



The Lamb of God

January 15th

From this Sunday's Gospel lesson: *John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

When the Israelites were fleeing Pharaoh, God ordered them to eat their last meal as slaves with their shoes on, their staff in hand, their bags packed and a whole lamb roasted. The blood of that lamb was smeared on the lintel above the door and was a sign for the Angel of

Death to "pass over" their homes as it claimed the lives of the first-borns. John the Baptist realized who Jesus was and is. Jesus is our "Passover." Jesus it is whose blood sets us free from sin and death. It is not without reason that on most Sundays we sing a short hymn right before we receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion, "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us." For a moment we are all John the Baptist recognizing who Jesus is in the bread and the wine, the Body and the Blood. Sometimes we get tired of our liturgies, the words are so repetitive and old but, truth be told, they are words from Scripture connecting us back to those who were the first witnesses to what God has done in Jesus Christ. When we sing or say these words we do so with the saints before us and living still, myriads upon myriads. We are not alone.

The Israelites then and the Jews today celebrate Passover as their liberation from slavery by our faithful God. Christians add to that the Passover of Jesus from death to life and his gift to us of that life. This Sunday sing with gusto!

CATECHISM CORNER

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism:

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What is this? or What does this mean?

We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things.

Pastors are sinners, too. We love to point out to church members who complain that a worship service was too long and they were in a hurry to get to brunch that these same members can't wait to watch the pre-pre-game show on Super Bowl Sunday and then sit through hours of discussion and a game AND the post-game show. ***On the other hand***, the real reason we are upset is not that you are not getting the full Word of God but our church attendance statistics don't always make us look good or we want to be praised for the beautiful service we have organized. That is hardly putting God first. Luther points out to us that ANYTHING we put before God is our god (note the difference—one is capitalized and one is not). Anything we put our ultimate trust in, is our god. There is a wonderful quip I heard years ago meant to call up a braggart short: "He is a self-made man who worships his creator." Of course, none of us are self-made. And a pastor's self-worth is not defined by how many people attend on Sunday or the beauty of the service over which he or she presided. Our self-worth is based only upon one thing: God created us; God redeemed us; God gives us new life every day.

For some, it is tempting to put his or her trust in things that cannot save us but which we seem to hope in nonetheless. If we are overweight, we try the latest fad diet because the world (and myself) has judged me unworthy by weight. If we are financially or socially concerned, we might think that the nice house or faster car will give us worth. If we are love-starved, maybe that new boyfriend or girlfriend will do the trick. Each time we put our hope in something other than the God who made us, we break this commandment. Unfortunately, that means we break this commandment everyday. So what are we to do?

Jesus came to free us from the fear of the Law. Yes, we are sinners but Jesus came to save sinners. Now we strive to keep this Commandment not out of fear but out of gratitude. For no matter how puny our faith, God has deemed us worthy. Life, therefore, is one long celebration of gratitude to God. Of course, if that is true, why wouldn't you want to stay in church and celebrate longer?



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! Dinner provided.

Adult Sunday School Classes

John Harmon’s class, meeting in the NE Age Room on Sunday mornings will be looking at our **Lutheran heritage** 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.

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers attend the family of **Margaret B. Kyzer**, a long-time member of St. James and the first woman to serve on our Church Council, who died on January 6th. She was 89. A Service of Christian Burial was held on January 9th and she was interred in our cemetery. Margaret is survived by her daughters Charlene Frye and Allison Kemp and son, Tommy Kyzer.

Member Prayer List

Alice Raffa
Whitney Taylor
Doris Sharpe



Member Shut-ins

Bobby Frazier
Frank McLeod
Roberta 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

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

Wednesday, January 12

No Choir Practice

Thursday, January 13

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

7:00PM Bible Study

Saturday, January 14

9:00AM Council Retreat at Camp Kinard

Sunday, January 15

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion

4:00PM Confirmation

Thank YOU!

A very special thank you to ALL who participated in creating our Shut-in Christmas bags! These bags were filled with hot chocolate, candy, puzzle books, gloves, fruit, crackers, cookies, festive plates and napkins! Special thanks to the Huber children for stuffing the bags for delivery. We know our shut-in's enjoyed receiving a gift of love from the church! This was a very successful project and we look forward to expanding this next year!

Thanks also to all who participated with the youth's warm clothing drive. Among the items donated were clothes, socks, scarves, hats, and gloves. The generosity of many helped make this cold weather snap bearable for those less fortunate.

And Jesus said, "34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you

Birthdays

1/9

Carolyn Steele

Jonah Harmon

1/11

Tommy Tyson

Shelby Duke

Pastor Kevin

1/13

Robert Sharpe

1/14

Elizabeth Peeples

1/15

Kevin Steele

Miranda West

Tina Wilson

Zachary Kyzer

1/16

Robby Bouknight, Jr.

1/18

Tina Poindexter

Steve Pullie

1/19

Louie Lanford

Janet Taylor

1/20

Clay Harmon

Nikki Grogan

1/21

Lynn Hartley

1/22

Mackey Monts

gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'" Matthew 25.

WORSHIP LEADERS IN JANUARY

| Sunday, January 15 | Sunday, January 22 | Sunday, January 29 | Sunday, February 5 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Presiding Minister Pastor Kevin Ogilvie |
| Assisting Minister Vicar Shea Berbaum |
| Acolyte Daunte Smith | Acolyte Callie Poplin | Acolyte | Acolyte |
| Crucifer Chaise Jones | Crucifer | Crucifer | Crucifer |
| Communion Assistants Ben Freeman | Communion Assistants | Communion Assistants Mary Browder | Communion Assistants |
| Altar Guild Tammy O'Quinn | Altar Guild Tammy O'Quinn | Altar Guild Tammy O'Quinn | Altar Guild Jan Sharpe |
| Lector Gwen Freeman | Lector Brenda Poplin | Lector Mary Browder | Lector |
| Ushers Dick Kyzer Tom Boozer | Ushers Dick Kyzer | Ushers Dick Kyzer Tom Boozer | Ushers Larry Kyzer Luke Roland |

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.



T.A.P Text and Pray

Text and Pray is part of the Christian Education program here at St. James. Whenever a need arises, whether a celebration or a concern, the Text and Pray volunteers stop and pray. This group has been faithful in praying for families, friends, difficult situations, and many celebrations over the past 6 months.

With a new year and with new members, it is time to update this immediate prayer response team. If you would like to either JOIN or REMAIN a member of the Text and Pray team, please look for a new sign up opportunity in the weekly bulletin. If you are already a member and wish to continue, please STILL SIGN UP so the new list will be accurate. No response is necessary to these texts. A text comes to your phone and you just pause and pray! All it takes is a cell phone number and the ability to receive texts messages. You have the power to prayerfully impact many lives!

If you are NOT a member of this prayer team, but have a prayer concern/celebration you would like shared with this group, please email or call Gwen Freeman. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask! The updated list will begin in February.

NO TEXTING WHILE DRIVING, BUT PRAYING IS ACCEPTABLE!

O(lder) W(iser) L(utherans)

This month the group meets for lunch at Eastern Buffet on Route 1 at 12pm. Come for food and fellowship!

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**

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(803) 359-7803

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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 Church is looking for a part-time church secretary. Hours are 9 am to 2pm, Monday through Thursday. The successful candidate will have good people skills, knowledge of or willingness and aptitude to learn computer software to produce the church newsletter and service bulletins, maintain files, and use related equipment (copiers, etc.). Candidates with a liturgical church background are especially encouraged to apply