

SAINT JAMES JOTTINGS



1886 - 2011: Celebrating 125 Years of God's Grace



FOOD FOR THE POOR VISITS ST. JAMES

On the weekend of January 14/15, ELCA Pastor John Roth will deliver a sermon on behalf of Food for the Poor, an interdenominational; charity based in Coconut Beach, Florida. Food for the Poor serves 13 countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America.

Pastor Roth (pronounced "rote") grew up in Neenah and attended Carthage College in Kenosha. He has served congregations in Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Georgia and was most recently at St. Thomas By-the-Bay Lutheran Church in Miami. He is one of 60 speakers with Food for the Poor. He has traveled extensively with Food for the Poor and is looking forward to bringing news of their ministry to St. James. He has been a pastor for 53 years.

 **FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC.**

"Whatever you did
for one of these
least brothers of Mine,
you did for Me."

LOOKING AHEAD

January 1, 2012

10 am—Worship

January 4

6pm—Community Meal

January 4 & 11

9am—Prayer Shawl Workshop
at The Sow's Ear

January 8

5pm—Book Group

January 14

9am—New Member Orientation

January 15-22

The Road Home

January 16

Middle School Youth Ski Trip

January 22

8:30am—New Members Received

6:30-8:30pm—High School Youth
at Ultra Zone

FFP conducts relief and development programs in the Caribbean (especially Jamaica, Haiti and Guyana), Central America (especially Nicaragua and Guatemala) and the United States by providing assistance, in the form of cash and gifts-in-kind, to churches and charitable organizations operating in the areas of need as well as conducting some of its own programs. According to the organization, in 2009 FFP shipped over 601 containers of medicines and medical supplies and over 27 million pounds of food to the poor of the Caribbean and Latin America and built over 6,300 homes for families in need of shelter. FFP has also provided over 382 containers of educational furniture, teaching materials and other supplies to schools and has community support and development programs providing for fishing villages, agricultural projects, aquacultural projects and similar long-term projects.

The purpose of Pastor Roth's visit is to help raise awareness at St. James of the plight of the Two-thirds World Poor and to provide an avenue to help those in need. (For more information, see www.foodforthepoor.org)

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The semi-annual meeting of the St. James Congregation will be held on Sunday, February 5 at 9:40 am. It will be the purpose of this meeting to receive the various reports of the staff and to approve the 2011 Ministry Plan (operating budget).

FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this article, it is before Christmas, but I am writing for the January, 2012 issue. As I look ahead to Christmas there is anticipation. As I look beyond, I know that Christmas will soon be forgotten. For many, the trees come down Dec. 26 and attention turns to football, to the New Year, to the future. We move so quickly. There are 12 days of Christmas, so why do we rush to the next thing? Do you ever wonder what the world misses because it is in such a hurry?

The truth is the only time you live in is today. The only place you exist is, well, right where you are. But we're often looking ahead, running from this to that, consuming, going, that we forget to live at "the speed of life." Maybe you're reading this in Advent, maybe in Christmas. Christmas moves to Epiphany, beginning January 6 - the day celebrating the wise men who came to Jerusalem asking about a child born King of the Jews (they had seen the star in its rising; Matthew 2.1-12).

It took them a while. We know this because Herod, angered that there may be another king around, had children two and under killed (Matthew 2.16). Jesus wasn't a few days old when those men showed up, but several months. It took time to read the stars, ponder what they should do, and travel the distance. And though "wise," they headed first to Jerusalem. But the new King wasn't there. Not in the place of power or wealth. No, the star eventually led them to a house in Bethlehem.

T.S. Eliot wrote of this visit of these wise men: This: were we led all that way for Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly, We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death, But had thought they were different; this Birth was Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death, We returned to our places, these Kingdoms, But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation, With an alien people clutching their gods. I should be glad of another death.



Visiting Jesus isn't a quick journey as if heading to some tourist site to gaze. No, visiting Jesus is to let his light, his love, his gaze change us. Yes, a birth and a death, and then a birth. Dying a rising - the very pattern of the Christian life.

As you journey to the New Year, will you let him change you, even revealing the false world inside of you where you "clutching their gods." Epiphany is a chance to come to the Light, and let this Light shine in our sometimes bleak, cold, wintered souls, allowing the old to die and the new to be born.

But to visit him, remember the wise men. Remember Jesus invites on a



ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 608/845-6922 FAX: 608/845-6903

www.stjamesverona.org

WORSHIP

Saturday - 5:00 pm • Sunday - 8:30 & 10:45 am

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday — 8 am to 4 pm
Wednesday — 8 am to 12 noon

STAFF

Kurt Billings, Pastor
Peter Narum, Pastor
Michelle Lichty
Cindy Waldbillig
Kelly Rodger
Paulette Spoon
Marilyn Doerfer & Alex Ford
Rhonda Chalone
Judy Fetherston, R.N.
Cory Newman
Lynn Hauski
Cell: 235-8122
Cell: 469-9625
Parish Administrator
Office Assistant
Youth Education Coordinator
Adult Choir & Handbell Choir
Organists
Pianist
Parish Nurse
Director, St. James Preschool
St. James Preschool

BOARD OF MINISTRY

David Polet, President 848-9628
Sheri Doyle, Vice-President 848-5466
Mark Smith, Treasurer 527-4467
Mary Hinner, Secretary 845-9406
Drew Eckmayer 438-8679
David Engelke 845-8578
Diane Fronck 835-9678
Elizabeth Odders-White 235-0379
Jon Schellpfeffer 845-9449

From the Pastor, continued . . .

journey. Someone once wrote, If, as Herod, we fill our lives with things, and again with things, if we consider ourselves so unimportant that we must fill every moment of our lives with action, when will we have time to make the long, slow journey across the desert as did the Magi? Or sit and watch the stars as did the Shepherds? Or brood over the coming of the child as did Mary? For each one of us there is a desert to travel, a star to discover, and a being within ourselves to bring to life.

There is often so much to do, but more often the first thing we should do is stop, gaze at the stars and let God direct us, to that place where Jesus is born - for you.

—Pastor Peter Narum



SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED!

It's that time of the year when we will need some able-bodied helpers to sign up for snow shoveling. Volunteers will need to shovel (snow blow) the side walks leading to the church, the entrances and emergency exits Friday thru Monday each week. The sign-up is on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have any questions, please call 845-6922.



ST. JAMES WOMEN'S RETREAT

Spiritual Healing in the Hands of God, February 11-12, 2012

Come and explore what it means to be held in the Palm of God's Hand during times of joy and sorrow. We will take a deeper look at ways in which we can stay connected to God's guidance in the midst of society's obsession with being connected to technology. We will step back and imagine ourselves through the loving eyes of God and discover the tender ways in which he holds us closely as we journey through this life. The day will be filled with activity, reflection, interaction and movement. You will not want to miss this opportunity in the middle of winter to warm your heart with Spiritual Healing in the Hands of God.

Registration forms can be found on our website, www.stjamesverona.org/welcircles or at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Forms are due January 15, 2012.

JOTTINGS IS NOW AN ONLINE PUBLICATION



The Jottings is now primarily an online publication. We ask all members to submit their email addresses to St. James (mlichty@stjamesverona.org), call the church office at 845-6922, or fill out a form at the Welcome Center in the narthex so we can update our list.

For members who want to receive a paper copy of Jottings, we will accommodate you by producing a limited paper run which will be available at St. James at the Welcome Center. If you prefer a copy be mailed to you, please contact the church office.



THE MEASURE OF OUR COMMITMENT

2011 Ministry Plan (budget)	\$ 446,680
Received thru November	\$347,422
Budget to-date	\$387,500
<i>Note: These figures allow you to monitor our giving. They do not reflect audited amounts.</i>	
Attendance for November	1324

Education and Youth Groups

Sunday School

We are starting a brand new Sunday School Curriculum this month! SPARK is a teaching tool from Augsburg Fortress and Activate Faith that is designed to inspire children and grow their faith life.



We will be using the SPARK rotation model for the remainder of the year. To kick off our first rotation with the SPARK curriculum on January 8th, our kids will be learning about Noah's Ark!

Confirmation

This month the 7th and 8th graders are going to be learning about Jesus' birth and early life. As we have just celebrated Christmas, it seems fitting that we continue the conversation of Jesus' birth. The confirmation students will start the New Year with Family Time Matters on January 8th.

Middle School Youth Group

Ski Trip to Tyrol Basin Monday, January 16th from 9 am – 5 pm. Price is \$24 (includes rental) or \$12 (without rental). You will need to bring a sack lunch. We will need parents to help carpool. **Sign up in the Narthex by January 8.**

High School Youth Group

Laser Tag at Ultra Zone, Sunday, January 22nd from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. We will meet at St. James and carpool.

THANK YOU

The family of Donald Latsch would like to thank our St. James family for the many cards and kind words these past few weeks. Special thanks to Pastor Billings, Reneta Henry & Virginia Schumann for their many talents during his service and the many cooks, bakers and folks helping during the luncheon. You are all a blessing to us.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the members of St. James who donated presents for the Verona Area toy drive. We collected around 60 presents from St. James members and with a generous grant from Thrivent Lutheran, we were able to purchase about 200 more presents. The Spencer family wrapped and sorted them and the FFA students wrapped all the other presents and sorted them into families on Dec. 14. The presents were distributed on Dec. 15. Through your kindness, the group was able to help fulfill present requests for many local area families in need.

THE ROAD HOME

January 15-22

With the new year just around the corner, consider a resolution to offer your time and talents to The Road Home Homeless Interfaith Hospitality Network! Midvale Community Lutheran Church will be hosting the week of January 15th through January 22nd and as a buddy church, the opportunities to serve the homeless guests abound! Please sign up on the boards in the narthex or at www.midvalelutheran.org by clicking on the Road Home link. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Karen or David Kretschmann at 845-2604. Your generous service to our homeless brothers and sisters is greatly appreciated! Peace. Karen and Dave



The following St. James members gave blood during the month of November: Nancy Rettenmund, Lovett Jellings, Sue Lynett, Nancy Minarik, Cindy Waldbillig and Charles Roum.

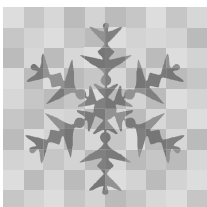
Thank you for giving the gift of life!



WELCA BAKE SALE/ LUNCHEON

The WELCA Board extends a big thank you to the St. James family for making the 2011 Bake Sale and Luncheon another success. More than \$2,900 was raised to benefit various programs at St. James, including \$2,000 to support the kitchen remodel currently in the planning phase. In addition, WELCA received \$800 from Thrivent this year, thanks to congregation members that invest with Thrivent. A few of the other causes specific to St. James that will receive funds from WELCA in the coming year include the high school scholarship fund, youth mission trip support, and Bibles for 3-year olds and 3rd graders.

This annual event includes generous baked good donations and luncheon food items from so many of the St. James women and would not be possible without this wide group of strong support. This thank you also extends to the dedicated group of women from all the circles that volunteer at the luncheon and bake sale event as well as to the patrons who purchased the goodies and ate at the luncheon. THANK YOU!



CAROLS & DESSERT

THANK YOU to the many people who were involved in this year's Carols and Dessert program. Whether you sang, baked a dessert, played an instrument, rang, or helped in some other way, your talents and efforts were appreciated!

CAROLS AND DESSERT CDs: A CD was made of this year's Carols and Dessert program. The cost is \$2 per CD, and the CDs will be available at the Welcome Center beginning December 24.

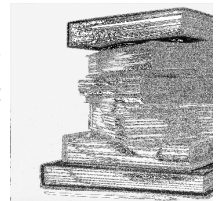


BOOK GROUP

Sunday, January 8 @ 5pm

Join us on Sunday, January 8th, at 5 PM as we discuss the book: *A Dog's Purpose*, by Bruce Cameron.

This is the remarkable story of one endearing dog's search for his purpose over the course of several lives. More than just another charming dog story, *A Dog's Purpose* touches on the universal quest for an answer to life's most basic question: Why are we here?



Heartwarming, insightful, and often laugh-out-loud funny, *A Dog's Purpose* is not only the emotional and hilarious story of a dog's many lives, but also a dog's-eye commentary on human relationships and the unbreakable bonds between man and man's best friend. This moving and beautifully crafted story teaches us that love never dies, that our true friends are always with us, and that every creature on earth is born with a purpose.

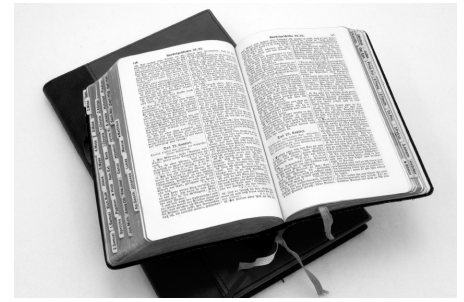
Joining us this evening will be Dr. Chris Voss, St. James member and a Veterinarian at Verona Animal Hospital.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: ADULTS MINISTRY TEAM

A **Small Group Ministry** is in the works! Starting in January, we will be organizing some small groups to meet based on location, interest, or just a desire to get to know other St. James congregation members better. Leadership training will be available in early January, with groups forming shortly after. Please prayerfully consider leading or hosting a group.

A small group can be flexible to meet your needs and schedule. Your group could meet weekly, monthly, or whatever works for members. You could meet in someone's home, a coffee shop or restaurant, or even at church. The group could include families or just adults. The ministry team will publish a list of resources from simple Bible Studies needing no preparation to more in-depth study of the Bible or topic, and your group can choose something from the list to discuss, or you could go with something of your own choosing. The purpose is to create connections with one another and with God.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the survey and return it to the Welcome Center so we can plan a leadership-training event and begin to form small groups in the New Year. Surveys are also available at the Welcome Center.



ST. JAMES READ MARK CHALLENGE

As we begin a new church year this Advent season we also enter Year B of the three-year Revised Common Lectionary schedule. Year B focuses on the gospel of Mark (with additional selections from the gospel of John). The Spiritual Growth: Adults Ministry Team challenges our congregation members to read through the Gospel of Mark. So pick up your Bible, and take whatever time you need to read Mark's Gospel.

When you have finished, please sign your name on the poster in the narthex. A generous member has offered to contribute \$15 for each name on the poster to the Pastors' Fund - that's reading with two purposes: help yourself, and help others!!

GROWTH GROUP MINISTRY SURVEY

St. James – January 2012

The *Spiritual Growth (Adults) Ministry Team* is creating a Small Group Ministry to bring members with like-interests together for fellowship and spiritual growth. Please indicate your interest in participating in, leading, or hosting a small group below and return this form to the Welcome Center or mail to St. James.

Name/s _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Interests - Pick as many as you like, or add your own

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Relationships |
| <input type="radio"/> Old Testament | <input type="checkbox"/> Food/Cooking |
| <input type="radio"/> New Testament | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fellowship |
| <input type="radio"/> Bible 101 | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Preferred days to meet - pick as many as you like S M T W Th F Sa

I'd be interested in leading a group (training would be provided)

I'd be interested in hosting a group

Is there anything else you'd like to see to support you in your personal/family spiritual growth? _____

COMMUNITY MEAL

January 4 @ 6:00 pm

The January menu will be a hearty beef stew with noodles, salads, rolls and ice cream sundaes. If you will be joining us, please call the church office at 845-6922 to reserve your spot!

Saint JAMES PRESCHOOL



The children of St. James were so pleased to hear the many compliments from the congregation about their collections and the work they had done on their posters. The kids had a fun time with this project as it enabled them to dig deeper in their learning and provided an opportunity to share their interests with their peers.

Our Christmas celebration was the culmination of this project and included a gallery walk with parents and friends as well as crafts, treats, songs and baby item collection in honor of our Savior's birth. The kiddos enjoyed making elf donuts, packaging up reindeer food, making snowflakes and ornaments and singing some of their favorite Christmas songs!

If you are interested in the 4k program in Verona that will begin next fall please see the VASD website, <http://www.verona.k12.wi.us/page.cfm?p=5152>. Informational meetings will be held throughout the community in the coming months.

January 4 - 6:30 P.M. - Country View Elementary School in the Step Room

January 5 - *6:30 - Dane County Head Start - 2096 Red Arrow Trail

January 7 - *9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. - Verona Area School District Central Office

January 10 - *6:30 P.M. - Sugar Creek Elementary School in the Step Room

January 11 - 9:15 - Stoner Prairie - Library Those times with a * indicate that those sessions will have a Spanish interpreter available.



PARISH NOTES



We remember in our prayers – **Members of St. James:** Marian Balch, Henry Gabrielski, Sami Hendrickson & family, Michael Kilmer, Hayley Rahn, Barb Thomas, Dale Thompson, and Susan Watters. **Friends of St. James:** Anni, Karin Armbruster, Kathy Angerman, Linda Borman, Faye, Marcia Greve, Jenny, Debbie Neff, Nina & family, Rosemary, John Schunk, David Thiele, and John Von Ruden. **Relatives of Members:** Helen Alplanalp (mother of Chuck Abplanalp), Nancy Arneson (sister of Chuck Abplanalp), Kevin, Emily & Luke Calhoon (cousin & family of Carolyn Doerfer, Marilyn Doerfer, Evie Cain & June Hanson), Jeanne Darrow (sister of Julie Thompson), Andrea DuPuis (niece of Ellen Hornbacher), Brad Erickson (son of Jeff & Karen Erickson), Maurice Heil (father of Martin Heil), Don Koch (brother of Cookie Thompson), Ann McAlpin (sister of Marian Balch), Shane Miller (grandson of Roberta Miller), Sandie Olenik (sister-in-law of Paulette Spoon), Craig Parman (brother-in-law of Sandy Saether), Arvid Pederson (father of Dick Pederson), Phillip Peterson (brother of Cheryl Holley), Bob Rasmussen (brother of Lauri Halminiak), Don Waalen (father of Karen Breitnauer), David Wallace (father of Sheri Doyle), Chris Watters (brother of Ben Watters), Maggie Weber (granddaughter of Marvin & Cookie Thompson), Kirk Wehrenberg (grandnephew of Harriet Instefjord) and Tom Wellnitz (brother-in-law of Sarena Krogman). **Those in Residence:** **Ingleside** - Marie Johnson; **Ingleside** - Marian Dike; **Willow Pointe** - Elmer & Minnie Palmer, and Helen Schoenick; **Four**

Winds - Dorothy Hageman; **Skaalen, Stoughton** - Marvin Langteig. **VA at Tomah** - Jim Givens III.

Serving in the Military: David Ceniti, Allison Day, Dylan Feldt, Courtney Felly, Neil Funseth, Justin Holmes, Joe Jones, Randy Nyhus, Ryan Nyhus, Adam Pechan, David Pulver, Shandra Pulver, Jacob Schmitt, Ryan Steele and Dalton V.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Michael Phillip LaVenture, son of Jonathan and Emily (Alm) LaVenture on November 27; Morgyn Jaine Peterson, daughter of Scott & Amy-Jo (Hagen) Peterson on December 10; and Matthew Moore Manley, son of Scott & Deborah (Shadrack) Manley on December 18.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of John Snyder as they mourn the death of his wife, Grace and to the family of Olga Blumke as they mourn her death.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

427 South Main Street
Verona, WI 53593-1492

