

St. James Newsletter

September 2025

From the Pastor,

As I write this, I have just returned from vacation.

As some of you know, this was a working vacation, of sorts, for me. Mary and I returned to the Pennsylvania community where I served my internship and then my first call. The main reason for our return to Somerset County was for me to officiate at the wedding of a young woman whose family we had been very close to in my first call and continue to remain close. In fact, the bride was born just hours before our son, Nathan. I was asked to officiate because the congregation the family belongs to, Mt. Calvary, one of the congregations from my first call, does not currently have a pastor. And, since they don't currently have a pastor, I volunteered to also do pulpit supply on Sunday morning.

Now, over the last few years, the situation for several churches in that area has changed. The congregation that Mt. Calvary had been yoked with in the parish I served has left the ELCA. Another congregation in the area, St. Luke's, has closed. And so, Mt. Calvary is now sharing ministry with the neighboring three-point parish where I did my internship along with some of the folks who had been members of the closed congregation.

The point of all this is to say that on Sunday morning, I led worship in two buildings from my internship (at 8:30 am and 10:30 am) with people from five different congregations. Many of those folks were people I ministered to and with when I was in Somerset County nearly 40 years ago.

Here's the part that caught me off guard, though. Over the course of Sunday morning, I connected with people as if I had never left. Certainly, we had changed physically. But we seemed to pick up the relationship right where we had left off.

For example, one woman, who was a member of St. Luke's, came to the 8:30 am worship wearing a Pittsburgh Pirate t-shirt. She did it intentionally to goad me, remembering the cluster bus trips we took to Pirate games (for some reason always against the Cubs) in which the Pirates always won.

It all felt to me like I was returning to family. These were people who, 40 years ago, we shared in ministry. But we also developed life-long relationships. We worked together, we laughed together, we struggled together, we mourned together. They were then, and continue to be now, family.

That, I believe, is what being a part of the body of Christ is all about. We are family. We live and work together through all the trials and tribulations of life and ministry. And through it all, we develop life long, caring relationships. It is in these relationships that I most easily find the presence of Christ in my life.

And that experience has been the same for me everywhere I have served, including with you, the people of Calvary and St. James. I am confident that the relationships we have created will continue to endure through all the years that are to come.

And so, I am tremendously grateful for all the people I have had the honor to serve with throughout my career. You are family to me. And with you, we are the family of God.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

Pastor's Vacation

September 5 - 11



Rev. Travis Fisher-King - supply minister on September 7

Hello, I am Rev. Travis Fisher-King. I am currently on leave from call as I am acquiring hours (3,000 after earning a M.Ed. in Counseling from WIU) to become an (independent) Licensed Mental Health Counselor.

Currently I am working as an outpatient therapist at Vera French Mental Health Center seeing clients from ages 5 and up. I grew up in Davenport, attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH and served congregations in Mason City and Las Vegas. My last call was to St. Mark Lutheran Church in Davenport.

I have lived in Davenport the majority of my life. I enjoy travel, learning, and good conversation. I keep my sermon writing skills sharper when I am pulpit suppling, so thank you for having me preach and preside on September 7.

Rescue Mission Meal

Christian Care Center on
Wednesday, September 10.

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 September 10 at 5:30 pm or bring prepared items before that time.

Thank you to everyone who has donated a cake, brownies, or cookies for dessert.

Sunday School

Sunday school starts September 7 at 10:00 am. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Bethany Weipert

Meetings

- Welcoming Team
September 4 at 6:00 pm
- Property Team
September 8 at 6:00 pm
- Stewardship/Finance Team
September 15 at 4:00 pm via Zoom
- Council
September 17 at 7:30 pm in person and via Zoom



Quilters

St. James Quilters will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, September 20 at 1:00 pm. All are welcome, even beginners. Please join us as we quilt.



Daily Grace

This website is a daily faith reflection. Examples:



*A balanced life in Christ
Set your boundaries, like Jesus
Encourage one another
We all have a calling*

Prayers

- ♦ Terri Warren
- ♦ Jane Massey
- ♦ Terrill Johnson

Adopt-A-Highway

The last cleanup date for 2025 will be on Saturday, September 27 from 8:45 to 10:00 am. All are welcome!

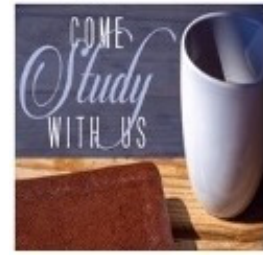
Please meet at the eastern parking lot of Mel McKay Park in South Rock Island.

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



Bible Study

I will resume Bible Study at Calvary on September 15 (10 am) and at St. James on September 16 (6:30 pm). We will be continuing our study of the Gospel of Matthew. Anyone is welcome to join either study. If I know ahead of time that someone would like to participate remotely, I will make the study available on Zoom.



Pastor Knowles

Café Women's Bible Study

A newly formed Café Women's Bible Study Group will start sometime in October. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Rhea Frank-Cottingham, 309-781-8546.

Women's Circle

The St. James Women's Circle will meet on the third Tuesday of the month starting September 16 at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Hostess: Cam Palicki

Bible Study: Ruth Anne Hartman

School Kits

On Sunday, September 7 at 9:30 am we will be filling the School Kit bags as our "Gods Work, Our Hands Project".



Quilt and School Kits Sunday

September 28



St. James Lutheran Church

3145 31st Ave

Rock Island, IL 61201



and



Bake Sale

Friday

September 5

9 am – 5 pm

Saturday

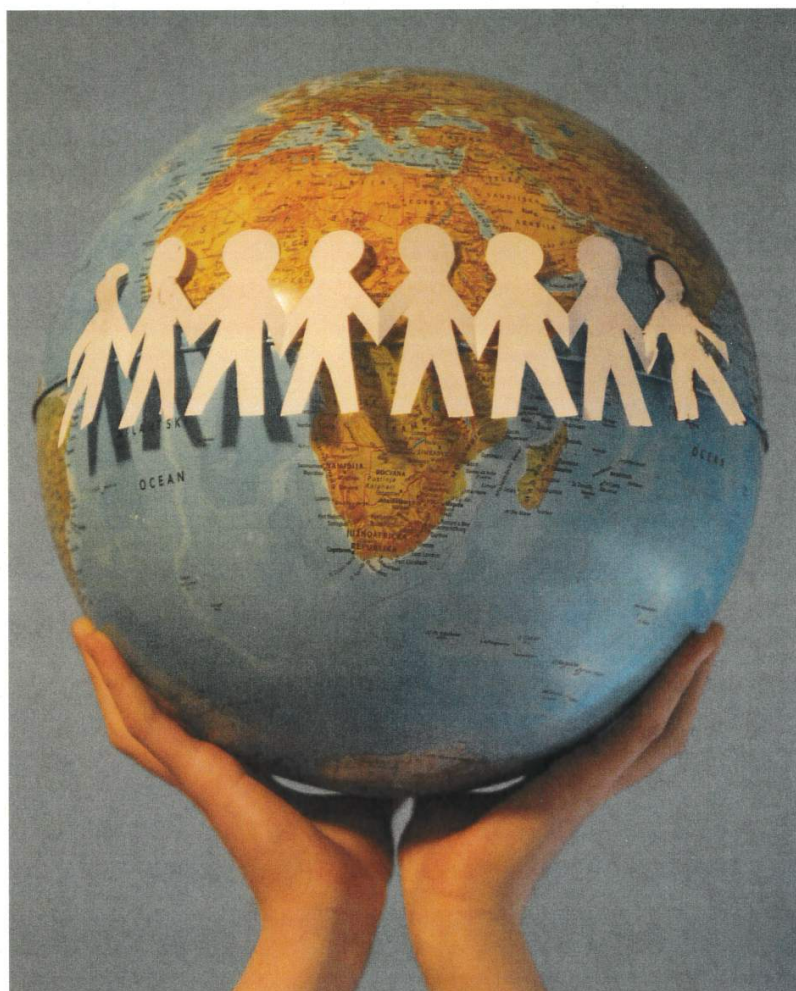
September 6

9 am – 12 pm

12 pm – 2 pm (1/2 price)

2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESCUE, REDEEM, RESTORE



“Rescue the weak
and the needy;
deliver them from
the hand of the
wicked.”

- Psalm 82:4

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- Heidi Provo, Anti-Human Trafficking Case Manager and Certified Peer Recovery Specialist for Remedies Renewing Lives I- Rise Program

MORNING MESSAGE

- Pastor Julie Monnard, Northern Illinois Synod

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Registration and Coffee at 8:00 am

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

First Lutheran Church
225 South 3rd St, Rockford



Northern Illinois Synod
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
36th Annual Convention
Saturday, September 20, 2025

Theme: “Rescue, Redeem, Restore”

Morning Message: *Assistant to the Bishop, Reverend Julie Monnard*

Keynote Speaker: *Heidi Provo, Anti-Human Trafficking Case Manager and Certified Peer Recovery Specialist for Remedies Renewing Lives I-Rise Program*

Psalm 82:4 “Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Location:

First Lutheran Church
225 South 3rd Street, Rockford

Coffee & Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Registration Fee: \$50.00

Fellowship – Worship– Singing Songs – Exhibits-WELCA business meeting for voting members

Convention Offering

50% Women of the ELCA
25% Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Rocky Boy
25% Remedies I-Rise Program

Physical Offering: Items for Rock House Kids, Rockford:

\$5-10 McDonald’s Gift Cards; \$10-20 Walmart Gift Cards; Variety Packs of Chips;
Cases of Water, 8 oz or 16.9 oz bottles; Juice Boxes; Peanut Butter Sandwich Crackers; Cheese Sandwich Crackers;
3 or 5 Compartment Disposable Plates or Trays; Disposable Ice Packs

**For overnight reservations, a block of rooms has been reserved
at Hilton Garden Inn, 7675 Walton St., Rockford**

**Call (815) 229-3322, press zero (0) and ask for the Lutheran Women’s Convention Rates: 2
Queen, \$159 1 King, \$154**

Rooms must be reserved by August 20 to get the group rate.

Assisting on Sunday – September 2025

Sunday	Lector	Counters	Sound Booth
Sep. 7	Todd Gann	Stacy Miles Tina Wieland	Mike Olinski
Sep 14	Daryl Empen	Todd Gann Linda Ryden	Bob Ryden
Sep. 21	Linda Ryden	Dave Renneke Rhea Frank-Cottingham	Dave Renneke
Sep. 28	Chip Johnson	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
Debra Jones	9/22
June McGinnis	9/26
Kylie Terry	9/29

September Anniversaries

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



SEPTEMBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Request to attend the WELCA Convention

St. James needs a member to attend the WELCA Convention on Saturday, September 20. The agenda includes voting for Northern Illinois Synod officers and conference representatives as well as electing voting members to the 2026 Churchwide WELCA Triennial Convention to be held in Des Moines.

Our women's unit will pay the synod convention \$50 registration fee. You may still register so please call Ruth Anne 309-787-3351 if you can attend. I will be driving up for a Friday afternoon board meeting.

Ruth Anne Hartman

September 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed LABOR DAY	2 6:30p Boy Scouts	3 9:30a Worship Service (AS)	4 6:00p Welcoming Team 6:30p Cub Scouts	5 Office Closed Rummage	6 & Bake Sale
7 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship “God’s Work Our Hands” 10:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship (AS)	8 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom 10:30a Retired Pastor’s 6:00p Junior League 6:00p Property Team	9 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom 6:30p Boy Scouts	10 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 5:30p Rescue Mission Meal	11 6:30p Cub Scouts	12 Office Closed	13
14 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a Sunday School 10:30a Worship (AS)	15 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom 4:00p Stewardship/ Finance in person or via Zoom	16 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom 2:00p Women’s Circle 6:30p Boy Scouts	17 9:30a Worship Service (AS) 7:00p Council at church or via Zoom	18 6:30p Cub Scouts	19 Office Closed	20 9:00a NIS WELCA Convention 1:00p Quilters
21 8:30a Worship (SJ) 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS 10:30a Worship (AS)	22 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom	23 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom 6:30p Boy Scouts	24 9:30a Worship Service (AS)	25 6:30p Cub Scouts	26 Office Closed	27 8:45a Adopt A Highway
28 8:30a Worship (SJ) “Quilt Sunday” 9:30a Fellowship 10:00a SS 10:30a Worship (AS)	29 10:00a Bible Study at Calvary or via Zoom	30 6:30p Bible Study at church or via Zoom 6:30p Boy Scouts	Rummage & Bake Sale Sep. 5 – 9a-5p, Sep. 6 - 9a-2p (noon to 2 pm ½ price)			

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