

St. James Newsletter

November 2025

From the Pastor,

Oh, God! Why me?

Most of us have uttered, or at least thought, that plea at some point. Something has gone wrong in our lives. Or maybe something just hasn't gone the way we believed it should. And so, out of a sense of some perceived injustice in our lives, "Why, God," we wonder, "has this thing happened (or not happened) to me that I certainly don't deserve."

One of the most memorable devotions I ever heard began with that emphatic plea. *Oh, God! Why me?*

However, in the case of this particular devotion, the leader turned this phrase upside-down. She invited us to ask the question, "Oh, God! Why me?" and then consider something *good* that had happened to us that we didn't deserve. She encouraged us to look at the blessings of our lives and recognize them as gifts from a loving God who showers us with good gifts even though we may not deserve them, sinners that we are.

Oh, God! Why have you given me a loving family?

Oh, God! Why have you given me the gift of health?

Oh, God! Why have you given me the resources I need to have a place to live, clothes to wear and food to eat?

Oh, God! Why have you given me caring friends?

Oh, God! Why have you given me your love, mercy, and forgiveness?

Oh, God! Why have you given me the gift of life now and through death to eternity in your kingdom?

These are just a few of the blessings *I* have been given to which I might utter, "Oh, God. Why me?"

In this month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, I invite you to generate your own list of blessings in response to the plea, "Oh, God! Why me?" Let this be a season in which we open our eyes and our hearts to recognize all the good that is around us and comes to us.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles



Mark Your Calendar!

Joint Worship at St. James

November 30 at 10:30 am

This will be a worship service of all three congregations - St. James, Calvary and All Saints.

8-Church Joint Worship Service

Sunday, December 7, 10:00 am at First Lutheran, Moline

Bishop Stacy Fidler will be the guest speaker, and **all eight churches will cancel morning services**, so we can gather together to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of First Lutheran.

Women's Circle

The St. James Women's Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 18 at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Hostess: Ruth Anne Hartman

Bible Study: Judy Fox

"Generosity: There's a wideness in God's mercy"

All interested women are welcome to join us. Please notify Ruth Anne Hartman, 309-738-4663, if you wish to attend or visit.

Daily Grace

This website is a daily faith reflection. Examples:



[A singing rebellion](#) – Martin Luther
[Justice and love](#)
[New life is around the corner](#)
[Keeping God's time](#)
[Created good](#)

Reminder: When you are viewing the above items on your computer or smart device, items that are colored blue are links.

Rescue Mission Meal

St. James will serve the evening meal at the Christian Family Care Center on Wednesday, November 12.

We will buy the ham and needed supplies. If you would like to help, we need volunteers to serve and prepare crockpot beans, desserts and cheesy potatoes.

A sign-up sheet is on the info table in the narthex. Meet in the church kitchen on November 12 at 5:30 pm or bring prepared items before that time.

Meetings

- Property Team
November 3 at 6:00 pm
- Welcoming Team
November 5 at 6:00 pm
- Stewardship/Finance Team
November 17 at 4:00 pm via Zoom
- Council
November 19 at 7:00 pm in person and via Zoom



Prayers

- ♦ Terri Warren
- ♦ Jane Massey
- ♦ Debbie (Stone) Stebel

Quilters



St. James Quilters will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 15 at 1:00 pm. All are welcome, even beginners. Please join us as we quilt.

Bible Study – Matthew

Bible Study led by Pastor Knowles will be on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. We are in person at the church, or you can participate via Zoom.

If you would prefer a daytime group, the Bible study is on Monday mornings at 10:00 am in the Upper Room at Calvary.

The Zoom links are on our website.



Café Women's Bible Study

The newly formed Café Women's Bible Study Group meets on the third Saturday of the month, so the next time is on November 15 @ 10:30 am. Anyone interested, should RSVP to: Rhea Frank-Cottingham, 309-781-8546.

December Newsletter Deadline

Monday, November 17

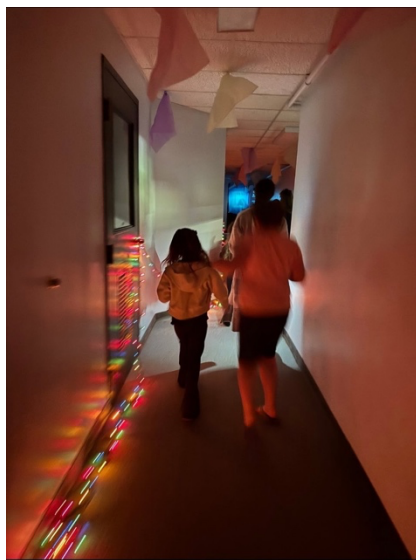
To be able to complete our newsletter each month and share information to others who might also need it, the monthly newsletter deadline will be in the middle of each month.

Sunday School

In preparing for Halloween, the Lordie Girls learned about Jonah being swallowed by a monstrous fish! While listening to the story they found *themselves* swallowed by a fish!

They learned that sometimes when we do the opposite of what God tells us, God intervenes at just the right time to help get back on the right path. Now we begin to prepare for Thanksgiving! God bless!

Bethany C. Weipert



Trunk or Treat

The Welcoming Team was excited to throw their first annual *Trunk or Treat*. We enjoyed fellowship, creativity and the little ones from the neighborhood that popped through for some candy. It was a beautiful day. Can't wait for next year!

Special thanks to those who dressed up, decorated cars and handed out candy!



Assisting on Sunday – November 2025

Sunday	Lector	Counters	Sound Booth
Nov. 2	Ruth Anne Hartman	Stacy Miles Tina Wieland	Mike Olinski
Nov. 9	Rhea Frank-Cottingham	Todd Gann Linda Ryden	Bob Ryden
Nov. 16	Terril Johnson	Dave Renneke Rhea Frank-Cottingham	Dave Renneke
Nov. 23	Cam Palicki	Ruth Anne Hartman Gary Wolber	Jerry Johansen
Nov. 30	Mark Ridolfi	Bill Kempf Jerry Johansen	Dave Renneke

November Birthdays

Chip Johnson	11/3
James Cox	11/7
Jane Massey	11/11
Nathan Ray	11/12
Louis Anderson	11/16
Hannah Ohlsen	11/17
Terri Warren	11/17
Rachel Deisenroth	11/18
Daniel Mulongeca	11/19
James Pirch	11/21
Tim Johnson	11/25

November Anniversaries

Jim & Leslie Cox	11/2
Joe & Katie Loete	11/9



Annual Joy of Christmas with Augustana College

Wednesday, December 3, 7:30 pm

Students and faculty from Augustana College join the community for this beautiful service of worship and music that starts at Augustana Lutheran Church in Andover. The Christmas story will be read in several different languages. The speaker will be announced.

The service concludes with a procession to the Jenny Lind Chapel, which is illuminated by many candles, and where Holy Communion will be celebrated to the strains of familiar Christmas carols.

November 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 2:00a CST returns 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship (AS)	3 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via <i>Zoom</i> 6:00p Property Team	4 6:30p Bible Study at church or via <i>Zoom</i> 6:30p Boy Scouts	5 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 6:00p Welcoming Team	6 6:30p Cub Scouts	7 Office Closed 9:00a CWU <i>World Community Day</i>	8
9 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship (AS)	10 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via <i>Zoom</i> 10:30a Retired Pastor's 6:00p Junior League	11 6:30p Bible Study at church or via <i>Zoom</i> 6:30p Boy Scouts	12 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 5:30p Rescue Mission Meal	13 6:30p Cub Scouts	14 Office Closed	15 10:30a Café Women's Bible Study 1:00p Quilters
16 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS 10:30a Worship (AS)	17 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via <i>Zoom</i> 4:00p Stewardship/ Finance via <i>Zoom</i>	18 2:00p Women's Circle 6:30p Bible Study 6:30p Boy Scouts	19 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 7:00p Council at church or via <i>Zoom</i>	20 6:30p Cub Scouts	21 Office Closed	22
23 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS 10:30a Worship (AS)	24 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via <i>Zoom</i>	25 6:30p Bible Study at church or via <i>Zoom</i> 6:30p Boy Scouts	26 9:30a Worship Service (AS)	27 	28 Office Closed	29
30 10:30a Joint Worship St. James, Calvary, All Saints						



Rock Island/Milan Unit of:
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.

CWU Celebrations 2025

World Community Day

God's Daughters Living Powerful Lives

Celebrations 2025 Theme Scripture

"Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised."

Proverbs 31:30 (NLT)

**Be Kind
At All
Times**

**choose
Kindness**

**World
Community
Day
2025**

**Celebration
Ephesians 4:32**

YOU'RE INVITED!

DATE: Friday, November 7, 2025

TIME: 9am - Registration, 9:30am Program

LOCATION: Greater Antioch Baptist Church

929 14th Street, Rock Island, Illinois

FOR MORE INFORMATION

POINT OF CONTACT:

Tarrilee Shannon, Celebrations Chairperson

PHONE: 309-781-1394 (to register)

EMAIL ADDRESS: office@churchofpeaceucc.org

Includes Lunch! Admission: \$10

Bring: Christmas cards for prison ministry

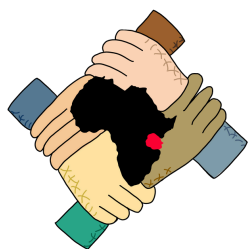
Sponsored by Church Women United, Inc. (CWU)
475 Riverside Dr., Suite 1374 - New York, NY 10115 - 212.870.1030

www.churchwomenunited.net

Agreed to Differ - Resolved to Love - United to Serve

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PARTNERS, U.S. & IHP-TZ

To Improve Healthcare in Tanzania



September update

2025

THE OUTSIDE IS DONE; TIME TO STOCK UP



The community is impressed and eager as the CMC building is nearing completion.

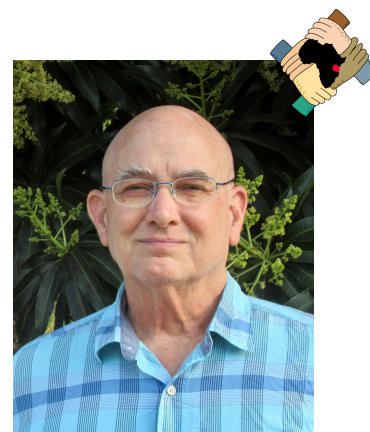
next steps:

Now that the outside of the building is done, it is time to stock the inside with furniture, medicine, machinery, and supplies before we begin patient care January 2026.

We are so thankful for our loyal donors as they continue their faith in us and our dedication to the medically underserved in Tanzania.



We have had a wonderful and productive trip to Chihoni. First, let me say that the pictures of the outpatient building do not do justice to the scope, and dare I say, grandeur of the place. We have had local and regional officials visit with jaw-dropping, wide-eyed reactions that were quite telling. The progress on the building has been phenomenal. The work of our project manager Selemani Shabani, with the help of David West, has shown wonderful fruit.



DR. CHARLES POWELL
PRESIDENT, IHP

We have looked into an electronic medical record system for the facility, but we are waiting on a response from the company about a customized program that fits our specific needs. We currently have the core of a working telephone system that has been tested and appears to be entirely ready for prime time. This may seem like a distraction, but the Tanzanian government all but requires these items. There are monthly reports required by the Ministry of Health. Manual extraction of these reports is time consuming, inefficient, and a waste of resources when the press of a button can extract the necessary data.

In addition to the outpatient building, the basic structure and the 1st floor ceiling/2nd floor base of the guest hostel is now in place. We have been bouncing around some ideas for enhancements of guest services, but the opening of the outpatient department is foremost on the agenda. At the time of the Grand Opening, the first floor of the guest hostel must be available because we have our first medical students coming, as well as volunteers to celebrate the opening event.

I am thankful for the wonderful and passionate staff we have, who have accomplished so much in such a short time. ”



The Outpatient Department.

St. James on the Web

stjamesri.org



309-786-0503

saintjamesri@gmail.com

At our website you will find
single-click links to

[Facebook](#)

and St. James photos

[Flickr photos](#)

St. James is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

In our awareness that we are all broken people, we rejoice in God's abundant grace. Therefore, we welcome all who are seeking God's love and forgiveness regardless of national origin or ancestry, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, abilities, beliefs, political views, financial resources, or family status.

There will always be a place for you at St. James.

For more information check out [Reconciling Works](#).



St. James Lutheran Church
3145 31st Ave
Rock Island, IL 61201

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE