



St. James News

Equipping and Empowering Families and Students through Christ

Volume 71 Issue 2

March 2025

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From The Desk Of *Pastor Mark Loder*

Lent is upon us in the Church. As the busyness of life goes on, the Church will always exist for the sake of the ministry of the blessing of God's gifts for His people. Word and Sacrament, as you've heard regularly and often from me are the means by which God continues to love you by forgiving you of your sin and nourishing your faith. These are the foundational necessities of your life. Every household should begin and end their days upon God's Word in reading and in prayer of His truths for the sake of nourishing your soul. It's never too late. One is never behind when it comes to being in God's Word.

As this Lenten season begins, consider **challenging yourself** in at least two ways: **First**, get your **Bible** out and read daily. Not sure where to start or what to read? Then pick up the **Congregation at Prayer** handout that's available for you every Sunday near the bulletins and you will have a reading schedule for the week. Along with your Bible reading, the Catechism is always a good and necessary reading each day. **Second**, make an intentional effort to set aside time starting this Wednesday, Ash Wednesday to pause and be fed through God's Word during the mid-week services. You can come to the **Chapel service at 8:20 am or to the 7 pm Vespers services**. In complete honesty, there's very little reason you cannot be in God's Word every day, or attend the extra services provided for the good of your soul. Certainly, there are times when it just doesn't work. But try. Challenge yourself.

It has been said by some lately that the church is in trouble. If you are one who has uttered these words, I'd very much appreciate the opportunity to chat with you about what you mean by that. While there are families who have transferred away from St. James and the finances are tight,

these are not signs that the church is in trouble. As for membership, one of the challenges we face in the church is recognizing that we cannot please everyone. For the most recent families that have left St. James, it has been over the adjustments that have been made to catechesis. To begin to lessen the problem of biblical illiteracy and apathy toward faithful rearing of children, the request has been made that everyone be in Divine Service and Bible Study on Sunday mornings. That's not an unreasonable request. While many have ignored the call, some have embraced it, while others have left. In the end, some will leave so that they can continue on a path they wish to go down. May their souls be nourished and cared for in their new locations.

Finances are always a challenge for the church, especially when they are faithfully supporting a school. An inward look at operations reveals that care needs to be taken when spending. At the same time, every member can, too, take an inward look at how they are doing with stewardship. True stewardship is simply giving. Unfaithful stewardship is withholding because you aren't happy about something or only giving toward a very specific thing you want to give to. St. James is blessed with very faithful members who support the ministry. Is there a way for us all to give a bit more?

Consider the challenges above as well as the challenge to change your perspective, if needed, about St. James and your life in the church. Could you be in Divine Service and Bible Study more often, or even each week this Lent? Try it! Could you find a way to share a bit more of your time, talents, or treasure (notice treasure is last - there's much you can do to give to the ministry of the church)? Try it! St. James is only in trouble when we lose sight of the primary reason we exist. That reason? For the gathering of saints to receive the blessing of Word and Sacrament.

Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Sunday, February 2	112 & 86
Sunday, February 9	133 & 126
Sunday, February 16	88 & 89
Sunday, February 23	143 & 75

Communion Attendance

Sunday, February 2	124
Sunday, February 9	125
Sunday, February 16	108
Sunday, February 23	133

Funeral

Jeanne Glessing on February 1, 2025. She was called to her eternal rest on January 25, 2025, at the age of 95 years, 4 months, and 15 days.

Keith "Erv" Luhman on February 8, 2025. He was called to his eternal rest on February 1, 2025, at the age of 84 years, 1 month, and 13 days.

DuWayne Latzig on February 17, 2025. He was called to his eternal rest on February 6, 2025, at the age of 74 years, 1 month, and 7 days.

Steve Weber on February 22, 2025. He was called to eternal rest on February 8, 2025, at the age of 71 years, 8 months, and 4 days.

New Member

Rhea Hanifl by Profession of Faith

† **Bible Trivia** †

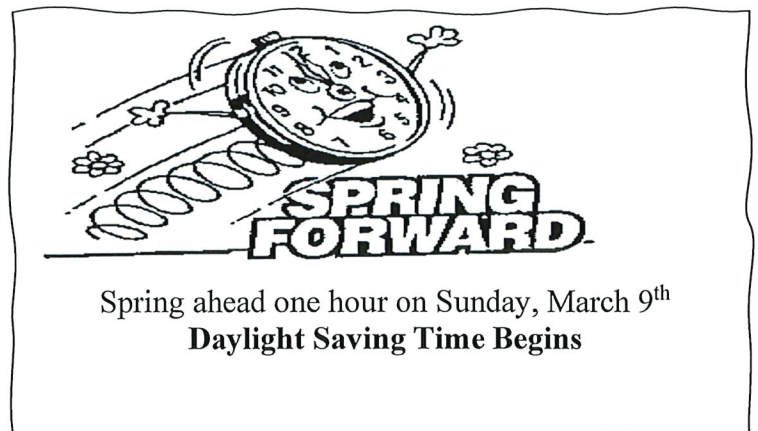
See answers below

1. In what place was the following line spoken: "Could ye not watch with me one hour?"
2. Who said, "Whom will ye that I release unto you?"
3. What did Simon the Cyrenian carry?
4. To whom did Jesus say, "Woman, behold thy son"?
5. What happened immediately before the veil in the temple of Jerusalem was torn in two?

Answers: 1. The Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:40) 2. Pilate (Matthew 27:17) 3. Jesus' cross (Matthew 27:32) 4. His mother Mary (John 19:26) 5. Jesus died (Matthew 27:51)



- ~ Board of Elders, Contact an Elder or Pastor
- ~ Trustees, Contact Mark Bureau
- ~ Ushers, Contact Pastor or Mark Diers
- ~ Counting Committee, Contact John Zander



Spring ahead one hour on Sunday, March 9th
Daylight Saving Time Begins

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article –
March 2025**

God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both ongoing and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand

endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!



The deadline for newsletter submissions is March 24. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please call or email secretary@stjameshl.org. Thanks in advance.

2025 Lenten Calendar

Ash Wednesday, March 5th

7:00 PM Divine Service

Wednesday Lenten Worship Services

March 12th, 19th, and 26th; April 2nd and 9th

8:20 AM Chapel Service

7:00 PM Vespers Worship Service



Monthly Financial Report



St. James Lutheran Church
Monthly Financial Summary
January 2025

	Year-to Date	
	Actual	Budget
Receipts		
Offerings & Donations	340,405	326,375
Tuition & Other Receipts	252,691	179,072
Mission Receipts	6,268	5,000
Total Receipts	599,364	510,448
Expenses		
Salaries - Church & School	313,262	315,435
Benefits/Payroll Taxes/Mileage	87,775	89,841
Administration & Program Expenses	58,887	48,175
Utilities/Maintenance & Repair	163,234	96,820
Mission Disbursements	1,492	575
Total Expenses	624,649	550,847
Net Receipts/Expenses	(25,285)	(40,399)



Hear the Good News of the Gospel on the Lutheran hour each Sunday at 9:00 am on KDUZ 1260 AM Radio.

During the month of March, you will hear the following topics:

March 2

"It's Best to Be with Jesus"

Life was not meant to be a do-it-yourself project. We need God's help, His strength, His gifts. (Luke 9:28-36)

March 9

"Unless a Grain of Wheat Dies"

Do you want a life that amounts to more than a hill o' beans? Hear how Christ's death and resurrection gives us life with God that can't be measured. (John 12:24)

March 16

"Light of the World"

Jesus is the Light of the world. However, He sometimes keeps that light out of the visible range. We can't see it, but it changes what we see. (John 8:12)

March 23

"Even Me, Even You"

Jesus the Good Shepherd invites all to be His sheep and find pasture. His words of promise will amaze some but anger others. (John 10:1-21)

March 30

"The Difference Between Anger and Contempt"

God gets angry at sin, but behind that anger, God is love. We believe this only because of Jesus. (John 11:35)

Order Easter Flowers



Look for Easter Flower order form in the Narthex. All orders are due Friday, March 28th. Order will be placed through Lynde Greenhouse and Nursey.



March: Greta Goede (1), Annalie Kilpela (1), Dwayne Oestreich (1), Kaidyn Pollock (1), Lucas Probst (1), Randy Hatcher (2), Larae Ostgulen (2), Gerald Diers (3), Janet Koch (3), Justin Rehmann (3), Rodney Miller (4), Madisyn Rember (4), Christena Dickens (5), Pat Olson (6), Erin Luchsinger (7), Kristen Smida (7), Bill Wickesberg (7), Marlin Diers (8), Shannon Johnson (8), Cody Utne (8), Deane Cloose (9), Daisy Blanchette (10), Donald Oestreich (10), William Workman (10), Kaitlynn Bickmann (11), Janice Comstock (11), Emilia Fleck (12), Steve Horsch (12), Marlene Jensen (12), Wyatt Stoll (12), Leigha Workman (12), Alan Montgomery (13), Isaiah Painschab (13), Madyson Lueders (13), Brian Currey (14), William Hassa (14), Delia Hassa (14), Joan Boss (15), Shelby Gabbert (15), Alexandr Kotila (15), William Montgomery (16), Amelia Nowak (16), Kara Bobrowske (17), Patricia Diers (18), Cheryl Moist (18), Gracie Gabbert (20), Nicholas Borg (21), Dawn Kliche (21), Lily Koch (21), Kim Koosman (21), Timothy Schmiegl (21), April Stueven (22), Joseph Bickmann (23), Lorraine Luhman (23), Allison Estrem (24), Jared Merges (24), Mason Glessing (25), Beatrice Buttenhoff (26), Colton Diers (26), Leah Montgomery (26), Richard Zander (26), Paul Eklof (27), Angela Gabbert (27), Tanner Glessing (27), Samuel Kittock (27), Hanna Skiles (27), Marey Woolhouse (27), Dennis Frey (28), Darlene Yager (28), Eden Koosman (29), Olivia Koosman (29), Matt Montgomery (29), Deborah Workman (29), Ella Bobrowske (30), Corene Oestreich (30), Belinda Jo Estrem (31).

We gathered for our first meeting of 2025 on February 3rd at 10:00 AM. Following refreshments and visiting, Pastor Loder led us in a Quarterly Bible Study on The Third Article- Steadfast in Christ and by the work of the Holy Spirit who works in us faith through the Word and Sacraments we receive the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation.

President Barb led the business meeting, reports were read and accepted. A motion was made and passed and we joyfully welcomed 2 new members, Cathy Birkholz and Janice Comstock. The National LWML Convention will be held June 26-29, 2025, in Omaha Nebraska and anyone interested was urged to attend. St. James LWML will host the Zone meeting on February 24th, 6:30 PM. The February birthdays were recognized and the birthday son sung.

March 3rd, 5:30 PM will be our annual work night, cleaning the kitchen and making Care Center favors for the residents. Subs for Supper! Come join us!



3/4 Tyler and Ashlee Gruenhagen
3/9 Erland and Linda Hoese
3/18 Gerald and Carol Burau
3/26 Allan & Donna Munson



School News



The penny harvest in January was a success! The students reached their goal of at least 400 pounds of pennies collected, which meant pies in the face for the 10 staff members who agreed to the fun. The total of all those pennies (\$743.40) was given to the Howard Lake police department. Thank you to everyone who brought in their pennies and coins!

During the month of February St. James Lutheran School participates in the Hearts for Jesus project sponsored by the South District of the Missouri Synod. The money collected this year goes to the World Vision Ignite program. This program equips Christian educators with tools and training to inspire students to live out their faith and become world changers. [Visit World Vision Ignite's website.](#) During the first two weeks of February our classes have given \$402.43 to this mission.

February 13th was the 100th day of school and the kindergarten class had LOTS of activities to celebrate. Besides decorating their own "Superhero" cape for reaching that milestone, they did 10 reps of various exercises 10 different ways to reach 100, their special snack time was 100 pieces of various food items, they had a grand time with 100 balloons and had a scavenger hunt in their classroom for 100 hidden Hershey kisses.

The PTL sponsored an afternoon of bowling on Sunday, February 16th. Over 70 of the St. James family participated so we filled the bowling alley! The PTL is very busy getting the final plans made for the upcoming Gala on March 8th. We hope to see many of you there to enjoy an evening of fine food, fellowship, fundraising, and the entertainment by The River Rats Dueling Pianos.

Enrollment is open for the 2025-26 school year. Spread the word to anyone you know who might be looking for a Christian education for their child(ren). Registration fees are: \$125.00 per student for grades K-8 and \$75.00 for preschool students if paid before April 1. After that time the fees double.

Also looking ahead to next year, the plan at this time is to combine grades 1 and 2 with Mrs. Olsen as the teacher. And with the retirement of Mrs. Chabot and Mr. Baumann at the end of this school year, we are seeking applicants for those two positions. If you, or anyone you know is interested in either of those teaching positions, send a resume to Pastor Loder.

Dates to keep in mind for March:

- March 2 8:00 a.m. Kindergarten choir
- March 8 4:30 p.m. St. James Gala
- March 5 Ash Wednesday
- March 9 10:30 a.m. Preschool choir
- March 16 10:30 a.m. Grades 5-8 choir
- March 21 End of the 3rd quarter NO BUSSING DAY
- March 24-28 Spring break NO SCHOOL



March

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Quinquagesima 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Confirmation/ Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service	3 7:00 LWML 7:30 Trustees Meeting	4 7:00 Women's Bible Study	5 8:20 Chapel 7:00 Ash Wednesday Divine Service 8:00 Worship Choir ASH WEDNESDAY	6 1:30 Sarah Bible Study	7	1 7:00 Iron Sharpening Iron Breakfast 9:00 Elders Meeting 8 Gala
9 First Sunday in Lent 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Confirmation/ Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service Daylight Savings	10 1:00 Naomi Guild	11 7:00 Women's Bible Study	12 8:20 Chapel 7:00 Mid-Week Service 8:00 Worship Choir	13	14	15
16 Second Sunday in Lent 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Confirmation/ Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service	17 7:00 School Board	18 7:00 Leadership Council 7:00 Women's Bible Study	19 8:20 Chapel 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	20 1:30 Sarah Bible Study	21	22 9:00 Private Confession/ Absolution
23 Third Sunday in Lent 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Confirmation/ Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service	24 6:30 SS Teacher Session	25 7:00 Women's Bible Study	26 7:00 Mid-Week Service 8:00 Worship Choir	27	28	29
30 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Confirmation/ Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service	31 Newsletter Article Due					

St. James Lutheran Church and School
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Blessings To: