



The Epistle September 2026

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

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Matthew 16:18)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you!

Three years together!

As I said recently in worship, the Scripture readings for Sunday, August 30th marked the three-year anniversary of my first sermon at St. James. Preaching has been and continues to be one of the great joys of my life. I found that joy because of the opportunity you gave to me, so I say 'thank you' (sincerely!) for allowing me to open the Scriptures with you each week for the last three years. Thank You!

This anniversary gave me an opportunity to reflect on the time we spent together and I must say, a lot has happened in three years! We have had a flurry of blessings: baptisms, new members, confirmations, special services - and many other signs of growth. Some have thanked me for the role I've played in this flurry of blessings, and while my heart is warmed at your gratitude, I hope we all can agree, if the growth we've experienced can be attributed to one person, that person can only be Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I will build my church," and it is *only* Jesus who can give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Jesus gives the increase and we are stewards. All we have been given, has been given to us by God. It is my joy to be a steward in the vineyard of God's grace with you. We can be faithful, knowing Jesus will build his church through us. In times of famine and in times of plenty, Jesus' promise to build his church remains steadfast.

Updates and reminders

An update on my Seminary progress: I am down to the final 12 months of the journey! During these 12 months I will take my final two classes (yay!) and be assessed on my proficiency in the practical work I do in the congregation. My hope is for an ordination ceremony in the Fall of 2027.

As always, if anyone is in need of a home visit, hospital visit, pastoral care, or pastoral counseling - please feel free to contact the church office and make a request. It is my pleasure to come to you when needed.

Lastly, begin looking for some news over the next couple weeks about "Celebration Sundays" on the first Sundays of the month in October, November, and December. The Christian Education Committee is helping us design the services and after-service times for all of us to invite a friend/neighbor and welcome the children (and their friends!) among us. Stay tuned!

Welcome to autumn(ish)! God's peace to you in the month ahead!

Vicar Bryce Hewlett, SAM

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Fourth Quarter of Your Life

An Adult Education Study

This fall we will be studying a book called *The Fourth Quarter of Your Life: Embracing what Matters Most* written by Allen Hunt & Matthew Kelly.

If you're interested in participating, please sign up in the Narthex or contact the office at (563) 355-4161.

-Participants will need to purchase the book.-



The Fourth Quarter of Your Life: Embracing what Matters Most

Scan the QR code or use Google to search the book title

If you would like assistance purchasing the book, please call the office at (563)355-4161

WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. STARTING SEPTEMBER 9TH

September 9

September 16

September 23

September 30

October 7

October 14

October 21

October 28

November 4

November 11

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

Happy September St. James

Where has the time gone???

Did you know our bodies' natural circadian rhythms change during the fall? As summer days fade and the crisp air of September arrives, our rhythms change. We start to fall into routines and tend to have a desire to go to bed earlier as the sun goes down earlier. It is due to our natural response to things returning from summer, like school routines, returning choirs, and resumed Bible studies and classes. For many of us, September feels like a true New Year—a time of fresh starts and renewed commitments.

This transition into a new season invites us to ask a simple question: What is God calling us to learn and do in this new season?

Lamentations 3:23 states that God's mercies "are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Every transition in weather, school, or work is an invitation to lean back into that steady faithfulness. Whether you are walking through the doors of the church for the first time in a while, or you are a lifelong member whose seat in the pew is well-worn, you are an essential part of our community. Christ has gathered us here by grace, to support one another in love.

I know I say this pretty much every month, but let us focus on three simple acts of faith; gathering, serving, and praying.

Let us all look forward to the time and gatherings that are coming up in our church. Events like these are a great way of supporting one another in the work we do to spread and celebrate the Word.

May the Holy Spirit guide your path this September. May you find peace in the quiet moments, strength in fellowship, and joy in sharing the good news of Jesus with a world that so deeply needs grace.

Be good. Do good. God bless,

Madeline Schmidt

2011-2012 INTERIM PASTOR AT ST. JAMES



50 Year Ordination Anniversary

On August 1, **Rev. Dr. Sandra Orsen Daily** celebrates the 50th anniversary of her ordination into ministry, which took place at St. Mark Lutheran in Davenport. Pastor Sandra's first call was to Our Saviour's Lutheran in East Boston, MA, in 1976. From 1979 until her retirement in 2004, she served in several churches and ministries in the state of Michigan. In 2011, Pastor Sandra briefly

served the people of St. James Lutheran in Bettendorf before returning to retirement.

Pastor Sandra's favorite part of ministry was "praising God with the people in all walks of life," and her hope for the church is for it to experience "growth and joy and peace together."

In retirement, Pastor Sandra enjoys the "freedom to be as a child of God with all of the other children of God on the planet Earth." We give thanks for Pastor Sandra's ministry and faithful service to God's people.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	Assisting Minister	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Usher
9/6/26	Tom Sladky	Jason Forari	Jude Hewlett	Pat Larson	Ellen Hogbin
9/13/26	Angie Schmidt	Shirley Richlen	Eli Pessein	Fritz Voss	Judy Larson
9/20/26	Pat Larson	Amanda Southwell	Edi Southwell	Jerry Nichols	Yvonne Nichols
9/27/26	Jason Forari	Pat Larson	Velvet Collison	Melissa Forari	Ana Forari

Altar Guild:

Sept 5	Shirley Richlen & Judie Brooks
Sept 12	Shirley Richlen & Judie Brooks
Sept 19	Marilyn Pieart & Diana Worley
Sept 26	Marilyn Pieart & Diana Worley



Proverbs 27:17

*Iron sharpens iron, and
one man sharpens
another.*

The poster features a vibrant orange background adorned with white line-art illustrations of various pumpkins and squash. These illustrations are scattered around the central text area, with some at the top, bottom, and sides, creating a festive autumnal border. The word "RALLY DAY" is prominently displayed in large, orange, sans-serif capital letters, underlined with a thick orange bar.

RALLY DAY

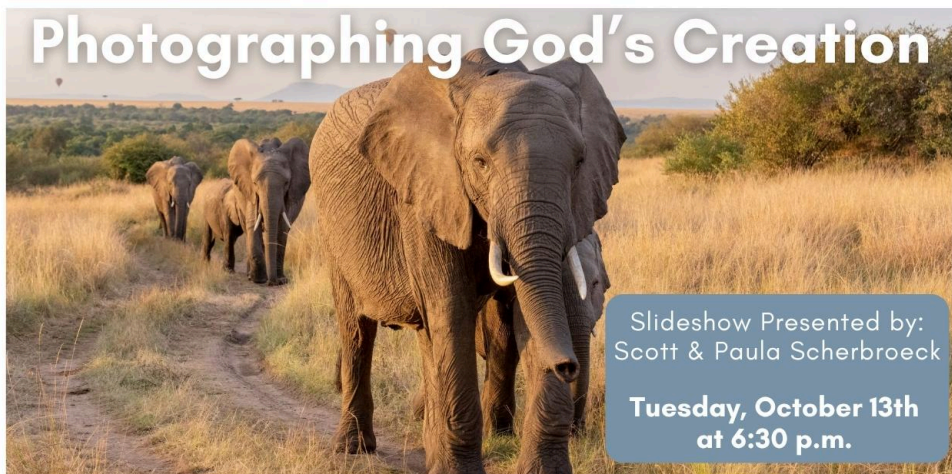
OCTOBER 4TH

Following the Sunday
Service

Pie Contest!

Crust and filling must be
made from scratch!

For more information contact
Justina Pessein at
(563) 940-3782



Scott and Paula Scherbroeck - lifelong Quad City residents - have traveled to the continent of Africa 10 times visiting 9 countries.

They will be presenting:

“A Spiritual Journey Through the Lens of Africa.”

For Scott and Paula traveling to Africa is much more than a photographic trip, it is a journey into the heart of God's creation.

It became apparent Paula's love for photography was a complementary fit to their shared passion for the outdoors and wildlife. Scott and Paula have witnessed the grandeur of nature, the sounds, smells, and behaviors of wildlife in their natural habitat. They feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience unique cultures different from their own. Every animal, every person, and all the vast landscapes serve as a reminder of our maker's handiwork, inspiring them to share images of those memories with others.

Free Will Donations Accepted.

Popcorn & Lemonade will be provided!

All are welcome - Invite friends!

St. James Lutheran Church 1705 Oak Street, Bettendorf

PLEASE ENTER THROUGH THE LOWER LEVEL

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8/30	8/31	1	2	3	4	5
9AM Worship 10AM Light for the Journey Mtg.			6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry		5PM Worship
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9AM Worship 10AM Friendly Visitors Mtg.	4PM Social Ministry Mtg. <i>Labor Day Office Closed</i>	4PM Property Mtg. 6:30PM Christian Ed. Mtg.	10AM 4th Quarter Study 6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BHCC		8AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 5PM Worship
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9AM Worship 10AM Coffee & Convo.		1PM Sarah Circle	10AM 4th Quarter Study 6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BHCC 11:30AM GANG 2:30PM BINGO at BHCC		5PM Worship
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9AM Worship <i>(Marathon Race Day)</i> 10AM Nativity Planning Mtg.		12-4PM Quilting	10AM 4th Quarter Study 6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry		5PM Worship
27	28	29	30	10/1	10/2	10/3
9AM Worship 11AM Dixon Service	5:30PM Meal at Zion Lutheran		10AM 4th Quarter Study 6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BHCC		No Worship due to Rally Day!



Sarah Circle will meet **Tuesday, September 15th at 1PM.**

St James GANG will be meeting **Sept. 17th at 11:30 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. We are in the process of getting a speaker for the program. Bring your own sandwich, dessert and beverages will be provided. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex on Sunday the 13th.

Contact Pat Larson at 563-343-2142 for more information.



September 2026

There was no quilting in July. There are quilt kits in the basket in the Narthex for congregation members with sewing machines to put together. There 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. Then they will be boxed up to go to their new owners around

the world and here at home in the US. Owners who have lost everything to conflict, fire or other disaster. A simple blanket can make that life just a little bit more bearable.

Quilters will meet September 22nd from noon-4:00 p.m. at Church.

Pieces be with you,
Shirley Richlen

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS



The next Zion meal is September 28th at 5:30 p.m. Currently we are looking for people to help with serving the Zion meals! It takes less than an hour. It is very fulfilling and they are so grateful for whatever we serve! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Judy Larson at 563-340-7902!

The next meeting is September 7th at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room. We will be making plans for the Churches United meal to be served at Zion Lutheran on September 28th.

Bingo is September 17th at the Bettendorf Health Care Center. The residents win prizes such as small stuffed animals (Beanie Baby size), and quarters. We enjoy calling the numbers for them and they are always happy to see us!

Please consider joining us.. new ideas are always welcome!
Judy Larson (563) 340-7902!

To the Congregation:

“Thank you all for remembering me on my “milestone” 80th birthday! Your kindness and friendship are truly appreciated.

Much love,
Janene Anderson



WORSHIP AND MUSIC SEPTEMBER 2026

We have some dates still open to purchase altar flowers! The flowers are \$50 for two bouquets. You can either purchase both or find someone to split them with! The dates are listed below:

September 20 September 27 November 1

Contact the office with any questions or to reserve a date!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

St. James' Annual Nativity

A Night in Bethlehem



Planning Meeting!

Join us after the service on
September 20th to help plan
our 2026 Nativity!

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Ed Arp, **Bev** Chappen, **Sandy** Henry,
Frieda Houldsworth, **Jeryl** Krumbholz, **Jim** Krumbholz,
Mary Meumann, **LaVonne** Mienke, **Shirley** Niewald

Family and Friends

Amanda (friend of Melissa), **Annette & Rick** (Steve & Sue Miller & Pat Sorenson's sister & brother-in-law), **Brenda** (Friend of Janene Anderson), **Donna** (Ed Arp's sister), **Drew** (Pat Larson's friend), **Elliot** (Gary and Eunice Grell's great grandson), **Emmett** (friend of Diana Worley), **Hattie** (Frieda's sister), **Jack** (family of Martens/Schmidts), **Jane** (friend of Deb Crooks), **Jason** (Sherry Germanio's son), **Jim** (Pat Larson's nephew), **John** (Pat Larson's brother), **John** (Frieda's nephew), **Karen** (Shirley's Aunt),
Larry (family of Doug Larson), **Lylah** (friend of Noa),
Mark (friend of Jason Forari),
Michelle (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken),
Pat (Judy Larson's Sister-in-Law), **Phil** (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), **Rashad** (friend of Deb Crooks), **Stacy** (Fritz' son's cousin),
Steve (friends of St. James), **Wally** (Frieda's nephew)

Those Whose Duty it is to Protect Others

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
LT. Chris Tribble USN (Erik & Joleen Bakken's friend).
CPT Eli Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend)
Tyler McLaughlin, First Responder (Family of Pat Larson)

*If you need to add or remove someone from
the prayer list, please contact the church office.*