



## Summer 2022

We hope you have been enjoying your summer and taking time to relax. The staff and pastors are gearing up for Vacation Bible School the first week of August. We've also been planning for fall and this issue includes some important dates for fall activities. Enjoy! We hope to see you all very soon.



## New Members to be received on October 16

We will welcome new members on October 16 at our 8:30 am service. New members are invited to join us at a dinner on October 11 where they will learn more about St. James and meet some of our members. Please email Pastor Kurt at [kbillings@stjamesverona.org](mailto:kbillings@stjamesverona.org) if you are interested in joining.



**St. James  
Community  
Meal**



We invite you to join us Wednesday, August 3 at 6:00 pm for this simple meal. Our menu this month is Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Macaroni Salad, Pickles, Lemonade, Coffee, and Cake Rolls for dessert. Scan the QR Code or visit our website to register.

## Looking Ahead

- August 1 – 4** Vacation Bible School
- August 3** Community Meal
- August 28** Semi-Annual Meeting
- September 1** 1st Day of Preschool
- September 18** 1st Day of Sunday School & Confirmation  
  
Bible Presentation for three-year old & third grade children
- October 11** New Member Dinner
- October 16** New Members Received at 8:30 am Worship  
  
Affirmation of Baptism at 10:45 am Worship  
  
St. James Book Group at 5:00 pm

## Official Notice of the Semi-Annual Meeting

*August 28 following the 9:00 am  
worship service.*

The purpose of this meeting is to elect members to the Congregational Council.

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

9:00 am is LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

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

Phone: 608.845.6922

[www.stjamesverona.org](http://www.stjamesverona.org)

Fax: 608.845.6903

## From the Pastor

### Do Not Worry

25 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,[a] or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?[b] 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" 32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God[c] and his[d] righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*Matthew 6:25-33*

Lately, on Sunday afternoons, I have been taking long walks with my son at the Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton. The conservancy is 160 acres of beautiful trails, woods and streams. My son likes to photograph

birds, and so we do a good deal of bird watching as we walk the 8 mile trail. (You can watch the eagles as they raise they young if you have a good set of binoculars.) It is fun to spend time with my son, of course, but it is also fun to be outside and immerse myself in nature. Yesterday, during our walk, as I was watching the birds, these verses from Matthew came to mind. As the birds were taking a refreshing bath in the Sacred Springs, or simply flying from tree to tree, they seemed stress free and care free. They didn't seem to have a worry in the world. And, as I was hiking and watching them, I forgot about all the cares and concerns that I carry with me as well.



As a Pastor, I talk about faith practices and ways to deepen our faith. Often times, I suggest reading a book and reflecting upon the reading – how did it speak to you? In what ways did it enliven your spirit, illuminate your soul? (I often tend toward the cerebral) But there are other times when the best way to deepen and restore our faith is to simply unplug from all our electronic devices and social networks and step outside. Immerse ourselves in nature, and consider the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. And as we do, rediscover again all the ways God cares for

#### 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.

us. We all carry such heavy burdens as we worry about so many things in this life. But every so often, it is good to put them aside and walk out into God's beautiful world and be reminded that as God's children, we are loved deeply, unconditionally and completely. And like the birds of the air - God provides. And at the end of my walk, as I reenter my busy life again, I carry with me, in a renewed way, God's love and care for us all. May you find time to rediscover for yourself God's love and care. The best way to do that may be to simply take a walk.

Blessings on your journey,

Pastor Kurt

## Budget Update

2022 General Budget through June



<u>Year-to-Date Receipts</u>	<u>Actual</u>	vs.	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Amount over/(under)</u>
<u>budget</u>				
Offering Envelopes	\$254,117		\$286,000	\$(31,883)
Seeds Fund Transfer	\$70,962		\$70,962	
PPP Fund Transfer	\$ 17,500		\$ 17,500	
Other Receipts	<u>\$ 7,963</u>		<u>\$ 5,955</u>	<u>\$ ( 2,008)</u>
Total	\$350,542		\$380,417	\$(29,875) (7.9%)

### Year-to-Date Expenses

<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
\$359,534	\$376,743	\$(17,210)

## Mortgage Refinance Complete

We are happy to report that our loan refinance with the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) was completed in July. Thanks to a \$100,000 Memorial gift from the estate of Gary Mani combined with 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. Our new monthly mortgage payment is \$2,500 less per month than our previous payment. Thank you!

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

## Endowment Bequest

We are pleased to announce a \$25,000 gift to the St. James Mission Endowment fund from the estate of LeRoy and Ramona Dockter. For more information on St. James Mission Endowment Fund, pick up a brochure in our brochure rack near the elevator.

# Children, Youth & Families

## Seeking New Youth Director

As you may have heard, due to some unforeseen circumstances related to school, Bailey is no longer able to serve as our Youth Director. We're sad to see her go, but thankful for her time at St. James. She appreciated the time she had with the wonderful Confirmation students and youth. We wish her well!

As we search for the next lucky person to lead our youth, please reach out to Pastor Kurt, Ali Heil (Council President), Cindi Stampfli (CYF Committee Chair) or Holly Parker (Director of Children's Ministry) if you or anyone you know might be interested! The full job description is on our website's homepage.



## 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!**

Adventure awaits! We are excited to celebrate God's greatness and ready for a fun-filled week of stories, crafts, games, videos and snacks! Here's a glance:

	<b>Bible Point</b>	<b>Bible Story</b>	<b>Bible Verse</b>
<b>Monday</b>	God loves you no matter what.	Joseph's family feuds. (Genesis 37)	"Your unfailing love will last forever." (Psalm 89:2)
<b>Tuesday</b>	God is with you everywhere.	Joseph is imprisoned. (Genesis 39-40)	"For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)
<b>Wednesday</b>	God is in charge.	Joseph gets new responsibilities. (Genesis 41)	"How great is our Lord! His power is absolute!" (Psalm 147:5)
<b>Thursday</b>	God is surprising.	Joseph reunites with his family. (Genesis 42-45)	"Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people!" (Psalm 66:5)



## *Thank you!*

*Thank you to all who have signed up to volunteer, to those who have donated supplies and to everyone who has kept the children and leaders in your prayers! Our adventure wouldn't be possible without your support!*





## Mark Your Calendars for Fall!

Fall planning is underway and we can't wait to welcome our families back for a new school year! More information will be coming soon. In the meantime, mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:

### **Sunday, August 14**

Registration begins for Sunday School & Confirmation

### **Wednesday, August 17**

7:30pm Movie Night

### **Sunday, September 18**

8:30 am - Bible Presentations (3 year olds, 3rd graders, 7th graders) followed by 8:30 Sunday School for 3-6 year olds

9:30 am - Sunday School & Confirmation Kickoff & Orientation

### **Wednesday, October 12**

6-8 pm - Confirmation Dinner & Rehearsal

### **Sunday, October 16**

10:45 am - Confirmation (Affirmation of Baptism) Service

### **Wednesday, October 19**

6:00 pm - Youth Group Kickoff

## St. James Giving Garden

A special thank you to Chris Nass for all he has done to get the garden prepped, planted and producing! Badger Prairie Needs Network is grateful for the much needed produce that will benefit area families in need.

If you are interested in watering, weeding or harvesting the garden, please contact Holly at [hparker@stjamesverona.org](mailto:hparker@stjamesverona.org).



### 2022 Scholarship Award Winner

This year's St. James Scholarship went to Grace Parker. Grace was confirmed at St. James and has volunteered in various roles. During the past year, she has worked as an assistant to Michelle Lichty in the church office. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse in the fall and plans to study Psychology. Congratulations Grace!



# BIRTHDAY PARTY KITS

## for Badger Prairie Needs Network

At Monumental VBS, we'll be "Celebrating God's Greatness" and learning about His unconditional, strong, certain and surprising love! Let's share those gifts of love and celebration by creating birthday kits for kids whose families can't afford a cake, party or presents.

Can you help fill **Celebration Canyon** by donating at least one kit??

### EACH KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:

1 box of cake mix (any flavor)

1 prepared frosting

1 9x13 foil cake pan

1 package of birthday candles

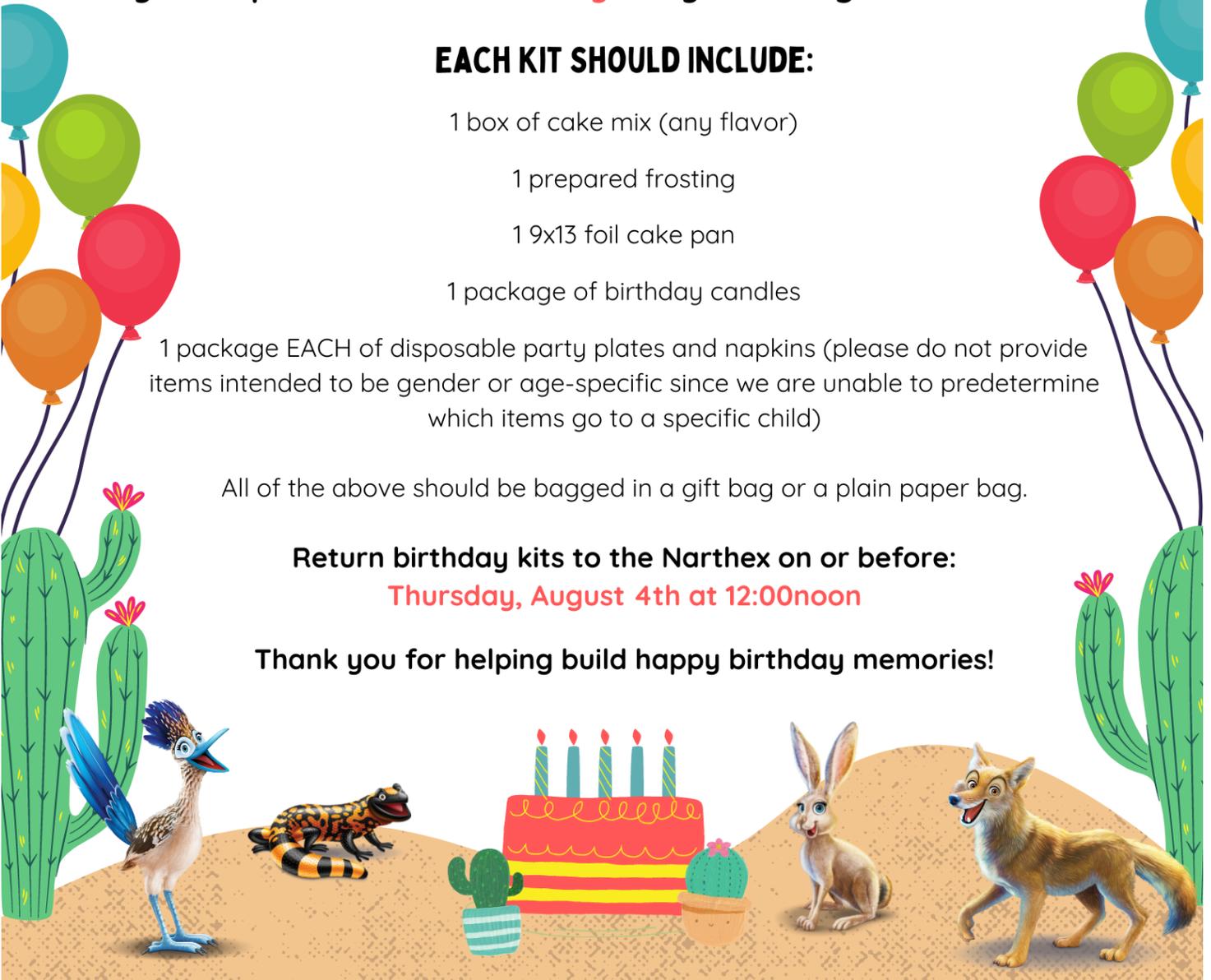
1 package EACH of disposable party plates and napkins (please do not provide items intended to be gender or age-specific since we are unable to predetermine which items go to a specific child)

All of the above should be bagged in a gift bag or a plain paper bag.

**Return birthday kits to the Narthex on or before:**

**Thursday, August 4th at 12:00noon**

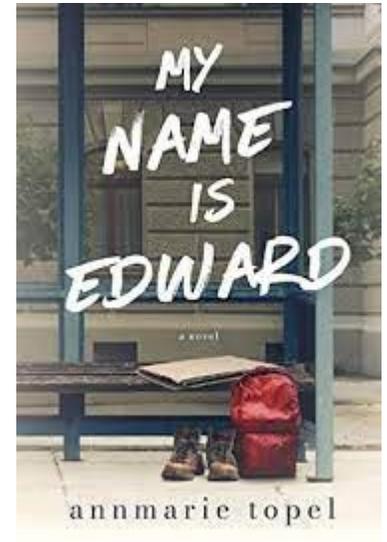
**Thank you for helping build happy birthday memories!**



## St. James Book Group to resume October 16

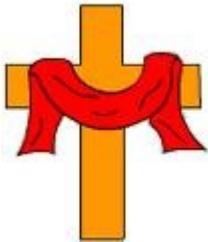
The first book selection of the year is My Name Is Edward by Annemarie Topel. Unwanted and neglected since birth, Edward struggles to find his way in the world. With the death of the grandmother who was raising him, Edward is left with no one. Eventually, he is forced to take to the streets where he finds that his struggles are more than just fighting to survive. Battling internal demons and unable to trust, the hope he fought hard to hang onto fades, and he begins to lose his grip.

Ann, a high-powered businesswoman with barely enough hours in the day to manage her own busy life, stumbles upon Edward while taking a detour to work one morning. Something about him grabs her deep within her soul and draws her to him. While their lives look nothing alike on the surface, it isn't long before their shared pain and many parallels are exposed. As Ann fights to save Edward, she discovers that their chance meeting irrevocably changes both their lives and that helping him might be more about helping herself. My Name Is Edward is a story of fiction inspired, in part, by true events.



The author, Annemarie Topel, will be joining the book group discussion in October. Annemarie lives in Milwaukee where she spent four decades in the broadcast industry before retiring in 2020 to pursue her passion for writing.

Books are for sale at the Welcome Center for \$11. We hope you can join us.



### **The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be gathering at St. James this coming Wednesday, August 3rd, 9:30 – 11:30. All are welcome to join in!**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry workshops are the first & third Wednesday of the month at St. James from 9:30-11:30. Please join us for fellowship, laughter, knitting and crocheting. There is yarn and directions at the Welcome Center and all are welcome to join in.

## Thank You

Many thanks to all my St. James family & friends for the good wishes and for coming to the birthday celebration in Stoughton. Because of everyone's generosity, over 500 pounds of food and a nice monetary donation were given to the Badger Needs Network and Stoughton Food pantry. I am truly blessed!

– Marilyn Maurer

## 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.

# Women of St. James

## Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Mary Circle will once again be collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. Below is a list of the needed supplies. Please pay close attention to the details. Donated supplies can be dropped off at church thru September 4, 2022.

- ★ 70 sheet SPIRAL notebooks of wide or collage-ruled paper
- ★ Ruler with both centimeters and inches
- ★ Pencil sharpener
- ★ BLUNT point scissors
- ★ Black or blue ballpoint pens (NO GEL INK)
- ★ Box of 16 or 24 crayons

## Lutheran World Relief...where do our donations go?

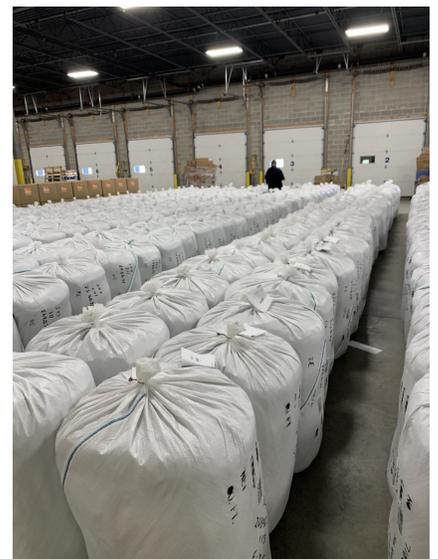


**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

As you may know, our women's circles send School Kits and Baby Layettes to people in need around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Our quilting group also sends their quilts in this manner. Here are some photos of the quilts prior to shipping from a warehouse in Minneapolis as well as a quilt recipient in Poland who had recently left Ukraine. She was blown away that the quilt was handmade and a group in the US would intentionally do this. People that are at peace and don't have to do it, but take time, sit and read and talk about the Bible and pray for the people who receive them. For more information on the work of Lutheran World Relief, visit [www.lwr.orgcongregations](http://www.lwr.orgcongregations).



These bags of quilts are ready to be shipped. Each bag contains 35 quilts.



## From the Parish Nurse...

### Handwashing: Universal Disease Prevention

Handwashing may seem extremely basic, but it is a vital step in preventing illness and the spread of harmful viruses and germs, especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The pioneer of modern-day nursing, Florence Nightingale, implemented handwashing in the war hospital where she worked with positive results. Now, almost two hundred years later, we have supporting research and proof that handwashing is essential in prevention and containment of the spread of infection. Handwashing with soap and other forms of hand hygiene are critical in achieving and maintaining good health.

When should you wash your hands? 1. Before, during, and after preparing food; 2. Before eating; 3. Before and after caring for someone who is sick; 4. Before and after treating a cut or wound; 5. After using the bathroom, changing diapers, or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet; 6. After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; 7. After touching an animal, animal food or treats, animal cages, or animal waste; 8. After touching garbage; 9. If your hands are visibly dirty or greasy.

The best handwashing technique is to: Wet your hands with clean running water and apply soap. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with soap. Scrub all surfaces, including the palms, backs, fingers, between your fingers, and under your nails. Scrub for at least 20 seconds. (Sing Happy Birthday or hum the Doxology.) Rinse under clean, running water. Dry your hands using a clean towel and then use the towel to turn the water off and open the door before disposing of it in the correct receptacle.

If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that has at least 60% alcohol.

Hand washing is an easy, cheap, and effective way to prevent the spread of germs and promote health.

God Bless You,

Barbara Rasmussen, RN., PNC.



### Blood Pressure Checks

Checks will be held on August 14 after the 9:00 service in the church office. All are welcome to come!



# Saint JAMES PRESCHOOL



Verona Area  
**Pre-K**  
Partnership in Early Learning

## What's happening at Preschool?

The staff is gearing up for school to start on 9/1. We do currently have one spot left in our 3 year old program and a few left in our VASD Pre-K class.



Bucky Books will be sold by the Preschool again this year. More information will be available soon on cost and how to purchase.

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## Parish Nursing Conference

The 30th Annual Parish Nursing and Congregational Health Ministries Conference was held at Concordia University Wisconsin on May 18-19, 2022. The theme for this year's conference was Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow. Carol Lueders Bolwerk observed this milestone year of the conference by expressing praise to the Lord through the conference bible verse, I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my hear; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1. Attendance numbered 82 over the two days. Above is a picture of the Parish Nurse District Representatives and Council members who attended the conference. Our own Parish Nurse, Barbara Rasmussen was in attendance and is the second row, seventh from the left.



# PARISH NOTES

If you have someone that you would like to add to this prayer list please email ([office@stjamesverona.org](mailto: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.



**W**e remember our members in our prayers, especially Tracy Borchert, Monica Pechan, and Lori Wing.

We also remember Ben (nephew of Sue Zimmer), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), 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 Brian, John, Judy, Susan Kennedy, and Debbie Loughrin.

**S**acrament of Christian Baptism: Nolan John Pescheck, son of Ryan & Ashlee (Rybicki) Pescheck, on May 1, 2022; and Sullivan Kirk Johnson, son of Ben & Kendra (Raemisch) Johnson, on July 24, 2022.

**C**hristian Sympathy is extended to the family of Dutch Becker as they mourn his death; and to the family of Jane Baker as they mourn her death. We also extend our sympathy to the family of Ellen Hornbacher as they mourn her passing.

**In Residence:** **Four Winds** - Zelma Danna; **Noel Manor**—Dee Becker, Lorena Gerbitz, Dale & Audrey Hagen, James Hatch, Dick Herfel, Lloyd Hornbacher, Harriet Instefjord, Marilyn Le Moine, Peggy Papenfus, 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.



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