



**St James**  
Lutheran Church

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### *From the Pastor:*



This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Perhaps, in the simplest of terms, that song, which we all learned as children, is the essence of our call as Christians. Our mission, as individuals and as a congregation, is to shine the light of Christ for all the world to see. Our mission is to shine the light of Christ so that all may come to the light. Our mission is to shine the light of Christ so that all may be a part of the light.

My perspective in this regard has been recently and strongly influenced by a book, *Manna & Mercy*, by Daniel Erlander (who was confirmed at Calvary in 1953). Erlander contends that it is God’s intention, not to destroy a broken creation, but to mend it. God, he says, intends to return the world to “shalom,” the harmony of the Garden of Eden.

The job of God's people, then, according to Erlander, is to be the beacon of the light of God that draws all nations to it to restore God's shalom. He describes the people's mission as exhibiting such a life of shalom (a oneness with God, each other, and all of creation) that everyone will want to come and be a part of it.

I think that is a perfect way to describe the mission of the people of God. We are called on to be such a community of light, a shalom community, that everyone will see us and want to be a part of us.

Although we, obviously, have not yet achieved that shalom community, I think St. James shines the light of Christ in so many marvelous ways. Because of your faith and generosity we have been able to shine the light of Christ by:

- Our weekly in-person worship coupled with live-streaming our services on Facebook, enabling many members and friends (old and new) to join us in worship when they have not been able to physically be with us.

- Providing for those in need in our community and throughout the world. The shopping cart keeps being filled with non-perishables for a local food pantry, we regularly provide a meal for people in need through Christian Care, and we have made significant donations to the World Hunger Appeal.

- Our support of the ministry of the Mdori Parish in Tanzania.

- Sharing school kits and quilts created by our sewing group to bring warmth and the love of God to people around the world.

- Hats and mittens from the mitten tree were given to provide warmth for local children.

- Your graciousness to me with a surprise celebration of my 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. I was literally brought to tears by your kindness.

- The generosity of our regular giving which has enabled us to continue to support ministries throughout the world.

- The endowed scholarship in the name of St. James at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago which has helped a seminarian prepare to be a future leader in the church.

And the list of our shining lights goes on.

Our work, however, is not done and will not be done until God's shalom comes to fruition. We need to continue the work of shining the light of Christ in ways we have been doing and by being open to new ways of letting "this little light of mine" to shine in an ever-changing world.

It is my hope and prayer that we may continue to be open to God's mission for us, that we may indeed be a beacon of light that draws people to Christ through the darkness that so often pervades our world.

Thank you for your ministry and generosity in 2022 and for the years to come.

In Christ,  
Pastor Knowles



February 14th



February 20th



February 21

## ***Worship News***

### ***Sunday February 5***

#### **First Reading**

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

#### **Psalm**

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

#### **Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

#### **Gospel**

Matthew 5:13-20

### ***Sunday February 12***

#### **First Reading**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

#### **Psalm**

Psalm 119:1-8

#### **Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

#### **Gospel**

Matthew 5:21-37

### ***Sunday February 19***

#### **First Reading**

Exodus 24:12-18

#### **Psalm**

Psalm 2

#### **Second Reading**

2 Peter 1:16-21

#### **Gospel**

Matthew 17:1-9

### ***Sunday February 26***

#### **First Reading**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

#### **Psalm**

Psalm 32

#### **Second Reading**

Romans 5:12-19

#### **Gospel**

Matthew 4:1-11

## Committee Meetings

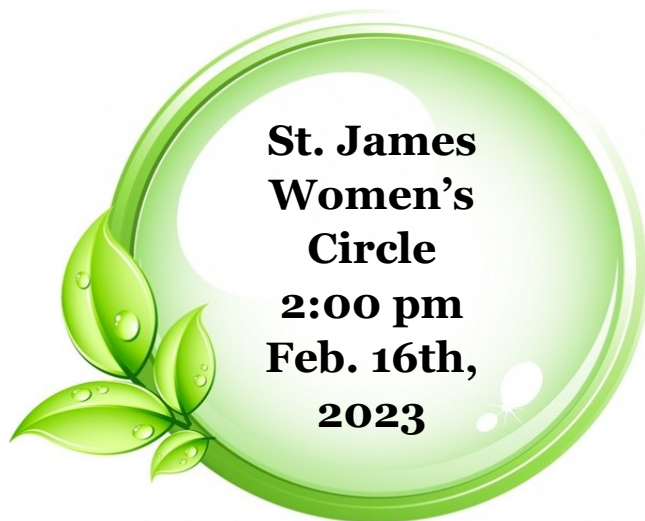
**Stewardship/Finance Team** will be meeting on February 13th at 4:00 pm via Zoom.

**St. James Council** will be meeting on February 15th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

***Tuesday Evening Bible Study will be held Feb. 7th, 14th, 21st & 29th @ 6:30 pm.***

***This Bible study will be via Zoom. The link is on the church homepage.***

We will again be gathering for Bible study on Monday mornings @ 10:00am. We will meet in person in the Upper Room at Calvary. Or, you can participate virtually via Zoom. You will find the Zoom link on the St. James website.



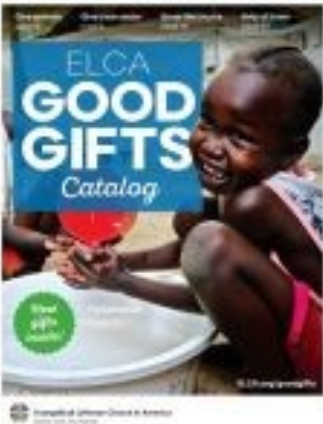
All women of St. James are invited. If you would like to join us. Call the office (309) 786-0503



**Bob Hein**  
of Bellbrook,  
Ohio

(Brother of  
Liz Johnson)

<h2>Good Gifts</h2> 	<h2>How It</h2> 	<h2>Works</h2> 
<h3>1. CHOOSE YOUR GIFT</h3> <p>Give the gifts that mean the most to you, or choose gifts to give in honor of someone special.</p>	<h3>2. GET A CARD</h3> <p>Mail, print or email a card to share the news of your gift with friends and loved ones.</p>	<h3>3. MAKE A DIFFERENCE</h3> <p>Your gifts support the ministries of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries around the world.</p>

	<h2>Gifts that make a Difference</h2> <p>What if you could give a gift that makes a real, life-changing difference? What if you could gift something that was not only thoughtful and valuable, but that would also transform the life of someone in need? The new, 24-page 2021-2023 ELCA Good Gifts catalog offers many different ways to honor friends and loved ones with gifts that will go on to make a difference in the world.</p> <p>With more than 50 different giving options--from honeybees to a fruit-tree seedling to a goat or piglet to a clean water filter or portion of irrigation project--there's something to honor everyone on your list. Visit <a href="https://www.elca.org/good-gifts">ELCA.org/good gifts</a> online, give on the phone by calling 800-638-3522, or catalogs with order forms are available on tables in the St. James library.</p>
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## **ST. JAMES COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS, JANUARY 2023**

The in-person and virtual January 2023 Council meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18th, by President Bethany Weipert. Eight of the ten members were present. Pastor Knowles opened with a prayer. The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's year-end report, which also served as December's monthly report, reflected an outstanding year. The highlight was the extraordinary gift from the Davis Trusts. None of that money was used in our operating budget, nor were the previous years' surpluses. In fact, we ended the year with a \$1,666 surplus.

Pastor Knowles informed us that Dr. Hildreth's sister had passed away unexpectedly. Pastor's wife Mary will be our substitute organist on Sunday, January 22 nd .

An application was made to the Endowment Team for funds to respond to the Mdori Parish's request for help in sending three evangelists to theological school.

In April, cost estimates will be obtained for finishing the underside of the portico.

We voted to continue our contract with 3D Lawn and Landscape for mowing, trimming, edging, and blowing.

We voted to change the office copy machine contract from R.K. Dixon (Xerox) to Access Systems (Sharp). We will get a new copier in the process!

We voted to present the final version of the Proposed 2023 Budget to the congregation for its approval at the Annual Meeting on January 29th .

Ruth Anne Hartman presented a list of possible recipients of the tithe of Natalie Davis's Trust. These are a mixture of local and non-local ministries. The list will be discussed at the Annual Meeting, at which attendees can propose additions, deletions, or changes to it. As it stands now, after the Annual meeting the Council will finalize the list and determine allocations for each recipient.

Due to the instructor and some potential students being out of town, plans for training sessions on the use of the defibrillator (AED) and basic first aid have been tabled until at least March.

We expressed appreciation for the fine service of the outgoing Council members, which are Ruth Anne Hartman, Jo Kempf, and Frank Palicki.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully,

Luanne Beinke,

Council Secretary



### POST-ANNUAL-MEETING UPDATE-

At the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29, 2023, the following elections took place: Mike Olinski, Terrill Johnson, Sr., Virginia Johnson, and Gary Wolber to a three-year term on Council; Ruth Anne Hartman, Jo Kempf, and Rhea Frank-Cottingham to a one-year term on the Nominating Committee; Ruth Anne Hartman and Daryl Empen to a three-year term on the Endowment Committee; Jim Cox to a one-year term on the Audit Committee; Rhea Frank-Cottingham to a one-year term and Jo Kempf to a two-year term on the Personnel Committee; and Dave Renneke and Luanne Beinke as one-year voting members to the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly.



## ***Rescue Mission Meal***

*St. James will again serve the evening meal at the Christian Family Care Center on February 8<sup>th</sup> and given by Trish Myers in memory of her sister, Susan Cato. We will shop for the groceries and buy the ham. If you would like to help, we need volunteers to serve, to prepare crockpot beans, and donations of cookies, brownies, or cake for this meal. A sign-up sheet is on the info table in the narthex. Groceries will be available at church on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Meet in the church kitchen on the 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm or bring prepared items before that time.*



### *Lenten Worship Schedule*

<i>Ash Wednesday (February 22nd)</i>	<i>Noon</i>	<i>Calvary</i>
	<i>7:00pm</i>	<i>St. James</i>
<i>Midweek Services</i>	<i>Noon</i>	<i>Calvary</i>
	<i>7:00pm</i>	<i>St. James</i>
<i>Maundy Thursday (April 6th)</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>Calvary</i>
<i>Good Friday (April 7th)</i>	<i>Noon</i>	<i>Calvary</i>
	<i>7pm</i>	<i>St. James</i>
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	<i>8:30am</i>	<i>St. James</i>
	<i>10:30am</i>	<i>Calvary</i>



# PRESIDENT'S DAY WORD SEARCH

W	A	D	A	M	S	Q	P	R	K	S	H	F
J	E	F	F	E	R	S	O	N	E	G	F	L
D	F	E	W	H	U	S	A	F	N	D	E	A
W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N	C	B	E
M	H	P	P	O	S	D	F	B	E	S	R	X
S	L	I	N	C	O	L	N	G	D	D	U	E
F	E	B	T	M	D	H	U	R	Y	A	A	C
F	L	A	G	E	Y	T	C	Q	W	R	R	U
D	E	E	M	Q	H	Z	X	N	A	O	Y	T
X	A	H	L	R	F	O	M	C	A	K	V	I
A	D	J	T	F	K	L	U	N	G	R	R	V
Y	E	O	G	V	B	M	P	S	T	E	B	E
Z	R	G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T	U

<b>ADAMS</b>	<b>JEFFERSON</b>
<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>KENNEDY</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>LEADER</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>LINCOLN</b>
<b>FLAG</b>	<b>WASHINGTON</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>WHITE HOUSE</b>

## Serving This Month

# February 2023

Sunday	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Counters	Sound Booth	Assisting Minister
February 5	Tanner & Chip Johnson	Terrill Johnson			Stacy Miles Jane Massey	Mike Olinski	Stacy Miles
February 12	Tim Warren	Cam Palicki			Virginia Johnson Linda Ryden	Bob Ryden	Stacy Miles
February 19	Terrill & Susan Johnson	Mark Ridolfi			Dave Renneke Rhea Frank Cottinham	Dave Renneke	Stacy Miles
February 26	Bill Hartman	Michelle McKenzie			Ruth Anne Hartman Gary Wolber	Jerry Johansen	Stacy Miles



### ***Birthdays:***

<i>Susan Johnson</i>	<i>02/08</i>
<i>Elizabeth Johnson</i>	<i>02/09</i>
<i>Abbigale Rasmussen</i>	<i>02/10</i>
<i>Michael Ryden</i>	<i>02/10</i>
<i>Christian Cottingham</i>	<i>02/12</i>
<i>William Kempf</i>	<i>02/12</i>
<i>Rickie George</i>	<i>02/15</i>
<i>Roberta Hodge</i>	<i>02/15</i>
<i>Bowlin Marshall</i>	<i>02/15</i>

<i>Hunter Merrill</i>	<i>02/15</i>
<i>Kristina Cox</i>	<i>02/17</i>
<i>Daisy Bower</i>	<i>02/18</i>
<i>Mauwa Lebon</i>	<i>02/18</i>
<i>Donna Renneke</i>	<i>02/22</i>

### ***Anniversaries:***

William & Pamela Trotter	02/14
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# February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6:30pm Cub Scouts 	3 <u>Office Closed</u>	4
5 8:30am Worship (SJ) 9:30 am Fellowship (SJ) 10:30am Worship (AS)	6 10:00am Bible Study via Zoom 1:30pm Retired Pastor's 6:00pm Jr. Bd of RI	7 6:30pm 30/31 Book Club © 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	8 9:30am All Saints Worship Service (AS)	9 6:30pm Cub Scouts	10 <u>Office Closed</u>	11
12 8:30am Worship (SJ) 9:30 am Fellowship (SJ) 10:30am Worship (AS) 11:30am Vestry	13 10:00am Bible Study via Zoom 4:00pm Stewardship/ Finance Team via Zoom 6:00pm Jr. League	14 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Bible Study via Zoom Valentine's Day	15 7:00pm Council	16 2:00pm St. James Women's Circle 6:30pm Cub Scouts	17 <u>Office Closed</u>	18
19 8:30am Worship (SJ) 9:30 am Fellowship (SJ) 10:30am Worship (AS)	20 10:00am Bible Study via Zoom 	21 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	22 9:30 am All Saints Worship Service (AS) Noon Ash Wed. Calvary 7:00pm Ash Wed. St. James	23 6:30pm Cub Scouts	24 <u>Office Closed</u>	25
26 8:30am Worship (SJ) 9:30 am Annual Meeting 10:30am Worship (AS)	27 10:00am Bible Study via Zoom	28 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Bible Study via Zoom				

## St. James on the Web

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

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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A RIC Congregation  
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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE