

# The May 2024 Epistle



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

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## ANNOUNCEMENT Evening Prayer and Congregational Business Meeting

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**Date:** June 5, 2024

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Detail:** St. James Congregational Council invites you to join Bishop Amy Current, SEIA Synod, for Evening Prayer and Congregational Business Meeting. At the March 2024 meeting of the Congregational Council a motion was passed to bring a decision affecting the next season of pastoral leadership to the congregation for a vote. Information pertinent to that vote is included below.

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April 23, 2024

Beloved people of St. James:

Many of you have asked about the process to become ordained with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) since I began in my role in September 2023. As you know, I serve you as a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) under the authorization of Bishop Amy Current, SEIA Synod. SAMs are non-ordained persons who provide ministry of Word and Sacrament to congregations when ordained clergy are unavailable. Presently, the ELCA is facing a significant clergy shortage. Training and authorizing SAMs to serve in local congregations is one step, among many, taken by the ELCA to address that shortage.

My desire is to become ordained with the ELCA as quickly as possible. I have found a spiritual and theological home with the ELCA and with you all here at St. James. The following information outlines the steps I have taken toward ordination over the last 10 months and the path laid out for me over the next four years.

In order to become ordained, three entities must cooperate and affirm me in the ordination process: Bishop's office of the SEIA Synod, ELCA seminary, and our local congregation.

- Seminary:** I applied and was accepted to Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA. I plan to start the Collaborative Learning Program toward a Master of Divinity degree in September 2024. The program takes four years to complete.
- Synod:** Deacon Jodi Schuman, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, and I are finalizing the last piece of my candidacy application in advance of the Synod's June 7th candidacy committee meeting. With their blessing, I plan to be officially entranced to candidacy sometime following that meeting.
- Local Congregation:** I hope to remain a SAM at St. James until I complete seminary and am ordained. At that time I may be considered by you all for an official pastoral call according to our church constitution.

If all of these paths work out according to schedule - and it seems they will - I will be set to begin at Wartburg in the fall of 2024 for four years of seminary training. At the end of that process I will be eligible for ordination as a pastor in the ELCA.

### Implications of my progress for the congregation

In order for me to work toward ordination as I outline above *and remain at St. James, our congregation needs to agree to be my educational placement for the duration of my four-year seminary training.*

*That means I would continue to serve St. James as a SAM while I attend seminary. This route to a Master of Divinity degree is called the Collaborative Learning Program. More information regarding this program is available on the Wartburg website.*

If St. James takes on this agreement with me and the seminary, it would communicate their commitment to retain me as a SAM for the next four years to supply our church with the ministry of Word and Sacrament. This arrangement seems to work well for our congregation since there is a significant shortage of ELCA pastors available and the last 8 months of my service to you all have proved fruitful.

### **Congregational vote detail**

St. James needs to decide if you want to become the Collaborative Learning Site for me for the duration of my seminary training. To help communicate with the congregation the various converging aspects of ordination and the role of SAMs in our Synod more generally, Bishop Amy Current offered to attend our congregational meeting and answer questions regarding this process.

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The following motion will be presented to the congregation at the recommendation of Church Council on June 5, 2024:

**A motion for St. James Lutheran Church to enter into an educational agreement with Wartburg Theological Seminary of Dubuque, Iowa to become the Collaborative Learning Site for Bryce Hewlett while he attends seminary.**

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These rules from our Church Constitution regarding a congregational vote will be observed.

- The method to count votes for/against the motion will be by raising hands.
- Forty voting members shall constitute a quorum (C10.04)
- The motion will pass/fail by a simple majority of voting members (C10.06).
- Members may attend the meeting and vote through Zoom teleconference (C10.08)

By passing this motion St. James Lutheran Church understands the following commitments.

- An annual administrative fee paid by the congregation to Wartburg based on a percentage of the cost of tuition is requested by the seminary. If that fee is prohibitive, other arrangements may be made. The fee is approximately \$1,500/year.
- St. James will form or designate a committee to support and provide scheduled feedback to aid the student's education during this engagement.
- At a certain point in the course sequence, the requirements for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) will also need to be accommodated by the congregation. There may be an arrangement available to complete this requirement within the congregation or in a local setting outside of the congregation.

If you have any questions regarding the details of this situation or if you would like to discuss it further, please reach out to me at (563) 279-4584 or [brycechewlett@gmail.com](mailto:brycechewlett@gmail.com). I have been most involved in the details of this process and can answer your questions most ably. You are also welcome to reach out to anyone on Council at any time.

*Grace and peace to you,*



# Feast Of Pentecost

**Sunday, May 19th:** Join us for a reception to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost and welcome new members!



**New  
Member  
Sunday**

*No Saturday Service:* May 18th

## President's Message for May 2024

I love my kids. Even though they are 27, 25, 23 and 21, they are still my “kids”. Although I truly love the “adult relationships” that I have with each of my kids, I do, on occasion, miss the messy little people they were. I miss the travel soccer weekends, wrestling tournaments, and countless hours backstage helping with the girls Ballet company. I miss reading to them and holding them close. Now, I love hearing about their workdays, new car purchases and wedding plans. They have grown into wonderful, productive, faithful, God fearing adults. Dave and I would love to take all the credit for that, but it belongs to more than just us.

My kids grew up in this church. They had Sunday School and VBS, youth groups and even a sleepover in the basement! All of these have created not only wonderful memories for my kids, but have given them a safe place to come to lay down their troubles before God, even after they were not “kids” anymore. As many of you have noticed, we are blessed with children here again at St James! I would love for us to provide the kind of environment for them that was provided for my children.

Let's just take a minute to remember to love and support these wonderful little people. As a church family, we have the opportunity to make a positive impact in their lives. I will always be grateful to my St James Family for helping us build a God centered life for my kids. Love to you all.

Peace, Angie

### **St James GANG will meet in Fellowship Hall Thursday, May 16th at 11:30AM.**

We will be bringing our own lunch as usual, and beverages and dessert will be provided.

We all enjoyed March's speaker and will try to get another interesting speaker for May.

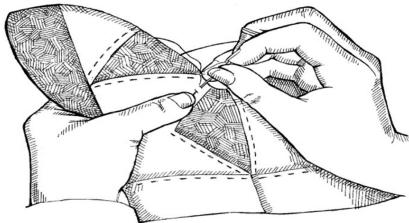
Come and bring a friend.  
All are welcome!





### **Sarah Circle**

Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 21st. Ellen Hogbin is the hostess and Shirley Richlen is the lesson leader. We are discussing the readings from Gather magazine. All women are welcome!



### **From the Quilt Block**

Six quilters met in March and finished 2 quilts. The next Quilt Day is May 28th. All women of the church are welcome to join the quilters in our ministry of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). The quilters meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at noon to 4:00 PM, unless otherwise specified. No sewing experience is required. If you would like to support the quilters, we are always looking for cotton woven material. Donations can be left in the office or the "board" room.

If you have any questions, contact me (Shirley Richlen) at 563-355-3942 or 563-949-6545 or at srichlen34@gmail.com

Peace be with you,  
**Shirley Richlen**

### **36th Annual Convention of SEIA WELCA**

The 36th Annual Convention and Gathering of Southeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA will be at:  
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
439 3rd Avenue South  
Clinton, Iowa

"JUST LOVE" is the theme. Additional information and Registration sheets are available on the WELCA bulletin board next to the Sunday morning coffee.

### **Personal Care Kits UPDATE**

St. James collected Personal Care Kits for LWR for our Lenten discipline. A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated. We collected enough items and money to prepare 64 personal care kits, which was more than double last years donations.

# May Anniversaries and Birthdays

## May Anniversaries

May 12	Barbara & Vernol Jackson
May 21	Mark & Lora Gwin
May 24	Ted & Wendy Retzl
May 27	Renee & Tony White

## May Birthdays

May 1	Lynn Chamberlain
May 2	John Leder
May 11	Jean Rowe
May 13	Kelly Wainwright
May 15	Scott Wendell
May 16	Rex Ridenour
May 16	Darryl Worley
May 24	Lisa Mekalson
May 27	Holly Garcia
May 29	Jude Hewlett
May 30	Pat Sorensen



## **From Luther Properties; A Place to Call Home**

In 1981, when several ELCA congregations in Scott County pooled their resources to provide housing to low-income elderly or disabled persons, Luther Properties was created. Today there are 5 separate properties throughout Scott County, with a total of 279 private apartments, providing safe and affordable housing to those in need.

Luther Properties, Inc. works in partnership with HUD to provide subsidized, independent apartments to eligible persons. Rent is based on income, with utilities included, and handicap units are also available.

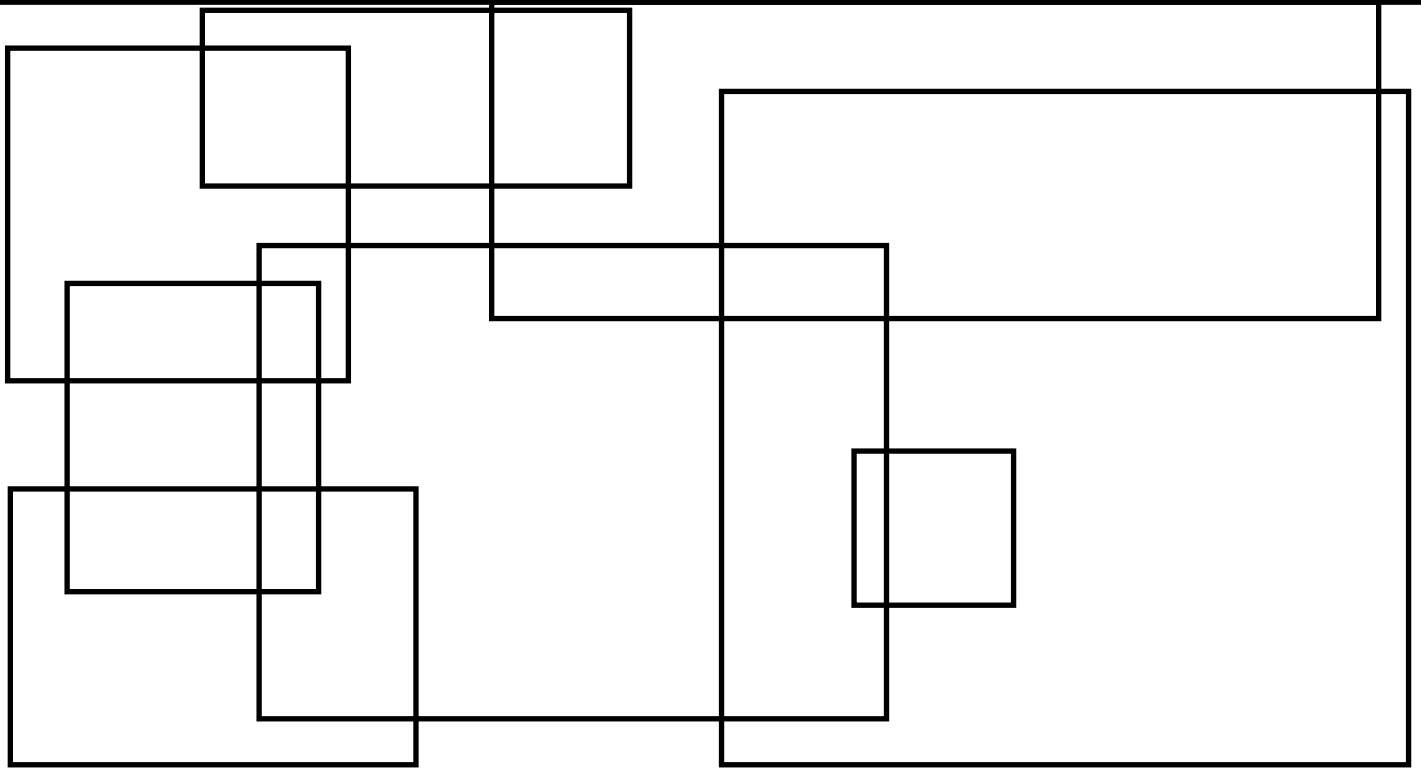
If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in applying for residency, please contact Kelli Cogdill, Young Management Corporation, Bettendorf IA, at 563-265-2416, or by email at [kcogdill@ymcorp.com](mailto:kcogdill@ymcorp.com). You can also visit our website at [lutherproperties.org](http://lutherproperties.org) to learn more about each of our residences.

# Council Votes

Approval of the March 17, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes as written and passed.

Swanson Scholarship: Applications were received by two high school seniors. Motion to award scholarship to Mason Anderson and Mekenna Anderson was made by Steve. Seconded by Jason. Approved.



**REMINDER:  
Deadline for  
Newsletter Articles is  
Monday, May 20th**

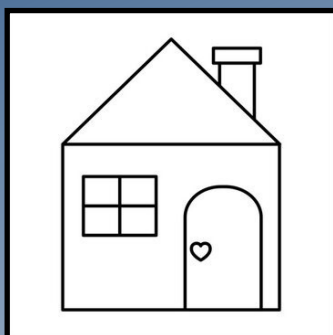
## 2024 Synod Assembly Announcement

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. Deadline to register is Friday, May 3rd.

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).

*Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.*

*John 14:23 NRSV*



### **Mother's Day**

*Sunday, May 12th*



Following the service

We will be hosting "Morning Muffins with Mom."

Come join us for a morning of muffins  
and mingling with moms.



## Social Ministry News

Our last meeting was April 1st.

We will be serving a meal at Zion Lutheran Church on May 27th. The menu will be Sloppy Joes, Macaroni and Cheese, fresh vegetables, homemade cookies and a banana. They are always very grateful, and we feel so blessed to be able to serve in this way. This is one of the services that are funded by our RUMMAGE SALE, which is just around the corner.

On May 20-22 we will be setting-up and May 23 & 24 from 8:30AM - 3:30PM we will be having our sale! Please save your stuff for us, and prayerfully consider helping! It's always more fun if we have enough help. This will include a bake sale, so donations of baked goods will be appreciated. We could also use some paper grocery bags for our bag day sale.

We hosted our blood drive on April 29th so "Thank You!" to all who came out!

Please consider joining our committee!!

Many hands make light work.



**ImpactLife**

Thank you to all who came out for our Blood Drive. We are very appreciative to them for giving their time and their blood to help those in need!

# May 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 563-349-6727 or maggieb@bayliss.us**, to advise the name of your replacement.*

*We appreciate your gracious cooperation. Thanks!*

Date	Assisting Minister	Usher	Usher	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Counter	Counter
5/5/24	Judie Brooks	Janene Anderson	Pat Larson	Ellen Hogbin	Terry Martens	Mary Meumann	Shirley Richlen
5/12/24	Ann Larson	Diana Worley	Caroline Hicks	Ellen Hogbin	Terry Martens	Mary Meumann	Shirley Richlen
5/19/24	Pat Larson	Jerry Nichols	Yvonne Nichols	Shirley Richlen	Mary Meumann	Mary Meumann	Shirley Richlen
5/26/24	Marilyn Pieart	Ellen Hogbin	Ann Larson	Shirley Richlen	Mary Meumann	Mary Meumann	Shirley Richlen
6/2/24	Caroline Hicks	Kelly Crooks	Ron Mekalson	Mary Meumann	Audrey Lovell	Marilyn Pieart	Steve Pieart

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 563-249-6727**.

## Sunday School Announcement

Beginning in April, Sunday school will take place DURING our worship service **every Sunday** for April and May. The children will be dismissed after the Prayer of the Day and will be brought back after the Prayers of Intercession to join their families for Holy Communion.

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Worship and Music 8:30 AM St. James Food Pantry 6-8 PM	2 St. James Food Pantry 9-11 AM	3	4 Saturday Evening Service 5:00 PM
5 Worship 9 AM	6 Social Ministry 4 PM	7 Property 4 PM	8 St. James Food Pantry 6-8 PM	9 St. James Food Pantry 9-11 AM  Finance 4:30 PM	10	11 Saturday Evening Service 5:00 PM
12 Worship 9 AM	13 Monday Morning Fellowship 9:30 AM	14 Sarah Circle 1 PM	15 St. James Food Pantry 6-8 PM	16 St. James Food Pantry 9-11 AM St. James GANG 11:30AM	17	18 NO Saturday Evening Service
19 Worship 9 AM New Member Sun- day Council 10:15 AM	20  Rummage Sale Prep	21  Rummage Sale Prep	22 St. James Food Pantry 6-8 PM  Rummage Sale Prep	23 St. James Food Pantry 9-11 AM  Rummage Sale 8:30AM-3:30PM	24  Rummage Sale 8:30Am-3:30PM	25 Saturday Evening Service 5:00 PM  Pot Luck 6:00 PM
26 Worship 9 AM	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 Quilting Noon-4 PM	29 St. James Food Pantry 6-8 PM	30 St. James Food Pantry 9-11 AM	31	

# **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, **Joleen** Bakken

## **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),  
**Phil** (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother),  
**Karen** (Pat Larson's sister), **Larisa** (Sandy Henry's granddaughter),  
**Jon** (Joleen Bakken's nephew),  
**Jason** (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son),  
**Connor** (Bert Leder's grandson), **Tanja** (friend of Deb Crooks)

## **Military Personnel**

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

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

# New Secretary Highlight

## Madlyn Wulgaert

She is a mother to four children, two boys and two girls; ages 11, 10, 8, and 5.

She loves playing music and plays for the Saturday night service at St. James and is a music instructor in the evenings.

She is very happy to join our staff!



one eighty  
**ANNUAL DINNER**  
celebration

**Thurs May 2 | 2024 | 6-8pm**

Vibrant Arena at The Mark | Moline

Free meal | Testimonies of freedom and transformation

RSVP to the table host who invited you,  
use the QR code,  
or to shelly@oneeighty.org  
563-424-4589



**freedom to thrive**  
one eighty



The Christian Ed Committee is looking for volunteers to help with this year's Backyard Bible Club. Please contact Angie Schmidt at 563-570-4928 or Mandy Peters-Speidel at 563-370-8262 if you would like to participate.

Madlyn Wulgaert, Secretary; Connie Jacob, Financial Secretary; Darryl Worley, Sexton  
Office hours: M-Th, 9 AM –1 PM. Saturday Evening Service: 5 PM; Sunday Worship: 9 AM  
St. James Food Pantry: Open Wednesday, 6-8 PM and Thursday, 9 -11 AM

# St. James

## Kickoff to Summer Event

June 1st 6pm (Following Service)

Grilling Out: Hamburgers & Hot Dogs

*Please Bring a Side or Dessert to Share*

Face Painting

Kid Games

Raffle

Corn Hole

Bounce House

Bingo

Balloon Animals

Ax Throwing

Goodie Bags

**Help Fight Local Hunger and Donate an Item to St. James Food Pantry.**

**When donating, your name will be entered to win a prize!!**

- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- 64oz Containers of Juice
- Ramen Noodles
- 16oz Jars of Peanut Butter



## HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

To answer any questions, please contact:

**Angie (563) 570-4928 OR Mandy (563) 370-8262**

# **NEW at St. James**

## **Summer Kids Club**

Ages 3-12

**COME JOIN US**

HOSTED BY:

ANGIE SCHMIDT & MANDY PETERS-SPEIDEL

**FREE ADMISSION**

**Drop Off at 6pm - Pick Up at 8pm**

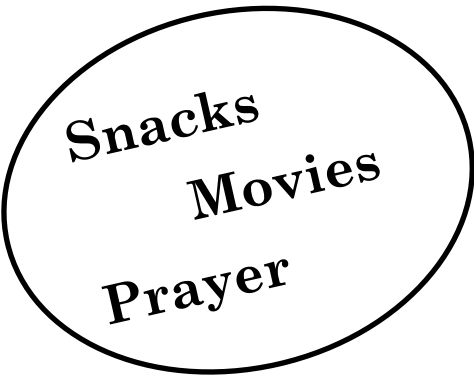
**Dates:**

**May 23rd**

**June 20th**

**July 18th**

**Aug 22nd**



Snacks  
Movies  
Prayer



Games  
Fun  
Faith  
Crafts

**Contact:**

**Angie at (563) 570-4928 or Mandy at (563) 370-8262**

Mailing Label

Return Label