

# The Visitor - June/July 2019



A Publication of St. James Lutheran Church, 4425 South Jackson Rd. Jackson MI 49201 (517) 782-8297  
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*I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,.... And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." ( Revelation 21: 1-2a; 5a.)*



There is no doubt that the state of established religions has been changing over the years. We have all been aware of the dwindling numbers of worshipers attending church services on Sunday mornings throughout all denominations.

Recently, while at Synod Assembly, I heard the statistic that it is estimated by the year 2040, which is 21 years from now, we will see 40% of all church buildings shuttered, no matter the religious affiliation.

While we can sit on our hands and bemoan this fact and blame the current culture, the new generation of people coming up, or the lack of family up-bringing in the church, we are doing no service, whatsoever, to the commission we have been called to carry out. It is time to stop complaining and laying blame and step up. The fact is, each of us have been called to carry out the Great Commission; to go out into the world

and proclaim Jesus and to invite others to hear the Good News.

It is time to ask ourselves what we are willing to do about the mandate Jesus gave us. It is prudent for us to become proactive and have some serious conversations about where we see ourselves headed; take another look at our Mission Statement and decide if we are fulfilling it; decide who we want to be going forward and where we see ourselves in the coming years. We do not want to become a statistic, and we do not want to drop the ball on Jesus' commandment to go out into the world and share the Word. It would be easy to become complacent because we are comfortable, but Jesus has much to offer the world through each of us.

Therefore, Church Council will be offering what we are calling "Cottage Meetings" throughout the month of July. We will have sign-up sheets in the Narthex, and we are asking that you sign up for one of the meetings. The meetings will be to the point and we will have target questions through which we can get your feedback, and we will use your feedback to plan our vision for St. James for the upcoming year.

As we are all aware, things pass away and change. We are given a promise that, though, things pass away and change, God will be at our side working through us to bring about a new thing; a new resurrection. Change is hard, but if we want to stay ahead of the game and plan ahead, it is time we think about how we are conducting ministry; what is it we are looking

for when we think of St. James; is what we do still working; what can be changed to be more effective; how we can we reach new people, and where do we see God at work amongst us.

Please keep each other and St. James in your prayers as we go through this time of discernment.

In peace,

Pastor Martha

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Has been rescheduled for **Sunday, June 9th** following Worship due to not having a quorum in May. Please plan to attend.

## OUTREACH

### NOISY OFFERING:

Thank you for your Noisy Offering on Sunday, May 19th of \$66.05 this will go toward the Refugee House. Thank you for your generosity!



Our next Noisy Offering will be on **Sunday, June 16th** and will be designated to the Big Brother, Big Sister. MacKay Heasley and Andrea Parshall will be the temple talk guests on **June 9th**. Don't forget to bring your loose change. to make a joyful noise!



### At Work at St. James God's Plans...Our Hands in May



Type of Outreach/Fellowship	May
Communion Visit	2
Hospital Visit	6
Confirmation	1
Synod Assembly	1
Summit Worship	9

Please send us the stats for what you would like to report each week, so we can recognize the great work done by St. James members.

## EDUCATION

### THURSDAY STUDY GROUP

Led by Susan Thornton

I would like to thank everyone in the Thursday Study Group for a wonderful year of exploring the first 500 years of Christian History from the 12th century through the 16th. We learned some amazing things. It was interesting to see how humanness played a role in the church even back then. It was sad to see what Christians did to each other which seemed to grow worse each century. There are lessons in the past for today.

Next year we will start in the 1600s with the Baptists, the creation of the King James Bible, Pilgrims and the Society of Friends coming the New World. We will work our way up to the 19—s and the first radio broadcast, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Billy Graham.

In May we will study Lutheranism, tracing the path to the ELCA and today's Lutheran groups. It is comforting to know that God loves us. I continue to be so grateful for grace. Watch for the September Visitor for our schedule for next year.

Have a wonderful summer!

Susan

## COLUMBARIUM

If you have not been to the columbarium lately, you might want to take a walk and see what is new this year. A big thanks to Karlyn and Dave Blank, Rae Anne and Jeff Tolonen and Anita Mure for donating several perennials. We have been trying to add more plants that will provide color throughout the summer and return next year. More trimming and weeding needs to be done, but we are making progress.

Neil Robb has worked diligently to keep the fountain and watering system working as well as spraying to keep the weeds to a minimum. It's a beautiful and peaceful place to sit, rest, reflect and listen to the birds sing. You don't need to have a loved one interned there to enjoy the surroundings. If you have questions about the columbarium and niches available, please contact Marian Hong.

## *Servant List – June 2019 – July 2019*

	<b>June 2</b>	<b>June 9</b>	<b>June 16</b>	<b>June 23</b>	<b>June 30</b>
Greeter(s)	Becky Stevick	Mike & Sara Tackett	Jeanne Thomas	Chuck Thor	Ida Anderson & Rae Anne Tolonen
Ushers	Neil & Melinda Robb	Jim Souder & Joyce Anderson	Chuck Thor & Help Needed	John Reynolds & Roy Kelly	Chuck Thor & Help Needed
Assisting Minister	Laura Trombley	Deanna McMillin	Pat Reynolds	Laura Trombley	Mike Tackett
Reader	Nancy DeGryse	Pat Reynolds	Laura Trombley	Chris Zebarah	Help Needed
Projectionist	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed
Fellowship Time	Kevin & Lori Eilerman	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed
Counters	Mike King & Pat Reynolds	Jim Souder & Mike King	Kristi Laird & Sara Tackett	Karen Dale & Rae Anne Tolonen	Kristi Laird & Sara Tackett
Altar Care	Sara Tackett	Becky Stevick	Pat Reynolds	Pat Reynolds	Sara Tackett


	<b>July 7</b>	<b>July 14</b>	<b>July 21</b>	<b>July 28</b>
Greeter(s)	Karlyn Blank	Roy & Lois Kelly	Nancy DeGryse	Bill & Joyce Anderson
Ushers	Neil & Melinda Robb	Jim Souder & Joyce Anderson	Chuck Thor & Help Needed	John Reynolds & Roy Kelly
Assisting Minister	Pat Reynolds	Deb Schroeder	Pat Reynolds	Mike Tackett
Reader	Jack Noren	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed
Projectionist	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed
Fellowship Time	Help Needed	Help Needed	Kim Hurley	Help Needed
Counters	Mike King & Pat Reynolds	Jim Souder & Mike King	Kristi Laird & Sara Tackett	Karen Dale & Rae Anne Tolonen
Altar Care	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed



# St. James Lutheran

## June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 9:30am— Worship  3:30pm— Confirmation at Christ Lutheran	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:30am— Worship  10:30am— Congregational Meeting	10 9:00am— Prayer Shawl Group  7:00pm— Church Council	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30am— Worship Noisy Offering  	17	18	19	20 12:00pm— Christian Education at China House	21	22
23 9:30am— Worship	24 9:00am— Women's Breakfast at Denny's	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:30am— Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6



06/01 Sue Noren  
 06/07 John Niehaus  
 06/15 Jacob Laird  
 06/19 Bill Wilson  
 06/23 Deb Schroeder  
 06/26 Rae Anne Tolonen  
 06/28 Andrea Niehaus




HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

06/09 Pat & John Reynolds (56)  
 06/11 Lois & Roy Kelly (59)  
 06/11 Pam & Paul Thomas (42)  
 06/24 Carol & Bill Wilson (30)



# St. James Lutheran

## July 2019

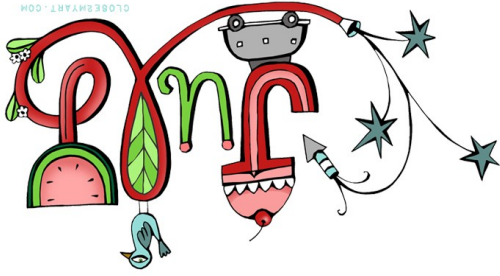
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3		5	6
7 9:30am— Worship	8 9:00am— Prayer Shawl Group  7:00pm— Church Council	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:30am— Worship	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:30am— Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:30am— Worship	29 9:00am— Women's Breakfast	30	31 12:00pm— Worship/Music	1	2	3



- 07/08 Melinda Robb
- 07/17 Chris Zebarah
- 07/23 Evan Robb
- 07/24 Kathy Krafft
- 07/26 Karlyn Blank
- 07/27 Tim Ernst
- 07/31 Lois Kelly
- 07/31 John Reynolds



07/10 Paul & Arlene  
Barosko (65)



Pastor  
Parish Administrator  
Tech Director  
Organist  
Custodians

Rev. Martha Porter-Reid  
Anna Pedrotte  
Tim Ernst  
Jim Skrocki  
Jan Lehman and Robin Vogel

**Staff Listing:**

**Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion**

**Worship with us:**

**“We are a grace-centered family of faith that seeks to know Christ and make Him known.”**

St. James Lutheran Church  
4425 South Jackson Rd.  
Jackson, MI 49201



*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

<http://www.stjameslutheran.com>