



We had a large group of kiddos during our Children's Sermon on Sunday, September 25. We are thankful for all of our members young and old and we look forward to seeing everyone at worship each week. Join us Saturday at 5:00 pm or Sunday at 8:30 & 10:45 am.

Looking Ahead

October 5	Community Meal
October 11	New Member Dinner
October 16	New Members Received at 8:30 am Worship St. James Book Group at 5:00 pm
October 18	Faith & Science Reading Group at 6:30 pm
October 30	Reformation Sunday
November 6	Hope & Healing Dinner and Service
November 13	Affirmation of Baptism Service at 10:45 am
November 19	Women of St. James Annual Bake Sale & Luncheon

New Members will 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 if you are interested in joining.



**St. James
Community
Meal**



We invite you to join us Wednesday, October 5 at 6:00 pm for this simple meal. Our menu this month is Beef Stroganoff over Noodles, Fall Salad, Bread & Butter, Apple & Pumpkin desserts and Beverages. Scan the QR Code or visit our website to register. This meal is for everyone and everyone is welcome. We invite you to bring your family and friends!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: 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 recently came across a lovely article, quite by chance, by a palliative care physician, Simran Malhotra, who works in Baltimore. The interviewer asked her about what people said at the end of their lives about what's most important to them.

It's a cliché, but true: we're all dying. When we embrace this truth (rather than run from it), we can live with greater freedom and purpose to our living. But those who know they're in their final days have much to teach us.

There was a commercial that proclaimed, "You only go 'round once in life, so grab for all the gusto you can." Brought to you over 50 years ago from your friends at Schlitz Brewing in Milwaukee. Life is limited, therefore they thought we should "grab" what we can while we're here. Including one of their cold beers.

Dr. Malhotra said what people regret most wasn't grabbing enough, but (1) not spending more time with loved ones, "including years lost with a loved one due to a trivial disagreement"; (2) spending too much time at work; and (3) not pursuing a life most true to their passions and gifts, rather than trying to live up to the expectations of others.

Here's my take on *regret* at the end of life: live long enough, we will all have them. The longer we live, the more days we have to see life more clearly. We see that the best things in life aren't things, it's life itself, and the people God gives to us. God created us for one another — yes, our families and

friends, but also our beloved communities of mutual care and support (like St. James!), and even the stranger you bump into today.

The Episcopal priest and author, Alan Jones, once said that life is really a "school of love." That helps me understand that we're here not to achieve or amass, but to learn (practice, practice) how to love in our living and giving and forgiving.

Dr. Malhotra said: "Don't be afraid to face your fears and embrace your vulnerabilities. These are the things that make us human and connect us to others. They are what make us real and raw and beautiful. In the end, we are all just human beings desperately searching for connection, love and meaning in our lives. We want to be seen, heard and understood. We want to know that we matter. That our lives have mattered."

As hard as it can be (especially when a child is dying), it can be a sacred privilege to walk with those who are at the end of their days. When I do so as a pastor, we might take time to look back at their life, but my presence also points them to the One who gives us hope to look forward.

We've all journeyed through Covid and have a greater sense how precious and fragile life is. To live is to love, and to love is to be vulnerable. Living in Christ means we live

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
Barb Roberts	Card Ministry
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
Tricia Connors, Holly Parker,	St. James Preschool
Lori Rudy, 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
Dennis Beres	608-845-9305
Desiree Canto	646-599-7021
Christine Kemnitz	608-886-6363
Julie Murphy	608-345-8533



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

inside a story, a story with a promise at the center: the One who died for us is the very same One risen from the dead. Jesus is our hope. And where Jesus is, death has lost its sting.

You can live your life grabbing for all the gusto. But that would, I think, be a wasted life. What the world needs now is not more people living for themselves, but people living for each other, and for generations to come. My prayer is that you will live out your days cherishing what is most dear...to God: "to love as God loves," as the saying goes. Be kind to yourself and be loving to others. Rest each day in the peace that Christ gives, and the promise that is eternal.

—Pastor Peter

Budget Update

2022 General Budget through August

<u>Year-to-Date Receipts</u> <u>budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	vs.	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Amount over/(under)</u>
Offering Envelopes	\$333,886		\$359,000	\$(25,114)
Seeds Fund Transfer	\$94,616		\$94,616	
PPP Fund Transfer	\$ 23,333		\$ 23,333	
Other Receipts	<u>\$10,345</u>		<u>\$ 7,640</u>	<u>\$ 2,705</u>
Total	\$462,180		\$484,589	\$(22,409) (4.6%)



Year-to-Date Expenses

<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
\$484,158	\$521,745	\$(37,587)

Thank you to our members for your continued support of our church.

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 & Families

Adventure Awaits!

We jumped into the Sunday School year with Bible Presentations, icebreaker games, name tag decorating, a Bible Story Obstacle Course and, of course, donuts! We also began collecting boxes of cereal for Badger Prairie Needs Network. Thank you to all who were able to come and kick off the year on the right foot! We're looking forward to a year full of fun and adventure with God as our guide!



Students received Compass Clips to help remind them that through all life's adventures, GOD IS OUR GUIDE!

Coming up in Sunday School & Confirmation

Date	Spark Sunday School (Preschool-Grade 4)	Club Connect (Grades 5-6)	Confirmation
Oct 2	The Parable of the Rich Man	Annunciation	The Reformers
Oct 9	A Seed of Faith	Nativity	Lutheran Confessions & Adiaphora
Oct 16	Ten Men Healed	Consecration	The Small Catechism
Oct 23	Movie Day		No Class
Oct 30	"Shine with Jesus" Halloween Celebration	Herod & Authority	Reformation

Affirmation of Baptism

Confirmation students and their parents will honor this special milestone with a dinner on Wednesday, November 9 and will be confirmed on Sunday, November 13 at the 10:45 service.



Thank you to the Women of St. James!

We would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to the Women of St. James for funding new Bibles for our 3 year old, 3rd Grade and Confirmation Students each year.



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 Peter, 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.

Thank you for supporting our Vacation Bible School Monumental Adventure!

Thank you to all the children, youth and families who filled our church and our hearts with God's greatness... and filled the "Camp Celebration" with Birthday Party Kits for BPNN!

Thank you to the pastors, staff and congregation for all the prayers and support and especially to the following volunteers for making our Monumental adventure safe, possible and AWESOME!

Alexander Umhoefer, Alexis Graber, Allison, Anna Sweeney, Annelisa Smith, Barb Rasmussen, Charley Schulz, Cheryl Wilson, Chloe Parker, Chris Nass, Elsie Woods, Emilie Breitnauer, Emily Rogers, Emma Eckmayer, Emma Parker, Grace Parker, Greta Johnston, Hannah Donhal, Hannah Rehm, Hazel Kemnitz, Hazel Woods, Jackson Umhoefer, James Harvey, Jeff Jacobs, Pam Hegg, Karla Glova, Kashton Boehm, Kayla Baneck, Krista Hillstead, Kyleigh Retrum, Landis Heitz, Laura Smith, Lori Rudy, Mathias Boehm, Michael Groy, Nora Sweeney, Oliver Eckmayer, Parker Sobczak, Paulette Spoon, Quinn Ley, Reese Haley, Sawyer Hillstead, Serena Hughes, Sophia Smith, Sue Klein, Sue Zernicke, Theresa Sutfin, Tillie Heitz.

Thank you also to Heather Pearl and St. James Preschool for sharing spaces and supplies and to First Presbyterian in Chicago for sharing their decorations with us!

CELEBRATING GOD'S GREATNESS - AWESOME GOD!



Youth Music at St. James begins October 2

YOUTH CHOIR: St. James Youth Choir will resume rehearsal on Sunday October 2 @10:35 under the direction of Sue Bubolz. This choir is a fun-loving group of young Christians praising God with joyful songs. The choir welcomes new members in first grade and older. Come and check us out on October 2.

YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR: The youth handbell choir is looking to welcome new and returning handbell ringers. Are you interested, but maybe a little apprehensive? Give it a try! It is a fun musical experience in a small and unique ensemble. Youth from 6th grade through high school are welcome.

We will begin rehearsals on Sunday, October 2, from 10:45-11:30, in the church's lower level music room. Look for the bell tables or listen for the handbells. We rehearse approximately three times per month, on Sunday mornings, and a schedule will be provided for the rehearsals and worship performances. We have a wonderful group of youth returning, but we would love to see some new ringers as well!

Questions? Please contact Paulette Spoon at spoonp@charter.net. I look forward to hearing from you!



ADULT VOCAL CHOIR:

Do you like to sing? Are you looking for a fun way to spend an hour on Wednesday evenings? Join the choir! New and returning singers are welcome! The St. James vocal choir will resume rehearsals on October 5th. We rehearse on Wednesdays, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary. We know that you are busy, and perfect attendance is not expected. We'd love to have you join us!

Simply come to the sanctuary on October 5, at 6:30 p.m., or contact Paulette Spoon at spoonp@charter.net if you have any questions.

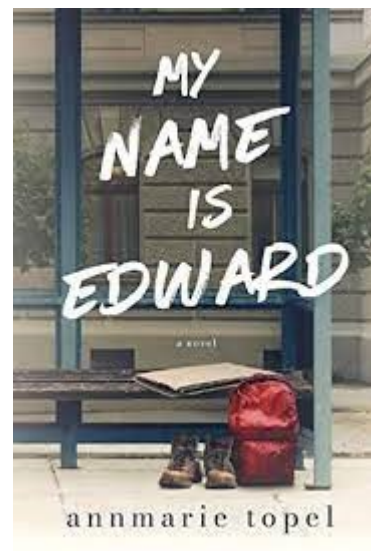
INSTRUMENTALISTS WANTED!

Do you play an instrument? Or you used to play and need an excuse to get your instrument out again? The music program at St. James has opportunities for instrumentalists to support worship and/or play with musical groups, such as the handbell or vocal choirs. Please contact Paulette Spoon at spoonp@charter.net if you have questions or want to volunteer! Musicians of all ages are welcome.

St. James Book Group resumes 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.

Faith And Science Reading Group to Meet

Tuesday, October 18th at 6:30pm in the Luther Room

The Faith and Science reading group will continue their discussion of The Polkinghorne Reader, discussing part 2 of the book: *God*. The Polkinghorne Reader is available at the Welcome Center for \$20. For more information, please contact Pastor Kurt at kbillings@stjamesverona.org.

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

Lutheran World Relief Donations from St. James

On Saturday, September 17, the contributions of the Women of St. James were loaded onto a railway boxcar to travel to a Lutheran World Relief Distribution Center. Once there, their contributions will be sent around the world to people in need.

St. James donations included:

- ★ 78 Quilts, handmade by our Quilting Ministry
- ★ 36 Baby Care Kits
- ★ 48 Personal Care Kits, which help improve the standard of living for people around the world, especially in cases of natural disasters
- ★ 83 School kits



Prior to sending our quilts for distribution, the quilting group displays them in our Sanctuary where the congregation blesses them during worship. This occurred the weekend of September 3 & 4. It is wonderful to see the fruits of the quilters labor and the blessings our members extend to our brothers and sisters around the world.

The quilting group meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 9:00 am in the lower level quilting room. If you are interested in this ministry, you are invited to join them. All experience levels are welcome.

Thank you from Mary Circle

Mary Circle would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions of school supplies and cash donations. Your support of this project allowed us to send 83 school bags filled with needed school supplies to Lutheran World Relief. Eighty-three kids somewhere in the world will be helped by the generosity of St. James.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be gathering the first and third Wednesdays of each month at St. James. All are welcome to join!

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.

From the Parish Nurse...

Fall, 2022. Many things are going on in the Parish Nurse Ministry. Most important is the **Hope and Healing Dinner and Service on November 6 2022, beginning at 6:00 pm.** Yes, this year we will be having a dinner before the service. All parishioners, their friends and families who have experienced any type of loss are invited. There will be a reservation list out in October.

Loss comes in many forms. Among them can be financial, domestic, physical, emotional and spiritual loss. Our speaker this year, Ellen Taylor, is a Dementia Care Specialist and will address loss through a topic called "Ambiguous Loss". It is how we deal and live with the grief due to loss of any kind and how we bear the pain and feelings of no closure. She will elaborate on dementia and Alzheimer's.

All of us need to remember **September highlights the importance of caring for our mental health and brings awareness to suicide prevention.** Just like the body of Christ is connected in many ways, so is our personal body-physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. They all need to be cared for to work properly. There will be flyers regarding this issue and the **National Suicide Prevention Hotline, 988**, in the bathrooms very soon.

Finally, our Parish Nurse Ministry has re-established **Trivia** for our members. Prior to the pandemic we played at Monks regularly. Now, post pandemic, we play on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm at Boulder Brew Pub. It is a great way to get out and socialize in addition to our other church activities. And it stretches that "gray matter." All are welcome! Let Barbara Rasmussen (brasmussen@stjamesverona.org) know if you care to join them so she can make sure there is enough table room. The photo enclosed indicates our wealth of information as we have come in third place and then **FIRST!!** We received coupons for food at the establishment so, it's a WIN WIN for all.



Blood Pressure Checks

Checks will be held on October 9 between services in the church office. All are welcome to come!

Trivia Group Wins Again!



Ken Kahl, Shelley Bazala, Shirley Volkening, Barbara Rasmussen, Melinda Funseth, Linda Leary, Jackie Bisek, & Denny Beres

What's happening at Preschool?



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 2022-23 school year has successfully started. Our 2 ½ and 3s classes are full and only have a few openings in our Pre-K class. The staff and I are enjoying having the kids in the building and getting to know each one of them.

This year we added a new staff member, Tricia Connors. Tricia's two children attended St. James Preschool in the past. She has a degree in education and has experience in early childhood. She lives in Verona with her two kids and husband. Tricia is teaching in the Pre-K class with Stacy Zimmerman. Kristin Wills is teaching the 2 ½ and a 3s class and Holly Parker and Lori Rudy both teach a 3s class.



Verona Area Kids Expo:

The Verona Area School District First Five Years (VAFFY) is putting on a Verona Area Kids Expo on Saturday, November 5th from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. The event will take place at the Badger Ridge Middle School and is open to all families. Kids will enjoy games and activities. Families will also have the chance to learn about preschools, childcare facilities, after-school programs, recreation programs, elementary school choices, and more. For more information you can go to www.verona.k12.wi.us/Page/3130

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 Tracy Borchert and Monica Pechan.

We also remember 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, Dennis, John, Joseph, Judy, Susan Kennedy, and Debbie Loughrin.

Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Penelope Marie Horan, daughter of Matthew & Christine (Malzfeldt) Horan, on September 10, 2022; and Edward Dean Whitish, son of Richard & Emily (Lawless) on September 11, 2022.

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 Roun, & Jim Schumann. **Oakwood West** — Lorine Kahl. **Willow Pointe** - Kay Hankins. **Ingleside** — Betty Burgenske, Audrey Kunstman.

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

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