



**St James**  
Lutheran Church

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### *From the Pastor:*

In the time before Covid one weekend I attended a couple of meetings at the synod office in Rockford. Bishop Clements used the same devotion at both meetings. And I found myself equally disturbed by the devotion at both meetings.

The bishop began his devotional with a reading from Mark 8:

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup> He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Now, it wasn't the passage that I found disturbing. For all kinds of reasons that I would be happy to share with you, I like this passage. Nor was it the question that the bishop asked about this passage that disturbed me. It was a good question. Framing the question in the context of evangelism, he asked us how we might answer that question if someone – a non-Christian – would ask us that question. Imagine, he suggested, if an unchurched neighbor might ask you “Who is Jesus?” How would you answer?

And this is what disturbed me so much. I didn't have a quick answer. Me...a theologically trained professional, was speechless. I was so thankful at that first meeting that the bishop did not ask us to actually respond to the question.

Shouldn't I – shouldn't we – have a ready answer to such a basic question? If we are to take seriously at all our call to be evangelists - to tell the story, then it is absolutely necessary that we have an answer to such a basic question.

By the time of the second meeting I had had some time to consider an answer. So when the question was raised again (and this time the bishop asked us to actually respond) I was ready – sort of. I said “Jesus is the manifestation of God.” However, my pride at this answer quickly waned. It was a good answer – theologically. But when I thought about the scenario of being asked by a neighbor, my response seemed technical and cold. I don't think such an answer would do anything to encourage someone to hear more.

So, after some time to reflect on the question, here's my answer (for now).

Who is Jesus? Jesus is God in the visible. If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. Jesus preached love and justice. Jesus forgave sins and healed the broken. Jesus ate with outcasts and sinners. He sought the poor and the lost, including them in the fellowship of God's family. That's who Jesus is... he is God in the flesh sharing God's love, mercy, forgiveness and justice. That's the God that I believe in - the God mirrored in Jesus, and the God that I invite you get to know with me.

So that is my answer. It doesn't have to be your answer. But I think it is important for you to have an answer. So, let me echo the bishop's challenge. “Who do you say that Jesus is?”

In Christ,

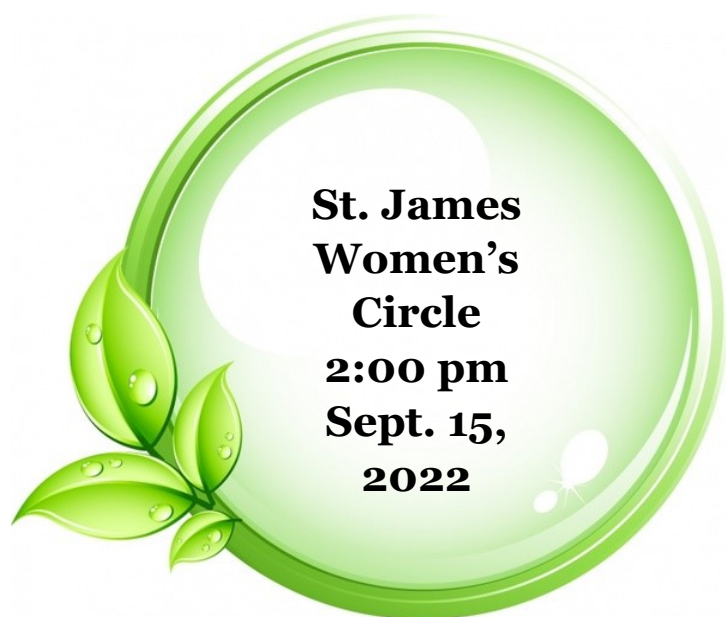
*Pastor Knowles*



The next cleanup date for Adopt-A-Highway will be on Saturday, September 10th, from 8:45 to 10:00 am. All are welcome!

Please meet at the eastern parking lot of Mel McKay park in South Rock Island at 8:45.

Safety vests, gloves, garbage bags, grabbers, and garbage bag holders will be provided.



St. James  
Women's  
Circle  
2:00 pm  
Sept. 15,  
2022

## Worship News

### Sunday September 4

#### First Reading

[Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#)

#### Psalm

[Psalm 1](#)

#### Second Reading

[Philemon 1-21](#)

#### Gospel

[Luke 14:25-33](#)

### Sunday September 11

#### First Reading

[Exodus 32:7-14](#)

#### Psalm

[Psalm 51:1-10](#)

#### Second Reading

[1 Timothy 1:12-17](#)

#### Gospel

[1 Timothy 1:12-17](#)

### Sunday September 18

#### First Reading

[Amos 8:4-7](#)

#### Psalm

[Psalm 113](#)

#### Second Reading

[1 Timothy 2:1-7](#)

#### Gospel

[Luke 16:1-13](#)

### Sunday September 25

#### First Reading

[Amos 6:1a, 4-7](#)

#### Psalm

[Psalm 146](#)

#### Second Reading

[1 Timothy 6:6-19](#)

#### Gospel

[Luke 16:19-31](#)

## Committee Meetings

**Stewardship/Finance Team** will be meeting on Sept. 19th at 4:00 pm via ZOOM.

**St. James Council** will be meeting on Sept. 21st at 7:00 pm via ZOOM.



### **Annual Swedish Högmässa Service**

Jenny Lind Chapel, Andover, IL  
Sunday, September 25, 4 pm

This beautiful service will be led by Mark Safstrom, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Scandinavian Studies at Augustana College. Special music will be given by Carol Curry, harpist. All are welcome.



The service will be live-streamed on the [Chapel website](#) and may be watched later on the [Chapel Facebook page](#).

Colleagues in Christ,

On September 14th Augustana Lutheran Church will be providing a Lunch Workshop covering the topic of funeral planning. All are welcome. Please pass on the blurb below to be included in your newsletter:

### **End of Life and Funeral Planning Workshop and Luncheon**

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 11:30am**

**Augustana Lutheran Church is hosting a workshop on end of life and funeral planning with three presenters. You will hear from a funeral director, an expert in estate planning, and from Pastor Reed Lee Pedersen. This event is free to anyone and includes a complimentary lunch. You can sign up by going to <https://forms.gle/tmacMJuPpQZVsavV9> or by calling Augustana's church office (309) 521-8127.**

**In humble service,**

**Reed Lee Pedersen**

**Pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church**

**628 6th Street**

**Andover, IL 61233**





**Northern Illinois Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



St James Lutheran Church

3145 - 31st Avenue  
Rock Island IL 61201

Dear Members of St James Lutheran Church,

We want to personally thank you for your donation of \$10,500 to the Northern Illinois Synod. We are honored and grateful for your donation, which will make a big difference in the life and work that the NIS is doing throughout the area. Without donations from congregations like yours, our Synod can't have an impact or influence in our community.

Thank you again for your donation!!

Sincerely,

Northern Illinois Synod Staff



## ELCA East Africa and Empowered Girls Program



Missionaries Daudi and Kellen Msseemmaa shared their family, story and gifts of their work on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at First Lutheran Church in DeKalb. Daudi is the East African Regional Representative for the ELCA. He spoke of the missionary accompaniment model and the various projects currently underway in Tanzania, Kenya and South Sudan, where he has been working since last October.

Kellen shared her inspiring story of gaining her education, her role as a teacher and now as head of the empowered Girls Program. Her work is helping girls to thrive and live their dreams. Their stirring stories encouraged everyone listening to consider participating in support of their work in East Africa. We invite you to learn more about both through our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Kellen's ELCA supported program now including 5,000 students and [updates](#) for David's perspectives and informational newsletters.

Bill and I enjoyed hearing their messages and meeting Kellen and their family. We first met Daudi (David) in 2004 when we were in the ELCA office in Arusha and he was with his dad Martin Msseemmaa in Bishop Wollersheim's tour group led by John Califf. Friday, it was also very nice to meet other attendees and have discussions before the presentation and during lunch. Let me know if you are also interested.

Ruth Anne Hartman

Missions Team

Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA Convention

# *Be a Humble Servant*

9:00 am, Saturday, September 17, 2022

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Freeport

*Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but to the interests of others.*

Philippians 2:4



Keynote Speaker, Loni Taylor  
Tribal Leader Of Rocky Boy,  
Member of ELCA Church Council



Find out more and register at  
**[nisynod.org/women](https://nisynod.org/women)**

Women of the **ELCA** 



**Northern Illinois Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.





Northern Illinois Synod  
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
33 rd Annual Convention  
9:00am Saturday, September 17, 2022

Theme: "Be a Humble Servant"

Philippians 2:4 "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Keynote Speaker: Loni Whitford Taylor, Tribal Leader, Rocky Boy Reservation  
Member of ELCA Church Council

Location:  
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2700 West Stephenson Street, Freeport IL

Coffee and Registration: 8:00 a.m. Registration Fee: \$40.00  
Fellowship – Worship– Singing Songs – Exhibits-WELCA business meeting for voting members

Convention Offering  
50% Women of the ELCA  
50%. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Rocky Boy

Physical Offering: Voices of Stephenson County  
Gift Cards: (Suggested Gift Cards-Walmart, Aldi, Sullivan's, Dollar General)  
Personal Items: Shampoo, Deodorant, African American Hair care products, Diapers, Size 5 & 6

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Country Inn and Suites in Freeport  
1710 S. Dirck Drive, Freeport Ph. 815-233-3300  
Ask for rooms in the convention WELCA block  
Cost, \$133.20(tax included) per room, 2 queen beds  
or \$144.30(tax included) for a king suite  
Hope to see all of you there!

# St. James Lutheran Church Annual “Corn Roast” 2022



## **“Thank You”**

Everyone who joined us for fellowship and fantastic food.

A special thanks to Leslie Cox, her committee and all the volunteers who helped roast the corn, prepared desserts, served the delicious food, and cleaned up after.

Without any of you, this event, would not be possible.



**Corn roasting on an  
Open Fire**



**Final product and  
“Star of the show”**



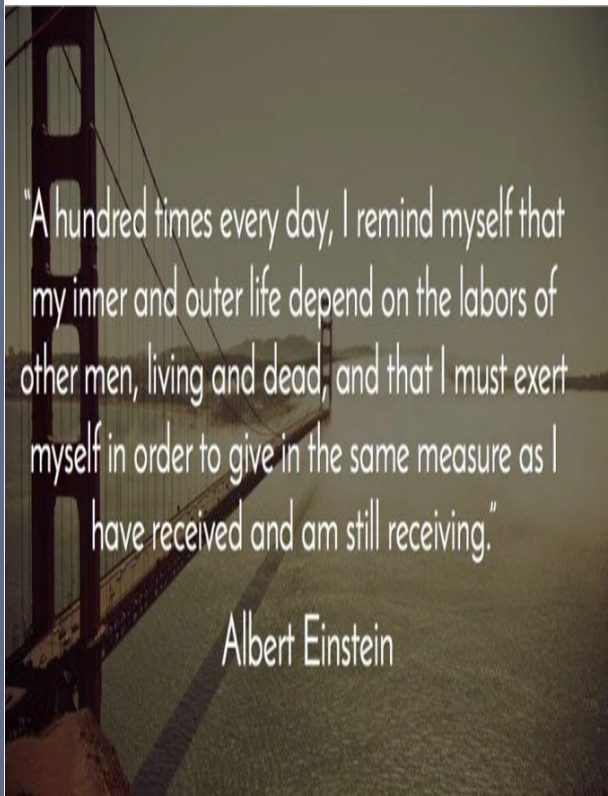
**Food Galore!**





*Congratulations!*  
*Bob Frank*  
*Celebrating his*  
*95 th Birthday*





## Things in Common

**What is one thing shared by all three items in the same group?**

**A: a cow, a shoe, a baby**

**B: a doctor's office, a post office, music**

**C: a zipper, a shark, a comb**

**D: restaurant goer, a bird, the Senate**

**E: a potato, a hurricane, a target**

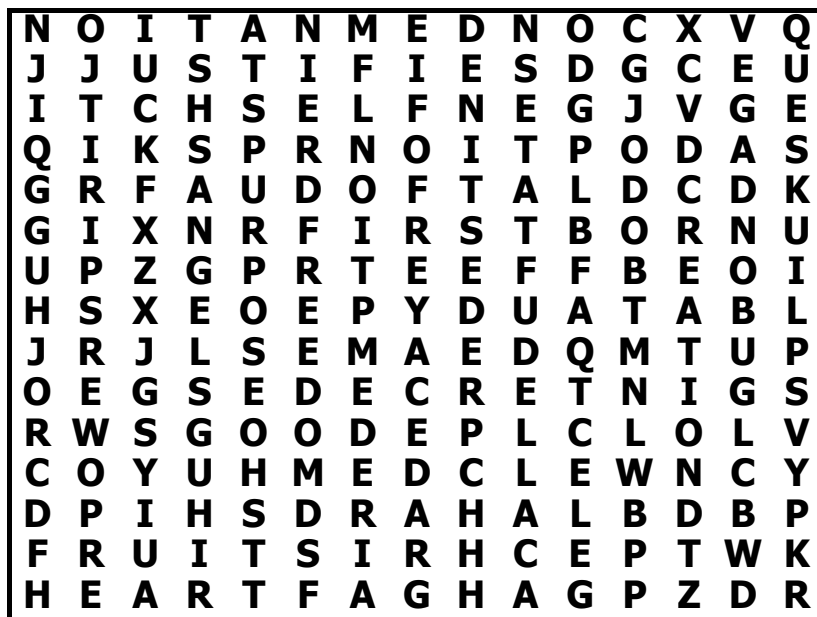
**F: a river, a person, a cave**

**Answers:** *Things in Common*  $\frac{3}{4}$  A. a tongue; B. a scale (or a key); C. teeth; D. a bill; E. an eye; F. a mouth. *Yea or Nay?*  $\frac{3}{4}$  Yes. The day before the day after the day before today was yesterday. The day after the day before today is today. And the day before today was yesterday. That is why yesterday was hotter than today. *Riddle 1*  $\frac{3}{4}$  An ear of corn or a chicken. *Riddle 2*  $\frac{3}{4}$  By going from one spot to another. *THE SAME AS*  $\frac{3}{4}$  1. Pressure; 2. Effectiveness; 3. Lively; 4. Disaster; 5. Humanistic; 6. Expedite; 7. Undefinable; 8. Agreement; 9. Obedient; 10. Insistent.

## WORD SEARCH

### ROMANS 8

This is one of the great chapters of Scripture. In it we find such themes as what it means to walk in the Spirit and how we cannot be separated from the love of God. Find the words taken from this chapter in the word search below.



Abba	elect	Jesus	adoption	family
justifies	angels	firstborn	Lord	bondage
flesh	love	called	freedom	Spirit
Christ	fruits	powers	condemnation	heart
glorified	peace	creation	conquerors	



## Serving This Month

# *September 2022*

Sunday	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Counters	Sound Booth	Assisting Minister
September 4	Tanner & Chip Johnson	Virginia Johnson			Stacy Miles Jane Massey	Bill Kempf	Stacy Miles
September 11	Tim Warren	Jerry Johansen			Virginia Johnson Linda Ryden	Bob Ryden	Stacy Miles
September 18	Terrill & Susan Johnson	Judy Johansen			Dave Renneke Peg Simmer	Dave Renneke	Stacy Miles
September 25	Bill Hartman	Rhea Frank-Cottinham			Ruth Anne Hartman Gary Wolber	Jerry Johansen	Stacy Miles



*Heather Coronell*

*09/08*

*Elaine Lestor*

*09/11*

*Linda Ryden*

*09/13*

*Kylie Terry*

*09/29*

# September 2022

## National Healthy Aging Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <u>Office Closed</u>	3
4 8:30am Worship (SJ) 9:30 am Fellowship( SJ) 10:30am Worship (AS)	5 <u>Office Closed</u> 	6 6:30pm 30/31 Book Club ©	7 9:30am All Saints Worship Service (AS)	8 6:30pm Cub Scouts	9 <u>Office Closed</u>	10 8:45am Adopt A Highway 
11 8:30am Worship (SJ) 9:30 am Fellowship( SJ)  10:30am Worship (AS) 11:30am Vestry 	12 1:30pm Retired Pastor's 6:00pm Jr. Bd of RI	13 6:30pm Boy Scouts	14 9:30am All Saints Worship Service (AS)	15 6:30pm Cub Scouts	16 <u>Office Closed</u>	17 Women of the ELCA  8:00am 33rd Annual Conference
18 8:30am Worship (SJ) 9:30 am Fellowship( SJ) 10:30am Worship (AS)	19 4:00pm Stewardship/ Fi- nance Team Via ZOOM	20 6:30pm Boy Scouts	21 9:30 am All Saints Worship Service (AS) 7:00pm Council (SJ) Zoom	22 6:30pm Cub Scouts 	23 <u>Office Closed</u>	24
25 8:30am Worship (SJ) Quilt Sunday  9:30 am Fellowship( SJ) 10:30am Worship (AS)	26	27 6:30pm Boy Scouts	28 9:30 am All Saints Worship Service (AS) 7:00pm	29	30 <u>Office Closed</u>	

## St. James on the Web

[stjamesri.org](http://stjamesri.org)

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  
A RIC Congregation  
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Rock Island, IL 61201

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE