

The October 2025 Epistle



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

Phone: 563-355-4161;

Email: stjamesbett@gmail.com



Dear St. James Family,

MESSAGE from the MINISTER

Dear St. James Family,

During our *Fall Stewardship Season 2025* we are **planning for our future** in many different ways. Together, we are considering what our congregation may look like in the year 2030 and beyond and we are taking steps today to prepare for that future. Part of our preparation for our future is to establish again a strong financial foundation for the work God is calling us to do.

This year, I invite you to take a few minutes to consider the word **tithe**. Do you know what it means? The word *tithe* comes from the same root as the word *tenth*. For the church it has always meant a portion of what God has given to us (usually 1/10 of our income) that we give back to God.

Recently, I was in a conversation with a friend about Fall Stewardship and the subject of a *tithe* came up. I mentioned that I was thinking about using that word as a core thought for our Fall Stewardship Season. He looked at me with an exasperated expression and said, “TEN PERCENT! DOES ANYONE STILL DO THAT ANY MORE?!?”

Many disciplines in the church that were commonplace just a generation ago have fallen by the wayside. Perhaps the *tithe* is one of them! Ten-percent might be aspirational for some of us who

are struggling to make ends meet, while ten-percent will be a baseline for others of us who have the means to share.

We are in difficult economic times. Inflation has gone up and wages are stagnant. As the prices of groceries and common household goods skyrocket, I understand firsthand the financial pressures facing all of us. But I also remind you: the work of the Church has persevered in every age. God is faithful and even in this difficult financial environment, the work of the Church will once again persevere.

Please prayerfully consider how you plan to support God's work through our church in the coming year.

Lastly, for your convenience we created an **online form** with all of the questions on the *Estimate of Giving* card and *Serving St. James* survey. The online form is identical to the paper versions you will receive in the coming week. Since we have two ways to submit your responses, **please note: you only need to fill out one method or the other**. A link to that form will be sent to the church email list on Monday, October 6th.

Thank you, again, for your faithfulness and dedication to the life of our church. I look forward to serving with you in the year to come!

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryce Hewlett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Fall Stewardship 2025!

*A month of opportunities for our congregation
to dialogue about our future...*

Oct. 5th - Rally Day & Kickoff to Fall Stewardship

- The whole church will be together for worship on Sunday morning (no Saturday service on 10/4)
- A Temple Talk on our Narrative Budget will be delivered by the Finance Committee during the Sunday service.
- Details on Rally Day are on the reverse side of this flyer.

Oct. 12th – Stakeholders Meeting

- The meeting will take place immediately after the Sunday morning service in the Nave. All are welcome to participate.
- A Stakeholder is anyone who holds a “stake” in the health and future prosperity of our church. That is YOU! Join us!
- We will discuss our hopes, dreams, and aspirations for what our church may become over the next 3-5 years.

Oct. 19th – Open Church Council Meeting

- The meeting will take place immediately after the Sunday morning service in the Nave. All are welcome to participate.
- The focus of this meeting is to discuss potential updates to our Church Constitution in advance of a vote at the 2026 Annual Meeting. We will attempt to consider the question: What adjustments to our Church Constitution do we need to enact to be a healthy, thriving congregation in 2030?
- These proposed changes from Council may include:
 - Required updates from ELCA Churchwide Assembly in July 2025 and other recommendations from our Synod
 - Minor increase to the minimum requirements for church membership and participation on Church Council.
 - Redaction of outdated language such as C9.03.A10
- Copies of the Church Constitution will be available in the Narthex for you to read and pray in advance of the meeting.

Oct. 25th & 26th – Reflection & Celebration

- A Temple Talk will be delivered by the Church Council during the Sunday service to review the work of the church during our Fall Stewardship Season
- Celebrate with donuts and other goodies after the services!

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Greetings to you all, St. James!

I cannot believe that it is October already! This year has gone by so fast, and the amount everyone has done for the church and our community is outstanding!

October is a month of thinking ahead. As our summer crops begin to slow down on growth and production, we start to plan on how we can use what we have until next year's harvest. We research ways to can, store, or even freeze our hard work to be able to savor it for the upcoming months.

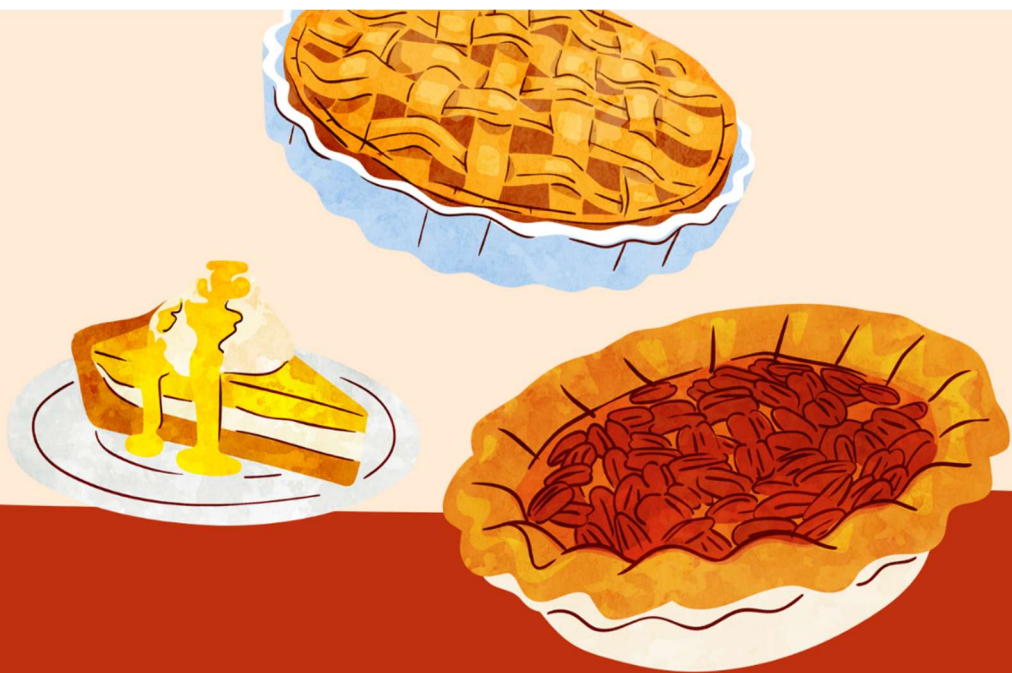
We can use this month of planning ahead to think about the future of St. James. October has many events planned every Sunday throughout the month. We begin with Fall Rally Day, hosted by Christian Education on October 5th. Finance will be handing out our Serving St. James forms and beginning our Stewardship season. October 12th will be a stakeholders' meeting, where you, as congregational members, can state what you would like to see St. James have or do by 2030. October 19th will be an open Council meeting, where me, Bryce, and the other Council members will be talking about possible changes to our constitution. This can provide a space where congregational members can talk about the proposed changes, but we will not be voting on them until the Annual Meeting in January.

The final week will be a reflection on October, and seeing how much we have discussed about St. James' future.

I really encourage you all to partake in these events. I fully believe everyone has thoughts or ideas that can be shared to help with the growth of St. James in the years to come.

Be good. Do good. God bless.

Madeline Schmidt



RALLY SUNDAY PIE BAKING CONTEST

Show us your baking skills!

Rules:

Crust and filling must be homemade.

Please provide a list of all pie ingredients at submission time.

One pie entry per person.

Pie and ingredients list due by 9 am on October 5.

OCTOBER 5, 2025



**Prizes and bragging rights for the top 3
pie entry winners!**

*St. James Lutheran
Church: Rally Sunday*

October 5, 2025

Please join us for a Potluck. Pumpkin
Patch & Pie baking contest following the
9:00 am Sunday service!

Please bring a side dish to share (pulled
pork provided) – sign up info to come.
See Pie Contest flyer for more baking
competition details.

Bring the kids! There will be a pumpkin
patch & bounce house for them to enjoy!

No Saturday service October 4.



ECCLESIASTES 3:1

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens



AUTUMN

WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words related to autumn?

p	o	c	d	k	e	g	w	j	a	y	g	j	d	w
j	u	e	l	e	g	e	o	m	q	c	x	x	e	r
a	e	m	m	s	r	m	r	s	u	a	o	c	u	s
r	m	s	p	n	b	o	c	c	y	r	r	r	c	w
e	g	v	r	k	v	k	e	a	h	v	k	i	n	l
g	l	u	q	f	i	y	r	r	d	x	d	z	f	e
n	s	p	c	m	e	n	a	f	q	e	i	x	h	h
b	p	c	p	l	i	j	c	z	r	m	t	l	d	n
n	r	o	c	a	o	q	s	c	k	w	m	e	v	k
k	y	d	p	p	g	a	q	m	b	r	k	e	p	o
b	k	q	r	e	e	s	o	r	t	a	h	f	j	u
s	u	n	f	l	o	w	e	r	r	v	t	t	m	j
x	s	q	u	i	r	r	e	l	m	f	t	k	o	x
b	j	e	x	o	j	j	n	e	j	p	d	i	w	u
b	j	w	p	s	k	z	i	v	t	u	k	v	l	j

acorn

apple

cider

corn

deer

owl

pumpkin

scarecrow

rake

scarf

squirrel

sunflower

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9/28 9AM Worship 10AM Live Nativity Mtg. 1PM Frieda's 100 th Bday	9/29	9/30	1 6-8PM Food Pantry 6PM Confirmation class	2 9-11AM Food Pantry	3	4 NO Saturday Service
5 9AM Worship Rally Day!	6	7 6PM Christian Ed. Mtg.	8 1:30PM Finance Mtg. 5:30-6:30PM Choir Practice 6-8PM Food Pantry	9 9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BHCC	10	11 5PM Saturday Service
12 9AM Worship 10AM Stakeholders Mtg.	13 <i>Columbus Day</i>	14	15 6-8PM Food Pantry 6PM Confirmation Class	16 9-11AM Food Pantry 11:30AM GANG 2PM Bingo @ BETT Health Care Center	17	18 5PM Saturday Service
19 9AM Worship 10AM Open Church Council Mtg.	20	21 1PM Sarah Circle	22 6-8PM Food Pantry	23 9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BHCC	24	25 5PM Saturday Service
26 9AM Worship 10AM Reflection & Celebration	27 Blood Drive 2:30-5:30PM	28 12-4PM Quilting	29 6-8PM Food Pantry 6PM Confirmation Class	30 9-11AM Food Pantry	31 <i>Halloween</i>	11/1 5PM Saturday Service



Sarah Circle will meet October 14th at 1:00 p.m. at St. James. Bring your Gather magazine for our discussion topics. Janene Anderson and Maggie Bayliss are Hostess and Lesson Leader.



St James GANG

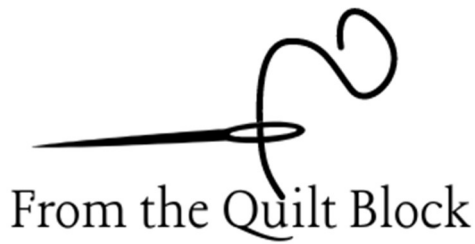
St James GANG will meet on Thursday, October 16th, in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30.

We will be having a speaker from 180, an organization we support.

Bring your own lunch, dessert and beverages will be provided. Please remember to sign up so the hosts know how many to prepare for. See you there!

Pat Larson

bettlarspr@mchsi.com



From the Quilt Block

On September 23rd, five quilters met to complete 3 quilts.

On October 12th 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.

October 18th, the quilts the quilters have been working on all summer and your donations for Personal Care Kits will go to Cedar Rapids for Lutheran World relief.

Our next quilt day is **Tuesday, October 28th 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 involved 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



Soical Ministry News

We met on Monday, September 8th.

We played Bingo at the Bettendorf Health Care Center on September 18th. The residents really look forward to this. They win prizes of quarters or small stuffed animals (Beanie baby size). They also enjoy small ceramics, such as little angels, kittens, puppies, etc. If you are trying to eliminate clutter, this would be a great cause!

We served a meal for Churches United at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport on the 22nd. We served 75 patrons, with 20 coming for seconds. The numbers have really grown. It seems like no matter what we serve, they are so grateful. Our meal usually consists of sloppy Joes, either potato salad or macaroni and cheese, raw vegetables with dip, a banana, and 2 homemade cookies each. We could use some volunteer cookie bakers. It seems we always call upon the same few people. Please contact Judy Larson if you are willing to help with this.

We will be setting up the Giving Tree again around Thanksgiving. These names come from Lutheran Services in Iowa, and the Bettendorf Health Care Center.

Our next meeting will be on October 6th at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room. Please consider joining us. Many hands make light work!

Judy Larson

Chairperson

(563)340-7902



A Modern-Day Parable

Say you follow the landowner's direction in Matthew 20:1-16: "Take what belongs to you and go"? What happens after you do just that?

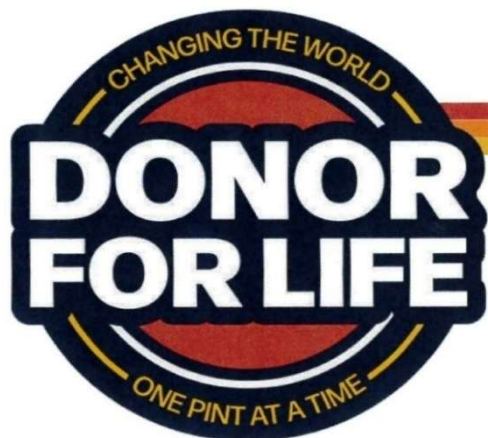
In a story often attributed to the later Mother Teresa, she and other religious sisters were distributing food to an impoverished village. Each family was allowed to send one member with one bucket to be filled with dry grains of rice. To the surprise of a novice shadowing Mother Teresa, one elderly woman in the line held two buckets.

Greeting the woman by name, Mother Teresa proceeded to fill only one of the buckets. Thanking her, the woman walked a short distance away, and emptied half of her full bucket into the second empty one. Seeing this as a great inequity, the novice asked, "Why did we not fill up both buckets for that poor, elderly woman?"

Mother Teresa explained that there was only enough rice for one bucket per family each day. "Her neighbors are very ill," she said. "She is emptying half of her family's share into her neighbor's bucket to bring to them because she cannot carry more."

Overcome by sorrow, the novice wanted to fill the sick family's bucket and carry it for the woman. Mother Teresa stopped what she was doing and looked at the novice. "Never take away the right of another person to be generous," she said.

So: What will you do with what you are given?



Rewards grow in value as you give throughout each year! Details at bloodcenter.org/rewards.

BLOOD DRIVE

St James Lutheran Church

Monday, October 27th

2:30pm - 5:30pm

Church Basement

1705 Oak Street, Bettendorf

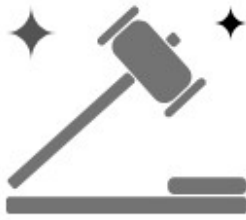
**To schedule, contact Frieda
Houldsworth at 563-355-1628 or
Janene Anderson at 563-370-8710**

Group Code: 028

Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 09/01/2025



ImpactLife



CHURCH COUNCIL

NEW BUSINESS

Jay Brooks presented a proposal for him to give presentations at the church on his travels to locations around the world with his professional quality photos taken at each and recounting of his experiences and the biblical implications. The title is *Photographing God's Creations*.

His presentations will be open to church members, others churches, and others by invitation with free will donations made to St James. Each show will last 45-60 minutes.

Motion to approve Jay's photographic church program by Tom, seconded by Erik. Motion passed.

Vote for William and Julie Martin, who are charter members and homebound, becoming member of St James.

Motion to accept as members of St James by Ellen, seconded by Tom. Motion passed.

Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Usher	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
10/5/25	Angie Schmidt	Maddie Schmidt	Velvet Collison	Ryan Martin	Ellen Hogbin	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley
10/12/25	Pat Larson	Linda Gross	Needed	Jerry Nichols	Yvonne Nichols	Marilyn Pieart	Diana Worley
10/19/25	Shirley Richlen	Judie Brooks	Jude Hewlett	Fritz Voss	Judy Larson	Audrey Lovell	Mary Meumann
Reformation Sunday 10/26/25	Jason Forari	Maddie Schmidt	Sam & Eli Pessein	Melissa Forari	Ana Forari	Audrey Lovell	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:

Madlyn Wulgaert; stjamesbett@gmail.com

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

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Ed Arp, **Lynn** Chamberlain, **Bev** Chappen, **Sherry** Germanio, **Sandy** Henry, **Frieda** Houldsworth, **Bert** Leder, **LaVonne** Mienke, **Mark** Peters

Family and Friends

Amanda (friend of Melissa), **Barry** (cousin of Ellen Hogbin),
Carol (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Donna** (Ed Arp's sister),
Drew (Pat Larson's friend), **Emmett** (friend of Diana Worley),
Hattie (Frieda's sister), **Jason** (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son), **Jenn** (family of Bryce/Kim & Gary/Eunice), **Joseph** (friend of Bryce & Kim), **Karen and Ed** (Shirley's Aunt and Uncle),
Konnor (Bert Leder's grandson), **Mark** (friend of Jason Forari), **Michelle** (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Phil** (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), **Ruthann** (Justina's mom), **Stan** (relative of Fritiz Voss), **Tami** (family of Maggie Bayliss), **Ted** (Ellen Hogbin's father-in-law), **Wally** (Frieda's nephew)

Those Whose Duty it is to Protect Others

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
CPT **Eli** Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend)
Tyler, First Responder (Family of Pat Larson)

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

