

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



1358 South Lake Drive Lexington, SC 29073

Week of February 5, 2017



All Committee Morning

9:15am this Sunday

Come this Sunday for some breakfast and a chance to help shape the direction of our ministry here at St. James. We need you on a committee. The hardest work you may have to do is simply to give your opinion, advice or idea. The greatest joy you may have is seeing God at work in our midst! Come on Sunday, 9:15am!

The Sermon on the Mount *The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany*

³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. This Sunday we focus on that part of the Sermon on the Mount called the Antitheses (You have heard it said...but I say...). Jesus calls us to internalize the Commandments, not just know them or give lip service to them. The most important job of a disciple of Christ is to work towards reconciliation and forgiveness. It is even more important than coming to worship for worship of God is both about adoring God and loving one's neighbor.



CATECHISM CORNER

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism:

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What is this? or What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs.

Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount which we have been studying these past few weeks and will hear again this Sunday, says ¹“*You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’*” ²²*But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire.”* Jesus calls us to turn our angry hearts into loving hearts, to return good for evil. Part of Luther's genius was that he took the negative commandments found in the Decalogue and made them positive. “You shall not murder” now entails more than avoiding doing something evil it becomes instead a chance to do something positive. If you are seeking to find ways to help your neighbor then you have deeply internalized the 5th Commandment – you cannot seek to harm someone you have chosen instead to love.

As you contemplate the 5th Commandment, think of ways that you can show those from whom you might be estranged true love. Pray to God to help you turn anger into love. Be reconciled with your neighbor and seek your neighbor's good. Imagine such a world where we lived this Commandment out!

Bible Study of Matthew

Pastor Kevin is offering a Bible Study on the *Gospel of Matthew* on Thursday nights at 7pm. Matthew wrote his gospel for his community that was reeling from the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. They had been expelled from the Jewish synagogues and were living in exile in Syria away from the Jewish homeland. “What does it mean to be the People of God?” and “How do we reach out to people not like us?” were the questions being asked. Perhaps we are asking similar questions. Matthew’s gospel maybe a place to start!

Thursday evenings at 7pm in the Fellowship hall! Bring your supper!

Adult Sunday School Classes

John Harmon’s class, meeting in the NE Age Room on Sunday mornings will be looking at our **Church History** during this year of celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Adam Steele’s class, meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings will be studying the **Sermon on the Mount** from the Gospel of Matthew.





FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE ELCA

January 30, 2017

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Yesterday, we heard these words in the Gospel reading from Matthew 5:1-12, the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, Jesus lays out a vision for life in God's realm, characterized by seeing those who are often most disregarded, including the meek, the mourning and the peace-maker, as bearers of God's blessing. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to hear this Gospel, including Jesus' call for his disciples to be carriers of God's light and hope and reconciliation to a world deeply in need of them.

In this spirit, earlier last week I communicated with the Trump administration asking that it not stop the U.S. refugee admissions program or stop resettlement from any country for any period of time. The Bible calls us to welcome the stranger and treat the sojourner as we would our own citizens. I agree with the importance of keeping our country secure as the administration stated in its executive order last Friday, but I am convinced that temporarily banning vulnerable refugees will not enhance our safety nor does it reflect our values as Christians. Instead, it will cause immediate harm by separating families, disrupting lives, and denying safety and hope to brothers and sisters who are already suffering.

Refugees being resettled in the United States have fled persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political views and/or associations. They wait for years for the chance to go home. But sometimes, there is no home for them to go back to. We know from our partners at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) that only 1 percent of all refugees are chosen for resettlement.

People of faith helped start and still sustain the refugee resettlement program in the United States following World War II. As Lutherans, many of our ancestors faced the pain of having to flee their homes and the joy of being welcomed in new communities across the United States. As we have done throughout history, millions of Lutherans

across the country honor our shared biblical values as well as the best of our nation's traditions by offering refuge to those most in need. We are committed to continuing ministries of welcome that support and build communities around the country and stand firmly against any policies that result in scaling back the refugee resettlement program. We must offer safety to people fleeing religious persecution regardless of their faith tradition. Christians and other religious minorities suffer persecution and rightly deserve protection, but including additional criteria based on religion could have discriminatory effects that would go against our nation's fundamental values related to freedom of religion.

I invite ELCA congregations into learning, prayer and action on behalf of those who seek refuge on our shores. The ELCA "Social Message on Immigration," AMMPARO strategy and LIRS resources are good places to start. You can also make a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response. Those who have been part of resettling refugees or have their own immigration experience have important stories to share with their communities and testimony to make. I also encourage you to consider adding your voice by calling your members of Congress to share your support for refugees and using online advocacy opportunities through current alerts at ELCA Advocacy and LIRS.

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Our Lord not only commanded us to welcome the stranger, Jesus made it clear that when we welcome the stranger into our homes and our hearts – we welcome him. God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop



A story from Lutheran World Relief

MEET THE SADERA FAMILY:

Amy (mom), **Will** (age 10) and **Madelyn** (age 7). Every year before school starts, they put together kits as a family and deliver them to the LWR warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland. They recently made **50 School Kits, 21 Fabric Kits** and **17 Baby Care Kits**.

Amy has been making quilts and kits for about 20 years and she started this project with Will and Madelyn about five years ago. They started with assembling School Kits and, this year,

they added Fabric and Baby Care Kits. In the past five years, they have made approximately 75 Fabric Kits, more than 250 School Kits and 50 Baby Care Kits. When asked which kits they love to assemble most, Amy said the kids love to assemble School Kits: “they help set up the assembly line and then pack one at a time.” Amy’s favorite kits to pack are the Baby Care Kits, which she prays over as they assemble them. “I pray for the babies and mothers to be healthy and to know God loves them.”

For supplies, Amy shops online and scans thrift stores, clearance sales and consignment sales, and specifically finds school supplies during the summer and back-to-school sales. She plans their LWR mission projects into their family’s budget. Amy also sews quilt tops that she gives to a local sewing group or to her parents’ home congregation in Lake City, Iowa, to finish as LWR Mission Quilts.

Amy’s best advice for other families or groups that might want to engage in packing kits together is to pray first, start with realistic goals and to be organized. Most importantly, Amy says “God can give direction as to where we spend our time, talents and resources. It is so comforting to pray while making the kits.”

To learn more about how to put your faith into action in this 500 year anniversary of the reformation, visit buildkitsofcare.org/500.

Hope in the drought

AFRICA

ELCA.org/disaster



A disaster of global proportion continues to take place, but is going relatively unnoticed. Drought is impacting millions of people globally, with southern and eastern Africa the most heavily affected. Many people are facing a multi-year drought, which has resulted in low crop production, rising food prices and household food insecurity.

Countries, communities, places where Lutheran churches have been at work for generations, are suffering. Lutheran Disaster Response, working with companion churches and trusted partners, has hands and feet on the ground providing care, support and hope.

In regions where little rain has fallen over the years, change must take place for people to survive. Lutheran Disaster Response is helping support projects such as irrigation systems, education

around crop and vegetable production, water management, and using tools and resources to help people get the most out of their land. People like Shamble.

In his first year, Shamble is already seeing positive effects. He says, "I was trained and given an improved variety of drought resistant teff [a crop similar to wheat]. My life and my family's life has really improved, I have built a new house and been able to buy some sheep and cows."

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response bring lifesaving aid and resources needed to help those in crisis from disasters. Together, we are working with communities to be more disaster-resilient, helping save lives, improve livelihoods and mitigate the effects of disasters.

WH517

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response help the church respond to the needs of people after a disaster strikes. Working in collaboration with other disaster response organizations and church entities enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response.

Will you help with your gift today?

YES! I would like to support Lutheran Disaster Response (DDG0060)

- I have enclosed my gift of \$100
 I have enclosed my gift of \$250
 Other \$ _____



Mail Make your check payable to "Lutheran Disaster Response" or to a specific disaster you would like to direct your gift toward. Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to:

ELCA
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Online ELCA.org/disaster/donate

Phone 800-638-3522

Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Member Prayer List

Pastor Bill Kyzer
Doris Sharpe



Member Shut-ins

Bobby Frazier
Frank McLeod
Robertta Pound
Dollie Pounds
Anna Ree Roland
Kathleen Smith
Joan Leskoske
Norma Moore

Friends & Relatives of Church Members

David Ball - Father of Rosemary Davis
Randy Baker - Friend of the Freeman's
Pam Crossland - Friend of Cheryl Austin
Jacob & Alberta Dooley - Relative of Margaret & Allen Hollis
Clarence Davis - Father of Jason Davis
Barbara Eckard - Cousin of Mary Hines
Donna Florence - Mother of Megan Joyner
Gracey Goodman - Great Niece of Henry Poplin
Mildred Gunter - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland
Lee Hamilton - Grandson of Norma Moore
Terri Moore Hamilton - Daughter of Norma Moore
Haley Hilliard - Friend of the Freeman's
Colene Hook - Mother of Kristie Joyner
Keith Gossett - Brother of Brenda Poplin
Bob Florence - Father of Megan Joyner
Ann Addy—Friend of Katrina Shealy
Karen Henderson—Dalton Freeman's mother-in-law
Michelle Brown Quintans- Cousin of Kim Backman and
Tammy O'Quinn
Nancy Spinella—friend of Cora Nevitt

Lanell Hicks - Mother of Miranda West
Rick Kyzer - Son of Richard Kyzer
Roger Lindler - Brother of Mendel Lindler
Billy Long - Brother of Mike Long
Sandy Martin - Friend of Janet & Russell Taylor
Samantha Molnar - Sister of Carolyn Steele
Gerald Roof - Brother of Debbie Kyzer
Priscilla Shealy - Sister of Alice Raffa
Allie Snider- Granddaughter of the Freeman's
Johnny Starnes - Brother of Anna Ree Roland
Susan Russell - Friend of Brenda Poplin
Corey Taylor - Friend of Mary Hines
Hazel Tisdale - Friend of Tracy Shealy
Sandra Voelker - Friend of Margaret Hollis
Lois Watson - Mother of Debbie Areheart
William Watson - Father of Debbie Areheart
Julia Shealy—Friend of Katrina Shealy
The Family of Sam Baily — Cousin of Margaret
& Allen Hollis

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

This Week At St. James

Monday, February 6

7:00PM Cub Scouts

Tuesday, February 7

6:00PM Girl Scouts

Wednesday, February 8

6:30pm Choir Practice

7:30pm Handbell Choir

Thursday, February 9

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

7:00PM Bible Study

Sunday, February 12

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

9:15 AM All Committees meet

10:30 AM Holy Communion

2:30 PM Cub & Girl Scout Classes

4:00 PM Confirmation Class

Birthdays

2/6

Zoey Standridge

2/7

Melaine Juergens

Timothy Roark

2/8

Gwen Freeman

2/9

Adrienne Burgess

2/11

John Spanko

Hembree Poindexter

Madison Poindexter

2/12

James Miller

2/13

Becky Kukla

Retha Slice

2/14

Shawn Deans

2/15

Tommy Hollis

2/16

Zachary Frye

2/16

Courtney Rikard

2/16

Pauline Avent

Your Help is Needed to Update Our Records

Each year we try to update our directory information. If you have any changes in your address, telephone number or email, would you please let the office know or make the corrections on the sheets in the Narthex this Sunday! Thank you for your help!

WORSHIP LEADERS IN JANUARY

Sunday, February 12

Presiding Minister
Pastor Kevin Ogilvie

Assisting Minister
Vicar Shea Berbaum

Acolyte
Xavier Herriot-White

Crucifer

Communion Assistants
Bill Hogan

Altar Guild
Jan Sharpe

Lector
Tammy O'Quinn

Ushers
Larry Kyzer
Luke Roland

Sunday, February 19

Presiding Minister
Pastor Kevin Ogilvie

Assisting Minister
Vicar Shea Berbaum

Acolyte
Daunte Smith

Crucifer

Communion Assistants
Cora Nevitt

Altar Guild
Jan Sharpe

Lector
Tammy O'Quinn

Ushers
Larry Kyzer
Luke Roland

Sunday, February 26

Presiding Minister
Pastor Kevin Ogilvie

Assisting Minister
Vicar Shea Berbaum

Acolyte
Alyssa Long

Crucifer

Communion Assistants
Mary Browder

Altar Guild
Tammy O'Quinn

Lector
Mary Browder

Ushers
Dick Kyzer
Tom Boozer

Sunday, March 5

Presiding Minister
Pastor Kevin Ogilvie

Assisting Minister
Vicar Shea Berbaum

Acolyte

Crucifer

Communion Assistants

Altar Guild
Carolyn Steele

Lector
Cheryl Austin

Ushers

WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED

St. Peter writes: ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:)

You are that royal priesthood and all Christians are invited to help in leading worship. We have many opportunities from reading lessons, assisting with communion, serving as an acolyte or in the choir. Please be sure to sign up in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or speak with Pastor Kevin! He is happy to give you instruction in how to do the service you choose.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

Would you like to remember a loved one or honor someone special? Please consider a donation of flowers for our altar area on Sunday morning! A sign up sheet is in the Narthex. You are asked to speak directly with the florist or to bring the arrangement yourself. Speak with Pastor Kevin for details.

Red Bank UMC Sunday Gospel Concert Series Presents:

Philip Hamrick

Sunday, February 19th, 6:00 p.m.
Red Bank United Methodist Church
2909 Old Barnwell Rd, Lexington SC 29073
803-359-4031

www.rbumc.com

Join the Red Bank UMC youth group and congregation as we welcome North Carolina's Philip Hamrick to our monthly concert series in February. Philip is the worship leader for multiple campuses of The Cove in the Charlotte and Mooresville, North Carolina area.

Meet our new Secretary: Sharon Summers

Sharon Started working for the Church office on February 6th!
Sharon lives in Red Bank . She is very active in the special needs community. Please be patient as she learns the computer, telephone and sign systems.

CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

- ~ Anyone interested in volunteering as worship assistant in one, or more areas, please feel free to call the church office or sign up in the narthex. We are in need of assistants in all areas of worship.
- ~ Any articles that you would like to have included in the Weekly Messenger need to be emailed to office@stjameslex.com or simply brought by the church office prior to Wednesday of the week you would like to see it in the publication. Thank you!

**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

Kevin Ogilvie, PhD.

pastor.kevin@stjameslex.com

Music Director

Martha Caulder

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15am Sunday School

10:30 Holy Communion

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

St. James Lutheran Council for 2017

Cheryl Austin,	<i>President</i>	Dick Kyzer	<i>Property</i>
Adam Steele,	<i>Vice-President/Cemetery</i>	Larry Kyzer	<i>Evangelism</i>
Kevin Turner,	<i>Secretary/Family Life</i>	Katrina Shealy	<i>Worship & Music</i>
Jeff Hibbs,	<i>Fin. Secretary/Personnel</i>	Pastor Kevin	<i>Ex Officio</i>
Ben Freeman	<i>Treasurer/Finance</i>		
Kim Backman,	<i>Christian Education</i>		
Mary Browder	<i>Social Ministry</i>		
John Harmon	<i>Stewardship</i>		
Mary Hines	<i>Youth</i>		