



Volunteer Appreciation & Last Day Celebration For Sunday School & Confirmation

Sunday, May 15

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.

9:30-10:00 am - Sunday School & Confirmation

Sunday School students can head down to the Youth Lounge for a fun scavenger hunt and special last day craft!

Confirmation students will wrap up with Faith Talks (location TBA).

10:00-10:30 am - Last Day Celebration - Parents are invited to join their student(s) for refreshments, fellowship and a small gift!



Drive-in Dinner

Wednesday, May 18 from 5:00 — 7:00 pm

St. James youth and their families will be hosting our annual Drive-in Dinner fundraiser this year on Wednesday, May 18th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm! We will be grilling brats, burgers, and hotdogs with all the fixings, and our parking lot will be open for tailgating as you enjoy your meal. This year we are planning to reserve an area of the parking lot for yard games as well, including cornhole and ladder golf! Free-will donations will be accepted. The proceeds from this event go towards funding much of the youth programming that St. James Youth enjoy throughout the year, such as Youth Group events, mission trip scholarships, holiday parties, lock-ins, summer campfire worships, and more. Please mark your calendars for this event, and we can't wait to see you there!

Reminder: Our Summer Worship Schedule begins May 29

Saturday at 5:00 pm & Sunday at 9:00 am thru September 11

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.

Phone: 608.845.6922

www.stjamesverona.org

Fax: 608.845.6903

From the Pastor

I was recently reading an article by the social scientist Arthur Brooks on “how to find happiness as we get older.” What stood out to me was this sentence: “One of the most interesting things in the neuroscience and social science of happiness is that happiness is based on love.” We know this, but easily forget it, thinking that success or fame or money might provide what we’re looking for.

Perhaps because our culture values individual achievement and success. But Brooks says the happiness research points us in another direction: our network of family and friends. And, for us, the church. The church is not only a place of relationships, but also the place we hear and live out a particular story, a story about God who is revealed in Jesus Christ, made known by the Holy Spirit.

Our source of happiness (what we call “joy”) is the love of God.

During the month of May many of our programs and ministries are coming to a close, ready to take a break for the summer (a well-deserved break). If you’re so inclined, please take time to thank you staff and fellow members have given of their time and energy to help our congregation grow and flourish.

I also am taking a break during May, July and August, sabbatical and vacation months that will be for me a time to step away from my pastoral responsibilities. I thank you all for this opportunity to be away for a time, and also thank Pastor Kurt in advance, as his responsibilities increase while I’m away.

Whether you’re young or old, may your lasting happiness be based in and on a love that lasts forever, a love poured out for you on the cross. And may we all continue to receive, grow in, and give this love, that others may know the joy that Jesus brings.

—Pastor Peter



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
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



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

Budget Update

2022 General Budget through March

<u>Year-to-Date Receipts</u>	<u>Actual</u>	vs.	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Amount over/(under) budget</u>
Offering Envelopes	\$128,675		\$135,000	\$(6,325)
Seeds Fund Transfer	\$35,481		\$35,481	
PPP Fund Transfer	\$ 8,750		\$ 8,750	
Other Receipts	<u>\$ 2,495</u>		<u>\$ 2,873</u>	<u>\$ (378)</u>
Total	\$175,401		\$182,104	\$(6,703) (3.7%)



Year-to-Date Expenses

<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
\$181,801	\$192,271	\$(10,370)

Debt Reduction Campaign Match Challenge Update

Thank you for your contributions to our match challenge as well as to our Seeds to Branches campaign. We received \$72,000 in contribution matches in March. We are happy to report that our loan with the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) has been approved. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to pay down our mortgage principal by \$200,000. Our new mortgage will be amortized over 25 years and our rate is locked in at 3.875% for five years. In five years, the rate will be adjusted to MIF's 5-year rate at that time. *Please note that MIF's rates are not tied to Prime.*



Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of St. James.

Gift Planning

Gift Planning is relevant for both today and for the future. Here are two questions for today that you might ask yourself, or a financial advisor if you use one:

- 1) How much can I give to charity annually and still meet my spending goals?
- 2) What is the best way for me to give to charity annually?

By taking some time to answer these questions, you may be able to grow in generosity. Thank you for your financial support for the mission and ministry of Saint James Lutheran Church!

IRA Transfers

If you are age 72 or older, you have another opportunity. You can transfer funds directly from your IRA to St. James Lutheran Church. Such a transfer is not reportable income to you and can meet your required minimum distribution for the year. Such transfers are limited to \$100,000 per year and not deductible as a charitable donation but have the potential to reduce your tax bill because there is no reportable income. *This way of giving can be helpful even if you don't itemize.* Thank you for considering St. James in your gift planning.

Children, Youth & Family

Congratulations to our students who received their First Holy Communion on April 14th!



Front: Brooks Krebsbach, Finley Joanis, Cora O'Connell, Elsie Weiss, Elsie Woods, Louisa Taft, Landon Sween.
Back: Greta Johnston, Isla Jonjak, Rylee Brezenski, Mason Carlson, Trinity Stampfli, Willa Heitz, Hazel Kemnitz.

Coming Up in Sunday School & Confirmation

Date	Spark 3's-4th grade	Club Connect 5th-6th grade	Confirmation 7th-8th grade
May 1	Saul to Paul	The Apostles & The Church	Revelation
May 8	*NO 8:30 am Sunday School* Muffins with Mom (Drop-In Activities from 9:30—10:30 am)		No Class
May 15	Review, Volunteer Appreciation & Last Day Celebration		Last Day—Faith Talks & Celebration



Muffins With Mom

Sunday, May 8

Kids & Dads: bring mom down to the Youth Lounge anytime between 9:30-10:30 am to enjoy yummy muffins and fun, simple crafts! This is a drop-in event that takes the place of regular Sunday School. Stay as long...or as little...as you'd like!

***Please note:** There is no 8:30 Sunday School on May 8. While the nursery is not currently staffed, families of young children are always welcome to use it.



National Youth Gathering Retreat

July 29-31

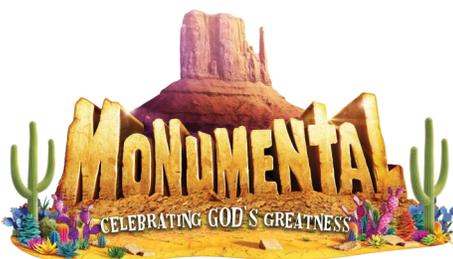
The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin will be hosting a retreat in lieu of the ELCA National Youth Gathering this summer! The National Youth Gathering was supposed to take place in Minneapolis in July, but it was canceled due to complications caused by Covid-19.

This National Youth Gathering retreat will be at Bethel Horizons summer camp near Governor Dodge State Park, which is only a short forty-minute drive from St. James. The date is set for the weekend of July 29-31. Youth who have finished 8th grade by June of 2022 and youth enrolled in 9th-12th grade for 2022 are invited to attend. Please watch your email for more information and registration details as the date gets closer!

Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, May 22nd at 8:30 am

St. James will be holding a Baccalaureate service for high school graduates on Sunday, May 22nd during the 8:30 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!



Vacation Bible School

August 1 – 4, 9:00 am - 12 noon

Family Celebration on August 4 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! To learn more, scan the QR code on the right or visit the Children, Youth & Family page on our website.



Campfire Worship Scheduled for Summer!



We are planning several outdoor Campfire worships this summer for members of all ages to attend! Fellowship with outdoor games and snacks will start at 6:30 pm, and worship will begin at 7:00 pm. Join us around the campfire for music, fellowship, and summer fun on the following dates:

- Wednesday, June 22nd
- Wednesday, July 6th
- Wednesday, July 20th
- Wednesday, August 3rd
- Wednesday, August 17th

Sunday School Highlights

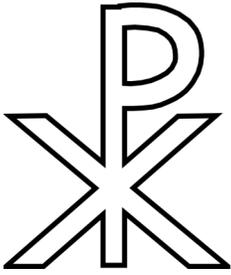
Procession of Palms, Resurrection Legos, Alleluia Butterfly Collaborative Poster, First Communion Bread Baking, Banner Making, Dinner & Dessert and Doubting Thomas.





Women of St. James

Chrismons and Fellowship Update



Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all the individuals who came to make Chrismons on Saturday April 23. We had a fun morning of fellowship and crafting and everyone was on their way home right after lunch. A big thanks to Candy Feldt for lending her craft expertise to this project and to everyone who helped with planning, brought food and contributed to the day. The St James alter trees are going to look extra "spiffy" when Christmas rolls around. Thanks again to all!

– Bobbie Wang



Palm Sunday Breakfast Update

What a great turn-out for the Palm Sunday breakfast on April 10! It was wonderful to gather and share food and conversation. Through your generosity, we collected \$442 in free will contributions. With matching funds from Thrivent, we have \$884 to purchase one or more seasonal banners for our church. Thank you for attending the breakfast and supporting this fundraising effort.

– Chloe Circle

Women's Retreat Rescheduled for 2023

After much consideration, the planning committee for the St James Women's Retreat, scheduled for April 2-3 has been postponed. We have rescheduled the retreat, which will be held at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton, for April 22 – 23, 2023. We invite you to save the date!

2022 Mary Circle May Fundraiser: “Comfort Cup” Sale

Mary Circle is holding its annual fundraiser in support of DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services). The mission of DAIS is to empower those affected by domestic violence and advocate for social change through support, education, and outreach. St. James Lutheran is a partner congregation. The sale is being held in the Narthex on May 8, or virtually for the month of May.

A “Comfort Cup” is a ceramic mug filled with tea, a honey stick and biscotti and will sell for \$10.00. It is perfect for Mother’s Day, Birthdays, or a Thank You Gift.

Your \$10.00 will be doubled when Thrivent Financial matches our proceeds!

To purchase Virtually:

Mail your \$10 check with your name/address/phone to:

St. James Lutheran Church

Attn: Mary Circle Fundraiser

427 S. Main St., Verona, WI 53593

If you are in the immediate Verona area the cups will be delivered to you by members of Mary Circle and we will text or call to coordinate delivery. Otherwise, you can pick it up at St. James. Please indicate if you want to pick it up in the office or have it delivered. The last day of the sale is May 31.



Chrismons Event Photos

Thank you Diane Maurer for documenting this special occasion.

From the Parish Nurse...

The National Health Organization [lists](#) days of certain observances in May. One is Children's Mental Health Acceptance Week from May 1-7. After several years, the "A" has been changed from Awareness to Acceptance.

One positive impact of the pandemic that has challenged everyone's mental health is that, now more than ever, people are talking about it and know it's important. That is why the time was right to move from awareness to acceptance.

Acceptance, more directly, combats prejudice. Almost everyone experiences challenges at some point in their life. Recognizing that our mental health is just as important as our physical health and accepting individuals who struggle for a time or a lifetime is critical to reducing the fear, worry, blame and shame that their families and loved ones experience. This enables them to seek the support and treatment they deserve. Positive mental health is especially vital to children's development.

In December, 2021, the Surgeon General issued an advisory highlighting the urgent need to address our nation's youth mental health crisis further exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We need to accept that 1 in 5 youth experiences a mental health challenge. We need to meet those challenges with understanding and support, not prejudice and discrimination. Accept that these youth need to be urgently addressed. The wellbeing of our country depends on how we support them. This is our investment in the next generation.

For more information and ways you can help, contact: OCMH@wi.gov.

God Bless You,

Barbara Rasmussen, RN., PNC.



Blood Pressure Checks

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



Thank You

Thank you to our accompanists, instrumentalists, and members of the vocal and handbell choirs who supported and enriched our worship services during Lent and Holy Week. You are a blessing to us all!

– Paulette Spoon, Music Director

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.

Saint JAMES PRESCHOOL



Verona Area
PreK
Partnership in Early Learning

Teacher Appreciation

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

Peptoc Hotline

Do you or your loved ones need a pep talk or to hear words of encouragement? I suggest you call the Peptoc Hotline at 707-998-8410. A kindergarten class from California has created this pre-recorded hotline for anyone to call. I have enjoyed calling the hotline! I highly suggest you give it a call when you are having a bad day, a sad moment, or just need a pep talk. Pass the information along to someone else who could use a pick me up!

A Peek Into Preschool



Thanks to Brian Bazala for coming to show and teach the Pre-K kids about tools and construction!



The 3 year old classes went on a nature walk.



Learning how to write the letter S in shaving cream!



Henry Villas Zoo's "Zoo to You" program came to our school and brought some animals for a visit.

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 Pat Strand, Tracy Borchert, Monica Pechan, Joanne Prange, and Lorlene Pulver.

We also remember Ben (nephew of Sue Zimmer), Nancy Gerry (mother of Angie Rahn), Bruce & Pearlene Glasrud (brother and sister-in-law of Karen Wolf), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Sally, Sharon Schwinn (sister of Mary Moldenhauer) Mary Watkins (daughter of Renata Henry), Julie Weigel (cousin of Barbara Rasmussen), Dave Wolf (nephew of Doug Wolf), and friends John, Judy, Susan Kennedy, Debbie Loughrin, and Pat Stillwell.

Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Nolan John Pescheck, son of Ryan & Ashlee (Rybicki) Pescheck, on May 1, 2022.

In Residence: Four Winds - Zelma Danna; **Noel Manor**—Dutch & Dee Becker, Lorena Gerbitz, Dale & Audrey Hagen, James Hatch, Dick Herfel, Ellen & Lloyd Hornbacher, Harriet Instefjord, Marilyn Le Moine, Chuck & Marilyn Roum, & Jim Schumann. **Oakwood West** – Lorine Kahl. **Willow Pointe** - Betty Burgenske, and Kay Hankins. **Oak Park Place** – Audrey Kunstman.

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



Verona, WI 53593-1492

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