St. James Newsletter

November 2026

From the Pastor

I have been a regular worshiper all my life. And throughout all those years there came to be one Sunday every year that I absolutely hated being in church. It was called Stewardship Sunday. In the congregation where I grew up, Stewardship Sunday came to mean just one thing to me – money. And what was worse, was that the implication from all the money-talk was that there was never enough money. The bottom line of Stewardship Sunday was "Give more!"

As a result of that (negative) experience, I have always been reluctant to designate a "Stewardship Sunday" in the congregations where I served. The whole idea just leaves a bad taste in my mouth. And here's why….

I don't believe stewardship is exclusively, or even mostly, about money. Stewardship, instead, is foremost about our relationship with God.

First, Christian stewardship recognizes that everything we have and everything we are comes from God. God has granted us our bodies, minds and spirits. God has provided for us our family and friends, our food and clothing, our homes, our work, our play. This world and everything in it has come from God and belongs to God.

Second, recognizing that everything we have is from God, Christian stewardship calls on God's children to take care of what God has given us. That is what a steward literally is…a caretaker. God has entrusted us with his good creation and asks us to care for it.

Third, Christian stewardship understands that we ought to respond to God's goodness with thanksgiving. How do we thank God for all that he has given us: our selves, our time, our possessions and our salvation through the cross of Christ? We thank God by giving back to God that which God has first given us. We return to God our thanks in the form of our time and our talents and our resources.

So, our offerings represent our thankfulness to God. What we put in our offering envelope is not given in order to meet the church budget. The motivation for our pledge is not keeping the lights on or paying salaries. Our offerings are, instead, our way of saying, "Thank you, God, for all you do for me."

And so I encourage you to consider all of God's good gifts for you, including the gift of his son's life for the forgiveness of your sins. Then prayerfully consider how you wish to thank God.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

All Saints Day – November 1

At the November 1 worship service, we will celebrate the lives of all saints, but particularly those of members, relatives, and friends who have passed in the last year. Among others, these include Irene Nordstrom, Lynette Unger, Jane Massey, Louanne Chambers, and Dennis Wilson.

Rescue Mission Meal – November 11 - Christian Care Center

We continue to have great turnouts for this event! In October 72 meals were served. If you would like to help with the November 11 meal, we need volunteers to prepare crockpot beans, cheesy potatoes, and brownies; and also, to serve the meal at the Christian Care Center.

A sign-up sheet is on the info table in the narthex. Meet in the church kitchen on November 11 at 5:30 pm or bring prepared items before that time. Thanks!

Joint worship service at Calvary on November 15

Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, will host St. James in a joint worship service on Sunday, November 15.

The service will start at 10:30 a.m., with fellowship hour being held both before and after the service.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service – Tuesday, November 24

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, just up the street from St. James, host the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service this year. It will be held on Tuesday, November 24, at 7:00 p.m.

To quote Fr. Michael Constantinides, "By God's grace, (the service) has grown – many more congregations are joining." The officiant has not been named as of this writing, but more information will be forthcoming in our bulletins and email.

LSSI Moline Foster Program – thank you!

A big thanks goes to all those who signed up to buy Christmas gifts for one or more foster children in Calvary's LSSI Moline Foster Program, and also to those who have donated funds.

Our final child count was ten! That's awesome! You'll be getting further instructions in a week or so.

One thing was omitted from past ads: you may donate funds through Sunday, November 22. Simply put a donation in the offering plate. Be sure you mark it with your name and its purpose so that you can get credit for it. Thank you!

Temple Talks continuing on November 1 and 8

Following the announcements at the November 1 and 8 worship services, Temple Talks will be given. The respective sessions are entitled, "St. James as a Vessel," and "Riches of the Soul."

Meeting of Café Group – Saturday, November 21

Our next Café Group meeting will be on Saturday, November 21, at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing chapters 4, 5, and 6 of Ann Voskamp's book, *One Thousand Gifts*. It is available at the library, kindle, audible, and used books.

Missed our October 31 meeting? We'll catch you up. All women are welcome. See you there! -Rhea Frank-Cottingham, 309-781-8546

Women's Circle

The St. James Women's Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 17 at 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Hostess: Ruth Anne Hartman
Bible Study: Judy Fox
Proclaiming resurrection in hope

All interested women are welcome to join us. Please notify Luanne Beinke, 309-737-1153, if you wish to attend or visit.

Quilters

St. James Quilters will meet in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 1:00 pm. All are welcome, even beginners.

Please join us as we quilt!

Adult Bible Study

Bible Studies will continue at Calvary on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. and at St. James on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. They'll feature the book of Philippians for at least a few more weeks before going on to another book.

All are welcome to join either study! Please let Pastor know ahead of time if you would like to participate remotely, so that he can email you the *Zoom* link.

Meetings

- Property Team:
  November 2 at 7:00 pm
- Welcoming Team:
  November 4 at 6:00 pm
- Stewardship/Finance Team:
  November 16 at 4:00 pm via Zoom
- Council:
  October 18 at 7:00 pm in person and via *Zoom*

Church Women United - World Community Day

Church Women United of Rock Island/Milan will be having a World Community Day Celebration on **Friday, November 6, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Milan, IL**. Please come that morning and gather once again with your sisters from other denominations. Registration is from 9 to 9:30 a.m. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. and lasts until lunch, which is optional.

Make reservations with Tarrilee Shannon at s.fearainn.1@gmail.com or call 309 781 1394. Leave a message if no answer. The cost of the luncheon is $10.

They will be collecting **signed Christmas cards and stamps** that day, which are sent to individual inmates in the Illinois prison system. The cards are collected by Companions, Inc.

Project instructions:

DO

- Use cards that represent a diverse population.
- Place stamps in a separate envelope, NOT on card envelopes.
- Refrain from using cards that talk about masses or novenas.
- Sign your first name on the message.
- Add a simple message (suggestions at the bottom).
- ***Use unsolicited cards that you may have received in the mail from fundraising efforts, provided that they follow all do's and don'ts listed.***

DO NOT

- Use markers or crayons when signing cards.
- Use cards with anything taped, glued or pasted to them. No labels.
- Sign any cards that contain glitter in any amount.
- Enclose anything, seal envelopes, or place stamps on envelope.
- Put a date on the card or envelope.

Below are some suggestions for messages on the cards. They should be uplifting and caring.

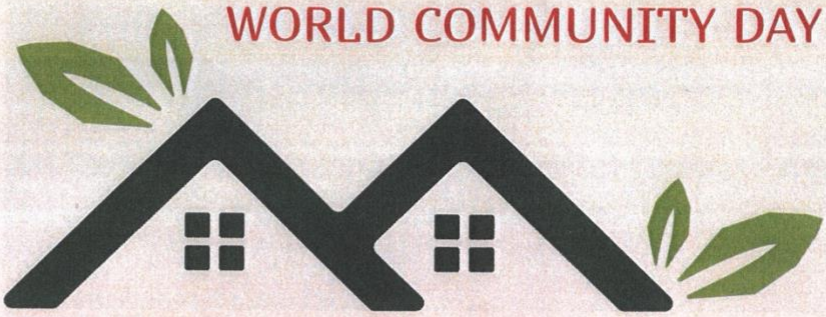
- Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas season
- May you have a blessed New Year
- Peace be with you
- Wishing you a joyful Christmas and New Year full of promise
- Wishing you a peaceful and blessed holiday season

Cards will be gathered at our Celebration event (at St. Ambrose in Milan) on World Community Day on Friday, November 6**. If unable to attend, please bring cards to church this Sunday, November 1, and place them near the signs in the narthex and downstairs table.** Thank you!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.

CWU CELEBRATIONS 2026

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY



SHELTER ME

See, Hear, Respect, Protect

Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

"The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

RESPECT

Theme: Peace Begins With Me

World Community Day

John 14:27 (NIV)

CWU 2024-2028

Priority #1

Peace/Shalom/Salam

YOU'RE INVITED!

DATE: Friday, November 6, 2026

TIME: Registration: 9am Program: 9:30am

LOCATION: St Ambrose Parish Hall, 312 1st St W, Milan , IL 61264

ADMISSION: $10 (includes lunch)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

and registration, please contact Tarrilee (below)

CONTACT: Tarrilee Shannon, Celebrations, Chair

PHONE: 309 - 781 - 1394

EMAIL: s.fearainn.1@gmail.com

Sponsored by Church Women United, Inc. (CWU)

Rock Island/Milan Unit

Agreed to Differ - Resolved to Love - United to Serve

Recap: Second Annual St. James Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 25

Thanks to all who participated in our Trunk or Trunk event, and/or donated cash, candy, or toys.

God gave us a beautiful autumn afternoon – actually more like summer, with the temperature in the low 80s. But despite that and increased advertising, the number of visitors stayed about the same as last year. Next year we will likely join with one or more other organizations, possibly RI/M churches, for the event.

It was a lot of fun though. Take a look at the pictures below. The creature in red is a guest, but the rest are St. James members. Can you guess who they are?

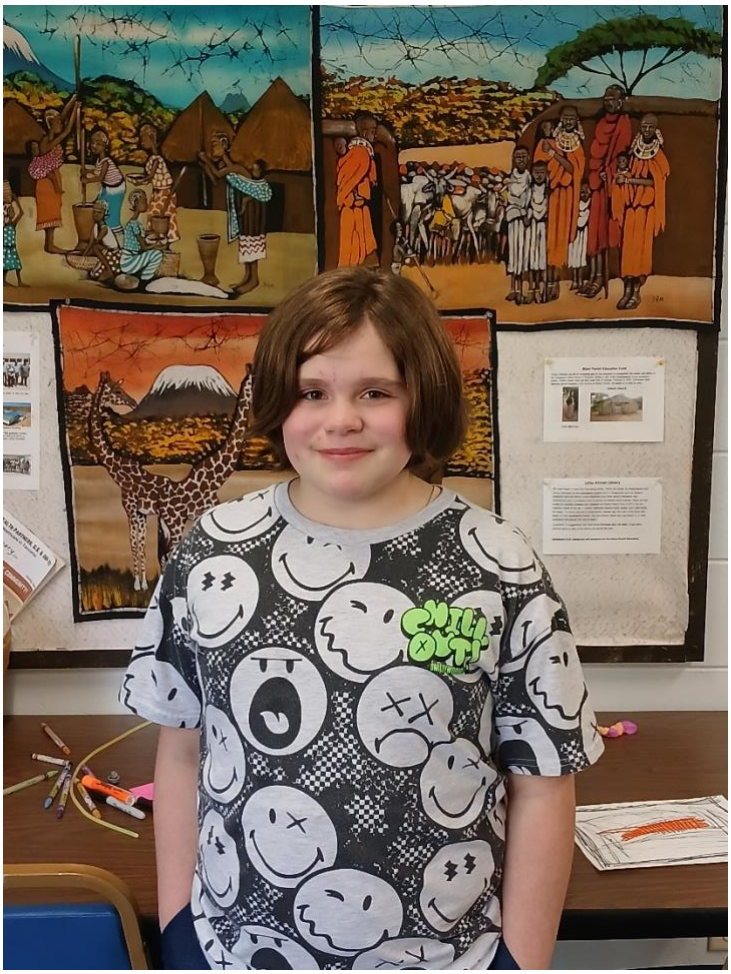
Meet our Lordie Kids:
Showcasing Levi Loete

For the next few months, the Lordie Kids want to introduce themselves. Each month we will be showcasing a child from the group. With that being said, meet Levi Loete!

Levi is 11 years old, his favorite color is blue, he loves eating pizza for dinner and loves Veggie Straws as a snack.

Levi loves to play Roblox with his friends, and his favorite Bible story is the Parable of the Landowner and the Tenants because he loves the message that stealing is wrong.

Levi would like to tell people that St. James is a nice place with nice people. His favorite song to sing at Sunday school is "Away in a Manger." His favorite room in the whole church is the Sunday School Room because it's fun! He hopes others come and join the fun!



Pastor Knowles' retirement events – December 20

By this time, you've likely marked your calendar for December 20, as the date on which we will honor Pastor Knowles as he retires on January 1, 2027.

A joint worship with All Saints (not Calvary) will be held at 10:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon. The Welcoming Team is planning the latter, but we welcome any thoughts or ideas you have on what to include. Thank you!

2027 calendars are available

Help yourself to a 2027 calendar! They are in a stack on the information table near the upper entrance.

Hello, St. James members and friends,

With Thanksgiving approaching, I thank God that I belong to such a loving and caring church. Specifically, everyone has been so understanding and patient with me as I learned (and continue to learn) my job as Office Administrator. So, thank you!

I dislike giving notes about absences and deadlines, but unfortunately, I must. So here goes, for the month of November:

- On Wednesday, November 4, the office will be open only from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., so that I may prepare for and attend a meeting at Augustana College.
- I plan to publish the December newsletter on Wednesday, November 25, the day before Thanksgiving. So, please, if you can, submit your items to me by the end of the day on Friday, November 20. If you are unable to do so, just tell me how much space you'll need and when your item(s) will be ready. *Please don't assume that I'll automatically include your item because it's seasonal, though I do look at the newsletters from a year ago.*
- And finally, the office will be closed on both Thanksgiving Day and the day after.

I hope you all have your best Thanksgiving ever!

Luanne

Our LSTC Scholarship Winner Megan Mong: What's new?

Megan Mong, the recipient of St. James' endowed pastoral scholarship at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, recently wrote us a lovely note, regretting that she couldn't make it to St. James while going back to Chicago in October for a brief visit. Megan was a Master of Divinity student at LSTC from Salina, Kansas.

Her letter is given below. It is also on the bulletin board above the information table inside the upper door.

Dear members of St. James,

I am so bummed I couldn't make it out to you yet! Since I last updated you, I have completed my internship in Montana and moved back to Kansas. I visited the Holy Land in July for a friend's wedding in Bethlehem. I have started working at Peace Parish, which is made up of three churches: American Lutheran in Belleville, Amana in Scandia, and Ada in Courtland. They are near the Nebraska border.

I am also a part-time chaplain at the hospital in my hometown of Salina, KS. When I have some free time, I have been substitute teaching too. Thank you all for your continued support, prayers, and love! I pray that God will intertwine our paths more and that you all continue growing in faith!

In peace, Megan Mong

Joy of Christmas – December 2, 7:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend the 55th year of "Joy of Christmas," sponsored by Augustana College Campus Ministries and Augustana Lutheran Church, Andover. It will be held on Wednesday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m.

The event starts with a beautiful worship service in the sanctuary, with the Christmas story being read in several different languages. Following that will be a five-minute processional walk to the candlelit Jenny Lind Chapel, where Holy Communion and Christmas carol singing will take place.

Please dress for the weather, as the walk takes about five minutes. But even if you get cold, the hot chocolate and cookies served in Luther Hall afterward will warm you up!

Assisting on Sunday – November 2026

Sunday	Lector	Counters	Sound Booth
November 1	Julie Farmer	Stacy Miles Tina Wieland	Mike Olinski
November 8	Bethany Weipert	Todd Gann Abbi Wieland	Bob Ryden
November 15	(At Calvary)	Dave Renneke Rhea Frank-Cottingham	(At Calvary)
November 22	Doug Nelson	Ruth Anne Hartman Gary Wolber	Dave Renneke
November 29	Christian Cottingham	Bill Kempf Jerry Johansen	Jerry Johansen

November Birthdays

Chip Johnson	11/3
Jim Cox	11/7
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

Did your birthday or anniversary go by without being listed? If so, please contact the church office at 309-786-0503, Monday through Thursday, 9:00-2:00.

Thanks, and sorry!

Prayer requests:

- Terri Warren
- Brad Hubbard
- Darryl Johnson
- Steve Hay (Calvary)

Use of Room 9 on Sunday Mornings

On November 1 at 10:30 am, All Saints is launching their Sunday School with materials from "Godly Play". The teacher is Shelley Chambers (no relation to Dave Chambers).

This is open to all children, ages 3-12. Shelley indicated that the children will join the All Saints' worship service upstairs at about 11 am.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship and SS (AS)	**2** 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via *Zoom* 7:00p Property Team at church	**3** 6:30p Bible Study at church or via *Zoom*	**4** Office closed after 9:30a 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 6:00p Welcoming Team	**5** 6:30p Cub Scouts	**6** Office Closed 9:00a CWU World Community Day Celebration	**7**
8 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship and SS (AS)	**9** 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via *Zoom* 10:30a Retired Pastors 6:00-9:00p Jr Board of RI jbri.org (link)	**10** 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Bible Study at church or via *Zoom*	**11** 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 5:30p Rescue Mission meal	**12** 6:30p Cub Scouts	**13** Office Closed	**14**
15 10:30a Joint Worship at Calvary 10:30a Worship and SS (AS)	**16** 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary/ *Zoom* 4:00p Stewardship/ Finance Team via *Zoom*	**17** 2:00p Women's Circle 6:30p Bible Study at church or via *Zoom* 6:30p Boy Scouts	**18** 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 7:00p Council at church or via *Zoom*	**19** 6:30p Cub Scouts	**20** Office Closed	**21** 10:00a Café Women's Bible Study 1:00p Quilters
22 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship and SS (AS)	**23** 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via *Zoom*	**24** 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	**25** 9:30a Worship Service (AS)	**26** Office Closed 	**27** Office Closed	**28**
29 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship and SS (AS)	**30** 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via *Zoom*					

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