We welcomed new members on October 15, 2017 during the 10:45 am service

Jeffrey, Chelsey, and Ellie Barczak; Tony, Amanda, Randy, Carla, Bryan & Kelli Jo Blaisdell; William & Madelyn Corners, Scarlet Feller; Brian, Ashley and Alivia Gile; Jeff, Allison, Nathan and Jenna Heil; Barbara Johnson; Bruce & Jackie Johnson; Peter, Erin, and Owen Konz; Dan & Jill MacLaren; Don & Mary Mayo; Chuck & Kim Meyers; Ben, Laura, Zoey and Ayda Sampson; Glenn & Louanne Szejna; Pat & Dewey Wagner; Austin, Kristin, Brooklyn and Logan Wills; Colin, Joy, and Vercile Wilson.

Operation Gift Bags

The Holiday Season is fast approaching. The Women of St. James, specifically the women of Mary and Chloe Circle’s will be sponsoring the Christmas Gift Bag project this year. Members of St. James are so generous and have helped many families with these wonderful gift bags. The bags will be available at the Welcome Center the first weekend in November. Last year we donated over 200 gift bags! Questions? Contact Loretta Docken, Mary Voelker or Paulette Spoon.

This is how it works: Each bag is labeled for the appropriate age with a suggested list of gift items. You can wrap a few items or just put them in the bag. Please note how big the bag is when doing the shopping as we would like to have items fit in bag. Return your bags to the Welcome Center the week of November 26th if at all possible (we will take gift bags over anytime in December.) These Christmas bags will be delivered to the Badger Prairie Needs Network for distribution starting the 1st of December.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!
MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION

This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.

At the end of October, St. James, along with churches all over the world, will remember Martin Luther and the Reformation. We will remember how it started with Luther posting his 95 thesis, or points of debate, on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany in his attempts to reform the church. We will remember his bold stand in which he said: I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen. We will remember his teaching, his writings - which extend well beyond 60 volumes, and his landmark translation of the Bible into German. We will also remember his work as a musician, as we sing one of his most famous of hymns A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.

We will look back 500 years and give thanks for the life, work and witness of the German monk who changed the church and also helped change the world. But we would entirely miss the point of the Reformation if all we did was look backward. History is important, and there is so much to know and to learn about the work of Martin Luther and his reformation colleagues. Knowing our history helps us to better understand where we are today as well as to better appreciate our own faith tradition. But as the quote from Luther at the beginning of this article makes clear, God is constantly calling us into the future. Here at St. James, we are in the midst of our Building Toward God’s Tomorrows project as we expand and remodel the church. It is one way that we take to heart the words and the work of so much of the Reformation, build for tomorrow. The words of Luther resonate with me as I look out at the physical structure of our newly remodeled church:

We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road... God’s people of every time and place have tried to take these words to heart...
as they seek to be the people God has called them to be. And once the construction is over, the work of the church is not finished. We will be constantly striving to be the church that God in Christ calls us to be, and the witness of Luther and the Reformation reminds us to be. With God’s help, we say boldly: We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road...

Thanks Be To God!
Pastor Kurt

CELEBRATING MARILYN’S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

On October 15, we honored Marilyn Doerfer for her 50 years of service as an accompanist at St. James. Marilyn has retired from her organist duties, but we are certainly grateful for her years as our accompanist. St. James is blessed to have had her.

A special “THANK YOU” to St. James for the recognition on Oct. 15 for my participation in the congregation’s music program. It was a memorable service and wonderful day. The monetary gift was very generous and I will be sharing it with the St. James music department. God bless.

— Marilyn Doerfer

SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who contributed schools supplies to this year's annual Mary Circle project. Forty-seven school bags, complete with supplies were sent to LWR with additional supplies sent to Texas via the Red Cross and the Verona Food Pantry. Your generosity has touched the lives of many children throughout the world.

-Sue Bubolz

MILITARY PRAYER LIST

The Chloe Circle plans to send care packages to the people on our Military Prayer list. If you added someone to that list, please call the church office (or leave the information at the Welcome Center) with a current address. Thank you.

As always, we pray for all those serving in the military, especially Evan, Scott, Rob, Hannah, Bryan, Mark, Casey, Dan, Casey, Adam, Shandra, Adam, Ryan, and David. Thank you for your service.

THE 500 DOLLAR WHEELBARROW

The Sunday School kids have been joining the congregation in collecting coins for the 500 Dollar Wheelbarrow Project to help provide relief for victims of the recent hurricanes. We’re over halfway to our goal! Thank you!
TREASURER’S REPORT

General Fund

The 2017 General Fund Budget approved by the congregation at the semi-annual meeting on February 5, 2017 totals $555,000, which represents a 4.7% increase from 2016 receipts and a 1.3% decrease from the 2016 Budget. For the 2017 Budget, $533,000 of the income budget is from Operating Envelopes and/or those contributions received through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YTD Receipts</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Prior Year (P/Y)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$350,794</td>
<td>$374,000</td>
<td>$361,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offering Envelopes</td>
<td>$335,244</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
<td>$341,147</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YTD Receipts</th>
<th>Increase (Decrease) from Budget</th>
<th>Increase (Decrease) from P/Y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Dollars</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offering Envelopes</td>
<td>($23,206)</td>
<td>(6.20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>($24,756)</td>
<td>(6.88%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

September, 2017 Attendance: 1,008  YTD September, 2017 Attendance: 10,397
September, 2016 Attendance: 874  YTD September, 2016 Attendance: 10,436

The following graph shows the Operating Envelope Receipts by Quarter for 2016 in comparison to the Budget and the Prior Year:

Total receipts for YTD period ending September 30, 2017 are $350,794 compared to a budget of $374,000 and show that the 2017 results are running 6.2% behind the YTD budget. Total receipts at this time last year were $361,503 for a decrease YTD of ($10,709), which is 3.0% behind the prior year. Because expenses are running favorable to budget by $36,448 at the September 30, 2017 point in the year, we are not experiencing a significant short-fall to the YTD net result as of September 30, 2017. If we had a Children’s Youth & Family Ministry Director in place at this time, given the current offerings, we would be significantly behind plan. Please prayerfully consider an increase to your General Fund giving this year so that our fiscal goals are achieved and our ministry programs are maintained.
Building Fund

Pledges as of June 30, 2017 total $1,465,000 towards the Capital Campaign goal of $1,500,000. The estimated project cost is $3.5 million with up to $2.1 million to be financed as long-term debt. When construction is finished as planned in 2018, the debt reduction phase of the Capital Campaign will start in order to significantly pay down on the mortgage within the first three to five years after construction is completed.

The following shows the Capital Campaign results as of September 30, 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledges</td>
<td>$1,465,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received to Date</td>
<td>$1,055,957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Building Fund Balance, December 31, 2016: $663,231
Plus: 2017 Contributions 228,492
Plus: 2017 Interest Income 606
Less: 2017 Construction Costs Paid (806,928)
Plus: Mortgage reimbursed from General Fund 34,749
Building Fund Balance, Sept. 30, 2017: $120,150

Thank you for your financial support of both the St. James General Fund and the Building Fund.

Below is a view of the Fireplace which has been set just off the Narthex. The fireplace will have two panes of glass which prevents it from getting too hot to the touch.

The Room above is the new Activity Center. The wall shown faces North, toward the existing Preschool building.
Sunday School

Fifth and Sixth Graders work out of a human knot in their lesson about The Flood.

Pre-K and Kindergarten students had fun playing musical chairs as they talked about how to listen to Jesus and be good to others.

First and Second graders enjoyed writing messages with raisins to learn about the Parable of the Vineyard and that God sends us messengers.

Third Graders are digging into their new Hands-On Bibles. A special thank you to the Women of St. James Circles’ for purchasing these special gifts!

Youth Group News

November Youth Group will meet on Wednesday, November 15th from 6:00 pm—7:30 pm. Fourth through eighth graders are encouraged to come enjoy dinner, crafts, games and fun. Questions? Please contact Cindi Stampfli at cindistampfli@gmail.com or Jill Sommers at jill@jsommersfinancial.com.

In the Coming Weeks at Sunday School

Spark (3 yrs.-4th Grade) Connect (5th-6th Grade)
November 5th Be Humble Covenant
November 12th Ten Bridesmaids Jacob & Esau
November 19th Parable of the Talents Jacob to Israel
November 26th Movie Day Movie Day
The Women of St. James Board

The Women of St. James is the umbrella organization for most of the ministries at St. James that are specifically for women. The Board of this group consists of a Chair, a Vice Chair, a recording secretary, a treasurer and representatives from the four Circles. There are many activities for women supported by the Board. They include: Mary, Chloe, Martha and Sarah Circles; the St James quilting group, St. James Prayer Shawl ministry, coordination of volunteers for serving and food for funeral lunches, the annual Women’s Retreat, collections for Lutheran World Relief, and various other activities.

This group also coordinates the annual Bake Sale and Luncheon. Proceeds from this event are used to support local charities including the Verona Area Food Pantry, high school scholarships for two St. James Seniors, help with funds for 3-year old and 3rd grade Bibles, and support for the Women’s Retreat.

This month we would like to highlight two important activities of our group:

Lutheran World Relief: Lutheran World Relief is a nonprofit organization that helps families in the world’s poorest communities build the resilience they need to thrive. In 2017, Mary Circle assembled 47 school kits, Martha Circle assembled 58 personal care kits, the quilting group completed 83 quilts and Sarah Circle provided funds to help with shipping. These items were packed and delivered to the LWR box car in early October.

Fall Bake Sale and Luncheon: The Fall Bake Sale will be held on November 18 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Because of the ongoing construction, we will not hold the luncheon this year. The Bake Sale will also continue before and after all three church services that weekend. Chloe Circle will once again bake lefse for the sale. And, Mary Circle will be making Pfeffernusse to sell.

We will be asking for volunteers to bake other items for the sale: pies, cakes, cookies, breads and candy. We invite all members to dust off their best recipes and make a special treat or two to sell. Watch for a signup board in the Narthex to sign up for baking.

And, most importantly, come! Bring friends, relatives, neighbors to attend and enjoy all the goodness!

We are excited about the many ministries that involve women in our congregation and we invite all women to join us by participating in a Circle, joining the quilting group, volunteering to serve or make food for funerals, attend the Women’s Retreat. Have questions or want to get involved? Contact the church office and they will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

Together we embrace the purpose statement of the Women of the ELCA:

As a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Bobbie Wang – Chair, Women of St. James Board
UPCOMING EVENTS

BOOK GROUP

Sunday, November 12th
Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis, by J.D. Vance

Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

The Vance family story begins hopefully in postwar America. J. D.’s grandparents were “dirt poor and in love,” and moved north from Kentucky’s Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually their grandchild (the author) would graduate from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of their success in achieving generational upward mobility.

But as the family saga of Hillbilly Elegy plays out, we learn that this is only the short, superficial version. Vance’s grandparents, aunt, uncle, sister, and, most of all, his mother, struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life, and were never able to fully escape the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America. Vance piercingly shows how he himself still carries around the demons of their chaotic family history.

A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, Hillbilly Elegy is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Monday, November 20
6:30 pm at St. Christopher Parish

Please join your neighbors and friends from community churches for a service of Vespers (psalms and evening prayer) and thanksgiving.
November is designated as Lung Cancer Awareness month. I chose this subject again as I just went to the funeral of another loved one who died of heart complications caused by smoking. My mother passed away from lung cancer in 2008. My father had COPD and several of my friends and other members of my family have had either lung cancer or other lung problems resulting from smoking; working in a foundry with fumes; and/or construction with asbestos. One of my friends, who have never smoked, has heart problems resulting from second hand smoke.

Lung cancer often has no symptoms until it has spread. That is because there are few specialized nerves in the lungs. Remind your doctor of your medical history if you go in for a physical exam. That will enable him to find an accurate diagnosis if you present with particular symptoms. Some symptoms may include: Coughing; blood in sputum; shortness of breath; wheezing; pain in the chest; fatigue; pneumonia; hoarseness; difficulty swallowing; high pitched sound with taking a breath. It can also cause symptoms far from the tumor involving the brain, bone, and liver.

**November 19th is The Great American Smokeout**

It would be a great time to set the goal to quit smoking!!! Why Quit? The rewards of quitting are tremendous and begin immediately! Benefits can begin within 20 minutes of quitting. Quitting tobacco of any kind will improve your health, your finances, your self-esteem and your everyday life. **Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.** Most of all, quit using tobacco for the people in your life. You protect those you love from being around second hand smoke. Mothers who smoke tend to have a baby with low birth weight. That can result in many conditions they may not have had or develop such as asthma and chronic lung conditions. Secondhand smoke can cause eye irritation, headaches, nausea and dizziness. Children may have more ear infections, colds, and bronchitis. **Quit, so you can be around longer and healthier for your family and friends!!!!**

God’s Blessings,

Barbara Rasmussen, RN., Parish Nurse

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Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Reid Oliver Haley, son of Jennifer (Witt) Haley & Justin Haley; on September 30, 2017; Madelyn Louise corners, daughter of Tony & Amanda (Meilahn) Corners on October 1, 2017; Beau Benjamin Kostichka, son of Adam & Maria (Gotta) Kostichka on October 14, 2017; and Ellie Rae Barczak, daughter of Jeffrey & Chelsey (Ewing) Barczak, on October 21, 2017.
Preschool Happenings

Last month we held our first Popsicles on the Playground event. It was a time for families to get together and socialize, for the kids to play, to raise money for our new playground, and to eat some popsicles. We had a great turn out and had a lot of fun spending time with our preschool families. We received over $400 in donations at this event for our new playground!

Fundraisers

Last chance to get your Bucky Books. They will be available for sale through November 5th at the Welcome Center for $35. The preschool receives $15 profit for each book sold!! You can also contact Heather at sjp@stjamesverona.org to purchase a book. There are a lot of great coupons in the Bucky Books. In fact you will save more than $35 when using the book. Check one out to see all the savings!

Verona Area Kids Expo

The Verona Area School District Pre-K program is putting on a Verona Area Kids Expo on Saturday, November 4th from 9:00 am–2:00 pm. The event will take place at the Verona Area High School and is open to all families. Kids will enjoy games and activities. Families will also have the chance to learn about preschools, childcare facilities, after-school programs, recreation programs, elementary school choices, and more. For more information you can go to verona.k12.wi.us/Kids_Expo
PARISH NOTES

We remember in our prayers — **Members of St. James**: Marilyn Doerfer, Laurie Hambrecht, Lester Luehring, Monica Pechan, Hayley Rahn, Charles & Ruby Reuter, Jim Schumann, Dodie Syvrud, and Dale Thompson. **Friends of St. James**: Eric Jelinek, Mark, Jennifer, Laura Schurman, and Jim Zwettler. **Relatives of Members**: Helen Abplanalp (mother of Chuck Abplanalp), Carl Baxter (son of Nancy & Blake Baxter), John Bitrich (father of Elise Taft), Sheryl Duenkel (Aunt of Sasha Kowalski), Genevieve Fleury (grandmother of Mike Piché), Brad Haferman (brother-in-law of Sandy Saether), Steve K. (Uncle of Brett Weiss), Hillary Knobloch (niece of Sandy Saether), Don Koch (brother of Cookie Thompson), Al Miller (brother-in-law of Cookie Thompson), Sally Mueller (sister of Susan Mueller), Hank Murphy (great nephew of Jim & Mindy Storch), Judelle Murphy (aunt of Emily Jeremiason), Norman Schroeder (brother of Marilyn LeMoine), Don Waalen (father of Karen Breitnauer), and Julie Wiegel (cousin of Barb Rasmussen).


Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Sheri Doyle as they mourn the death of her father, David Wallace.

See page 9 for our recent baptisms.