



St James
Lutheran Church

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From the Pastor:

I've used the following story as a children's sermon from time to time over the course of my career. It is called "A View from the Bottom of a Garbage Can," from the book "Fantasies for Fantastic Christians" by Hubert F. Beck.

There I was at the bottom of this gigantic garbage can! It was terrifying! Either I had been miniaturized (as you can well imagine) or the garbage can was enormously magnified, for I was way underneath trash of all sorts!

"Hey, you down there!" the voice was like thunder... It boomed out again, still louder, "Hey you down there! Look up here."

I looked up and could barely make out daylight through all the junk. "Who's there?" I asked rather shakily.

"Never mind who's here. Just start climbing out!"

Well that kind of got to me. "Is that You, God?"

"It's me, all right"

"This isn't just some joke?"

"Quit arguing and start climbing!"

Then I got angry. "Look, You got me into this. Why don't You get me out? I don't think I can climb through all this stuff to get out."

“Man, I told you to climb, and I mean climb! Now get going!”

That was enough to start me. You’d have started, too, if you would have heard the ringing from that last call. I began to climb – and fast!

Over a milk carton, around an egg carton, and through a meat wrapper I wriggled. I rested a bit on an apple core, crawled up a piece of string we used to tie the legs of our roasting turkey, worked my way through the turkey bones, and finally caught some fresh air as I crinkled through some old writing paper and wrapping paper from some stuff we got at the department store. Out of breath, I finally sat on the edge of the garbage can and said, “All right. Here I am.” But I didn’t see anybody.

Then the voice again: “Did you learn anything?” It was really eerie!

“Well...um...ah...yes, I did. It’s tough to climb out garbage cans. I’m sure glad I’m not an ant! Heh, heh, heh!” (I thought a touch of humor might cause the sternness of the voice to soften a bit. Was I ever wrong!)

“You haven’t learned anything,” the voice roared.

And suddenly WHO-O-O-O-SH – I found myself back down at the bottom a garbage can again! “Oh, no! Not again,” I moaned.

This wasn’t the same garbage can. That was plain. I could easily see daylight when I looked up in this one. “Now climb up here again!” But there wasn’t anything to hang onto. I tried scaling the sheer sides, but finally gave up. I waited. Surely somebody would

throw something in sooner or later. I just hoped it wouldn’t clonk me on the head. It was dangerous down here, now that I thought about it! At least I had an excuse to rest a bit.

But day turned into night and night to day and nobody threw anything in! After a couple days of no action I was willing to hear even that stern voice that had aggravated me before. Where was I? What was going on?

Then it came again! “Learned anything yet?”

I didn’t want to try humor again, but on the other hand I was afraid to admit I hadn’t caught the point of the whole thing. So I started with some hesitancy, “Well, of course. Ah...er...um...”

Then it happened again. WHO-O-O-O-SH and I was standing out in the bright sunshine once more. I couldn’t see anything for the brightness. It was like looking at the “backside of God,” as Moses put it.

Again the voice: “You’ve been in a garbage can on the far side of the world my son. Not much in it, is there? Your garbage can is the envy of the world, and you complain. I thought maybe a few days in the emptiness of a garbage can on the far side of the world might give you something to think about on Thanksgiving Day.

“But I’m not sure if it’s worth it all or not. You humans seem to have a hard time getting hold of what I try to tell you.



All women of St. James are invited. Contact Ruth Anne Hartman if you would like to join us. Call (309) 787-3351.



The final cleanup date for this year is planned for Thursday, Nov. 4, at 2:00 pm. We will meet at the eastern parking lot of Mel McKay park in South Rock Island. In case of inclement weather, changes of the date and time will be announced on our website.

Worship News

Sunday November 7 the

First Reading

1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalm

Psalm 146

Second Reading

Psalm 146

Gospel

Mark 12:38-44

Sunday November 14th

First Reading

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm

Psalm 16

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

Gospel

Mark 13:1-8

Sunday November 21st

First Reading

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm

Psalm 93

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4b-8

Gospel

John 18:33-37

Sunday November 28th

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm

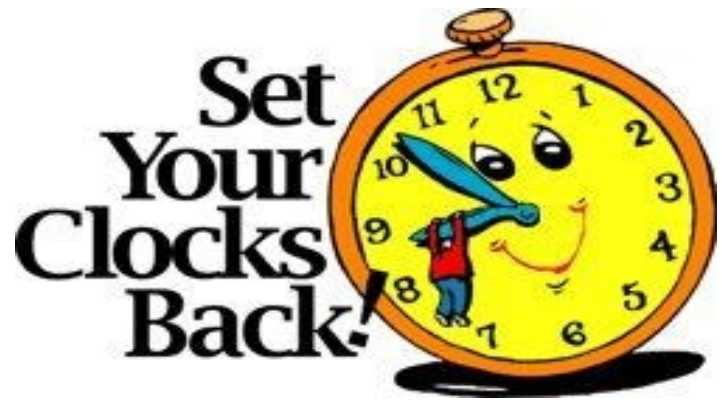
Psalm 25:1-10

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel

Luke 21:25-36



November 7th

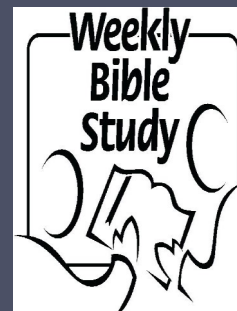
Committee Meetings

Stewardship/Finance Team will be meeting on November 15th at 4:00 pm via ZOOM.

St. James Council will be meeting on November 17th at 7:00 pm via ZOOM.

We are holding an internet Bible Study (via Zoom) on Tuesday evenings: November 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th at 6:30 pm.

The Zoom link will be included in the Bible Study article of the website homepage.





LUTFISK & MEATBALL DINNER 2021

WELCOME to the American Scandinavian Association at Augustana's Lutfisk & Swedish Meatball Dinner! Come and enjoy the food and meet a few of the twelve Scandinavian international students studying at Augustana and new international student recruiter, Anna Bradford.

When: Sunday, November 14th starting with punch at 4:30 p.m. and dinner at 5:00 p.m.

Where: Gävle Room #3 in the Gerber Center at Augustana College, Rock Island IL. The Gerber Center is attached to the Thomas Tredway Library and is located off of 9 1/2 Ave and east of 34th St.

Cost: \$22 for ASA members, \$27 for non-members and \$11 for children and students through college.

Reservations: Please make checks payable to ASA and send to Loryann Eis, 2037 15th St, Moline IL 61265. Or call (309) 762-8303 or e-mail loryanneis@att.net by Friday, Nov. 5th.

Parking information: Park in faculty-staff lot west of Gerber or street parking, but not in student parking lots.

We will have 2022 Swedish calendars (\$10), Scandinavian notecards (\$10), and Q.C. Dining Tour Books (\$35) for purchase at the dinner.



A “Huge” thank you to: Bill Kempf, Tom Fox, and Bill Hartman for the MANY hours that they put in designing & building the beautiful portico outside the door on the lower level of the church. We appreciate your dedication, especially



during some very inclement weather. **JOB WELL DONE!**

Message from Pastor Enock Loriki of our companion Mdori Parish in Tanzania



We remember you St James for supporting us in the Mission of God by Funding us this Bike -- 18/9/2019. “We thank so Much for your helping hand. God Bless you all.

We still need your support”.

See next month’s newsletter for information & pictures of churches being built by congregations in the Mdori Parish.

Ruth Anne Hartman.



ST. JAMES COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS, OCTOBER 2021

The in-person and virtual October 2021 Council meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20th, by President Chip Johnson. Nine out of ten members were present. Pastor Knowles opened with a prayer. The minutes of the September meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report through September featured a prorated operating surplus of \$486. We are in very good financial shape; receipts and expenses are in line with the time of year. Pastor Knowles commented that his continuing education event in Gettysburg, PA, was quite worthwhile. On Saturday, October 23rd he will participate in the ordination service for Catie Ford (Catie Nelson when she supplied for Pastor Knowles at St. James). Her first assignment is at Faith Lutheran Church in Three Lakes, WI. Materials for the new flooring for the Choir Room have arrived locally, so progress will soon be made. The framework for the lower door's portico is now up. We approved the bimonthly mailing of weekly offering envelopes to members by American Church. These will replace the packets of envelopes given to members at the beginning of each year. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17th, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully,
Luanne Beinke,
Council Secretary

November Newsletter

At the end of September, 75% of the year, St. James continues to be on budget and faithfully supporting our mission promises. Income is at 73.7% of our expectations and, with all of our bills paid, expenses are 73.5% of budget. So we have a small “surplus” of \$486 in the Operating Fund.

Gifts and offerings have allowed us to send:

\$450 for World Hunger and Disaster Relief

\$3,065 to local Food Pantries.

\$16,550 to our St. James Scholarship at the Lutheran School of Theology.

\$11,880 to the Northern Illinois Synod as 75% of our 2021 Missions promise.

Doug Nelson, Treasurer

**Match offered to donate to
St. James Endowed Scholarship at
LSTC**



**Almost there, just
\$4,177 to go!!!**

Serving This Month

November 2021

Sunday	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Counters	Sound Booth	Assisting Minister
November 7th	Tanner & Chip Johnson	Donna Renneke			Stacy Miles Jane Massey	Bill Kempf	Stacy Miles
November 14th	Tim Warren	Doug Nelson			Virginia Johnson Linda Ryden	Bob Ryden	Stacy Miles
November 21st	Terrill & Susan Johnson	Sandy Ridolfi			Dave Renneke Peg Simmer	Dave Renneke	Stacy Miles
November 28th	Bill Hartman	Stacy Miles			Ruth Anne Hartman Gary Wolber	Jerry Johansen	Stacy Miles

Birthdays:

Chip Johnson	11/03
Marilyn Stone	11/05
James Cox	11/07
Jane Massey	11/11
Nathan Ray	11/12
Hannah Ohlsen	11/17
Donna Spencer	11/17
Theresa Warren	11/17
Rachel Deisenroth	11/18
Daniel Mulongeca	11/19

James Pirsch	11/21
Timothy Johnson	11/25
David Stroud	11/29

Anniversaries:

James & Leslie Cox	11/02
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November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:00 am Bible Study— Book of Revelation via ZOOM	2 6:30pm Bible Study via ZOOM	3 7:00 pm Bible Study (AS)	4 2:00pm Adopt A Highway (SJ) 6:30pm Cub Scouts ©	5 <u>Office Closed</u>	6
7 DAYLIGHT SAVING DAY— FALL BACK 8:30am Worship (SJ) Fellowship (SJ) 10:30am Worship (AS)	8 10:00 am Bible Study— Book of Revelation via ZOOM 1:30 pm Retired Pastors © 6:00pm Jr Board (C)	9 6:15pm Vestry	10 7:00 pm Bible Study (AS)	11 6:30pm Cub Scouts (C)  Veteran's Day	12 <u>Office Closed</u>	13
14 8:30am Worship (SJ) Fellowship (SJ) 10:30am Worship (AS)	15 10:00 am Bible Study— Book of Revelation via ZOOM 4:00pm Stewardship/ Finance Team (SJ)	16 6:30pm Bible Study via ZOOM	17 9:00am FOOF (C) 7:00 pm Bible Study (AS) 7:00pm Council (SJ) Zoom	18 2:00pm St. James Circle (SJ) 6:30pm Cub Scouts (C)	19 <u>Office Closed</u>	20
21 8:30am Worship (SJ) Fellowship (SJ) 10:30am Worship (AS)	22 10:00 am Bible Study— Book of Revelation via ZOOM	23 6:30pm Bible Study via ZOOM	24 <u>Office Closed</u> 6:30pm Thanksgiving Service (AS)	25  Thanksgiving	26 <u>Office Closed</u>	27
28 8:30am Worship (SJ) Fellowship (SJ) 10:30am Worship (AS)	29 10:00 am Bible Study— Book of Revelation via ZOOM	30 6:30pm Bible Study via ZOOM				

Did you know St. James has a Facebook page?

Check us out and give us a like!

<https://www.facebook.com/saintjamesri/>



If you are not on Facebook you can find photos on our flickr page!

www.stjamesri.org/photos



St. James 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.

Adopted on June 11, 2017

For more information check out Reconciling Works at www.reconcilingworks.org



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A RIC Congregation
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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE