

St. James Journal

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
"WE PROCLAIM AND PRACTICE
CHRIST'S LOVE"

MARCH 2018

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 AM Traditional
Worship
9:15 AM Contemporary
Worship
9:15 AM Adult Bible
Study
10:15 AM Sunday
School
11:00 AM Traditional
Worship
(Communion is on the
1st & 3rd Sundays)

WEDNESDAY LENT SCHEDULE

11:00—Worship
11:45—Meal
5:30—Join us for a
great supper!
6:00—Bible Study
6:30—Worship
7:00—Confirmation for
7th and 8th graders
ONE for 4th-6th graders
WOW for pre-school-
3rd Graders
7:15—Choir

WHEN SOMETHING IS **CREATED**, it usually means that someone has a PURPOSE in mind as they put something together to fulfill that purpose. In other words, there wasn't someone just walking along a country road one day when they came upon a John Deere tractor. The tractor was **CREATED** with a PURPOSE in mind.

We have been **CREATED** – **CREATED** by God with a PURPOSE in mind.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

One problem is that because we are so ingeniously made, we are capable of doing a huge variety of things. And because we are not always aware of the purposes God intended for us, or perhaps because we choose to IGNORE God's purposes for

us, we head off in wrong directions. The Good News is that God is often patient with us but continues to try to steer us in the right direction through Scripture, through suffering because of bad choices we have made, and by the Godly examples of people that we know or people of whom we have heard.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:1)

Anytime is a good time, but LENT is the perfect time to stop, take a serious look at our choices, and at our direction in life, and then make some corrections. My wife and I just recently moved her mother into Assisted Living and because she didn't want to get rid of anything but now she didn't have room for hardly anything, and so we

packed a 10X20X10 storage unit about as full as it can be. My own mother lives in a two-story house with numerous closets and attics packed full of "stuff." And, my wife and I have our own storage unit. **WHY ARE WE HANGING ON TO ALL THIS "STUFF?"**

Material goods are not the only things that are hindering our walk or "race" of faith: greed, selfishness, stubbornness, prejudice, pride, etc. are each exerting their own interference.

I was reading an article about a group of young adults who made a pact to reduce their material possessions by one-half. They talked about the joy that it gave them.

So maybe this is the year that we start to thin out the hindrances a bit. **LET'S START THIS WEEK!!!**

Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.
Pastor Dennis Niezwaag

Pastor Jeni's Disability Update

Our family continues to give thanks to all of you for your love, patience, and prayers as I continue to recover. I am happy to report that I will be returning on a very part-time basis beginning in March. With disability, I will be allowed to work approximately 15 hours per week and continue to stay on disability. I

will be working with the council to set up hours and expectations. I plan on primarily working on Wednesdays, Sundays, and generally Tuesday mornings as well as attending meetings when I am able. I continue to rely on a feeding tube for the majority of my nutrition, so I will need to make sure I can get that

nutrition in the afternoons and evenings. We are thankful that I have been given this option to return on a limited basis as a trial to see if I am ready to return full time. I am very excited to get back to doing the work I love. See you in March!

~Pastor Jeni

News From Our Members

Our Christian

- **Sympathy is extended to:** The family of A. Lucille Feldhus
- John & Judy Clarke for the death of John's sister, Charlotte Baille
- John & Donna Martin, Wayne Martin, & Denny and Nancy Umphress for the death of John, Wayne, & Nancy's mother, Gloria Martin



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 Remembered

in prayer: Jean Schutz, Lavonne Blackmer, Steve Trainer, Sandra Solsaa, Ruth Geilenfeld, Bridget True, & Brian Millard

First Communion:

We rejoice with Jersey Benson, Jasmine Dietrich, Nevaeh Eckman, Shaya King, Jaclyn Knutson, Mathea Lerdal, Logan Murphy, Sophia Pike, Jaxson Rattay, Jordan

Roehl, Merin Teeter who celebrated their First Communion in February. God's blessings to each of you as you take this step in your journey of faith!

A Special Thank You

to Don Priebe for putting up the new light fixtures. Also thank you to Lou Cira and Marlin Deike for shoveling the walks.

Thank you for all of the birthday and anniversary cards. It meant a lot to us.

~Loren & Mary Levenhagen

THE APRIL JOURNAL
deadline is
by March 16 by 12:00 PM.

THE APRIL JOURNAL
will be
assembled on March 26
at 10:00 AM.
*Please call the church office
if you are able to help.*

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

Praying Through Lent

This season of Lent, our theme is "Prayer." We will be exploring different ways we can pray and how prayer affects our lives. Join us for a morning prayer worship at 11 AM or Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM each Wednesday through the season of Lent. Following the worship services, we will have small group discussion guides and activities and encourage you to stay for those opportunities. We will meet in the Fireside Room (after lunch at the early service and immediately following the evening service). In addition, we are encouraging you to explore other opportunities for renewed prayer. There are prayer guides located on the Lenten Resource Table in the Narthex that you can use throughout this season. We are also going to open up prayer time during worship on Wednesdays AND Sundays to encourage you to name your own prayer concerns out loud. In the hallway, we will also have a "Prayer Wall" where you can name prayer concerns you have. When you pass by that prayer wall each week, we encourage you to lift up some of those written concerns in your own prayers. The theme for the services each week will be:

- Week 1: Intercessory Prayer
- Week 2: Centering Prayer
- Week 3: Faith5
- Week 4: Praying a Labyrinth
- Week 5: Lectio Divina

WELCA & Circle News

Preparations are underway for the annual

WELCA Spring Salad Luncheon on April 14, 2018.

Items are now being accepted for the raffle. Donations of individual items, gift cards, and gift baskets are all welcome! If you'd like to contribute something for the drawing, please notify Jeanette Priebe or Myrna Jensen.

Rub A Dub Dub, Please Fill the Tub!

No one likes to be dirty. Soap keeps hands clean, germs at bay and helps people present themselves with dignity. This simple thing is one of the many building blocks to success. Lutheran World Relief accepts NEW bars of any brand soap, in their original wrapping. All bar sizes are accepted, however, bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) are highly preferred. There will be washtub in the Narthex for you to put the soap in. Thank you!

Bingo Prizes: Circles are in need of Bingo prizes for Good Shepherd. Necklaces that go on over the head, small stuffed animals, beanie babies, and larger stuffed animals for blackout prizes are needed. Please leave in Amy's office. we need about 90 Bingo prizes each time we help with Bingo .

Lap Robes: Good Shepherd is also asking for donations of lap robes. These can be knitted, crocheted, or sewn. Should be approximately 30 inches by 30 inches.

Also need pieces of fleece to be made into lap robes. Pieces need to be 1 and 1/2 yards long. These will be used for resident Christmas gifts. See Myrna Jensen with questions.

World Day of Prayer:

Wesley Methodist is inviting all women of the church to a World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 2nd. Coffee fellowship is at 9:30 and the worship service on women from Suriname will begin at 10 until approximately 11:30. The guiding principle is "prayer is rooted in listening to God and to one another". Focus this year is on creation.

LOVE CIRCLE will meet on Monday, March 19, at 7pm, at the church.

SENIOR SAINTS will meet on March 15th at 5:00.

KOINONIA will meet March 25th for a movie night. Watch for upcoming details in the bulletins.

DO DAYS QUILTING meets every Tuesday at 9:00a.m.

PRAYER SHAWL: Sunday, March 4th we will be praying over finished shawls at 9:00am in the Board Room.

CARE TEAM: The 17 Valentine boxes for our college kids and one military person away from home were sent on Feb. 11th. Thank you so

very much for all who helped support this valuable ministry at St. James. Those who helped fill boxes throughout the year, donate money, donate all the treats and goodies (we'd all like to be in college to receive some of Dee Ardusers' bars and cookies), gather boxes, make mailing labels, Thrivent cards and just keep praying for these kids. We sent a Halloween box, Christmas gift card and this Valentine box. We'll continue next year, so watch for announcements/letters to new grads and the ones we've sent this past year. If you've been missed, let the church know. We feel good about remembering these kids and letting them know St. James hasn't forgotten them.

Thank you, Gloria Hesley and Kathy Follmuth

DURING LENT THE ST. JAMES Women of the ELCA are joining Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise appeal. Beginning February 25 and ending March 25, we'll collect a different item each week that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. On the following Sundays, please bring the items listed below and put them in the baskets in the Narthex. We appreciate any donation you can give.

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE

March 4: Bars of Soap (4-5oz in original wrapping)

March 11: Combs, wide-toothed (no picks or fine-toothed combs); Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)

March 18: Adult Size Toothbrush

March 25: Any of the Above Items

Due to a surplus from last year, toothbrushes are not needed this year.

Our goal is to collect during Lent enough supplies for 40 LWR Personal Care Kits. The Kits will be assembled after Easter.

~Thank you so much for your contributions~

St. James News

CHRIST IN OUR HOME AND PORTALS OF PRAYER for January through March are available at the church on the tables in the Narthex.

2017 GIVING STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

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

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS are required to attend all mid-week Lenten Services (except for the week of Spring Break). Please sit in the front with your small groups. Small Groups will meet after the services until 7:30 each week but Spring Break week.

WOW AND ONE continue during the season of Lent. Children should sit with their parents OR with their WOW or ONE leader during worship. They will then go to their groups until 7:30.

OUR ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST will be held on Easter Sunday, April 1, between services from 8:30-10:45. This is a fundraiser for our National Youth Gathering participants and youth going to Bible camp this summer. There will be sign-up sheets going around in March for those able to donate items for the breakfast. We hope everyone will come Easter morning—and invite your friends and neighbors! Thank you!

EASTER BREAKFAST SET-UP will be held Saturday, March 31 beginning at 9 AM. All youth helping with the breakfast are asked to be there to help as we prepare food and get ready for Sunday's breakfast.

ROCKING OUR WAY TO HOUSTON! On Saturday March 17, Youth Gathering participants will hold a ROCK A THON to raise money for our summer 2018 trip! We will be rocking in rocking chairs all night and into Sunday morning. You can support us by pledging money for an individual youth for hours rocked OR putting money in our collective baskets on Sunday the 18th. If anyone has a rocking chair to donate, please talk to Pastor Sid or Jeni. Thank you!

OUR YOUTH will be selling pastry puffins, cookies, soups, coffee, and other goodies through the first week in March. Proceeds will benefit youth going to Riverside Camp and to the National Youth Gathering. You can purchase items on Sunday mornings or from one of the participating youth. Delivery will be in early March—in plenty of time for your Easter celebrations! Thank you for your support!

THE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT will be held on Saturday, March 31st at 2:00 PM. We will begin in the gym with a fun activity. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place soon after.

No need to bring an Easter Basket or a bag this year. A fun bag will be provided for you. Come load up on candy, friendship, & fun!

BOB FOLLMUTH is looking for a few good people to learn about running our slides for the 9:15 am service on Sundays. He would be happy to visit with you today and give you the information about training. Qualifications: confirmation age and above—adults are encouraged to talk to him as well!

UKULELE LESSONS will begin in April. All those interested in taking lessons are invited to come to a meeting on Sunday, March 18 at 11:15 AM. We will talk about lesson times, ordering ukuleles, and other planning. If you are interested, but cannot attend the meeting, please talk to Bill Grant or Sid Bohls.

PASTOR SID IS LOOKING FOR EASTER SUNDAY BRASS PLAYERS. If you would be willing to play on Easter morning talk to him today!



2018 Schedule

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion—March 25

8, 9:15, and 11:00 AM: Procession of Palms and reading of the Passion Narrative. (Following the 9:15 service, we will have a parade around the block—all are welcome to join us!)

Maundy Thursday—March 29

11 AM and 6:30 PM: Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday—March 30

8 PM: Tenebrae Service with music from the Chancel Choir

Holy Saturday—March 31

2 PM: Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday—April 1

8 and 10 AM: Festival Worship with Holy Communion

8:30-9:45: Easter Breakfast hosted by our youth.

All are welcome as we once again share this story of our faith.

WEDNESDAY NOON LENTEN MEAL

Served 11:45 am in Fellowship Hall

St. James will provide the soup and we wish for you to bring a salad or dessert to share.

March 7

Bean Soup
Sandwiches

March 14

Chicken Noodle Soup
Sandwiches

March 21

Pot O'Luck Soups
Sandwiches

March 28

Holy Week
No Meal

April 1

EASTER BREAKFAST
Served 8:45 to 9:45

Meal Donation:

\$5.00 per person

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN MEAL

Served 5:30 to 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

St. James provides the main dish and we wish for you to bring a salad or dessert to share.
Hotdogs will be provided for the kids.

March 7

Chicken & Rice Casserole
Green Beans
Macaroni & Cheese/Hot Dogs

March 14

Spaghetti
French bread

March 21

Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Bean & Ham Soup
Sandwiches

March 28

Holy Week
No Meal

April 1

EASTER BREAKFAST
Served 8:45 to 9:45

Meal Donation: \$5.00 per person

Reader Schedule

| | 8:00 AM | 9:15 AM | 11:00 AM |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| March 4 | Corrine Bolz | Dave Frenz | Grant Bohls |
| March 11 | George Arduser | Ann Sletten | Gene Larson |
| March 18 | Laurie Haugen | Mike/ Colleen Syverson | Carmen Madson |
| March 25 | Lori Jorgensen | Linda Betels | Pastor |

St. James Contact Information

ST. JAMES STAFF

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