

# The June 2025 Epistle

A publication of St. James Lutheran Church,  
1705 Oak Street, Bettendorf, IA 52722;

Phone: 563-355-4161;

Email: [stjamesbett@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesbett@gmail.com)



# MESSAGE from the MINISTER

*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you...  
trouble not your heart, neither let it be afraid.*  
**John 14:27**

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

I have to tell you about a very strange experience I had on Friday night of May 16, 2025. At 6:30 p.m. I turned in my last paper of the Spring semester. The next day I was going to leave for vacation with my family. A sudden emptiness seeped into my mind and I became a little disoriented and dizzy. The feeling was very unexpected. As I drove home I began to question why I was feeling this way. I prayed I wasn't getting sick on the eve of this long-awaited vacation!

When I arrived at home and started describing my experience to my wife, I realized that for the first time in more than a year (at least!) I didn't have a fast-approaching deadline requiring me to organize my thoughts. Not only did I complete my semester of seminary and didn't have to think about writing the next paper for class, I also didn't have a sermon to write for worship. I didn't know what to do with myself! What was I going to think about for the next 10 days?!?

Clearly, I needed a break! Thank you for the opportunity to take a much needed vacation after a very busy end of semester and Easter season. My family had a wonderful time in the Caribbean and we were all able to spend some much-needed time together during the week between the end of my semester and the beginning of my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) which began on May 27th.

As we look ahead at our worship together in June, I encourage you to consider engaging as much as you are able with the *Pentecost Vigil* on Saturday, June 7th in which we will celebrate baptisms of several of our youth, and the *Feast of Pentecost* on Sunday, June 8th in which we will receive several new members into the congregation. **These are two distinct services so please consider coming to both!**

- I understand the Christian Education Committee is hosting our *Kickoff to Summer* event following *the Vigil of Pentecost on Saturday, June 7th*! Bring the kids and invite your neighbors!
- We will also have a light coffee reception to welcome our new members following the *Feast of Pentecost* service on Sunday, June 8th. I hope you can join us!

All of the details of these festivities have been announced on special inserts in our bulletins and are in this *Epistle* so please check out those announcements as well.

May God bless you as we round out Eastertide and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bry 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

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*Psalm 37:4- Delight yourself in the Lord, and he  
will give you the desires of your heart.*

Happy June, St. James!

May was another wonderful month at St. James. We had the Muffins with Moms event that was held by our Fellowship Committee, and was well attended. We had a vocal concert to help support Noa Hewlett and Kaylee Pessein with their upcoming Lutheran vocal camp at Valparaiso University this summer. We also welcomed Pastor Judy Heinrich and Pastor Roger Claxton with open arms to provide us with excellent services while Bryce was out of town. And we can't forget about our yearly Rummage Sale!

This year has really flown by! June brings some sunny, warmer weather, vacations, camping, and many activities that can be enjoyed with family and friends. I feel it is important in one's life to seek activities that can spark joy and happiness into their everyday life.

For example, my source of happiness is when I am able to pick flowers and herbs out of my garden and use them for decoration, teas, and other home remedies. Knowing that our Lord has provided these opportunities and resources creates a new level of happiness in my soul.

So, enjoy these warmer months and all the activities that follow. Be kind to one another. Smile and laugh often. And find happiness in what the Lord has provided for us.

*Madeline Schmidt*



**Sarah Circle meets at St. James at 1:00pm  
on June 17th.**

Sarah Circle has been studying "Faithfulness" as defined in Acts, and Mark. We also explored Spiritual Gifts with readings from Corinthians, Romans, Ecclesiastes, and Luke,. We are also using a 'Spiritual gifts assessment tool' to help us recognize our own Spiritual gifts. Our lessons are from "Gather" magazine. All women of St. James are welcome.

Sarah Circle next meeting is Tuesday June 17th at 1:00 pm. The hostesses are Mary Meumann and Carol Leacox, and the Lesson Leader is Maggie Bayless.





## St James GANG

The St James G.A.N.G. will meet on June 19th in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m.

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

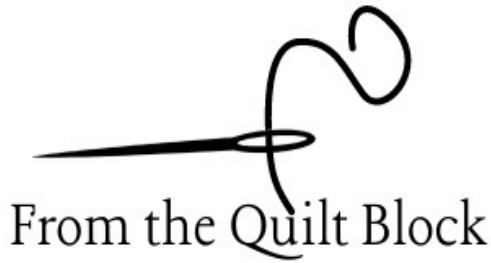
Be sure to let us know if you will be attending - email Pat Larson at [bettlarspr@mchsi.com](mailto:bettlarspr@mchsi.com) or sign up in the Narthex.

Speaker TBD.

All are welcome to come - Bring a friend!

GANG stands for Golden Agers Noontime Gathering!

Pat Larson  
563-343-2142



## From the Quilt Block

St. James quilters met in April with 8 quilters producing 4 finished quilts which have been displayed on the quilt rack in the narthex.

So far, the congregation has donated supplies for 46 Personal Care Kits. There remain donated funds to create several more. An update will come next month. Thank you for all your contributions.

St. James Quilters will meet **Tuesday June 24th at noon to 4:00 pm.**

Pieces be with you,

*Shirley Richlen*

# **BIRDIES FOR CHARITY**

It's Birdies for Charity time. Thanks to all who have supported us in the past and welcome to all newcomers.

St. James receives all donations plus the Birdies Bonus will be between 5-10% (last year it was 8%).

Pledge forms are available in the Narthex and should be returned by Sunday June 22nd to be entered in the contest.

Donations can also be made online at:

<https://birdiesforcharity.com/donate> - be sure to search for our Bird Number 960: St. James Lutheran Church

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Meumann at 563-355-7138 or Ellen Hogbin at 309-519-9936.

# Feast of Pentecost June 7th-8th

Pentecost Vigil  
**Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**  
at 5 p.m.  
Baptisms & Kickoff to  
Summer

Feast of Pentecost  
**Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**  
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



S U M M E R

K I D S

CLUB

6PM-8PM  
JUNE 12TH  
JULY 10TH  
AUGUST 14TH



Bring your kid(s) to one or all  
of our Summer Clubs at St.  
James!

Crafts / Games / Snacks / Fun



NO REGISTRATION NEEDED!



**DONUTS WITH DAD**

**June 15<sup>th</sup>  
following the  
9:00 a.m.  
Service**

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!)







## *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 28th.

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

Thank you all who helped with this spring's blood drive, donors and helpers. We exceeded our goal for May with credit for 18 units. Please consider becoming a donor. We always like to see "new blood ". The fall date for the next drive will be October 27th. Hope to see you there.

*Janene*



# 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](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 Monday, June 23rd.**

## **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

6/1 JENNIFER ANDERSON

6/3 SUSAN GIESE

6/3 NIKOLAI PESSEIN

6/4 ELIJAH PESSEIN

6/5 RONALD MANTHE

6/14 LINDA GROSS

6/14 RUTH MANTHE

6/20 KATHY MELBY

6/28 PAUL SOUTHWELL

## **JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

6/6 BOB & CONNIE JACOB

6/18 REX & MIHNON RIDENOUR

6/18 LYNN & MEL OSWALD

6/23 ERIC & JENNIFER ANDERSON

# Prayers for Healing and Support

## Congregational Members

**Eric** Anderson, **Ed** Arp, **Maggie** Bayliss, **Lynn** Chamberlain,  
**Bev** Chappen, **Sherry** Germanio, **Sandy** Henry,  
**Frieda** Houldsworth, **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), **Ted** (Ellen Hogbin's father-in-law),  
**Tyler** (Pat Larson's grandson in-law), **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.*

# June 2025 Worship Assistants

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Usher	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
6/1/25	Caroline Hicks	Not Needed	Velvet Collison	Ron Mekalson	Kelly Crooks	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley
Penetecost 6/8/25	Angie Schmidt	Dee W.	Edi Southwell	Ryan Martin	Ellen Hogbin	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley
6/15/25	Tom Sladky	Mary M.	Jude Hewlett	Fritz Voss	Judy Larson	Audrey Lovell	Mary M.
6/22/25	Judie Brooks	Linda Gross	Dex Hewlett	Pat Larson	Caroline Hicks	Audrey Lovell	Mary M.
Peter & Paul, Apostles 6/29/25	Pat Larson	Maddie Schmidt	Rilynn and Carter	Jerry Nichols	Yvonne Nichols	Pat Larson	Mary M.

*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;  
[marylbusdrvr@gmail.com](mailto:marylbusdrvr@gmail.com)

## Ushers & Assisting Ministers:

Madlyn Wulgaert; [stjamesbett@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesbett@gmail.com)

**Children's Team:** Kim Hewlett (856)296-1023;  
[kimhewlett18@gmail.com](mailto:kimhewlett18@gmail.com)

**Counters:** Maddie Schmidt (563)570-6354;  
[madelineschmidt2016@gmail.com](mailto:madelineschmidt2016@gmail.com)

**Acolytes:** Maddie Schmidt (563)570-6354;  
[madelineschmidt2016@gmail.com](mailto:madelineschmidt2016@gmail.com)

## To the Congregation

St. James Family,

Thank you so much for supporting my attending Lutheran Summer Music Academy this summer! All of your generous gifts of time, money, recital and ice cream social donations, and just being there to cheer me on has meant a great deal to me. Your support and love for me in this new journey has warmed my heart. With a special thanks to Ellen for nominating me, thank you again.

*Sincerely,*

*Kaylee Pessein*

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Hello church family!

Thank you all so much for your support of my musical dreams. Thanks to you, I'm able to go to learn and grow in my knowledge and faith at Lutheran Summer Music without any worries as I have officially reached my financial goal.

Whether you attended our vocal recital, donated ice cream and/or toppings, donated your time, and/or supported me financially, your support means more to me than you will ever know.

Thank you again!

*Noa Hewlett*