

St. James Lutheran Church, ELCA

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"We respond to God's abundant grace by being hearers, proclaimers and doers of the Word."

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THE MESSENGER

January 2020

MUSINGS from Pastor Mike

[to muse (myooz), v. to think, gaze, or say wonderingly]

"Turn around and believe the Good News!" Jesus' first preached words, Mark 1:15

Whenever we get to the ending of one year, many people make resolutions, promises to self or others, about things they plan to do or change, coming into the New Year. I often hear things like "wanting to lose weight," "being kinder to my spouse," "reading more, praying more," and many other admirable endeavors.

When I think about New Year resolutions and the path of the Christian, more than ever do I believe that our spiritual path is much more the path of *unlearning* than it is one of learning. There are so many illusions, lies and misconceptions that we must all *unlearn*—when it comes to God and when it comes to each other.

One of the last illusions to die is the one that keeps trying to convince us that we are all so different from the person next to us. Separation and differences always seem to precede understanding and communion. The reality that we are all one and amazingly similar is a tough one truly to believe in our heart. Hence the battlegrounds and trenches we find ourselves embroiled in seemingly at every turn of our lives!

So what do you want to do with this New Year that is before you?

The Shakers used to sing and dance, *"Turn, turn wherever you may be."* To be authentically Christian/human is to be willing to turn! These were the very first words Jesus preached as recorded by Gospel-writer Mark: *"Repent, turn around!"* I hear these words of Jesus speaking to us at a time when we so desperately need to heed this call to turn—from my smallness and pettiness, to the understanding, acceptance and community that can only be our life journey.

From my musings point of view, I would love it if, at the beginning of this New Year, we would simply commit ourselves yet one more time to the faith journey of developing an ongoing practice of letting go of all that is niggling, malicious, and vindictive in our lives, and being committed to the invitation from Jesus to continue *unlearning* all those illusions that keep us from creating trustworthy community and authentic communion. One of these years, I believe it will become our way of life.

WORSHIP: Saturday 5:30 pm & Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School from 9:30-10:30 am

JANUARY 4 & 5 – EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

This feast day concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God. As part of our worship services on this feast day of Epiphany, we are asking children who made OFFERING BANKS for the Capital Campaign back in November and have been filling them with offerings, to bring them to either Sunday service that morning. Please wear brightly-colored outfits! As did the wise men on that first Epiphany celebration, our children will bring their gifts forward at the offering time. Crowns will be provided! Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12.

First Sunday Fellowship at 9:15 am; hosted by Early Learning Center Governance and Youth Ministry Committee. *Food items* collected at all services the first weekend of every month, benefit SCCAP Food Pantry; under the auspices of Social Ministry. Please—NO GLASS ITEMS!

JANUARY 11 & 12 – BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Naming of the newly baptized at all worship services.

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17.

Second Sunday of Service from 9:30-10:30 am for elementary Sunday Schools.

The weekend of January 11 & 12, we will acknowledge those baptized since Baptism of Our Lord 2019, including these families in prayer as they continue to grow in their faith. *"We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share. Join us as we give praise to God and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world."*

Rhea Marie Crowell	Nathan James Jordan
Jamie Reed Snudden	Brianna Lee Jordan
Sophie Ellen Lookingbill	Bennett James Jordan
Egan Alan Staub	Emma James Reed
Caroline Lisa (McKnight) Lehman	Eleanor Rose Wertz



JANUARY 18 & 19 – EPIPHANY II

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42.

JANUARY 25 & 26 – EPIPHANY III

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. Prayers of Healing at the conclusion of each liturgy. Readings: Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23.

Katy Clowney Becomes Our Church Administrator

Part of the Mission Statement for our Personnel Committee is to "...develop and monitor policies... for the staff of St. James Lutheran Church" [Policy 1.30.37]. Over the past year, part of the monitoring of the Office Manager's job description as well as her work ethic has resulted in the realization that since her hiring in 2017, Katy Clowney has responded with a broad understanding of, and a commitment to, the overall workings of this congregation. Over the past year, our Personnel Committee, working with Katy and our Congregation Council, has decided to change Katy's title from "Office Manager" to "Church Administrator." The new job description encompasses the work that Katy has currently been doing, as well as adjusting some of her supervisory responsibilities, her involvement in building functions, as well as a few new staffing responsibilities. *"With this new title comes the added responsibility to the staff, as well as to the entire congregation, to work more closely together so that the mission of St. James becomes realized in more exciting ways,"* says Katy. This new position goes into effect at the beginning of the New Year.

Save the Date for FASTNACHTS - February 23-25 *Volunteer signups & order forms will be available in January.*

"I tell you this / to break your heart, / by which I mean only / that it break open and never close again / to the rest of the world." Devotions, Mary Oliver

Pre-Lenten Evenings of Prayer MONDAY, February 3 & 17 & 24, 7:00- 8:00 pm

Last year we gathered prior to the beginning of Lent to learn of *the examen*. This year, let's reconvene to take a closer look at the "inner work" we are all called to do on our spiritual journey. What might it mean "*To Have the Life You Want by Being Present to the Life You Have?*" Intrigued? Interested? Come and see! Handouts will be provided. Beginning early January, a sign-up sheet will be available in the gathering area or you can sign-up on St. James' website.

Washington, DC, Homeless Immersion Retreat Friday-Sunday, March 27-29, 2020

We are trying something new this year as our 7th and 8th grade students prepare for their weekend immersion retreat into a deeper understanding of homelessness in our Nation's Capital. What is new is that <u>we wish to invite other members of the congregation</u>! For anyone other than the Confirmation students, there will be a slight cost to cover the two nights in the Shelter, but this is an experience our Confirmation students talk about and remember for the rest of their lives. Let's make this a congregational event! <u>We leave by bus at 9:00 am on Friday and will return close to 3:00 pm on Sunday</u>. If you might wish to join us for this trip, please contact *Pastor Mike* no later **than Friday, January 31** at <u>mallwein@stjamesgettysburg.org</u>.

Outside Wreaths were given to the glory of God and in loving honor of:

Our Loved Ones by John & Judy Seilhamer

Outside Wreaths were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

G. Richard & Glenna Boyer by children: Carole, Anna, Ken, Peggy & families Samuel Green by wife, Peggy, son, Travis & grandchildren, Zach & Abby Irene & Klaus Molzahn by Norma, Jenny & Denise Wood Harry & Edith Young & Whitner & Mildred Wilburn by Martin & Anne Young

Poinsettias and/or Donations for World Hunger were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Donna & John Aha by Julie Aha & Geoffrey Thulin Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Allen by John Doerfler Don & Esther Aurand by Daryl & Lyne Aurand Virginia Barbour by Pegg Gardner George R. Bender by Tom & Mary Bender Anita & Don Benson by Tom & Cheryl Dunlap Edmund & Sophie Bienkowski by Len & Heidi Bienkowski G. Richard & Glenna Bover by children: Carole, Anna, Ken, Peggy & families Mother, Connie Cadle by Becky & Dennis Carter Parents, Shirley & Roy Carter by Dennis & Becky Carter John & Catherine Coughlan by Claire Anderson Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Doerfler by John Doerfler Brownlo & Susan Dunlap by Tom & Cheryl Dunlap Raymond & Jean Fair by The Garry Fair Family Sue Flesner by David Flesner **Dennis Frankfort** by mother, Ruth Frankfort Knaub who Marian Gastley by Barbara Nicks Samuel Green by wife, Peggy, son, Travis & grandchildren, Zach & Abby Jonathan Harpster & Steve Lockman by Dee Wells My sister, Joan by Fred & Joan Horak Don Howard by John, Monica & Bill Doerfler Margaret Keyser by Andy, Julie, Luke, Evan & Ethan Keyser Loved Ones by Timothy & Barbara Braband Loved Ones by Wayne & Susan Hill Patricia A. Martin by Jason, Kerri, Drew & Gavin Cole William Wood Millar by Lyne & Daryl Aurand Raymond Mondul by Claire Anderson Salud Nieting by Bill & Judy Leslie Rita Oswald by Pegg Gardner Our Parents by Mike & Lois Allwein **Our Parents** by Ken & Judy Boyer Our Parents by Glenn & Nancy (Klinefelter) Heller Our Parents by Brent & Karen Smith Albert K. Poole by Mike, Lisa, Olivia & Peyton Poole Sadie Pounder by Sharon Kaya Guy & Sarah Raffensperger by daughter & son-in-law, Barbara & Milton Nicks Herbert & Frances Raymond by Betty Raymond & Eugene Rakestraw L. Blaine & Dorothy A. Sanders by Mike, Lisa, Olivia & Peyton Poole My parents, Bill & Ethel Schultz by Ann & Guy Ketterman Nelson & Hazel Sixeas by daughter, Janet Rice & family Gladys Smith by Barbara Nicks Welby O. Snyder, Jr. by wife, Betty, children: Jeffrey, Craig, Kerry & Holly & grandchildren & great-grandchildren Morris & Mary "Carrie" Steinour by Mary & Tom Bender Kenneth Stone by Heidi & Len Bienkowski Samuel & Mary VanEman by The Elizabeth VanEman Fair Family

Thank you to those made our worship area and outside doors more festive during the Christmas Season.

And a special thank you to those who donated to World Hunger as well.

Poinsettias and/or Donations for World Hunger were given to the glory of God and in loving honor of:

Lou & Jay Auxt by Tara & Phil Baugher Nadine & John Baugher by Phil & Tara Baugher Elinor "Teeny" Bender by Tom & Mary Bender Children & Grandchildren by Mike & Lois Allwein Mrs. Sally Crist by Doug, Amy, Marri & Lucy Crist Mother, Mary Doerfler by John Doerfler Caroline Howe by Cindy & Harry Scott E. Edward Keyser by Andy, Julie, Luke, Evan & Ethan Keyser The Music Ministry of Barb & Tim Braband by Marty & Pete Riley Our Children: Jenna, Erin & Elise by Guy & Ann Ketterman Our Family by Jack & Sally Crist Our Family by Wayne & Susan Hill St. James Staff by Dee Wells St. James Staff by Carol Widerman & Dan Kessel Nina Scott by Harry & Cindy Scott Ya-Yas by Sharon Kaya

Donations for World Hunger were given to the glory of God by:

Dave & Pat Crowner David & Barbara Hedrick

PARISH

RECORDS

DEATH

December 12, 2019 William E. Troxell, Sr.

FIRST COMMUNION

December	1, 2019	Savannah Munsee
December	8, 2019	Abby Flax
December	8, 2019	Emeline Hause
December	8, 2019	Theodore Hause

WEDDING

December 21, 2019 Briar Rose Toth & Ethan Endslow

52nd WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

January 27, 1968 David T. & Barbara D. Hedrick

The month of January is open for <u>PLACING FLOWERS IN CHURCH</u>. Please call Judy Seilhamer at 717-334-4301 if you want to place flowers for one of these dates or any other time in 2020.

We will need <u>MEAT LOAVES</u> for the Soup Kitchen beginning in January. St James is committed to providing a meal the fourth Monday of the month. Meat loaf, baked potatoes and vegetables continue to be a favorite meal. Thanks to all of you who donate food for the meals! Items can be brought to our church office.

MISSION SUPPORT CORNER

Throughout the season of Advent, we spent time preparing for the Good News of God in Christ to enter into our lives and into our world once again through the birth of the Babe in the manger. As we make our way through the season of Christmas and begin another new year, we should be reminded that this birth truly is one of great joy!

As people of faith, we are called to respond to this message of great joy in humble service through the giving of our time, our talent, and our resources. It is with grateful hearts that our Mission Support Committee extends words of thanks for your commitment to the mission of St. James. It is because of you that we are able to extend acts of Christian love to those in need and spread the Good News of Christ within our local community and across the world.

In addition to our day to day ministries and financial needs, we have spent the past year preparing for and entering into our capital campaign, *Renewing God's House to Share God's Love*. Our campaign prayer begins with words of gratitude. "*Gracious God, thank you for the new day and all the possibilities it holds. Thank you for the supportive community at St. James that nurtures and sustains us.*"

As we enter into the new year, less than two months away from commitment weekend for the campaign, we have exceeded our \$1 million commitment goal for the Capital Campaign.

Our first year of projects estimates just under \$500,000 in expenses. As we are nearing the end of the calendar year, we have received just over \$400,000 in cash. Church members have committed tremendously, but we have also been supported by a \$100,000 commitment from the St. James Early Learning Center, as well as over \$28,000 from friends, organizations and businesses of St. James, including a commitment of \$7,000 from the Board Members of Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. and \$3,735.11 from the Gettysburg Group of AA that meets in our building.

These gifts have been beyond generous and the love and support expressed for St. James and our mission, is indeed overwhelming and most graciously appreciated. We continue to rejoice in the tremendous energy and excitement that is part of our life together at St. James. Thank you again for your generosity and dedication as we move forward in *Renewing God's House to Share God's Love*!

With love and gratitude,

~Your Mission Support Committee, Capital Campaign Taskforce, and Church Staff

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY meets in room 303, on the top floor of the church. Join us as we hear about *"Honoring God"* by Melinda Quivik. Class contact is G. Ronald Couchman.

- Jan. 5 "A Place for the Ark" Jan. 12 "Solomon's Speech"
- Jan. 12 "Solomon's Speech"
- Jan. 19 "Solomon's Dedication Prayer" Jan. 26 "Solomon's Blessing"
- (1 Kings 8:1-13) (1 Kings 8:14-21) (1 Kings 8:22-30, 52-53) (1 Kings 8:54-61)

led by Sharon Kaya led by Baird Tipson led by Baird Tipson led by Baird Tipson

<u>ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS</u> meets in room 200, at the northern end of the main hallway. We enjoy timely presentations and discussions. Class contact is Judy Leslie.

- Jan. 5 "Poetry Sharing: Thoughts for the New Year" Group Activity
- Jan. 12 "Learn About Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA and ELCA Advocacy" led by Lynn Fry
- Jan. 19 "The African-American Hymnal" led by Tim Braband IN THE WORSHIP AREA
- Jan. 26 View "We'll Meet Again: Coming Out" video to commemorate RIC Weekend at St. James

DECEMBER 18, 2019 COUNCIL SUMMARY

Correspondence & Minutes:

The correspondence folder was circulated. Minutes from the November 20 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report was approved. January through November 2019 giving was slightly behind the same period in 2018.

Council President Dan Bringman reported on three trusts that provide assets to St. James. The trusts are held by local banks (PNC and ACNB). Annual distributions of about \$18,000 from two of the trusts are allocated to the Sharing Ministry Fund and about \$12,000 is allocated to Undesignated Bequests.

Council approved, by consensus, that the Advent and Christmas offerings would go to Actual Giving for normal church operations. It was felt that most donors during the holidays are interested in supporting the overall St. James operations and programs.

New Members/Baptisms:

Two prospective baptisms were approved: Aria Rose Hill and Amaya Marie Hill.

Committee & Taskforce Reports:

The Early Learning Center presented two motions to Council. First, they moved that Council approve a request for a STARS grant that provides merit financial awards to staff for approximately \$16,000. This was approved. Second, a motion to provide scholarship money from Undesignated Bequests was tabled until next Council meeting. Other financial arrangement possibilities are being considered for the scholarships.

Youth Committee presented a motion requesting Hosses fundraisers in February and April. The motion was passed. (Those dates will be printed in future *Messengers*.)

Capital Campaign has collected \$400,938 in cash as of December 16.

Property Committee reported that the roof repair is to take place at the start of the year, as weather has forced delays in the work. Window replacement will begin Monday, December 23. Property Committee moved to recommend that Bob Crouthamel be approved to complete the kitchen at a price of \$32,970. Council approved. The work will begin after Easter and is expected to take about a week.

Old Business:

The Council Retreat is planned for January 15, 5:30 pm. Details have not yet been finalized.

Dave Flesner has agreed to review the *Amendment to the Constitution from ELCA* for Council, which will need action at the 2020 St. James Congregation Meeting in November.

<u>New Business</u>:

Council began early discussion about nominations for the 2020-21 Council, with four new members to begin July 2020. Vice President Kyle Smith expressed interest in attracting younger adults to serve on Council.

Good for Council/Church/God:

Pr. Mike reported that the Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. Board committed \$7,000 to the St. James Capital Campaign. They are very appreciative of the support St. James gives to their program. Pr. Mike also reported that the AA Board gave \$3,000 to the Capital Campaign.

Pr. Andrew reported that a painting of St. James was done and donated by a member of AA, out of his appreciation for what the congregation does for that group.

Next Council Meeting is a Retreat: Wednesday, January 15 at 5:30 pm at Dan Bringman's home.



2019 has been a great year! I hope you all have a wonderful time with families over the holidays. Thanks for joining us, volunteering, and serving God with us!! Kristin Slaybaugh, Youth Minister

Wednesday, January 8

Middle School & High School Breakfast starts again at 6:45 am!

Friday-Sunday, January 17-19

Middle School Quake Retreat in Harrisburg, PA.

Wednesday, January 22

K-5 Youth Group & Choir meets again from 3:30-5:00 pm. High School Youth Group meets again from 7:00-8:15 pm.

Monday, January 27

Middle School Youth Group meets again from 2:45-5:00 pm.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sunday-Tuesday, February 23-25 - FASTNACHTS!

Friday-Sunday, March 27-29 - Washington, D.C. Confirmation Trip

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26 - Camp Nawakwa High School Retreat

Sunday, May 3 - YOUTH SERVICES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 CHURCH OFFICE & EARLY LEARNING <u>CENTER CLOSED</u> NO MS/HS Breakfast, ELC Chapel, Bible Study, Elementary Youth Groups & Choirs, & High School <u>Youth Group</u>	2 9:00 am Creation Care Task Force 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Christian Education <u>NO Adult Choir</u>	3	 4 Epiphany of Our Lord Food Donations Weekend 5:30 pm Communion
5 Epiphany of Our Lord Food Donations Weekend 8:15 am Communion 9:15 am Fellowship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Communion	6 6:30 pm Property 7:30 pm ARD NO Middle School Youth Group JAN. 6-19 Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S, overnight at SJ	7 10:00 am Prayer Shawl 1:30 pm Staff Meeting (OFFICE CLOSED) 6:30 pm Evangelism 7:00 pm Worship & Music	8 6:45 am MS/HS Breakfast 9:30 am ELC Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Executive 6:00 pm Mission Fund NO Elementary Youth Groups & Choirs, & NO High School Youth Group	9 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Adult Choir	10	11 Baptism of Our Lord 5:30 pm Communion
12 Baptism of Our Lord 8:15 am Communion 9:30 am Sunday School Second Sunday of Service 10:45 am Communion	13 6:30 pm Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. Training 7:00 pm Personnel NO Middle School Youth Group	14 10:00 am Prayer Shawl 1:30 pm Staff Meeting (OFFICE CLOSED)	 15 6:45 am MS/HS Breakfast 9:30 am ELC Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Grief Ministry Lunch (Dunlap's) 5:30 pm Council Retreat (Bringmans' House) The Messenger Deadline 	16 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:00 pm Youth Ministry	17 <u>JAN. 17-19</u> Middle School QUAKE Harrisburg, PA	18 Epiphany 2 5:30 pm Communion
JAN. 6-19 Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. overnight at St. James			NO Elementary Youth Groups & Choirs, & NO High School <u>Youth Group</u>			
19 Epiphany 2 8:15 am Communion 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Communion 7:00 pm Martin Luther Choir JAN. 6-19 Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S. overnight at St. James	20 10:00 am Stephen Ministers NO Middle School Youth Group	21 10:00 am Prayer Shawl 1:30 pm Staff Meeting (OFFICE CLOSED) 7:00 pm Library	22 6:45 am MS/HS Breakfast 9:00 am <i>Messenger</i> Volunteers & <i>Messenger</i> mailed 9:30 am ELC Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Elementary Youth Groups & Choirs 7:00 pm High School Youth Group	23 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Adult Choir	24 9:30 am Contemplative Prayer Group	25 Epiphany 3 RIC Weekend 5:30 pm Communion & Prayers for Healing
26 Epiphany 3 RIC Weekend 8:15 am Communion & Prayers for Healing 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Communion & Prayers for Healing	27 1:30 pm Archives 2:45 pm Middle School Youth Group	28 10:00 am Prayer Shawl 1:30 pm Staff Meeting (OFFICE CLOSED) 6:00 pm World Outreach 7:00 pm Mission Support 7:30 pm Art & Design NO Endowment	29 6:45 am MS/HS Breakfast 9:30 am ELC Chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Elementary Youth Groups & Choirs 7:00 pm High School Youth Group	30 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Adult Choir	31 Washington, DC Retreat Deadline	February 1 Epiphany 4 Food Donations Weekend 5:30 pm Communion

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The Messenger will next be processed Wednesday, January 22. All articles must be e-mailed to <u>dnimtz@stjamesgettysburg.org</u> **BEFORE Wednesday, January 15!**

LABEL

Calling St. James at (717) 334-2012

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm Wednesday, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

When calling our church office, you will reach the automated phone system. <u>Please leave a message</u> on staff members' voicemails by immediately pressing their extension number listed below.

- 201 Katheryn M. Clowney Church Administrator kclowney@stjamesgettysburg.org
- 202 Debra L. Nimtz Administrative Assistant dnimtz@stjamesgettysburg.org
- 203 Lisa P. Poole Spiritual Gifts Coordinator Ipoole@stjamesgettysburg.org
- 205 Pr. Michael E. Allwein Senior Pastor mallwein@stjamesgettysburg.org

- 206 Pr. Andrew R. Geib Associate Pastor ageib@stjamesgettysburg.org
- 207 Kristin M. Slaybaugh Youth Minister youth@stjamesgettysburg.org
- 209 Timothy E. Braband *Minister of Music* <u>tbraband@stjamesgettysburg.org</u>
- 215 G. Thomas Bender Building Superintendent sexton@stjamesgettysburg.org