

The Visitor - November 2019



A Publication of St. James Lutheran Church, 4425 South Jackson Rd. Jackson MI 49201 (517) 782-8297
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November



Greetings St. James, Church Council met in October for the annual council retreat to begin processing the thoughts shared at the Cottage Meetings. The primary purpose of the retreat is to prepare the strategic vision which states our goals for the upcoming year based upon our mission statement. A copy of the updated strategic vision is posted on the bulletin board each month. Below is the transcript of our meeting minutes.



The cottage meeting minutes were reviewed and discussed at length. Much discussion was held about how to open our church to the greater Jackson Community. We need to open our church up to more community forums that address current social topics, health issues or support groups. The council felt that in five years the church would still be here if we can change the focus of our ministry and provide relevant services to the community. Making the church more visible to the community both by providing services that speak to the community needs as well as

physically by making changes to the outside of the church is key to our longevity. We also need to address congregational concerns regarding our weekly services.

Addressing the immediate need of providing more visibility to the community it was decided that we would immediately order a banner to place in the front of the church announcing worship times. This will be used during special events and on/off during the year. Other ideas such as a large blow up feature to be displayed on different occasions to draw attention the church when people drive by and trimming the trees back were discussed.

Using the information that we received at the cottage meetings, the strategic vision statement was reviewed and updated for the upcoming year. The council recognizes that our decisions regarding the ideas/concerns raised during the cottage meetings must be addressed and communicated to the entire congregation. At each month's council meeting we will address a new action item selected from the feedback items from the cottage meetings. During the month preceding the meeting, an announcement will be placed in the bulletin notifying the congregation of the action item that will be handled at the council meeting. We will ask members to provide any

feedback either to Anna or a council member if they have specifics about our action item that they would like addressed. A minimum of 15-20 minutes of each meeting will be devoted to resolving or addressing these issues. Council resolutions will be posted in the monthly council meeting minutes. Worship concerns will be addressed at the November council meeting.

We will keep you updated each month. As was stated throughout the meetings, our endeavors will be continuing as it is impossible to address all the concerns at one time and still hope to be effective. Please help our efforts by bringing new ideas to any of the council members. Be patient if we have not addressed your concern or idea yet, and please join us in praying for St. James.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Martha

WORSHIP

ADVENT

Liturgically, Advent is a season of hope, longing, and waiting—anticipation, anxiety, and excitement. The season of Advent opens with a longing for the coming of Jesus, the anticipation and hope for the coming of Christ. At St James we observe Advent with royal blue paraments--blue being the color of hope—and a wreath of candles with greens to mark the time before the Christmas celebration. We know something good is coming and we take the time to anticipate and prepare for it.

In the world, Advent is fraught with pre-Christmas sales, festive secular Christmas songs, anxiety for having all Christmas preparations in place, and decorations that have been up since—or maybe even before--Halloween. Christmas Day marks the end of the season rather than the beginning, time to get out the Valentines. **The twelve days of Christmas begin December 25 and end on January 5.** The merchants will have none of this. We know better and our worship reflects this.

OUTREACH

NOISY OFFERING:

Thank you for your Noisy Offering on Sunday, October 20th of \$129.09 that will go toward the Thanksgiving Baskets. Thank you for your generosity!



Our next Noisy Offering will be on **Sunday, November 17th** and will be designated to the Christmas Giving Tree. Don't forget to bring your loose change. to make a joyful noise!

HUMAN TRAFICKING FORUM

NOVEMBER 17TH, 6-8PM

This is an educational event for the whole community! The guest speaker will be Deborah Muhich, BSN, RN. She actively contributes to non-profit groups, task force and boards, including those focusing on human trafficking, drug abuse and prevention. You will also hear from a survivor and her story is powerful. (Ages 13 and above).

Set Free will also be providing a talk for children 12 and under. The Set Free Movement seeks holistic freedom to end modern slavery and create new futures in partnership with others through community-based action. The Set Free Movement has been active in the Jackson community for over nine years working primarily in the areas of awareness and education. Based on a ten-month assessment to understand the needs of the community the group is moving into the work of prevention. Their current work is focused on Mentoring and providing housing for Jackson area youth vulnerable to exploitation.



**At Work at St. James
God's Plans...Our Hands**



Type of Outreach/Fellowship	October
Communion Visit	1
Hospital Visit	3
Prayer Shawl	3
New Members	3
Preaching Outside SJ	1

Please send us the stats for what you would like to report each week, so we can recognize the great work

EDUCATION

THURSDAY STUDY GROUP

Led by: Susan Thornton

On **Thursday, November 7th**, the Thursday Study group will be learning about another fascinating time in the history of Christianity. We begin in the year 1650 looking at George Fox and the Society of Friends. Rembrandt gave the world religious visuals and we often know the Bible stories through his paintings. Philip Jacob Spener, a Lutheran Pastor, had a goal of reforming Protestant congregations back to Luther's ideas of Christian life. John Bunyan wrote Pilgrim's Progress which I read as a 12 year old. Did I know how long ago it was written? We will look at what the births of Bach and Handel brought to the church. In December we will look at the following century (1700s) and meet Isaac Watts, the Moravian Brethren, Jonathan Edwards, John Wesley, Robert Rankes, and William Carey. Our reference books are The 100 Most Important Events in Christian History by Curtis, Land and Petersen and Turning Points by Mark A. Noll as well as other sources. Please plan to join us in the sanctuary at 1:30 on the first Thursday of each month.

ADULT FORUM

Led by Pastor Martha and Laura Trombley

We will be studying the Journey through Revelation for the fall Adult Forum. Books are available in the Narthex. We are reading a chapter each week. Join in on the conversation.

FELLOWSHIP

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
LUNCHEON**

We will have a luncheon on Stewardship **Sunday, November 24th** following worship. Lasagna will be provided. Sign up in the Narthex to bring something for the salad, bread or dessert.



JUST FOR FUN

Thanksgiving Beatitudes

- Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?
- Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.
- Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.
- Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.
- Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.
- Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.
- Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

Servant List –November 2019–December 2019


	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24	December 1
Greeter(s)	Lois & Roy Kelly	DeAnna McMillin	Pat Reynolds	Neil & Melinda Robb	Matt & Deb Schroeder
Ushers	Neil & Melinda Robb	Jim Souder & Joyce Anderson	Chuck Thor & Help Needed	John Reynolds & Roy Kelly	Neil & Melinda Robb
Assisting Minister	Mike Tackett	Laura Trombley	Deb Schroeder	Laura Trombley	Mike Tackett
Reader	Joyce Anderson	Jack Noren	Laura Trombley	Becky Stevick	Chris Zebarah
Projectionist	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed
Fellowship Time	Help Needed	Help Needed	Chris Zebarah	Help Needed	Help Needed
Counters	Mike King & Pat Reynolds	Jim Souder & Mike King	Kristi Laird & Sara Tackett	Karen Dale & Rae Anne Tolonen	Mike King & Pat Reynolds
Altar Care	Pat Reynolds	Sara Tackett	Laura Trombley	Becky Stevick	Pat Reynolds

	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 24	December 29
Greeter(s)	Becky Stevick	Jim & Edna Souder	Mike & Sara Tackett	Help Needed	Jeanne Thomas
Ushers	Jim Souder & Joyce Anderson	Chuck Thor & Help Needed	John Reynolds & Roy Kelly	Help Needed	Neil & Melinda Robb
Assisting Minister	Pat Reynolds	Pat Reynolds	Laura Trombley	Help Needed	Laura Trombley
Reader	Becky Stevick	Nancy DeGryse	Laura Trombley	Help Needed	Several Readers
Projectionist	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed
Fellowship Time	Joyce Anderson	Help Needed	Help Needed	Not Needed	Help Needed
Counters	Jim Souder & Mike King	Kristi Laird & Sara Tackett	Karen Dale & Rae Anne Tolonen	Help Needed	Mike King & Pat Reynolds
Altar Care	Becky Stevick	Laura Trombley	Sara Tackett	Help Needed	Pat Reynolds



St. James Lutheran November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9:30am— Worship 10:45am— Adult Forum				1:30pm— Thursday Study Group		
9:30am— Worship 10:45am— Adult Forum 3:30pm— Confirmation at St. James	9:30am— Prayer Shawl Group in Lounge 7:00pm— Church Council		5:30pm— Worship/Music Meeting			
9:30am— Worship 10:45am— Adult Forum 3:30pm— Confirmation at Immanuel 6:00pm— Human Traffick- ing Forum			7:00pm— Book Group			
9:30am— Worship 10:45am— Commitment Sunday Luncheon 2:00pm— Summit Worship	9:00am— Women's Breakfast at Denny's			<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>		



11/03 Marian Hong
 11/05 Susan Thornton
 11/15 Logan Stebing
 11/28 Shirley Pomeroy
 11/29 Roy Kelly



11/10 Morris & Nancy DeGryse (63)
 11/10 Becky & Ron Stevick (19)
 11/17 Brian & Sabra Niemi (13)



Jan Lehman and Robin Vogel	Rev. Martha Porter-Reid
Jim Skrocki	Anna Pedrotte
Tim Ernst	Parish Administrator
	Tech Director
	Organist
	Custodians

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>