

The May 2025 Epistle

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

He is not here, but has risen!
Luke 24:5b

We gathered on Easter morning to declare and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Whether you are a life-long Christian or an atheist, this declaration and all of the ensuing celebration may spark in you a series of responses.

1. It's impossible! People who are dead don't come back to life!
2. It's an old story that happened a long time ago. Even if it did happen, is it really that important? Why would we gather to celebrate it
3. Even if it did happen and I consent to its plausibility, so what? I live my life. I get by. Why should it matter to someone like me?

Both to the skeptic and the faithful, I have a query for you to consider. Imagine you received a letter in the mail and it told you a distant relative died and you inherited a large sum of money, what would you do? You would likely be suspicious, as you very well should be, but you would probably at least look into it, because the potential in a litter like that is just too great to ignore.

The same is true about the resurrection. If you are unsure about the resurrection, you may at least want to consider it because the potential is just too great to ignore.

Objections to the resurrection.

Those who take issue with the resurrection usually do so for two reasons: it's materially impossible and/or it's historically unverifiable.

The skeptic says: We understand the nature of reality better now. We know reality is material, not spiritual. Those ancient people were primitive, ignorant, and superstitious. Nevermind the integrity of the historical accounts of the events around the resurrection. For me to believe in something like the resurrection, you, Christian, must demonstrate to me beyond my unique, subjective threshold of proof that this miracle really did happen.

To the skeptic I invite you to consider this: Questioning the resurrection is not a modern objection.

To those who project primitive ways of thinking on those first believers and prefer so-called evolved, modern ways of thinking, I invite you to remember that the reality of the resurrection was no less phenomenal and unbelievable to those first believers as it is today. They didn't accept it either! Peter, Thomas, and all the others didn't believe until they actually saw Jesus.

The resurrection is a phenomenal event! Those who first believed and told the story weren't primitive or unenlightened dunces. It took Jesus actually appearing - sometimes to hundreds of people at once - to demonstrate that it actually happened.

Resurrection Meaning for Today

What does the resurrection mean for those of us who are willing to give it a chance? The answer to the question of *meaning for us* has been acknowledged by the greatest of Christian saints and theologians as well as secular, non-believing religion scholars. The answer falls consistently along these lines: **If true, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead means victory over sin, death, and the evil forces of the world.**

For those who are willing to live in the reality of the resurrection:

- We can love our neighbors and our enemies radically. Our lives don't depend on the way they treat us because **Jesus is victorious over death.**
- We can do good in the world boldly and with great hope because **Jesus is victorious over the evil forces of the world.**
- We can be cleansed and forgiven of the sickness and destruction of sin because **Jesus is victorious over sin.**

Because Jesus is victorious, we also can live in newness of life.

He is risen!

He is risen, indeed, Alleluia!

May God bless you this Eastertide!

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 May, St. James!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

What a wonderful Lenten Season we just had! We had 5 excellent Wednesday night meals with exceptional turnout! Thank you to everyone in all the committees involved to help set up, make food, serve, and clean up!

Holy Week was also excellent this year! Bryce had Vigils Monday through Wednesday and Saturday, as well as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend each one. My favorite service has always been Maundy Thursday, and the foot washing stations that Bryce incorporated this year elevated the entire service. I also thoroughly enjoyed the Saturday Night Vigil, where we read various stories throughout the Bible and then decorated the church for Easter Sunday.

Rebirth and growth are great topics to ponder about following Easter. It is a time to think about what you can do for others, just like how Jesus died for all of our sins.

Volunteering is a great opportunity to help others within our church, as well as our community. There are plenty of opportunities within our church to volunteer.

Even if it means volunteering to sit with an individual and talk to them about their life, you are helping them in so many ways for the better. Helping others is a way we can grow as individuals and help those who need help.

Hebrews 6:10- "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."

Peace and Love,
Madeline Schmidt



Sarah Circle meets at St. James at 1:00pm on May 20th.

Marilyn Pieart is the lesson leader and Shirley Richlen and Pat Larson are the hostesses.

All are welcome!



St James GANG

The St James G.A.N.G. will meet on May 15th in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m.

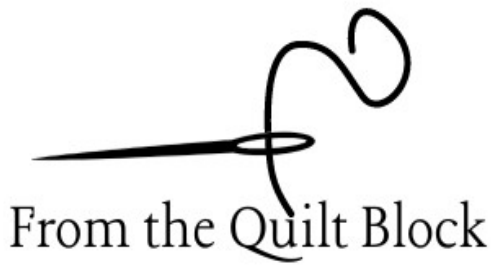
- Bring your own lunch and dessert and beverages will be provided.

Be sure to let us know if you will be attending - email Pat Larson at bettlarspr@mchsi.com

All are welcome to come - Bring a friend!

GANG stands for Golden Agers Noontime Gathering!

Pat Larson
563-343-2142



Six quilters met in April and finished 4 quilts. The next Quilt Day is May 13th, depending on the calendar and the church Rummage sale. 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 usually 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. A huge” THANK YOU” to all those who have donated fabric recently!

Pieces be with you,

Shirley Richlen

MUFFINS



with



MOM

Sunday, May 11th

Following the 9 a.m. service

**Join us on Sunday, May 11th after the
service to celebrate all the moms!**

There will be muffins, juice, milk and coffee!

Contact Dee Worley at ddworley54@gmail.com or
Jason Forari at jmforari@msn.com if you have any
questions.

Saint James
is partnering
with Trinity
Lutheran Church and
Grace Lutheran Church
for a weeklong Day Camp!

LUTHERAN SUMMER DAY CAMP!

JUNE 23- JUNE 27

8:00AM-3:30PM

Open to
Children
Entering
KINDERGARTEN
Through
6th Grade

DROP OFF AND PICK UP AT
ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Day Camp Location:
Trinity Lutheran Church
18137 Criswell Street,
Bettendorf, IA
52722

June 23rd-27th

Transportation will be provided:

A bus will be
picking children
up from St.
James at 8:00
a.m. to take
children to
Trinity Lutheran
Church and will
return children at
3:30 p.m to St.
James

Registration:

\$50/Child
(Lunch Provided!)



Feast of Pentecost June 7th-8th

Pentecost Vigil
Saturday, June 7th
at 5 p.m.
Baptisms & Kickoff to
Summer

Feast of Pentecost
Sunday, June 8th
at 9 a.m.
Welcoming New
Members

If you're interested in Baptism or becoming a
new member, contact the church office at
(563)-355-4161

MONDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Monday Morning Fellowship is a group that gets together twice a month via ZOOM to chat and catch up on what is going on in each other's lives.

It is a wonderful way to get to know each other more intimately.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 9:30 to 10:30 AM. The Zoom link is sent out to the church email list on the Friday before the meeting.

Come join us! We look forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at

563-349-6727
or maggieb@bayliss.us

Deacon Nancy Boehme Celebrates 25th Commissioning Anniversary!

Commissioned on Palm Sunday, 2000, Deacon Nancy faithfully served in ministry for over a decade, bringing joy, education, and faith formation to the congregations she led. From her early days as a Director of Education to her calling as a Deacon at First Lutheran and St. James Lutheran, her passion for sharing faith and building community has left a lasting impact.

Now in retirement since 2013, she continues to find joy in congregational life. Join us in celebrating her dedication and legacy in ministry!



Social Ministry News

Zion Lutheran Meal: March 24 – 60 people served, with 30 second helpings. 2 volunteers cooked the meal, and 5 volunteers transported and served it. Our next meal will be served on July 28, because of Memorial Day in May.

If you would like to get involved with making or serving the meal, contact **Judy Larson at 563-340-7902.**

Social Ministry is hosting a Blood Drive on *May 5th from 2:30-5:30 p.m.* at St. James. Contact **Janene Anderson at (563) 370-8710 or Frieda Houldsworth at (563) 355-1628** for more details!

The annual Rummage Sale is *May 19th-23rd*. If you would like to help set-up or volunteer, please contact **Judy Larson at 563-340-7902.**

Check us out online!

YouTube Livestream

We livestream our services on YouTube each week to help us worship together and stay connected even when we are not at full health or out of town!

Youtube Link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjqnGF4g_QWtn_I2SqPL5Q

Youtube Channel QR Code:



Sermon Podcast on Spotify!

If you missed a Sunday, click the link below or scan the QR code & listen to the Sermon on Spotify

Please contact the church office if you need assistance accessing it!

Spotify Link:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/2bmzh6HFSREErSkUX5mlX?si=zG2ldhASSyCDYZi5QhDc1w>

Spotify Channel QR Code:



REMINDER!

**Deadline for June Epistle Articles
is Friday, May 23rd.**

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1 LYNN CHAMBERLAIN

5/2 JOHN LEDER

5/11 JEAN ROWE

5/13 BEAUEN BILEDDO

5/13 KELLY WAINWRIGHT'

5/16 REX RIDENOUR

5/16 DARRYL WORLEY

5/18 JANET BRAKEL

5/21 SCOTT WENDELL

5/24 LISA MEKALSON

5/24 ASA PESSEIN

5/27 HOLLY GARCIA

5/29 JUDE HEWLETT

5/30 PAT SORENSEN

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/12 VERN & BARBARA JACKSON

5/21 LORA & MARK

5/27 TONY & RENEE WHITE

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Eric Anderson, **Ed** Arp, **Maggie** Bayliss, **Lynn** Chamberlain,
Bev Chappen, **Sherry** Germanio, **Sandy** Henry,
Frieda Houldsworth, **John** Leder,
LaVonne Mienke, **Mary** Meumann, **Minhon** Ridenour

Family and Friends

Annette & Rick (friends of Sue and Steve Miller), **Barry** (cousin of Ellen Hogbin), **Carol** (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Connie** (friend of Maggie Bayliss), **Dotty** (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Donna** (Ed Arp's sister), **Donnie** (friend of Deb Crooks), **Drew** (Pat Larson's friend), **Emmett** (friend of Diana Worley), **Hattie** (Frieda's sister), **Jason** (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son), **Konnor** (Bert Leder's grandson), **Mark** (friend of Jason Forari), **Michelle** (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Michelle** (friend of Jason & Melissa Forari), **Myles** (friend of Anna Forari), **Phil** (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), **Stan** (relative of Fritz Voss), **Wally** (Frieda's nephew),

Military Personnel

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)
Samantha Richard (friend of Larson family)

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

May 2025 Worship Assistants

Date	Assisting Minister	Acolyte	Usher	Usher	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
5/4/25	Judie Brooks	Edi Southwell	Jerry Nichols	Yvonne Nichols	Mary Meumann	Audrey Lovell
5/11/25	Pat Larson	Jude Hewlett	Ryan Martin	Ann Larson	Ellen Hogbin	Terry Martens
5/18/25	Shirley Richlen	Edi Southwell	Diana Worley	Darryl Worley	Ellen Hogbin	Terry Martens
5/25/25	Caroline Hicks	Rilynne Larson and Carter	Ron Mekalson	Kelly Crooks	Shirley Richlen	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:

Janet Brakel (708)207-5515; jbrakel@ameritech.net

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

Finance Committee

Thrivent is having a shredding
event on

May 17th from 9 a.m.—12 p.m.
at 884 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf.