

St. James Newsletter

April 2026

From the Pastor

As we hear the Easter story from Matthew's gospel this year, we encounter a number of characters. There is Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. There is the angel and the guards. And of course there is Jesus. But as I was thinking about the Easter story the other day, I thought about one other "character" from the drama. Have you ever thought much about the stone in the Easter story?

The purpose of the stone, on a practical level, is to seal the tomb to prevent the stench of a decaying body from seeping out. On a literary level, though, the purpose of the stone is to prevent Jesus from escaping the tomb. Symbolically, the stone exists in an effort to keep Jesus safely in the tomb and not allow the new life he brings to invade the world.

However, the stone will not succeed. God will not let the stone fulfill its role of keeping Jesus entombed and out of the lives of the people. Instead, in Matthew's gospel, an angel comes and creates an earthquake that causes the stone to roll away and letting the resurrected Jesus loose in the world. There is no stone big or heavy enough to prevent God from letting the new life in Christ out of the tomb.

As I thought about that stone, I wondered what stones are still being placed at the entrance of the tomb in an effort to keep Jesus contained. Sometimes there are stones placed at the entrance of the tomb because people don't want to hear the message of Jesus' love for everyone. It is easier to dislike or even hate the ones that disagree with us. Or maybe the stone is placed at the entrance to the tomb because people don't want to share their wealth with those in need. Or perhaps a stone is placed between the resurrected Jesus and ourselves because if we truly acknowledge that Jesus is loose in the world, then we might have to step outside our comfortable lives and be a servant to others.

As you celebrate Easter this year, remember the stone. Consider what stones you may place at the entrance of the tomb in order to keep Jesus at a comfortable distance from making too much difference in your life. And know that there is no stone big enough to keep God from rolling it away and allowing Jesus into your life.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

Rescue Mission Meal

Christian Care Center on Wednesday, April 8.

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 the April 8 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.



Shoe Drive for Kids

Our *Shoe Drive for Kids* in Romania and Guatemala runs through April 30. You may buy and bring kids shoes of any sizes to St. James or consider monetary donations of any amount.



A donation of \$23 will buy a pair of shoes and 2 pairs of socks. Please see the display in the narthex for more information. To donate, make out a check to St. James Lutheran Church with “shoe drive” in the memo. In May we will create one check from St. James. Thank you for your support. *Greg Johnson, 309-236-3394*

Sunday School

March has been busy getting ready for Easter! The girls took a first communion class that we partnered with First Lutheran, Moline. Pastor Knowles and Pastor Dan did a wonderful job leading this class.

The girls will receive their official first communion on Easter Sunday! They will also sing, “*Lean in Towards the Light*” by Carrie Newcomber. It provides a message we all need right now.

The girls sang the procession for Palm Sunday and had a blast singing for our missionary friends Paula Lofstrom and David West.

Many great things are going on for the Lordie Girls with many more to come. God Bless and Peace be with you!

Bethany C. Weipert

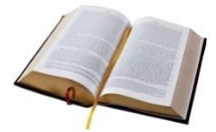


- ◆ Jane Massey
- ◆ Terri Warren
- ◆ Brad Hubbard
- ◆ Pat Whitten



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. **There will be no Bible study on April 27 and 28.**

Meetings

- Property Team
April 6 at 7:00 pm
- Welcoming Team
April 8 at 6:00 pm
- Stewardship/Finance Team
April 13 at 4:00 pm via Zoom
- Council
April 15 at 7:00 pm in person and via Zoom



Quilters

St. James Quilters will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 18 at 1:00 pm. All are welcome, even beginners. Please join us as we quilt.



Women’s Circle

The St. James Women’s Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 21 at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Hostess: Leslie Cox

Bible Study: Judy Johansen
“Gate and Shepherd”, Hannah Hawkinson, God’s Name, God’s promise.

Café Women’s Bible Study

This group will meet at 10:30 am on Saturday, April 18.

*Pastor will be on vacation
April 23-29, May 4-10*

*The church office will be closed
Easter Monday, April 6*



David West and Paula Lofstrom



Palm Sunday Children's Message

*Maundy Thursday Service
7:00 pm, April 2
Calvary, Moline*



*Good Friday Service
7:00 pm, April 3*



Easter
SERVICES

8:30 am, April 5



Church Women United



Annual Meeting

Friday, April 10
St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish
320 E First St
Milan IL 61264
Registration 9 am Program 9:30 am
Admission: \$10 Meal included

May Friendship Day

Friday, May 1
St. John's Lutheran Church
4501 7th Ave, Rock Island
Registration 9 am Program 9:30 am
Salad Luncheon
Admission: Free

Layettes for Head Start Families

The Church Women United unit of Rock Island/Milan is collecting items for layettes for families of children in the Head Start Program. The layettes are presented to mothers who complete a parenting class. The current supply of layettes for the program is very low.

Items needed (All should be new or nearly new.)

- 6 diapers (disposable)
- 2 receiving blankets
- 3 burp cloths
- 2 bibs
- 2-3 onesies (mix sizes between 0-3 and 3-6 months)
- 3 baby washcloths
- 3 pair of socks
- 2 pair hand mittens
- 1-2 outfits (for boys and girls, size 3-6 months)

There will be a sign-up list for these items at the greeting table. A basket to collect the items will be located by the church front door. Money (checks) donations to purchase needed items can be made out to St. James Women of the ELCA.

Please bring items to church by April 21. Thank you for your support of this project.

The items will be wrapped in one of the receiving blankets and tied. The layette will be labeled for boy or girl and for size.



**WEST
CONFERENCE
SPRING
ASSEMBLY**

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH

9:00 AM

Calvary Lutheran Church
2900 Ave of the Cities
Moline, IL 61282



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Please join us for a presentation from Co-founder and Director, Cloey Miller, of The Third Place in Rock Island, IL. They are a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping those persons experiencing housing instability.

There will be a freewill offering to support The Third Place, as well as other programs of our NIS.

The business meeting will follow.

LOCATION DETAILS

This program will be held in Erlander Hall at Calvary. Please enter through the back door facing the parking lot. There is a handicap entrance at the northwest corner of the building.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

Please call or email Teri Griebel with reservations by Friday, April 10th

309-762-5423 or

secretary@calvarymoline.org



"Raising Our Voices: Proclaiming the Gospel When the World is Loud"

Proclamation isn't shouting louder than hate...it's speaking, living and standing in love, truth, and justice as people claimed in Christ.

WELCA SPRING RETREAT 2026

"Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 4:11

APRIL 25, 2026

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

LOMC Oregon, IL

\$30 per person

Scholarships are available

**Program and Worship led by
Pr. Laurie Hensley, Bethany ELCA, Woodhull, IL**



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Northern Illinois Synod
Women of the ELCA Spring Retreat
Saturday, April 25, 2026

“Raising Our Voices: Proclaiming the Gospel When the World is Loud”

Half Scholarship Application

Program and worship led by Pastor Laurie Hensley, Bethany ELCA, Woodhull, IL

Deadline for Half Scholarship Application: March 25, 2026

The retreat is at LOMC, 1834 S IL Rt 2, Oregon, IL 61061

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of ELCA Congregation in which you are a member _____

Your Pastor's name/church phone # _____

Conference _____

What is your involvement with the Women of the ELCA? _____

Why is attending this event important to you? _____

Have you received a retreat Scholarship before? _____ If so, when? _____

Your age: 20-35 _____ 36-50 _____ 51-75 _____ over 75 _____

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Scholarship Registration Fee: \$15.00

Please complete this form as well as the registration form

Please return the two completed forms to: Christine Beyer-5713 S. Derinda Rd, Elizabeth, IL. 61028 by March 25, 2026. You will be notified of the scholarship decision by March 30, 2026. If you have any questions, please call Christine at 815-858-4555.

Office use only: Date received _____ Reply _____



Northern Illinois Synod Women of the WELCA

Retreat Registration Form-2026

“Raising Our Voices: Proclaiming the Gospel When the World is Loud”

Saturday, April 26, 2026 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Program and worship led by Pastor Laurie Hensley, Bethany ELCA, Woodhull, IL.

Use this form to register for the Retreat—please note the deadline for registration.

Include a check for \$30.00, made payable to “NIS WELCA” for your registration fee which includes coffee, snacks, lunch and materials. If you would like to contribute to any the mission fields that we support, we would appreciate that as well. They are LSSI Prison Ministry Story Book Program, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church located on Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Montana, Tanzania Women’s Department, India-Arcot Women’s Desk, and “Dollars for Our Daughters.” Be sure to note these additions below on your registration form.

Send this form and your check to **NIS WELCA to Kay Johnson-6043 E. Skinner Rd., Stillman Valley, IL. 61084. The registration deadline is April 1, 2026.**

LOMC, 1834 S IL Rt 2, Oregon, IL. 61061

Registration and coffee: 8:30-9:00 AM

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Please Print

Name _____ Conference _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Church Name/Address _____

Do you have a Companion Parish? _____ If so, where is it? _____

Registration Fee: \$30.00

Special needs (diet, physical, etc.) _____

I have applied for a scholarship: Yes _____ No _____ (please check one)

I wish to contribute the shown amount to the below mission(s):

LSSI Story Book _____ Tanzania Women’s Department _____

OSLC at Rocky Boy _____ India-Arcot Women’s Desk _____

Dollars for Our Daughters _____

Office use only: Check Received _____ Confirmation Sent _____

Assisting on Sunday – April 2026

Sunday	Lector	Counters	Sound Booth
April 5	Bob Ryden	Tina Wieland Linda Ryden	Mike Olinski
April 12	Mark Ridolfi	Todd Gann Stacy Miles	Bob Ryden
April 19	Stacy Miles	Dave Renneke Rhea Frank-Cottingham	Dave Renneke
April 26	Dave Renneke	Ruth Anne Hartman Gary Wolber	Jerry Johansen

April

Birthdays

Mike McMillan	4/5
Judy Johansen	4/6
William Hartman	4/8
Leoniya Ntihakose	4/8
Dave Stack	4/8
Fabrice Stir	4/8
Lindsey Cox	4/10
Izzi Anderson	4/11
Abbi Wieland	4/11
Linnea Ridolfi	4/13
Salome Mulumba	4/14
Robert Ryden	4/16
Kinley Coronell	4/17
Rachel Christenson	4/19
Leslie Cox	4/24
Jeff Rasmussen	4/24
Violet McGinnis	4/30



Anniversaries

Tim & Carol Pressly	4/3
Mark & Sandy Ridolfi	4/13
Keith Peterson & Tricia Barron	4/24

Founders Day Service

Sunday, April 26, 4:00 pm

[Jenny Lind Chapel](#)

Dr. Jason Mahn is the speaker. He is Professor of Religion at Augustana College.

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30a Chrism Mass with the Bishop (AS)	2 6:30p Cub Scouts 6:00p Evening Watch (AS) 7:00p Maundy Thursday (C)	3 Office Closed 12:00p Good Friday (C) 7:00p Good Friday Service (SJ)	4
5 Easter Sunday 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS (SJ) 10:30a Worship (AS)	6 Office Closed 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom 7:00p Property Team	7 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom	8 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 5:30p Rescue Mission Meal 6:00p Welcoming Team	9 6:30p Cub Scouts	10 Office Closed 9:00a CWU Annual Meeting St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Milan	11
12 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS (SJ) 10:30a Worship (AS)	13 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom 10:30a Retired Pastor's 4:00p Stewardship/ Finance via Zoom 6:00p Junior League	14 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom	15 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 7:00p Council at church or via Zoom	16 6:30p Cub Scouts	17 Office Closed	18 9:00a West Conf. Spring Assembly, Calvary 10:30a Café Women's Bible Study 1:00p Quilters
19 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS (SJ) 10:30a Worship (AS)	20 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom	21 6:30p Boy Scouts 2:00p Women's Circle 6:30p Bible Study	22 9:30a Worship Service (AS)	23 6:30p Cub Scouts	24 Office Closed	25 9:00a WELCA Spring Retreat LOMC Oregon, IL
26 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS (SJ) 10:30a Worship (AS)	27	28 6:30p Boy Scouts	29 9:30a Worship Service (AS)	30 6:30p Cub Scouts		

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