



St. James Lutheran Church

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

January 25, 2024

Dear St. James Family,

On recommendation of the Call Committee, the Congregation Council moves that St. James Lutheran Church call Candidate for Ordination Elizabeth "Libby" Baker-Mikesell as Associate Pastor, with the compensation package reviewed by the council and Ms. Baker-Mikesell. The compensation package is available in the church office upon request.

Included with this letter is a brief biography of Libby. You are invited to attend a *Congregational Call Interview* on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. Even though we already know Libby, this will be a wonderful opportunity to ask questions of her as she transitions from seminary intern to associate pastor. It is an important step in the call process for candidates.

This letter informs you of a Congregation Meeting & Vote, scheduled for the weekend of February 10 & 11, 2024.

On the days of the Congregation Meeting & Vote, Libby will preach the sermon at each service. The meeting will follow each worship service. A representative of the bishop's office of the Lower Susquehanna Synod will be present to conduct the vote. Voting members of St. James will then be invited to vote at the conclusion of each worship service.

The St. James Constitution declares a *voting member to be confirmed, and during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation.*

After all votes have been counted an announcement will be made as to the call results.

This is an exciting time in the life of our congregation! We ask that you hold the candidate and the whole congregation in prayer as we engage in discernment together.

Peace and joy to all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Wideman".

Carol Wideman
Council President

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Congregational Call Interview

Saturday, February 10 at 5:30 p.m. & Sunday, February 11 at 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Call Sermons by Libby Baker-Mikesell

Call Vote to take place after each of the 3 worship services

Call results and announcement following 10:45 a.m. service

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF ELIZABETH BAKER-MIKESSELL

“LIBBY”

St. James Family,

My name is Libby Baker-Mikesell, and I am honored to be considered for call as your Associate Pastor.

Most of us have met during 2023 as I spent my internship year under the guidance of Pastor Andrew. I recently finished my requirements for a Master's of Divinity degree from United Lutheran Seminary (formerly The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg) and am excited to begin ordained ministry.

I spent my childhood living and working on my family's 50-acre beef cattle farm in Port Royal, Pennsylvania, where we raised and bred Maine Anjou beef cattle. I have always appreciated the generations of farmers in my family, and love learning and teaching about God's creation. I was an active member of the Juniata County 4H and Greenwood FFA Chapters, serving as both the 2016-2017 Pennsylvania FFA State President and Pennsylvania's National FFA Officer Candidate in 2018. I am a proud Nittany Lion, and graduated from Penn State with a degree in Agricultural and Soil Sciences in 2020.

I was active in the Lutheran Student Community while at Penn State, and quietly discerned a call to ministry. I began my Master of Divinity degree at United Lutheran Seminary in the fall of 2020, and have been an active student on the Gettysburg campus since 2022.

My faith experience is quite eclectic. I am a 'cradle Lutheran' but have spent time at both Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Elementary School and Saint Stephen's Episcopal Middle School. Spending time in diverse religious environments helped me realize that I love learning about people, their beliefs, and their relationship with God. Moreover, I feel called to share the abiding grace that God gives us daily within the world.

In my free time, I enjoy running around the battlefields, attending local trivia nights, and attending the many community events around Gettysburg.

Thank you again for your support during this time of discernment.

Grace, Peace, and Love,

Vicar Libby