



Mark Your Calendars for Fall!

Fall Worship Schedule begins September 17

On September 17 we return to having two worship services on
Sunday:

8:30 am & 10:45 am with Coffee Hour and

Youth and Adult Education opportunities between services.

The 5:00 pm Saturday evening service will continue unchanged.

We will Livestream the 8:30 am Sunday service although we invite you
to attend in person for a richer worship experience.



Kindness/Prayer Rocks
created at Family Fun Night!

Fall planning is underway and we can't wait to welcome our families back
for a new school year! Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:

Sunday, September 17

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 - First Day of Sunday School & Confirmation

Wednesday, September 20

6:00 pm - Youth Group Kickoff

Sunday, September 24

Pastor Kurt's last Sunday
Brunch & Celebration between services

Saturday, September 30

**Adult Reception following the 5:00 pm Service in
honor of Pastor Kurt**

October 4, time TBD

Blessing of the Animals

October 10

6:00 pm – New Member Dinner

October 15

8:30 am – New Members Received

Wednesday, October 25

6:00 – 8:00 pm - Confirmation Dinner & Rehearsal

Sunday, October 29

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Saturday at 5:00 pm & Sunday at 8:30 & 10:45 am

8:30 am is LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

From the Pastor

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength. — Isaiah 30.15

As we enter the fall season we tend to talk about the slower days of summer are soon past us, and the busyness of life is soon returning. Parents I talk to are almost resigned to being exhausted once again. Many of us feel like we can keep up, or catch up. There's not only so much to do, there's so much to improve.

The rich tradition of Christian spirituality invites us to another place — to move away from seeing our lives as a constant striving ("I can do better, be better!"). This also means moving away from the notion that being a disciple is basically an ongoing self-improvement project ("I can do better, be better!"). And here's the trap: because there's always more to improve upon, we're never done, and if we're never done, we never rest.

The spiritual masters remind us that life isn't about speed, or activity, or even accomplishment. Your life isn't even about you — it's about who you are in God, God who is with us in the midst of our busy, often messy, lives. This is where true rest is found — not in being away from life's demands, but being in the presence of God.

The seventeenth century monk, Brother Lawrence, in his famous book "Practicing the Presence of God," writes:

I have abandoned all particular forms of devotion, all prayer techniques. My only prayer practice is attention. I carry on a habitual, silent, and secret conversation with God that fills me with overwhelming joy.

The most holy and important practice in the spiritual life is the presence of God — that is, every moment to take great pleasure that God is with you.

In Thornton Wilder's play, *Our Town*, Emily Webb dies as a young adult. In the final act, she returns to view one day: her twelfth birthday, this time as an outsider. As she watches herself, she realizes how much we miss. Emily asks the Stage Manager, "Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it?—every, every minute?" "No. (Pause) The saints and poets, maybe — they do some," he says. In other words, it's rare that someone truly notices their life while they're in it — how precious and beautiful the moments and people in it. And yet, the opportunity to notice is also with us.

Imagine a poet, or a painter, or a composer, rushing through their work. I doubt we'd want to see, or read, or hear their work. You and I are called to be artists in our own lives. But if we rush through them, what do we fail to see, and who do we neglect to be? And so the Apostles' Creed begins — *I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth* — a confession that life is a gift, a gift to be treasured.

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 Children & Family Ministries |
| Laura Smith | Director of Confirmation |
| 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 |
| Holly Parker, Kari Poppen | St. James Preschool |
| Nicole Sudhoff, Kristin Wills & Stacy Zimmerman | |

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Susan Martin-Zernicke, | 608-246-2025 |
| Acting President | |
| Jon Baldock | 608-480-4091 |
| Dennis Beres | 608-845-9305 |
| Karen Bretnauer | |
| Kim Feller | |
| Christine Kemnitz | 608-886-6363 |
| Julie Murphy | 608-345-8533 |
| Mark Smith | |
| Rebecca Woolums | |



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

“Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46.10) “Still? Are you kidding me!? There’s still so much to do and so little time!” Indeed there is, and indeed there will always be. In fact, Jesus was quite a busy man. And yet what he did was directed by his time away and alone, so God’s presence would fill and guide him.

Martin Luther once said, “I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer.” OK, Martin. I don’t think you and I need to strive for *that* kind of discipline, but we can still be saints and poets, slowing down and noticing, amidst all the change, taking time for silence and for prayer, resting in the loving presence of God.

—Pastor Peter

Measure of Our Commitment – thru 7/31/2023

| Total Receipts Actual | Total Receipts Budget | Variance | % of Budget | Prior Year YTD Receipts | Variance vs. Prior Year |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| \$395,492** | \$421,380 | \$(25,888) | -6.1% | \$398,320 | (\$2,828) |

**Amount includes \$82,789 from Seeds fund and \$8,050 from PPP fund.

| Total Expenses Actual | Total Expenses Budget | Variance | % of Budget |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|-------------|
| \$430,011 | \$454,490 | \$24,479 | 5.4% |

Seeds, Building & PPP Fund Bank & Dedicated Accounts

The Seeds & building fund account cash balance at month end was \$212,858. \$4,275 is due FROM the general operating fund. Our Mortgage loan balance is \$1,743,006.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Money Market | \$211,853 |
| Investment | <u>\$ 1,005</u> |
| | \$212,858 |
| Net Due FROM general | \$(4,275) |
| Fund balances | <u>\$208,583</u> |
| | |
| PPP Dedicated Account | \$ 5,750 <i>amount left</i> |
| Building Fund Dedicated Account | \$27,259 |
| Seeds Fund Dedicated Account | \$105,025 |
| Dahlk gift for debt reduction | |
| Seeds Fund Dedicated Account | <u>\$ 70,549</u> |
| | <u>\$208,583</u> |

Pledging/Giving

Thank you again for your continued support of our church. Your spirited generosity ensures we can carry our message and our works throughout our community and beyond for years to come!

If you have not already, we invite you to make a gift or ongoing pledge in 2023. We also encourage you to consider our electronic giving program. We accept donations made from your bank account and credit card or debit cards. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan.

An easy way to get started is to simply scan this QR code, which takes you directly to our giving page. Thank you!



Sunday School

St. James Sunday School

2023-24



Our Program

St. James is blessed to have a great Sunday School program! We are committed to sharing the Good Word and teaching about Jesus' love for all. Parents and children can learn together and from one another as we strive to fulfill the St. James mission to **receive** God's love, **grow** in God's love, and **give** God's love in service to others.

Classes Offered

8:30 Pray & Play

Ages 3-Kindergarten

Children begin in worship with their parents and stay for the children's message. They are then led downstairs for Bible stories, activities and play inspired by the Spark Lectionary curriculum. Pray and play ends with Music Time from 9:30-9:45.

9:30 Spark Sunday School

PreK-4th Grade

Students meet in the Youth Lounge at 9:30am, participate in Bible songs, stories, crafts and games stations inspired by the Spark Lectionary curriculum. Parents may pick up their PreK-2nd graders from the Youth Lounge at 10:30am. 3rd-4th graders will NOT require a parent to pick them up.

9:30 Club Connect

5th Grade - 6th Grade

Students meet in their classroom where they'll enjoy time to hang out, chat and play games. They'll also begin to prepare for Confirmation with age-appropriate lessons inspired by the Connect curriculum. They'll dig deeper into Bible stories, relating them to current life experiences and will also have opportunities to serve as helpers and peer leaders for the younger students. 5th & 6th graders will be dismissed at 10:30am.

Get Involved

In order to provide safe, positive and enriching experiences for our Sunday School children, we rely on the generosity of volunteers. A commitment of even a couple hours a month can make a huge difference! More details are provided on the registration form, or you can contact Holly to learn more.

We also welcome you to attend class with your child at any time!

Register Online



www.stjamesverona.org

Contact

Holly Parker
Director of Children & Family Ministry
hparker@stjamesverona.org
608.845.6922 ext. 223

Confirmation

Confirmation Kicks Off on September 17th at 9:30 am!

This year, we welcome Laura Smith as our Director of Confirmation. Laura has been a member at St. James since 2004 and has been teaching Confirmation for the past several years. She and her husband, Mark, are parents to four daughters: Annelisa, Alaina, Elizabeth, and Sophia. Welcome!

Our Program

Confirmation is a 2-year program, designed for students seeking to affirm their baptismal promise. This typically happens during 7th and 8th grade, however, we welcome older students as well. We will take an in-depth look at the Bible, Lutheran history and catechism and Lutheran living. We will explore what it means to be disciples of Jesus, strengthen our sense of community as members of St. James and solidify our mission to **receive, grow and give**. Our goal is not only to provide instruction and teach content, but to work together with families, holistically nurturing the seeds of faith. This year we will be focusing on the Bible - both the Old and New Testaments.

Receiving, Growing, Giving:

Successful completion of the St. James Confirmation program is reliant on student participation in the following areas each year.

Class Attendance - Attend scheduled classes or complete make-up lessons.

Worship Attendance - Attend/view at least 20 worship services per year.

Worship Participation - Participate in worship or devotionals 2 times per year.

Service - Complete at least 5 hours of church or community service per year.

Class Schedule Sundays from 9:30-10:30 am

Family Time Matters

Students and parents are invited to attend Family Time Matters (FTM). These sessions are a great way to connect family and faith and will take the place of regular Confirmation class, from **9:30-10:30 am** on that day. The first Family Time Matters will be **Sunday, September 17**.

2023-24 Confirmation Team

Laura Smith, Confirmation Director, Pastor Peter Narum, Mark Smith, Karen Breitnauer, Joleen Rau, and Holly Parker

Join Us!

We are always looking for more volunteers to lend a hand! Sharing even just an hour or two a month will greatly benefit the students and other teachers...and will be rewarding for you as well! You don't need to be an expert - we are a supportive group who learns and grows together and along with the students. Contact Laura at confirmation@stjamesverona.org with questions.

Youth Group

Kick-off is September 20 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Third Wednesday of Each Month

The St. James High School Mentorship Team will be hosting Youth Group again this year! All 4th through 12th graders are welcome to attend. Join in fun activities on the third Wednesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 pm. Pizza will be served. The first Youth Group is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20th, 2023. Can't wait to see you there!



Community Meal

Wednesday, October 4 at 6:00 pm

The menu is Tator tot casserole, salad, bread, beverages, and cupcakes.

Scan the code or visit our website to register.



St. James
Community
Meal



Music at St. James

St. James Youth Choir begins September 11

Parents and children of St. James Lutheran Church, Every fall the St. James Youth Choir welcomes new members in hopes of an active choir again this year. This choir is a vital part of our worship here at St. James. The youth choir rehearses Sunday mornings from 10:40-11:10 am in the youth music room on the lower level of our church.



We follow the Verona School district's calendar of breaks and vacations. I select music appropriate for children starting at the first-grade level and older. They memorize the music as this allows their voices to project. We sing at either an 8:30 or 10:45 worship service each month. Rehearsal times are filled with laughter, smiles and the sound of joyful children's voices praising our Lord. I do share the music thru email for addition practice.

Please consider joining us for a special rehearsal on Sept. 11@10:00-10:30 am. *Please note this rehearsal time is a change for Sunday September 11 only.* Please feel free to contact me at any time using my contact information below. I can provide you with a schedule for 2023-24.

Blessings, Susan Bubolz
suebubolz@gmail.com 608-558-6460

Youth Handbell Choir begins October 1

New Members Welcome

The youth handbell choir welcomes new and returning handbell ringers this fall. 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 encouraged to join.

We will begin rehearsals on Sunday, October 1, from 10:45-11:30, in the music room in the church's lower level. We rehearse approximately three times per month, on Sunday mornings, and a schedule will be provided for the rehearsals and worship performances. There is a wonderful group of youth returning, but we would love to see some new ringers as well. If you have any questions, please contact Paulette Spoon, director, at spoonp@charter.net. I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you on October 1st!

Music Opportunities for Adults

St. James 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 of high school age and beyond are welcome! The St. James Choir will resume rehearsals on September 13. We rehearse on Wednesdays, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary. I know that you are busy, and perfect attendance is not expected. Please consider joining us! Come to the sanctuary on September 13, at 6:30 pm, or contact Paulette Spoon if you have any questions.

Adult Handbell Choir: Have you rung handbells in the past? Or are you interested in learning to ring? There is currently an opening in the adult handbell choir. Please contact Paulette Spoon for further information.

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. We sometimes need a flute player or a violinist or _____ (fill in your instrument) for a choir anthem or solo. Please contact Paulette Spoon if you have questions or want to volunteer! Musicians of all ages are welcome.

Please contact Paulette Spoon at spoonp@charter.net for further information on these opportunities.

Congregational Life



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The boxcar will be loaded on Saturday, September 16 and on it will be St. James donations. The train boxcar travels to Minnesota to a LWR Warehouse after which our donations will be sent around the world wherever there is a need. The Quilting group will be sending 71 quilts, Martha Circle has prepared 65 Personal Care kits, Sarah Circle has prepared 43 Baby Care Kits and the Mary Circle will send many School Kits (number not known at time of printing). We invite you to visit their displays in the Narthex. Thank you to the Congregation for their donations!



Men's Group

Due to Labor Day, the Men's group will meet on Monday, September 11 at 6:00 pm (typically the first Monday of the month) at Paddy Mac's 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 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.

Council Updates

As you know, Pastor Kurt Billings is retiring at the end of September. The process of finding a new pastor has begun and it began with you, our members, at the first Council listening session in August. A second listening session will be held on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 pm immediately following the Community Meal.

On Tuesday, September 12, the Council will meet with representatives from the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Bishop's office. After this meeting a transition team will be formed. This team will be involved in determining the needs of St. James as we move forward. This team will transition into a Call Committee to hire a new pastor once we are at that point.

Pastor Peter will continue throughout the rest of 2023 as a solo pastor. He will bring in supply pastors occasionally to help with preaching duties.

We invite you all to be part of this process by attending Council Listening Sessions or by reaching out to Sue Martin-Zernicke at suemartinzernicke@gmail.com or by contacting any member of our Congregational Council.



New members selected to the Congregational Council

On August 28, the following members were elected to the Congregational Council: Karen Breitnauer, Kim Feller, Mark Smith, and Rebecca Woolums. Christine Kemnitz was re-elected for a second term.

We thank the following outgoing members for their service to St. James: Desiree Canto, Allison Heil, Mark Krebsbach, and Jim Ruder.

Fall Volunteer Opportunities

As we move into fall, we hope that you will find time in your busy schedule to volunteer. Whether it is once a year or once a week, we rely on all of our members to carry out the Mission and Ministries at St. James.

- ★ To volunteer in worship as a Lector, Usher, Coffee Host, or at the Welcome Center, please visit our website and click on the Worship Assistant Volunteer Signup on the homepage.
- ★ To volunteer at our monthly meal, the Community Meal, please contact Julie Farmer, at big4dfan@yahoo.com
- ★ To play trivia on Thursday nights at Ten Pin Alley, please contact Barbara Rasmussen at brasmussen@stjamesverona.org
- ★ To help with the new member dinner on October 10, please contact Pastor Peter at pnarum@stjamesverona.org
- ★ To help with Sunday School contact Holly Parker at hparker@stjamesverona.org
- ★ To volunteer in our Confirmation program, contact Laura Smith at confirmation@stjamesverona.org

Watch for other opportunities as we begin our Fall Stewardship Drive. If you have new ideas, please contact Pastor Peter at pnarum@stjamesverona.org or Michelle Lichty at mlichty@stjamesverona.org.

Thank you for your service!

From the Parish Nurse...

Autumn, 2023. It's hard to believe it's already that time of year. I think it's one of the most wonderful times to live in Wisconsin. The color of the leaves on the hardwood trees just cannot be duplicated. The hillsides are truly beautiful!!

Enjoy the season, but be careful while out walking as fallen leaves can make it slippery, especially if it has been raining. Dress for the temperature as it is usually cooler later in the season. Keep your vaccines up to date for: Flu, Pneumonia and Covid. Keep social connections active!!


In addition to Weekly Worship, join us: Weekly Trivia; Partake in the Community Meal; Book Club, Coffee Hour, Altar Guild, Men's Group, and or Women's Circles. There will continue to be Blood Pressure checks the second Sunday between services every month.

We will be holding our Annual Hope and Healing Dinner and Service the evening of November 5th. This is open to our members, their family, and their friends. The purpose for this service and dinner is to gather together those of us who have experienced any grief this past year or longer. It encompasses a wide variety of loss. Loss of employment, loss of those close to you, a divorce, finances, home. Any illness, physical, mental, emotional. All are Welcome. We will have a speaker, as part of the service, who will address some ways to deal and cope with losses. There will be notices and reservation requests in the month of October.

God's Blessings,

Barbara Rasmussen, RN., PCN.,

Phone: 608-845-6922 ext. 234, Email: brasmussen@stjamesverona.org



Blood Pressure Checks

We will hold the next blood pressure check will be held on September 10 after the 9:00 am service. All are welcome!

2023 Baptisms

Sacrament of Christian Baptism was celebrated by the following: **Ivy June Jacobson**, daughter of Paul & Brianna (Ellie) Jacobson on February 12; **Olivia Rebecca Wineland**, daughter of Peter & Kristen (Jacobson) Wineland on February 12; **Lyla Jude Koester**, daughter of Mitchell & Taylor (Brost) Koester on April 1; **Braden Peter Gile**, son of Brian & Ashley (Patten) Gile on April 22; **Maverick Dylan Patten**, son of Peter & Brianna (Scoville) Patten on April 22; **Charlie Jordan Thompson and Lucille Elizabeth Thompson**, children of Jordan & Rebecca (Rogers) Thompson on April 15; **Colin Anthony Montry**, son of Craig & Rachel (Johnson) Montry on May 28; **Fritz Sullivan and Frances Penelope Griessmeyer**, children of Clayton & Julia (Eckerly) Griessmeyer on May 28; **Jospehine Jane Layher**, daughter of Felix & Emily (Billings) Layher on June 11; **Isabelle Marie Ebert**, daughter of Robert & Lindsey (Shannon) Ebert on June 25; **Porter Beckman LeVan**, son of Timothy & Kristina (Rozenbergs) LeVan on July 1; and **Emma Grace Queck**, daughter of Aaron & Amy (Winch) Queck on August 20, 2023.



Preschool News

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.



Birthday Bags for BPNN:

St. James Preschool is going to be collecting Birthday Party Kits for the Badger Prairie Needs Network for the month of September. There are fliers with all the information at the Welcome Center if you would like to build a bag.

We are excited to welcome our two new staff members to St. James Preschool!



Kari Poppen, Pre-K Teacher

Ms. Kari is excited to be starting her first full year in Pre-K in Verona. Kari has been a sub for the preschool for the last couple of years. For ten years she was a 1st grade teacher in the Oshkosh and Monona Grove School Districts. She lives in Verona with her husband, Mitch, three kids and dog. Ethan is a grad student at Colorado State, Kirstin is a junior at Gustavus Adolphus College and Tessa is a sophomore at Verona Area High School. Kari enjoys gardening, spending time with her family in Door County and exploring Wisconsin State Parks.

Nicole Sudhoff, 3s Teacher

Ms. Nicole grew up in Prairie du Chien, WI and first came to the Madison area for college at the UW. After graduation, she married husband Andy in 2004 and they moved to Illinois to work with churches there. In 2011, the opportunity arose for them to move anywhere, and they knew Madison was where they wanted to be! Nicole has enjoyed working with kids and teens throughout her life, from babysitting to camps to church youth activities and Sunday school, and she provided day care in her home for 10 years. Nicole and Andy have 3 kids, Micah, Elijah, and Sophie. In her free time, Nicole enjoys reading, gardening, and playing board games.



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 Anna, Jon, Darlene Brewer, Carol Couillard, Pam Hegg, Daniel MacLaren, Diane Maurer, Monica Pechan, and Larry Yeske.

We also remember Kimberly Choi (daughter of Norma Bader), Dorothy (mother of Sue Zernicke), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Everette Reynolds (granddaughter of Dave & Sandy Saether), Sharon Schwinn (sister of Mary Moldenhauer) Charlene Tolmie (mother of Chery Vroman), Mary Volker, (sister of John Volker), Dave Wolf (nephew of Doug Wolf), and friends Camille, Chris, John, Ky, Susan Kennedy, Leo, and Debbie Loughrin.

Sacrament of Christian Baptism: *See page 10.*

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Richard Herfel as they mourn his death.

In Residence: **Four Winds** - Zelma Danna; **Noel Manor**—Dick & Helen Dignan, Lorena Gerbitz, Dale & Audrey Hagen, James Hatch, Lloyd Hornbacher, Marilyn Le Moine, Jim Path, Peggy Papenfus, Chuck & Marilyn Roun, John Scharer, & Jim Schumann. **Crossroads Care Center of Sun Prairie** - Kay Hankins. **Ingleside** — Betty Burgenske. **Capital Lakes** — Carol Path.

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

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