

St. James Newsletter

May 2026

From the Pastor

As I sat in worship a few weeks ago, I gazed out at the congregation. From my vantage point I could see everyone in attendance. And as I considered the people in front of me, I was amazed. Gathered there in the sanctuary I took note, not just of the individuals, but also of the various roles that were being filled by those people.

There was a lector, communion assistants, ushers, greeters, offering counters, attendance takers, a treasurer, council members, people who set up/cleanup for communion and care for the altar and hang banners, someone to control the sound system and manage the video cameras so that the service can be livestreamed, quilters, organizers of after-worship coffee and fellowship, Sunday School teachers, people who prepare food for the disadvantaged, committee members, people who change light bulbs or fix malfunctioning toilets, tend to boilers and air conditioners, plant flowers, and more. And alongside all these folks are the people who faithfully and regularly attend worship.

And what left me in awe as I scanned the sanctuary at all these people was that each and every one of them – of you – are volunteers. None of you are being paid to usher or run a camera or help with communion or anything else. You all are there, committing your time and energy because you choose to. You are there preparing food and setting up the altar and counting offering and serving on council because you have a sense of the mission of the congregation. You are there because of your love of God and commitment to sharing the gospel. As I sat in my seat looking out at the faces in the sanctuary, I was overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude for all that you choose to do for the sake of the ministries of St. James and Calvary. And I thanked God for you and your work and presence in our fellowship. Please know that each and every one of you is appreciated.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles

*Pastor will be on vacation
May 4-10*

*The church office will be closed
Memorial Day, May 25*



Rescue Mission Meal

Christian Care Center on Wednesday, May 13.

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 May 13 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.

Sunday School

April was filled with a lot of joy and wonderment for the Little Lordie Kids! They sang a procession on Palm Sunday and welcomed Paula Loftstom and her son as they shared their missionary story. They also partook in their first communion that Sunday. They enjoyed a first communion class that was combined with kids from First Lutheran in Moline, led by Pastor Knowles and Pastor Dan Witkowski at an earlier date.

On Easter they sang about "Leaning in Towards the Light", even when times get tough in the world. This is the photo below.

This past Sunday they learned the doubting Thomas story and about believing and not always seeing. Luckily this comes more naturally to children than it does to adults at times.

We will be having a few more lessons in the month of May and then will be taking a break for the summer! God Bless!

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. There will no Bible Study on May 5, but there will be a study on May 26, the day after Memorial Day.



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.

Meetings

- Property Team
May 4 at 7:00 pm
- Welcoming Team
May 6 at 6:00 pm
- Stewardship/Finance Team
May 18 at 4:00 pm via Zoom
- Council
May 20 at 7:00 pm in person and via Zoom



Quilters

The St. James Quilters will not meet this month.



Women’s Circle

To wrap up the season, the St. James Women’s Circle will meet for lunch on Tuesday, May 19 at noon at Pagalo’s in Milan. The women from Calvary have been invited to join us.

Café Women’s Bible Study

This group will meet at 10:30 am on Saturday May 16.



St. James table at the exciting [APEP](#) Trivia Night at Augustana on April 24

Adopt-A-Highway

The first cleanup date for 2026 will be on Saturday, May 9 from 8:45 to 10:00 am. All are welcome!

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

Safety vests, gloves, garbage bags, grabbers, and garbage bag holders will be provided.



Layette Project

Thank you to everyone who supported the Church Women United layette project. With your generous support, we will donate four complete layettes at the CWU World Friendship on Friday, May 1 at St. John's Lutheran in Rock Island where they will be dedicated.

The layettes will be used in the local Head Start Program.



2026 Shoe Drive for Kids in Romania and Guatemala



Thank you all who have contributed to the shoe campaign. The kids that ACF supports in Romania and Guatemala typically get one pair of new shoes each year, so our contributions are very much appreciated. I will provide totals of shoes and dollars contributed in a future bulletin. Thanks again for your support.

Greg Johnson, 309-236-3394

A Joint RIM Celebration

Holy Trinity Sunday

May 31, 2026



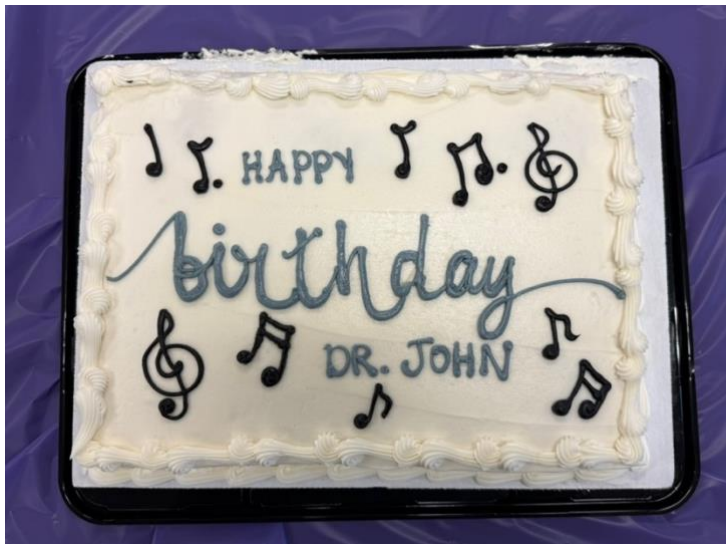
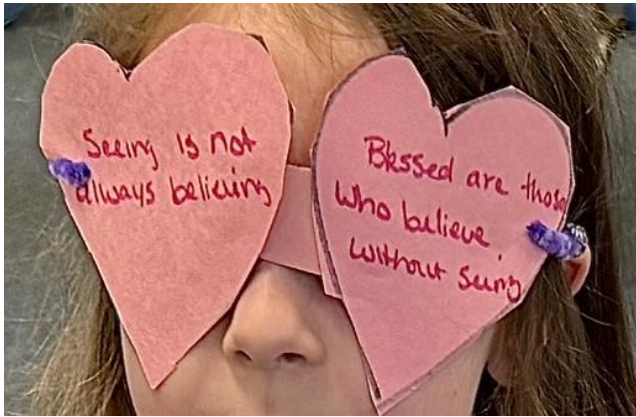
The ELCA Congregations of
Rock Island and Moline
will join in worship in

Centennial Hall at Augustana College

at 10:00 am on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

Please join in this festival worship.

A time of fellowship and refreshments will precede the service at 9:00 am in the Centennial Hall lobby.



April 26, 2026

Music in Times of Peril



Dr. John W. Hildreth
Lecturer/Presenter

Gassman Family Endowed Professor of Music
(Musicology and Ethnomusicology)
Augustana College

Director of Music
St. James Lutheran and All Saints Episcopal

Saturday, May 16, 2026
3:00 pm

"Music Hath Charms..."

"Where words fail, music speaks"

St. James Lutheran Church
Rev. Donald Knowles, Pastor

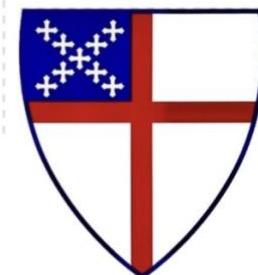
All Saints Episcopal Church
Father Dustin Fecht, Rector

3145 31st Ave
Rock Island, Illinois



*If you want to revive the sad, startle the jovial,
encourage the despairing, humble the conceited,
pacify the raving, mollify the hate-filled – what
can you find that is more efficacious than music?*

Martin Luther



Assisting on Sunday – May 2026

Sunday	Lector	Counters	Sound Booth
May 3	T.Y. Stone	Tina Wieland Stacy Miles	Mike Olinski
May 10	Sandy Ridolfi	Todd Gann Abbi Wieland	Bob Ryden
May 17	Julie Farmer	Dave Renneke Rhea Frank-Cottingham	Dave Renneke
May 24	Doug Nelson	Ruth Anne Hartman Dave Renneke	Jerry Johansen

May

Birthdays

Kourtney Terry	5/1
Leah Vandygriff	5/1
Stacy Miles	5/3
Karen Carlson	5/3
Judy Fox	5/8
Todd Gann	5/8
Ian Empen	5/9
Jerry Johansen	5/10
Nils Empen	5/11
Carolyn Ohlsen	5/11
Elizabeth Trujillo	5/13
Myla Vandygriff	5/16
Leah Hodge	5/17
Richard Resch	5/20
John Deisenroth	5/25
Lynda Love	5/27
Katie Loete	5/28
Deborah Kalondo	5/29



Anniversaries

Cole & Miranda McGinnis	5/25
Izzi & DJ Anderson	5/28



Easter Children's Message

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed 9:00a CWU World Friendship	2
3 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS (SJ) 10:30a Worship (AS)	4 7:00p Property Team	5 6:30p Boy Scouts	6 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 6:00p Welcoming Team	7 6:30p Cub Scouts	8 Office Closed	9
10 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS (SJ) 10:30a Worship (AS)	11 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom 10:30a Retired Pastor's 6:00p Junior League	12 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom	13 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 5:30p Rescue Mission Meal	14 6:30p Cub Scouts	15 Office Closed	16 10:30a Café Women's Bible Study 3:00p Music in Times of Peril
17 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS (SJ) 10:30a Worship (AS)	18 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom 4:00p Stewardship/ Finance via Zoom	19 6:30p Boy Scouts 12:00p Women's Circle at Pagalo's 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom	20 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 7:00p Council at church or via Zoom	21 6:30p Cub Scouts	22 Office Closed	23
24 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS (SJ) 10:30a Worship (AS)	25 Memorial Day Office Closed 	26 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom	27 9:30a Worship Service (AS)	28 6:30p Cub Scouts	29 Office Closed	30
31 10:00a Worship Centennial Hall Augustana (RIM) 10:30a Worship (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