

# The Visitor - February 2020



A Publication of St. James Lutheran Church, 4425 South Jackson Rd. Jackson MI 49201 (517) 782-8297  
<http://www.stjameslutheran.com> [pastor@stjameslutheran.jackson@gmail.com](mailto:pastor@stjameslutheran.jackson@gmail.com)



*“Remember that you are dust and  
to dust you shall return.”*

These words are a reminder of how we began *“Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground”* (Genesis 2:7), and they also remind us of the words which will be said at the end as dirt is tossed upon our casket *“earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust”*



On Ash Wednesday, February 26, we are marked with the ashes of mortality, a visible sign of our invisible companion, death, who walks with us from the time we are born. It would be a mistake, however, to think that death comes only at the end of our physical life. Death meets us in many ways throughout life. Death makes itself known in broken relationships, failures, shattered dreams, and lost opportunities. Death is present in our regrets and disappointments. We recognize death's presence in those times when we betray ourselves and live contrary to who we truly are or want to be. If you've ever known

grief, then you've gazed into the face of death. Each funeral we attend, especially when it is for someone our age or younger, reminds us that everyone dies, and that we, too, one day will die.

I believe that Jesus calls us to more than just concentrating on death; he calls us to life. As we have seen, Jesus often has a way of flipping things upside down, so let's flip Ash Wednesday upside down. What if Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent is not about “being good” so as to earn a future reward and avoid the damnation of hell fires? What if Jesus is promising us something tangible to hold onto in this world that makes all the difference? What if Ash Wednesday and Lent is about turning our lives toward Jesus because he promises “I came that you they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). What if Jesus is promising us an eternal promise and, ALSO, a promise for this life? Throughout the Gospel Jesus shows himself to be giving life, revealing life, and calling to life. Yes, Jesus gives the promise of a heavenly home, but in the meantime he calls us to life.


What if Jesus is calling us to repent, not just for a future promise, but also for a present promise? What if he is calling us to repent so that we may have life abundantly in the present; a life that shines with the love of Christ and asks us hard questions? Hard questions such as: "Is there life in the way I am living in this moment?" "Is there life in the way I see the world and relate to others?" "Am I growing as a person and am I growing closer to God?" "Am I bringing life to others?" "Is there life in me even as I stand before death?" And if there's not, why not? What needs to change, to be let go of, to be done differently? Those aren't just questions for me. They're for all of us.

Jesus calls us to repent, to turn, to change, not just for a promised heavenly future, but for today and for tomorrow.


It is about your life before death. What do you want to do with your life? How do you want to live? Do you have life and bring life to others before death?

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." But, in the meantime, there is life.

In Peace,  
Pastor Martha



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



Type of Outreach/Fellowship	October
Hospital Visit	2
Summit Worship	5

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**

The February meeting for the Thursday Study Group will be on **February 6th**. We will be finishing up the 19th century. More denominations were forming as each group tried to follow their own version of what the Bible said. The Oxford Movement changed the Church of England. Missionaries like Henry Hudson and David Livingstone began traveling to the four corners of the world. There were attacks on Christendom by men like Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher. Charles Haddon in London and Dwight Moody in Chicago brought Christ to the masses. William Booth founded the Salvation Army. Yet one of the most remarkable stories is that of Pope Pius IX who proclaimed in 1870 the doctrine of Papal Infallibility. In March we will look at the beginning of the 20th century. We know that it was a time of world wars. The first Christian radio broadcast was made and the fundamentalist movement began. 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 begin a Lectionary Bible Study of the readings for the following up-coming Sunday starting on February 2nd. (we will now be able to fact-check Pastor Martha's sermons. Tee hee.)

## OUTREACH

**NOISY OFFERING:**  
Thank you for your Noisy Offering on Sunday, January 19th of \$117.80 that will go toward the Habitat for Humanity. Thank you for your generosity!



Karis Tripp will be our temple talk speaker on **February 9th** for AWARE. February's Noisy offering will be on **February 16th** and will go to AWARE. Don't forget to bring your loose change and make a joyful noise.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, **February 9th** will be our Congregational Meeting. Please plan to attend so that we have a quorum to approve our yearly budget. Thank you.

### WORSHIP NEWS



**ASH WEDNESDAY** is February 26th. Join us at 6:30pm to receive ashes and communion.

Our Mid-Week Worship will be Holden Evening Prayer with a Lenten dialogue featuring the voices of God, James, Judas, Peter, Pilate, Barabbas, Dysmas, the Centurion, and Mary. Join us each Wednesday at 6:30pm.

### JUST FOR FUN

#### CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker

MOSES, FLOWERS AND A STONE TABLET CARD? YOU...<UUUUGN>...REALLY...<UUUUUGN>...SHOULDN'T HAVE...<PHEW>...



**MOSES - A TIMELESS ROMANTIC**

### FELLOWSHIP

#### MID-WEEK SOUP SUPPERS

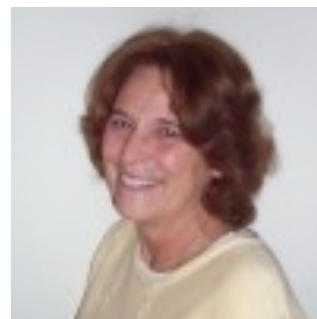
Sign-ups are now posted for Mid-Week Soup Suppers. If you can make a soup, please add your name and your soup to the list.



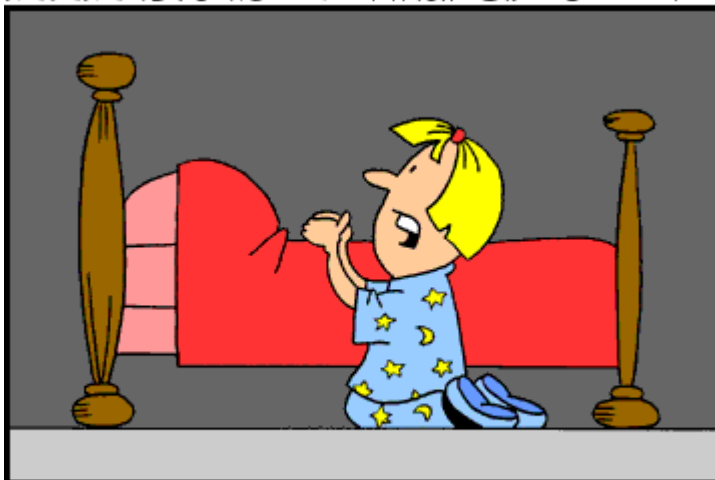
Join us for soup at 5:30pm on Wednesdays beginning March 4th. Don't forget to bring your bowl and silverware. Also keep an eye open for information regarding a luncheon this spring.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

We have an author in this Congregation? Go to [www.lseckerle.wordpress.com](http://www.lseckerle.wordpress.com) and check out Lynn's blog.



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02-13-1998

WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?

***Servant List — February 2020—March 2020***

	<b>February 2</b>	<b>February 9</b>	<b>February 16</b>	<b>February 23</b>
Greeter(s)	Lynn Eckerle	Roy & Lois Kelly	DeAnna McMillin	Deb & Matt Schroeder
Ushers	Neil & Melinda Robb	Jim Souder & Joyce Anderson	Chuck Thor & Help Needed	John Reynolds & Roy Kelly
Assisting Minister	Laura Trombley	Pat Reynolds	Laura Trombley	Laura Trombley
Reader	Pat Reynolds	Jack Noren	Nancey DeGryse	Becky Stevick
Projectionist	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed
Fellowship Time	Pat Reynolds	Kim Hurley	Help Needed	Help Needed
Counters	Mike King & Pat Reynolds	Jim Souder & Mike King	Kristi Laird & Sara Tackett	Karen Dale & Rae Anne Tolonen
Altar Care	Pat Reynolds	Laura Trombley	Sara Tackett	Becky Stevick

	<b>March 1</b>	<b>March 8</b>	<b>March 15</b>	<b>March 22</b>	<b>March 29</b>
Greeter(s)	Nancy DeGryse	Becky Stevick	Jeanne Thomas	Mike & Sara Tackett	Chuck Thor
Ushers	Neil & Melinda Robb	Jim Souder & Joyce Anderson	Chuck Thor & Help Needed	John Reynolds & Roy Kelly	Jim Souder & Joyce Anderson
Assisting Minister	Laura Trombley	Laura Trombley	Pat Reynolds	Deb Schroeder	Deb Schroeder
Reader	Laura Trombley	Joyce Anderson	Lynn Eckerle	Deb Schroeder	Becky Stevick
Projectionist	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed
Fellowship Time	Help Needed	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	Jim Souder & Mike King
Altar Care	Pat Reynolds	Pat Reynolds	Sara Tackett	Laura Trombley	Becky Stevick






# St. James Lutheran

## February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Adult Forum	3	4	5	6 1:30pm – Thursday Study Group	7	8
9 9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Congregational Meeting	10 9:00am – Prayer Shawl Group  7:00pm – Church Council	11	12	13 5:30pm – Worship/Music Meeting	14	15
Noisy Offering 16 9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Adult Forum	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Adult Forum 2:00pm – Summit Worship	24 9:00am – Women's Breakfast	25	26	27	28	29



- 02/04 Zachary Laird
- 02/05 Martha Porter-Reid
- 02/11 Kris King
- 02/11 Betsy Tackett
- 02/17 Colin Niemi
- 02/19 Chuck Thor
- 02/25 Joy Souder
- 02/27 Leah Alfred



2/16 Ken & Chris Zebarah (35)



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

**Staff Listing:**

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

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

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 4425 South Jackson Rd.  
 Jackson, MI 49201




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*We're on the Web!*  
 Visit us at: |  
<http://www.stjameslutheran.com>

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