

MESSENGER

Volume 9 Number 3

March 2015

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Folks,

As we move through March we continue our Lenten journey. In Sunday morning worship we focus on the gospel passages appointed for the season.

March 15 - 4th Sunday in Lent: Jesus, like a Serpent Lifted Up, John 3:14-21
22 - 5th Sunday in Lent: Jesus as Grain which Dies, John 12:20-33

On Sunday evenings in Lent we continue to gather for supper at 5:15 PM and worship from 6:00-7:00 PM. In the evening we focus on what Jesus called the two great Commandments in Mark 12:29-31 "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; **you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength...[and] your neighbor as yourself.**"

March 15 - Lent 4: With all your Mind, 12:29-31 and Numbers 21:4-9
22 - Lent 5: With all your Strength, Mark 12:29-31, Jeremiah 31:31-34

I hope you'll gather with us so that we may support each other and grow in faith. Will you also join me this year in making Holy Week "HOLY"? One of the basic meanings of the word 'holy' is to 'set apart' for honoring God. I invite you to 'set apart' three times of worship during Holy Week, March 29 - April 5th.

March 29 is **Palm/Passion Sunday** - This is a day of mixed emotions. Our liturgy begins outside in front of the Sanctuary as we recall the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to shouts by the crowds, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!' We too will carry branches of Palm and proclaim Jesus as one who comes in God's name. Let's make it quite the celebration. Mid service we will observe the transition from Palms and Praises to the Passion and Suffering of Jesus. Religious and political leaders conspire to counter what the people proclaim. We will get a first taste of the mixed joy and sorrow of Holy Week.

April 2 is **Maundy Thursday** – A Feast of Friends. We gather with Christians around the world to celebrate and remember. The time we spend together tonight is called "Feast of Friends". On this night we combine dinner and liturgy, prayer and conversation, wine and confession all together in one night. The pattern is reminiscent of the ancient Jewish Passover pattern that includes the blessing of two cups and one loaf, spread out through a meal. We will enact our baptismal calling to live as friends of Christ. There are four main foci in the liturgy:

absolution, the announcement of forgiveness;
a table surrounded by the friends of Jesus related to one another through his body and blood;
foot washing, a sign of our call to service, and
an offering for friends in need.

All these things: absolution, a meal, foot washing, and offering will prepare us to gather at the cross on Good Friday when our liturgy continues.

FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

April 3 is **Good Friday** – Adoration of the Cross. On Friday, we hear the passion of Christ according to John, the narrative of Jesus as a king crucified. The heart of tonight's service comes as we venerate the cross which stands as a symbol of God's presence in suffering and death. We will do this in two movements. First we will place roses, a symbol of our love, at the foot of the cross. Humans have long marked places of death by leaving behind flowers. Tonight these roses symbolize our sorrows, our pain, our wounds, and our sin. As we place the roses we'll offer prayers of thanksgiving to God for the love shown through Jesus. Later we'll use an ancient pattern, as we bow before the cross and offer a prayer chant to God. To bow is to demonstrate our need for God; to be raised up is to face God and recognize God's love for us. As we leave worship in silence we take with us one of the roses as a sign of hope, a symbol of the presence of God in our own suffering.

April 5 - This is our year to host the annual **Easter Sunrise** service. Friends from Red Bank Baptist and Red Bank United Methodist Church will join us for worship at 6:30 AM. After Sunrise Worship is ended we will host the annual Easter Breakfast in our Fellowship Hall. We will follow that with one **Easter Festival** service at 9:30 AM. No Sunday Church School today. Please bring family and friends to the Feast.

Joy and Peace,
Pastor Steve

SMALL GROUP DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Coming to a Classroom, Fellowship Hall or Family Room near you!

What: Short Term Small Group Study and Fellowship Opportunities

When: Easter Season (April 13 – May 21)

Day and Time of each small group to be determined by participants

Where: Locations to be determined by participants also

Who: Members and friends of St. James Lutheran Church

Why: To work on our mission, Make Disciples

Two Course Options:

EVERY DAY EVANGELIST (or Evangelism for shy Christians)

Using a resource titled "Evangelism without Additives," we'll explore ways to **share good news** and care for others of God's children **without being pushy, aggressive or scary**.

Each week we'll have a reading assignment of 15-20 pages. We'll meet to discuss reading material, practice any strategies, then leave with an activity to try out before the next class session. When we gather the next week we'll debrief our last week's 'evangelism', then move on to the next discussion and activity.

DUTY and DELIGHT

Using a video resource by the same title and an accompanying book, "Giving to God" by seminary professor Mark Allan Powell, we'll discuss what it means to be stewards of God. Hint, "It is more about Living than Giving."

Dr. Powell is a fine biblical scholar, a fun teacher and story teller. We'll learn that **grateful people are the second most happy** group of people in the world. We will learn who the most happy group of people in the world is, but you have to come to the course to get it.

Registration Form on next page, Please return to church office by March 29th

I'd like to sign up for an Easter Season Small Group:

Name (s) _____

___ I am, or ___ We are interested in the following small group class"

___ Every Day Evangelist

___ Duty and Delight

___ I/We understand we will be contacted to give input to the schedule of our small group, which will meet between April 13 and May 22.

----- Tear Here -----



Life Begins

Trevor Bryan Davis

born to Tim and Lunette

Thursday, March 5th at 5:15 PM

Weighing 6 lbs. 15.9 ounces



New Life begins

Mary Julia Pollock Plonk

(Pastor Steve's mother)

Died Thursday, March 5 at 10:00 PM

Funeral, 2:00 PM, Friday March 13th
Resurrection Lutheran Church

Kings Mountain, NC

Visitation 6-8 PM, Thursday, March 12th

Harris Funeral Home

Kings Mountain, NC

Announcements

Community Service Notice - Since schools will be in session, Lexington County has requested use of our Fellowship Hall as a voting location for the upcoming election for Sheriff. They will use the building on Tuesday, March 3 for the scheduled Primary Elections. If a run off is needed, they will use the building again on March 17th. Then the general election will be held on April 21st, 2015.

Youth Group, grades 7-12, meets every Sunday 10:45 AM. We alternate weekly between a Sunday school lesson and youth program activity. Join us!

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church - is offering a gift to the people of the Midlands! On Tuesday, March 31st, The King of Kings from 6:30-9:30pm in the Family Life Center. This is the 1927 Cecil B. DeMille classic. CALL 803-359-6562. St Stephen Church Office to 'order' complimentary tickets. Seating starts at 5:45. Offering to support Lexington County Inter-faith Services will be received. (LICS)

Food Pantry - We need anything that comes in a pack that you only need to add water (Grits, Bisquick, Muffins, etc.).

Backpack Program - NEEDS individual cups of fruit, Jell-O and pudding. Items must be non-perishable and already prepared, ready to enjoy!

LICS offers thanks to our congregation for the contributions we gave in 2014. With generous contributions from our church family and many others, LICS served over 20,000 people in Lexington County. 2015 brings continued emphasis in programming for LICS clients and the promotion of self-sufficiency of the entire family. Thank you to everyone for your support of our community!

While St. James members may choose to give food donations to our Food pantry, LICS can still use the following: **Personal Care Items**— soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, laundry detergent, all purpose cleaner, toilet paper and paper towels. **In the Thrift Shop**— Clothing for Men, Women & Children, shoes and undergarments, scrubs, coats & jackets, books and DVD's, furniture, toys & video game systems, jewelry, working electronics, arts and crafts, housewares, linens.

WATER MISSION DAY IS MARCH 22

"Safe Water Tanzania" has already helped to provide three villages with clean water. Efforts to help a fourth village are currently underway.

In partnership with Water Missions International, and Water to Thrive, faith-based non-profit ministries, Lutherans in South Carolina are raising funds and awareness to bring safe water to brothers and sisters in Christ in the highlands of Tanzania.

Safe water means that infants, children and youth will have a better chance for a healthy life because water-borne illnesses will be drastically reduced. And time needed to bring water home will be greatly reduced - water is right there in the village at a tap, or the well, not in a distant dirty creek. Now there's more time for school activities.

Pastor Mel Amundson, Assistant to the Bishop in SC Synod will be our guest March 22nd to share good news about "Growing in God's Mission" and the "Tanzania Water Project:," Sunday evening Lenten offerings and a two week designated offering March 22nd and 29th will support the Tanzania Water Project.

St. James Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 15, 2015

- All council members present with the exception of Rebecca Koch.
- Approved changes to Nursery Policy and Procedures.
- Approved job description for Nursery Attendant and gave approval for
- Music and Worship Committee to request hiring through Personnel.
- Reviewed and approved written agreement for current renter at Mack property.

Lenten Service Dinners

March 1 Family Life/Christian Ed.

March 8 Property/Personnel

March 15 Stewardship/Social Ministry

March 22 Youth/Finance/Evangelism



March Birthdays!

3/1

Brandon Crumpton

3/3

Kenneth Gossett

3/4

Pastor Steve Plonk
Margaret Roland

3/11

Sandy Lyles

3/13

Steve Areheart
Kip Duke

3/17

Midge Lane

3/18

Zachary Bond

3/19

Travis Areheart

3/21

Carole Collins

3/22

Debra Lindler

3/23

Jeremy Joyner

3/27

Nancy Spanko





We Pray for Our Members, Friends and Family:



Prayer List

Members

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

Friends & Relatives of Church Members

Gina Amick-Niece of Russell Taylor	Jack Morich - Father of Krisie Turner
Courtney Cagle-Granddaughter of Dollie Pounds	Frankie Pounds - Grandson of Dollie Pounds
Clarence Davis-Father of Jason Davis	Jerry Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds
Donna Florence - Mother of Megan Joyner	Randy Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds
Robin Goodman - Niece of Hank Poplin	Pam Presley - Friend of Charlene Crumpton
Mildred Gunter - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland	Fred Sharpe - Friend of Danny & Cheryl Austin
Lee Hamilton - Grandson of Norma Moore	Priscilla Shealy - Sister of Alice Raffa
Vera Havird - Aunt of Miranda West	Johnny Starnes - Brother of Anna Ree Roland
Lanell Hicks - Mother of Miranda West	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	
Rick Kyzer - Son of Richard Kyzer	
Roger Lindler-Brother of Mendel Lindler	

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
 Jeremy Jolly - Grandson of Hazel Rawl
 Wayne Watkins - Nephew of S. Jeffords
 Keith Zeigler - Son of Tom Zeigler

Our Shut-ins

Jerry Hutto
 Margaret Kyzer
 Roberta Pound
 Dollie Poiunds
 Alvin "Jr." Sharpe
 Dorothy Shealy
 Kathleen Smith

Worship Assistants

March 2015

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Acolytes March 1 Emerson Hibbs March 8 Emily Enlow March 15 Callie Poplin March 22 Mattie O'Quinn March 29 Emerson Hibbs	1	2	3	4	5	5	7
Altar Guild Carolyn Steele	9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45AM - Sunday School 5:15PM - Lenten Supper 6:00PM - Lenten Evening #2	7PM - Cub Scouts	6PM - Girl Scouts	6:30 PM - Choir 7:30 PM - Handbells			
Sound Board Tracy Shealy							
Announcements March 1 Gwen Freeman March 8 Rebecca Koch March 15 Robert Sharpe March 22 Carolyn Steele March 29 George Steele	8 9:30 AM - Holy Communion 10:45 AM - Sunday School 10:45 AM- Youth Meeting 3:00 PM - Confirmation Class 5:15PM - Lenten Supper 6:00PM - Lenten Evening #3 7:00PM-All Committee Night	9 7PM - Cub Scouts	10 6PM - Girl Scouts	11 6:30 PM - Choir 7:30 PM - Handbells	12	13	14
Assisting Ministers March 1 Kim Backman March 8 Susan Thisell March 15 Adam Steele March 22 Katrina Shealy March 29 Lisa Tyson	15 9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45AM - Sunday School 10:45 AM- Youth Meeting 5:15PM - Lenten Supper 6:00PM - Lenten Evening #4 7:00PM— Church Council	16 7PM - Cub Scouts	17 6PM - Girl Scouts	18 6:30 PM - Choir 7:30 PM - Handbells	19 12PM - Owls Luncheon @ Lucia's in Lexington	20	21
Communion Assistants March 1 Ronnie Shealy March 8 Susan Thisell March 15 Carolyn Steele March 22 Hank Poplin Brenda Poplin March 29 Rebecca Koch Tammy O'Quinn Jeff Hibbs Laura Hibbs	22 9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45AM - Sunday School 10:45 AM- Youth Meeting 3:00 PM - Confirmation Class 5:15PM - Lenten Supper 6:00PM - Lenten Evening #5	23 7PM - Cub Scouts	24 6PM - Girl Scouts	25 6:30 PM - Choir 7:30 PM - Handbells	26	27	28
Lectors March 1 Debbie Kyzer March 8 Lynn Sloan March 15 Cheryl Austin March 22 Kevin Turner March 29	29 9:30 AM - Holy Communion 10:45 AM - Sunday School 10:45 AM- Youth Meeting	30 7PM— Cub Scouts in Fellowship Hall	31 6PM - Girl Scouts				

Ushers : Kip and Sharon Duke

**St. James Lutheran
Church**

1358 South Lake Drive
Lexington, SC 29073
(803) 359-2122 or
(803) 359-7803

office@stjameslex.com

Visit us on the web at
www.stjameslex.com

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

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

P-A-I-D

Permit No. 64

Lexington, S.C.



St. James
LUTHERAN CHURCH