



The Epistle October 2026

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

Peter asked, "How many times should I forgive?"

As many as seven times?"

Matthew 18:21

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

October begins our Fall Stewardship Season! Please take a minute to read my letter to the congregation in this edition of the *Epistle*. Also, mark your calendar for our congregational meeting after the service on Sunday, October 11!

Our themes in worship in recent weeks have been forgiveness, reconciliation, and grace. One of my favorite authors, Wendell Berry, died one month ago. He wrote extensively on agrarian values from his farm in rural Kentucky. In 2019 and 2020 his novels, poems, and essays played a significant role in rekindling my love for my native soil and inspired the courage I needed to move my family from New Jersey to Iowa in 2021.

My internship supervisor, Pastor Joel Nau, shared this poem with me when our gospel in early September highlighted St. Peter's dialogue with Jesus about forgiveness. I pray you find both comfort and challenge as you meditate on these words.

Enemies by Wendel Berry

If you are not to become a monster,
you must care what they think.
If you care what they think,
how will you not hate them,
and so become a monster
of the opposite kind? From where then
is love to come—love for your enemy
that is the way of liberty?
From forgiveness. Forgiven, they go
free of you, and you of them;
they are to you as sunlight
on a green branch. You must not
think of them again, except
as monsters like yourself,
pitiable because unforgiving.

Copyright Credit: Wendell Berry, "Enemies" from *Entries: Poems*.

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Forgiving someone who wrongs you may be one of the most difficult things a person is asked to do. Jesus is neither flippant nor condescending when he answers Peter. Do you remember the words Jesus said from the cross? "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

May we learn with Peter what it means to forgive and how to forgive as many as 77 times. For it is in forgiving that we are forgiven and in understanding that we are understood.

God's peace to you in these autumn days.

Vicar Bryce Hewlett, SAM

FALL STEWARDSHIP 2026

Dear St. James:

Our Fall Stewardship Season is upon us! I write today with a financial challenge for our congregation - a challenge, I believe, we are able to meet.

We have made sizable updates to our church facilities over the last five years. When a need was identified, the call was put out for financial support, and you generously responded. Whether it was HVAC replacement, foundation repair, or other smaller projects - you rose and met the need. These updates provide a foundation from which we will grow in the future.

The Congregational Council, Property Committee, and I have turned our attention to the next layer of needful improvements that will come in the next five years. This list includes substantial projects - replacing our roof, upgrading our parking lot, and making additional interior updates, as needed. The estimated total for these projects could exceed \$150,000.

We consider it wise and prudent to conduct a Capital Campaign during our 2026 Fall Stewardship Season to meet this new challenge.

A meeting will be held after the morning service on **Sunday, October 11th** to discuss the logistics of the Capital Campaign. Please plan to attend with an open mind and an open heart! If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to contribute, please contact the church office and I will personally contact you.

Please note: The Capital Campaign will be a focus for us during the Fall Steward Season, but it will not replace our annual *Estimate of Giving* card and a *Serving St. James Form*. These two items will be distributed at the meeting on October 11th and are vital to our ongoing, sustaining congregational stewardship. Please return these two items to the church on or before **Sunday, October 25th**. A virtual version of these forms will also be available for your convenience.

Thank you, in advance, for your faithfulness and dedication to the life of our church.

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryce Hewlett', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

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 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 October, St. James!

The air is crisp, the leaves are turning vibrant shades of amber and gold, and the nights are drawing in. October has arrived, bringing with it the unmistakable rhythm of autumn. It is a season of profound transition. In the natural world, we watch creation gracefully let go of the old to prepare for the new.

For many of us, this time of year brings a shift in pace. Normal routines begin to settle, and our thoughts tend to turn toward home, warmth, and community.

In the life of our church, October invites us into a deeper reflection on faithfulness and stewardship. Just as the earth yields its harvest, we are called to look at the harvest of our own lives. What fruits of the Spirit have grown in you this year? How are we, as a community, spreading kindness, generosity, and grace in a world that so desperately needs them?

Change can sometimes feel unsettling, whether it is the changing of the weather or the unexpected shifts in our personal or church lives. Yet, autumn reminds us that change is a holy process. We can let go of the past with gratitude, trusting that the same God who guides the seasons is holding our future securely.

This month, I encourage you to slow down and notice the sacred in the mundane. Thank you for being the heartbeat of this congregation. Your presence, your prayers, and your unique gifts make our church a sanctuary of hope. No matter how chilly the days become, may your heart be warmed by the steady, unchanging love of God.

Be good. Do good. God bless,

Madeline Schmidt

OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	Assisting Minister	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Usher
10/4/26	Judie Brooks	Angie Schmidt	Dex Hewlett	Fritz Voss	Judy Larson
10/11/26	Ellen Hogbin	Todd Harpen	Velvet Collison	Jerry Nichols	Yvonne Nichols
10/18/26	Shirley Richlen	Pat Larson	Velvet Collison	Ron Mekalson	Kelly Crooks
Reformation 10/25/26	Jason Forari	Tom Sladky	Edi Southwell	Fritz Voss	Judy Larson

Altar Guild:

Oct 3

Pat Larson

Oct 10

Pat Larson

Oct 17

Shirley Richlen & Judie Brooks

Oct 24 (REFORMATION)

Shirley Richlen & Judie Brooks - FD*



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 positioned at the top, bottom, and sides, creating a festive autumnal border. The central text is contained within white rectangular boxes with orange borders.

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

Photographing God's Creation

Slideshow Presented by:
Scott & Paula Scherbroeck

**Tuesday, October 13th
at 6:30 p.m.**

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

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9AM Worship - Rally Sunday!	4PM Social Ministry Mtg.		8AM Worship & Music Mtg. 10AM 4th Quarter Study 6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry 9:30AM Finance Mtg.		8AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 5PM Worship
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9AM Worship <i>*Blessing of the Quilts</i> 10AM Stewardship Mtg.		6:30PM Africa Presentation 6:30PM Christian Ed. Zoom Meeting	10AM 4th Quarter Study 6-8PM Ignite 6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BHCC 11:30AM GANG		5PM Worship
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9AM Worship 10AM Council Mtg.		1PM Sarah Circle	10AM 4th Quarter Study 6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry		5PM Worship
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9AM Worship 10AM Nativity Mtg.	2:30-5:30PM Blood Drive - Lower Level	12-4PM Quilting	10AM 4th Quarter Study 6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BHCC		No Service 5:30-7:00PM Trunk 'R' Treat <i>Halloween</i>



Sarah Circle will meet **Tuesday, October 20th at 1PM**. Bring your Gather magazine for our discussion topics. Patty Turner is the hostess and Pat Larson is the Lesson Leader.



St James GANG

The St. James GANG will meet on Thursday, October 15th at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We do have a speaker for this meeting. Bring your own lunch and the dessert and beverages will be provided. All are welcome, come and bring a friend. Contact Pat Larson at 563-343-2142 for more information.

October 2026

On October 22nd 6 quilters met to complete 4 quilts. You can see our creations on the rack in the Narthex.

On October 11th there will be a blessing of the quilts and kits

before they are shipped to Lutheran World Relief and donated to Lutheran Services in Iowa.



Then on October 17th the quilts that the quilters have been working on all year, and your donations for Personal Care Kits will go to Cedar Rapids for Lutheran World relief.

Our next quilt day is Tuesday, October 27th from noon to 4:00 p.m. at St. James. All are welcome for whatever time you have to give - 30 minutes or four hours. If you would like to see what we do but are not yet ready to help, you are welcome to join us for refreshments from 2:00-2:30 p.m. to meet the group and check out our processes.

All are welcome because there is no sewing required. We will show you how to tie the knots. If you have a sewing machine you are encouraged to pick up a quilt kit from the basket in the narthex and sew the strips together with ½ inch seams. When finished, return the finished top to the basket or the office. Thank you for participating in this ministry.

Keep stitchen'
Shirley Richlen

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS



The last Zion meal was 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 October 5th at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room.

Bingo is September 15th 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!



WORSHIP AND MUSIC SEPTEMBER 2026

We have one date still open
to purchase altar flowers -

November 1st! The flowers are \$50 for two bouquets. You can
either purchase both or find someone to split them with!

Contact the office to reserve the last open flower date for 2026!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 CAMERON PUETZ

10/2 FRIEDA HOULDSWORTH

10/4 LINDA WILLEY

10/6 BILL MARTIN

10/10 CONNIE JACOB

10/13 OLIVER SOUTHWELL

10/14 BEV CHAPPEN

10/14 JIM MARTENS

10/19 TAMMI MEYER

10/24 LORA GWIN

10/24 JUDY LARSON

10/29 SANDY HENRY

10/30 GEMMA PUETZ

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/5 STEVE & LINDSAY MILLER

10/14 ANGIE & DAVE SCHMIDT

10/15 DARRYL & DEE WORLEY

10/31 HOLLY & ANTONIO GARCIA

WEAR LOVE
COLOSSIANS 3:12-14
IGNITE

- *Games*
- *Fire Pit*
- *Worship*

OCTOBER 14TH
6:00-8:00 P.M.

.....

FAITH LUTHERAN
CHURCH ELDRIDGE

.....

6-9TH
GRADERS



St. James' Annual Nativity



A Night in Bethlehem



Planning Meeting!

Join us after the service on
October 25th to help plan
our 2026 Nativity!

+ IMPACT LIFE +

Blood Donation +



Monday

26

October

**2:30 p.m.
to
5:30 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment
contact Frieda Houldsworth
at (563) 355-1628 or Janene
Anderson at (563) 370-8710

St. James Lutheran Church
1705 Oak Street Bettendorf
Located in the Lower Level

Group Code: 028



TRUNK 'R' TREAT

OCTOBER 31ST
**5-7 p.m. in the church
parking lot**



CANDY DONATION BASKET IN NARTHEX

LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS:
Sunday, October 25th



Contact the church office at
(563) 355-4161 with questions or if you'd
like to decorate your car and hand out
candy!

Directory Address Updates

Anderson, Janene

3012 Holiday Ct.

Bettendorf, IA. 52722

Cell: 563/370-8710

jands356@msn.com

Berberich, Russell

3024 Holiday Ct.

Bettendorf, IA. 52722

563/210-5175

russellb914@yahoo.com

Meinke, Lavonne

Bettendorf Health Care Center

2730 Crow Creek Road - Room 33

Bettendorf, IA. 52722

563/355-1900

Meumann, Mary

Storypoint

3150 Glenbrook Circle S., Apt 209

Bettendorf, IA. 52722

563-343-3974 - Cell

(563) 900-3078 - Temporary number (8/24/2026)

Willey, Linda

1104 Kimberly Road

Bettendorf, IA. 52722

314/852-1475

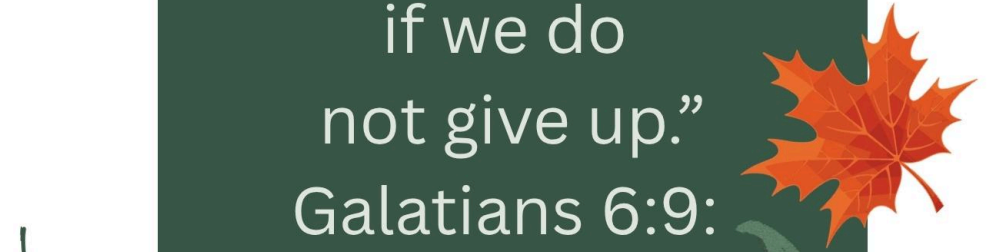
angelwingl@netscape.net

Fall Fun





“Let us not
become weary
in doing good, for at
the proper time we
will reap a harvest
if we do
not give up.”
Galatians 6:9:



Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Ed Arp, **Bev** Chappen, **Sandy** Henry,
Frieda Houldsworth, **Jeryl** Krumbholz, **Jim** Krumbholz,
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), **Leeanne** (friend of Deb Crooks), **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 (friend 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.*

