



When our congregation broke ground for this building back in 2017, we believed that each brick, each slab of dry-wall was an investment in the foundation of St. James' mission in Verona. We believed that moving the kitchen upstairs, and relocating the nursery to be closer to the sanctuary would allow us to better care for every person who comes into this building.

During the past decade, our faith in that mission has grown. We have seen families find a home at St. James. We have watched the community come together. We have cared for people from cradle to grave. We have weathered storms and pandemics. Through it all, that investment in the roots of St. James has paid off.

This year, we have the opportunity to nurture the roots of St. James once again—deepening them to reach the life-giving water that will allow our church to flourish for decades to come. We want to make the most of the resources that have been entrusted to us. Before we must renegotiate our mortgage next summer, we want to put ourselves in the best position we can. With a \$200,000 match, we are inviting you to join us in raising another \$200,000 that will go to reducing our mortgage principal significantly over the next year.

Each one of us is impacted by the seed that was planted in 2017. In the coming months, you'll hear more about how you can participate in nurturing the roots of St. James. Together, we are a tree planted by a stream of living water, we don't have to worry about drought, nor will we cease bearing fruit. (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

— Helen Troutman

Rooted in Faith, Growing Stronger Team: Kim Feller, Christine Kemnitz, Kristi Ramsey, Helen Troutman, Randy Witt, Sue Zimmer



Wreaths of Love - Silent Auction

As part of our mortgage reduction campaign, *Rooted in Faith, Growing Stronger*, we are having a **Wreath Silent Auction**.

All are welcome to bring your creativity and make a wreath! If you enjoy crafting, this is your opportunity to share your talents while helping our church family grow stronger together.

The focus is **non-seasonal wreaths** that can be enjoyed year-round. Think beyond Christmas, fall, or spring. Create something beautiful, fun, whimsical, elegant, or even a little crazy. Let your imagination run wild! You might use flowers, greenery, ribbon, fabric, wood, burlap, yarn, signs, or other creative materials. Whether you're an experienced wreath-maker or simply enjoy trying something new, your creation can make a difference.

A Little Friendly Competition!

There's even a fun incentive for our talented wreath makers! **The wreath that receives the highest winning bid will win a special prize!**

Every wreath donated helps us reach our goal of reducing our church mortgage and strengthening our ministries. Look for more details in the narthex. Happy crafting!

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

LIVESTREAM: Sunday at 8:30 am on our Website or YouTube Channel.

From Pastor Sarah

“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty..’” - John 6:35

As fall rolls around, there is a familiar feeling in the air. Backpacks are packed. Calendars begin to fill. Sports practices, music lessons, meetings, Bible studies, choir rehearsals, homework, and holiday planning quickly replace the slower rhythms of summer. Before we know it, many of us are asking the same question: "What's for dinner?"

It's a practical question—but it also points to a deeper one: What is feeding us?

We all need nourishment. Our bodies need food, rest, and care. Our souls need something, too. In a busy season, it's easy to spend all of our energy feeding schedules, obligations, and deadlines while forgetting to feed the part of us that longs for peace, hope, and God's presence.

Jesus reminds us that he is the Bread of Life. He doesn't simply give us bread; he is our nourishment. Week after week, we gather around God's Word and Christ's Table to receive what only God can give. Before we are ever called to do anything, we first Receive. That is where our mission begins.

This summer, I saw that mission lived out in a beautiful way.

During the weekend of August 1–2, as we heard the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand, our congregation responded with incredible generosity. Together we collected 1,162 pounds of food for Badger Prairie Needs Network. What an amazing witness! Every can of soup, every box of cereal, every jar of peanut butter was another reminder that God's abundance continues to overflow through God's people.

And that wasn't the only way we fed our neighbors.

Each month, volunteers prepare and serve our Community Meal, where food and fellowship are shared with anyone who comes through the doors. For more than two decades, this ministry has been one of the ways St. James has lived out Christ's hospitality in Verona.

Just a few days after our food drive, our building was filled with children laughing, singing, exploring God's love, and discovering that they are rooted in Christ during Vacation Bible School. Faith was planted, relationships grew, and another generation was fed with the good news that they are deeply loved by God.

ST. JAMES STAFF

Sarah Schilcher	Lead Pastor and Confirmation
Karen Kaehr	Parish Administrator
Renata Henry	Office Assistant
Susan Zimmer	Administrative Assistant
Holly Parker	Dir. of Children & Family Ministries
Paulette Spoon	Adult Choir & Handbell Choir
Susan Bubolz	Youth Choir Director
Rhonda Chalone	Accompanists
Don DeBruin	
Carol Murphy	
Barbara Rasmussen, R.N.	Parish Nurse/Visitation Coordinator
Heather Pearl	Director of St. James Preschool
Portia Ebert	St. James Preschool Staff
Holly Parker	
Kari Poppen	
Nicole Sudhoff	
Kristin Wills	

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Julie Murphy, President	608-345-8533
Dennis Beres, Vice President	608-845-9305
Mary Moldenhauer, Secretary	608-279-1802
Kim Feller, Treasurer	608-206-4562
Karen Breitnauer	608-209-3035
Brienne Carlson	608-852-7577
Lee DeBaillie	608-224-9505
Mark Smith	608-214-2212
Susan Martin-Zernicke	608-246-2025



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

From Pastor Sarah, continued

Those ministries may look different, but they are connected. Some feed hungry stomachs. Some feed hungry hearts. All of them point to Jesus.

Our mission statement says it so well: Receive. Grow. Give. We receive God's grace. We grow in faith together. Then we give what we have received.

As fall begins, I'd encourage you to think about all three.

How are you making space to receive? Perhaps it's worship, a Bible study, a quiet morning with your coffee and Scripture, or simply taking five minutes to pray before the busyness of the day begins.

How are you continuing to grow? Growth doesn't stop when school starts—or when school ended decades ago! God is still shaping each of us.

And finally, how is God inviting you to give? Sometimes that means volunteering at a Community Meal, bringing food for BPNN, mentoring a child, visiting someone who is lonely, or simply offering a listening ear to a neighbor who needs one.

And though it all, don't forget that even those who spend their lives feeding others need to be fed themselves.

Jesus often stepped away from the crowds to rest, pray, and be renewed. If the Son of God needed time to breathe, perhaps we do too. Make room this fall for Sabbath. Make room for worship. Make room for quiet. Self-care isn't selfish when it helps us remain rooted in Christ so that we can continue serving others with joy.

Thank you for being a congregation that understands that feeding people is about much more than food. Thank you for sharing meals, sharing hope, sharing faith, and sharing Christ.

May we continue to receive God's gifts with grateful hearts, grow in faith together, and joyfully give ourselves away for the sake of our neighbors.

See you in worship!

Peace,
— Pastor Sarah

Blessings All Around **Potluck**



ST. JAMES SUNDAY SCHOOL

2026-27



Explore your faith with St. James Sunday School! 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, guided by our church's 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. Parents may pick up their children after worship.

9:30 Spark Sunday School

PreK-4th Grade

Students meet in the Youth Lounge at 9:30 am. They participate in music time, then break into same-age crews for story, craft and game stations inspired by the Spark Lectionary curriculum. 3rd and 4th grade students may also have the option to serve as helpers for the younger crews. Children can be picked up from the Youth Lounge at 10:30 am.

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 our church and community through coffee hosting, outdoor clean-ups, food drives, and more! 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...not only in the lives of the students but in your life too! 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

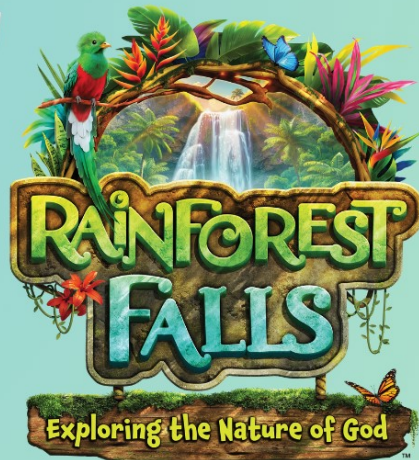
CONTACT

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

SuNdAy sChOoL ReMiX

Throughout the year, we'll spice things up with special days such as service events, outdoor explorations, movie days and other faith-in-action adventures! Stay tuned!

Children, Youth & Families



DAY 1

GOD IS OUR CREATOR.

DAY 2

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING.

DAY 3

GOD IS OUR SAFE PLACE.

DAY 4

GOD IS FOREVER.



WOW, GOD!



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ADVENTURE!

To all the children, youth and families who filled our church and our hearts with faith, hope and wonder.

To all who donated money to Operation Good Fruit ~ planting hope and health for children and families in Central America.

To Pastor Sarah, Karen Kaher and the entire staff and congregation for all the support and prayers and to St. James Preschool for sharing spaces and supplies!

To the following volunteers for making our adventure safe, possible and fun!

Senior Campers

Rowan Bhatoya
Isla Carlson
Hank Donaldson
Luke Hoffman
Halle Iserloth
Kathleen McGregor
Audrey Peterson
Scarlett Peterson
McKinley Sill
Lucy Sterk

Youth Volunteers

Kiera Benner
Elaina Bhatoya
Louis Bockelman
Kashton Boehm
Cora Donaldson
Adelynn Frey
Michael Groy
Reese Haley
Reid Haley
Lainy Hampton
Mya Hampton

Youth Volunteers ct'd

Robert Heitz
Tillie Heitz
Willa Heitz
Khloe Iserloth
Graham Johnston
Greta Johnston
Avery Kelly
Max Miller
Raena Oblinski
Benjamin Pearl
Cordelia Peterson
Kennedy Retrum
Kyleigh Retrum
Charley Schulz
Sylvie Schulz
Harper Sill
Alaina Smith
Lizzie Smith
Anna Sweeney
Nora Sweeney
Charlotte Wasvick
Norah Wasvick
George Woods

Adult Volunteers

Dan Bubolz
Carolyn Doerfer
Dave Farmer
Julie Farmer
Theresa Gibbons
Landis Heitz
Jeff Jacobs
Linda Leary
Mary Moldenhauer
Elizabeth Odders-White
Barbara Rasmussen
Lori Rudy
Dan Schilcher
Pastor Sarah Schilcher
Laura Smith
Paulette Spoon
Barbara Thomas
Heather Ver Meer
Cheryl Wilson
Rebecca Woolums
Sue Zernicke
Sue Zimmer



WOW, GOD!

Music at St. James



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! I heard some good voices out there during the semi-annual meeting! The St. James vocal choir has rehearsals on Wednesdays, from 6:30-7:30 pm, in the sanctuary. I know that you are busy, and we all miss rehearsals or worship services now and then: That is ok! Put "CHOIR" on your fall calendar now. We'd love to have you join us!

For questions, please contact Paulette Spoon at spoonp@charter.net.



HANDBELL RINGERS and OTHER INSTRUMENTALISTS WANTED

Do you play an instrument? Did you ring in a handbell choir in college or at a different church? The music program at St. James has opportunities for you to support worship and/or play with musical groups! We have a couple openings in the handbell choir, and I would love to talk with you if you are interested in learning more! There are also opportunities for other instrumentalists to play at St. James, perhaps with a choir anthem or to share special music as a soloist during services or church gatherings. Please contact Paulette Spoon at spoonp@charter.net if you have questions or want to volunteer! Musicians of all ages are welcome.

YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR

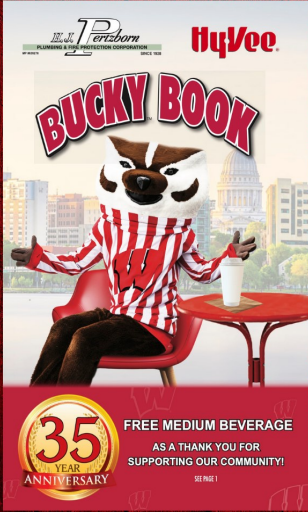
The youth handbell choir is looking to welcome new and returning handbell ringers! Are you interested, but maybe a little apprehensive? Give it a try! It is a fun musical experience in a small and unique ensemble. Youth from 6th grade through high school are welcome. We will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 27, from 10:30-11:15, in the church's lower level music room. We rehearse approximately three times per month, on Sunday mornings. Perfect attendance is not expected, but I appreciate when you let me know when you will be absent. We have a great group of youth returning, but I 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!



Congregational Life

Preschool Fundraiser

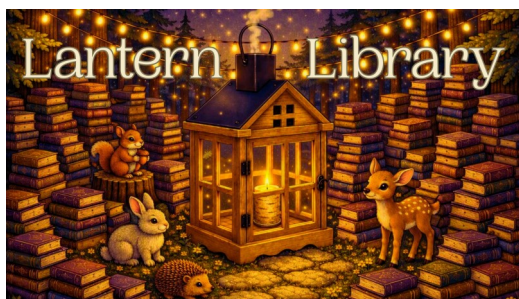
Bucky Books are available for purchase for \$35 through Heather at sjp@stjamesverona.org. The preschool receives \$15 profit for each book sold!! There are a lot of great coupons in the Bucky Books. In fact, you will save more than \$35 when using the book. Let Heather know if you are interested or sign-up on the sheet at the Welcome Center.



BUCKY BOOKS
\$35

Sign-Up Sheet at the Welcome Center

St. James Preschool Fundraiser



NEW! - Lantern Library

Come and check out the new Lantern Library in the Youth Lounge! There you will find books and resources for kids and families. You are welcome to browse the materials and borrow anything that you feel will support your family's faith life at home. We will be adding and changing titles throughout the year, so please check often to see what's new!

St. James Women's Retreat

Save the Date!

2027 St. James Women's Retreat

The St. James Women's Retreat for 2027 will be held on March 13-14, 2027. The Retreat will be at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton. We have invited Pam Shellberg to return as our facilitator. Have questions, please contact Bobbie Wang at bwang799@gmail.com.



TRAINING

October 18 at 9:45 am in the Narthex

**Patrick Anderson, EMS Chief of Fitchrona
will Demonstrate Hands-Only CPR and our AED**

Quilting Group

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 am. All are welcome to join!

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets on the first Monday of each month at Paddy Mac's in Verona. Please join us!

Trivia Night

Join us for Trivia every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Ten Pin Alley in Fitchburg. It's a blast and all are welcome!

High School Youth



The Well Bible Study for High School Students

All high school students are invited to join us on **Sunday, October 11th from 9:30–10:30** in the Agape Room as our Bible study begins the Book of Acts.

Jesus invites us to receive the living water that nourishes and renews us. In our conversations and study of God's Word, we find the spiritual care we need to grow, refresh our souls, and draw us closer to God.

Whether you're familiar with the Bible or just getting started, you and your friends are welcome here. **If you are interested in Bible study and can't attend sessions, please find the booklet we will be using at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.**

The Well will be offered monthly. Please mark your calendars for **October 11th, November 1st, December 6th, January 10th, February 7th, March 7th, April 4th, and May 2nd.**

"Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water I give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." – John 4:14

It's not too late to join the team! If you are interested in taking on a leadership role among the youth of St. James, please contact youth@stjamesverona.org.

From the Parish Nurse

Autumn, 2026

It's a busy time of the year. It's this time of year to be aware that immunizations need to be updated for school attendance and that other vaccines are available for all of us.

Parish Nursing has a busy agenda also.

We have the ongoing **Trivia** every **Thursday night at 6:30**. Contact me at my email to get more information. It's a great social time with friends and to make new ones. (brasmussen@stjamesverona.org)

We, women, continue to meet the **first Tuesday of each month, at 1:30, in the Luther Room, to study "Twelve Extraordinary Women of the Bible."**

We will be having our annual **Hands-Only CPR and Demonstration of the AED, on October 18, between services put on by Fitchrona EMT**. It's a good refresher even if you've participated last year. We never know when we'll need that knowledge. More information to come in the weekly e-newsletter and church bulletin.

I continue to do **Blood Pressures in the Church Office the Second Sunday of the month in between Sunday Services**. Appointments are not necessary. Just drop in.

We will have our annual **Hope and Healing Service on All Saints Sunday, November 1st**. It will begin at 5PM with a dinner in the Dining Room and then the Service in the Sanctuary.

This is for our members, their families and friends who have had or are experiencing any type of loss or grief in their lives. Our audience is oriented toward teens and older. Our goal is to hopefully offer comfort and fellowship. Rev. Dr. Seth Jones will be our speaker this year. Watch for more information in the upcoming weeks regarding this special event.

God's Blessings to You All,

– Barbara J. Rasmussen, RN. CPN.



Blood Pressure Checks

October 11
November 8
December 13

Between Services in the Church Office

Saint JAMES PRESCHOOL



2026-2027 School Year

Preschool Registration:

Preschool still has very limited openings in the 3s and 4K class if you know of anyone interested it is not too late to attend!

We are looking forward to a fun school year watching our youngest learners grow and learn each day.

Special Thanks:

Thank you to Dave and Julie Farmer for making dinner for the Verona Area First Five Years (VAFFY)/4K kick off meeting we hosted for the district. We had about 130 staff from local VASD 4K partnered childcare sites. The staff members at this event work with our community's youngest children from birth to 5 years. What a great way to kick off the school year!

- Jennifer Larson and Heather Pearl



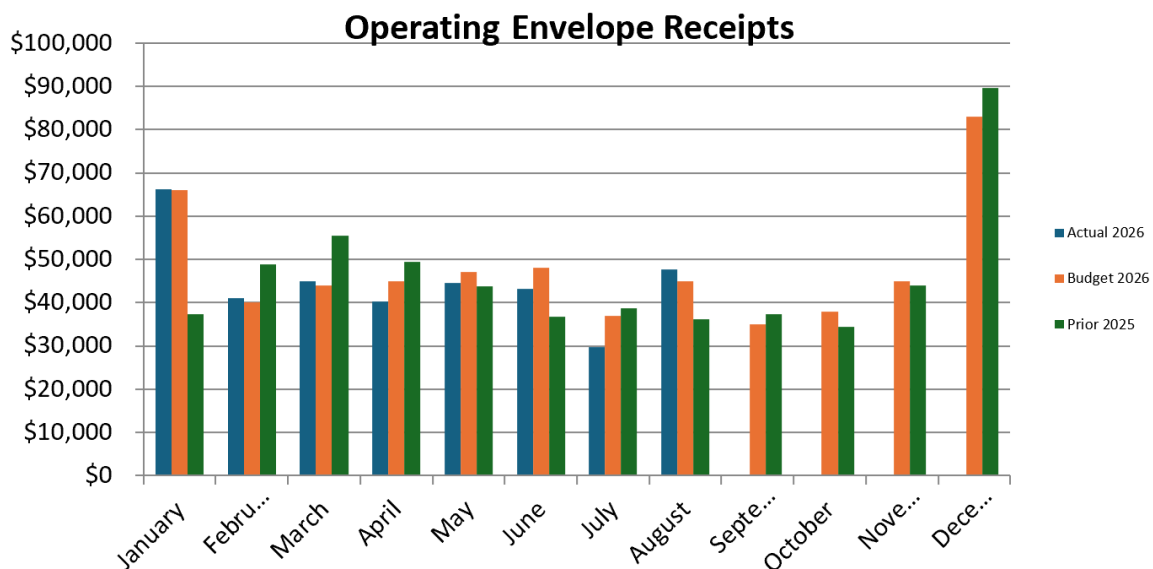
Financial Update

Measure of Our Commitment – as of August 31, 2026

For the first eight months of 2026, we continue on track to the net bottom line budget as spending is running below (favorable) to the expense budget. **THANK YOU** for your continued contributions to the General and Seeds/Building Funds. As we move into the fall season with programs in full swing and initiating the call search for a supporting pastoral/youth position, it is important for our giving to meet budget. Remember to access the on-line giving options that are part of the weekly E-News.

YTD Operating Envelopes Receipts are **UNFAVORABLE** to budget by (\$14,431) or -3.9% but are thankfully running ahead of the prior year by \$11,193 or +3.2%. With YTD expense spending at levels less than (favorable) to budget, the net result of receipts less expenses is at (\$4,772) YTD, which is **FAVORABLE** to budget by +\$5,613.

YTD Operating Envelopes		Variance	
<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
\$357,569	\$372,000	(\$14,431)	-3.9%
<u>Actual</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
\$357,569	\$346,376	\$11,193	+3.2%



The Seeds & Building Fund balance at 8/31/2026 is \$43,411, and the current mortgage balance owed is \$1,381,001. The Seeds/Building budget is set up to fund the mortgage payment of \$9,304 per month and any contributions greater than the mortgage payment remain in the Building Fund to use to cover a shortfall. We are currently running behind budget on funding the mortgage payment and your prayerful consideration of increased giving to the Seeds/Building Fund is also appreciated.

YTD Seeds/Building Fund Contributions		Variance	
<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
\$72,317	\$74,332	(\$2,115)	-3%

With Gratitude to All at St. James,
Kim Feller, Treasurer

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 (608-845-6922) or fill out a form which can be found at the Welcome Center at St. James.

We remember our members in our prayers, especially, Marg Jacobs, Delona Allers, Loretta Docken, Joann Zingg, Mary, Jackie, Ruth, Sue, Julie Umhoefer, Monica Pechan, Orin and Pat Strand, and Larry Yeske.



We also remember Dorothy (mother of Sue Zernicke), Larry Hamm (father of Christine Kemnitz), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Marty Pulver (brother of Renata Henry), Marsha Zahasky (sister of Mary Walker), Lori Deegan (mother of Bryan Deegan), Don Erstad (brother of Marilyn Maurer and Gail Rafferty (sister of Cheryl Vroman), and friends, Carolyn, Gina, Greta, John, Ron, and Susan.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Sienna Marie Kessenich, daughter of Ashley and Matthew Kessenich.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of Rodger Stampfli, James Schumann, Charles (Chuck) Roum and Dale Hagen as they mourn their deaths.

In Residence: Noel Manor — Dick and Helen Dignan, Candy Nerge, Lloyd Hornbacher, Carol and Jim Path, Marilyn Roum, Don Zelle, Bob Lind and Audrey Huseth.

Azura — Peggy Papenfus and Bruce Glassrud.

Charter Senior Living—Charles Widish and John Stai.

New Glarus Home: Ruth Erstad.

Serving in the Military: Gavin Bazala, Wyatt Breitnauer, Bryan and Hannah Tordoff, Evan Spoon, Jake Storch, Cyrus Pechan, Jenn Parchem, Gavin Batker, Summit Wild, Reed Matz and Quinn Muderlak.

Serving in the Peace Corps: Shelby Breitnauer.

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