

MESSENGER

Volume 9 Number 4

April 2015

Walk with Jesus

Every day is a walk with Jesus. We Christians believe life is spent in the presence of our Lord. Therefore, we can talk about every day as a day during which we walk with Jesus. Some days we feel Jesus' presence. Some days we may feel quite a distance from Jesus. We boldly proclaim that, regardless of how we feel, Jesus is present. Jesus walks with us every day.

As we who are St. James Lutheran Church consider our financial stewardship over the next few weeks, you will be asked to think about your use of money and possessions as a part of your walk with Jesus.

When Jesus walked this earth with his disciples, he often talked about money and possessions. In fact the only thing in the New Testament Jesus talked about more than money was Kingdom of God breaking into our world. If money was a part of Jesus' first walk on this earth, it should be a part of our walk with Jesus today.

Writers of scripture teach that everything we have is a trust from God, given to us to care for and manage. What we do with our money is very much a part of our relationship with our Lord. This will be our focus in the coming weeks.

For three consecutive Sundays we will have a bulletin insert and hear a talk in worship. For three weeks, we will each receive a letter from the congregation. All of these will focus on our walk with Jesus, and how money plays an important part in this walk.

Then on Sunday, May 3rd, each member of St. James Lutheran Church will have the opportunity to complete an estimate of giving card. On this card, each of us will indicate our plan for giving for the coming 12 months. We are each being asked to start a 'new giving year' June 1, 2015. (If financial circumstances change in the next twelve months a change in Estimate of Giving is appropriate.)

Stewardship Committee members hope this will not only be a plan for giving to St. James Lutheran Church, but that it will also be a plan for how we will walk with Jesus in the coming 12 months. We are each asked to consider, "Of all the resources God has given me to care for and manage at this time of my life, how much does God want me to share through the ministry of St. James Lutheran Church budget?"

Blessings as we all learn more about and commit more to our Walk with Jesus.

Stewardship Committee Members,
Cheryl Austin Bill Barley Mike Crumpton
John Harmon Larry Kyzer Pastor Plonk

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Folks,

As we move into April we conclude our Lenten journey, moving through Holy Week into Easter. Give a gift to yourself and the St. James family through your presence here.

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. Once inside 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 get a 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 the “Feast of Friends”. We will combine dinner and liturgy, prayer and conversation, wine and confession all together in one night. The pattern is reminiscent of the ancient Jewish pattern used at Passover 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 all 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 tomorrow when our liturgy continues.

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. On this night the 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, followed by Faith Formation/Sunday School at 10:45. Please bring family and friends to the Feast.

Joy and Peace,
Pastor Steve

WHY HAVE 2 SMALL GROUPS STUDIES DURING EASTER SEASON?

Back in 2011 and 2012 St. James' members engaged in a study of mission and ministry. This process led to a meeting in 2012 where the congregation voted to change the mission statement from "**Go, Share God's Peace, Make Disciples**" to a shorter mission statement "**Make Christ Known**". You also adopted a goal of touching 50,000 lives with the love of Christ in 4 years through **Discipleship Training, Community Outreach & Worship Growth**.

With the departure of Pastors Nathan and Andrea Rice, and a number of St. James members, momentum has diminished. It would be a good thing if we could find more energy. We can only begin with the folks who are here now.

Scripture Based Discipleship Training in Stewardship and Evangelism is a proven way to build energy and momentum. Will you be part of the rebuilding?

During the Easter Season (April 13 – May 21) Pastor Steve & Evangelism & Stewardship Committees will offer two discipleship courses.

(Day, Time and Location of each small group to be determined by participants)

EVERY DAY EVANGELIST (or Evangelism for shy Christians)

Using a book "Evangelism without Additives," we'll explore ways to care for others of God's children through prayer and conversation. Each week we'll read 15-20 pages & discuss simple strategies, like 'praying behind someone's back', when they don't know we are praying for them. No knocking 'door to door.' No 'high pressure questions.'

DUTY and DELIGHT (Living the life of a Biblical Steward)

Stewardship is not primarily about money according to Dr. Mark Allan Powell. *It is more about Living than Giving.* Dr. Powell is a fine biblical scholar, a fun teacher & story teller. He says **grateful people are the second most happy** group of people in the world. Join us to learn who is **the happiest group of people** in the world.

Place this form in the Offering plate OR return it to church office by April 5th

----- TEAR HERE -----

Name (s) _____

Sign me/us up for the following Easter Season Discipleship Small Group:

Every Day Evangelist Duty and Delight

I/We understand we will be contacted to help determine the schedule.

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. 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)

John Michael Talbot, Contemporary Christian Artist, Singer-Songwriter will be performing Saturday April 28 at the Etherredge Center in Aiken, SC. Reserved Seats only, \$20, \$25, & \$30. Online tickets through Etherredge Center Box Office: etherredge.usca.edu or call 803-641-3305. **Interested in a carpool?** Email office@stjameslex.com or leave phone message at St James 803-359-2122

Personnel Committee is looking to hire a **Nursery Worker**; adult (18 +) non-member of St. James. \$25 for 9-11 AM time slot. See Jan Sharpe, Carin Seward or Hazel Kyzer or call the office if you have a recommendation.

Beach Retreat - St. James Beach Retreat will be held at Coastal Retreat Center, Thursday, June 18, - Sunday, June 21. Info/Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.

Food Pantry—Please share items that comes in a pack that only need water added (Grits, Bisquick, Muffins, etc.). **Backpack Program** - Please share ready to serve, non-perishable individual cups of fruit, Jell-O and pudding, crackers, chips, etc.

Lexington Interfaith Community Services (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.

THANK YOU — Dear Donors of the Reverend William Bryan Kyzer Scholarship: A special thank you for the scholarship awarded. Please know these funds make a huge difference in reducing my debt as I follow God's call. With gratitude & thanksgiving to you and to God for making this possible. Diane Cline, student at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC

St. James Lutheran Church Council Minutes - March 15, 2015

Members present: Cheryl Austin, Dwight Bachman, Mike Crumpton, Mary Hines, Rebecca Koch, Dick Kyzer, Hazel Kyzer, Robert Sharpe, Carolyn Steele, George Steele

Members with excused absences: Russell Taylor and Gwen Freeman

Action Items:

- approved renewal of Termite Contract
- approved Water Sunday Designated Offering on March 22 and 29
- approved Lenten Sun day evening Offerings designated for Water Sunday also
- approved Youth Bake Sale (proceeds designated for Snack Pack Program)

Information, Non - Action Items:

- Mike & Charlene Crumpton, Dick & Debbie Kyzer will be attending the SC Synod Assembly in Spartanburg, SC May 28-30, 2015.
- Gwen Freeman reports she has a group of volunteers to select Fall 2015 Sunday Church School Curriculum. Contact Gwen if you'd like to join the task force.
- Family Life is planning 5th Sunday Fellowship events and Summer Beach Retreat to the SC Synod Retreat Center on the Isle of Palms (See flier in the Narthex.)
- *Walk with Jesus*, Annual Stewardship Campaign will 4 Sundays starting April 12 culminating in Estimate of Giving Cards & Celebration Meal on May 3.
- Two Small Group Courses are being offered by Pastor Steve in conjunction with Evangelism and Stewardship Committees. Dates are the six weeks between Monday, April 13 and Thursday, May 21. Registrants will be contacted to help determine time and place for each small group.
- Lutheran Men in Mission will prepare Easter Sunrise breakfast for April 5. Continuing in May LMM will meet and eat together the third Sunday of the month, 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- Youth Group Bake Sale to raise money for the Food Pantry and Snack Pack Program will be held on Palm Sunday, March 29th. Please remember, if you are preparing treats to donate, NO TREE NUTS in the recipes.
- Property Committee reports that repairs are being made on toilets and Fellowship Hall HVAC unit is being serviced.
- Personnel Committee attempting to hire Temp Secretary & part-time Nursery Worker.
- Council will meet again March 22, following Lenten Sunday Evening Worship to discuss Vision and Mission.

Submitted by Carolyn Steele
(with edits by Pastor Steve)



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/8 Ben Freeman

4/9 Dale Hutto

4/10 Kim Backman
Kathleen Smith

4/13 Joshua West

4/15 Sharon Duke
Susan Gossett



4/17 Gerald Kyzer, Jr.

4/21 Alvin Sharpe Jr.

4/25 Leigh Tyson

4/26 Margaret Hollis
Jan Sharpe

4/30 Stacy Lanford



We Pray for Our Members, Friends and Family:



Prayer List Members

Lunette Davis
Evelyn Knox
Luke Roland

Virginia Hall
Norma Moore
Betty Jean Tyson

Gerry Jeffords
Anna Lee Roland
Hilda West

Friends & Relatives of Church Members

Gina Amick-Niece of Russell Taylor

Gene Bachman—Brother of Dwight Bachman

Sydney Bachman—Granddaughter of Dwight Bachman

Courtney Cagle-Granddaughter of Dollie Pounds

Jacob & Alberta Dooley & Sharron
by Margaret and Allen Hollis

Clarence Davis-Father of Jason Davis

Donna Florence - Mother of Megan Joyner

Robin Goodman - Niece of Hank Poplin

Mildred Gunter - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland

Lee Hamilton - Grandson of Norma Moore

Terry Moore Hamilton, Daughter of Norma Moore

Lanell Hicks - Mother of Miranda West

Huey Johnson—Friend of Kim Backman

Hope Slyce—Friend of Gwen Freeman

Michelle Johnston— Friend of Miranda & Eric West

Patricia Jolly - Daughter of Hazel Rawl

Rick Kyzer - Son of Richard Kyzer

Joey Langley—Friend of George Steele

Roger Lindler-Brother of Mendel Lindler

Jack Morich - Father of Krisie Turner

Frankie Pounds - Grandson of Dollie Pounds

Jerry Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds

Randy Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds

Fred Sharpe - Friend of Danny & Cheryl Austin

Priscilla Shealy - Sister of Alice Raffa

Johnny Starnes - Brother of Anna Ree Roland

Emily Whitten - Mother of Lynn Sloan

Randy Willyerd—Friend of Crumptions and Taylors

Daughton Woodle—Brother of Dee Franklin

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 Pounds

Alvin "Jr." Sharpe

Dorothy Shealy

Kathleen Smith

Worship Assistants

APRIL 2015

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Acolytes</i> April 3 Marshall Hibbs April 5 Emily Enlow April 12 Mattie O'Quinn April 19 Callie Poplin April 26 Emerson Hibb		30 7PM - Cub Scouts In Fellowship Hall		1 6:30 PM - Choir 7:30 PM - Handbells	2 Maundy Thursday 6:15 Appetizer 6:45 Worship & Meal	3 Good Friday 7:00 Adoration of The Cross	4 — Preparations—
<i>Altar Guild</i> <i>Sound Board</i> Lisa Tyson Jan Sharpe			Fellowship Hall —	-- Reserved for —	—Holy Week—	—and Easter —	
<i>Announcements</i> April 5 Robert Sharpe April 12 Gwen Freeman April 19 Rebecca Koch April 26 Carolyn Steele	5 Easter Sunday 6:30 AM Sunrise Worship 7:15AM Easter Breakfast 9:30 AM Holy Communion	6 7PM - Cub Scouts	7 6PM - Girl Scouts	8 NO CHOIR OR HAND BELLS THIS WEEK	9 12PM - Owls Luncheon	10	11
<i>Assisting Ministers</i> April 5 Susan Thisell April 12 Adam Steele April 19 Kim Backman April 26 Katrina Shealy	12 9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45AM - Sunday School 10:45 AM- Youth Meeting	13 7PM - Cub Scouts	14 6PM - Girl Scouts	15 6:30 PM - Choir 7:30 PM - Handbells	16	17	18 John Michael Talbot Contemporary Christian Artist at The Etherredge Center in Aiken, SC 7:00 PM— See Page 4 Announcement
<i>Communion Assistants</i> April 5 Susan Thisell April 12 Ben Freeman April 19 Gwen freeman April 26 Hank Poplin Brenda Poplin Rebecca Koch Carolyn Steele	3:00 PM Confirmation Class (To be determined) 7:00 PM All Committee Night						
<i>Lectors</i> April 2 Lynn Sloan April 5 Chuck Backman April 12 Gwen Freeman April 19 Bill Barley April 26 Carin Seward	19 9:30AM - Holy Communion 10:45AM - Sunday School 10:45 AM- Youth Meeting Fellowship Hall Reserved for Girls Scout Troop 2378 7:00 PM Church Council	20 7PM - Cub Scouts	21 County Election in Fellowship Hall 6PM - Girl Scouts	22 6:30 PM - Choir 7:30 PM - Handbells	23	24	25
<i>Ushers</i> : Allen Hollis Olin Slice	26 9:30 AM - Holy Communion 10:45 AM - Sunday School 10:45 AM- Youth Meeting 3:00 PM Confirmation Class	27 7PM—Cub Scouts	28 6PM - Girl Scouts	29	30		

Worship Assistants

**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

Slot Currently Vacant

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