



**Congratulations to our students who received
their First Holy Communion on April 6th!**



Front: Will Umhoefer, Reid Haley, Avery Nyenhuis, Elin Carlson, Zoey Sampson, Cora Donaldson, Elaina Bhatoya, Reese Rogers, Khloe Iserloth, Andrew Longley, Chase Behrend. *Middle:* Audry Borchert, Kendall Baneck, Elianna LaBerge, Maxwell Chizeck, George Woods, Louis Bockelman, Hadley Behrend, Clara Cassidy, Adelynn Frey, McLaine Miller. *Back:* Pastor Kurt Billings & Pastor Peter Narum

Summer Worship Schedule begins May 28

Beginning May 28, and running through Sunday, September 10, we will have one Sunday worship service at 9:00 am instead of two services. The 5:00 pm Saturday evening service will continue unchanged. We will Livestream the 9:00 am Sunday service although we invite you to attend in person for a richer worship experience.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Saturday at 5:00 pm & Sunday at 9:00 am
9:00 am is LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
Communion Served on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month.

Phone: 608.845.6922

www.stjamesverona.org

Fax: 608.845.6903

From the Pastors

Pentecost

We will celebrate the Pentecost on Sunday, May 28th. Pentecost is often described as the birthday of the Church. As the disciples are gathered together, Jesus appears in their midst and bestows upon them the long promised Holy Spirit. It has been my experience that Lutherans don't often talk about the Holy Spirit - we prefer to speak of God and Jesus, the first two articles of the Apostles Creed. But the Church has always existed in the power of the spirit and it is in the power of the spirit that we find peace and love and life itself.

In my family of origin, my father was an introvert, my mother an extrovert. My father was a man of few words; my mother was more than happy to use all the words my father did not use - and then some. I remember my mother once saying to my father, "I hope I go first. I think it will be easier for you to go on with life without me than it would be for me to go on without you." Maybe that was my mother's way of preparing my dad for life without her, for even though she was younger than my dad, she had a number of health issues, and perhaps she somehow knew that she would be the first to go. Twenty nine years ago, my mother got her wish - though much earlier than she had wanted. After she passed away, we were a bit worried about my dad, thinking he might stay in the house and never go out again. But lo and behold, he surprised us. He started taking almost all his meals at the local café. It was the place where all his friends were. He went

there, not only to feed his body but to feed his soul with the warmth and love of community. He got out of his comfort zone and reentered life and community.

I have often thought that is how the Holy Spirit works in our life. It sometimes gently, sometimes not so gently, pushes out of our comfort zone and out into the world where we experience the joy and challenges of life with one another. It is said that where Jesus is, there is light and love and life. We exist in the power of the Holy Spirit. Where is God's spirit leading you, encouraging you, challenging you? Wherever it is the spirit is calling you, it is there you will find Jesus, as well as life itself. So go, in the power of God's Spirit.

Blessings on your journey.

— Pastor Kurt

Congregational Council Update

On April 27, the Congregational Council received the resignation of our president, Allison Heil, whose term expires this August, 2023. Susan Martin Zernicke, current vice-president, will serve as interim president until the August semi-annual meeting, when new council members will be elected.

ST. JAMES STAFF

Kurt Billings, Pastor	Cell: 235-8122
Peter Narum, Pastor	Cell: 469-9625
Michelle Lichty	Parish Administrator
Barb Roberts	Office Assistant
Susan Zimmer	Office Assistant
Barb Roberts	Card Ministry
Holly Parker	Director of Parish Education Ministries
Paulette Spoon	Adult Choir & Handbell Choir
Susan Bubolz	Youth Choir Director
Rhonda Chalone,	Accompanists
Jim Erickson, Carol Murphy	
Barb Rasmussen, R.N.	Parish Nurse/Visitation Coord.
Heather Pearl	Director, St. James Preschool
Holly Parker, Lori Rudy,	St. James Preschool
Kristin Wills & Stacy Zimmerman	

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Susan Martin-Zernicke,	608-246-2025
Acting President	
Mark Krebsbach, Treasurer	608-438-6424
Jim Ruder, Secretary	608-212-6742
Jon Baldock	608-480-4091
Dennis Beres	608-845-9305
Desiree Canto	646-599-7021
Christine Kemnitz	608-886-6363
Julie Murphy	608-345-8533



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Measure of Our Commitment – thru 4/30/2023

Total Receipts Actual	Total Receipts Budget	Variance	% of Budget	Prior Year YTD Receipts	Variance vs. Prior Year
\$219,278**	\$249,772	\$(30,444)	-12.2%	\$236,638	(\$17,360)

**Amount includes \$23,654 from Seeds fund and \$2,300 from PPP fund.

Total Expenses Actual	Total Expenses Budget	Variance	% of Budget
\$241,467	\$247,488	\$6,021	2.4%

Seeds, Building & PPP Fund Bank & Dedicated Accounts

The Seeds & building fund account cash balance at month end was \$239,898. \$14,141 is due FROM the general operating fund. Our Mortgage loan balance is \$1,754,008.

Money Market	\$238,894
Investment	<u>\$ 1,004</u>
	\$239,898
Net Due FROM general	\$(14,141)
Fund balances	<u>\$225,757</u>

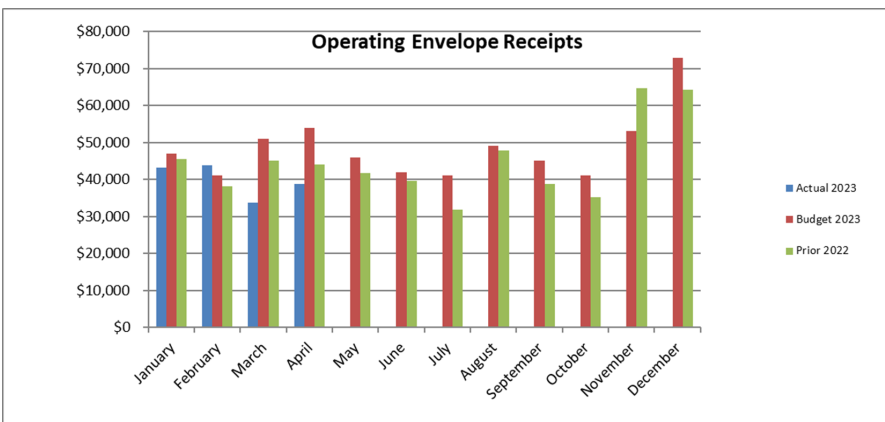
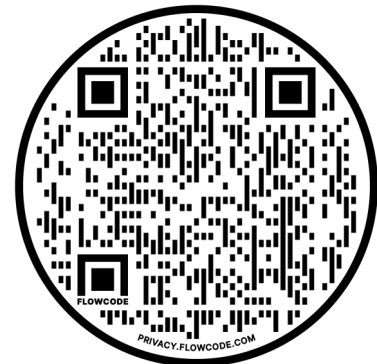
PPP Dedicated Account	\$ 9,200 <i>amount left</i>
Building Fund Dedicated Account	\$27,259
Seeds Fund Dedicated Account	\$105,025
Dahlk gift for debt reduction	
Seeds Fund Dedicated Account	<u>\$ 84,273</u>
	<u>\$225,757</u>

Pledging/Giving

Thank you again for your continued support of our church. Your spirited generosity ensures we can carry our message and our works throughout our community and beyond for years to come!

If you have not already, we invite you to make a gift or ongoing pledge in 2023. We also encourage you to consider our electronic giving program. We accept donations made from your bank account and credit card or debit cards. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan.

An easy way to get started is to simply scan this QR code, which takes you directly to our giving page. Thank you!



Children, Youth & Families



Volunteer Appreciation & Last Day Celebration for Sunday School & Confirmation

Sunday, May 21

We are so grateful for the opportunity to grow in God's love with the children of St. James and for the many volunteers who make that possible! Please join us as we come together in celebration and show thanks to the generous individuals who have shared their time and faithful energy with our Sunday School and Confirmation students.

The schedule for the morning will be as follows:

8:30 am - Worship - including a special recognition of volunteers during Children's Time. There WILL be Sunday School following Children's Time.

9:30-10:30 am - Sunday School & Confirmation

Sunday School students can head down to the Youth Lounge for last day games, treats and fun!

Confirmation students can head outside near the Giving Garden for last day games, treats and fun!

ALL STUDENTS - Please bring or wear shoes and clothing that is suitable for a little gardening.

Parents - Parents are welcome to celebrate as well by joining their children for activities, or enjoying fellowship in the Youth Lounge or Dining Room.

Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, June 4th at 9:00 am

St. James will be holding a Baccalaureate service honoring high school graduates on Sunday, June 4th during the 9:00 am service. There will be a reception with cake to follow the service. Please join us as we celebrate their many accomplishments and wish them well with their next steps following graduation!



L-R: Annelisa Smith, Pastor Kurt Billings, Hannah Dohnal

2023 Scholarship Winners

The 2023 St. James Scholarship, sponsored by the Women of St. James was awarded to Verona Area High School Senior, Hannah Dohnal. Hannah was baptized, received her First Communion and was Confirmed at St. James. Hannah has participated as a camper and leader at Vacation Bible School for many years and has volunteered in Sunday School throughout high school as well as for other events and worship at St. James. Hannah will be attending the University of Minnesota in the fall.

The 2023 Jan Reed Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Annelisa Smith. Anna will graduate this spring from New Glarus High School and plans to attend Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota this fall. She was baptized, received her first communion and was confirmed at St. James. Annelisa has been very active in youth music at St. James participating in youth and adult handbell choirs. She has also performed special music and volunteered extensively at events, including Vacation Bible School and Sunday School, throughout her childhood at St. James. Congratulations!



Vacation Bible School

August 7-10, 9:00 am - 12 noon

Family Celebration on August 10th from 11:45-12:30pm

For ages 3 through 103!

VBS is truly an experience for all generations! Adults and teens have just as much fun as the kids...if not more! Together, we will enjoy songs, stories, crafts, games and snacks that will bring us closer to God and each other! Camper registration is currently full, but you can contact Holly to be placed on a waiting list. We are still seeking volunteers and donations. Areas we need help include:

Crew leaders or assistants

Bible Adventures story station

Craft station

Games station

Video station

Snack station

Decorating & set-up

Take-down & clean-up

Family celebration lunch

Snack & supply donations -
requests will be emailed & posted in June & July.

Contact Holly at hparker@stjamesverona.org to volunteer or be added to the waiting list!



Drive-in Dinner

Thank you to all of the wonderful members and volunteers who attended last the May 17 Drive-In Dinner. It was a success as we raised approximately \$1,000 for youth ministry. Special thanks to our High School Mentorship Team and their advisor, Cindi Stampfli.

Congregational Life

Mary Circle Visits the UW Madison Odyssey Project

Mary Circle had the pleasure of visiting the UW Madison Odyssey Project classroom space on March 28. The Odyssey Project is part of the UW Madison Division of Continuing Studies. Celebrating its 20th year, the project takes a multi-generational approach to bring its participants out of poverty through education without barriers. Mary Circle met the project founder, Emily Auerbach. Emily shared the history of the project, her inspiration for starting the program and her deep commitment to help students pursue their higher education dreams. The group also met 3 project alumni. Each of these individuals shared profound stories of poverty, rejection, and homelessness and how Odyssey changed their lives. Two of the alumni shared poems they had written and Professor Auerbach told the group how the project inspires participants to find their voice. The third alum shared his story of low paying jobs and being a single parent to five children. This person now has a Masters in Social Work and is now a full time employee of the Odyssey Project serving as counselor and success coach. We also met his companion: Duke Ellington (a therapy dog). To date the project has served 600 students and their families.

Mary Circle has volunteered with the Odyssey Project for several years, helping with class night meals and fulfilling their “wish list” for nonperishable snacks and supplies for babies and toddlers, including diapers and wipes.

Want to know more about the Odyssey Project? Visit odyssey.wisc.edu



Mary Circle members pictured here at the Odyssey Project classroom space in South Madison. The group brought donations of nonperishable snacks and diapers for class participants.

Men's Group

Just a reminder that the St. James Men's Group meets on the First Monday of each month at It's Time Grill and Pub, located at 608 W Verona Avenue. All are welcome.

Quilting Group

The Quilters meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:00 am. Interested members are invited to attend.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry gathers the first and third Wednesdays of each month at St. James. All are welcome to join!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry workshops are the first & third Wednesday of the month at St. James from 9:30-11:30. Please join us for fellowship, laughter, knitting and crocheting. There is yarn and directions at the Welcome Center and all are welcome to join in.

Sarah & Martha Circle Annual Luncheon

Tuesday, June 6 at 11:00 am

Sarah and Martha Circles will meet for their annual luncheon on Tuesday, June 6, at 11:00 am at SUGAR RIVER PIZZA outside of Verona. As usual they will order off the menu and have individual checks. We hope to see everyone there. If you know you cannot be present, please make either Marlene or Audrey aware. Reservations have been made for 20. Thank you!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Sarah Circle Collecting for Lutheran World Relief

The Sarah Circle is collecting items for the infant layettes to be sent to the Lutheran World Relief Society. Shipment is in early September, and we are in desperate need of baby items. As in the past, if you have access to items in good condition, or if you go to garage sales this spring/summer, we will need sleepers, onesies, sweaters/jackets, hats or bonnets, long and short sleeved shirts, long pants with no feet, socks in sizes Infant through 18 months. *No fleece items please.*

The decorated tall bin is in the Narthex and a list of items is on display for easy reference.

Cash donations are always acceptable if that is easier for you to contribute. We thank you in advance to answering our call each year so that others less fortunate than we can feel the warmth and security of the proper clothing. God bless each of you for doing whatever you can to help in this yearly project. Thank you.

Summer Events – Save the date!

June 18 – Root Beef Floats for Father’s Day

Chloe Circle will serve root beer floats as a special fellowship time following the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 18. Please join us for a cold treat and conversation! Happy Father’s Day!



**American
Red Cross**

June 24 – Red Cross Blood Drive

A Red Cross blood drive at St. James, sponsored by Chloe Circle, will be held at St. James on June 24 from 8:00 am-noon. Please consider donating blood that day. Thanks for sharing the gift of life!

Thank you Musicians



Thank you to vocal and handbell musicians and accompanists for their time and music during the Lenten and Easter seasons. Musicians of all ages enrich our worship. We are grateful!

From the Parish Nurse...

Summer, 2023 is just about to begin!! I would like to give you some Summer Steps for Healthy Living.

Move More and Sit Less. Get outside to exercise. Any type of physical exercise outside has immediate benefits for your health, including Vitamin D, better sleep and reduced anxiety. Also, just putting your hands in soil is “grounding”. Plant a few flower pots. It helps keep us mentally grounded and can help relieve physical and mental stress.

Wear Sunscreen and Insect Repellent. Use wide-brimmed hats; clothing that covers, and broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 15 for sun protection. Use insect repellent and long-sleeved shirts and pants to prevent mosquito bites and ticks. Apply sunscreen before insect repellent. Be aware if you do have allergies, to keep medicine with you at all times so you can treat an allergic reaction.


Keep Cool in Extreme Heat. Extreme heat can be dangerous for everyone, but may be especially dangerous for people with chronic medical conditions and those on certain medications. Stay cool and Stay Hydrated. Remember, caffeinated drinks take water away from your body. Drink more water (fluoridated tap or unsweetened bottled or sparkling) instead of sugary or alcoholic drinks to reduce calories and stay safe. Add slices of fruit to water for a refreshing low-calorie drink.

Eat Healthy Food. Delicious fruits and vegetables make any summer meal healthier. Healthy eating supports muscles, strengthens bones, and boosts immunity. One big boost is to have a cup of mixed fresh blackberries, blueberries, or strawberries—every day. They’ll help you load up on antioxidants. Which may help prevent damage to tissues and reduce the risks of age-related illnesses. Berries are also great in fiber, which helps keep cholesterol low and may even help prevent some cancers.

Sleep Well. Pay attention to good sleep hygiene by keeping the same bedtime and wake-up schedule and stop drinking alcohol within three hours of bedtime and shut off all electronics an hour before bed as well.

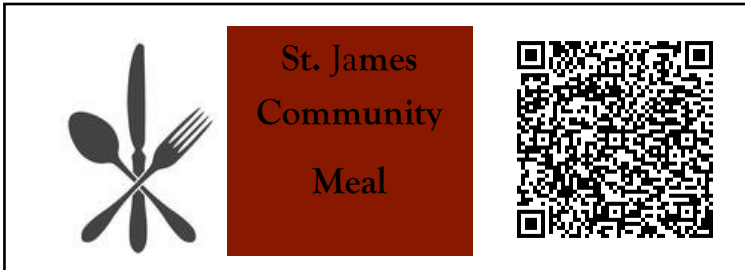
These are some easy ways to boost your health this summer. Try one, some, or all, and Have a Great Healthy Summer.

God Blessings, Barbara, RN.,PCN



Blood Pressure Checks

We will hold the next blood pressure check will be held on June 11 after the 9:00 am service. All are welcome!



Community Meal

Wednesday, June 7 at 6:00 pm

The menu is Pulled Pork Sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw, pickles, cupcakes, and beverages. Scan the code to register or follow the link on the homepage of our website. *Please note:* There will be no Community Meal in July.

A Sign of the Times

Five years after the completion of our renovation and expansion construction project, we finally have a new sign. This planned project was funded by designated donations to the Capital Building Campaign as well as several memorial gifts.

The new sign was produced by La Crosse Sign Group and features a programmable Daktronics digital display. The display portion will be lit and visible from 7:00 am until 11:00 pm in accordance with City Zoning regulations.

Thank you to Jill Dohnal, Dave Engelke, Jan Eymann-McConville, Kim Feller, Landis Heitz, Jon Schellpfeffer, and the St. James Staff for their input and direction during the design process.



Sunday School Highlights

Thank you to all our students, families and volunteers for a wonderful year full of hands-on learning and fun! Here's a look at First Communion Bread & Banner Making, Palm Sunday, The Road to Emmaus, Early Believers and God's House.



Saint JAMES PRESCHOOL



Verona Area
PreK
Partnership in Early Learning

Preschool News



Teacher Appreciation

The first full week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week. St. James Preschool is extremely lucky to have Stacy Zimmerman, Kristin Wills, Holly Parker, Lori Rudy, Carin Higgins, and Kari Poppen as dedicated and amazing teachers. Each day they are dedicated to influencing the littlest learners in our community.

Preschool Happenings

We are in the season of growing...lady bugs, butterflies, grass, beans. The kids are very busy playing and learning. We are starting to wind down our school year. It is fun to celebrate the kids and how much they have grown this school year.

Thanks to Brian Bazala for coming to show and teach the Pre-K kiddos about tools and construction (and letting the 3 year old classes have a sneak peek also)!



PARISH NOTES

If you have someone that you would like to add to this prayer list please email (office@stjamesverona.org) or call the church office (845-6922) or fill out a form which can be found at the Welcome Center at St. James.



We remember our members in our prayers, especially Jon, Tracy Borchert, Pam Hegg, Daniel MacLaren, Candy Nerge, Monica Pechan, and Orin & Pat Strand.

We also remember Karen Bittrich (mother of Elise Taft), Kimberly Choi (daughter of Norma Bader), Dorothy (mother of Sue Zernicke), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Hayes (great-grandson of Barbara Rasmussen), Sharon Schwinn (sister of Mary Moldenhauer) Mary Volker, (sister of John Volker), Dave Wolf (nephew of Doug Wolf), and friends Gary, Jennifer, John, Susan Kennedy, Leo, and Debbie Loughrin.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Judy Marcum as they mourn her death; and to the family of Barbara Rasmussen as they mourn the death of her cousin. Julie Weigel.

In Residence: **Four Winds** - Zelma Danna; **Noel Manor**—Dee Becker, Dick & Helen Dignan, Lorena Gerbitz, Dale & Audrey Hagen, James Hatch, Dick Herfel, Lloyd Hornbacher, Marilyn Le Moine, Jim & Carol Path, Peggy Papenfus, Chuck & Marilyn Roum, John Scharer, & Jim Schumann. **Crossroads Care Center of Sun Prairie** - Kay Hankins. **Ingleside** – Betty Burgenske.

Serving in the Military: Gavin Bazala, Wyatt Breitnauer, Bryan & Hannah Tordoff, Judy Watters, and Evan Spoon.



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