

The September 2024



Epistle

A publication of St. James Lutheran Church,
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M E S S A G E
from the
M I N I S T E R

SEPTEMBER

2 0 2 4

St. James Family:

We are finally coming to the end of summer! The State Fair is over. All of our school districts are in session. Local fall sports and activities are in full swing. The schedules have shifted. Something has ended and something new has started.

Likewise, in our Sunday readings, we concluded a multi-week series of the Sixth Chapter of St. John's gospel. Jesus delivered a sequence of hard teachings in this portion of Scripture and as a result many people turned away from following him. His rather lengthy discourse on the *true bread from heaven that has come down to us* wrapped up with this heartfelt confession from St. Peter.

So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

John 6:67-69

These were hard teachings. These teachings caused many to turn away from him. Still today, these sayings cause many to turn away.

Often children who grow up in the church go along with the tradition of their parents or grandparents until they hit usual cognitive developmental milestones in their middle school, high school, and post-high school years. During these years they often pull back the layers of Christian teachings until they find something that is just a little too weird to accept at face value. It's usual for them to go through a period of time when they express serious skepticism or even downright rejection of the story because of the scandalous, even outrageous, reality claims of Jesus. Often their skepticism or opposition is rooted in teachings exactly like the list we find in the Sixth Chapter of St. John's gospel.

The teachings are hard. Many turn away.

But not everyone turns away.

Jesus looked at the twelve apostles and asked, "Are you going to turn away also?" and Peter, in the middle of the swirling controversy, replied, "Where else can we go? You have the words of eternal life."

My prayer for all of us is that we allow the deeper mysteries of our Christian faith to draw us more deeply into Christ instead of pushing us away into further doubt and skepticism.

Many of you already address the mysteries of faith in this manner and your faith encourages me greatly. That's why, specifically for the adults in our congregation, I am offering monthly *Prayer and Learning Group(s)* with content to encourage and deepen your faith through the fall, winter, and spring. This month, these groups will meet on **Wednesday, September 11th at 2:00 p.m.** and on **Thursday, September 19th at 6:00 p.m.** Both groups will follow the same format and discuss the same content.

We will discuss the 11th Chapter of Hebrews (from the Bible) and the book *Invitation to a Journey* by Robert Muholland. Please read the materials ahead of time as much as you can. The dates are quickly approaching, but there is still time to read the book and sign up. If you don't finish the book, please come anyway!

Lastly, I begin coursework toward ordination at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA this month. The semester begins on September 2nd with one week of residential learning at the seminary. They call this *Prologue Week* and being physically present at the seminary for the entire week is required. Thereafter, I will attend live lectures through Zoom from home or from the church office (depending on when the classes are scheduled) for the remainder of the semester.

I do not expect the normative schedule of our congregational life to be affected by my coursework. In fact, I expect the local ministry at St. James will be enhanced as I deepen my understanding of our worship, liturgy, spiritual practice, and theology. More than ever, I am grateful for the life we will share through these next several years.

May God bless you in the month to come as you become more aware of the Life of Christ that lives within you.

Bryce Hewlett, SAM

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

September 2024

Happy September Everyone! I can't believe Fall is approaching us so quickly. My summer activities, Fourth of July, vacation, all seem like distant memories now. I have been enjoying some of these cooler days, sitting in my tree swing and watching the leaves start to fall.

To many people Fall is sort of the end of things. End of summer, end of things growing and blooming. I like to look at it as the beginning of things. Kids starting a new school year, we get to start canning and baking, and decorating for upcoming holidays. This September is very much a new beginning for our family. My youngest child, Kane, is marrying Jenna, the love of his life. Jenna has seemed a part of our family for many years and we couldn't be happier to have her officially become a Schmidt. They go together like peas and carrots, and it brings so much joy to my heart to see them together and the love that they have for each other. It is a reminder of all the love that God has for us and all the love we can share with others.

1 Corinthians 13—If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Please join me in praying for Kane and Jenna that God blesses their marriage and they know nothing but joy and love all of their days. Take care of each other and love each other. Smile, hug and share your love as much as you can, and remember how much God loves you.

Peace and Love,

Angie

SUNFLOWER





Sarah Circle will meet **September 17th at 1:00PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

The lesson is from the September/October "Gather" magazine. Marilyn is the hostess and Shirley is the lesson leader.



From the Quilt Block

Quilting is noon to four o'clock on **September 24th**. All are welcome, no sewing skills required.

We are still looking for Fabric. If you know of any fabric that is sitting around just waiting to be included in a LWR quilt we are anxious to include it.

Keep stitchen'
Shirley Richlen



St. James G.A.N.G. will meet on Sept. 19th in Fellowship Hall at 11:30.

Right now we are in the process of getting a speaker who has been recommended to our group.

Bring your own lunch and as usual, dessert and beverages will be provided. There will be sign up sheets in the Narthex the Sunday prior to our meeting, so please take advantage of that method of letting us know how many are coming.

Thanks! See you on the 19th!

Council Votes

Approval of the June 16, 2024,
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes as written and passed.

Motion to approve use of the Sexual Harassment Policy.

Motion to approve by Steve Miller,
Second by Mary Meumann.

Motion Passed.

Motion approved.

Finance Committee Note

For information purposes, Contribution Statements for the first 6 months of 2024 have been recently sent out by email. If you don't receive email and would like to receive a 6-month Contribution Statement, please call the church office.

Luther Properties

Luther Properties is an ELCA founded organization providing safe and affordable housing for older adults.

Through church and personal donations, we also provide fellowship events that enhance our resident's daily lives, such as therapy dog visits and holiday meals.

Donating to Luther Properties is now even easier—You can donate to Luther Properties through Thrivent using your Thrivent Choice Dollars!

To learn more about Luther Properties and our 5 local residences, visit ***www.lutherproperties.org***



FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

9 AM - 12 PM - TEACHING/PRAYER WITH PASTOR ELAINE OLSON
12 PM - 1 PM - LUNCH
1 PM - 3 PM - CRAFTING/JOURNALING/CREATIVE TIME

STORE UP TO FILL UP YOUR CUP

1705 Oak Street, Bettendorf, IA 52722
\$25/person, registration to follow,
please bring payment to retreat
Questions? Please reach out:
kimhewlett18@gmail.com





RALLY DAY

CELEBRATING OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 6TH

Following the Sunday service

Sloppy Joes are provided
please bring a side to share!

Pie Contest - crust and
filling must be made from
scratch!

Donate a pumpkin - any
size!

For more information contact
Mandy Peters-Speidel at
(563)370-8262 or
mandypeters8720@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN E D U C A T I O N

Words with Women—NEW!!!

Open to all women looking to share stories, life, and laughter!

This is intentional time to build friendships and mutually support each other through life's ups and down with kindness, prayer, and listening ears.

Words with Women will kick off on **October 1st at 6pm** and meet **monthly on the first Tuesday evening each month thereafter.**

Together we are stronger! Join us in building sisters in faith! No sign up necessary—just show up!

Prayer and Learning Group

Starting in September and continuing through Spring 2025, the Christian Education Committee with Bryce Hewlett will host monthly prayer and learning groups for adults.

The sign up sheets for these groups are located in the Narthex. Contact the church office with any questions you may have.

We hope to see you there!

September: The Invitation to the Life of Faith

Dates: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

We start with faith. The writer of Hebrews says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...but without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Scripture Study: Hebrews 11 (on your own)

Recommended Reading: Invitation to a Journey by Robert Muholland (on your own)



Social Ministry News

Social Ministry served the meal at Zion Lutheran in Davenport on Monday, July 22nd.

They were expecting to feed 50 people and 75 showed up! The number of people being helped and fed is truly a blessing! The meal served was a sack lunch that included a sandwich, a banana, carrots, a water, and Girl Scout cookies. It was greatly appreciated—We will be serving the next meal on

Monday, September 23rd.

We also meet at the Bettendorf Healthcare Center on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 2PM to play Bingo with the residents there. The next Bingo date is **September 19th at 2PM!**

We give out quarters and small stuffed animals as bingo prizes—currently we are in need of small stuffed animals—if you would like to volunteer or donate, please reach out to

Judy Larson at (563)340-7902

Suppers at St. James—NEW!!!

On **October 9, November 13,**
and December 11 our church will open
our doors to anyone in our community in
need of a hot meal. Spread the word! ***All
are welcome!***

Supper will be served by members of our
church family at 6:00pm.

Join us for food and fellowship

Food Pantry

The food pantry is in need of egg cartons again! If
you have egg cartons you're able to donate, drop
them off at the pantry or the church office!

REMINDER!

**Deadline for October Epistle Articles
is Thursday, September 19th**

September & October 2024 Worship Assistants

Date	Assisting Minister	Usher	Usher	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
9/1/24	Janet Brakel	Diana Worley	Caroline Hicks	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley
9/8/24	Tom Sladky	Pat Larson	Janene Anderson	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley
9/15/24	Judie Brooks	Kelly Crooks	Ron Mekalson	Ellen Hogbin	Pat Larson
9/22/24	Diana Worley	Janene Anderson	Pat Larson	Ellen Hogbin	Pat Larson
9/29/24	Jason Forari	Jerry Nichols	Yvonne Nichols	Mary Meumann	Audrey Lovell
10/6/24	Judie Brooks	Fritz Voss	Judy Larson	Mary Meumann	Audrey Lovell
10/13/24	Ann Larson	Janene Anderson	Ellen Hogbin	Mary Meumann	Audrey Lovell
10/20/24	Pat Larson	Kelly Crooks	Ron Mekalson	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley
10/27/24	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley	Caroline Hicks	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley

September Counters:

9/1 Ron Mekalson & Lisa Mekalson

9/8, 9/22 Angie Schmidt & David Schmidt

9/15 Kenny & Maggie Bayliss

9/29—Mary Meumann & Dee Worley

October Counters: Mary Meumann & Dee Worley

*Please Note: If you find you cannot serve on the date/time scheduled, please arrange for your replacement, then **call or email;**
Maggie at 563-349-6727 or maggieb@bayliss.us
to advise the name of your replacement.
We appreciate your gracious cooperation.
Thanks!*

A background of colorful confetti in shades of pink, purple, blue, green, and yellow scattered across the top and sides of the page.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/2 LYNN OSWALD

9/9 LILLIAN PETERS-SPEIDEL

9/12 AUDREY LOVELL

9/13 BILLIE JOAN JONES

9/14 MARK GWIN

9/15 BAILEY SCHMIDT

9/16 KAYLEE PESSEIN

9/17 PAT LARSON

9/18 CAROLINE HICKS

9/22 TED RETZL

9/23 MADLYN WULGAERT

9/25 DEXTER HEWLETT

9/28 AMANDA SOUTHWELL

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/1 BRIAN & JEANNE PETERS

9/3 JAY & JUDIE BROOKS

MONDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Monday Morning Fellowship is a group that gets together twice a month via ZOOM to chat and catch up on what is going on in each other's lives.

It is a wonderful way to get to know each other more intimately.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 9:30 to 10:30 AM. The Zoom link is sent out to the church email list on the Friday before the meeting.

Come join us! We look forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at

563-349-6727

or maggieb@bayliss.us

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Kenny Bayliss, **Lynn** Chamberlain, **Bev** Chappen,
Sherry Germanio, **Lora** Gwin, **Sandy** Henry,
Frieda Houldsworth, **Paul** Jones, **John** Leder,
LaVonne Mienke, **Jeanne** Peters, **Minhon** Ridenour

Family and Friends

Amy (friend of Jenny Martin), **Barry** (cousin of Ellen Hogbin),
Ben (son of Eric Bruster), **Drew** (Pat Larson's friend),
Grant (grandson of Carol Leacox)
Jason (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son),
Jon (Joleen Bakken's nephew), **Karen** (Pat Larson's sister),
Kelly (Jennifer's sister), **Konnor** (Bert Leder's grandson),
Mary (friend of Pat Larson, Ann Larson & Ellen Hogbin),
Michelle (friend of Jason & Melissa Forari),
Phil (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother),
Ruthann (Justina Pessein's mom)

Military Personnel

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
Lt. Col. **Brandon** Sandoval USAF, (Pat Larson's
grandson)
1st Lt. **Eli** Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Samantha Richard (friend of Larson family)

*If you have anyone who needs to be taken off or
added, please notify the church office.*



AUTUMN WORD SEARCH



Find the words below in the word search.

S	A	S	P	D	B	F	G	C	E	A	H
C	S	Q	U	I	R	R	E	L	J	C	I
A	K	U	M	L	A	M	N	E	P	O	S
R	Y	A	P	W	K	V	H	A	U	R	T
E	Z	S	K	A	E	B	A	F	C	N	J
C	L	H	I	J	H	G	R	A	I	N	A
R	K	M	N	K	I	G	V	E	F	D	C
O	P	N	H	E	D	G	E	H	O	G	K
W	Q	S	R	T	U	X	S	W	Q	Y	E
C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T	A	D	Z	T

SQUIRREL

CHESTNUT

SCARECROW

ACORN

HARVEST

RAKE

PUMPKIN

RAIN

SQUASH

LEAF

HEDGEHOG

JACKET

May the God who
gives endurance and
encouragement give
you the same attitude
of mind toward each
other that Christ
Jesus had.

ROMANS 15:5

