



Growing Together In God's Love



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1

Sometimes, it can seem like the challenges and difficulties we face are almost insurmountable. This is especially true whenever we feel all alone. But as God's beloved people, we are a part of a beloved and vibrant community. In this community, we are called to grow together in God's love for one another. Now more than ever, this is both our calling and our challenge.

Here are St. James, we are continually looking for ways that we can reach out to those who feel alone, feed those who are hungry – both physically and spiritually; and support those who are carrying heavy burdens. All this is made possible by you – because of your generous and gracious support of the ministries here at St. James, God's love is shared and the community is strengthened. Growing together in God's love is more than just our stewardship theme for this year, it is our calling as God's beloved people.

In the coming weeks you will be hearing more about our stewardship campaign. Please prayerfully consider how you will support the mission and ministry of St. James.

Thank you for all the ways that you help make our ministry possible.

Thanksgiving & Christmas Collection for Badger Prairie Needs Network



Badger Prairie Needs Network anticipates providing 400 Thanksgiving baskets and 400 Christmas baskets.

Because of Covid, the collection of donations and distribution of the baskets will be different than in years past. Most of the food for the baskets will be provided through Second Harvest at no cost to BPNN. They would like to supplement the food received from Second Harvest with pies for the Thanksgiving baskets and fruit for the Christmas baskets. It is most efficient for them to bulk purchase these items at a cost of \$6.50 for each pie and \$20 for the fruit for each basket. We would very much appreciate donations to purchase these items. ***If you would like to donate this year, please send/drop off, or place in the offering, a check to St. James for \$26.50 with Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets in the memo by November 15.*** If they receive more funds than are needed for the pies and fruit, the excess funds will be used to purchase food to distribute through the food pantry.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP: SATURDAY AT 5:00 PM & Sunday at 8:30 & 10:45 am

8:30 am is LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Communion Served on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am – Noon

Phone: 608.845.6922

www.stjamesverona.org

Fax: 608.845.6903

FROM THE PASTOR

The Gift of Yourself

Fall is traditionally “Stewardship Season,” when we use the “Big 3-G” words – gratitude, generosity, and giving – words connected to the Real Big G – God – who gives us grateful hearts, a generous spirit, and opportunities to give. But what is it God calls us to give? We can only give what we have received, and the first gift we receive is ourselves. Have you thought of yourself as a gift, and others as well?

One of the most significant gifts we give and receive in life is the gift of presence, and attention. Yes, friendship has everything to do with how we treat one another, and the things we do for one another. But love goes deeper: I love another not because that person does things for me (that would be a form of loving myself), but because of who they are.

The early Christian church grew because of this profound shift – every person had worth, every human being was of equal value, a promise signed,

sealed, and delivered in baptism: “Child of God.” This was a world divided and stratified. Powerful men called the shots; women, children, and slaves had no voice or power.

Stewardship season is about giving, but first rests in receiving: you are loved, and we are sisters and brothers together. This means that the church is not something we go to or even give to, the church is something we are together: a gathered people and sent people, giving the love we have received. As the church we are called serve and help and give, but before we do anything, we simply are: we exist because we are God’s gifts to one another, and then to the world. We thank God for who we are – forgiven sinners – and we thank God by what we do for others.

Of course, who we are is made possible by what God has done for us. Jesus came at Christmas, we say, as a gift. His presence was a gift, but his walk to the cross was his gift, born of gratitude and generosity, to us. Stewardship season begins in

gratitude for this gift, and all we do in service a response to this gift.

Maybe what I’m trying to say is how we treat others, how we help others, is connected to how we see others. As a community formed by the Holy Spirit, we are given the “eyes of faith” to see every person as a child of God. And it starts with you – no matter how we see ourselves, God sees you as one worth dying for, and worth living for. God is a gift, and so are you. When we live in that love, we cannot help but share it.

—Pastor Peter



ST. JAMES STAFF

Kurt Billings, Pastor	Cell: 235-8122
Peter Narum, Pastor	Cell: 469-9625
Michelle Lichtry	Parish Administrator
Barb Roberts	Office Assistant
Susan Zimmer	Office Assistant
Grace Parker	Office Assistant
Barb Roberts	Card Ministry
Holly Parker	Director of Parish Education Ministries
Bailey Green	Youth Director
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
Holly Parker, Lori Rudy	St. James Preschool
Kristin Wills & Stacy Zimmerman	

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Allison Heil President	608-527-2353
Susan Martin-Zernicke, VP	608-246-2025
Mark Krebsbach, Treasurer	608-438-6424
Jim Ruder, Secretary	608-212-6742
Jon Baldock	608-480-4091
Desiree Canto	646-599-7021
Christine Kemnitz	608-886-6363
Julie Murphy	608-345-8533
John Walker	608-845-8732

2021 Scholarship Recipients

We are pleased to announce our 2021 Scholarship Recipients. The Women of St. James awarded two Scholarships of \$1,000 this year. Greta Boehm, a Verona Area High School student is attending UW-Milwaukee and Jordyn Thomas, a Belleville High School graduate is attending Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. These scholarships are one-time gifts awarded to a graduate who is a confirmed member of St. James and has been active at St. James by participating in youth activities, volunteering for church activities and attends church services during the year.

Hannah Amell, a sophomore at Lawrence University, has been awarded the Jan Reed Memorial Scholarship. This award is also a one-time \$1,000 scholarship which is given traditionally to a student who will be attending a Lutheran College or University. If no one fits this criteria, another student may be chosen and we are please to announce Hannah's scholarship.



Lutheran World Relief Update

The Women of St. James are please to announce their 2021 Contribution of 28 Quilts, 72 School Kits, and 31 Personal Care Kits. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cause.

Join the Choir!

Looking for a fun place to spend an hour on Wednesday evenings? Join the choir! The St. James vocal choir began fall rehearsals on September 8. We rehearse on Wednesdays, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. As we begin rehearsals in the fall, we will physically distance in the sanctuary. High schoolers and adults of all ages are welcome! Put "CHOIR" on your fall calendar now. We'd love to have you join us! Contact Paulette Spoon (spoonp@charter.net) if you are interested or have questions.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Save the Date – Saturday, November 20, 2021

Women of St. James Annual Bake Sale & Luncheon from 11:00 am - 1:00 PM will be held just like last year with ALL pick-up or delivery options for lunch and baked goods. The Event was very well supported last year with this set-up and in order to remain safe and flexible, it will continue this way in 2021. Order Form coming soon!

Calling All Bakers – Bake Sale will be pre-orders while supplies last of Lefse, Pfefferneusse, Krumkake, and Pies. Volunteers needed to show your baking talents for a good cause. More info coming soon including sign-up sheets in the narthex.

Also Upcoming...more information in the pages following

- October 20 Youth Group Kick-off
- October 31 Reformation Sunday
Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism
- November 3 Community Meal The menu is: Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Applesauce & Pumpkin Desserts
- November 7 Hope & Healing Service & Reception

Children, Youth & Family Volunteers Needed!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

St. James Children, Youth & Family ministry is volunteer based with staff oversight. We welcome volunteers of all ages and especially encourage multi-generational opportunities.

Sunday School

Would you enjoy sharing God's love with preschool or elementary age children? St. James Education Director, Holly, provides lesson plans and materials. You can sign up to volunteer one week or multiple weeks at a time.

Station Leader or Assistant - lead or assist with a craft, game or story station for crews of approx. 8-10 children. 3 total crew will rotate through each station and each station is 15 minutes long.

Crew Leader or Assistant - lead or assist crews of approximately 8-10 children by taking them to the different stations and offering help when needed.

Substitute - help out with stations or crews on an as-needed basis.

Confirmation

Are you passionate about sharing God's love with middle school students? St. James Education Director, Holly, provides leader guides and materials. Team teaching is encouraged and class sizes vary.

Lead Teacher - teach Confirmation 1-2 times per month. Time commitment is 2-3 hours each time you teach.

Assistant Teacher or Small Group Leader - Assist the lead teacher with the lesson and/or lead a small group discussion. Time commitment is 1-2 hours each time you assist.

If interested in helping with Sunday School or Confirmation, email Holly Parker at hparker@stjamesverona.org.

Middle School Youth Group

Do you want to share God's love with middle school students in a fun and engaging non-classroom setting? Youth Group traditionally meet the third Wednesday of the month. Come connect with youth through activities, supervise at Youth Group events and/or lead small group discussions.

High School Mission Trip/Youth Gathering Leader

Are you interested in keeping the St. James High School Mission Trip tradition alive? The trip takes place in the summer, so this year we'll be planning for the summer of 2022. This also happens to be the year for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, which is scheduled for July 21-24, 2022. We need one adult per seven students to attend this faith forming event. Time commitment will be approximately 15-20 hours of prep during the year in addition to the trip.

Youth Fundraising Volunteer

Would you like to put the "FUN" in fundraising for youth at St. James? Help us offer discounts on bible camp, mission trips and other faith forming activities. In the past we have done the Drive-In Dinner, Lenten Soup Service, envelope fundraisers and more to support youth activities. Help at a fundraising event, stuff envelopes, make signs, or find other ways to raise funds! Time commitment is flexible.

Other Ways to Support Youth at St. James

Are you called to help children, youth and families, but not sure if these options fit with your talents? We have several other ways you can get involved. Maybe cooking, baking, donating supplies or something else is speaking to you. Please consider supporting CYF in a way that feels comfortable to you.

*Email Bailey Green at bgreen@stjamesverona.org
if interested in helping with middle or high school youth ministry.*

We thank you for your prayerful consideration!

For information on Youth Choir and Youth Handbell Choir see the next page!

On Track for a Great Year of Sunday School & Confirmation!

At our All Aboard Fall Kickoff families enjoyed exploring stations such as Makerspace Crafts, Sing & Play Express, Bible Adventures, Chew Chew Snacks, and Loco Motion Games. Kiddos were then delighted to turn in their passports and pick out a prize! We were delighted to have several Confirmation students join the fun by serving as station leaders and helpers.



On September 26, 3 year-olds, 3rd graders and 7th graders were presented with new Bibles during 8:30 worship. A heartfelt thank you to the Women of St. James for purchasing these new Bibles for our children! At the Bible Bonanza, kids had a blast with games and activities to learn more about the Bible and explore the story of Creation. Confirmation students and parents kicked off the year with an orientation to learn all about this very important time in the formation of their faith.



and can't wait to dive into more hands-on learning about the Bible and God's love! A HUGE thank you to all who have volunteered to educate and serve our children and youth! We are in need more volunteers so please read about all the rewarding opportunities that await!

Sunday School

8:30 (following the Children's Sermon)-9:30: Ages 3-Kindergarten
9:30-9:45: Music Time for all students
9:30-10:30: PreK-6th Grade

Confirmation

9:30-10:30 in the Luther Room

FROM THE PARISH NURSE...

Autumn is here again and it is such a beautiful time, especially in Wisconsin. But, we need to be aware of different dangers to our health. Be careful of your footing outside. Leaves falling, wet or dry, can be hazardous walking. Be sure to get your flu shot. Dress for the weather. Keep your house humidified. When using the furnace your house gets dry. A humidifier will aide in keeping your mucus membranes moist and healthy. Also, a reminder that as a current, licensed RN., I may be able to assist you with resources for home equipment, treatments, and education you may need after discharge from rehabilitation centers or the hospital to make your transition to your residence easier.

We will be having our annual **Hope and Healing** event at St. James again this year. Albeit modified, it is scheduled for Sunday, November 7, 2021. We will not be having a dinner, but we will have our service in the sanctuary beginning at 6:30 followed by dessert and refreshments in the narthex dining room. Brian Baker, pastor, author and counselor from Agrace will be our speaker. This service is for any of our parishioners, their families, or friends who have suffered any kind of loss these past two years. The service and speaker offer comfort and fellowship. Loss has no boundaries. It can be relationships, employment, death, health. The list is endless and if you feel any type of loss, please consider this invitation. We need and appreciate you making a reservation by calling the church office and leaving a message with your name, phone number, and number in your party. That way I am able to make the correct arrangements for the dessert and offer safe table sitting.

I am also looking for volunteers to help decorate the sanctuary, set up and clean the tables, decorations, dishes, and clean up the kitchen. Again, please call me, or email me at: brasmussen@stjamesverona.org.

God's Blessings,

Barbara J. Rasmussen, RN.,PNC.

Blood Pressure Checks



Checks will be held on November 14 after the 8:30 service in the church office. All are welcome to come!

Youth Handbell Choir

We look forward to resuming the *Youth Handbell Choir* this fall. We meet on Sunday mornings at 10:45, usually three times per month. The tentative date to start handbell rehearsals will be September 26. Youth from 6th grade through high school are welcome. New and returning youth ringers are welcome. Bring a friend! We will require masks as we begin rehearsals in the fall and will update that plan as we proceed. Please email Paulette Spoon (spoonp@charter.net) if you are interested or have any questions.

St. James Kids . . . Your Voices Are Needed

St. James Youth Choir began rehearsal September 26. Our rehearsals begin immediately after Sunday School dismisses and lasts 35-40 minutes. We meet in the youth music room in the lower level of the church. Our goal is to sing at the beginning of the 8:30 service on the last Sunday of each month. As part of our rehearsal on the first Sunday of each month, the choir will sing while the offering is being collected at the 10:45 service. You will be dismissed immediately after that. No experience is needed, just a love of music.

A note to parents: I am fully vaccinated and open to a discussion about mask wearing and social distancing. Please feel free to contact me with your concerns and questions.

Susan Bubolz

St. James Youth Choir Director

Suebubolz@gmail.com

Text or call 608-558-6460

Saint JAMES PRE SCHOOL



Verona Area
PreK
Partnership in Early Learning

Fundraisers

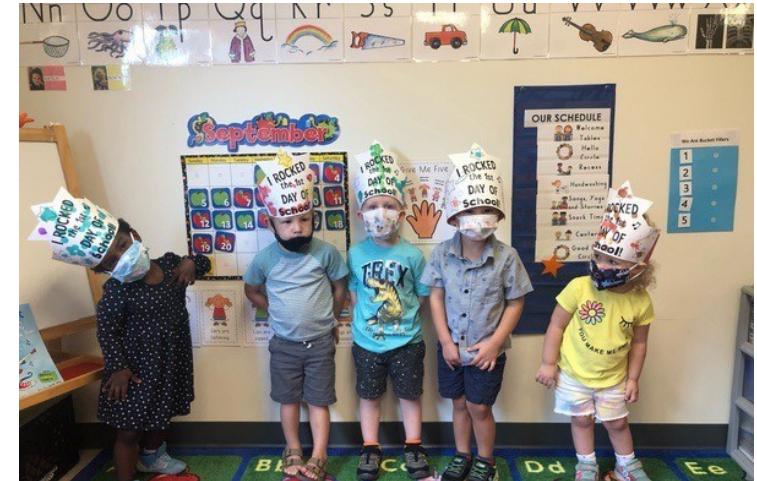
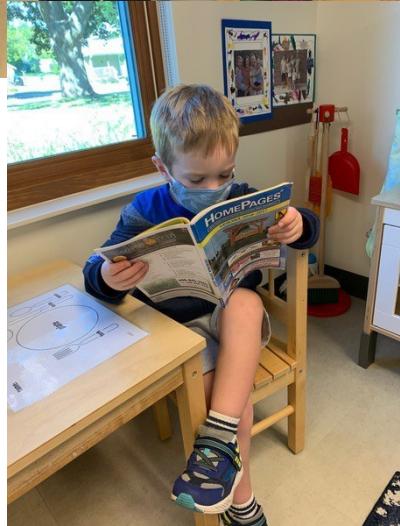
Bucky Books are available for purchase for \$35 through Heather sjp@stjamesverona.org. The preschool receives \$15 profit for each book sold!! There are a lot of great coupons in the Bucky Books. In fact you will save more than \$35 when using the book. Let Heather know if you are interested.



Preschool News

The 2021-22 school year has successfully started. The staff and I are enjoying having the kids in the building and getting to know each one of them. The kids have been learning our site wide expectations of Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible. They have done a great job learning routines, wearing masks, following directions, learning about school and playing.

We are also collecting Birthday Kits for BPNN during the month of October. Email Heather for details: sjp@stjamsverona.org.



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 Charles Reuter, Monica Pechan, & Lorlene Pulver.



We also remember Ben (nephew of Sue Zimmer), Jessica Hansen-Kriesel (great-niece of Doug Wolf), Jim Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Sharon Schwinn (sister of Mary Moldenhauer) Dave Wolf (nephew of Doug Wolf), and friends Susan Kennedy, Debbie Loughrin, Pat Stillwell, and Pat Vollenweider.

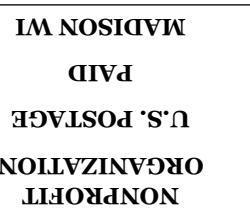
Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Oliver Joseph Baker, son of Scott & Julie (Zenz) Baker on August 22, 2021; Greylen Jeffrey Barczak, son of Jeffrey & Chelsea (Ewing) Barczak on September 4, 2021; Avianna Brielle Canto, daughter of Kristofer & Desiree (Smith) Canto, on September 5, 2021; Vada Desiree Witt, daughter of Ryan & Paula (Schopen) Witt on September 12, 2021; Charlotte Mae Brezenski, daughter of Scott & Kari Jo Brezenski on September 19, 2021; and Kitson Theodore Collins, son of Richard & Gretchen (Garbe) Collins on September 26, 2021.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Don Lipske as they mourn his death; to the family of Jim Erickson as they mourn the death of his Godmother, Ellen Christensen and his brother, Jeffrey; to the family of Jodi Dingle as they mourn her death; to the family of Bruce

Hughes as they mourn his death, and to the family of Cheryl Wilson, as they mourn the death of her father, Jim Harried. We also pray for the family of Gary Mani as they mourn his death.

In Residence: Four Winds - Zelma Danna; Noel Manor—Dutch & Dee Becker, Ellen & Lloyd Hornbacher, Lorena Gerbitz, Dale & Audrey Hagen, James Hatch, Dick Herfel, Audrey Kunstmann, Marilyn Le Moine, Chuck & Marilyn Roum, & Jim Schumann. Oakwood West – Lorine Kahl. Willow Pointe - Betty Burgenske, Kay Hankins, and Charles Reuter. Nazareth Health & Rehab (Stoughton) – Chuck Widish.

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



Verona, WI 53593-1492

427 South Main Street

