



# *St. James Newsletter*

*October 2026*

## **From the Pastor**

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
Grant that we may not so much seek to be  
consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
**Amen.***



The prayer above is attributed to St. Francis (d. 1226), whom the church commemorates on October 4. Francis, at least for me, is mostly known for his spirit of gratitude for all creation. (Which is why, as in the graphic above, he is usually depicted with representatives of wildlife.) He also was the founder of the Franciscan monks. He took his vow of poverty very seriously and took on the task of preaching, “using words if necessary.”

But what most got me thinking about Francis of Assisi right now, was his prayer. What a difference in the world we could make if we sincerely prayed, as Francis did, to be instruments of peace in our divided world. To be the presence of God in the world that helped to sow love, pardon, union, faith, hope, light and joy could be world changing. To be focused on consoling, understanding and loving others could make a radical difference in the lives of people around us.

My prayer for you in the days and months and years ahead, is that you consider sincerely praying these words of St. Francis and endeavoring to be instruments of peace.

In Christ,

*Pastor Knowles*

## ***Rescue Mission Meal – October 14 - Christian Care Center***

We had a great turnout in September – 68 meals served! Thanks to all who made this possible.



It's almost that time again. If you would like to help, 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 October 14 at 5:30 pm or bring prepared items before that time. Thank you!

## ***Second Annual Trunk or Treat – October 25***

The Welcoming Team invites you to join our Halloween fun!

Our second annual St. James Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 25, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., in the St. James parking lot.

All you need to participate is a car trunk! We can supply you with plenty of candy and non-edible Halloween treats, or you may bring your own if you wish. The same goes for decorations and costumes if you so choose.



If you would rather not supply your trunk, you can donate candy, trinkets, or decorations by bringing them to church. Or you can even supply a costume for someone to wear. Or just come and have fun with us!

Starting on Sunday, October 11, sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex and on a table near the lower entrance. The sheets will enable you to indicate any or all the different ways you can help. Flyers will also be available for you to spread the word to your friends. If you donate candy or other items, just place them on the table as well.

The event will be held rain or shine. If it's raining, we'll hold it in Fellowship Hall.

We made a good start last year, and with our outdoor sign and other new ways to advertise, this year's event will be even better!

Thanks for any help you can give us!

Sincerely,  
The Welcoming Team

## ***2027 calendars available***

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



## ***Joint worship service at St. James on October 18***

For the second time since we became a two-point parish in June, St. James will host Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, in a joint worship service on Sunday, October 18.

The service will start at 8:30 as usual, and Fellowship Hour will follow. Children's Sunday school will start at 10:00.



## ***Meeting of Café Group – Saturday, October 31***

Our next Café meeting will take place on October 31 at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing the highly recommended book, *One Thousand Gifts*, by Ann Voskamp. We'll discuss the first three chapters at our next meeting.



We have been able to find it at the library, kindle, audible, and used books. It has great reviews.

All women are welcome. Hope to see you there!

- Rhea Frank-Cottingham, 309-781-8546

## ***Merry Christmas!***

Already?!?!? Well, Calvary is starting a bit early and has invited us to participate in its LSSI Moline Foster Program to purchase Christmas gifts for children in foster care.

This will work a bit differently from the typical Angel Trees or similar projects. Instead of picking a name off of a tree, we would sign up to buy gifts for an unnamed child, and then the sign-up sheet will be given to Calvary so they can give a head count to LSSI. In this way no child will be left without gifts.



A week or two later you would be given the name of the child, along with all the information needed to buy gifts, such as age and clothing sizes. More instructions will be given to you at that time.

A sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex and near the lower entrance starting on October 11. Watch future bulletins and emails for reminders and further instructions. Calvary will need the count by October 27. Cash donations are also welcome.

Thank you for any help you can give to this wonderful cause!

## ***Quilts and school kits dedicated***

On Sunday, September 27, 50 school bags and 17 quilts were dedicated.

Thirteen of the quilts were made by Dave & Jackie Wood and Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Chicago. Dave and Jackie were active members of St. James before moving to Chicago 18 years ago.

Along with the quilts made by First Lutheran in Moline, all of our items will go to [In Gathering](#) in Cedar Rapids to be given to Lutheran World Relief.

Thanks to the many hands and hearts that made this possible!



## ***Rummage Sale and Bake Sale – a huge success!***

Our Rummage and Bake Sale on September 18-19 was bigger and better than ever!

Since revenue is still coming in, we'll give you the final figures shortly. However, it's over \$2,000 already. Proceeds will stay in Rock Island, being split between The Third Place and Alan's House Youth Group Home.

Contributing to our success were our first-time use of Square, which enabled the use of cashless payments; and the outdoor sign, which enhanced our advertising. Clothing, shoes, and seasonal decorations were the most popular items.

The sale itself was the glamorous part. Then came the cleanup, teardown, and distribution of unpurchased items. A special thank you goes to T.Y. Stone, who took 52 bags of clothing, shoes, and purses to distribute to multiple agencies in need. Also, big thankyou's go to Leslie Cox, Derek and Bethany Weipert, and Judy Fox for packing up all the leftovers and hauling them off to the Rock Island Township office, where a mega rummage sale will take place on October 21.

Two 54-inch undecorated wreaths and a desk are still for sale. Please contact Leslie at 309-269-3163 if you're interested.

On behalf of the rest of the Welcoming Team, Leslie would like to thank everyone else who made this sale a success. (We thank you too, Leslie, for the many, many hours of preparation you put in at St. James.)

God bless you all!

In Christ,  
The Welcoming Team



## Adult Bible Study

Bible Studies at Calvary on Mondays at 10:00 am and at St. James on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm have resumed, featuring the book of Philippians. 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:  
October 5 at 7:00 pm
- Welcoming Team:  
October 7 at 6:00 pm
- Stewardship/Finance Team:  
October 19 at 4:00 pm via Zoom
- Council:  
October 21 at 7:00 pm in person and via *Zoom*



## Women's Circle

The St. James Women's Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 20 at 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Hostess: Luanne Beinke

Bible Study: Michelle McKenzie

*Love and loyalty: A story of connection and courage*

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 be meeting in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 17 at 1:00 pm. All are welcome, even beginners.

Please join us as we quilt!



## Pastor Knowles' retirement events – December 20

Mark your calendar for December 20, as 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 am, followed by a luncheon. The Welcoming Team has the honor of planning the latter; so if you have any thoughts or ideas on what to include, please see a Team member. Thanks!



**Please note:** On Wednesday, October 7, the office will be open only from 8:00 to 9:30 am, so that I may prepare for and attend a meeting at Augustana College (see page 7). Normal hours will be resumed on the next day. I apologize for any inconvenience. Thanks!

- Luanne

### ***New baby boy!***

Congratulations to Izzi and DJ Anderson on the birth of Michael Sidney “Mac” Anderson on September 20. He weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

Grandparents are Steve and Tina Wieland, and aunt and uncle are Abbi Wieland and Christian Cottingham.



### ***Passing of husband of Deb Jones***

Dennis Wilson, husband of member Deb Jones for 40 years, passed away on Monday, September 28, at age 85.

A memorial service will be held at St. James on Monday, October 12, at 11:00, followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come. Reminders will be in the worship bulletin and email.



Please keep Deb, grandson and St. James member Alex Jones, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

### ***Other prayer requests:***

- ◆ Terri Warren
- ◆ Brad Hubbard
- ◆ The family of Gisele Richardson, a member of Calvary. Gisele passed away recently at the age of 102!



## **RI/M CHURCHES AND ELSEWHERE – WHAT’S GOIN’ ON?**

### ***Trunk or Treat at Salem Lutheran - Saturday, 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. It will be on Saturday, October 24, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.



### ***Autumn Fest at LOMC***



LOMC invites us to some autumnal fun at its annual Autumn Fest! This year’s event will be on Saturday, October 10, from 10:00 to 3:00, followed by a worship service. Read about all the exciting activities at [this website!](#)

## RI/M CHURCHES AND ELSEWHERE– WHAT’S GOIN’ ON? (cont.)

### ***Trinity Moline Speaker and Supper Series***

As was mentioned in the September newsletter, St. James is invited to attend Trinity Lutheran in Moline’s Speaker and Supper Series.

The final session of the year will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> in Founders Hall at Trinity. From 4:00 to 5:00 representatives from [SAL Community Services](#) will give an overview of their services for children of immigrants and refugees, and they will tell about an exciting new generational program in cooperation with Friendship Manor which will bring preschoolers and seniors together. From 5:00 to 6:00 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 October 19. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for future sessions, please indicate that as well.

### ***House on the Hill, Augustana College: Upcoming historical presentation***

An exciting new project is underway to preserve and repair the House on the Hill, known officially as the [Weyerhaeuser House](#), on the Augustana College campus.

Listed on [the National Register of Historic Places](#) in 1975, the house is dear to generations of Augustana alumni. St. James member Ruth Anne Hartman lived there in her junior year of 1962-1963. The College and alumni together have committed over \$400,000 to this five-year extensive renovation project.

During its business meeting, the [Augustana Endowment Society](#) will feature a three-part presentation on the history of the House. You are invited to come to its kick-off meeting on Wednesday, October 7, at 1:30 pm in the Westerlin Hall Lounge. The Society’s Historian, Marcia Wetzel, will give part one of the presentation. Ruth Anne will be assisting her. Main speaker [Reynard Benschop](#) will precede the presentation, speaking on “*Reimagining Leadership Programming for Today’s Students*”.

Admission is free. Come join us!



At right: Alumni Board members Ruth Anne Hartman and Kristi Moynihan inside the house



## *Assisting on Sunday – October 2026*

| Sunday     | Lector        | Counters                              | Sound Booth    |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| October 4  | T.Y. Stone    | Gary Wolber<br>Tina Wieland           | Mike Olinski   |
| October 11 | Sandy Ridolfi | Todd Gann<br>Abbi Wieland             | Bob Ryden      |
| October 18 | Todd Gann     | Dave Renneke<br>Rhea Frank-Cottingham | Dave Renneke   |
| October 25 | Doug Nelson   | Ruth Anne Hartman<br>Stacy Miles      | Jerry Johansen |

### **October Birthdays**

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Dale Farmer       | 10/3  |
| Julie Farmer      | 10/7  |
| Truman Johnson    | 10/9  |
| Mary Peters       | 10/11 |
| Craig Carstens    | 10/19 |
| Michael Merrill   | 10/20 |
| Ella Bower        | 10/22 |
| Jordan Merrill    | 10/26 |
| Bailie Vandygriff | 10/31 |

### **October Anniversaries**

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Gary & Nancy Wolber          | 10/6  |
| Jeff & Elizabeth Christenson | 10/8  |
| Tanner & Mya Johnson         | 10/8  |
| Chip & Chris Johnson         | 10/20 |

### ***The Lordie Kids are back at it!***

On September 27 the Lordie Kids started Sunday School, learning the parable about the Landowner and the Vineyard Workers, and how every worker was paid the same no matter how much they worked. The big question of the week was, "What is fair?" They learned God treats us and loves us equally the same NO MATTER WHAT!



To learn this lesson we played two games, one was a relay race with grapes, and one was a dice game. Everyone was a winner, no matter how fast they ran during the relay or how many beans they had in their hand at the end of the dice game.

We are excited to get going through the year with more crafts, games and MUSIC and of course, our annual Christmas program in December!

God Bless!

*Bethany C. Weipert*

| October 2026                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                  |                                                                                            |                               |                            |                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday                                                                                                                 | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                         | Tuesday                                                                                          | Wednesday                                                                                  | Thursday                      | Friday                     | Saturday                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                  |                                                                                            | <b>1</b><br>6:30p Cub Scouts  | <b>2</b><br>Office Closed  | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                              |
| <b>4</b><br>8:30a Worship (SJ)<br>9:30a Fellowship<br>10:00a Sunday School<br>10:30a Worship (AS)                      | <b>5</b><br>10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom<br>7:00p Property Team at church                                                                                                         | <b>6</b><br>6:30p Boy Scouts<br>6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom                          | <b>7</b><br>Office closed after 9:30<br>9:30a Worship Service (AS)<br>6:00p Welcoming Team | <b>8</b><br>6:30p Cub Scouts  | <b>9</b><br>Office Closed  | <b>10</b><br>10a-4p LOMC Autumn Fest                                                                                                  |
| <b>11</b><br>8:30a Worship (SJ)<br>9:30a Fellowship<br>10:00a Sunday School<br>10:30a Worship (AS)                     | <b>12</b><br>10:00a Bible Study at Calvary/ Zoom<br>10:30a Retired Pastors<br>11:00 Wilson memorial service & lunch<br>6:00-9:00p Jr Board of RI <a href="http://jbri.org">jbri.org</a> (link) | <b>13</b><br>6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom<br>6:30p Boy Scouts                         | <b>14</b><br>9:30a Worship Service (AS)<br>5:30p Rescue Mission Meal                       | <b>15</b><br>6:30p Cub Scouts | <b>16</b><br>Office Closed | <b>17</b><br>1:00p Quilters                                                                                                           |
| <b>18</b><br>8:30a Joint worship with Calvary at SJ<br>9:30a Fellowship<br>10:00a Sunday School<br>10:30a Worship (AS) | <b>19</b><br>10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom<br>4:00p Stewardship/ Finance Team via Zoom                                                                                             | <b>20</b><br>2:00p Women's Circle<br>6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom<br>6:30p Boy Scouts | <b>21</b><br>9:30a Worship Service (AS)<br>7:00p Council at church or via Zoom             | <b>22</b><br>6:30p Cub Scouts | <b>23</b><br>Office Closed | <b>24</b>                                                                                                                             |
| <b>25</b><br>8:30 SJ worship<br>9:30a Fellowship<br>10:00a Sunday School<br>10:30a Worship (AS)<br>2:00 Trunk or Treat | <b>26</b><br>10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom                                                                                                                                         | <b>27</b><br>6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom<br>6:30p Boy Scouts                         | <b>28</b><br>9:30a Worship Service (AS)                                                    | <b>29</b><br>6:30p Cub Scouts | <b>30</b><br>Office Closed | <b>31</b><br>10:00a Café Women's Bible Study<br> |

*St. James on the Web*

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



309-786-0503

[saintjamesri@gmail.com](mailto: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](#).



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE