



St. James News

CHRIST AT THE CENTER. TRUTH IN ALL THINGS

Volume 72 Issue 5

May 2026

CHURCH@STJAMESHL.ORG

Pastor – Reverend Mark Loder

SCHOOL@STJAMESHL.ORG

320-543-2766

web site: www.stjameshl.org - revloder@gmail.com

320-543-2630

From The Desk Of *Pastor Mark Loder*

May Spiritual Discipline: Read One Book of the Bible

Good coaching doesn't allow young athletes to do things they aren't ready to do. Young basketball shooters may not be allowed to shoot three-pointers until they are older, for instance, as the coach doesn't want them to form bad habits by chucking up threes before they are physically ready. Coaches wanted young athletes to work on their basic fundamentals with the expectation that it would carry over to disciplined abilities when the time was right.

Disciplines are formed by working on the basics. You never get over what is most fundamental. You simply add to it. Practice hitting five-foot shots and then back it up to 7-8 feet. In time, you make it to the three-point line with the same stroke used closer to the basket.

The spiritual disciplines we are devoting ourselves to this church year vary in scope, but all build on the foundation of the Word of God. You could consider this month's discipline akin to taking a step back and working on slightly longer jumpers.

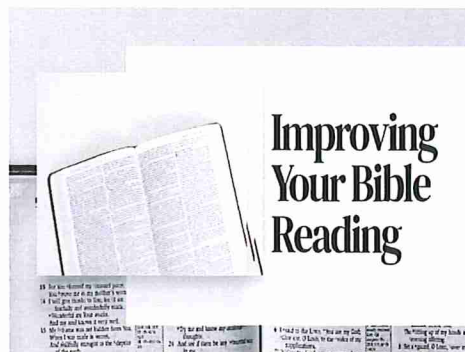


THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE FOR MAY IS TO READ ONE BOOK OF THE BIBLE.

If you have been following along with our disciplines, I hope that you not only have found fruit in them but that you also have continued to maintain them and built a devotional life around them. You are learning to incorporate the catechism, the psalter, and the hymnal into the hearing of the Word. In May, we want to step up our reading of the Scriptures.

I would suggest either devoting yourself to a longer book of the Bible (i.e. Isaiah) or taking up a shorter one and reading it multiple times throughout the month. If you take up the latter option, you will find great fruit in getting to know one book of the bible really well over the course of the coming weeks.

The joy in reading the Scriptures is that the Scriptures show us our Savior, Jesus Christ. Remember that the pages of Holy Scripture are bathed in the blood of Christ. By increasing the amount of Scripture you read, you have all the more opportunity to be pointed to the Lord who has redeemed you and called you as His own. Where else shall we go? Jesus alone has the words of eternal life. It's time to keep building on what we have done so far. In doing so, we will keep building ourselves up into Him who is the Church's head, even Jesus Christ.



✠ Bible Trivia ✠

See answers below

1. How many sons did Jacob have?
2. Which prophet controlled rain and dew?
3. To whom did Jesus say, "Get thee behind me Satan."?
4. On what does a wise man build his house?
5. Which book in the New Testament says that a Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?
6. Finish this sentence spoken by the Lord to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for ..."

Answers: 1. 12(Genesis 35:22-23) 2. Elijah (1 Kings 17:1) 3. Peter (Matthew 16:23) 4. A rock (Matthew 7:25) 5. Corinthians (I Corinthians 6:18) 6. "...My strength is made perfect in weakness." (II Corinthians 12:9)

Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Wednesday, April 1	52
Maundy Thursday, April 27	115
Tre Ore	16
Chief Service	140
Easter Vigil	55
Easter Sunday, April 5	353
Sunday, April 12	199
Sunday, April 19	201
Sunday, April 26	217

Communion Attendance

Maundy Thursday	76
Good Friday	73
Easter Sunday	187
Sunday, April 12	126
Sunday, April 19	124
Sunday, April 26	134



God's blessings to this year's St. James graduating high school seniors. They will be recognized at the 10:30 AM Service on Sunday, May 17th.

Congratulations to Olivia Cardinal, Vivian Nikko, and Sophie Salmela



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 May, you will hear the following topics:

May 3, 2026

"Planning Is Everything"

Offer up your plans to God in prayer and see what God does with them. Let your plans become prayers that lead you to praise. Psalm 146:3-4

May 10, 2026

"The King Who Reigns"

If Easter tells us that Jesus the King has won, then Ascension tells us the King is reigning, and His reign is good. Luke 24:36-53

May 17, 2026

"Don't Despise Small Beginnings"

Our small efforts to become the people Jesus saved us to be might seem insignificant, but small efforts compound. Acts 1:14

May 24, 2026

"Misery Loves Company"

It's often said, "Misery loves company." Christ comes to us in our misery with God's love and mercy. Acts 2:38

May 31, 2026

"A Friendly Recommendation"

What happens when you find out that acquiring everything you've ever wanted... still isn't enough? Genesis 1:26



May: Steve Comstock, Jr.,(1), Holly Kleve (1), Naomi Love (2), Patrick Workman (2), Peter Zander (2), Tyler Zander (2), Sara Niesen (3), Christopher Zander (3), Amber Zander (4), Harold Blanchette, Jr (5), Lillian Hendrickson (5), Brennan Monson (5), Averi Nowak (5), Evan Bobrowske (6), Ronald Reinmuth (6), Dennis Butterfass (7), Anthony Love (7), Robert Workman (7), Lilyann Blanchette (8), Brody Niesen (8), Emerson Koosman (9), Jake Zander (9), Ben Bergquist (10), James Monson (10), Bethany Burau (11), Zachary Koosman (12), Gerald Gruenhagen (13), Michell Baumann (14), Shon Gabbert (14), Brooke Kubasch (14), Colton Burbank (15), Robin Painschab, Jr (15), Kenneth Koch (16), Sarah Trobiani (17), Belinda Eklof (18), Reagan Merges (18), Noah Reich (18), Logan Frich (19), Marcella Miller (19), Andrew Estrem (20), Adam Stueven (20), Frances Luhman (21), Gabriel Monson (22), Jake Borg (23), Judith Rasmussen (23), Shannon Wolff (24), Michelle Brady (25), Stacey Sparkman (26), Tim Workman (26), Ashley Jones (27), Amy Schmiege (27), Maria Kilpela (28), Eric Borg (29), Grant Zimmerman (30), Ruby Love (31), Michelle Peterson (31).



Pastor Loder led us in a Bible study “Overflowing in Comfort”. We have been blessed with an abundant life and we are to share it with compassion, comfort and God’s love to others.

Marge opened the business meeting, and reports were read. We are invited to Bethlehem’s Prayer Service on May 7th. We will send 2 delegates to the MN South District Convention June 18-20 in Mankato, anyone else interested in attending was urged to attend. A Happy Mail Basket made up of assorted homemade cards and stamps will be donated to the Convention’s Silent Auction. Viann and Jan volunteered to serve treats to the grade schoolers for their help set up tables and chairs for funerals during the school year. April Birthdays were read followed with prayer, lunch and fellowship. Our May 4th meeting will feature Flower Bingo. All ladies are welcome!!

Smile! Jesus Lives!!

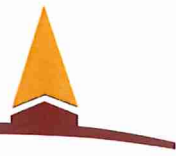
LCMS Health Ministry

May is usually a chock-full month for families with school-aged kids. Graduation, music recitals, spring sports tournaments, awards ceremonies...the list goes on! It can be easy to get bogged down with the busyness of May. But this month also serves as a great reminder that there are many people pouring into the lives of our children, not the least being their teachers at school! The first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Month and teachers should receive praise and appreciation for their dedication to helping teach our children. Pray for your teachers. Write thank you cards and notes. Consider giving gifts. Show love to all teachers for using their vocations to serve Christ and His children.



- 5/5 Danny & Jamie Remer
- 5/7 Marlin & Shirley Diers
- 5/8 David & Ruth Oestreich
- 5/13 Mark & Lesley Stueven
- 5/17 Pat & Barbara Bickmann
- 5/17 Randall & Tonya Whitton
- 5/18 Lyle & Karen Oestreich
- 5/19 Richard & Connie Zander
- 5/21 Bruce & Carol Zander
- 5/21 Derek & Holly Zillmer
- 5/23 Ross & Elizabeth Anderson
- 5/23 Brian & Rena Gruenhagen

Monthly Financial Report



St. James Lutheran Church
Monthly Financial Summary
March 2026

	Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget
Receipts		
Offerings & Donations	491,271	409,467
Tuition & Other Receipts	282,234	224,263
Mission Receipts	6,686	9,667
Total Receipts	780,191	643,397
Expenses		
Salaries-Church & School	402,595	407,777
Benefits/Payroll/Taxes/Mileage	107,237	111,087
Administration & Program Expenses	63,056	50,257
Utilities/Maintenance & Repair	162,434	139,440
Mission Disbursements	2,000	1,167
Total Expenses	737,321	709,727
Net Receipts/Expenses	42,870	(66,331)

LCMS Stewardship Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought —

He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

School NEWS

April began with the somber remembrance of Christ's death on the cross to take the punishment we deserved followed by the joy of Easter and Christ's resurrection. How blessed we are to be able to daily receive God's forgiveness and hold on to the promise of eternal life with Him in heaven one day.

Third quarter Honor Roll:

A Honor Roll: Grade 5, Bradley Dickens, Kaitlyn King, Camden Meehan, Averii Nowak, Lilian Olson. Grade 6, Owen Davis, Fischer Eckhoff, Rowan Johnson, Tanner Koch, Eden Koosman, Nayvie Laage, Audrey Ogle, Josh Teske-Holmgard. Grade 7, Allison Estrem, Lila Hennen, Micah Reich. Grade 8, Emma Cardinal, Lillian Doten, Logan Frich, Olivia Koosman, Oliver Nikko.

B Honor Roll: Grade 5, Mikaela Johnson, Lucian Koch, Bentley Krueger, Codee Laage, Noah Reich, Harper Salmela. Grade 7, Max Kilpela and Nora Morrissette. Grade 8, Odin Johnson.

Seven of our students put their spelling skills to the test at the annual spelling bee at Mayer Lutheran High School on April 11th. In the 5th-6th grade division, Camden Meehan placed 7th and Bradley Dickens placed 9th. In the 3rd-4th division, Eddie Estrem placed 8th and Hadley Diers placed 9th. Other St. James students who helped us earn the 7th place over all for our school were Declan Zillmer in 2nd grade and Lila Hennen and Allie Estrem in 7th grade. Congratulations and thanks for representing St. James so well!

Grades 5-8 have all written and performed plays as part of their English classes during April. Seventh and Eighth graders wrote original plays. Fifth and Sixth graders used fables and fairy tales as the basis for their plays.

Grades 1-2 visited the Minnesota Zoo on the 17th of April. Despite some rain at the start, they had a great time. Highlights reported by some of the students were: the seal show, bison, poison dart frog, sharks and being able to touch a ray.

Grades 4,7, and 8 spent Tuesday the 21st at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Reports of favorite parts of that trip were: running the race with the dinosaur, finding out things about the human body such as what an infant sees and a 2 month old sees, (there were glasses that they could look through), the mummy - you could still see some teeth, the giant crocodile skeleton, the tornado room, the lightning show in the auditorium that showed and explained how lightning was formed the sounds that went with it, and the tug boat exhibit where they learned about the currents and flow of rivers.

Third graders have been learning about budgeting. At the beginning of the week, they receive 5 "bee bucks" to save or spend. Purchases they can make include things like choosing their own place to sit at lunch, spending DEAR time in the kindergarten room, renting Mrs. Olsen's cockatiel for a time etc. They must pay back some of their "bee bucks" if they forget to put their name on a paper or have missing assignments. If their student planner is filled out each day, they can earn another "bee buck". There are

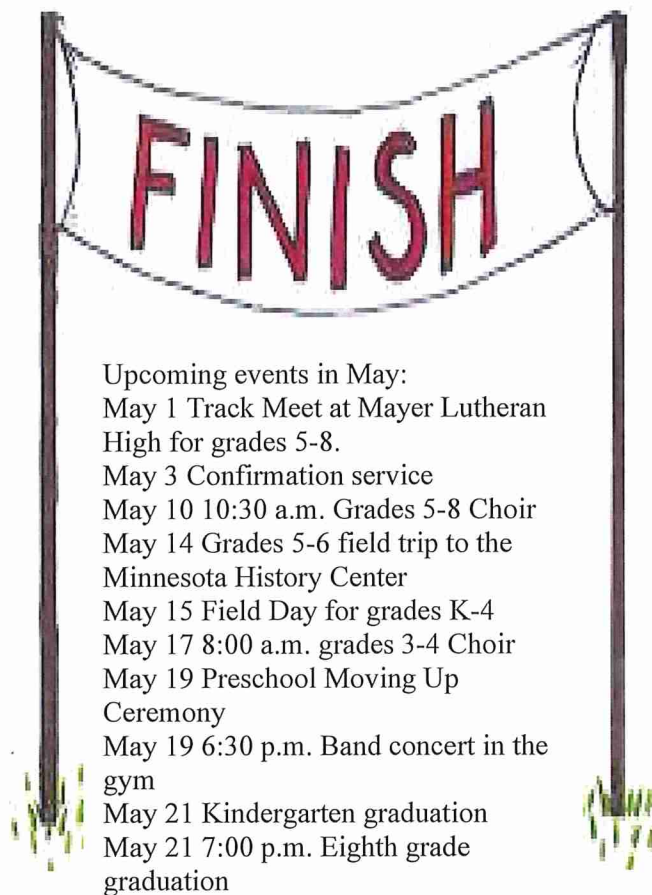
some students who have judiciously saved a hundred or more of their bucks. They are ready for the real world of saving and spending!

The Garage Sale for St. James expanded this year to be open on Thursday, as well as Friday and Saturday. The gym was again filled with donations from family and friends of St. James. Over \$5,000.00 was raised for our school. Thank you for all items brought and for the many hands that helped with the setup, cashiering, staging, and cleanup.

The bands and choirs of St. James Church and School shared their faith and joy in Christ through music at the spring concert on April 26. Following that, everyone could walk through the halls and classrooms of the school to see examples of the many different types of artwork the classes have worked on throughout the year. Many people collected signatures from the teachers of each grade level to be entered into a drawing for spirit wear. Two names were drawn this year and the winners were fourth grader, Hadley Diers and alumna, Sophie Salmela.

Did you know?

- Students who have cell phones turn them in to the office in the morning and receive them back at the end of the day.
- Students from MAWSECO come 3 days a week to help serve lunches.
- Students still learn cursive handwriting skills in our classes.



The 8th grade students have gone through their private confirmation questioning with Pastor. We look forward to seeing their banners displayed on the balcony in church. Please keep these St. James students in your prayers as they are confirmed: Emma Cardinal, Lillian Doten, Logan Frich, Olivia Koosman, and Oliver Nikko. Blessings to the public-school students, confirming also on May 3rd, Clayton Hendrickson, Lane Sparkman, Carly Stueven and Waverly Stueven.



“I look for the resurrection of the dead” (Nicene Creed)

As we all know well, the Easter season celebrates and rejoices in Christ’s resurrection. In his resurrection, he burst forth from the tomb in victory. He demonstrated that he conquered sin, death, and the devil once and for all by his death. Christ conquered sin and all the effects of sin. And this includes all the corruption of the body that we face. Sin did not just destroy our moral ailments that affect our bodies, our minds, and senses. Sin is the root cause and all the things we suffer from are effects of sin. These corruptions of the body are an ever-present reminder that the wages of sin is death. And here we get Glimpses of the death that we earned through sin.

So when we confess that Christ conquered sin and death, we are confessing that Christ conquered that deep-seated corruption of our flesh. He conquers not only our moral imperfections, but also the total brokenness of the flesh. When Christ took on human nature, he bore our infirmities along with our actual sins. Christ became all that makes us human. And by taking on human flesh, he bore in his own body our sins and our infirmities. By dying, he destroyed sin and all that comes with it. And on the third day he rose again, showing his victory over our foes. And he won for us our own resurrection. This is what we confess every week in the Nicene Creed. We confess that Christ will raise us to new life just as he rose again.

The resurrection is important because it means we too will be raised. Paul expresses that in this life our bodies are corrupt **“So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. And it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being.’ The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.” (1 Corinthians 15:42-45).** We are born corrupt, unable to do anything good. And we’re also born with many infirmities. But after death, we are raised again. And our bodies become incorruptible. They are perfected in every way. Sin will no longer affect us. We will be free from our sinful old man and from sickness, grief, and sorrow. Christ is the firstfruits of the dead showing us what sort of resurrection we have to look forward to.

And this promise is already ours. St. Paul writes **“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father; even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be In the likeness of His resurrection” (Romans 6:4-5).** Baptism makes the resurrection ours. Paul uses the language of being united to his death and resurrection. Through Baptism we

are united to his own death and resurrection. We have already died and risen with him and have received the promise. And this promise of the resurrection will come to fruition when we are brought to our Lord on the Last Day.

Vicar Hallock

The Lutheran Witness Subscription Due

Members who wish to receive *The Lutheran Witness* magazine must pay the subscription price of \$28.00 to the church office before May 25, 2026. A box will be placed in the narthex for those who would like to make their payment when attending services. Please complete the form below and bring it to the church office with your payment made out to St. James to receive or renew *The Lutheran Witness*.

-----Detach Here-----

Please complete form and include with payment.

Yes, please renew my subscription.
Enclosed is my \$28.00 payment.

Please add my name to the list of members who subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness*. Enclosed is my payment.

Name: _____

Service Planner

SEASON	DATE	LITURGY	PREACHER	ORGANIST	HYMNS	COMMUNION
	May 3	Fifth S. of Easter (Cantate)	Is. 12:1-6	Psalm 66:1-8	James 1:16-21	John 16:5-15
		DS III Pg. 184	Pastor	Nancy	528, 840, 790	625, 729, 635
	May 6	Chapel	John 16:5-15			
		Prayer and Preaching	Pastor	Molly	528, 729, 790	5-8 choir
	May 10	Sixth S. of Easter (Rogate)	Num. 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-9	1 Tim. 2:1-6 or James 1:22-27	John 16:23-30 (31-33) 5-8 choir
		DS III Pg. 184	Vicar	Nancy	663, 772, 837	702, 724, 490
	May 13	Chapel	Mark 16:14-20 or Luke 24:44-53	(Ascension)		3-4 choir
		Prayer and Preaching	Vicar	Molly		
	May 14	The Ascension of Our Lord	2 Kings 2:5-15	Psalm 110	Acts 1:1-11	Mark 16:14-20 or Luke 24:44-53
7 pm		@ Bethlehem				
	May 17	Seventh S. of Easter (Exaudi)	Ezek. 36:22-28	Psalm 51:1-12	1 Peter 4:7-11 (12-14)	John 15:26-16:4
		DS III Pg. 184	Pastor	Molly		3-4 choir
	May 22	Chapel (Closing)	Psalm 98	Molly		
		Prayer and Preaching	Pastor	(Vicar Liturgist)		
PENTECOST	May 24	The Day of Pentecost	Gen. 11:1-9	Psalm 143	Acts 2:1-21	John 14:23-31
		DS III Pg. 184	Vicar	Nancy	501, 497, 503	500, 650, 496
TRINITY	May 31	The Holy Trinity	Is. 6:1-7	Psalm 29	Rom. 11:33-36	John 3:1-15 (16-17)
		DS III Pg. 184	Pastor	Molly		
	June 7	First Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 15:1-6	Psalm 33:12-22	1 John 4:16-21	Luke 16:19-31
		DS IV	Pastor	Luke		
	June 14	Second Sunday after Trinity	Prov. 9:1-10	Psalm 34:12-22	1 John 3:13-18 or Eph. 2:13-22	Luke 14:15-24
		DS IV	Vicar	Nancy		
	June 21	Third Sunday after Trinity	Micah 7:18-20	Psalm 103:1-13	1 Tim. 1:12-17 or 1 Peter 5:6-11	Luke 15:1-10 or Luke 15:11-32

MAY

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Fifth Sunday of Easter 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service/Confirmation 5:00 Trustees Meeting	4 2:00 LWML	5	6 8:20 Chapel 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	7 9:00 Bible Study 9:30 HL Care Center 1:30 The Lodge	8 9:00 Bible Study 9:30 HL Care Center 1:30 The Lodge	9 7:30 Iron Breakfast 9:00 Elders Meeting
10 Sixth Sunday of Easter 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	11 1:00 Naomi Guild	12	13 8:20 Chapel 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	14 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Cokato Care Center 5:30 Community Meal	15 3:00 Baptism	16
Pastor Gone at State Pastors Conference						
17 Seventh Sunday of Easter 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	18 7:00 School Board	19 7:00 Leadership Council	20 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	21 9:00 Bible Study 9:30 HL Care Center 1:30 The Lodge	22 1:05 Closing Chapel	23 9:00-12:00 Private Confession/Absolution
Mother's Day						
Vicar Gone						
24 The Day of Pentecost 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	25 Church Office Closed	26	27 8:20 Chapel 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	28 9:00 Bible Study	29 Last Day of School	30
31 The Holy Trinity 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/SS 10:30 Divine Service	Memorial Day					

Spring Blessings To:

St. James Lutheran Church and School
1000 Seventh Avenue – PO Box 680
Howard Lake, MN 55349



