



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Paul begins his letter to the Galatians with these words: *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.* Paul writes his letters to Christians at a distance, and it certainly feels how we are communicating to you now. We hope amidst the uncertainty of this time, you are also experiencing what is certain, God's grace and peace.



We thank you for your ongoing financial support of St. James during this time of distancing. Some of you have increased your giving, knowing other members will be finding it harder in this time. Thank you all for each gift. At the very beginning of the Safer at Home order, we at St. James took two steps to help ensure our financial stability. First, we made the decision in conversation with our lender to pay only interest on our mortgage. This was done in order to maintain a healthy cash flow in the midst of an uncertain future. Second, we applied for and received a PPP small business loan from the federal government. This loan was made available to churches and is a forgivable loan. This was done in anticipation of an uncertain financial future, along with our commitment to continue to pay our staff. We continue to monitor this situation. You will see more information about our financial status in this *Jottings* from our treasurer, Mark Krebsbach.

We will continue to provide worship electronically and are working on ways to improve that. Please know that any decisions about gathering again for worship will be made by the council only after long and careful deliberation. We will err on the side of loving our neighbor, and looking to our church leadership for guidelines in the coming months. Please pray for those working on a vaccine.

If you have any particular needs or suggestions during this time please be in touch. We are all learning as we go. God's promises remain, and God's love in Christ will sustain us.

Grace and peace,

Pastors Kurt & Peter

From the Parish Nurse, Barbara Rasmussen, RN.,CPN

I'm writing this as the Coronavirus wreaks havoc in our United States. Each day the virus takes more lives and causes more illness with our brothers and sisters on earth. It's so difficult to see any good or peace at this time. For many years I was a Trauma Nurse Specialist in an Emergency Department. I encountered difficulties as a nurse to know the right words to comfort patients and their families. I refer to two different Bible readings now as I did then.

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Psalms 46: 1-3 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Have faith that God will bring about His will in our lives to guard and protect us. Trust in the Lord. He will never leave us or forsake us. God Bless You.

WE INVITE YOU TO WATCH OUR WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

Subscribe to our Channel, StJamesVerona. A new service is posted each week at 6:00 am.





employment is in jeopardy. For all who can continue to give at this time, your ongoing financial support is more important now than ever.

Thank you for your continued support for our General Fund ministry and to our Seeds to Branches Stewardship & Mortgage Reduction Campaign. During this time, these gifts are especially crucial as we continue to responsibly manage monthly mortgage payments. Pastor Steve Olson, our campaign consultant, shared this story with us in his sermon:

Dave and Marlys were among those saints who have taught me through the years how to be generous. I was their pastor, and they had shared with me that they were committed to tithing. As a result of that mark of discipleship, they were generous supporters of the church. But then Dave lost his job and Marlys' work was as an unpaid volunteer in the community and at the church.

Naturally, it was a stressful time for them, and they came in to talk. Amid the overall anxiety they were experiencing, they expressed that they weren't going to be able to fulfill their pledge, and this bothered them a great deal. But my response was that they were tithers, and that the beauty of percentage giving is that 10% of 0 is 0. At that point in their lives, I assured them, there were other brothers and sisters in Christ in their church home who could give as they were able and help carry on the ministry. And sure enough, when Dave again found work, they continued giving the first 10% of what they received.

How to Give

As you are able, your financial support is vital for our shared ministry. As we continue without weekly in-person worship, our ministries and work continue. We thank those giving electronically. You can also give online by clicking the "Give" button on our homepage or send a check to the office.

God continues to provide growth as we tend to the seeds of faith already planted.

Thank you!



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
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
Barb Thomas	
Susan Martin-Zernicke	

Treasurer's Report

Respectfully Submitted by Mark Krebsbach, Treasurer

FEBRUARY 2020

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.

Feb 2020 Attendance:	1,211	Feb 2019 Attendance:	1,041
Year to date 2020 Attendance:	2,296	Year to date 2019 Attendance:	2,183

<u>Year to Date Receipts</u>	<u>Actual</u>	vs.	<u>Budget</u>	<i>Increase (Decrease) from Budget</i>	
Offering Envelopes	\$ 86,742		\$ 83,346	\$ 3,396	4.1%
Seeds Fund Transfer	\$ 23,654		\$ 23,654		
Other Receipts	<u>\$ 2,996</u>		<u>\$ 3,255</u>	<u>\$ (259)</u>	
Total	\$113,392		\$110,255	\$ 3,137	2.8%

MARCH 2020

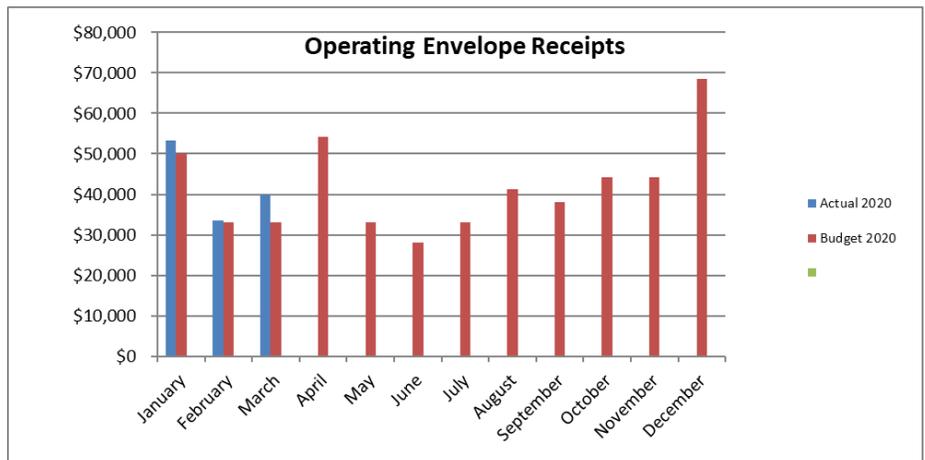
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<u>Year to Date Receipts</u>	<u>Actual</u>	vs.	<u>Budget</u>	<i>Increase (Decrease) from Budget</i>	
Offering Envelopes	\$126,574		\$116,519	\$ 10,055	8.6%
Seeds Fund Transfer	\$ 35,481		\$ 35,481		
Other Receipts	\$ 4,974		\$ 6,083	\$ (1,109)	
Total	\$167,029		\$158,083	\$ 8,946	5.7%

A heart filled thank you to our Members for their support of St James. As we all adjust to our new normal in this unprecedented time, it is truly inspiring to see our Members' continued support of our Church.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the St James staff for all their hard work over the past few weeks. The staff in my opinion have seamlessly transitioned into their expanded virtual roles. Thank you so much for your flexibility and creativity. The graph shows the 2020 Operating Envelope Receipts in comparison to the Budget:



YOUTH EDUCATION

Vacation Bible School...Reimagined!

VBS is a wonderful experience that so many of us look forward to each summer. While there is still too much uncertainty to move forward with an in-person VBS program, we know that this is a time that families need their faith, a sense of connection, and let's face it, something for the kids to do! That's why we're working on a simple, quarantine-friendly program that will allow kids and families to easily engage in Bible stories, songs, crafts and activities right in their homes (and backyards!). Instead of packing it all into one week, we'll be emailing lessons and activities on a weekly basis. Specific dates are still being determined. We will keep you posted. Thanks for your patience and flexibility as we work out the details!

FUN SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY ALERT!

Attention adults, high schoolers, middle schoolers, kids and families! We're looking for individuals and families to record VBS lessons such as Bible stories, crafts, science experiments and/or games. We'll provide the outline, ideas and as much guidance as you would like! Contact Holly at hparker@stjamesverona.org for more information.



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, 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), and Julie Wiegel (cousin of Barb Rasmussen).

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

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 of Alfred Gerbitz as they mourn his death; to the family of Kermit Franzen as they mourn his death; to the family of Anne Forseth as they mourn the death of her sister-in-law, Anita; to the family of Jill Sommers as she mourns the death of her parents, Elaine & Eugene Heidemann; and to the family of Karen Breitnauer as they mourn the death of her father, Don Waalen.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

427 South Main Street
Verona, WI 53593-1492

