

The November 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

NOVEMBER

2 0 2 4

Whoever wishes to be first among you must be a servant of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.
Mark 10:44-45

St. James Family:

The main point of our gospel on October 20th was quite simple. Jesus encourages us to serve others. As we have said many times before, the way up in God's economy is down. Those who want to be great must become a servant of all.

From Glory to Servant

James and John come to Jesus with a question. They asked to sit next to Jesus in positions of power when Jesus is in his glory.

- Jesus doesn't scorn their ambition. It is not wrong or misguided to desire greatness in the kingdom.

- Jesus also doesn't refute the assertion made by the two disciples. There really is a place in glory where someone will sit on Jesus' left side and right side.

But Jesus knows they don't understand the implications of their question. A place of honor will definitely come to them, but it will come through suffering, humility, and **service**. He sets the example for them - first through his birth, then with his life, and finally with his sacrificial death.

The way up is down. Those who want to be great must become a servant of all.

The Problem with Service

The best way to learn how to be a servant is to see in action. Jesus was an example to James and John. In our own day these examples can be hard to find. Servants don't usually make headline news. Servants don't often get called up to the podium to be recognized. Servants seldomly receive memorials built in their honor.

We have to seek out examples so we can learn this lesson and then we have to do it so that those who come after us have their own example to follow. Perhaps you have an example of someone in your life who showed you what it is like to be a servant. Call that person to mind and thank God for them today.

Just like James and John, all of us are in the process of becoming the kind of people who...

- find quiet ways to serve
- avoid the limelight
- become examples of service to the next generation

I encourage all of you to find your own example of service and determine to be that example for others. May we all grow in the grace of service as we follow our Savior's example.

God bless you in your journey.

Bryce Hewlett, SAM

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!

November: The Life of Prayer

Dates: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

We assume prayer is something Christians ought to do, but what is it exactly? More importantly, how do I do it?

Scripture Study: Ephesians 1:15-23 & 3:14-21 & 6:18-20 **(on your own)**

Recommended Reading: *How to Pray* by Pete Greig **(on your own)**

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

November 2024

Good day St James and Happy November!

October was a warm one and flew by in a flash, as we were a busy church! We started out the month with our Fall Festival/70th Anniversary celebration on October 6th. Many hands helped in making this day possible. We had a fabulous meal of Sloppy Joe's and countless delicious side dishes, fall cupcakes and pumpkin bars. There was a bounce house for the kids, as well as a pumpkin patch, where the kids were able to pick their own pumpkin and decorate it.

The kids all had a blast, but the fun was not limited just to the kids! For the adults, there was a pie baking contest where we had 8 delicious entries! Everyone was allowed to try every pie and cast their votes. It was a close race:

First place went to Kaylee Pessein, second place went to Judy Brooks and third place went to Carol Leacox. Each winner received an engraved wooden spoon and gift card.

Bryce led us in song and prayer and we had a small ceremony commemorating our 70th Anniversary. Old church photos were displayed, there were many laughs, and fun was had by all.

Thank you to everyone that helped and all who attended!

On October 9th, a community meal was served at St. James during Food Pantry hours. Goulash was made, as well as green beans, fruit and bread. Food pantry patrons were very grateful for the meal and it was so heartwarming to hear their thanks and receive their hugs for our generosity. The next meal will be served on **November 13th at 6pm.**

This meal is not limited to Food Pantry patrons—everyone from St. James and the community is invited and encouraged to attend! This is a time to break bread together and enjoy each other's company, while reaching out to others in the community. Please mark your calendars for the next meal and I hope to see you all there!

On October 9th and 10th, Bryce led an adult bible/ book study on the book “Eat this Book” by Eugene Peterson. It was a good read, but the conversation as a group is where the heart is. I highly recommend joining these adult studies. I have enjoyed them immensely. The November read is “ How to Pray” by Pete Greig. The book is available on Amazon, in written and audible form. It is a great book that I read in 2 days. Please consider signing up for these studies. The group conversation really gets you thinking and stirs up the soul. A sign up is in the Narthex.

On October 17th, Social Ministry played Bingo at Bettendorf Health Care. This is something that is done once a month, and the residents love it!

For every game they win they get a quarter or a stuffed animal. The last round is the “blackout round,” where if they fill their whole card they get a dollar, and we end with a cookie treat. It is a wonderful experience. If anyone is interested in helping with Bingo please contact:
Judy Larson at 563-340-7902.

I have always wanted to get another Bingo group going at Luther Manor, so If anyone is interested in getting that going, or would like to help, please contact me at
angieschmidt2020@gmail.com!

Lastly, on Halloween, the Fellowship Committee put on a Trunk or Treat event in the parking lot. It is fun to be able to provide this for the community and to see all the kids out having such a good time!

Whew! It is such a good feeling to see our church active and growing! Let's keep it up St. James! I hope to see you all at the meal on November 13th! Take care of each other and yourselves!

Peace and Love,
Angie Schmidt



First of all, Thank you for your generous support!

I'm going to talk regarding our two favorite topics – aging and finances. Gosh, we've weathered a lot in the past few years – HVAC project was a BIG one. Thanks to everyone who helped finance this and special thanks to Darryl for all his hard work in coordinating this venture!

Thanks to the very generous contributions from our church members, we were blessed to have a new digital electronic sign installed. This has been a great addition to our church and we've received lots of positive feedback from members and neighbors. And special thanks to those who have learned how to program the sign!

The carpet in Fellowship Hall has been cleaned. We have new tables and chairs ! AGAIN, thanks to the members who donated funds to cover the cost. These new tables and chairs are much more manageable, not nearly as heavy and cumbersome as the old ones we had for many years.

The outside of the building has been cleaned and the windows professionally washed.

There have been several big ticket items we have had to take care of recently in maintaining our church.

- 1) Misc. items with the HVAC system - \$12,500.00
- 2) New electric service - \$9,500.00
- 3) Parking lot resurfaced and striped - \$5,500.00
- 4) Leveling the sidewalk - \$

We had talked about getting a loan to take care of these items, but it was decided to use our reserve funds. We could certainly use your help to replenish these funds! If you would like to help with this, it would be greatly appreciated. Please make special note that your donation is for this particular item.

We do have a WISH LIST of things we would like to do:

Replace tile – Fellowship Hall

Replace carpet – Office

Re-work seating area – Outdoors, by Narthex

Tuck pointing – Bell Tower

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, Fritz Voss, or any Council member.

Thank you for your participation in all you have done, and continue to do to keep our church a welcoming place to make new friends, meet with old friends, and most importantly a wonderful place to worship.

Blessings to you,

Steve Miller

Property Committee



Sarah Circle will meet **November 19th**
at 1:00PM in the Fellowship Hall.



St. James G.A.N.G. will meet next on **November**
21st at 11:30AM



From the Quilt Block

Our 72 personal care kits, 26 school kits and 20 quilts plus 3 quilts from St Paul were delivered to the ingathering in Cedar Rapids on October 19th. We also delivered 4 twin size and 4 flannel baby blankets to Lutheran Services in Iowa. All of this is due to your support—Thank you!

Our next quilt day would be **Tuesday, November 26th**, but that is also the day of the Pie Fest and St. James Thanksgiving service, so **we will *not* be quilting in November or December**. I am sure that our quilters will want to bake pie rather than quilt.

Our September quilt day had 9 people attend and we finished 4 quilts.

Our annual drawing for quilts will start December 1st with the drawing on Sunday, December 22. This year we have 6 quilts for you to consider.

Please remember that your donations are for quilt batting and LWR projects.

Tickets are still \$1.00 per ticket or 6/\$5.00 and will be available from December 1st through December 22nd, the day of the drawing.

Our quilts make great gifts for family and friends, if not for yourselves.

The quilters need cotton fabric to make quilts. If you know of anyone who has fabric “sitting” around, encourage a donation also if you see a good deal on fabric at a garage sale, estate sale, or store, please let one of our quilters know so we can take advantage of that opportunity to continue our mission.

Thank you again for all your support.

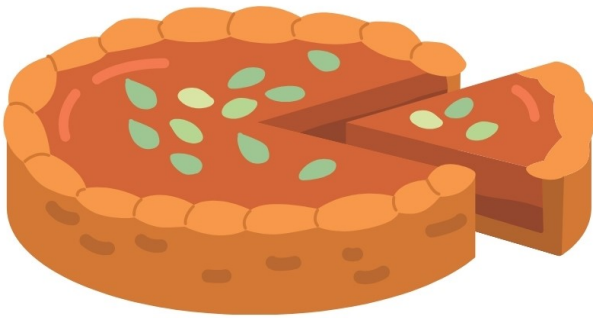
Pieces be with you,
Shirley Richlen

REMINDER!

**Deadline for December Epistle Articles
is Thursday, November 25th**

JOIN US FOR

Pie Fest & Our
Thanksgiving Service



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH

.....
PIE AT 6:00PM

.....
THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT 7PM

.....
**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PIE FEST CONTACT
SHIRLEY RICHLIN AT (563) 949-6545**

November & December

SPECIAL SERVICE TIMES

TUESDAY 11/26

*Thanksgiving
Service*

6:00PM PIE FEST

7:00PM SERVICE

SATURDAY 12/14

Live Nativity

**No Saturday Service*

Performance Times

5:00PM / 5:30PM

6:00PM / 6:30PM

TUESDAY 12/24

*Christmas Eve
Services*

4:00PM

TRADITIONAL
FAMILY SERVICE

11:00PM

TRADITIONAL
SERVICE

MONDAY 1/6/2025

Epiphany

6:00PM DESSERT

7:00PM SERVICE

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/7 EMILY HICKS

11/7 LAVONNE MEINKE

11/16 EVERETT MANTHE

11/18 SHIRLEY RICHLIN

11/19 JAY BROOKS

11/23 YVONNE NICHOLS

11/27 HEATHER MALLI

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/14 TERRY & JIM MARTENS

11/20 JERRY & YVONNE NICHOLS

11/22 ZACH & KATHY MELBY

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 take place on **November 5th at 6pm** and will 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!

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank everyone for their support and donations for the Fall Rally and our 70th Anniversary Celebrations!

It was a huge success and we greatly appreciated everything our church family contributed!



Social Ministry News

We are having a very busy month!!

November 21st we will be calling Bingo for the residents of Bettendorf Health Care. They love this! It is entertaining and fills their time. Prizes include quarters, and small stuffed animals.

We have contacted Lutheran Services in Iowa. They will provide us with 15 families to fill our "Giving Tree". We also have names of 10 residents of Bettendorf Health Care. We plan to have the tree up the week of Thanksgiving.

On **November 25th** we will prepare and serve a meal at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport.

Our next meeting is **November 4, at 4:00PM** in the conference room. Please consider joining us! This is a fun, feel-good committee!!

If you'd like to be involved or have questions, please contact **Judy Larson at (563)340-7902.**

Supper at St. James—NEW!!!

On **November 13th** St. James will open the doors to anyone in our community wanting to enjoy a hot meal and fellowship. Spread the word—***All are welcome and encouraged to attend!***

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

Join us for food and fellowship!

Council Votes

Approval of the September 22, 2024
Council Meeting Minutes

No motions were approved at this
council meeting.

Congregational Members

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

Family and Friends

Addie (Diana Worley's co-worker's daughter),
Amy (friend of Jenny Martin), **Barry** (cousin of Ellen
Hogbin), **Carol** (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Connie** (friend of
Maggie Bayliss), **Drew** (Pat Larson's friend), **Dotty** (friend of
Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Donna** (Ed Arp's sister),
Grant (grandson of Carol Leacox),
Jason (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son),
Jerry (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken) **Jon** (Joleen Bakken's
nephew), **Julia** (Keegan's girlfriend), **Konnor** (Bert Leder's
grandson), **Lon** (friend of Deb Crooks),
Michelle (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken),
Michelle (friend of Jason & Melissa Forari),
Phil (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother),
Russ (friend of Steve & Sue Miller, husband to Chris),
Ruthann (Justina Pessein's mom)

Military Personnel

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
Lt. Col. **Brandon** Sandoval USAF (Pat Larson's grandson)
CPT **Eli** Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend)
Samantha Richard (friend of Larson family)

In Memoriam

Chris (friend of Steve & Sue Miller, wife to Russ), &
Mary (friend of Pat Larson, Ann Larson & Ellen Hogbin)

November & December 2024 Worship Assistants

Date	Assisting Minister	Acolyte	Usher	Usher	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
11/3/24	Caroline Hicks	Edi Southwell	Ellen Hogbin	Ann Larson	Mary Meumann	Terry Martens
11/10/24	Janet Brakel	Lillian Speidel	Jerry Nichols	Yvonne Nichols	Mary Meumann	Terry Martens
11/17/24	Tom Sladky	Lennox Abel	Fritz Voss	Judy Larson	Shirley Richlen	Mary Meumann
11/24/24	Diana Worley		Janene Anderson	Pat Larson	Shirley Richlen	Mary Meumann
12/1/24	Jason Forari	Dex Hewlett	Kelly Crooks	Ron Mekalson	Mary Meumann	Terry Martens
12/8/24	Ann Larson	Jude Hewlett	Diana Worley	Caroline Hicks	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley
12/15/24	Pat Larson	Edi Southwell	Pat Larson	Janene Anderson	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley
12/22/24	Judie Brooks	Lillian Speidel	Kelly Crooks	Ron Mekalson	Shirley Richlen	Ellen Hogbin
12/29/24	Marilyn Pieart	Dex Hewlett	Jerry Nichols	Yvonne Nichols	Shirley Richlen	Ellen Hogbin

November Counters: Erik Bakken & Joleen Bakken

December Counters:

*Please Note: If you find you cannot serve on the date/time scheduled, please arrange for your replacement, then **call or email;***

Janet Brakel at 708-207-5515 or jbrakel@ameritech.net
to advise the name of your replacement.

We appreciate your gracious cooperation.

Thanks!

