

St. James Newsletter

September 2026

From the Pastor

As I write this letter, I am also considering what I want to say in Sunday's sermon. As always, I am impressed by Paul's words in Romans 12 from the second reading for Sunday:

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8 the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

I have always loved the idea that we are all members of the one body of Christ. I think there are three key concepts that we need to understand in this image.

First is the idea that each and every one of us are a part of the body of Christ. We are together in the work of the body and that means each of us is important and valued.

Second, as with a human body, each member fulfills a different function. Each of us has been given unique gifts by the Spirit to help the body fulfill its purpose. At the same time, that also means that no one member is the whole body. We are all just a part of the body and need the rest of the members to complete the whole.

And, finally, is the recognition that there is just one body – and that is the body of our Lord.

It is this final point that I'm not sure I have always fully appreciated. When I have thought, taught and preached about the body of Christ, I think my perception of that body has been too small. I have typically considered the body being a congregation or group of people. But in reality, the body of Christ is not just one entity, but all those entities together. The body of Christ is made up of individuals and congregations and denominations and whatever other group may exist. We are, all together, the one body of Christ.

I think it will be important as we move into the future to keep this perspective of the body of Christ in mind. No one person or congregation or synod or denomination is the complete body of Christ. Rather each of those entities is a

member of the body. Each brings to the body its own gifts of the Spirit. Each is important and valued. And it is only when each member (be it an individual or a congregation or whatever) works with all the other members, that the mission of the body of Christ can truly be fulfilled.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles

Rescue Mission Meal - September 9 - Christian Care Center



We are blessed that this ministry continues to grow as we head into September.

Let's support our new leaders, Mark Ridolfi and Julie Farmer, who will buy the ham and all other groceries. If you would like to help, we need volunteers to serve and prepare crockpot beans, cheesy potatoes, and brownies.

Please note that brownies will be the only dessert we'll serve. With the growing number of meals being served, having a variety of desserts slows up the serving line.

A sign-up sheet is on the info table in the narthex. Meet in the church kitchen on September 9 at 5:30 pm or bring prepared items before that time. Thank you!

School Kits

A big thanks goes to those who have donated items and/or funds to this wonderful Lutheran World Relief cause!

There's still time before **September 5** to give last-minute items and/or monetary donations for children's school supplies. Each kit will contain the following items:



- 4—70 sheet spiral bound notebooks – wide or college ruled
- 1—ruler—30 centimeters/12 inches (We need many of these!)
- 1—handheld pencil sharpener
- 1—pair blunt scissors
- 5—unsharpened pencils**
- 5—blue or black ballpoint ink pens (no gel ink)
- 1—box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1—2 1/2-inch eraser

Please place items in the collection box under the information table near the upper entrance. Monetary donations to “School kits” are also welcome.



The Missions Team invites everyone to help assemble the kits on “God's Work. Our Hands” Sunday, September 13. Thank you!

Rummage Sale and Bake Sale

We're getting some great items for our Rummage/Bake Sale on Friday and Saturday, September 18-19.

But we welcome more! Please try to donate your items as soon as you can. Bring them to the marked boxes and surrounding area near the elevator on ground floor.

We also need volunteers to make this event as successful as last year's. Your help would be appreciated beforehand in setting up Fellowship Hall, preparing items for display, and baking goods. During the event, cashiers and other helpers are needed. Afterward, cleanup help is needed.

Hours of the sale are Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with items selling for half price beginning at noon.

Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex and on one of the tables just inside the lower entrance. Also, you can help by spreading the word! Just make a copy(ies) of the full-page ad on page 6 of this newsletter.

Questions? Contact Leslie Cox at 309-269-3163. Thank you for your help!



Energy Audits

Thanks to all of you who have participated in the Energy Audits in August. Some great discussions have emerged!

Our final discussion will be during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, September 6. Copies of the worksheet entitled, “#5 Missional Energy Audit,” are available in the narthex and at the dining tables.

If you've missed any of the past discussions, we still need your input! Blank copies of the worksheets are available on a table near the west entrance. Just fill them out and submit them in the basket there.

Upon reviewing the final session's worksheets, Pastor Knowles will report on the results. These will guide us in taking on the challenges we face as we seek a new pastor, grow as a joint parish with Calvary, and define our role in the ELCA churches of Rock Island and Moline.



A “Thank You” from Calvary

Thank you to St. James for your donations and participating with us to help with our pet food drive. [QCAWC](#) always appreciates any donations.

From Bruce & Val Daniel



Starting up again in September.....



Adult Bible Study

Pastor Knowles will resume Bible Studies at Calvary on September 14 at 10:00 a.m., and at St. James on September 15 at 6:30 p.m. 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 make the study available on *Zoom*.



Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School will resume on September 20 in Fellowship Hall.

We will be blessed to use the [Wonder on the Go](#) program. Developed by St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Urbandale, IA, this engaging, inspiring series of children's Bible studies will help our children cultivate strong values and unwavering faith to navigate an ever-changing world.



Of course, guests are always welcome! Questions? Contact Bethany Weipert at 309-235-9279.

Women's Circle

The St. James Women's Circle will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, starting on September 15 at 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. All women are invited. For questions, contact Luanne Beinke, 309-737-1153. See you there!



Café Women's Bible Study

The Café Women's Bible Study will start sometime in September. Rhea Frank-Cottingham (309-781-8546) will notify members. As always, guests are welcome too.



Women's Luncheon with Calvary – September 2

Calvary WELCA invites all St. James women to join them for lunch at Pagalo's in Milan on Wednesday, September 2, at 11:30 a.m. Calvary has reserved large tables in the back room. We will be ordering from the menu.



Hope you can come!

Joint Worship: September 20

Continuing our journey as a two-point parish with Calvary Lutheran Church in Moline, we will worship together at Calvary on Sunday, September 20, at 10:30 a.m.



St. James will host Calvary on October 17.

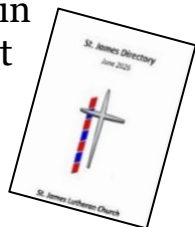
Quilters



Because of the Rummage and Bake Sale on September 19, the Quilters will not meet on the third Saturday. The date of the next meeting will be announced later.

Coming soon: Directory updates

A list of updates to the St. James directory that was published in June will be issued shortly. It will come to you by email or U.S. mail, and as a Sunday morning handout.



Eventually you'll be able to access the most current information digitally.

Meetings



- Welcoming Team:
September 2 at 6:00 pm
- Energy Audits:
Final discussion September 6 during Fellowship Hour
- Property Team: September 8 at 7:00 pm
- Stewardship/Finance Team:
September 14 at 4:00 pm via Zoom
- Council September 16 at 7:00 pm in person and via Zoom

Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

The next cleanup date will be Saturday, September 26, from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. All are welcome!



Please meet in the eastern parking lot of the Mel McKay Park in South Rock Island.

All equipment will be provided. Thank you!

2nd Annual Trunk or Treat

The Welcoming Team is planning the 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat. Watch the Sunday announcements and October newsletter as details develop.



St. James Lutheran Church

3145 31st Ave

Rock Island, IL 61201



And



BAKE SALE

Friday	September 18	9 am – 5 pm
Saturday	September 19	9 am – 12 pm
		12 pm – 3 pm (1/2 price)

From our Missions Team.....



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 Lofstrom



Emily Gardner, Paula,
and Dr. Elikana.



Dr. Bon examining a
young patient.



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.

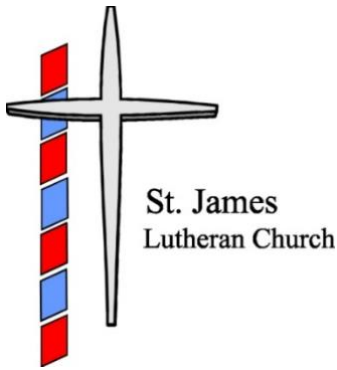
They work long and hard all day. This enables these men to support their families and increases the economic level of the local community.



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.



August 20, 2026

Rev. Adiel S. Namjogo
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
North Central Diocese
Babati District

Mdori and Tarangire Lutheran Parishes:

Greetings from the members of St. James Lutheran Church in Rock Island, Illinois. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for you each week in our Sunday worship that God and all will be well with you.

We welcome you, Rev. Adiel Namjogo, as new lead pastor of Mdori and Tarangire parishes. We received your recent lovely letter with thanks for our gifts this year.

We have been glad to help with education expenses for Evangelists and others participating in music and theological education of Mdori Parish for many years. We celebrated that Evangelist Ruth Merrinyo was ordained with Master of Theology degree in 2025. It is good that our friend Pastor Enock Loriki is continuing well with his studies and we will also celebrate when he graduates in November this year.

We look forward to helping with your plan for 2028 to enroll four more evangelist students in Bible College and three students of Christian Education. Blessings on your ministry of educating members for the service of God.

Blessings in Jesus Christ,

For the Missions Team
Ruth Anne Hartman
St. James Lutheran Church
Rock Island, Illinois

3145 31st Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201 (309) 786-0503

CALVARY/RIM CHURCHES – WHAT’S GOIN’ ON?

Trinity Moline Speaker and Supper Series



St. James is invited to attend Trinity Lutheran in Moline’s Speaker and Supper Series.

This program generally takes place one or two times per month, from 4:00 to 6:00 on Sundays in September through May. The program starts with a speaker, usually from this area, enlightening us on one of the many wonderful but sometimes not well-known ministries, institutions, etc., in the Quad Cities. Often it’s about re-shaping the lives of the marginalized or less fortunate. But it also includes more upbeat topics, such as when Augustana’s President Andrea Talentino spoke of how the college maintains its excellence and its hopes for the future.

The program resumed on August 30, but the next session will be on September 20, at 4:00 in Founders Hall at Trinity Lutheran, 1330 – 13th Street, Moline. The speaker will be the Redeploy Team, headed by Harry Cribbs. This Team provides community services to youth ages 13-18 at high risk for commitment to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice.

Following the presentation a light supper will be served.

This event is free, but please register if you plan to attend by calling the office of either Trinity (309-762-3624) or St. James (309-786-0503) by September 14. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for future sessions, please indicate that as well.

(Luanne’s note: I’ve been to three of these, and they’re not only informative but fun as well! The fellowship time during supper enabled me to make some new friends.)

Hope you can attend one or more sessions!

Trunk or Treat at Salem Lutheran - October 24

Salem Lutheran Church in Moline is inviting us to participate in its Trunk or Treat event, either by handing out or receiving treats. The event will be on Saturday, October 24, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Since our own event will likely be the next day, we probably won’t have cars there; but our children are welcome to come and receive goodies!



Assisting on Sunday – September 2026

Sunday	Lector	Counters	Sound Booth
September 6	Cam Palicki	Stacy Miles Tina Wieland	Mike Olinski
September 13	Mark Ridolfi	Todd Gann Abbi Wieland	Mike Olinski
September 20	(Worship at Calvary)	Dave Renneke Rhea Frank-Cottingham	
September 27	Dave Renneke	Ruth Anne Hartman Gary Wolber	Jerry Johansen

September

Birthdays

Teresa Maness	9/5
Heather Coronell	9/8
Lillian McGinnis	9/12
Linda Ryden	9/13
Chris Johnson	9/19
Ken Hilleman	9/22
Debra Jones	9/22
June McGinnis	9/26
Kylie Terry	9/29



Anniversaries

Derek & Bethany Weipert	9/10
Dale & Julie Farmer	9/22

- ◆ Terri Warren
- ◆ Brad Hubbard



Know of a newly homebound person?

Maybe that person would like to receive the *HomeTouch* publication each month. It contains devotions, puzzles, and other items to brighten a person's day. Please contact the office to put that person on the mailing list. Thank you!



September 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30p Boy Scouts	2 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 11:30a Ladies' lunch at Pagalo's 6:00p Welcoming Team 7:00p Bible Study (AS)	3 6:30p Cub Scouts	4 Office Closed	5
6 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship and #5 Energy Audit 10:30a Worship (AS)	7 Office Closed Labor Day 	8 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p Property Team	9 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 5:30p Rescue Mission Meal 7:00p Bible Study (AS)	10 6:30p Cub Scouts	11 Office Closed	12
13 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:30a Worship (AS)	14 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom 10:30a Retired Pastors 4:00p Stewardship/ Finance Team via Zoom 6:00-9:00p Jr Board of RI jbri.org (link)	15 2:00p Women's Circle 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom 6:30p Boy Scouts	16 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 7:00p Council at church or via Zoom 7:00p Bible Study (AS)	17 6:30p Cub Scouts	18 Office Closed 9:00-5:00 Rummage and Bake Sale	19 9:00 to 3:00 Rummage and Bake Sale
20 10:30a Joint Worship at Calvary 10:30a Worship (AS)	21 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom	22 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom 6:30p Boy Scouts	23 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 7:00p Bible Study (AS)	24 6:30p Cub Scouts	25 Office Closed	26 8:45a Adopt-a-Highway
27 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:30a Worship (AS)	28 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom	29 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom 6:30p Boy Scouts	30 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 7:00p Bible Study (AS)			

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