



Transition Team Update

The Transition Team has been working hard to put forth a vision for St. James' future. The process to arrive at that vision requires input from YOU. During the past several weeks, the team thoughtfully crafted 5 questions that will be posed to interviewees to gather information about your St. James experience. The team hopes to interview at least 100 members during the month of May.

We welcome anyone that would like to be interviewed to sign up on the sheets provided in the Narthex, contact a Transition Team member or send an inquiry to Renata Henry at permits@elverpermit.com. Although no preparation is required for the interview, a review of the questions that will be posed might be helpful.

- 1) Reflecting on your whole experience with St. James, please share a time you felt most engaged with the church. Who was involved? How did you feel? What made it meaningful to you?
- 2) Thinking again about your experience with St. James, please share a time you felt most connected to God. In what way did St. James help grow or foster that connection? What details do you recall from this time?
- 3) Please share a time you have seen the people of St. James connect positively with each other. What brought about that connection? What keywords would you use to describe the experience?
- 4) What are the central characteristics of our congregation? What makes St. James unique?
- 5) This last question asks you to imagine the future of our church. Please share two or three dreams you have for what God will accomplish through St. James. Describe what it will look like as those dreams come to be.

The Transition Team sincerely appreciates your willingness to be interviewed and help shape a bright and vibrant future for St. James.

Summer Worship Schedule

We will begin our summer worship schedule on the weekend of May 25/26. Our Saturday services continue at 5:00 pm, and we will have one Sunday service at 9:00 a.m., which will be livestreamed. This schedule goes through September 8.



Jay Mattison, Pastor Jerry Buss, Elise Taft, Jason Frey, Renata Henry, Karen Breitnauer, Will Wallace, Rob Frederick, and Jackson Stampfli

Looking Ahead

May 11 – 12

Mary Circle Mother's Day Fundraiser

May 12

Muffins with Mom

May 15

Drive-In Dinner,
an Annual Youth Fundraising Tradition

May 21

Men's Enneagram Event

May 19

Teacher Appreciation and Last day of
Sunday School & Confirmation Classes

May 26

Summer Worship Schedule begins

June 2

Baccalaureate Service

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Saturday at 5:00 pm & Sunday at 8:30 & 10:45 am (9:00 am only beginning May 26)

8:30 am or 9:00 am is LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

From the Pastor

Your Transition Team has been hard at work since its first meeting at the end of February. The Team's focus is on listening: to God, to the people of St. James and to our neighbors. The Call Committee will be formed after the Transition Team completes its work.

Based on the listening and on other information gathered about St. James, the Transition Team will offer a picture of what the future of the congregation might look like: a "vision for mission". Using everything it has gathered, the Transition Team will complete a document called a Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP describes the pastoral leadership that will be most helpful to walk alongside St. James toward God's future for the congregation.

Once the MSP is approved by the Council (around the end of September 2024), then a Call Committee will begin to meet. The Call Committee interviews pastoral candidates and brings its recommendation to the congregation for a vote about whether to extend a call to the pastor.

So we are on our way! Listening comes first, and here's how we will listen to the people of St. James:

Listening by Way of "Story Interviews"

During the month of May members of the Transition Team and the Council will interview around 100 people connected to St. James. Most will be members, but preschool parents and community meal participants will also be interviewed. ANYONE in the congregation who wants to be interviewed is welcome to sign up.

The five questions that will be used are published on the front page of this Jottings. You will see that we are looking for stories about positive ministry that has taken place through St. James over its whole history. There is also a question that invites your imagination about the future of the congregation. It is the Holy Spirit, celebrated this month at Pentecost, that prompts our imaginations about a future filled with God's grace and goodness.

The Transition Team will use the responses to the questions to arrive at a "vision for mission" shaped by our collective imaginations.

ST. JAMES STAFF

Peter Narum, Pastor	608-469-9625
Jerry Buss, Transitional Pastor	608-845-6922 ext. 227
Michelle Lichty	Parish Administrator
Barb Roberts	Office Assistant
Susan Zimmer	Office Assistant
Barb Roberts	Card Ministry
Holly Parker	Director of Children & Family Ministries
Laura Smith	Director of Confirmation
Paulette Spoon	Adult Choir & Handbell Choir
Susan Bubolz	Youth Choir Director
Rhonda Chalone, Don DeBruin,	Accompanists
Jim Erickson, Carol Murphy	
Barb Rasmussen, R.N.	Parish Nurse/Visitation Coord.
Heather Pearl	Director, St. James Preschool
Holly Parker, Kari Poppen	St. James Preschool
Nicole Sudhoff, Kristin Wills & Stacy Zimmerman	

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Julie Murphy, President	608-345-8533
Dennis Beres, Vice-President	608-845-9305
Karen Breitnauer, Secretary	608-209-3035
Kim Feller, Treasurer	608-206-4562
Rob Frederick	608-280-1470
Christine Kemnitz	608-886-6363
Mark Smith	608-214-2212
Rebecca Woolums	847-894-8344
Susan Martin-Zernicke	608-246-2025



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

Updates for the Congregation

After each worship service on May 18-19 (Pentecost weekend), an update will be offered for the congregation. We'll share how the interviews are going and answer questions from the congregation.

During these updates there will also be an introduction to "neighborhood listening" that the congregation will be invited to do this summer. You will receive ideas about walking in your neighborhood focused on two things: looking for ways that God might be active and listening to your neighbors' appreciation and hopes for your neighborhood.

With God's leading, an exciting transition process is well underway. Thank you for your prayers and participation.

In Christ,

– Pastor Jerry



SAVE
THE
DATE

**Wednesday,
July 10th**

GATES OPEN: 5:05 PM
FIRST PITCH: 6:05 PM

**St. James Lutheran
Church**
at the Duck Pond!

More Details To Follow!

2023-2024 Congregational Council



Rebecca Woolums, Rob Frederick, Karen Breitnauer, Sue Martin-Zernicke, Julie Murphy, Christine Kennitz, Kim Feller, Mark Smith, Denny Beres

Measure of Our Commitment – thru 3/31/2024

Receipts/Offerings

March Operating Envelopes Receipts are unfavorable to budget by (\$13,855) or -29% but slightly higher than the prior year March by \$414 or +1%. March YTD Operating Envelopes Receipts are unfavorable to budget by (\$21,270) or -14.8% and UP from the prior year by \$1,786 or +1.5%.

March

Year to Date

2024 March Actual Envelopes	\$34,145	2024 Actual Envelopes	\$122,730
2024 March Budget Envelopes	\$48,000	2024 Budget Envelopes	\$144,000
2023 March Actual Envelopes	\$33,731	2023 Actual Envelopes	\$120,944

Seeds & Building Fund Account

March SEEDS contributions were lower at \$7,677 than the monthly mortgage payment of \$9,304. The budget is set up to fund the mortgage payments thru the general operating budget using the SEEDS contributions and any excess SEEDS contributions remain in the building fund money market to use when needed to cover a shortfall. The remaining balance in the Seeds/Building Fund account that is not specific to the mortgage reduction match is \$72,617 to be used if there is a shortfall to fund in 2024.

Expenses

Total general budget expenses for YTD March were favorable (less than budgeted expenses) by \$10,500. The main contributors to this favorable result are from the youth director budget dollars for \$7,000 favorable and the favorable timing of Office/Equipment Maintenance expense for \$2,000 YTD.

The overall takeaway for March is that for the 2nd month in a row we lost ground on the budget front with lower than expected March offerings but remain on track YTD in comparison to the prior year net results thru 3 months with 2024 YTD at a negative net of (\$10,411) compared to 2023 YTD net at a negative (\$24,484). However, we were behind budget net YTD of (\$289) by (\$10,122).

Mortgage Reduction Principal Payment News



Congratulations and Thank You! The Harlan Dahlk Memorial Mortgage Reduction Campaign was a success: the \$100,000 match was achieved, doubling the initial challenge contribution from the Harlan Dahlk Estate. This enables us to make a \$200,000 principal payment on our St. James mortgage. This is in thanks and appreciation to ALL of you who graciously contributed to the match campaign during the past six months.

What are the future benefits of this mortgage reduction principal payment?

In terms of dollars, because of your generosity, our mortgage balance was reduced from \$1.7 million down to \$1.5 million, giving us an additional future interest savings of approximately \$200,000 over the remaining term of the loan. This means every dollar donated by you was not only matched, it will double our future savings.

This reduction of our loan puts St. James in a much better place to manage the monthly payment stream in an increasing interest rate environment, allowing us to expand our ministries. The current favorable mortgage interest rate on our mortgage of 3.875% will last for three more years (until July, 2027), when it will reset to the ELCA Mission Investment Fund 5-year fixed interest rate in place at that time.

St. James will continue to make our current monthly payment of \$9,304, as approved in the 2024 budget, which allows for additional principal each month instead of reducing the payment by \$1,000/month now, only to then increase by \$1,600/month in 2027, with the upward interest rate adjustment. Instead, the current payment is expected to increase by less than \$250/month in mid-2027, and our mortgage balance should be at \$1.3 million at that time.

When we began in 2013 to dream and plan for an expanded and renovated facility, our hope was to create a beautiful and useful space, enabling us better to live out our mission of receiving, growing, and giving in Christ. We knew the financial commitment would be significant, but God has blessed us with generous givers over the years. Thanks to your generosity, this \$200,000 in principal is a gift that keeps giving for years to come.

Our beautiful, renovated and expanded facilities, completed in 2017, offer a space to gather for worship, learning, conversation, play, and much more, not only for our community of faith, but for the wider community as well. From the dream to the design phase, through the initial capital campaign and construction, to a wisely-timed principal payment and refinancing in 2022, and now a major reduction in the mortgage principal, St. James has made prudent and wise decisions throughout the process. Thanks to all who have contributed so much, worked so hard, to make this all possible.

Once again, THANKS to ALL of you.

With gratitude,

– Your Congregational Council at St. James Lutheran Church

April financials will be available after the Council has approved the Treasurer's Report at their May 15 meeting. Thank you to all our members for their continued and ongoing support of the Mission and Ministries of St. James.

Congregational Life

Mary Circle's Annual Mother's Day Fundraiser

Our sale will be on Mother's Day weekend on Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12, 2024 after each service. We are selling coffee mugs filled with either a pansy, viola or succulent for \$10. It's a great gift for Mother's Day, a birthday or just to celebrate spring! We will be donating the proceeds of the sale to DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services) with matching funds from Thrivent Financial, which doubles your contribution!

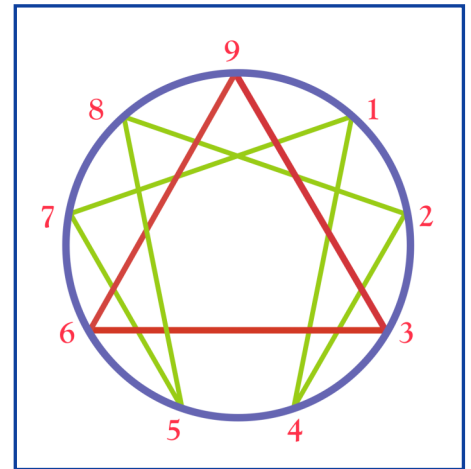
Men of St. James May 21 Event

Hello Men of St. James!

Interested in learning a little more about your personality? Even how your personality type can relate to your spirituality? You could even learn a little more about how to relate better with others. Then we have an exciting opportunity for you. Pastor Peter will be offering an introduction to the Enneagram on Tuesday, May 21, from 6-8 pm.

What is the Enneagram?

The Enneagram is a personality typology system that provides an in-depth understanding of our inner world— our motivations and fears, how we deal with challenges and stress, our preferred social interaction styles, and how we manage our experience in the world. Studying the Enneagram gives us a deeper understanding of ourselves, others, and our relationships, provides insightful wisdom and offers the potential for deeper personal and spiritual growth. Pastor Narum, a certified Enneagram teacher, has been studying the Enneagram for 25 years.



If you wish to attend, include your name on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center, or email me. This will be a great night of learning more about yourself and one another. I hope to see you there.

– Rob Frederick

rdckr@chorus.net
608-280-1470

Men's Group

The Men's group will meet on Monday, May 6 at 6:00 pm (typically the first Monday of the month) at Paddy Mac's located at 608 W Verona Avenue. All are welcome.

Quilting Group

The Quilters meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:00 am. Interested members are invited to attend.

Thank You...

To Our St. James Musicians

Thank you to all the musicians who enriched our worship services during Lent and Holy Week. Your time and talents are a blessing to St. James. Many thanks!

From Diann Chapman

"I'm grateful to each and every one who sent me cards on my 80th birthday. Thank you for making my day so special."

Chili Fun-Raiser Recap



A great afternoon of good food, conversation, beautiful weather and fun was had at the St. James annual Chili Fun-Raiser. I want to give a big thank you to the committee team who put it all together, Dave and Julie Farmer, Bill and Norleen Lacey, Becky Frederick, Linda Freitag and Mark Giesfeldt. Too all the volunteers who came out the day of the event to help, another big thank you. The event would not have been such a success without the love and support of some of the business in the Verona area who donated some of the prizes, St. James staff and all of you!! I am beyond excited to announce that we once again broke a record for the amount of money raised. This years event brought in \$1970, that will be divided equally between the Youth of St. James and the monthly Community Meal.

Thank you again St. James community, the Verona community and everyone who play a part in making this a success.

Gods Blessings,

– Rob Frederick

Synod Assembly

Saturday, May 18, 2024 at First Lutheran Church – Janesville

The 2024 South-Central Synod of Wisconsin's Synod Assembly will be held on Saturday, May 18 at First Lutheran Church in Janesville (612 N. Randall Avenue, Janesville, WI 53545). On Friday, May 17 all are invited to attend worship service that will include a recognition of ordination and congregational anniversaries, followed by a light reception, also at First Lutheran Church in Janesville.

They will gather this year under the theme Building, Learning, Growing. Every time we gather together as God's people, we have the opportunity to do all three – to build relationships, to learn from one another, to grow in faith in Christ. We pray that this year's assembly will offer this and so much more.

St. James is one of 133 churches that make up the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. Every year people from all of those congregations attend an annual meeting of the Synod. Pastors attend, as well as lay voting members.

There is additional information on the Synod Assembly page at <https://scsw-elca.org/2024assembly>.

Save the Dates!

Drive-in Dinner

Wednesday, May 15th from 6:00-7:30 pm



It's time for the Drive-in Dinner! The High School Mentorship Team is organizing the St. James Drive-in Dinner Fundraiser again this year. It will be held on Wednesday, May 15th from 6:00-7:30 pm. The dinner - hamburgers, brats, hotdogs, chips and more - is served by youth. You can sit in your car or bring a blanket and/or chairs and sit outside. Free-will donations will be accepted. The proceeds from this event go towards funding of the 2024 mission trip and youth programming such as Youth Group events, camp scholarships, holiday parties and more. We can't wait to see you there!

Madison Mallards Game – Wednesday, July 10

Hang out with fellow members at a Madison Mallards game. We have group pricing and look forward to seeing many of you there. Details on tickets and all of the fun are coming soon.

2024 St. James Women's Retreat

The 2025 St James Women's Retreat will be February 22-23, 2025. The Retreat will be held again at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton. Mark your calendar!



St. James
Community
Meal

Community Meal

Wednesday, June 5 at 6:00 pm

There is no need to register in advance.

Skip the cooking and join us for dinner!



**The Prayer Shawl Ministry gathers the first and third
Wednesdays of each month at St. James. All are welcome to join!**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry workshops are the first & third Wednesday of the month at St. James from 9:30-11:30. Please join us for fellowship, laughter, knitting and crocheting. There is yarn and directions at the Welcome Center and all are welcome to join in.

Children, Youth & Families



Volunteer Appreciation & Last Day Celebration

For Sunday School & Confirmation
Sunday, May 19

We are so grateful for the opportunity to grow in God's love with the children of St. James and for the many volunteers who make that possible! Please join us as we come together in celebration and show thanks to the generous individuals who have shared their time and faithful energy with our Sunday School and Confirmation students. The schedule for the morning will be as follows:

8:30 am - Worship - including a special recognition of volunteers during Children's Time.
There WILL be Sunday School following Children's Time.

9:30-10:30 am - Sunday School & Confirmation

Sunday School students can head down to the Youth Lounge for last day games, treats and fun!

Confirmation students can head to the Luther Room for last day games, treats and fun!

ALL STUDENTS - Bring or wear shoes and clothing that are suitable for gardening.

Parents - Parents are welcome to celebrate as well by joining their children for activities,
or enjoying fellowship in the Youth Lounge or Dining Room.

Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, June 2nd at 9:00 am

St. James will be holding a Baccalaureate service for high school graduates on Sunday, June 2nd during the 9:00 am service. There will be a reception with cake to follow the service. Please join us as we celebrate their many accomplishments and wish them well with their next steps following graduation!

MUFFINS

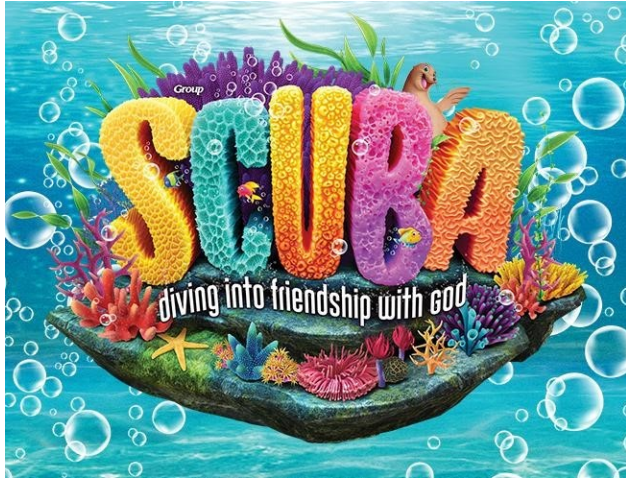
with

MOMS

Sunday, May 12
9:30 am

Join us on Sunday, May 12th in the Dining Room between services to celebrate moms and mother figures everywhere!

muffins ~ refreshments ~ activities



Vacation Bible School

August 5-8, 9:00 am - 12 noon

Scuba Celebration on August 8th from 6-7:30pm.

For ages 3 through 103!

VBS is truly an experience for all generations! Adults and teens have just as much fun as the kids...if not more! Together,

we will enjoy songs, stories, crafts, games and snacks that will bring us closer to God and each other! Camper registration is currently full, but you can contact Holly to be placed on a waiting list. We do open up more spots if we have enough volunteers! Areas we need help include:

- Crew leaders or assistants
- Bible Adventures story station
- Craft station
- Games station
- Video station
- Snack station
- Decorating & set-up
- Take-down & clean-up
- Scuba Celebration - set up, serve, clean-up and help with activities
- Snack & supply donations - requests will be emailed & posted in June & July.

Contact Holly at hparker@stjamesverona.org
to volunteer or be added to the waiting list!

Sunday School Highlights



The Youth of St. James have been enjoying the warmer weather, outside activities and learning about the love of Jesus.

Summer Camp Savings Program

Summer Bible camps are transformational experiences that offer a safe environment for campers to build independence, learn new skills, make new friends and grow in their faith.

St. James supports children, youth and families by offering a \$100 discount on any 2024 summer Bible camp program. Contact Holly Parker at hparker@stjamesverona.org by June 1st to take advantage of this discount or inquire about other financial assistance for Bible camps.





We are so thankful for our Activity Center and the other wonderful spaces dedicated to our youngest members!



From the Parish Nurse...

May has National Health Observances Physical Fitness, Mental Health, Older Adults, and Women's Health

When we look at these observances collectively, there is a common thread. That is one of movement and socialization. When we exercise we give off endorphins which alleviate pain, lower stress, improve mood and enhance your sense of well-being. That, in turn, enables better fitness at any age or sex, and can relieve anxiety.

Many adults, over the age of 55 experience some form of mental health concern with Depression and Anxiety being the most common. Loneliness and social isolation are associated with higher rates of depression, among other health complications.

Start walking, meet other walkers. See your physician about possible necessary medications. Try reaching out over the phone or social media. Depression is not a normal part of growing older.

If you or someone you know is struggling or having thoughts of suicide, call or text the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org.

"I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34:4

God's Blessings,

Barbara Rasmussen, RN., CPN.

MUFFINS



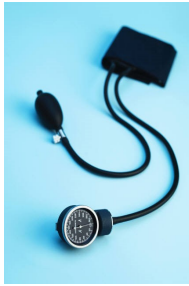
with

MOMS

Sunday, May 12
9:30 am

Join us on Sunday, May 12th in the Dining Room between services to celebrate moms and mother figures everywhere!

muffins ~ refreshments ~ activities



Blood Pressure Checks

We will hold the next blood pressure check on May 12 after the 8:30 am service. All are welcome!

Saint JAMES PRESCHOOL



Verona Area
PreK
Partnership in Early Learning

Preschool News

Teacher Appreciation:

The first full week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week. St. James Preschool is extremely lucky to have Stacy Zimmerman, Kari Poppen, Holly Parker, Kristin Wills, and Nicole Sudhoff as dedicated and amazing teachers. Each day they are dedicated to influencing the littlest learners in our community.

2024-2025 Preschool Registration:

We still have spots available in our classes for the 2024-2025 school year. Check out our webpage or reach out to Heather at sjp@stjamesverona.org or 845-6922 with any questions or if interested.



PARISH NOTES

If you have someone that you would like to add to this prayer list please email (office@stjamesverona.org) or call the church office (845-6922) or fill out a form which can be found at the Welcome Center at St. James.



We remember our members in our prayers, especially Norma Bader, Loretta Docken, Anna, Charlene, Ed, Helen Granquist, Audrey Huseth, Marilyn, Monica Pechan, Orin & Pat Strand, John Scharer, & Larry Yeske.

We also remember Karen Bittrich (mother of Elise Taft), Bruce & Pearlene (brother and sister-in-law of Karen Wolf) Kimberly Choi (daughter of Norma Bader), Dorothy (mother of Sue Zernicke), Larry Hamm (father of Christine Kemnitz), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Marty Pulver (brother of Renata Henry), Sharon Schwinn (sister of Mary Moldenhauer), Mary Volker, (sister of John Volker), Phillip Walker (brother-in-law of Michelle Lichty), Dave Wolf (nephew of Doug Wolf), Archer Yob (great-nephew of Renata Henry), Marsha Zahasky (sister of Mary Walker), and friends, Camille, Cindi, Dawn, Joe, John, Kim, Linda, Lynn, Sandra, Sarah, Susan Kennedy, Leo, and Debbie Loughrin.

Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Simon Ulysses Taft, son of Nat & Elise (Bittrich) Taft on April 14, 2024.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of Kay Hankins, James Hatch, and James Nerge as they mourn their deaths. Sympathy is also extended to the family of Donald Zelle as they mourn the death of his granddaughter, Bailey.

In Residence: Four Winds – Candy Nerge. Noel Manor—Dick & Helen Dignan, Dale & Audrey Hagen, Lloyd Hornbacher, Marilyn Le Moine, Carol & Jim Path, Peggy Papenfus, Chuck & Marilyn Roum, John Scharer, Jim Schumann and Charles & Gloria Widish.

Serving in the Military: Ron Rasmussen, Gavin Bazala, Wyatt Breitnauer, Bryan & Hannah Tordoff, Judy Watters, and Evan Spoon.

Verona, WI 53593-1492

427 South Main Street



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