

**OUR MISSION
STATEMENT:**
*"We Proclaim and
Practice Christ's Love"*

St. James Journal

AUGUST 2018

Pastor Jeni's Thoughts...

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart...and lean not on your own understanding." -Proverbs 3:5

This verse has always been a guiding force in my life. As someone who occasionally allows worry or fear to control my thoughts and actions, it can often be difficult to simply trust and let things be. And yet it is also so freeing when I can. When I can simply let go and trust in God's love and grace and promise.

Such has been the case through this illness I have faced over the last couple of years. So much has been out of my control. So much has even been out of the control of the doctors who have cared for me. And in those moments, I have had to especially rely on the promise of God, who has promised in all things to be with me, to love me, to forgive me, and to save me.

As I have said before and will continue to give thanks for, I see God's love in so many ways. I see God's love in my family. I see God's love in the joy around me and in the joy of living and enjoying this life we have been given. I see God's love in each one of you—in every prayer, every card, every kind word. I see God's love in the patience and care you have shown me. I know it is not easy for our leaders, for our staff, or for the congregation to have an ill pastor and a pastor on disability, but you have stepped up and because of that the ministry and mission of St. James continues to thrive! I am so thankful for that, and see God's work, God's Spirit, and God's love in the ways we have continued to flourish as a congregation.

As for an update on my health and my return to full-time ministry: I did have some setbacks as many of you know over the last couple of months. I appear to be on the right track again, but it will take a few weeks to get my strength back. I am still unable to drive and my weight is at a critical low. As that improves, I will be able to increase my hours and my responsibilities here. I hope to increase to half time hours in August, with the goal of getting back to full time by early fall. I will work with my doctors and the church council on the exact timing of that. In the meantime, I am thankful that Pastor Dennis and our visitation team are able to take care of our hospital, homebound, and nursing home visits. We continue to ask that you let us know if any needs or concerns aren't being addressed.

I cannot wait until the day when I am able to come back full time, and I believe that will happen soon. But wherever this journey takes me, I trust in the promise of God, who has walked with me through this entire process and will continue to do so. I pray that you too feel that love and grace in your life. And that you are able to walk in that promise—trusting in God's mercy each and every day.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 AM

Potluck Breakfast

9:00 AM

Outdoor Worship

10:30 AM

Indoor Worship

Communion is on

the 1st &

3rd Sundays

St. James News

THE September JOURNAL deadline is August 20 by 12:00 PM.

THE September JOURNAL will be assembled on August 27 at 10:00 AM.

Please call the church office if you are able to help or sign up on the sheet in the board room.

BULLETIN ARTICLES are due on Wednesday by 9:00 AM every week.

2018 FLOWER MINISTRY sign up sheets are now available in the Narthex. Flowers are \$21.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME AND PORTALS OF PRAYER for July thru September are available on the table in the Narthex.

SUMMER OUTDOOR BREAKFAST

A Potluck breakfast begins at 8:30 am, followed by 9:00 am Outdoor Worship each Sunday through Labor Day.

All are welcome!

Worship setup starts at 8:00 am. We always need volunteers for that! Thank you!

WEEKLY E-MAIL UPDATES

Would you like to receive a Weekly Update by e-mail with announcements and events? We are in the process of updating our Weekly Update list. Please call or e-mail the Church office if you would like to be added to the list!

JOURNAL ASSEMBLY SIGN UP SHEET

If you would like to help put the monthly journal together, there is now a sign up sheet on the Board Room bulletin board.

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Periodically, members of our congregation are in need of financial help. We would like to be able to provide gift cards for groceries or gas or other funds when those needs arise. If you would like to contribute to that fund, you can donate money or bring Hy-Vee or Wal-Mart cards to the church office or give them to Pastor Jeni. Thank you!

METAL DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who collected and donated their old metal. We made \$607.40 as of now, there are still a few items to be picked up.

ST. JAMES CAMPOUT

August 3rd & 4th at the Wilkinson Pioneer Park in Rock Falls. There will be a Koinonia Potluck Saturday evening at 6:00 PM in the shelter house.

SEPTEMBER RUMAGE SALE

It is time to start your cleaning and donating your attic treasures to the church rummage. Drop offs can be placed in the gym. Thank you! The Rummage Sale will be held on September 14 & 15.

SAFE DAY CLEANOUT

August 7th at 9:00 am we would like to begin to clean and organize the safe room. If you like to clean, organize or are interested in archiving, please come and volunteer your time. A lunch will be provided.

UKULELE LESSONS CONTINUE

Ukulele lessons will be August 12th and 26th. at 10:00 am. We will meet in the Friendship Room

TRIVIA NIGHT ON AUGUST 24

Before summer's over, let's have some summertime TRIVIA! We will meet at 8 PM on Friday, August 24. Watch the bulletin and the St. James Facebook page for more information on where we will meet. Invite friends!

ST. JAMES MEMBERS,

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELCA) need someone to help make phone calls to organize food and workers for funeral luncheons.

WELCA provides a lunch for families and friends after a funeral to help these folks celebrate their loved one's life and is quite a vital service!

The process is simple: You will share a list of names and phone numbers to call, and you ask those women to make a cake or salad and /or to help serve at the funeral luncheon. Your help is usually required once every three or four months and usually only takes a few hours of your time.

Please call or email your kitchen coordinator: Sherri Fitzgerald at 424-8847 or email me at sherrifitzgerald1965@gmail.com to volunteer to help with this vital service!

Thank you for offering your time and talents in this way. Sherri

DO DAYS QUILTING We will not meet in the summer due to the warm church.

WELCA NEWS

We will not be meeting during the summer. Our next meeting will be August 14th at 6:30 pm.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF School Kits!

It's already getting to be the time of year when school supplies will be going on sale. Please consider purchasing items for our LWR school kits.

In April we sent 54 school kits to LWR and we hope to meet or exceed that number next time.

Below is a list of items needed for the kits. They can be placed in the brown wicker baskets in the narthex.

- ~ 70 page notebooks (4 are needed for each kit)
- ~ Boxes of 24 crayons
- ~ Blue or black in pens (no gel pens) (5 for each kit)
- ~ No. 2 pencils (5 for each kit)
- ~ Pencil sharpeners
- ~ 12 inch rulers (centimeters on one side)
- ~ Blunt scissors (safety scissors will work)

(This year we do not need erasers as we have an abundance from last year.)

Thank you! WELCA Mission Action

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN AUGUST!



On August 12, we will have a good ol' fashioned Gospel service at 9 AM. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors and ya'll join us for this special Sunday. Weather permitting, we will have a campfire and roast some marshmallows after the service!

Get out your dancing shoes! **OUR ANNUAL POLKA WORSHIP SERVICE** will be held on Sunday, August 19 at 9 AM. Join us as we sing praise to God using traditional polka music with a twist!



Join us for our Annual ***Backpack blessing*** on August 26!

As you prepare to go back to school, let's offer prayers to God for a SAFE, HAPPY School Year full of learning and growing! *Bring your backpacks/school bags to church.* All students, teachers, and school staff will be invited to come forward!

You are encouraged to bring school supplies on the 26th for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. The list of needed supplies is located in the Journal.

ST. JAMES CARE TEAM

Here at St. James Lutheran Church, we have a Care Team Ministry. One component of this Team is sending boxes of goodies to college students and military personnel away from home. With another school year upon us, we need help with this ministry.

Back in the Spring of 2014, Bob and I had a relative from UNI stay with us for a semester while she completed her student teaching here in Mason City. At Valentine's Day, she received a box of goodies from her home church with a note saying they were thinking of and praying for her. I realized, "Wow! We need to do that at St. James!"

During our first year, we sent out seven boxes three times and last year we increased that number to 18! We also tried something new at Christmas time: Sending a gift card instead of goodies. We've heard great feedback on all of our mailings from the recipients.



We need your help: Donations of goodies or money to buy the "stuff" and for postage would be greatly appreciated. We spend over \$100.00 for postage each time we ship boxes. We have been lucky to get Thrivent cards to help with the postage, but that's not a guarantee each year.

We want these young adults away from home to know that St. James hasn't forgotten them. Prayerfully consider helping with the Care Team Ministry during this current school year.

Thank you and God Bless!

For more information, contact:

Kathy Follmuth, 641.425.9676, or

Jill in the Church office at: 641.423.4702 or

stjamesofficemc@gmail.com

If you would like to have your son, daughter, or grandchild who is away from home at college, or is serving in the military, to be a part of this Ministry, we need their address. Also, each year we ask for a \$10.00 donation from the recipients'

UNDERSTANDING GRIEF & LOSS GROUP

Sponsored by Hospice of North Iowa

*6 week program for adults grieving a death

*FREE *Space is limited *Registration required prior to 1st session

Fall 2018 schedule:

6 consecutive **Thursday evenings** ~ **Mason City** 6:00-8:00 pm

September 6 - October 11, HNI Conference Room, 232 2nd St. SE

6 consecutive **Thursday evenings** ~ **Hampton** 6:00-8:00 pm

September 13– October 18, First Christian Church, 605 4th St. NE

*Please call the office to schedule an individual appointment for resources and support, free of charge,
if the evening session is not an option for you.*

Call 1-800-297-4719 or 641-428-6208 to pre-register

Hospice of North of North Iowa....providing care since 1982

SAINT JAMES FALL FESTIVAL

We are excited to announce our new fall festival for 2018. Join us Saturday, November 10th for food, music, and fun! You can even get some Christmas shopping done with our silent and live auctions. Along with the auctions we will have a wine pull, pie-eating contest, bingo, live music, and much more! This is one of WELCA's main fundraisers of the year and helps to support our Kitchen Coordinator Sherri as well as many other missions in and out of St. James.

So how can you help to make this successful? Most importantly attend and invite friends! We will be selling tickets in August for the meal. We would ask each of you to prayerfully consider taking some to sell to friends and family. Let's show them the great church family we have at St. James!

Just as importantly, we will need donations for the silent and live auctions. This can be physical things like handmade gifts, baskets of fun, trips to a vacation home, or a dinner prepared for a group of people. Below is a list of ideas to get your creative juices flowing:

- *Christmas decorating
- *Shoveling or clearing driveways
- *Gift wrapping
- *Babysitting
- *Cleaning gutters

If you have questions or would like to donate something, please contact Alyse Hesley, chair of the event, at (641) 860-0951 or alyse.hesley@thrivent.com. Thanks again for making this event successful! We can't wait to see you there!

In His Service,

Women of ELCA

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our SHIPWRECKED Vacation Bible School! We had a wonderful week of learning, growing in faith, dancing, and singing praise. Children and adults alike were filled with enthusiasm for Jesus! We thank our Education Board, our teachers, classroom helpers, musicians, kitchen helpers, leaders, photo takers, registration assistants, parents, and the youth who came to learn and grow! We want to give a very special thanks to TROPICAL SNO for opening up the last night of VBS and giving our children AND helpers free sno cones! Thank you, Tyler Anderson, for your generosity.

WEDNESDAY EVENING YOUTH PROGRAMS

Programs will start back up in September. WOW (Worship on Wednesdays), which is our group for our elementary-aged youth, will begin meeting this year right after school. If you would like to serve that group, serve as a confirmation small group leader, or help in any other way on Wednesday evenings, please talk to Pastor Jeni. Thank you!!

SIMPLY GIVING

In the midst of summer, we know that there will be weeks you may miss worship because of vacations and other activities. To continue to regularly support our mission and ministry, you can sign up to have your weekly offerings automatically deducted from your bank account through our "Simply Giving" Program. Go to our website or contact the church office to enroll. You can also mail contributions to the church any time. Thank you so much for your continued support!

St. James Contact Information

Reader Schedule

	9:00 AM	10:30 AM
August 5	Bob Follmuth	Grant Bohls
August 12	Kim Ostrander	Gene Larson
August 19	Cindy Rumeliote	Carmen Madson
August 26	Dave Frenz	Pastor

ST. JAMES STAFF
Pastor Jeni Bohls
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Pastor Dennis Niezwaag
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Administrative Coordinator
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