

St. James Newsletter

October 2025

From the Pastor,

As I write this letter it is early September. I am hoping that by the time you read it in early October the Cubs will still be playing games that are meaningful instead of just running out the schedule. That is, after all, what has been behind the numerous player personnel decisions they have made over the last several years.

As with any professional sports organization, the Cubs have been in a period of “rebuilding.” What that means is that they made decisions with an eye to the future, not necessarily immediate, success. Sometimes they have traded or not signed many of their stars, the one or two players who excel at the game, in order to recruit young talent who will help the team win in two or three or four years down the road. In essence, they sacrifice their current talent for the possibility of long term, sustained, success.

Perhaps it would be helpful for us to see ourselves in a period of rebuilding. As existing congregations, we have had a good run. For Calvary (over the past 106 years) and St. James (for 72 years), we have had full Sunday School classes, large confirmation classes, active youth groups, multiple WELCA circles, wonderful choirs, full services and more. It has been good.

But times and situations have changed. And so now would be an appropriate time for us consider a “rebuilding” stage.

Being in a rebuilding stage means we need to look to the future. We need to be willing to let go of the things that might have been successful for us in the past in order to make room the new things that will help us in the future. We need to be willing to consider new ways of being the people of God in our communities. We need to be willing to see the world as it is and not the way it has been and consider new ways to effectively share the love of God in this new world.

Rebuilding is never easy, and it is often painful. It takes time. It requires patience because results are rarely immediate. But is necessary if we intend to be faithful proclaimers of the word of God throughout the next decade and beyond.

We have begun that process in our discussions of our relationship between St. James and Calvary as well as the work being done with the six other ELCA congregations in Rock Island and Moline. Please continue to pray for our work together and be open to a future that may look very different from our present.

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.

Women's Circle

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

Hostess: Pat Whitten

Bible Study: Michelle McKenzie

"Stewardship: How do we tend our treasure?"

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:



[Peace isn't just quiet](#)
[So all may have daily bread](#)
[Repetition etches faith into our hearts](#)
[On worship and memory](#)
[Managing disappointments together](#)
[God hiding in plain sight](#)

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, October 8. This month's meal is sponsored by Trish Myers & family, in honor of her sister Susan Cato.

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 October 8 at 5:30 pm or bring prepared items before that time.

Meetings

- Welcoming Team
October 1 at 6:00 pm
- Property Team
October 6 at 6:00 pm
- Stewardship/Finance Team
October 13 at 4:00 pm via Zoom
- Council
October 15 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, October 18 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

A newly formed Café Women's Bible Study Group will meet on the third Saturdays of the month, starting October 18 @ 10:30 am. Anyone interested, should RSVP to: Rhea Frank-Cottingham, 309-781-8546.

November Newsletter Deadline **Wednesday, October 15**

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 the 15th of each month.



Merry Christmas

I know it's early but... Look how fast September flew by and it is now October!

Deadline for sign up – October 12

A sign-up sheet has been placed on the table in the Narthex. In place of a gift, you may donate monetarily and LSSI will do the shopping for you.

Once we know how many would like to purchase gifts, we will forward the count to LSSI. They will put together a suggested list of children listing their age, gender and items that the children would like or need and send to Calvary. We will then give out the tags to those who sign up from St. James.

This year, each child will have a tag with their number, age and list of items, including clothing sizes. Once done shopping, please place your tag with your items and return them to church. Most items listed are valued at \$25 or less. If you would like more information, please contact Trish.

News from Tanzania

Paula Lofstrom has just returned from visiting Tanzania for three weeks and seeing the new medical building. She and her son David will now begin a fundraising tour and will visit St. James on March 28-29. They are excited to start telling the story of what is happening at Chihoni.



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

Paula sent the September newsletter. A printed copy has been placed on the information table in the Narthex.

Sunday School

The Lordie Girls are back in session and growing in size and numbers! The girls came back from summer break looking older and wiser, and they brought a new member to the group, Sylvie Wieland. We are so excited to have her!

We started our year off learning/reviewing the creation story. Lily Loete was so nice and brought her pet snake *Flicker* to help tell the tale! We also made people, out of corn husks.

As our group grows, we are excited to see what the year has in store for us!


Bethany C. Weipert



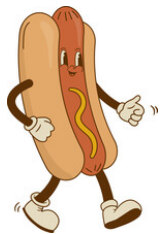
TRUNK OR TREAT

October 26th
@2:00 pm



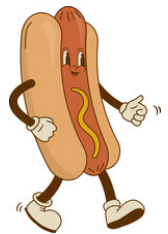
Everyone can participate! Individuals can purchase candy,  non-edible gifts, etc., donate money \$, help with preparations beforehand, or be part of “event-day”.

Additional information will be available soon.



HOT DOG ROAST

First Lutheran Church
Rock Island



October 12

4:00 - 7:00 pm (at the fire pit)

Come and enjoy yourself at our hot dog roast! Hot dogs, chips, lemonade, and s'mores will be provided. We will be collecting school supplies for our neighbors at the Rock Island Academy to help students in need. Bring a roasting fork and lawn chair if you wish! Come to enjoy fellowship and food!

Community Event

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

1834 S IL Route 2, Oregon, IL



Autumn Fest

Make plans to join us for Autumn Fest on Saturday, October 11!

It will be a day of fun at camp including Pumpkin Carving, Cider Pressing, Crafts, Wagon Rides, Hikes, Campfire S'mores, and a "Taste of Camp".

When you arrive...

Parking will be available in and around the Admin Building parking lot, with clear markers.



The Tent and Trailer Pavilion will serve as the main location for Autumn Fest this year, with activities additionally at the Program Center, Archery, the Swanson Prairie, and elsewhere.

The Dining Hall will serve as the inclement weather backup.



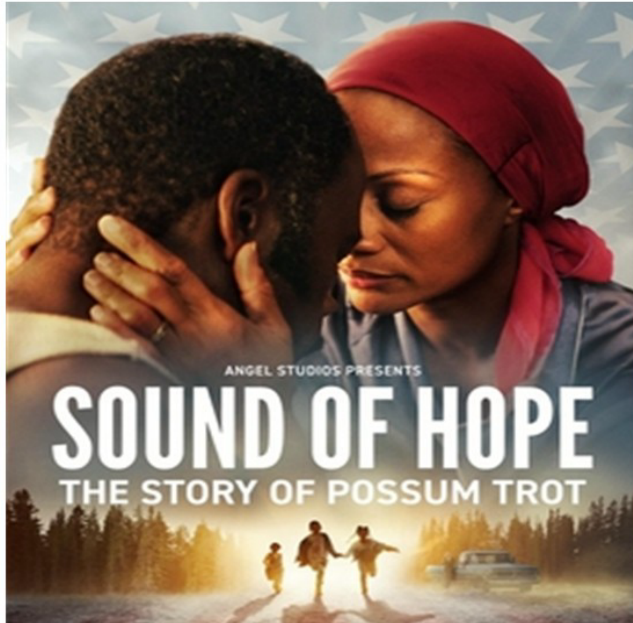
Schedule

10am – 3pm: Activities: Pumpkin Carving, Cider Pressing, Crafts, Wagon Rides, Hikes, Campfire S'mores, and a "Taste of Camp".

11am – 1pm: Lunch available for purchase (\$10)

3pm: Closing Worship





Sunday, October 19, 2025

Salem Lutheran Church
1724 15th Street Moline IL

Potluck: 11:15AM-12:15PM

Movie: 12:30PM

This is a FREE event

Please call 309-764-5614 to make a reservation to insure we have enough food to accommodate everyone.

We look forward to seeing you!

Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (also simply known as ***Possum Trot***) is a [biographical film](#) about Donna and Reverend Martin.

Plot

After her mother's death in 1996, Donna felt a calling to care for children without parents. After researching, she learned about the plight of many other children. Along with her husband, Reverend Martin, and the Bennett Chapel Missionary [Baptist Church](#) in [Possum Trot, Texas](#), she invited families to adopt or foster children from the local foster system.

“Inspired by the powerful true story, Donna and Reverend Martin ignite a fire in their rural church to embrace kids in the foster system that nobody else would take. By doing the impossible – adopting 77 children – this East Texas community proved that with real, determined loved, the battle for America’s most vulnerable can be won.” Join us on October 19th to “love like momma” and “fight for the kids” in our community!

Presented in conjunction with



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Assisting on Sunday – October 2025

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



October 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 6:00p Welcoming Team	2 6:30p Cub Scouts	3 Office Closed	4
5 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship (AS)	6 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom 6:00p Property Team	7 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom 6:30p Boy Scouts	8 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 5:30p Rescue Mission Meal	9 6:30p Cub Scouts	10 Office Closed	11 <i>LOMC Autumn Fest 10a-4p</i>
12 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship (AS)	13 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom 10:30a Retired Pastor's 6:00p Junior League 4:00p Stewardship/ Finance via Zoom	14 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom 2:00p Women's Circle 6:30p Boy Scouts	15 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 7:00p Council at church or via Zoom	16 6:30p Cub Scouts	17 Office Closed	18 10:30a Café Women's Bible Study 1:00p Quilters
19 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS 10:30a Worship (AS)	20 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom	21 2:00p Women's Circle 6:30p Bible Study 6:30p Boy Scouts	22 9:30a Worship Service (AS)	23 6:30p Cub Scouts	24 Office Closed	25
26 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS 10:30a Worship (AS) 2:00p Trunk or Treat	27 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom	21 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom 6:30p Boy Scouts	29 9:30a Worship Service (AS)	30 6:30p Cub Scouts	31 Office Closed	

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