



St. James Newsletter

June 2026

From the Pastor

Mary and I recently returned from a vacation to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The occasion that brought us there was the 200th anniversary of the seminary from which I graduated. However, as many of you know, we don't need much of reason to return to Gettysburg. We visit about every other year. And with each visit, it seems that we learn something new about Gettysburg.

I want to note, at this point, that the Battle of Gettysburg, which was fought throughout the town from July 1-3, 1863, marked a turning point in the Civil War. It could be argued that the Confederacy lost the war on that battlefield, even though the war itself lingered on for another two years.

This year I paid more attention than I have in the past to the Gettysburg National Cemetery. The cemetery is the site where 3,512 Union soldiers from the 1863 battle are buried (plus veterans from the Spanish-American War through Viet Nam). It is also, of course, the site where Abraham Lincoln spoke a few words in dedication of the cemetery on November 19, 1863 in what has become known as the Gettysburg Address.

Many of the dead from the battle are laid to rest beneath a simple grave marker listing their name, regiment and state. But, alongside these markers and in a dedicated section of the cemetery, are markers with nothing on them. These markers represent the nearly 1,000 Union soldiers who remain unknown. They died anonymously in defense of their country. Even so, their effort helped to save the nation.

After walking through the cemetery this year, I could not help but reflect on those unknown soldiers. They will never have their name engraved on a plaque or monument. Their names will not be recorded in history books. And yet they served with valor and honor and "gave the last full measure of devotion." They will never be personally recognized for their contribution in saving the nation.

As I reflected on those unknown, unnamed soldiers buried in the hallowed ground of the Gettysburg National Cemetery, I thought about the countless members of Christian churches throughout the world who make great and small contributions to spreading the love of God. Many, probably most, will never be recognized with a plaque or a monument. They will serve anonymously. And yet, their work will contribute to world-changing ministries.

Perhaps you are among those who are among the "unknown" Christians who faithfully serve God without special recognition. Please know that while your

name may never appear on a plaque, your ministry is important, and you are appreciated. Your devotion changes lives.
Thank you.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles



Rescue Mission Meal

Christian Care Center on Wednesday, June 10.

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

A sign-up sheet is on the info table in the narthex. Meet in the church kitchen on June 10 at 5:30 pm or bring prepared items before that time.

Thank you also to everyone who has donated a cake, brownies, or cookies for dessert.

Sunday School

The month of May was a slow month for the girls, as we finished up our Sunday school year with the Pentecost story. The kids learned about the fire of the spirit that burns within us and our mission to go out and share the good news of Jesus with others.

On the last week of Sunday school, the girls planted a lot of red flowers to symbolize Pentecost but also other flowers to fill in our garden at St. James in our Courtyard. A way to remember how planting the seed of love can spread in time!

This summer, Sunday school will be taking a break, but we are excited to partner with Salem Lutheran in Moline for Vacation Bible School from July 20-24! We are excited to spend time with old friends and make new ones too!

We pray for you all this summer as we enjoy the Son and the Sun and hope everyone has a safe and wonderful summer. GOD BLESS!

Bethany C. Weipert



- ◆ Terri Warren
- ◆ Brad Hubbard



Meetings

- Welcoming Team
June 3 at 6:00 pm



Quilters

Tentatively, the St. James Quilters will meet on Saturday, June 20, at 1:00 pm. Watch the Sunday announcements for further updates.



Church Directory

Please check the first draft of the revised church directory that was emailed to you on May 20 for additions, corrections or deletions; and submit them to the office by June 10. Your copy will be available at the church on June 12. Thanks!

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.

Women’s Circle and Café Women’s Bible Study

These groups will not be meeting during the summer but will resume in September. But please note below...

Calvary is inviting all women

On Wednesday, June 3 at 11:30 am at Riverfront Grill, 4619 34th St, Rock Island will be our WELCA lunch. All ladies from both Calvary and St. James are welcome to attend. Reservations are not required!

However, we are asking if you could call the Calvary church office, 309-762-5423, as they would like to have a rough estimate on how many may attend.

Thanks, and have a blessed day.

Reminder:

A Joint RIM Celebration

Holy Trinity Sunday

May 31, 2026, 10:00 am

Centennial Hall at Augustana College

Fellowship and refreshments in the lobby at 9:00 am

Please join in this festival worship!



2026 Shoe Drive for Kids in Romania and Guatemala



Thank you all who have contributed to the shoe campaign. The kids that ACF supports in Romania and Guatemala typically get one pair of new shoes each year, and they are thrilled when they receive a new pair. Contributions at St. James totaled \$489. Contributions at Calvary totaled \$480 plus nine pairs of shoes. Thanks again for your support.

Greg Johnson, for Another Child Foundation

PUT GOOD INTO THE WORLD

BLOOD DRIVE

 **ImpactLife**

Salem Lutheran Church & Calvary Lutheran Church

Tuesday, July 14th

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**1724 15th Street (parking on 16th St side) -
Auditorium, 2nd Floor**



Group code: 004

Last date to donate elsewhere: 05/19/2026

To book your appointment, contact Rita Gustafson at (309) 721-4363, Pam Gross at gdgross144@gmail.com or scan the QR code

Thank you from LSSI

(Each year the St James Endowment is able to give 5% of our Endowment fund to causes that submit requests. This is information received from Maizee Miller of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). She made a request on behalf of LSSI to help fund Foster Care parents. Here is her letter to St James.)

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to St. James Lutheran Church for allowing Lutheran Social Services of Illinois to submit a proposal for your funding consideration, and your approval to assist us with recruitment and retention efforts! I am so grateful for the past philanthropic support from St. James and for your partnership in our ministry. I also want to thank you for fulfilling the wish-lists for 8 children served by our Moline Office - we are so grateful.

As a leader in providing foster care services in Illinois, LSSI cares for more than 2,600 children at 12 different sites serving 42 counties statewide. Locally, LSSI's Moline office provides Foster Care, Intact Family Services, and Family Supportive Services. All of the programs work with families who have come to the attention of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

LSSI's Foster Care program works with youth-in-care, with LSSI case workers providing case management, family counseling and training and licensing for foster families, with the goal of reuniting children with their biological parents when possible. Intact Family Services are designed to work with families who have gone through an investigation, but foster care services are not deemed necessary. LSSI works with the families to address problems, with the goal of enabling children to remain safely at home. LSSI also provides Family Supportive Services, which works with families who need connections to resources. These families receive short-term supportive services, including an assessment of needs and linkage to resources to prevent or remedy minor to moderate challenges that may be placing their children at risk. Last fiscal year the Moline Foster Care program served 92 children, Intact Family served 71 families, and the Family Supportive Services program served 728 families in Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties.

We greatly appreciate your support of LSSI's Moline Foster Care Program, to assist with recruitment and retention of foster parents and will gladly report back on how successful our events and efforts are in the coming year.

Thank you,

Maizee Miller



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

REMINDER

The 2026 Northern IL Synod Assembly is on June 12th with In-Kind donations benefitting LSSI this year. You can support by:

1. Donating \$25 giftcards (for your congregation representative to bring to the Synod Assembly) OR
2. By purchasing items from LSSI's online wish-list via the QR code or link listed.



GIFTLIST.LSSI.ORG

Vespers at Jenny Lind Chapel in Andover

These are brief Sunday evening worship services at 7:00 pm and are conducted by area pastors and congregations. There is a variety of music typically accompanied by someone playing the Chapel's electronic keyboard.

June 14 – Pr. Randall Swanson

June 28 – Pr. Laurie Hensley, Bethany Lutheran, Woodhull

July 26 – Pr. Liz Kuster, Augustana Lutheran, Andover

August 30 – Pr. Randy Willers

Ron Peterson Memorial Garden – Dedication

Sunday, June 7, 10:30 am (approximately)

In honor of Ron Peterson who died in June 2024, the Jenny Lind Chapel Board authorized the installation of a beautiful garden near the northeast corner of the Chapel. It features a bench and an array of flowers that are maintained by groundskeeper Kevin Clark.

The garden will be dedicated on June 7 during the 9:30 am Worship Service of Augustana Lutheran Church in Andover. This service will be held outside on the church grounds followed by a short walk to the Chapel for the garden dedication. In case of rain, both events will be held inside the church. All are welcome!

THE COMMUNITY IS WELCOME
TO JOIN US FOR AN

Outdoor Worship & Dedication

SUN 7 JUNE

9:30 - 11:00 AM

Augustana Lutheran Church is hosting an outdoor worship open to the community. Bring a lawn chair and invite a friend to join in this festive worship!

Following the outdoor worship, everyone is invited to move over to the Jenny Lind Chapel for the dedication of the Ron Peterson Memorial Garden.

In case of rain, both events will be moved inside.





International Health Partners–US

2420 N. 6th Ave. E.
Newton, IA. 50208

President: Charles Powell, M.D.

Vice President: Marie Quanbeck

Secretary, Managing Director: Paula Lofstrom, LPN

View our projects at www.ihptz.org

Board Members:

Charles Powell, M.D.
Marie Quanbeck, MSE
Paula Lofstrom, LPN
Duane Quanbeck,
Treasurer
Joyce Zemel
Christine Petersen
M.D., MBA
Lynn Powell, M.D.
Kyle Landau
David West
Ron Overmyer,
B.S. M.S.
Jan Overmyer, R.N.
Mary Pace, B.S., M.Ed.
Josiah Grimes

Tax ID #20-4108237

Thank you! May 25, 2026

Dear St. James Lutheran Church,

Your generous donation of \$3,700 benefits the mission of IHP to bring quality health care to deserving people in Tanzania. **Thank you.**

Word is spreading that we're open, so more patients are coming to be seen. About 50% are children. Dr. Bon, Dr. Eric, and Dr. Elikana mentored our first medical student for the year, Emily Gardner, doing her last rotation before returning to Mayo, Scottsdale to graduate as an M.D. Another Mayo medical student is due to arrive on June first.

Honoring the assignment to carry out the Gospels of Jesus Christ, to act, and to demonstrate those values is the goal we share. Thank you.

Peace begins with each one of us.

Blessings and gratitude,

Paula and David



Emily Gardner, Paula, and Dr. Elikana.



Dr. Bon examining a young patient.



A little drama queen was just too cute not to notice.

Tanzanian Ministry of Health requires that the next building to be built must be the Reproductive and Child Health Building, (RCH).



Each concrete block weighs 62 pounds. Local workers are hired to assist the masons in laying the foundation footings for the building.

They work long and hard all day. This enables these men to support their families and increases the economic level of the local community.



The lower level of the hostel is home to us now and we're able to host guests. The upper level will be added starting in a couple of weeks, a good thing since we are expecting larger teams to come starting next summer.

The peace pavilion in the lower courtyard of the outpatient building will be completed by a team coming from Salt Lake City in a couple of weeks. This will serve as an area for people waiting to see the dentist or eye care provider, and for morning prayers by the staff, and a place for lunch for staff or visitors.

You are warmly invited to come serve God's people in Chihoni, Tanzania, East Africa.

Assisting on Sunday – June 2026

Sunday	Lector	Counters	Sound Booth
June 7	Bethany Weipert	Tina Wieland Stacy Miles	Mike Olinski
June 14	Daryl Empen	Todd Gann Abbi Wieland	Bob Ryden
June 21	Christian Cottingham	Dave Renneke Rhea Frank-Cottingham	Dave Renneke
June 28	Linda Ryden	Ruth Anne Hartman Gary Wolber	Jerry Johansen

June

Birthdays

Jo Kempf	6/3
Jan Nelson	6/8
Ciza Estella	6/10
Frank Palicki	6/10
Roman Terry	6/14
Stephen Lucas-Heinrich	6/14
Corbin Macke	6/15
Cynthia Newberry	6/15
Helen Douglas	6/16
Madden McGinnis	6/16
Cam Palicki	6/19
Pat Whitten	6/19
Levi Loete	6/23
Carol Hubbard	6/25
Christine Owens	6/25
Dave Chambers	6/28
Doug Nelson	6/29
Dave Renneke	6/29



Anniversaries

Frank & Cam Palicki	6/1
Tim & Terri Warren	6/1
Craig & Lori Carstens	6/6
JJ & Bailie Vandygriff	6/7
Tom & Judy Fox	6/8
Richard & Rebecca Resch	6/24

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via <i>Zoom</i> 1:00p All Saints funeral	2 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Bible Study at church or via <i>Zoom</i>	3 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 11:30a Women's luncheon with Calvary 6:00p Welcoming Team 7:00p Bible Study (AS)	4	5 Office Closed	6
7 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:30a Worship (AS)	8 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via <i>Zoom</i> 10:30a Retired Pastors	9 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Bible Study at church or via <i>Zoom</i>	10 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 5:30p Rescue Mission Meal 7:00p Bible Study (AS)	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:30a Worship (AS)	15 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via <i>Zoom</i>	16 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Bible Study at church or via <i>Zoom</i>	17 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 7:00p Bible Study (AS)	18	19 Office Closed	20 1:00p Quilters
21 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:30a Worship (AS)	22 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via <i>Zoom</i>	23 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Bible Study at church or via <i>Zoom</i>	24 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 7:00p Bible Study (AS)	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:30a Worship (AS)	29 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via <i>Zoom</i>	30 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Bible Study at church or via <i>Zoom</i>				

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, 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