

The September 2025 Epistle



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

...and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

Luke 13:17

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ who does wonderful things for his people!

As fall begins, I'd like to tell you about some of the wonderful plans percolating around our church. It has me all kinds of excited!

Communications Guild

On the evening of August 27th, a new team met to discuss how we might tell the story of the good things happening at St. James to our region. Until we find a better name, we are calling it the *Communications Guild*. Many good ideas were shared and we all left excited about the possibilities for our future together. I thought you might like to hear the broad strokes of where our conversation took us.

Through our brainstorming three main themes emerged.

First, we want to take the next steps on enhancing our witness online. This may take the form of short videos, targeted social media posts, and a host of other possibilities. For this idea to take root, we need someone to step forward and learn a new skill (or, maybe, dust off an old skill) and take the lead video editing. Maybe YOU are called to this activity. All it takes to get started is faithful attention, love for God, and

willingness to try something new. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested in discussing this more.

Second, we want to steer away from mass marketing mediums (like email blasts, canvassing, cold calling, and broadcast mailings) and instead focus on face-to-face encounters. We brainstormed several very practical opportunities for this at events in the greater Bettendorf area in 2026. Perhaps you would like to help with this idea or you have ideas about where we might set up a booth. Please contact the Church Office if you can help in this way.

Third, perhaps the greatest barrier to telling our story is to find people who want to hear it! We also want to partner with groups to host events at our church to encourage people to find our church building and make it through our front door. You heard about one such idea from Church Councilperson Tom Sladky during our announcement time last Sunday (8/24). Another idea was to engage local musicians to enhance the musical portions of our worship. Please contact the Church Office if you have ideas or want to get involved with hosting a group or event at our church.

These were just the beginnings of our conversation. I was encouraged by how practical all of the ideas were. These are things that our church - with our current resources of time and money - can begin over the next 6-12 months. Praise God!

Fall stewardship

On another note, we are going to begin our Fall Stewardship Season through the four weekends of October with a kick-off on Sunday, October 5th. Mark your calendars! More information will be coming your way through the month of September.

Wartburg Prologue Week

Lastly, I will be at Wartburg Theological Seminary for one week for the kick-off to my fall semester. I will be out of the office from September 1-5, but I will be available for any emergencies that come up. Please direct your calls to the Church Office as much as possible during office hours. Otherwise, you can reach me through phone or email. If I don't immediately get back to you, I will respond just as soon as I can. Thank you, again, for the opportunity to attend seminary while ministering with you all. It is one of the greatest pleasures of my life.

May God bless you during this transition into Fall!

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 September, St. James!

We recently have been getting a “sneak peak” of fall with the cooling weather. Hopefully it stays this way! The kids have started going back to school, and college and NFL football is back for the season! I am most excited to start baking bread and treats again during my 3 week breaks from my own classes.

We have a lot of upcoming things one can participate in with the upcoming months. Later this month, Kane Schmidt and I are starting Confirmation classes. We still have plenty of room so if you or anyone you know that is 6-7th grade or older would like to participate, please let one of us know.

For the month of October, we are going to spend the month reflecting on the past of St. James and brainstorming ideas and upgrades we can do for the future of St. James. We also have our annual Rally Day hosted by the Christian Education committee on October 5th. Christian Education is partnering with the Finance committee so we will also be starting our Stewardship Day as well. The rest of the month we will have topics of conversation after Sunday services about the past and present of St. James. Detailed information will be available throughout the month.

Take care of each other. Enjoy the changing seasons. Enjoy the life God has given you.

Ecclesiastes 3:12: I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime

Madeline Schmidt

*St. James Lutheran
Church: Rally Sunday*

October 5, 2025

Please join us for a Potluck, Pumpkin
Patch & Pie baking contest following the
9:00 am Sunday service!

Please bring a side dish to share (pulled
pork provided) – sign up info to come.
See Pie Contest flyer for more baking
competition details.

Bring the kids! There will be a pumpkin
patch & bounce house for them to enjoy!

No Saturday service October 4.





RALLY SUNDAY PIE BAKING CONTEST

Show us your baking skills!

Rules:

Crust and filling must be homemade.

Please provide a list of all pie ingredients at submission time.

One pie entry per person.

Pie and ingredients list due by 9 am on October 5.

OCTOBER 5, 2025



**Prizes and bragging rights for the top 3
pie entry winners!**

September

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed <i>Labor Day</i>	2	3 6-8PM Food Pantry	4 9-11AM Food Pantry	5	6 5PM Saturday Service
7 9AM Worship	8 4PM Social Ministry Mtg.	9 4PM Property Mtg.	10 6-8PM Food Pantry	11 9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BETT Health Care Center	12	13 5PM Saturday Service
14 9AM Worship 10AM Coffee & Conversation	15	16 1PM Sarah Circle	17 9:30AM Finance Mtg. 6-8PM Food Pantry	18 9-11AM Food Pantry 11:30 GANG 2PM Bingo @ BETT Health Care Center	19	20 5PM Saturday Service
21 9AM Worship	22 5:30PM Meal at Zion	23 12-4PM Quilting	24 6-8PM Food Pantry	25 9-11AM Food Pantry	26	27 5PM Saturday Service
28 9AM Worship 1PM Frieda's 100 th Bday Party	29	30	10/1 6-8PM Food Pantry	10/2 9-11AM Food Pantry	10/3	10/4 5PM Saturday Service

***Living Lutheran*: “Casting a Vision for the Church”**

When Yehiel Curry was elected to serve as the fifth presiding bishop of the ELCA, *Living Lutheran* content editor John Potter sat down with him to talk about his passions, priorities and vision for the church.

“Before he became a pastor, then a bishop, then the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and now presiding bishop-elect, he was a social worker, then a teacher, then in sales. ‘I went from being a social worker to a teacher in the same community where I was helping those families, and in both cases, what I learned is passion is very important. And if you can align a person’s passion with a need, then it doesn’t feel like work sometimes.

“‘It wasn’t until I was in the church that I said, ‘I could do this for the rest of my life.’”

[Read](https://www.livinglutheran.org) the full interview to learn more about Bishop-elect Curry at: <https://www.livinglutheran.org>



Sarah Circle will meet Tuesday, September 15th at 1:00 at church.



St James GANG

The St James GANG will be on Thursday, September 18th. Please with bring your own lunch; dessert & beverage provided.

Speaker TBA.

Pat Larson

bettlarspr@mchsi.com



From the Quilt Block

Quilters will meet Tuesday, September 23rd from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Eight quilters in July completed 4 quilts. August quilters completed 3 quilts. My quilt closet is over full.

There are quilt kits in the basket in the Narthex for congregation members with sewing machines to put together.

In each kit are 8 strips already assembled. All that is required is to choose what order you wish to assemble them and sew them together with a ½ inch seam, then bring it back to church and the group will tie them and bind the edges. The next time you will see it is at the blessing of the quilts in October.

They will be boxed up to go their new owners around the world and here at home in the US – They are sent to those who have lost everything to conflict, fire or other disaster.

A simple blanket can make that life just a little bit more bearable.

Thank you for all your support of our quilt mission.

Pieces be with you,

Shirley Richlen.



- 6/2/2025 - Combed fins in air conditioner in office
- 6/2/2025 - Fixed main door closer. Fixed old door closer leading to Sacristy.
- 6/2/2025 Replaced batteries in Exit signs.
- Replaced fill valve in Lower Level toilet and shimmed toilet base.
- Built and installed signs for food pantry and front door (40+hrs of work)
- Installed 4-plex receptacles in Lower Level (2hrs of work)
- 4 Plex Outlet in basement (2hrs of work)
- Replaced emergency batteries in smoke detectors (40mins)
- Replaced flap valve in handicapped bathroom (20min)
- Fritz and Judy removed brush from the property after the storm (2hrs)
- Jerry and Fritz Fixed uneven sidewalk outside
- Fritz and electrician (Dave Nelson) troubleshoot the chiller. (1hr)
- Fritz and Jerry Nichols installed bird spikes on South Floodlights. (1.5hrs)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/2 LYNN OSWALD

9/11 AUSTIN PESSEIN

9/12 CAROLYN ACKERMAN

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 VELVET COLLISON

9/18 CAROLINE HICKS

9/23 MADLYN WULGAERT

9/25 DEXTER HEWLETT

9/26 GRACE BOYLES

9/28 AMANDA SOUTHWELL

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/3 JAY & JUDIE BROOKS

9/5 BRADLEY & HEATHER MALLI

9/14 KANE & JENNA SCHMIDT

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Usher	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
9/7/25	Angie Schmidt	Maddie Schmidt	Sam & Eli Pessein	Melissa Forari	Ana Forari	Pat Larson	Mary Meumann
Holy Cross Day 9/14/25	Caroline Hicks	Diana Worley	Jude Hewlett & Dex Hewlett	Fritz Voss	Judy Larson	Pat Larson	Mary Meumann
9/21/25	Shirley Richlen	Mary Meumann	Edi Southwell	Pat Larson	Caroline Hicks	Ellen Hogbin	Mary Meumann
9/28/25	Tom Sladky	Jason Forari	Rilynne and Carter	Ron Mekalson	Kelly Crooks	Ellen Hogbin	Mary Meumann

*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; marybusdvr@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, **Lynn** Chamberlain, **Bev** Chappen, **Sherry** Germanio, **Sandy** Henry, **Frieda** Houldsworth, **Bert** Leder, **LaVonne** Mienke, **Mark** Peters

Family and Friends

Amanda (friend of Melissa), **Barry** (cousin of Ellen Hogbin),
Carol (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Donna** (Ed Arp's sister),
Drew (Pat Larson's friend), **Emmett** (friend of Diana Worley),
Hattie (Frieda's sister),
Jason (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son),
Jenn (family of Bryce/Kim & Gary/Eunice),
Joseph (friend of Bryce & Kim), **Konnor** (Bert Leder's grandson),
Maggie Bayliss, **Mark** (friend of Jason Forari),
Michelle (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken),
Phil (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother),
Ruthann (Justina's mom), **Stan** (relative of Fritz Voss),
Ted (Ellen Hogbin's father-in-law), **Wally** (Frieda's nephew)

Those Whose Duty it is to Protect Others

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)

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

