

The July 2025 Epistle

A publication of St. James Lutheran Church,
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MESSAGE from the MINISTER

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

Last Sunday we celebrated the *Commemoration of Sts. Peter and Paul*. These saints were two of the most substantial contributors to the Christian faith in the decades following the resurrection of Jesus. Most of the letters in the New Testament were written by Peter or Paul. Peter anchored the early Christian movement in Jerusalem while Paul spread the good news to the provinces of Asia Minor. As we talked about *sainthood* and *martyrdom* we described both of these works of God as **already, not yet** realities in our world.

We live in an era when God's work in the world is *already* fully present in you and I, but *not yet* perfected for what it will be. Saints like Peter and Paul live in the full reality of God's presence in the world while they were alive on earth. They lived so fully in the *already* aspect of God's presence and activity in the world that the *not yet* very nearly ceased to exist. They are able to participate in that reality through the eyes of faith.

I pray we all continue to develop our eyes of faith and increasingly see where God is moving in us and in our world so that we may join God there.

June was a month where God was observably moving in our congregation.

- The Pentecost services on June 7th and 8th celebrated five baptisms down in Duck Creek (what fun!) and three new members! Welcome to all of you!!!
- The week of June 23-27 almost 20 of our young children participated with Grace Lutheran (Davenport) and Trinity Lutheran (Pleasant Valley) for a week-long Lutheran Summer Day Camp! We had fun riding the bus together and learning from counselors sent from EWALU Camp (ELCA). It was a blast!

As God is faithful to us, I pray that we are enlivened in our faith to continue the good work that God has started in us. As the Apostle Paul tells us in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians, *God set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

May God bless you as we head into the summer months and celebrate the movement of God's Spirit in us and in our world!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryce Hewlett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bryce Hewlett, SAM

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

Happy July, St. James!

I can't believe how fast 2025 has gone! It feels like just yesterday we were shoveling snow from our driveways, and now we are taking in the sunshine and warmth our Lord has provided for us.

June brought us 5 baptisms during the Pentecost Vigil that were held down at Duck Creek, with the Kickoff to Summer following directly after. We also welcomed three new members during Pentecost Sunday. The children of St. James were also able to attend Lutheran Summer Day Camp with children from Grace Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church from June 23rd through June 27th, filled with various activities, songs, and prayer.

July should be a time where we sit back and reflect on what has happened these past six months in our lives, and look forward as to what is going to happen for the rest of the year. We should look back about what we have said or done to others, whether they were mistakes or not, and use what we have learned for the rest of the year.

By bettering our hearts, minds, and souls through thoughtfulness and prayer, we can transform into better versions of ourselves to help us follow in God's path.

So, enjoy the warm weather and sunshine. Reflect on what this year has given yourself and what you can give for the rest of the year.

Madeline Schmidt

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable.



**Sarah Circle meets at St. James at 1:00 p.m.
on Tuesday, July 15th.**

Sarah circle met on June 17th. We studied "Flourishing in Relationships" (Part one of three). The relationships studied were Jacob and Esau, and Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

All women of St. James are welcome to attend Sarah Circle!



St James GANG will meet July 17th at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have Jay Brooks here for another video showing brown bears of Alaska and also his videos from his own Honor Flight to DC!

Bring your own lunch! Dessert and beverages will be provided.

See you all there!

GANG stands for Golden Agers Noontime Gathering!

Pat Larson
563-343-2142



From the Quilt Block

St. James Quilters will meet
Tuesday July 22nd at 12:00 p.m.—4:00 pm.

Five St. James Quilters met June 24th and finished 3 quilts. If you have Tuesday afternoons free and want to help people survive, we are looking for people to help assemble quilts. If you have a sewing machine and can sew a straight seam, when there are kits in the narthex to be sewn, pick one up and choose how you want to sew weight strips together then sew seven seams—that is all.

Pieces be with you,

Shirley Richlen



Social Ministry News

Zion Lutheran Meal: Our next meal will be served on **Monday, July 28th.**

If you would like to get involved with making or serving the meal, contact **Judy Larson at 563-340-7902.**



S U M M E R

K I D S



CLUB



6PM-8PM
JUNE 12TH
JULY 10TH
AUGUST 14TH



Bring your kid(s) to one or all
of our Summer Clubs at St.
James!



Crafts / Games / Snacks / Fun



NO REGISTRATION NEEDED!



Check us out online!

YouTube Livestream

We livestream our services on YouTube each week to help us worship together and stay connected even when we are not at full health or out of town!

Youtube Link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjqGF4g_QWtn_I2SqPL5Q

Youtube Channel QR Code:



Sermon Podcast on Spotify!

If you missed a Sunday, click the link below or scan the QR code & listen to the Sermon on Spotify

Please contact the church office if you need assistance accessing it!

Spotify Link:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/2bmzh6HFSREErSkUX5mlX?si=zG2ldhASSyCDYZi5QhDc1w>

Spotify Channel QR Code:



REMINDER!

**Deadline for August Epistle Articles
is Monday, July 21st.**

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/8 SHELBY MILLER

7/9 WAYLON MANTHE

7/11 MADDIE SCHMIDT

7/13 ERIC ANDERSON

7/13 JOYCE MARINACCIO

7/13 LINDSAY MILLER

7/14 KENNY BAYLISS

7/18 MARILYN PIEART

7/26 SHERRY GERMANIO

7/26 SHIRLEY NIEWALD

7/27 STEVE TOUVELLE

7/29 MASON ANDERSON

7/29 MAKENNA ANDERSON

7/29 STEVE PIEART

7/30 JANENE ANDERSON

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/4 KENNY & MAGGIE BAYLISS

7/22 ERIK & JOLEEN BAKKEN

7/31 JASON & MELISSA FORARI

July 2025 Worship Assistants

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Usher	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
7/6/25	Justina Pessein	Pat Larson	Eli & Sam Pessein	Ron Mekalson	Kelly Crooks	Pat Larson	Mary M.
7/13/25	Jason Forari	Angie Schmidt	Jude Hewlett	Melissa Forari	Ana Forari	Ellen Hogbin	Terry Martens
7/20/25	Shirley Richlen	Diana Worley	Velvet Collison	Ryan Martin	Ellen Hogbin	Ellen Hogbin	Terry Martens
7/27/25	Ellen Hogbin	Judie Brooks	Rilynnne Larson & Carter Royse	Jerry Nichols	Yvonne Nichols	Audrey Lovell	Mary M.

*Please Note: If you find you cannot serve on the date/time scheduled, please arrange for your replacement, then **call or email your scheduler** to advise the name of your replacement. Your gracious cooperation is very much appreciated! Thanks!*

Schedulers

Altar Guild: Mary Meumann (563)355-7138;
marybusdrvrr@gmail.com

Ushers & Assisting Ministers:

Madlyn Wulgaert; stjamesbett@gmail.com

Children's Team: Kim Hewlett (856)296-1023;
kimhewlett18@gmail.com

Counters: Maddie Schmidt (563)570-6354;
madelineschmidt2016@gmail.com

Acolytes: Maddie Schmidt (563)570-6354;
madelineschmidt2016@gmail.com

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Ed Arp, **Maggie** Bayliss, **Lynn** Chamberlain, **Bev** Chappen,
Sherry Germanio, **Sandy** Henry, **Frieda** Houldsworth,
LaVonne Mienke

Family and Friends

Annette & Rick (friends of Sue and Steve Miller),
Barry (cousin of Ellen Hogbin), **Carol** (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Donna** (Ed Arp's sister), **Donnie** (friend of Deb Crooks),
Drew (Pat Larson's friend),
Emmett (friend of Diana Worley), **Hattie** (Frieda's sister)
Jason (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son),
Janet (Maggie Bayliss' sister),
Konnor (Bert Leder's grandson), **Mark** (friend of Jason Forari),
Michelle (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken),
Michelle (friend of Jason & Melissa Forari),
Myles (friend of Anna Forari),
Phil (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother),
Stan (relative of Fritz Voss), **Ted** (Ellen Hogbin's father-in-law),
Tyler (Pat Larson's grandson in-law), **Wally** (Frieda's nephew),

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)

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