



Advent Workshops on December 4th & 11th

During 8:30 & 9:30 Sunday School times

All are welcome to join us in the Youth Lounge for stories, crafts and games to prepare for the birth of our Savior!

Advent 4 Worship Schedule

Saturday, December 17 – 5:00 pm

Carols and Dessert.

No 5:00 pm worship service.

Sunday, December 18 – 8:30 am

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18 – 10:45 am

Lesson and Carols



Carols and Dessert – December 17!

Please mark your calendars: Carols and Dessert, our annual St. James Christmas concert, will take place on Saturday, December 17, at 5 pm. Join the choir... bring a dessert... or simply come and listen. We hope you will find time to celebrate the sounds of the Christmas season with us! *There will be no 5:00 pm worship service that evening.*

Holiday Choir Rehearsals Began November 20... but it's not too late to join us!

Holiday Choir, the vocal choir for Carols and Dessert, our St. James Christmas concert, is rehearsing on Sunday afternoons in November and early December. We meet in the sanctuary, at 4 p.m., on November 20, 27, and December 4 and 11. Rehearsals last one hour. Carols and Dessert will take place on Saturday, December 17, at 5:00 pm. Please join us, even if you missed a rehearsal or two. Contact Paulette Spoon at spoonp@charter.net if you have any questions.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:00 pm Family Service with Holy Communion

5:00, 7:00, 10:00 pm

Candlelight Services with Holy Communion

Christmas Day, December 25 Sunday

10:00 am

New Year's Eve, December 31 Saturday

No Worship service

New Year's Day, January 1 Sunday

10:00 am

We will resume our normal worship schedule on the weekend of January 7 and 8.

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 Pastors

The following is from *Prophets & Promises: Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2022 – 2023*. Copies are available at the Welcome Center.

Isaiah 2:4 – 5

[The LORD] shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
national shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

To ponder

Like the sun, I'm here to shine.
Like the voice, I'm here to sing.
Like the bird, I'm here to fly.
and soar high over everything.
— Grace Byers, *I Am Enough*

We are here to shine

Exuberance is a marvelous spiritual gift that inspires in us the cheerfulness and excitement we will need during the weeks of Advent.

The ancient prophets help us encounter the wonders of the living word as their energizing messages announce new things that will soon appear. God often surprises us with the words and actions of people who find unexpected ways to draw us out of darkness and despair. Sometimes we simply marvel when our children, our elders, or friends we haven't seen in years seem to be sent by God to remind us that there is already joy in this world.

Faithful ones, let us give thanks for all those living among us who help refresh our faith in the One who makes all things new. Let us pay attention to the surprising voices around us who speak and live with an exuberance that calls us to believe with all our hearts that we are here to shine.

Prayer

Here I am, Lord. Thank you for all the ways you call me to walk in your light. Amen.

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,	Accompanists
Jim Erickson, Carol Murphy	
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.

Budget Update

2022 General Budget through October

<u>Year-to-Date Receipts</u>	<u>Actual</u>	vs.	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Amount over/(under) budget</u>
Offering Envelopes	\$407,824		\$445,000	\$(37,176)
Seeds Fund Transfer	\$118,270		\$118,270	
PPP Fund Transfer	\$ 29,166		\$ 29,166	
Other Receipts	<u>\$12,680</u>		<u>\$11,117</u>	<u>\$ 2,705</u>
Total	\$567,940		\$603,553	\$(35,613) (6.0%)

Year-to-Date Expenses

<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
\$599,014	\$645,669	\$ 46,655 7.2%

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



Stewardship 2023

Thank you to those who have returned their 2023 pledge cards. Pledging helps us plan for the year ahead. Simply drop them in the offering plate or mailbox.

Help us finish strong... We are approximately 6% behind in annual giving based on our 2022 budget. In order to make our Congregational Giving Budget, we need to bring in approximately \$108,000 in General Budget donations by December 31. We are so appreciative of all the gifts of time, talent and treasures that we receive. Thank you for the many ways that you support the ministry and mission of St. James and please prayerfully consider helping St. James finish strong.

Thank you to all who donated to the Badger Prairie Needs Network for Thanksgiving.

We raised more than \$5,000 for them this year!

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. 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!

- 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?

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



Advent Workshops on December 4th & 11th

During 8:30 & 9:30 Sunday School times

All are welcome to join us in the Youth Lounge for stories, crafts and games to prepare for the birth of our Savior!



Annual Pop-Up Christmas Pageant on December 18

During 8:30 worship

The interactive format is fun for all generations and allows everyone in attendance to participate...or just sit back and enjoy...it's up to you! You can simply pick a prop when you arrive at church, proceed to the altar when your prop is called, then join in a traditional Christmas hymn before returning to your seat. The service will also feature special musical performances by St. James children & youth. Join us for fellowship in the Dining Room after the service!

***There is no Sunday School or Confirmation on November 27, December 25 & January 1.**



THANK YOU to All of our Wonderful Volunteers!

We have been blessed with many generous volunteers this fall and would like to take a moment to thank them. We know their lives are very busy and appreciate the time and energy they are sharing with, and investing in, our children and youth!

Sunday School - Emilie Breitnauer, Dan Bubolz, Brienne Carlson, Aidyn Chatman, Rylie Heilman, Landis Heitz, Vicki Kelly, Christine Kemnitz, Julian Murphy, Danielle Nelson, Brittany Nyenhuis, Chloe Parker, Cody Parker, Emma Parker, Joleen Rau, Lori Rudy, Jackson Stampfli, Barbara Thomas, Katie Wallace, Will Wallace, Kristin Wills, Cathy Woods

Confirmation - Diana Bhatoya, Karen Breitnauer, Kim Eckmayer, Shana Longley, Laura Smith, Mark Smith, Elise Taft, and Jesi Wang

More Help Needed in 2023! Quality opportunities for our children, youth and families are essential for their faith formation...and a promising future filled with the love and hope of Jesus. Here are some ways you can receive, grow and give with us:

Sunday School - Lead or assist a story, craft or game station or supervise small groups as they rotate through stations.
(1-2x/month)

Confirmation - Assist a lead teacher on Sunday mornings (1-2x/month)

Youth Group -

Mission Trips -

Service Projects -

Vacation Bible School -

Other Ideas - Have other ideas or gifts to share? Please let us know!

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.

Women & Men of St. James

The Women of St. James Board extends a big thank you to the St. James family for making the 2022 Bake Sale and Luncheon a huge success. The funds raised are to support the Women of St. James mission of providing funding to church and community programs that benefit women, children, and families. The event raised over \$3,800 this year and with the additional Thrivent donation that comes from members who invest in Thrivent of \$1,000, a total of more than \$4,800 is available for many causes. Examples include supporting the Badger Prairie Needs Network, sponsoring several families at Christmas as selected by the VASD social workers, purchasing Bibles for the St. James Youth, contributing to the annual Women's Retreat, providing High School scholarships to two graduating seniors, and support to the prayer shawl ministry.

This year's event again offered something new with both the convenience of pre-order bake sale items and carryout lunch as well as the fellowship of the in-person luncheon and bake sale offering a variety of delicious goodies. The annual event includes generous baked good donations from so many of the St. James members and would not be possible without this wide group of strong support. The bake sale included over 80 packages of lefse and over 100 bags of pfefferneusse along with dozens of krumkake and pies. This thank you also extends to the dedicated group of women (and expert dishwashers Jim and Mark) that volunteered at the luncheon and bake sale event, the St. James Office in helping to publicize the event, and of course all the patrons who purchased the goodies and ate at the luncheon. THANK YOU!



Sue Zernicke makes lefse!

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.

Quilting Group

The Quilters meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:00 am. Interested members are invited to attend.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be gathers 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.

St. James Book Group



On October 16, the St. James book group had the pleasure of the author of their book, My Name is Edward, Annemarie Topel, join their discussion. She is pictured fourth from the left (seated) with our group above.

Their next meeting is on Sunday, January 22 at 5:00 pm. They will be discussing, From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life by Arthur C. Brooks.

“In this book, Arthur C. Brooks helps people find greater happiness as they age and change.” –The Dalai Lama. At the height of his career at the age of 50, Arthur Brooks embarked on a seven-year journey to discover how to transform his future from one of disappointment over waning abilities into an opportunity for progress. From Strength to Strength is the result, a practical roadmap for the rest of your life.

Drawing on social science, philosophy, biography, theology, and eastern wisdom, as well as dozens of interviews with everyday men and women, Brooks shows us that true life success is well within our reach. By refocusing on certain priorities and habits that anyone can learn, such as deep wisdom, detachment from empty rewards, connection and service to others, and spiritual progress, we can set ourselves up for increased happiness. **Pick up a copy today at the Welcome Center for \$17.**

Christmas Poinsettia Garden



St. James members and friends of are invited to help adorn our chancel area with poinsettias for Christmas or to make a special donation to the Pastor's Fund (monies used to assist those in need). If you wish, the plant or the Pastor's Fund donation may be given in memory or honor of a loved one. Your plant may be taken home following the 10:00 pm service on Christmas Eve or the following week. The plants are \$17.

We are also accepting donations to the Pastor's Fund which may be made in any amount and either can be given in memory or honor of a loved one.

Please complete the form below and send or drop off at St. James. Please designate either poinsettia or The Pastor's Fund in your check memo.

_____ Poinsettia

_____ Gift to the Pastor's Fund

Given by:

(Name of Donor or Donors)

_____ In honor of

_____ In memory of

(Name of Person or Persons)

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2022

November 13, 2022



Pastor Kurt Billings, Natalie Zier, Nadalie Rahn, Elizabeth Smith, Parker Wang, Rylie Heilman, Emilie Breitnauer, Braelin Weiss, Pastor Peter Narum

Parents
Night Out!
December
9th

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parents Night Out

ST. JAMES PARENTS:
WE GIVE YOU...THE GIFT OF TIME!
SHOP, GO OUT TO DINNER, OR SIMPLY ENJOY SOME PEACE:)

December 9 5:30-8:00 pm at St. James

- Hosted by St. James Staff
- For children ages newborn-5th grade
- Drop off anytime after 5:30pm; pick up anytime before 8pm
- We'll provide crafts, games, free play, a movie and snacks

Scan code to register by 12/7:

Questions?
Contact Holly at
hparker@stjamesverona.org

New Members Received on October 16



We welcomed New Members on October 16: Brienne & Clay Carlson, Mason, Elin, & Isla; Amy & Jeffrey Schulte, Jack & Auggie; Clay & Julie Giessmeyer, Frankie & Fritz; Helen Troutman, and Sharon & John Gallagher. *Not pictured:* Daniel & Lynn Mahaffey, Finnley & Graham.



St. James
Community
Meal



Our next meal is on Wednesday, December 7 at 6:00 pm. The menu is Tater Tot Casserole, Salad, Bread, and Christmas Cookies. Scan the QR code above or visit our website, www.stjamesverona.org to register.

Give to the Community Closet!

The Community Closet serves children and families in the Verona area who are in need of clothing and other assistance. As part of your Advent and Christmas observance, please consider donating one of the following new items to the Community Closet. Donations can be placed in containers near the narthex Christmas tree. Thank you for sharing!

- Snowpants: Sizes 5/6 child through adult
- Underwear: Sizes child through adult
- Gift cards (of smaller denominations \$10-\$20) for Kwik Trip, Walmart, Woodman's, or Target

From the Parish Nurse...

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted in any way to make the **Hope and Healing Dinner and Service** such a special event again this year. I enclosed photos. Please consider attending next year if you have suffered any type of grief or loss, even if you have attended before. All our parishioners, their family and friends are welcome.


As we are getting past the mudslinging news of elections, and still have the daily depressing and sometimes false or exaggerated everyday news, we are approaching the "Holiday" season. We are encouraged to be "engaging, kind and considerate."

But, we can get caught up in the hustle and bustle of gift buying, baking, cooking, tree trimming, getting to the sales, cards, commitments, and so many more things. We all need to take a deep breath, pray for patience, and **THINK** before we speak. It is: **True, Helpful, Insightful, Necessary, Kind.**

I pray you all have a Wonderful and Blessed Christmas and Holiday Season!

God's Blessings,

Barbara Rasmussen, RN., PCN.



Blood Pressure Checks

Checks will be held on December 11 between services in the church office. All are welcome to come!





Preschool News



Updates:

Bucky Books- We are done selling Bucky Books. Thank you to everyone who bought one. We appreciate your support.

Preschool Registration- I have already been planning ahead to the 2023-2024 school year. It is looking like we will have very limited spots open due to current and legacy families. If you are a church member and are at all interested in enrolling your child in our preschool, you need to reach out to me ASAP. Please email me at sjp@stjamesverona.org or call me at 608-845-6922. Registration will open to all new families late January and then I anticipate we will fill all spots.

Preschool Happenings

In October, we hosted our annual Trick-or-Treat event for our students and their siblings. We handed out Halloween “treats” to over 100 kids. Families also had the opportunity to stick around and do a craft and visit with each other. It is always one of our favorite events and was so fun to see the kids in their costumes and their families.

In December, we will be hosting a Family Zoom Holiday Party for preschool families. We will be dancing, listening to stories and playing Bingo. We are excited for our event.



Teachers Tricia, Stacy, Holly, Lori, Heather, & Kristin get into the Halloween spirit with the kids and families!



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 Anneliese, Tracy Borchert and Monica Pechan.

We also remember Kimberly Choi (daughter of Norma Bader), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Sharon Schwinn (sister of Mary Moldenhauer) Mary Volker, (sister of John Volker), Mary Watkins (daughter of Renata Henry), Julie Weigel (cousin of Barbara Rasmussen), Dave Wolf (nephew of Doug Wolf), and friends Theresa, Dennis, John, Joseph, Judy, Susan Kennedy, and Debbie Loughrin.

Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Cameron Roger Klingbeil, son of Carl & Michelle (Taylor) Klingbeil on October 2; Banks Jay Parker, son of Seth Parker & Sarah (Dopf) Parker on October 9; Sophie Jean Feller, daughter of Mitchell & Miranda (Marx) Feller, on October 9; Finnley Daniel Mahaffey and Graham Patrick Mahaffey, sons of Daniel & Lynn (Patterson) Mahaffey on October 23; Lennon Jo Dreher, daughter of Derek & Martina (Meyer) Dreher on October 23; and Adaline Marie Tuohy, daughter of William & Megan (Wilson) Tuohy on November 6, 2022. Wilson on November 6, 2022.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Lorlene Pulver as they mourn her death; and to the family of Esther Wing as they mourn the death of her son, Walter.

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. **Crossroads Care Center of Sun Prairie** - Kay Hankins. **Ingleside** — Betty Burgenske, Audrey Kunstman.

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

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