

St. James Journal

Our Mission Statement:

"We Proclaim and Practice Christ's Love"

January 2012

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

8:00 AM Worship with Communion

10:00 AM Worship with Communion

THE SUNDAY RADIO BROADCAST

on KRIB, 1490AM, is at 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JAN. 8, 15, 22

8:00 AM Traditional Worship

9:15 AM Bible Study

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Traditional Worship

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION will be on Sunday, January 29, beginning at 10:45 AM. Snow date is February 5. Board reports for the Annual Report are due in Sarah's office by January 11. The Annual Report will be assembled on January 20 at 1:30 p.m. It will be ready to be picked up at church on January 22.

JANUARY 29 - NO 10:45 SERVICE due to the Annual Meeting.

POINSETTIA PLANTS may be picked up whether or not you provided a poinsettia. You may take one or more plants. The last day to pick up a poinsettia is this Sunday, January 1.

WHEN THERE IS ILLNESS IN YOUR FAMILY please notify the church office or one of the pastors. Also, a periodic update on their health is appreciated. We want to pray for those who are facing health issues.

Pastor Paul's Ponderings...

The NEW year

It is only natural that *new* comes to mind at this, the beginning of a new year. Typically, we like that which is new. It may be refreshing and unique. The smell of a new car is unmistakable. A new home is cherished. The new newspaper of the present day sure beats the old newspaper of a few days ago.

When thinking of the term *new* from a theological perspective, I think of *Free to Be* a confirmation book published by Augsburg years ago. The authors Gerhard Forde and James Nestingen contrast the "old Adam" with the *new you*. The *new you* first comes to us at our baptism. We are made *new* in Christ. The old Adam, which keeps us from loving and serving God and other people, is kept in check as we remember the *new you* of the washing and regeneration that comes as the result of breaking down the firm grip of the old Adam by being made new in Christ.

As we think about *new* in this new year, we can also think about a few of the many Bible passages that contain that special word. Just consider these wonderful verses from the Old Testament...

- "O sing to the Lord a *new* song, sing to the Lord all the earth."
Psalm 96:1.
- "I am about to do a *new* thing; now it springs forth." Isaiah 43:19a
- "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are *new* every morning." Lamentations 3:22-23a.
- "He [Jesus] said to them, 'This is my blood of the *new* covenant, which is poured out for many.'" Mark 14:24
- "[Jesus said] I give you a *new* commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34

Here are a couple of verses in which the word *new* appears two times within the same verse...

- "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a *new* creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become *new*! 2
Corinthians 5:17
- "Then I saw a *new* heaven and a *new* earth." Revelation 21:1b

Of course, the above seven verses are just a small sampling of the various passages from scripture which contain that powerful, though short, word *new*. All told, *new* appears well over 100 times in the Bible.

A happy and blessed New Year to you!

~Pastor Paul

News From Our Members

HOSPITAL/SURGERY NEWS:

Hospitalizations or surgeries of members of St. James since the last Journal... Nancy Wise-Runnels.

Please notify the church office whenever a member of St. James is hospitalized. Also, please call if anyone has been inadvertently omitted in the above list.

WHEN THERE IS ILLNESS IN YOUR FAMILY

please notify the church office or one of the pastors. Also, a periodic update on their health is appreciated. We want to pray for those who are experiencing health issues.

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## **GOD'S BLESSINGS AND BEST WISHES ARE EXTENDED TO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Jennifer Guyer, Jeff Marster's daughter and her husband Jay, on the birth of a baby girl, Caitlyn Jeanine Guyer. Caitlyn was born on October 22.

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THANK YOU TO....

- Terri Tell and Marcia Menke for their time and energy that were put into the making of the beautiful Christmas quilts that were auctioned off. The winners were Linda Trask and Kris Buehner.
- Dan Godfrey, Ray Groth, Harold Hansen Parnell Peterson, Don Plagge and Tom Yezek for setting up Christmas trees and lights.
- Wade Busch for repairing the photo cell for the outside lights and the light fixture in the office.
- Marlin Deike for assistance on ice removal.
- Chuck Harris and Ray Groth for fixing the wedding dress rack.
- Parnell Peterson, Ray Groth, Alf Larson and Don Priebe for picking up and delivering the welcome center.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to:

- June Gibbs and family on the death of two of June's sisters—Clarice Fank and Lois Tanner. Clarice died on December 1; the funeral was on December 5 in Iowa Falls; Lois died on November 30; the funeral was at Major Erickson Funeral Home on December 3.
- The family of Gladys Northrup. Gladys died on December 3 at the age of 105. The funeral was at St. James on December 7.

When there is a death of a family member, please call the church office so that we may make a note of it in an upcoming Journal. Also please call the church office if a name has been inadvertently omitted.

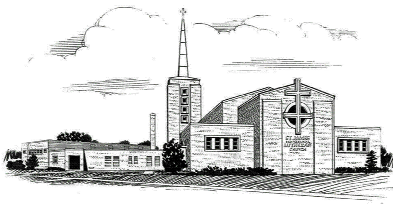
RECENTLY BAPTIZED...

- Ethan John Murphy, son of Devin Murphy and Darcy Albrecht, was baptized on Sunday, December 4. Congratulations!

GORGEOUS!!! That would be the new "Welcome Center" made by Don Priebe. Thank you, thank you, Don! We Love it!

THANKS to all the St. James musicians in all areas...youth choirs, chancel choir, worship band, Sunday school, organists...each and all of you!





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Find us on Facebook!

THE PHILIP L. HOUGEN CAMPUS MINISTRIES SCHOLARSHIP. Established in honor of former ELCA Southeast Iowa Synod Bishop Philip L. Hougen, this scholarship, awarded to two applicants from ELCA congregations who express intention to participate regularly in Grand View campus ministry, may award between \$500 and \$1500 toward a student's education. The scholarship is renewable, based on the student's level of participation in student ministries activities; to renew, the student must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Students can apply for the Hougen Scholarship by filling out an application and returning it to our Admissions Office by **February 1, 2012**. Applicants will also need to ask their pastor or youth leader to fill out a reference form available. Both forms are available in the church office.

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St. James News

SCRIPTURE READERS If you are unable to read on the scheduled Sunday please call someone else and exchange with them. If a change is made, please call the church office.



	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:45 AM
January 1	Parnell Peterson	Chris Clarkson @ 10 AM	No Service
January 8	Laurie Haugen	Alexys Pederson	Jean Groth
January 15	Suzan Larson	Ann Sletten	Carmen Madson
January 22	Lynn Christensen	Liz Kellogg	Pastor Ernest Thompson
January 29	Dar Wade	Becky & Sydney Miller	Annual Meeting No Service

COPIES OF THE LUTHERAN are on one of the narthex tables.



THE HAWKEYE HARVEST FOOD BANK appreciates all donations. The food bank is especially low on groceries at this time. A blue tote is in the narthex. All donations will be delivered to the Food Bank within days of being brought to church.

FELLOWSHIP TIME is part of the Sunday schedule each week. You're invited to participate in this fellowship prior to the 8:00 service, and between the other services for this time of fellowship, coffee, juice and other refreshments. Contributions of a dollar or two help defray the cost of supplies. Feel free to bring food to share with others such as fruit, carrot sticks, and other healthy snacks.

JANUARY 9:30 AM USHER SCHEDULE

Please arrive no later than 9:15 to prepare to hand out bulletins. Your nametag will be in a box on the Deacon's bench in the rear of the church. Thank you!

January 1 & 8	Becky & Scott Miller
January 15 & 22	Wade Busch, Kathy Nelson & Becky Madsen

THE FEBRUARY JOURNAL deadline is Monday, January 23 by 1:00 PM.

BULLETIN ARTICLES are due on Thursday by 10:00 AM every week.

NEEDING A RIDE TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS? If you are needing a ride to any of the three worship services on Sundays, call the church office. We will put you in touch with those who volunteered to provide transportation.

THE FLOWER AND RADIO BROADCAST CALENDARS FOR 2012

are on the bulletin board near Sarah's office.

Dates that are still available for the next three months for sign up are:

Flowers

January 1, 8, & 22
February 5, 12, 19, & 26
March 4 & 11

Radio

January 1, 22 & 29
February 5, 12, 19 & 26
March 4, 11 & 18

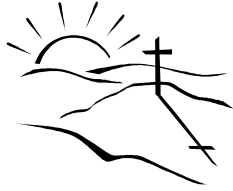
There are dates available for the last nine months of the year as well.

The flower sponsorship is \$21 and the radio is \$45.

You can sign up by writing your name in a slot or by calling the church office.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

MISSION TRIP NEWS: Youth interested in attending SonRise Bible Camp this summer: Applications will be available soon and a meeting will be announced for late January. Please check the bulletin, e-mail and Facebook for more info! If you are interested in attending this summer's mission trip, but did not attend our first meeting, please talk to Pastor Jeni ASAP!



MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN!!!! On Friday, January 20, there will be a LOCK IN for all Middle School Students. We will begin at 7:00 PM and end at 7:00 AM Saturday. There will be games, movies, activities, FOOD, and fun. You are encouraged to invite friends, but please sign you AND your friends up by Wednesday, January 18. There will be a sign-up sheet outside Pastor Jeni's office and also available at confirmation. Adults are needed to chaperone!!! We need AT LEAST two adults for every hour of the night. Please sign up with Pastor Jeni. Youth can bring snacks to share, games (including Wii games), and movies. Please mark games and movies with your name.

COMING UP: High School Lock-in SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19th (NO SCHOOL February 20!). High School Youth: SAVE that date in your calendar!

WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA—Lime Creek Nature Center is having their Winter Extravaganza on Saturday, February 4 from 1-4 PM. It will be an afternoon filled with cross-country skiing, snowshoe hikes, a winter scavenger hunt, crafts, games, woodcarving demonstrations, and marshmallow/hotdog roast over a campfire. This event is free for Lime Creek Members and \$3 for non-members over 12 years old. Pre-registration is required—call 423-5309 to register. **LET'S GO AS A CONGREGATION. Register on your own, but meet at St. James at 12:45 to carpool and go as a group.** In addition to registering with the Nature Center, sign up at the church if you would like to go together by signing up on the sheet in the narthex. Let's beat the winter blues with a GREAT afternoon at Lime Creek!

CONFIRMATION resumes on Wednesday, January 11.

WOW and Wednesday Night Live resume on Wednesday, January 11. If you haven't been to these GREAT youth groups yet this year, we HOPE you will join us in January! WOW is our afterschool group for K-4th grade and meets from 3:45-4:45 PM. Wednesday Night Live is our 5th-6th grade Youth Group and meets from 6:15-7:15. We hope to see you there!

Toddler Storytime resumes on Tuesday, January 10.



Java with Jesus will resume on Tuesday, January 10, at 7:30 at Cabin Coffee. ALL High School students (and NIACC students!) are encouraged to join us each Tuesday morning!

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION will be held on Saturday, January 28, for all in 3rd grade and older who have not yet had communion instruction. Letters will be going out about First Communion the first week in January. Please call or e-mail Pastor Jeni or the church office to sign your child up! First Communion Sunday will be Sunday, February 5.



St. James News

PRAYER SHAWL We will meet again on Jan. 9th at 6:30 (please note the change of date that month).

THERE ARE PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. Yarn is available in the narthex if you'd rather knit or crochet at home.



THE BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP will not meet in January, because the regular meeting day falls on January 1. The next scheduled meeting will be February 5th.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2012 are on a table in the narthex. If there are no envelopes for you, please let the church office know

DO YOU HAVE A FLAIR FOR DECORATING?

Would you like to share that with us at St. James? Linda Paulsen has been doing the lovely décor that graces our various church areas and we really appreciate and thank her for that. Great job, Linda! She will not be able to continue to do that next year. It's fun to get new ideas so consider this your invitation! Call the church office or contact Cynthia Tompkins (423-1903).

MALARIA NET CAMPAIGN—ONE NET=ONE LIFE

The Northeastern Iowa Synod has joined with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and African companion churches in a global effort to prevent, treat and contain malaria by 2015. The simplest and most effective preventive measure in the fight against malaria is through the usage of mosquito nets. One \$10 net prevents the death of one person; that is, one net equals one life. If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of malaria nets, you may give your gift through our congregation. Mark your gift for the purchase of malaria nets. Thanks so much for any help you can give!

THE NEXT "NOISY OFFERING" will be on January 29. The coins given that day will go to the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank. Whenever there are five Sundays in a month, the fifth Sunday "noisy offering" is collected.

YOUTH CHOIR and CHANCEL CHOIR will start January 11th. The Younger Youth Choir is at 4:45 PM and is for ages 4 to 8 years. The Older Youth Choir is at 5:00 PM and is for ages 9 to 12 years old. Chancel Choir is at 7:00 PM.

WORSHIP BAND will start January 4 at 6:15 PM.

If you would like to participate in the choirs or band or as an organist—please do! Just come or contact Cynthia, (423-1903).



A GREENER APPROACH TO GIVING

Churches, because of their heavy weekly check volumes, were among the earliest organizations to embrace electronic giving as a way to automate contributions. Today, electronic giving in all its forms provides convenience for frequent check writers and donation consistency for churches.

A less frequently discussed benefit of electronic giving is its positive impact on the environment. An enormous amount of natural resources are consumed in the production, transportation, processing and disposal of paper checks. That's why paying bills electronically always ranks high on any list of actions an individual can take to improve the environment. The trend toward electronic payments has already produced more than a 50% decline in check use since the year 2000.

As you consider the payment method you use to make your regular offering, we hope that you will think about the unique connection between financial stewardship and environmental stewardship.

THE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

are from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM &
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Monday thru Friday.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, January 2, in observance of New Year's.