



St. James News

Equipping and Empowering Families and Students through Christ

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Holiday train comes steaming down the track...

Here we are once again; that time of year where the fields bring forth the fruits of toil, the green of summer gives way to hues of Autumn, heat crisps to cool, and the commercialization of the holiday train comes steaming down the track.

For some, this is a great time of year. For others, not so much. No matter where you are in life, no matter the outcome of the crops, no matter the diagnosis, no matter the failures or successes, no matter the highs or lows, no matter the events of the past year, no matter...there's a truth we all do well to embrace. That truth? We all may be thankful.

Truth be told, no matter how we feel about our lives, we are better than we deserve. **“For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified (better than we deserve) by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”** (Romans 3:22-24) God's love for us is such that we are given all our needs, daily bread, out of His gracious, divine, mercy. No, that doesn't necessarily remove the sting of trials through which we go, or taint the joy for the blessing we know. But there's much to be gained by taking pause, remembering that we are in fact, better than we deserve, and give thanks in all circumstances!

In a world so focused on personal truths and shallow trigger points that in a moment's notice bring out the masses to picket and revolt, perhaps taking more moments to be truly thankful would be helpful. Instead of looking at everything through a point of view that sees the situation as a loss or

inconvenience, be thankful for the reality that is present. No, it may not be your ideal, but it can and will bless you in some way.

I am thankful for the many opportunities I have to serve children of God in their many stages of life. From the womb to the grave, I have a personal responsibility for the souls of this congregation. No, I'm not responsible for the choices you make, but I'm obligated to provide the means of true nurture and care. It is my responsibility to direct you to and serve you the means through which God's grace and mercy come.

On a daily basis, I am moved from joy to tears, to frustration to elation, to hope to sorrow, to...well, you get the picture. This is not an easy calling. But I'm thankful. Thankful for you. Thankful for the faithful who bring their aging loved ones to worship. Thankful for the caring spouses who carry their ailing loved one along. Thankful for the young families who insist their children are in worship. Thankful for the few who drop a note or card off encouragement. Thankful for the faithful who take the extra time to attend Bible Study. Thankful for the ones who serve without notice. Thankful for the joys and struggles of simply being a church. Thankful even for all the folks who question my ability and ways as a pastor. I am thankful for the many blessings that make me better than I deserve.

As we move into this season, first, don't blink for Epiphany will be here before you know it. Second, try to take time to recognize the many blessings of your day. And third, gives thanks to God for he is certainly good beyond measure. **“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.”** Psalm 95:2-3.

Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Sunday, September 29	160 & 119
Sunday, October 6	114 & 149
Sunday, October 13	141 & 165
Sunday, October 20	113 & 128
Sunday, October 27	129 & 164

Communion Attendance

Sunday, September 29	188
Sunday, October 6	101
Sunday, October 13	98
Sunday, October 20	105
Sunday, October 27	178

Marriage

Brian Burau and Kiaysa Beach on October 5, 2019 with Pastor Loder officiating.

Funeral

Marjorie Stueven on October 1, 2019. She was called to her eternal rest September 21, 2019 at the age of 85 years, 11 months, and 9 days.

Dave Sale on October 29, 2019. He was called to his eternal rest October 24, 2019 at the age of 77 years, 5 months, and 22 days.

Birthday blessings go out to these senior members in



November: Pat Mifek (2), Donna Bogelsang (3), Donovan Jensen (3), Linda Hoese (5), Ruby Drusch (7), James Borg (9), Ralph Diers (11), Arvid Luhman (15), Shirley Cloose (16), Vernon Lemke (16),

Keith Luhman (18), Karen Oestreich (23),

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Pastor Loder led the Quarterly Bible Study, "I AM Trusting Thee Lord Jesus". Hymn verses were studied with scripture references to describe the full salvation we receive in Christ: "Thy grace and tender mercy," "cleansing in the crimson flood," and "Make me holy by Thy blood." The group joined in singing all the verses of "I Am Trusting Thee Lord Jesus."

The Happy Mailbox committee reported sending 60 cards to friends in October. All members were encouraged to attend the Crow River Conference Fall Rally at Peace, Hutchinson, on October 19th. The fall LWML dinner will be held on November 3 from 11:00 to 1:00. All members will help by donating desserts, decorating, and serving; congregation youth members will assist with set up, serving and clean up. A Country Store will have crafts, canned and baked goods, greeting cards, and a selection of "Treasure from the Past", for the shopping pleasure of all.

Molly Loder was recognized as now serving on the National LWML Board of Directors Special Focus Ministries Department as a member of the committee on Young women. New member, Stacey Sparkman, was welcomed.

The last phrase of our theme hymn states emphatically: "I am trusting Thee forever and for all." Isaiah 26:3-4



THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 12:30 PM on KDUZ-1260 Hutchinson or at 7:30 AM on KRWC-1360 Buffalo.

The Lutheran Hour may also be heard at 6:05 AM Sunday mornings on WCCO -830. The Lutheran Hour is our church's witness in the public marketplace. We can sponsor broadcasts on KDUZ in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions.

October 6

November 3

"Stranger Danger" - The different ways we relate to strangers reveal the contradiction of being human. (Genesis 18)

November 10

"For Such a Downer" -(Genesis 21)

November 17

"The Dawn Wall" (Genesis 22)

November 24

"God Is Love" (1 John 4:7-12)

Stewardship- An Article from LCMS

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Newsletter Article – November 2019

St. Paul wrote to the Church of Christ in Corinth: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7). *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight. Abraham was. By faith, Abraham prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they His people.

What more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything, yes, even His life, enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us – like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ – give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart – for the joy set before us – the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

St. James Lutheran Church & School Summary of Receipts & Disbursements September Year to Date

Receipts	July YTD
Operating Offerings & Donations	\$203,844
Donor Restricted Donations	\$10,525
Missions Donations	\$11,025
Tuition & Other Receipts	\$60,881
Total Receipts	\$ 286,274
Disbursements	
Compensation & Benefits	\$108,090
Property Maintenance Costs	23,672
Administrative Expenses	5,353
Program Expenses	27,914
Missions Disbursements	11,505
Total Disbursements	\$ 176,533
Excess Income/(Expense)	\$ 109,741
Outstanding Loans	
Installment Loan - CAB	50,574
Line of Credit - CAB	-
Total Outstanding Loans	\$ 50,574

Naomi Guild

Would like to thank all who have donated fabric and time to help us put quilts together. Thanks to the St. James Students for carrying boxes of quilts up the steps and loading in the van. The guild donated 88 quilts to World Relief in October. World Relief distributes the quilts to missions, homeless and those in need from disasters (fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, ect.). Come join us the 2nd Monday of the month (you don't have to know how to sew).

Our Parish Nurse

Warm greetings,

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, thoughts of others come to our minds. We think of the needs of many- not just the physical needs but emotional and spiritual needs. Remember the saying- "it is better to give than to receive"? It still holds true and especially during these times should be remembered.

A new book I just ordered and have is WEARY JOY, the caregiver's journey by Kim Marxhausen from Concordia Publishing House, speaks to the needs of caregivers. Who is a caregiver? Probably most of us as adults if we have a loved one with various needs. Think of parents, spouses, children or just friends or neighbors who can use help in one way or another. This book is helpful as it reminds us that the caregiver is not alone. The book has short, easy to read chapters that cover a variety of topics that are common to caregiving situations. It also has checklists which help in the moving through the caregiving journey. I especially like the devotional connections that give the assurance that, as a caregiver, one does not walk the journey alone, God is with you. God is a God of comfort and care. Feel free to borrow the book, I think you will find it helpful and easy to read.

Reminder: November 3rd is the LWML fall chicken dinner and country store. Please make plans to attend. This is the fund raiser that supports the mission work of the LWML locally and foreign. A good turn out of our members enables the adequate financial support of the work of the LWML. Understanding this important work of the LWML is why it exists.

Remember our veterans and those in the military- November is a special time to remember these special people.

November 14th is the next community meal @5:30 p.m. Following the meal, we will have Pastor Fred Hinz as our speaker. His presentation is on the issue of physician-assisted suicide. Across the nation there is a highly coordinated effort to deal with the challenges of human suffering by eliminating the sufferer..... using death to solve the problems of life. It is an issue that each one of us will have to deal with either personally or as it impacts family members or friends. Please come and be informed about one of the most pressing and threatening public

topics of our time. Pastor Hinz is the Public Policy Advocate for Minnesota South district, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Questions?? Contact Pastor Loder or Darlene Lind. Bring your friends and neighbors, this topic is extremely important as it will be promoted more and more in the secular world. Feel free to stop into the Parish Nurse Office at the church, I welcome your visit as I appreciate your prayers for the Parish Nurse Program. Questions? Do not be afraid to ask, I certainly don't pretend to have all the answers but usually can refer you to someone who can assist with a health issue.

Blessings for the Holiday Season!

Your Parish Nurse,

Darlene

Blessings for your fall!

Darlene

Rev. Fredric Hinz

Will be giving a presentation on the issue of physician-assisted suicide on Thursday, November 14th following the Community Meal. Across the nation there is a highly coordinated effort to deal with the challenges of human suffering by eliminating the sufferer...using death to solve the problems of life. It is an issue that each one of us will have to deal with either personally or as it impacts family members or friends. Please come and be informed about one of the most pressing and threatening public policy topics of our time.



Community Meal

What's for dinner? On the menu for November is Turkey Dinner and all the fixings, YUMMY!! St. James Community meal will be on Thursday, November 14th at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Pastor Loder or our Evangelism Directors, Viann Montgomery and Greg Birkholz if you would like to volunteer or donate toward the cost. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. SEE YOU AT SUPPER!

A Word from Vicar Thompson

To be honest there isn't much to report to you all for the month of October. My chemotherapy infusions have ended and now I must do CT scans and blood work every 3-4 months for the next 5 years or so to make sure the cancer does not return (the odds of which are small due to the chemotherapy). This situation could have been a lot worse, but thanks be to God that we caught it in time! Thank you, dear saints of St. James, for your prayers and support during this significant bump in the road!

As we go through the book of Genesis in Adult Bible Study (every Sunday at 9:15 in the sanctuary) it is absolutely fascinating to see how quickly things can fall apart. First, very soon after creation Adam and Eve disobey God and hide themselves when they realize that they are naked. Then God asks the worst question in the Bible: "**Where are you?**" (Genesis 3:9). Of course, God knows where they are, but the simple fact here is that they don't want to be in His presence, and that is a very bad thing. This describes the separation from God that we sinners through Adam and Eve have. In our sin we don't want to be around God, because we know that He is holy and we are not. Later in Genesis Noah, his family, (who can be viewed as the whole church on Earth at that point) and all land creatures are saved by the Ark that the Lord told him to build. Surely now that the sinners, the scoffers, the unbelievers have been wiped out the world will be at peace, right? Wrong. Even after the Flood, human nature remains the same, mired in sin, as the Lord Himself notes when establishing the covenant of the rainbow, "**...for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth**" (Genesis 9:21).. These ideal situations quickly fall apart.

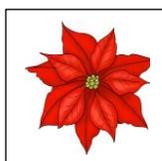
And that is a reflection of our own lives. Things can be going great until something horrible happens. And in a way we have the same choice as Adam and Eve had when life is crumbling around us. Do we hide from God or do we confess what we have done wrong? Instead of God saying, "Where are you?" He says, "I found you." And He found us by the death and blood of His Son on the cross. That separation from God was bridged by the only wood that could do it: the cross. In our sin we don't want to be around God, but fortunately He wants to be around us. So that is why He sent Jesus to experience all that we experience and to suffer on our behalf. Remember

Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest [Jesus] who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin." So when things are bad, we continue to go to St. James and we continue to confess our sins, be in community with one another, and receive God's gifts of life and salvation that Jesus won for us on the cross. Thanks be to God that the Lord can fix broken, messy, and unideal situations!

Have a blessed November!
In Christ, Vicar Thompson

Thanksgiving Festival Services

Thanksgiving Eve worship and communion will be held, Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 PM. Thanksgiving Day worship with communion will be held at 9:00 AM.



Poinsettia Sale

Poinsettias make lovely gifts or a great addition to your Christmas décor. To purchase a plant through the church in the size and color you would like, just sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex or contact the church office by Monday, November 12th.

Delivery will be the first week in December. Poinsettias in red, white or pink are available in three sizes for the following prices.

Size	Number of flowers	Price
Single	5-7	\$15.00
Double	6-10	\$20.00
Triple	12-20	\$35.00



Dear St. James Family,

We are off to a great start of our school year. October had a few fun events I'd like to tell you about. The combined classes are going well, and soon it will be November and the first quarter will already be over.

We were blessed to have many grandparents join us on Grandparents Day. The students enjoyed sharing their day with the Grandparents and learning more about the times Grandma and Grandpa were in school. We finished the day with worship and songs together in church.

Celebrate St. James was supposed to be out at the park, but God had a better plan. Due to the COLD we celebrated here on campus. Everyone had a great time with our Chapel Families. (1 child from each grade) The students sang songs and worked on crafts and games. The older students took on leadership roles and did a great job being the head of the family. Thank you for your prayers and financial support of our Celebrate St. James this year.

Many people ask me about teaching in a combined classroom. The more I do it, the more I love it. The second graders love already knowing the classroom

routines and expectations. They in turn teach the first graders how things go. Sometimes it's a gentle reminder to face the teacher, or they may just go to the other student's desk and help them find their pages. Also, we have done some creative work on the schedule. It works out so I only have first graders in the room for reading and math time, and the same for second grade. That means during those core subjects I have a class of eight students. Everyone gets plenty of turns to read and demonstrate to me what they have learned. Come visit us any time in first and second grade.

November is almost here and that means the end of our first quarter at school. Soon we will hold our parent teacher conferences. It is a blessing to have such wonderful families at St. James that support Christian education and allow us to share Christ with their children daily. These families will also join us on Craft and Book Fair night on November 12. On this night we do fun crafts with friends and families. The book fair is also happening the same night so it is an easy way to encourage students of all ages to read books.

Upcoming events at

St. James include:

- ~ Nov. 1st End of 1st Qtr.
- ~ Nov. 4th No School-teacher workshop
- ~ Nov. 7th Parent/Teacher conferences
- ~ Nov. 12th "Craft Night"/ Book Fair
- ~ Nov. 13th 2 Hour Late Start
- ~ Nov. 27th -29th Thanksgiving

Train Students to Sing Hymns Artfully

Written by Marie Greenway

Teach children difficult things. They will rise to the challenge.

My days are spent teaching hymns and liturgy to students from ages four to fourteen. I will say all day long that they can and should learn the music of the church—and the difficult music of the church, at that. Young children thrive on memorization and love to sing long, complicated words and text. Older students, while not always thrilled about learning yet another hymn, realize that learning hymns is a way of stretching and challenging themselves; that it feeds them good, robust truth instead of catering to childishness.

Our hymns often feature difficult subjects such as death, pain, persecution, and misfortune. They cover tough theological concepts, including the Trinity, Law and Gospel, angels, demons, and the work of Satan. And this is the strength of our hymnal: it expresses the truth in a nuanced manner, digging deeply and courageously into the Gospel and into the Christian life. It is good to teach our children these truths. It is good to teach our children to sing these truths and to take them to heart.

Teach them to do hymns well.

Yet it is not simply enough that we teach our children to sing the truth; we also need to teach them to sing it well, with beauty and artistry. We can compare this to a child's general education: he must learn truth, but he must also learn skills—and he must learn to do these skills well. On the one hand, some things are simply true, or they are not. You either know how to spell the word *bourgeoisie*, or you do not. You either know what the capital of Minnesota is, or you do not. You either know the difference between capital and capitol, or you do not. Likewise, in music, you either know what a quarter note is, or you do not. You either know after the famous opening motive that the orchestra is playing Beethoven's Fifth, or you do not. There is not a matter of knowing these things well or badly—you simply know them.

On the other hand, education often involves skills such as delivering drawing a self-portrait, playing sports, writing an essay, a presentation, reciting a poem, or, for our special purposes, performing a piece of music. It is essential that we teach children to do these things well, even if it means we have to tell them they are doing it badly at first. Having a child do something well is, first and foremost, a good teaching practice. A teacher should

have high expectations for the students in her class so that they have the opportunity to rise to those expectations.

What is the purpose of doing hymns well?

But why do we want children to rise to these high expectations? Specifically, in music, why are we not content with simply knowing that a child has memorized the words of a hymn? Why does the artfulness and beauty of their singing matter?

As a teacher, I want to challenge my students. They will never improve in their education if they are not pushed to do their best. And, essentially, that is why we should teach our children to sing hymns and liturgy well. Not just to memorize them, but to sing them beautifully. We want them to be better. We want them to see what it is to do something with grace and self-control and not in an obnoxious and overbearing manner.

But there is something more here than simply improving a child's skill level or moral character. We teach them to sing well because what they are singing deserves to be sung well. It is something outside the child—something outside their ability, their pride, and their personal ambition for good grades. When we are teaching our children hymns and liturgy, we are teaching them the most important thing—the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Teaching beauty and artistry in hymn music

I once heard some children singing the liturgy for Matins when I was visiting a church in another state. Although I was pleased that they had the liturgy memorized and were singing it with gusto, it was clear that they had not learned to sing it artfully. The children were overpowering every other adult in the room, and they lacked a proper melodious tone. In fact, they were downright distracting. While they knew the text and, I'm sure, were coached in its meaning, they seemed to struggle to deliver it reverently. It had become all about the fact that they had the text memorized and little about how to treat the text.

Far be it from me to suggest that the text of hymns and the liturgy only matter if they are sung beautifully. The text of our Divine Service, taken directly from the Holy Scriptures, is living and active and moves hearts despite our paltry human endeavors to sing it with the beauty it deserves. But we have been given the Good News—we have been given truth, and a hope that does not disappoint, and true, lasting joy. Why would we then subject that message to monotone shouting and tuneless droning? Let us instead bedeck it with the jewels of melody and harmony and the rich dress of tuneful, blending voices.

Do I say this to shame those less musically inclined? Not at all! I know many wonderful, faithful Christians who

simply are not skilled in music. But I am a music teacher, and my job is to teach children not just to sing but also to sing well. Although I cannot give individualized voice lessons to 192 students, I can tell my students truthfully whether they sound good. I can tell my exuberant first graders that I love their enthusiasm but that shouting a hymn at the top of their lungs is simply unacceptable. I can make my middle schoolers sing a hymn stanza again and again and again and again until they finally blend just right. I can hold even my youngest students to a higher standard than simply “cute kids singing as loudly and excitedly as possible.”

Is it hard? Often. But my students know I am holding them to a higher standard because the thing they are singing is of the utmost importance. They don't shy away from the challenge of singing well.

So let us rise to the challenge. Let us teach difficult things. And let us teach our children how to do difficult things well.

May God grant us the courage to do so in love and in truth.

Marie Greenway is a music teacher at Immanuel Lutheran School in Alexandria, Virginia. She graduated from Hillsdale College with a degree in music and has worked and volunteered as a church musician for several years. When Marie is not studying, listening to, or performing music, she likes to read, run, and eat chocolate ice cream.



Make the Holidays Merry & Bright for local family in need

The holidays are almost upon us. There are many families in our communities that could use some support during this season. Love INC-Heartland has three ways you can get involved.

1. Sponsor a family:
Shop specific items for a family. Sign up by email at holidays@loveinhearland.org or phone 763-972-6541 ext. 1.
2. Purchase gifts for our Christmas Store;
Your NEW gift donation and gift cards (\$10-\$20 from target or Walmart) are welcome to stock the store. We are especially looking for gifts for teens (see suggestions list). Drop off your donations at the Delano Love INC-Heartland Thrift Shop (318 Railroad Ave).

3. Volunteer at the Christmas Programs:
There will be several shifts available for jobs such as assisting guests, wrapping presents, and serving goodies. Call Lisa at 763-972-6547 extension 3 to find out the time slots available.

Thank You for considering how you can make Christmas special for families in need right here in our area.



Suggested Teen Gifts

- Large Faced Watches
- Coffee Mugs (cool one, travel)
- Insulated water bottles
- Candles
- Slippers- big fuzzy ones
- Star Wars gear/ t-shirt and sweatpants
- School wear, Sweatshirts etc... promoting area schools
- Nail polish kits
- Helicopter drones
- Earbuds/headphones
- Flannel pajama bottoms
- Sports equipment: basketballs, baseballs & gloves, tennis racquet, soccer balls, tennis balls
- Sports team hats
- Journals, blank or with prompts
- Bath gift sets
- Books
- Backpacks
- Cosmetics
- Purses
- Wallets
- Cologne & Perfume gift sets
- Board games for teens