryl Austin
Robert Sharpe	Mike Crumpton	Mary Hines
Carolyn Steele	Rebecca Koch	Dick Kyzer
George Steele	Russell Taylor	Hazel Kyzer

We are THANKFUL for all those willing to serve on Council and look forward to our first meeting together on January 10th! Thanks also to our outgoing members for their faithful and dedicated service: Lunette Davis, Carin Seward, and Kevin Turner.

Council Installation—On January 4 at Sunday morning worship we will install our Congregation Council for 2015. (See previous page for names and terms of service.)

From Worship and Music: You are invited to gather at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 6th to pack up and store our Christmas decorations. All help is greatly appreciated, many hands make lighter work!

Council Retreat/Organizational Meeting will be held here at St. James, Saturday, January 10th, beginning at 9:00AM.

Food Pantry and Snack Pack Programs—Temple Talk by Mary Hines
Isaiah 58:10 *If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the bright sunshine.*

Our pantry is sunshine to approximately 30 plus families each month. The majority of the people we see are elderly, sick, unable to work and are at a point in their lives that they definitely need a helping hand. Our church pantry is that helping hand. We are able to give them enough food for 2-4 people for a few meals. This is not a lot but it is so appreciated. There has never been a time that we were not thanked by most if not all the recipients. We are currently not in partnership with Harvest Hope and so we are dependent upon you, food drives from the boy scouts, our youth group, the community to collect our resources. Sometimes we hesitate to use all of our talents, but there is a very easy one that we can all do and be good at and that is giving. I ask that you give what you can whether it is food donations, your dimes or your time to continue to support our pantry and our snack pack program. Helping others will let your light shine in the darkness and lift the gloom of those in need. The smile on the faces of those we help is definitely like sunshine!

Food Pantry - We need anything that comes in a pack that you only need to add water (Grits, Bisquick, Muffins, etc.). **Backpack Program** - We are collecting single drink item, (Capri Sun, Kool Aid). You can usually find them in 10 Packs for around \$2. All donated items may be left in the designated tote in the narthex.

SC Lutheran Men in Mission - Mark you Calendars, February 20-21. 72nd Annual SCLMM, hosted by Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Lexington. Friday the 20th, 7 PM Past Presidents Banquet, Joe Davis, Guest Speaker Saturday the 21st, Registration, Noon; Convention, 1– 5 PM; Worship 5:15 PM; Banquet, 6:30 PM, \$25 each or \$40 per couple.

January BIRTHDAYS

2 Betty Clark	3 Scott Summers	5 Lunette Davis	7 Brandy Crumpton	8 Mandy Jenkins
9 Carolyn Steele	11 Shelby Duke Tommy Tyson	13 Robert Sharpe	14 Elizabeth Freeman	15 Zak Kyzer Kevin Steel
16 Pat Taylor	18 Steve Pullie	19 Janet Taylor	22 Mackey Monts	Miranda West
24 Patton Gossett Hazel Rawl	25 Tom Zeigler Eric West	26 Anna Ree Roland	27 Mike Crumpton Clara Prevost	



We Pray for Our Members, Friends and Family:



Prayer List

Members

Charlene Crumpton	Anna Lee Roland
Virginia Hall	Luke Roland
Bill Hogan	Dot Shealy
Gerry Jeffords	Betty Jean Tyson
Evelyn Knox	Frank Taylor
Norma Moore	
Dollie Pounds	
Luke Roland	

We pray for the family of Brier Bauknight on his recent death.

Friends & Relatives of Church Members

Gina Amick-Niece of Russell Taylor	Jack Morich - Father of Krisie Turner
Courtney Cagle-Granddaughter of Dollie Pounds	Family of Loretta Nettles - Friend of Hilda West
Clarence Davis-Father of Jason Davis	Violet Porth - Sister of George Steele
Walter "Happy" Farmer- Uncle of Gwen Freeman	Frankie Pounds - Grandson of Dollie Pounds
Donna Florence - Mother of Megan Joyner	Jerry Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds
Robin Goodman - Niece of Hank Poplin	Randy Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds
Mildred Gunter - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland	Pam Presley - Friend of Charlene Crumpton
Lee Hamilton - Grandson of Norma Moore	Fred Sharpe - Friend of Danny & Cheryl Austin
Vera Havird - Aunt of Miranda West	Priscilla Shealy - Sister of Alice Raffa
Lanell Hicks - Mother of Miranda West	Johnny Starnes - Brother of Anna Ree Roland
Billy James - Relative of Virginia Hall	Emily Whitten - Mother of Lynn Sloan
Michelle Johnston- Friend of Miranda & Eric West	Daughton Woodle—Brother of Dee Franklin
Patricia Jolly - Daughter of Hazel Rawl	Nina Dooley- Cousin of the Hollis's
Rick Kyzer - Son of Richard Kyzer	Alberta Dooley - Aunt of the Hollis's

Our Military Workers

Michael Anderson - Friend of St. James
 Dwight Barrs - Grandson Eunice Backman
 Joseph Brown - Grandson of Bill & Kathryn Kyzer
 Ryan Caulder - Son of Mot Caulder
 Daniel Herb - Son in Law of Mot Caulder

Our Shut-ins

Jerry Hutto
 Roberta Pound
 Alvin "Jr." Sharpe
 Dorothy Shealy
 Kathleen Smith

Worship Assistants

January 2015

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Acolytes</i> January 4 Callie Poplin January 11 Emily Enlow January 18 Mattie O'Quinn January 25 Emerson Hibbs					1	2	3
<i>Altar Guild</i> <i>Board</i> Tammy O'Quinn Long		7PM - Cub Scouts	6PM - Girl Scouts	7PM - Chancel Choir			
<i>Sound</i> Mike							
<i>Announcements</i> January 4 Gwen Freeman January 11 Rebecca Koch January 18 Carolyn Steele January 25 Robert Sharpe	4 9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45 Sunday School	5 7PM - Cub Scouts	6 6PM - Girl Scouts - Fellowship Hall 6:30PM - Pack Christmas Decor	7 7PM - Chancel Choir	8	9	10 9AM - Council Planning Event
<i>Assisting Ministers</i> January 4 Kim Backman January 11 Robert Sharpe January 18 Adam Steele January 25 Katrina Shealy	11 9:30AM - Holy Communion	12 7PM - Cub Scouts	13 6PM - Girl Scouts	14 7PM - Chancel Choir	15	16	17
<i>Communion Assistants</i> January 4 Tracy Shealy January 11 Hank & Brenda Poplin	3PM - Confirmation 4:30PM - Youth 7:00PM - All Committee Night						
January 18 Rebecca Koch & Tammy O'Quinn January 25 Jeff & Laura Hibbs	18 8:30AM Lutheran Men 9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45 Sunday School	19 7PM - Cub Scouts MLK Holiday - Office Closed	20 6PM - Girl Scouts	21 7PM - Chancel Choir	22	23	24 6:30PM - Coffee House with Lisa Crawford
<i>Lectors</i> January 4 Chuck Backman January 11 Rebecca Koch January 18 Tammy O'Quinn January 25 Laura Hibbs	25	26 7PM - Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall	27 6PM - Girl Scouts	28 7PM - Chancel Choir	29	30	31
<i>Ushers</i> Ben Freeman Allen Hollis	9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45 Sunday School 5:00PM - Guardian Angels						

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

P-A-I-D

**St. James Lutheran
Church**

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

G. Steven Plonk

Music Director

Martha Caulder

Secretary

Meredith George

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 Holy Communion

10:45 Faith Formation

Sunday Church School

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



St. James
LUTHERAN CHURCH

