

St. James News

Equipping and Empowering Families and Students through Christ

Volume 71 Issue 4

May 2025

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From The Desk Of *Pastor Mark Loder*

Dear St. James family, during this Easter Season, it is good to give thanks to the Lord for His many blessings. First and foremost, of course, is your salvation in the blood of Christ. You are tremendously blessed through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Sinners saved by grace, you have a different perspective through which to view the events of life. That perspective is formed by your regular reception of God's truth, mercy, and grace in Word and Sacrament. No matter the circumstances of life, you have a peace that surpasses all understanding. God's love for you is experienced in many and various ways. **"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."** (Romans 5:1-5)

The gifts God has to offer are under the stewardship of your pastor, who has vowed to rightly preach, teach, and administer the sacraments. It is through the proper call of your pastor that you are fed and nourished as he cares for your soul through the blessing that is God's truth in the means of grace. An important part of the continued service of the Church is the formation of future pastors. St. James is blessed to be a part of the good, necessary, and continued work of the church at large in providing a place for continued training and

experience for future pastors. It is an honor to serve in this capacity. As the years go by, it is a great opportunity for you to give thanks to God for your commitment and support of our vicars and pray for faithful service of those who receive their calls into the Office of Holy Ministry.

As our current vicar, Vicar Totenhagen's time winds down (he will finish his service here at the end of June), we have been assigned our next vicar. He will be the 9th vicar under Pastor Loder. 10 vicars served under Pastor Michael. Our next vicar will be Gabe Hallock. He and his family (wife and two children) will move to Howard Lake in July. A bio with more information about the Hallock family will be coming soon.

Praise be to God, two of our former vicars have received assignments to their first calls. Former Vicar Scofield has been assigned to Friends in Christ Lutheran Church in Morris, IL, and River of Life Lutheran Church in Channahon, IL. Former Vicar Speckhard has been assigned to St. Peter Lutheran Church in Hemlock, MI. Praise God for these men and their service in the Church. As it is a blessing to be an important part of their formation as future pastors, continue to keep them in your prayers.

Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Mid-Week, April 2	38
Sunday, April 6	108 & 139
Mid-Week, April 9	52
Sunday, April 13	152 & 129
Tuesday of Holy Week	16
Wednesday of Holy Week	189
Maundy Thursday	96
Good Friday- Tre Ore	27
Good Friday- Chief Service	79
Vigil of Easter	34
Easter Sunday, April 20	205 & 182
Sunday, April 27	187

Communion Attendance

Sunday, April 6	143
Sunday, April 13	152
Maundy Thursday	70
Good Friday	79
Easter Sunday, April 20	231
Sunday, April 27	187

Transfer In

Jeanette Albers from St. John's Lutheran Church, Winsted.

Request of Release

Scott Salmela to Grace Lutheran Church, South Haven.

Kobey Woolhouse to King of Grace Evangelical Church, Golden Valley.

Transfer Out

Gerry and Karen Diers to St. John's Lutheran Church, Winsted.

✝ **Bible Trivia** ✝

See answers below

1. Name the son of Abraham and Hagar.
2. Who said, "Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God?"
3. Who said that all who draw the sword would die by the sword?
4. Complete the following sentence of scripture: "Draw nigh unto God and..."
5. Which book in the Bible contains the following verse of prophecy about Jesus: "He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows"?

Answers: 1. Ishmael (Genesis 16:15) 2. Ruth (Ruth 1:16) 3. Jesus (Matthew 26:52) 4. "He will draw nigh unto you." (James 4:8) 5. Isaiah (Isaiah 53:3)



Our 2025 Confirmation Class

*Riley Bickman, Gavin Goranson,
Bryson Gueningsman, Addie
Kilpela, Lily Koch, Logan
Wellnitz, and Eric Zimmerman*



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 4

"An Old Place, A New Beginning"

God is the Searcher Who will not stop looking for us. In our lonely hiding place, He says, "I knew I would find you here." (John 21:1-19)

May 11

"How to Be Happy"

Lasting happiness is found in surrender, rather than control. (John 15:11)

May 18

"Truth That Takes Us In"

Jesus is the Truth Who will take you in to live like He lives, planted in God His Father's love. (John 15:9)

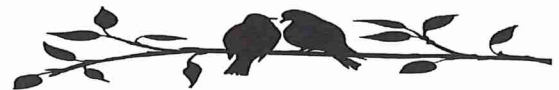
May 25

"What's Your Story?"

Our difficulties often become the backdrop against which God reveals His faithfulness. Each challenge is an opportunity for Him to display His power. (John 9:1-11)



May: 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), Robert Workman (7), Lilyann Blanchette (8), Brody Niesen (8), Emerson Koosman (9), Jake Zander (9), Ben Bergquist (10), Bethany Burau (11), Zachary Koosman (12), Gerald Gruenhagen (13), Colleen Gutzke (13), Mackenzie Wiegand (13), Mason Wigand (13), Mitchell Baumann (14), Colton Burbank (15), Robin Painschab Jr. (15), Wayne Wiegand (15), Kenneth Koch (16), Sarah Halverson (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), Stacey Sparkman (26), Amy Schmieg (27), Maria Kilpela (28), Eric Borg (29), Grant Zimmerman (30), Ruby Love (31), Michelle Peterson (31).



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
 5/19 Richard & Connie Zander
 5/21 Bruce & Carol Zander
 5/21 Derek & Holly Zillmer
 5/23 Ross & Elizabeth Anderson
 5/23 Brian & Rena Gruenhagen



Bonnie opened our April meeting with devotions entitled "Comfort Food". We are reminded to share our time and talents bringing comfort and support to family, friends, neighbors and those in need. Members and guests then had the opportunity to meet Gideon, a trained Comfort Dog and two of his handlers. We learned of the many people he interacts with at churches, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and disaster situations. Gideon brings a calming influence and allows people to open up their hearts and receive help for what is affecting them and creating opportunities to proclaim the love of Jesus. Barb led the business meeting, thank you's were read, secretary and treasurer reports were read and accepted. The LWML Spring Zone Rally will be April 26th at St. Johns, Atwater. Gifts from the Heart will be collected. The July tour tickets have been purchased for the Church Basement Ladies play at Plymouth Playhouse July 11th.

April birthdays were recognized followed by lunch including "puppy chow" and fellowship. Our May 5th meeting will include Flower Bingo. Come Join Us!! Let the SON Shine!!!



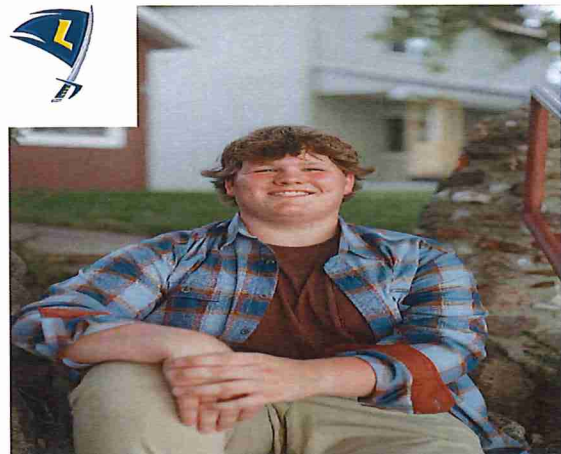
We will honor our 2025 High School Seniors on Sunday, May 18th at our 10:30 service.

Carter Stueven



Graduating from Howard Lake- Waverly- Winsted High School
Son of: Adam & April Stueven
Post High School Plans: Joining the workforce

Grant Zimmerman



Graduating from Howard Lake- Waverly- Winsted High School
Son of: Pete & Heather Zimmerman
Post High School Plans: Joining the workforce

NOT PICTURED: Abby Bobrowske, Jake Borg, Caleb Diers, Mason Glessing, Annalie Kilpela, Dillon Skiles, Zachary Thorson, Isabella Wellnitz, and Keenan Zillmer



The season of field trips is beginning!

The fourth-grade class visited the Science Museum on April 4th. Thanks to the chaperones who came along and helped guide groups through the many exhibits. Besides dinosaurs, the “tornado room”, students chose the physics room and the light room as favorite spots.

Grades K-8 all traveled to Orchestra Hall on the 10th of April to listen to the concert “Wonders of the World”. Through music by various composer, the audience was transported to places such as the Appalachian Mountains, the Grand Canyon, the streets of Paris, the steppes of Russia, the plains of Slovakia, a storm on the sea, and to China, as the Butterfly Concerto was played. It was great to have so many parents come along to help with chaperoning.

The first and second grade classes had an outdoor day at the Oliver Kelley Farm on April 17th. Some of the farm chores they practiced were fun, such as brushing the ox, making crackers and digging parsnips. Other chores, like pitching manure might not have been as fun, but still a very necessary part of pioneer farm life!

The representatives from St. James for this year’s Spelling Bee were: Grade 2 – Natalie Eckhoff and Isaiah Reich (5th place in his division); Grade 3 – Hadley Diers and Eddie Estrem; Grade 6 – Braxton Gulso (9th place in his division) and Micah Reich. They all did very well and we’re proud of them using their God-given talents this way.

Our students, Sunday School students, and the Worship Choir brought the sounds of “Hosanna” to the beginning of both services on Palm Sunday.

All the choirs at St. James prepared music for the Spring Concert on April 27, and each classroom created artwork to share with everyone following the concert. We’re glad so many people were able to join

us to share in the all the fine arts that we have available at St. James. The winner of the spirit wear drawing? Camden Meehan!!

The second-grade class headed downstairs one morning recently to read to the preschool students. The boys and girls paired up to read a favorite story of theirs as a way to share their reading skill, get to know the preschoolers better, and just enjoy stories and time together.

Our new testing program is now in place and teachers will begin using it during the month of May in each classroom. These tests results are a great benefit to see just where each student is excelling and where they may need further instruction in math and reading.

There are always changes from year to year. A couple of the changes for next year are, Mrs. Belinda Estrem, teacher in the 7th & 8th grade homeroom, and Mrs. Heidi Olsen teaching a combined classroom for grades 1 and 2 as she has done in the past. We are currently still looking for a Kindergarten teacher for the fall.

The gym was filled with treasures on the 25th and 26th for this year’s garage sale. Thank you to everyone who donated items you no longer needed, helped with the set-up, sales table, or the clean up afterwards. Your efforts were greatly appreciated!!

Dates to keep in mind for May:

May 2 Track meet at Mayer Lutheran High for 5-8th Grade.

May 4 Confirmation Sunday

May 12 Grades 5-6 to the MN Capitol & Grades 7-8 to the MN Zoo

May 13 Grades 5-6 to Ney County Park

May 14 Teacher Appreciation 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

May 16 K-4 Field Day

May 20 Preschool Moving Up Ceremony & Band Concert 6:30 PM

May 22 10:30 AM Kindergarten Graduation & 7:00 PM 8th Grade Graduation

May 23 Last Day of School Closing Chapel at 1:00 PM.

WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION –MAY 2025

Elders: 8:00 AM Jeff Diers and Joe Pehl
10:30 AM Tom Johnson and Loren Wegner

Ushers: 8:00 AM Dick Zander, Roy Bakeberg, John Zander, Brian Yager, Pete Zimmerman
10:30 AM Michael Thorson

Altar Guild: Connie Zander and Michelle Peterson

Video Camera: Jeff Schmieg

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Color: White
Liturgy: Pg. 184
Lessons: Ezek. 34:11-16, 1 Peter 2:21-25, John 10:11-16
Hymns: 473, 709, 735
Communion Hymns: 740, 685, 711
Organist: Nancy Butterfass
Choir: 10:30 Worship Choir

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Color: White
Liturgy: Pg. 184
Lessons: Is. 40:25-31, 1 Peter 2:11-20, John 16:16-22
Hymns: 803, 483, 818
Communion Hymns: 725, 602, 392
Organist: Molly Loder
Choir: 10:30 1st & 2nd Grade Choir

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Color: White
Liturgy: Pg. 184
Lessons: Is. 12:1-6, James 1:16-21, John 16:5-15
Hymns: 729, 580, 528
Communion Hymns: 625, 819, 579
Organist: Nancy Butterfass

Sunday, May 25, 2025

Color: White
Liturgy: Pg. 184
Lessons: Num. 21:4-9, 1 Tim. 2:1-6, John 16:23-30
Hymns: 475, 772, 917
Communion Hymns: 766, 663, 632
Organist: Molly Loder

The Ascension of Our Lord, May 29, 2025

Color: White
Liturgy: Pg. 184
Lessons: 2 Kings 2:5-15, Acts 1:1-11, Mark 16:14-20
Hymns: 495, 491, 492
Communion Hymns: 493
Organist: Molly Loder

May

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 1:30 Sarah Bible Study	2	3
4 Third Sunday of Easter 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/ Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service/ Confirmation Sunday	5 7:00 LWML 7:30 Trustees	6	7 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	8 5:30 Community Meal	9	10 7:00 Iron Sharpening Iron Breakfast 9:00 Elders Meeting
11 Fourth Sunday of Easter 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/ Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service	12 1:00 Naomi Guild	13	14 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	15 1:30 Sarah Bible Study	16	17
Mother's Day						
18 Fifth Sunday of Easter 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/ Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service/High School Senior Recognition	19 7:00 School Board	20 7:00 Leadership Council	21 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	22	23	24 9:00-12:00 Private Confession/ Absolution
25 Sixth Sunday of Easter 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Catechesis/ Sunday School 10:30 Divine Service	26 6:00 SS Teacher Session	27	28 8:20 Chapel 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	29 The Ascension of Our Lord	30	31
	Memorial Day					

ST. JAMES COMMUNITY MEAL

SPAGHETTI

Dinner

8

May

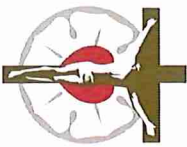
5:30 PM



Freewill Donation

Spaghetti, Meaty Marinara, Plain Marinara, Chicken
Alfredo, Salad, Rolls, and Dessert!

Come and enjoy good food and conversation.
St. James School - Fellowship Hall
1000 6th Ave - Howard Lake, MN



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



May Blessings To: