



LASTING HOPE: DEVOTIONS FOR LENT 2020

Join us as we worship on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Join us this Lent as we focus on Walking with Jesus.

“In Matthew 4, Jesus walked along the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee. He came to Simon Peter and Andrew and gave them this simple invitation: ‘Come, follow me.’ A few steps later he called James and John to do the same. Sometime later he saw a tax collector named Matthew and said to him, ‘Follow me.’ These followers became known as disciples – ones who follow, learn from, and emulate their master. And the word ‘to follow’ in Greek is *akoloutheo*, which means to accompany on a journey or to walk with someone down a road.

It is this idea of walking with Jesus that we will lean most heavily upon...It is a simple way of thinking about our Christian life. We are followers of Jesus. We are seeking to learn from him, to emulate him, to go where he wants us to go, to do what he wants us to do, and to walk on the journey of life with him.”

– From *The Walk: Five Essential Practices Of The Christian Life*, by Adam Hamilton.



LOOKING AHEAD

March 4

Community Meal
6:00 pm

*Beef Stew
Spinach Salad
Cheddar Bay biscuits
Dessert*

All are welcome to attend!

March 8 & 15

First Communion Classes

March 31

Chili Cook-Off

April 5

Passion (Palm) Sunday

Please join us as the choir
and instrumentalists
present
Behold the Lamb,
a Holy Week cantata by
Lloyd Larson

Palm Sunday Brunch
Hosted by Chloe Circle

April 12

Easter Sunday
Festival worship at
7:00, 8:45, and 10:45 am

The Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life we will focus on this Lent

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 4 | Worship and Prayer: A Living Hallelujah |
| March 11 | Study: The Importance of Listening and Paying Attention |
| March 18 | Serve: Here I am Lord, Send Me |
| March 25 | Give: Where Your Treasure Is |
| April 1 | Share: Gone Fishing, Reflecting Light |

Note: All services will be held at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Dinner Served on Wednesday evenings in Lent at 6:00 pm

Join us for the Community Meals on March 4 and April 1
and for a simple Soup and Salad Dinner provided by the St. James Youth
on February 26, March 11, March 18, and March 25.

ST. JAMES BOOK GROUP

Seculosity, by David Zahl

March 29, 2020 5:00 pm

Join us for our discussion on March 29.

Books are for sale at the Welcome Center for \$15.

FROM THE PASTOR ...

Each year, a theme is chosen for our Wednesday Lenten services.

This year, the theme chosen is taken from the book by Pastor Adam Hamilton, entitled [The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life](#).

For the sermon, Pastor Peter and I will focus on one of the practices listed in his book and will go into more depth on what those practices mean for our life in Christ today.

The practices that Pastor Adam identifies are not new, of course. Instead they take some of the long held practices of the Christian faith and give them a modern twist. Being a Christian today is different than it was 40 years ago, but the goal of course is the same. We seek to follow wherever it is that God in Christ is leading us.

Prior to the services, a dinner will be served by the youth of St. James. We invite you to come and dine with us, and walk with us as God's people during this Lenten season.

— Pastor Kurt

THANK YOU to all who have made gifts and pledges for our Seeds to Branches Stewardship & Mortgage Reduction Campaign.



Your gifts to the General Fund are the lifeblood for our shared ministry in 2020. Your gifts for mortgage reduction:

- Are at work funding our monthly mortgage payments of \$11,800 per month.
- Will go toward buying down our mortgage principal, saving thousands of dollars in interest.

Your pledges help church leaders in planning the timeline for accomplishing these goals.

As we carry out this effort, we continue to give thanks for the many ways our building has been enhanced as a platform for our mission and ministry!

This past month we have used our newly renovated space to host the DCHS Family Fun Night, the Family Friendship Coffee Hour, the Community Meal, Ash Wednesday Meal & Worship, and VAFFY Open Gym.



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

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

Phone: 608.845.6922 www.stjamesverona.org Fax: 608.845.6903

Worship

Saturday - 5:00 pm • Sunday - 8:30 am & 10:45 am

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday — 8 am to 4 pm
Wednesday — 8 am to 12 noon

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
Holly Parker	Director of Parish Education Ministries
Cindi Stampfli	Director of Youth Ministry
Paulette Spoon	Adult Choir & Handbell Choir
Susan Bubolz	Youth Choir Director
Rhonda Chalone,	
Alex Ford & Jim Erickson	Accompanists
Barb Rasmussen, R.N.	Parish Nurse/Visitation Coord.
Heather Pearl	Director, St. James Preschool
Lynn Hauski, Holly Parker,	St. James Preschool
Lori Rudy Kristin Wills & Stacy Zimmerman	

Congregational Council

Elise Taft, President	437-7954
Dennis Beres, Vice President	845-9305
Mark Krebsbach, Treasurer	438-6424
Jim Ruder, Secretary	212-6742
Desiree Canto	646-599-7021
John Walker	845-8732
Susan Martin-Zernicke	

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2020

Respectfully Submitted by Mark Krebsbach, Treasurer

General Fund

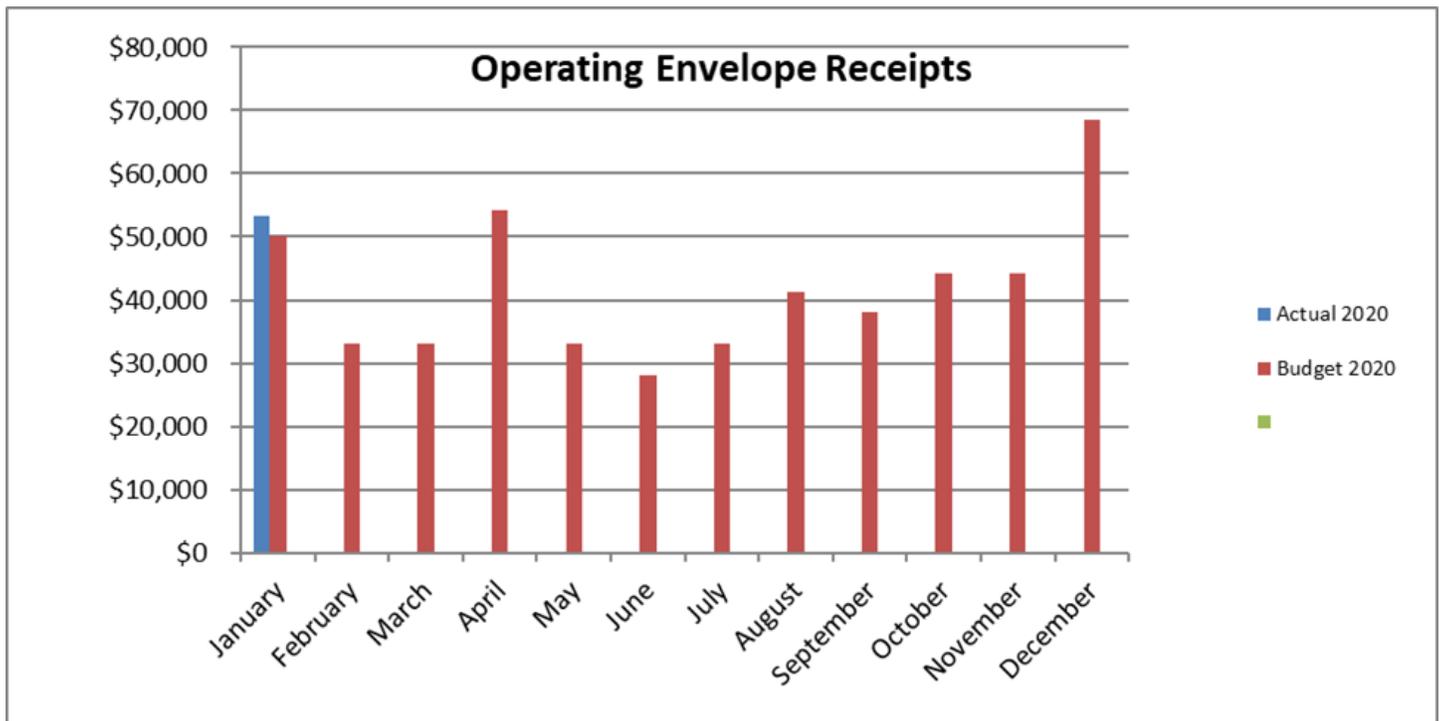
The 2020 General Fund Budget of \$671,955 was approved by the Congregation at the semi-annual meeting on February 2, 2020. This represents a 11.9% increase from 2019 actual receipts and a 4.4% increase from the 2019 budgeted amounts. The 2020 budget will be funded by both the General and Seeds to Branches Funds during the year. The 2020 budget includes \$501,300 from Operating Envelopes /EFT and \$141,924 from the Seeds to Branches Fund.

<u>Year to Date Receipts</u>	Actual	vs.	Budget	Increase (Decrease) from Budget	
Offering Envelopes	\$ 53,275		\$ 50,173	\$ 3,102	6.2%
Seeds Fund Transfer	\$ 11,827		\$ 11,827		
Other Receipts	\$ 1,454		\$ 1,628	\$ (174)	
Total	\$ 66,556		\$ 63,628	\$ 2,928	4.6%

Jan 2020 Attendance:	1,085	Jan 2019 Attendance:	1,142
Year to date 2020 Attendance:	1,085	Year to date 2019 Attendance:	1,142

This is an exciting and very important time for St. James. Our church is alive with energy. We have a wonderfully assembled group of staff and volunteers. We have this beautiful space. With God's help, I believe we can all rise to the continued budget challenge ahead. In 2020, we all need to consider an increase to our General fund and Seeds to Branches fund commitment to St. James Church. By doing so, it will allow us to continue to pay for and maintain our building, continue to fund our wonderful staff's wages and continue to provide the ministry programs we all enjoy. As always, thank you so much for your generous gifts of time and financial support of St. James Church.

The following shows the 2020 Operating Envelope Receipts in comparison to the Budget:



YOUTH EDUCATION

Friendship Party

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

On February 9th, despite the winter storm, St. James members gathered together in love and friendship. It was nice to have some time to connect and enjoy conversation, crafts, treats and games. Many created beautiful, thoughtful Valentines cards for home bound members and those in residence. Thank you to all who were able to attend and share in Jesus’ love!



Spring Break Food & Fun Drive

Spring Break is just around the corner. While it is a time for fun and travel for many of us, it can be a hardship on families who rely on school lunches to feed growing children. We can help families in need in the Verona Area School District by supplying bags of food to go home over the break. Bags and lists of requested items can be picked up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex or the Welcome Table in the Youth Lounge and returned by **Sunday, March 15th**. Thank you in advance for joining us in this effort!

First Communion for 3rd Grade Students

First Communion Instruction (for students and parents): Sundays, March 8 & 15 from 9:40-10:30 am

Bread & Banner Making: Saturday, April 4 from 10:00-11:30 am

First Communion Service: Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 pm, reception to follow

If you did not receive an invitation letter, or if you have any questions, please contact Holly at hparker@stjamesverona.org.



SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School to Take Place August 3-6 from 9 am-12 noon!

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover through songs, Bible adventures, crafts, play and more that trusting Jesus pulls them through life’s ups and downs! Registration will open in March – stay tuned!

Coming Up in Sunday School & Confirmation

Date	Spark (Age 3-Grade 4)	Connect (Grades 5-6)	Confirmation
March 1	The First Sin	Solomon's Temple	<i>Family Time Matters</i>
March 8	Abram's Call	Kingdoms	John & Gospel Wrap-up
March 15	Woman at the Well	Spring Break Food Drive Project	Acts
March 22	<i>Spring Break — No Sunday School or Confirmation</i>		
March 29	Lazarus	Prophets	Make-up Lesson Day

YOUTH MINISTRY

Family Fun Night and the Dane County Humane Society Fundraiser



Thank you to everyone who came out for Family Fun Night hosted by the Youth Group! The Youth Group was very excited to put together this fun event to support a cause they feel is important. Students raised over \$500 for the Dane County Humane Society through the Family Fun Night and Fill the Fish Tank Fundraisers. They also collected several donations for the local animal shelter. These generous donations help provide shelter and medical attention to animals in need. Funds also aid in local wildlife rescue and resources as well as community outreach and educational programs. We are so grateful to the members and friends of St. James who supported the Youth Group on their service mission. Please visit giveshelter.org to learn more about this important organization.

Coming up in March...

Youth Group Serving Soup During Lent

Please join us for a midweek meal and fellowship during Lent. The Youth Group will be serving soup, salad, bread, cookies and from 6:00-7:00 pm on March 11th, 18th, and 25th. (The Community Meal will provide dinner on March 4th and April 1st.) Free will donations will go toward the Summer Camp Savings Program and High School Mission Trip.

Stock the Pot Mission Trip Fundraiser

The High School Mission Trip Students will be collecting donations during the season of Lent. Please look for the Stock the Pot envelope fundraiser in the Narthex. Simply choose an envelope, place your donation inside and place the envelope in the stockpot. Your donations will help with our travel costs to Loveland, Colorado and other trip expenses. We appreciate your support!

Youth Group Meetings during March

Students are encouraged to attend meals and Worship Services together every Wednesday during lent from 5:30-7:30 pm.

Other News:

Summer Camp Savings Program

There is still time to register for the Summer Camp Savings Program. St. James will pay \$100 per camper attending a Bible Camp this summer.

St. James at Pine Lake Week is July 12-17th, 2020

Campers interested in attending camp during the St. James and Good Shepard week together should register with the code: SJV2020.



High School Mission Trip 2020 to Loveland, CO is July 12-17th, 2020

There is still time to register for the High School Mission Trip! We will be partnering with Group Mission Trips again this year to serve communities in and around Loveland, Colorado. Mission Trips help strengthen faith, build confidence and foster relationships. The cost of travel and accommodations is expected to exceed \$800 per student. Our fundraising goals will cover over half of that cost, keeping the registration fee to \$400 per student. Scholarships are also available.

Please contact Cindi Stampfli at cstampfli@stjamesverona.org if you are not receiving emails (or would prefer not to receive emails), would like more information, or to sign up for the Mission Trip or Savings Program.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE...

Barbara Rasmussen, RN.,CPN

March is National Kidney Month

Kidney Facts: One in three American adults is at high risk for developing kidney disease today. High blood pressure, diabetes, a family history of kidney failure and being over 60 are major risk factors for developing kidney disease. **1 in 9 American adults has kidney disease ~ and most don't know it!** Early detection and treatment can slow or prevent the progression of kidney disease. Kidney disease risk can be reduced by controlling blood pressure and blood sugar, quitting smoking, regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, and avoiding excessive use of pain medications.

The National Kidney Foundation is calling on all Americans to take five healthy steps for their kidneys.

Get Tested. Ask your doctor for an ACR urine test or a GFR blood test annually if you have diabetes, high blood pressure, are over age 60, or have a family history of kidney failure.

Reduce NSAIDS. Over the counter pain medicines, such as (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs can harm your kidneys. Reduce your regular use of NSAIDs and never go over the recommended dosage.

Cut the Processed Foods. They can be a significant source of sodium, nitrates and phosphates, and have been linked to cancer, heart disease and kidney disease. Eat a good diet.

Exercise Regularly. Regular exercise will keep your bones, muscles, blood vessels, heart and kidneys healthy. Activity for at least 30 minutes daily can also help you control blood pressure and lower blood sugar, which is vital to kidney health.

Control Blood Pressure and Diabetes. High blood pressure and diabetes are the leading causes of kidney disease and kidney failure. Managing both can slow the progression of kidney disease.

To locate a KEEP Healthy screening near you, or to learn more about the kidneys and risk factors for kidney disease, visit www.kidney.org/KEEP Healthy.

SAINT JAMES WOMEN'S RETREAT

Exploring life and goodness and laughter and JOY!

The Saint James Women's Retreat for 2020 will be held at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton on April 18-19. Holy Wisdom is set in the beautiful countryside with a clear view to Lake Mendota. The monastery sits on over 130 acres of land with restored prairies, a small glacial lake, orchards, woods, wetlands and nature trails. Sara Kneuve will again be our leader. Sara is a school and community social worker whose personal focus is on mindfulness and energy work. Sara will focus her session on scripture and writings about the concept of Joy. There will be sessions in the morning and afternoon with Sara, opportunities to enjoy Holy Wisdom's outdoor space, a craft activity, a dance exercise class, evening vespers and plenty of time for socializing and relaxing. All these activities will be available, and participants are encouraged to participate in any or all, with the option for quiet time on their own. On Sunday morning, we will join the Holy Wisdom Sunday Assembly worship service. While we hope that participants will join us for the total weekend Retreat experience, there are options for Saturday only participation as well.

Information about the Retreat and registration forms will be available at the Welcome Center the first weekend in March. Registrations will be due on April 4. All women of St James are welcome to join us. Bring a friend, a daughter, a sister or a mom. Registration will be limited to 30. Mark your calendar and plan to sign up early. For additional information, contact Bobbie Wang: 608-215-5604 or bwang799@gmail.com

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Checks will be held on March 8 in the church office. All are welcome to come!



FUNDRAISERS

We have two fundraisers coming up and would like to invite you to attend. Send your family, friends and neighbors!

Toot + Kate's Winebar

Tuesday, March 10th from 3:00-10:00pm

20% of total sales back to us



Sugar River Pizza (Verona)

Thursday, March 12th all day

10% back to us for dine-in and take-out

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION

St. James Preschool is currently registering for next school year. We offer a 2 ½'s class, 3's class and we are also a Verona Pre-K site. If you have any questions or would like to register your child please contact Heather at sjp@stjamesverona.org or 845-6922.



The Pre-K class has been learning about buildings so Brian Bazala came to school to show the class his different tools, how to use them and how we should be safe and responsible with them.

He also built us a mini house model so the kids can explore the "insides" of a house. Thank you Brian for coming into school. We always have a fun time when you visit!



Pancake and Pajama Day!
One of our favorite days of the year!



"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."

- George Bernard Shaw

Parish Notes



We remember in our prayers – **Members of St. James:** Jack Bisek, Judy Borgwardt, Cheryl Holley, Harriet Instefjord, Lorine Kahl, Ed Kindschi, Sharon Marquardt, Monica Pechan, Lorlene Pulver, Jim & Candy Nerge, Charles & Ruby Reuter, Ernie Stuber, Cookie Thompson, and Doug Wahl. **Friends of St. James:** Sandra Aschbrenner, Anita, Jack Callahan, Jennifer, Amber Hagen, Susan Kennedy, Kathy Kolpaneau, Steve K., and Mark. **Relatives of Members:** Helen Abplanalp (mother of Chuck Abplanalp), Don & Georgi Anderson (parents of Jackie Johnson), John Bittrich (father of Elise Taft), Ady Clemens (cousin of Chery Vroman), Cheri Elkins (mother of Matthew Palm), Lyn Elver (sister of Lorlene Pulver), Bruce Fleury (uncle of Mike Piché), Debbie Giesfeldt (cousin of Mark Giesfeldt), Brad Haferman (brother-in-law of Sandy Saether), Barb Hanson (sister of John Volker), Bob Johnson (brother of Bruce Johnson), Hillary Knobloch (niece of Sandy Saether), Justin Mabe (nephew of Robin Clisso), Al Miller (brother-in-law of Cookie Thompson), Sally Mueller (sister of Susan Mueller), Michael Palm (nephew of Mathew Palm), Heidi & Pat Prochnow (parents of Erin Jacobson), Steve Reuschlein (brother of Rick Reuschlein), Jamie Sachtjen (niece of Sue Zimmer), Dorothy Scheeler (mother of Zach Scheeler), Tom Severson (father of Rebekah Jonjak), Don Waalen (father of Karen Breitnauer), and Julie Wiegel (cousin of Barb Rasmussen).

In Residence: Four Winds - Zelma Danna; **Noel Manor**—Dutch & Dee Becker, Alfred & Lorena Gerbitz, Dale & Audrey Hagen, James Hatch, Audrey Kunstmann, Marilyn Le Moine, Maureen Rand, Chuck & Marilyn

Roum, Jim Schumann, Ernest Stuber, Bob Syvrud, & Cookie Thompson; **Oakwood West** – Lorine Kahl. **Willow Pointe** - Betty Burgenske, Charles & Ruby Reuter.

Serving in the Military: Craig Montry, Harry Zimmer, Donovan Mabe, Judy Watters, TJ Becker, Wyatt Breitnauer, Nicole, Andrew Zenz, Evan Spoon, Hannah Tordoff, Bryan Tordoff, Casey Biggins, Casey Pulver, David Pulver, and Shandra Pulver.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family Lori Billings as they mourn the death of her sister, Carolyn Zarling.

Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Brecken Edward Collins, son of Richard & Gretchen (Garbe) Collins on February 8, 2020; and Benjamin James and Julia Ava Duesterbeck, children of Jeffrey & Michelle (Cieslak) Duesterbeck, on February 15, 2020.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

427 South Main Street
Verona, WI 53593-1492

