

# *St. James Lutheran Church, ELCA*

PO Box 4596, 109 York Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325-4596

Phone: (717) 334-2012 Fax: (717) 334-3596

Website: [www.stjamesgettysburg.org](http://www.stjamesgettysburg.org)

*“We respond to God’s abundant grace by being hearers, proclaimers and doers of the Word.”*

---

Volume 65, No. 07

**THE MESSENGER**

July 2020

---

## **A Message from Pr. Mike and Pr. Andrew**

**Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,**

Our worship service at Camp Nawakwa on Sunday, June 21, was our first opportunity to be together in worship since early March. Approximately 60 people gathered at Upper Camp on chairs and blankets in the large field and pavilion. The spirit of coming together was heart-warming! A special “thank-you” to Sharon Kaya, Tim Kyner and Andy Pelc for leading the music!

As we wrote on the front of the bulletin for that worship service, we thank you for your trust and patience in the on-going decisions made by the staff and other leadership of our congregation as we move through this pandemic. With Adams County now in the “green” designation, there are more questions being asked related to what groups can use the church building. We have created a *COVID-19* task force, which includes a physician, a nurse, an attorney, members of staff and several members of the congregation. All groups are using the choir room and length of meeting is limited to one hour. At this time, requests for building use, if within the current guidelines, will be handled by staff. Extraordinary requests will come to the *COVID-19* task force. The cleaning of spaces used by outside groups is of vital importance to us and to our cleaning staff.

In all of this process the pastors and entire staff are most concerned for the health and safety of all those using our building.

Finally, we know that every decision-making process has its flaws, so we are most appreciative for your trust and understanding of the entire leadership of the church who has been working diligently to anticipate and respond to situations and concerns raised by those of you, our faithful disciples of St. James. We do not pretend to have a perfect answer to how we can help lessen the social distancing that is affecting our being together as a community of faith, but we are thoughtfully and faithfully communicating and working together.

As we wrote last month in *The Messenger*, we both feel this faith community of St. James has a strength that is rooted in the very person of Jesus Christ. He is our foundation.

*“Absolutely nothing can get between us and God’s love because of the way Jesus our Master has embraced us” [Rom. 8:39—**The Message**].*

***Blessings to each one of you!***

# WORSHIP PREVIEWS

## JULY 5 – PENTECOST 5

*Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation; "Come to me, all you that are weary."*

Readings: Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 145:8-14, Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

## JULY 12 – PENTECOST 6

*God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest.*

Readings: Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

## JULY 19 – PENTECOST 7

*It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day when all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God as we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

Readings: Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 86:11-17, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

### **OUTSIDE WORSHIP AT UPPER CAMP, NAWAKWA AT 4:00 PM**

The worship service will entail confession, reading, sermon, communion, and music, though there will be no congregational singing. **Masks must be worn at all times.** *Please bring: your own chair or blanket, communion elements for your family (bread and wine/grape juice), bulletin and pen.* If you have coughs or fevers please stay at home. We ask that you not bring: tents/canopies, pets or picnic baskets. In case of inclement weather, the service will be cancelled. Bathrooms will not be available. Other details are: 14x14 foot squares will be marked out and your household will be assigned a square. Offering plates will not be passed; however, a bucket will be available for you to drop your offering in. Print the bulletin ahead of time. There will be a section for you to complete and turn in for attendance purposes (hence, bring your own pen, or complete it ahead of time). Parking attendants will guide you to your square. Seating people will take time, so arrive between 3:00-3:30 pm.

## JULY 26 – PENTECOST 8

*As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

Readings: 1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

# Parish Records

## DEATHS

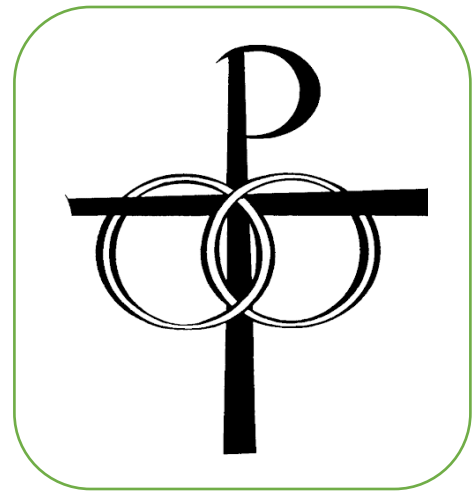
May 30, 2020 Daniel H. Myers  
June 17, 2020 David H. Krebs, Sr.

## WEDDING

June 12, 2020 Kathleen Singleton & Jason Nimtzt

## 50+ WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

June 27, 1970 James C. & Susan M. Roach 50 years  
July 26, 1969 Gary J. & Ann B. Ratay 51 years  
July 29, 1960 Larry E. & Nancy P. Barbour 60 years



### *From Administrative Assistant Debby Nimtzt*

I started working at St. James Lutheran Church on January 2, 1985. After 35½ years, I am retiring effective July 31, 2020.

I have seen many, many, many changes throughout the years, and always felt God's presence among us. I thank everyone who has been a part of this amazing and incredible journey and pray that we continue to share God's grace, love and compassion with one another.

## **To Everything a Season**

After much prayer and thoughtful consideration, I have decided to submit my retirement letter as Minister of Music effective August 31, 2020, almost forty-five years to the day that Barbara and I arrived in Gettysburg.

What a privilege it has been for me to lead you in song all these years. I can reflect on the many choir members, soloists and instrumentalists and the work they have done, but you my friends, the congregation have been the largest choir of all. You sang forth boldly every week, without having a rehearsal. Some of those sounds brought great joy to those who worshipped, but more often to the glory of God alone.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of so many joys: weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, as well as intimate times of sorrow when we said farewell to dearly departed saints.

St. James has been a second home to Barbara and me and to our now grown children, Kate and Annie. Thank you for your many acts of kindness over these years.

Keep a joyful song ringing in your heart.

*Tim Braband*

# JUNE 17, 2020 COUNCIL MINUTES SUMMARY

*(meeting held remotely)*

## **Special Meeting:**

A special Zoom meeting was held at noon on May 29 with 11 members present to act on a motion put forward by the COVID Task Force. The motion was to allow Alcoholics Anonymous to meet in St. James at noon on weekdays. It was arranged that they use the Music Room due to its being on a separate air flow system than the Early Learning Center and due to plastic seats and tile floor which would make cleaning easier. A substitute motion that expanded the noon usage to Monday through Saturday rather than just five days was made and passed unanimously.

## **Devotions, Correspondence & Minutes:**

Correspondence was circulated electronically prior to the meeting. Minutes from the May20 meeting were approved.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Karen Lentz reported strong giving income with \$63,450 received in May, and January-May income totaled \$308,969 that was about \$9,000 above January-May 2019. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

A motion from the Executive Committee proposed spending \$1,000 from the Camping Scholarships fund since there will be no campers this summer and donating it to the Lutheran Camping Corporation (Nawakwa) in appreciation for hosting four St. James worship services. Motion approved.

A motion from the Mission Fund asking to remove 10% of the Mildred Beard bequest for the Mission Fund was defeated. The new Endowment policy approved at the congregation meeting in 2019 has provision for 30% of Endowment Fund earnings distribution going to the Mission Fund which Council felt in the long run will benefit the Mission Fund even more. In connection with this, it was decided that clarification of the undesignated bequest language is needed. The language clarification was referred to the Finance Committee to then be brought back to Council for approval.

## **COVID Report:**

Pastor Allwein reported that WellSpan now allows one family member to visit hospital patients, but not clergy, unless clergy is the only designated visitor.

## **Election of Officers:**

Council Officers elected for 2020-2021 are: Kyle Smith, President; Bill Shoemaker, Vice-president; Jim Dunlop, Secretary; Karen Lentz, Treasurer. A resolution to update the signatories on the banking and investment accounts with the new officers at ACNB was passed.

*(continued on next page)*

### **Committee and Task Force Reports:**

The Constitution was recently revised to update changes such as 12 rather than 18 Council members and changing the number needed for a quorum at a Congregation Meeting from 50 to 5% of voting members. Council voted to recommend the changes to the congregation at the next Congregation Meeting, normally held in November. Synod must first sign off on the proposed revisions.

The COVID Task Force has been working on small group guidelines for the church. Also, a motion from the Task Force to approve the worship plans at Nawakwa on June 21 was approved.

The Small Business Association Loan was recently extended from 8 weeks to 24 weeks, which will allow St. James Church and the Early Learning Center to have nearly all \$235,000 of the loan forgiven.

The Capital Campaign has been moving along very successfully with \$541,055 cash received to date.

Kyle Smith reported from the Property Committee that the kitchen is nearly complete and the front doors will be started in the coming week. Property Committee moved that the parking lot repaving project be moved from year 3 to year 1 of the Capital Campaign since the lot is used on a more limited basis at this time and funds are available. The expenditure of \$20,000 was approved.

Personnel Committee presented a motion to approve a revised job description for the office position to be vacated by Debby Nimtz upon her retirement effective July 31, 2020. Council approved. A resolution thanking Debby for 35½ years of ministry to St. James was approved.

A resolution thanking Tim Braband for 45 years of ministry to St. James was approved upon his retirement effective August 31, 2020.

Personnel Committee announced the formation of a task force to investigate the vacated position of the Minister of Music and the musical direction desired for St. James in the future.

Council expressed interest in meeting at an outdoor pavilion for the July and August meetings. Council will investigate options.

### **Good for Council/Church/God:**

Thanks were expressed for the four outgoing council members: Dan Bringman, Lyne Aurand, Cindy Zepp, and Kim Guise.

Pr. Allwein thanked the 50 participants who attended the Lament, Repent, Pray event at noon on Wednesday in Gettysburg in memory of the shooting at the Emanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina five years ago.

# ST. JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

PO BOX 4596, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325-4596

PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE

*The Messenger* will next be processed Wednesday, July 22. All articles must be e-mailed to [dnimtz@stjamesgettysburg.org](mailto:dnimtz@stjamesgettysburg.org) **BEFORE Wednesday, JULY 15!**

LABEL

## Calling St. James at (717) 334-2012

**Office Hours: Mondays-Thursdays, 10 am-12 noon (RING THE DOORBELL)**

*When calling our church office, you will reach the automated phone system. **Please leave a message** on staff members' voice-mails by immediately pressing their extension number listed below.*

- |     |   |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 201 | <b>Katheryn M. Clowney</b><br><i>Church Administrator</i><br><a href="mailto:kclowney@stjamesgettysburg.org">kclowney@stjamesgettysburg.org</a> | 206 | <b>Pr. Andrew R. Geib</b><br><i>Associate Pastor</i><br><a href="mailto:ageib@stjamesgettysburg.org">ageib@stjamesgettysburg.org</a>        |
| 202 | <b>Debra L. Nimitz</b><br><i>Administrative Assistant</i><br><a href="mailto:dnimtz@stjamesgettysburg.org">dnimtz@stjamesgettysburg.org</a>     | 207 | <b>Kristin M. Slaybaugh</b><br><i>Youth Minister</i><br><a href="mailto:youth@stjamesgettysburg.org">youth@stjamesgettysburg.org</a>        |
| 203 | <b>Lisa P. Poole</b><br><i>Spiritual Gifts Coordinator</i><br><a href="mailto:lpoole@stjamesgettysburg.org">lpoole@stjamesgettysburg.org</a>    | 209 | <b>Timothy E. Braband</b><br><i>Minister of Music</i><br><a href="mailto:tbraband@stjamesgettysburg.org">tbraband@stjamesgettysburg.org</a> |
| 205 | <b>Pr. Michael E. Allwein</b><br><i>Senior Pastor</i><br><a href="mailto:mallwein@stjamesgettysburg.org">mallwein@stjamesgettysburg.org</a>     | 215 | <b>G. Thomas Bender</b><br><i>Building Superintendent</i><br><a href="mailto:sexton@stjamesgettysburg.org">sexton@stjamesgettysburg.org</a> |