

The March 2024 Epistle



A publication of St. James Lutheran Church, Bettendorf, IA.

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*We look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. **Hebrews 12:2***

Grace and peace to you in the name of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray your Lenten observance has been meaningful and strong as we near the midpoint of the season. The journey of the cross as we progress toward Easter always seems so long while I am in the middle of it, but so short once I am through it. Perhaps the same is true for you.



In this March edition of the *Epistle* I would like to communicate with you a large portion of the conversation the Members of Council and I had during our half-day retreat at the beginning of February. We spent most of our time together considering the road ahead of us for the next 3-5 years. It was a blessed conversation.

We began by establishing some mutual viewpoints regarding the shifting landscape of the Church in the United States and our local ministry here in the Quad Cities. We sketched out our leadership approach as we attempt to address those changes in the years to come. Here are the three intentions we discussed.

1. Perpetually honor the investment of past and current members and leaders who faithfully served Christ and his church.
2. When changes seem necessary, make small, manageable adjustments over long periods of time.
3. Whenever possible, enhance the congregation through initiatives which *add and compliment the core ministries of the church over and above changing or eliminating ministries and organizational structures which already exist.*

In faith, Council began to imagine where we think God may lead us in the coming years. The following ideas were submitted as indicators of a healthy, faithful St. James Lutheran Church 3-5 years in the future.

1. At the heart of the church is worship. We envision worship services that are faithful, meaningful, and inspiring.
2. Families with children under 18 are welcome, present, and engaged.
3. Council, committees, and programs are strong in content and participation, especially options for adult education are available and well-attended.
4. Growth is experienced to the point that a late Sunday morning service is needed again.
5. Facilities are updated as needed, well-maintained, and pleasant to engage.

This short list is just the beginning of our imaginative brainstorm. Perhaps you have something to add to the list we started. Feel free to send me an email with your thoughts!

May God bless you as we serve and pray together through the rest of Lent and look forward to the celebration of Easter on March 31st!

Bryce Hewlett, SAM
brycechewlett@gmail.com

President's Message for March 2024

Happy Day Everyone! I hope you all have had a chance to get out and enjoy this beautiful, warm sunshine and take in all of the miracles of nature that God has given us.

Job 12:7-10 " But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."

At our last council meeting new officers were appointed for the 2024 year, Angie Schmidt as President, Mandy Peters Seibel as Vice President and Kelly Crooks as Secretary. I would first like to thank Ellen for all of hard work and dedication as President. She did a fantastic job, and I have some big shoes to fill!

February 14th we began the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday service. We did things a little different this year, by receiving the ashes and then proceeding to the rail for communion. All went very well and was well attended. We will be continuing with our midweek Lenten services every Wednesday at 7:00 pm preceded by a Lenten meal at 5:45 pm. March 24th is the Palm Sunday service at 9am followed by Maundy Thursday on March 28th, and Good Friday on March 29th, both at 7pm. March 31st is Easter Sunday, where we have a little change to the normal schedule. Everyone is invited to Easter Brunch at 9:00 am followed by Easter service at 10am, and wrapping up with an Egg Hunt for the kids at 11:15. I hope you all can come and celebrate together the Resurrection of our Lord!

John 11: 25-26 [Jesus said to her] "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Have a wonderful month of March! Enjoy all the beautiful gifts God has given us!!

Peace and Love, Angie

LENTEN SCHEDULE IN MARCH

Wed, Mar 6 5:45 PM Lenten Meal, Hosts: Call Committee & Council; 7 PM Service

Wed, Mar 13 5:45 PM Lenten Meal, Hosts: Friendly Visitors, Finance & Stewardship; 7 PM Service

Wed, Mar 20 5:45 PM Lenten Meal, Hosts: Fellowship & WELCA; 7 PM Service

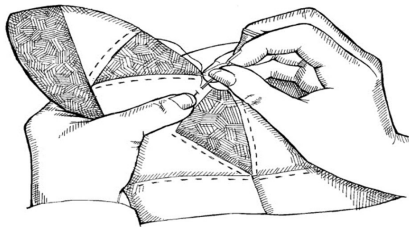
Thurs, Mar 28 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

Fri, Mar 29 7 PM Good Friday Service

Sun, Mar 31 9-9:50 AM Easter Brunch; 10 AM Easter Worship with Communion;
11:15-11:45 AM Egg Hunt



Six members of Sarah Circle met at Village Inn in January. The next meeting is at Church on Tuesday, March 19th at 1:00 PM. Marilyn Pieart is hostess and Ellen Hogbin is the lesson leader. The Gather magazine March issue will provide our study material. March's topic is: 'Scripture and Nature: Teachers of faith" by Sara Olson-Smith of Davenport IA. The lesson opens talking about rivers and our own Mississippi and baptism. All women are welcome!



From the Quilt Block

Seven quilt group members met on January 28th. We finished 2 quilts. Saturday, March 16th is National Quilting Day. Lift up Quilters and those who receive quilts in your prayers. Our next quilt group will be Tuesday, March 26th from noon to 4:00 P.M. at St. James. All are welcome to help for any amount of time you have available, NO sewing skills are required. We will gladly teach you anything you need to know. If you have any questions, contact me (Shirley Richlen) at 563-355-3942 or 563-949-6545 or at srichlen34@gmail.com

Pieces be with you,
Shirley Richlen



St James GANG will meet in Fellowship Hall on March 21st at 11:30.

We will be bringing our own lunch as usual, and beverages and dessert will be provided. We all enjoyed last months speaker and will try to get another interesting speaker for the 21st.

Come and bring a friend. All are welcome!

March Anniversaries and Birthdays

March Anniversaries

March 26 Richard & Sharon Corken

March Birthdays

March 3 Jerry Nichols

March 4 Jack Forari

March 7 Steven Miller III

March 11 Jenna Gamble

March 13 Mary Meumann

March 15 Sandra Arp

March 16 James Krumbholz

March 20 Kristen Wendell

March 24 Mihnnon Ridenour

March 25 Ryan Martin

March 26 Maxine Duhm

March 29 Chuck Meyer

March 30 Edwin Arp



WELCA TO ASSEMBLE PERSONAL CARE KITS

AGAIN THIS YEAR

It is the time of year that we give to those less fortunate with Personal Care Kit items:

- * 1 light weight bath towel (20"x40" to 27"x52"), Dark color recommended.
- * 2 or 3 bath-size bars of soap (equaling 8-9 oz.) any brand in original packaging.
- * 1 Adult size toothbrush in original packaging. Multi packs are accepted.
- * 1 nail clipper.

If you can donate the items, please put them in the wash tub. If you would prefer that someone else do the shopping, one can just donate cash or check and a kit or parts of a kit can be purchased. The cost of one kit is \$15. In 2023 St. James delivered 35 kits to Lutheran World Relief. Let's try for 40 kits this year. The kits will be delivered to Cedar Rapids in the fall.

Thank You!

I would like to give a shout out to Steve Miller for providing the office with a microwave and to my husband for setting it up and to Darryl for putting the finishing touches on the set up.

I had mentioned at the annual meeting that the office no longer had a microwave and we could seriously use one. It truly is a blessing!

Thank you! Maggie



2024 Synod Assembly Announcement

Two representatives, preferably one female and one male, are needed for annual Assembly in May. This year's Synod Assembly will take place in person on Friday and Saturday, May 17th and 18th at the Hyatt Regency in Coralville, IA.

If you are interested in representing St. James by attending this year's Assembly, please contact the church office (563-355-4161) or Angie Schmidt (563-570-4928).

"The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.'" *Matthew 28:5-6*



DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD

Clocks will spring forward at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 10th. This means that we lose an hour when we "spring forward," so don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed.

REMINDER:
Deadline for
Newsletter Articles is
Wednesday, March 20th

SWANSON SCHOLARSHIP

Attention High School Seniors that will be graduating in 2024:

Any Senior church member that would like to be considered for the Swanson Scholarship should contact the church office for an application. All applications need to be submitted for consideration by **March 31, 2024**.

The Swanson Scholarship Committee will review all applications and contact each applicant. If you have any questions please reach out to Holly Garcia (563-508-6673 or garciaholly3@gmail.com).

Council Votes

GUEST(S) – Girl Scouts Selena Garcia and Lillian Peters-Speidel requested permission to sell GS cookies at the church in March 2024. Motion to allow was made and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Council nominated officers for 2024. Nominees were Angie Schmidt for president and Mandy Peters-Speidel for vice-president. Erik motioned for approval of these candidates and Jason seconded. Motion approved.

Nominations for appointment to the 2024 Audit Committee were Ryan Martin, Zach Melby, and Ron Mekalson. Angie moved for approval and Steve seconded. Motion approved.

The Call Committee members remain the same for 2024. Angie moved for approval and Terry seconded. Motion approved.



Maggie Bayliss, Secretary; Connie Jacob, Financial Secretary; Darryl Worley, Sexton
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday Evening Service: 5 p.m. Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
St. James Food Pantry: Open Wednesday, 6 -8 p.m. and Thursday, 9 - 11 a.m.

March 2024 Worship Assistants

Please Note: If you find you cannot serve on the date/time scheduled, please arrange for your replacement, then call or email Maggie at the church office, 563-355-4161 or stjamesbett@gmail.com to advise the name of your replacement.

We appreciate your gracious cooperation. Thanks!

Date	Assisting Minister	Usher	Usher	Alter Guild	Alter Guild	Counter	Counter
3/3/2024	Dave Schmidt	Ron Mekalson	Kane Schmidt	Ellen Hogbin	Terry Martens	Mandy Speidel	Brandon Speidel
Lenten Wed - 3/6/24	Jason Forari	Fritz Voss	NA	TBA	NA	NA	NA
3/10/2024	Judie Brooks	Maddie Schmidt	Angie Schmidt	Ellen Hogbin	Terry Martens	Ellen Hogbin	Shirley Richlen
Lenten Wed - 3/13/24		Kelly Crooks				NA	NA
3/17/2024	Mary Meumann	Maddie Schmidt	Diana Worley	Mary Meumann	Audrey Lovell	Mandy Speidel	Brandon Speidel
Lenten Wed - 3/20/24	Angie Schmidt	Fritz Voss				NA	NA
3/24/2024	Ann Larson	Kelly Crooks	Caroline Hicks	Mary Meumann	Audrey Lovell	Mandy Speidel	Brandon Speidel
Maundy Thurs 3/28/24	Pat Larson	Ellen Hogbin	Ann Larson	???	???	NA	NA
Good Fri - 3/29/24	Marilyn Pieart	Fritz Voss	Judy Larson			NA	NA
Easter - 3/31/24 - 10 AM	Caroline Hicks	Ann Larson	Pat Larson	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley /Mary Meumann	Ellen Hogbin	Shirley Richlen

As you can see, this is the same format as last month. Please look carefully for your name and then find the date and item to which you are assigned.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Maggie at the church office (563-355-4161).

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Saturday Evening Service 5:00 PM
3 Worship 9 AM	4 Worship and Music 10:00 AM Social Ministry Meeting 4 PM	5	6 St. James Food Pantry 6-8 PM Lenten Supper 5:45 PM Lenten Service 7PM	7 St. James Food Pantry 9-11 AM	8	9 Saturday Evening Service 5:00 PM
10 Finance 8:15 AM Worship 9 AM 2nd Sun School	11 Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30 AM	12	13 St. James Food Pantry 6-8 PM Lenten Supper 5:45 PM / Lenten Service 7PM	14 St. James Food Pantry 9-11 AM	15	16 Saturday Evening Service 5:00 PM
17 Worship 9 AM Council 10:15 AM	18	19 Sarah Circle 1 PM	20 St. James Food Pantry 6-8 PM Lenten Supper 5:45 PM / Lenten Service 7PM	21 St. James Food Pantry 9-11 AM St. James GANG 11:30AM	22	23 Saturday Evening Service 5:00 PM
24 Worship 9 AM	25 Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30 AM	26 Quilting Noon-4 PM	27 St. James Food Pantry 6-8 PM	28 St. James Food Pantry 9-11 AM Maundy Thurs. Service 7 PM	29 Good Friday Service 7 PM	30 NO Saturday Evening Service
31 Brunch 9 AM Worship 10 AM Egg Hunt 11:15AM						

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Bev Chappen, **LaVonne** Mienke, **Sherry** Germanio, **Frieda** Houldsworth,
Lynn Chamberlain, **Kelly** Wainwright, **Sandy** Henry,
Paul Jones, **Jeanne** Peters, **Tom** Sladky, **Bert** Leder

Family and Friends

Barry (cousin of Ellen Hogbin), **Amy** (friend of Jenny Martin),
Kelly (Jennifer's sister), **Serece** (Pat Larson's cousin),
Drew (Pat Larson's friend), **Lonnie** (son of Roberta Leder),
Janet and Ted (Maggie Bayliss' sister & brother-in-law),
Phil (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother),
Brad (Shirley Wait's son-in-law), **Karen** (Pat Larson's sister),
Larisa (Sandy Henry's granddaughter), **Michelle** (friend of Ellen Hogbin),
Jason (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son),
Jon (Joleen Bakken's nephew)

Military Personnel

Lt. Col. **Brandon** Sandoval USAF, (Pat Larson's grandson)
1st Lt. **Eli** Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)

In Memorium

Tom Stott (former congregational member)

Please submit additions/changes to the church office via email or phone call.



St James invites all kids to join in the Palm Sunday Procession on Sunday, March 24th. Meet in the narthex at 8:50 AM, then follow Bryce Hewlett, our Synodically Authorized Minister, as you enter into the church waving your palm branches in remembrance of the triumphal day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey while the people shouted, "Hosanna in the highest."

Mailing Label

Return Label

FELLOWSHIP HALL FURNITURE

Council and Property have almost completed a campaign to replace the HEAVY tables and worn-out chairs that we were using in our Fellowship Hall.

So far we have collected \$3003.25 of our \$3210.00 to complete this project

If you would like to contribute to this project, please fill out this form.

Please include this form and mark "**Property**" on your envelope so that your contribution is put into this project fund.

NAME

Env. # _____

DONATION AMOUNT

\$ _____

Thank you for your support of this project.