

# St. James News

Equipping and Empowering Families and Students through Christ

Volume 71 Issue 6

CHURCH@STJAMESHL.ORG

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July/ August 2025

[SCHOOL@STJAMESHL.ORG](mailto:SCHOOL@STJAMESHL.ORG)

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## From The Desk Of Pastor Mark Loder

Change is inevitable. Seasons shift, leaders transition, communities grow or shrink, and challenges rise unexpectedly. The Church is facing a season of change as the culture has left Christianity as a foundational compass. And for the Church—Christ's body on earth—change can feel especially unsettling. We often cling tightly to what is familiar, not because we lack faith, but because we yearn for the stability and certainty that God alone provides. We cling to what is familiar because it provides a sense of safety and security.

But how should we, as a congregation, respond to change? The answer lies not in resisting change itself, but in **anchoring ourselves in what does not change: God's Word, Christ's promises, and our confessional identity.**

As Christians, we remember that Christ is our constant amid change. The writer of Hebrews reminds us: **"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."** (Hebrews 13:8) This is not merely a comforting slogan—it's a theological anchor. Christ's unchanging nature assures us that His mercy, Word, Sacraments, and faithfulness endure through every change we experience. The church is not built upon the foundation of wood or stone, but on the Word of God, which is our sure foundation. That Word sustains us through changing circumstances, leadership, worship styles, or ministry directions.

The Lutheran Reformation itself was a moment of tremendous upheaval. Yet it was a return to what was firm: the Gospel, the Scriptures, and the pure doctrine. Change, when it draws us closer to Christ and His means of grace, is not something to fear, but to embrace with reverence. St. Paul writes: **"Let all things be done decently and in order."** (1 Corinthians 14:40)

While changes do happen and can be necessary, any change in the Church must be done not by the whims of culture or convenience but for the sake of the Gospel and the building up of Christ's body (Ephesians 4:11–16). That means keeping Christ's gifts front and center: **Baptism, Absolution, the Lord's Supper, faithful preaching, and catechesis.**

Picture a ship sailing across a vast, stormy sea. Waves crash. Winds shift. The crew must adjust the sails constantly, sometimes even change course. But one thing never changes: the lighthouse fixed on the shore, shining its beam steadily. No matter how the ship moves, the lighthouse is their guide and anchor.

In this life, **the Church is the ship.** The storms are many—cultural upheaval, transitions in leadership, new challenges in ministry. Yet **Christ is our lighthouse**, immovable and bright, always calling us home. We steer by His Word, we correct our course with His Law and Gospel, and we rest in His Sacraments.

Let us face change with neither dread nor despair but with faith in the unchanging Savior. We can walk forward as a congregation not with fear of what lies ahead, but with confidence in the Lord who goes before us: **"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."** (Isaiah 41:10)

As we move through the seasons of our congregation's life, may we remain anchored in Christ, confident that the One who has called us by name will preserve us to the end.

## Our Church Records

### Church Attendance

Sunday, May 25	78 & 80
Sunday, June 1	69 & 109
Sunday, June 8	83 & 107
Sunday, June 15	87 & 76
Sunday, June 22	62 & 119
Sunday, June 29	53 & 110

### Communion Attendance

Sunday, May 25	96
Sunday, June 1	107
Sunday, June 8	127
Sunday, June 15	112
Sunday, June 22	106
Sunday, June 29	111

### Baptism

**Layla Koosman** on June 22, 2025, by Pastor Loder.  
Layla is the daughter of Zachary and Kiera Koosman.

**Penny Miller** on June 29, 2025, by Pastor Loder.  
Penny is the daughter of Tyler and Kelli Miller.

### Funerals

**Warren Anderson** June 16, 2025, by Pastor Loder.  
At the age of 87 years, 9 months, and 5 days.

**Delores Glessing** on June 21, 2025, by Pastor Loder.  
At the age of 97 years, 11 months, and 23 days.

**Donna Kappel** on June 30, 2025, by Pastor Loder.  
At the age of 73 years, 7 months, and 9 days.

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## ✝ **Bible Trivia** ✝

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See answers below

1. Who was taken up to Heaven in a Chariot of fire?
2. Which Caesar, according to Acts, banished Jews from Rome?
3. Who in the New Testament said the following quotation: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice."?
4. Which book in the Bible has a chapter containing four identical verses?
5. Name the six books in the Bible that start with the letter "E".

**Answers:** 1. Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) 2. Claudius (Acts 18:2) 3. Jesus (John 5:28) 4. Psalms (Psalm 107:8, 15, 21 and 31) 5. Ecclesiastes, Ephesians, Esther, Exodus, Ezekiel and Ezra.



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 July, you will hear the following topics:

July 6

### **"A Little Light, Reading"**

The Book of Job is not light reading, but Christians read it in the Light of Christ.  
(Job 1:8)

July 13

### **"Fearless and Endless Growing"**

God's Word grows like a perfect garden, bearing fruit in every season.  
(Colossians 1:1-14)

July 20

### **"God's Plan = Jesus"**

God's plans for us are not me-centered; they are Christ-centered. Dr. Zeigler talks with "Soul Surfer" author, Bethany Hamilton.  
(John 16:33)

July 27

### **"Getting the Talk Started"**

God's Law-talk prepares us for God's Gospel-talk. Author Tim Carter (The Executioner's Redemption) is featured.  
(Luke 11:1)





(28), Elise Linder (28), Carol Borg (29), Benjamin Koosman (29), Anna Baumann (30), Jeffrey Kilpela (30), Brooke Whitton (30), Taylor Drusch (31), Brittany Jones (31).



**July:** Logan Cardinal (1), Colby Zillmer (1), Zachary Thorson (2), Anika Monson (3), Cari Schmieg (3), Richard Birkholz (4), Casey Diers (5), Arnold Hechsel (5), Janell Koch (5), Loren Wagner (5), Zoie Drake (6), Marjorie Helinske (7), Astrid Glessing (8), Teresa Schmieg (8), Nathan Kotila (10), Paul Lindahl (11), Jim Yukel (11), Audrey Burau (14), Chase Main (14), Richard Streich (14), Alan Hendrickson (15), Eric Stoll (15), LaVonne Burkett (16), Brycen Diers (16), Jill Kittock (16), Becky Hagemann (17), Michael Stueven (18), Roy Bakeberg (19), Kelly Reich (20), Luke Dahl (21), Tyler Gruenhagen (21), Carolyn Kotila (21), Tammy Oestreich (21), Julie Linder (22), Riley Bickmann (23), Lucas Kilpela (23), Carson Woolhouse (23), Clark Hassa (24), Peyton Helmbrecht (24), Brooke Gabbert (25), Wayne Birkholz (27), Emerson Diers (28), Eloise Doster (28), Linda Drusch (28), Erland Hoese (28), Dawn Krohn (30), Lynn Burbank (31). **August:** Kayla Bobrowske (1), Keith Bobrowske (1), Jeremy Cardinal (1), Coleton Main (1), Morgan Niesen (1), Ann Birkholz (2), Daniel Workman (2), Linda Bakeberg (3), Angela Cardinal (3), Clayton Hendrickson (3), Joyce Heuer (3), Marjorie Stueven (3), Ashley Main (4), Keith Brose (5), Amy Burau (5), Madison Marschel (5), Elizabeth Anderson (6), Justin Gabbert (7), Justin Niesen (7), Sofianna Hendrickson (8), Wesley Hendrickson (10), Thomas Johnson (10), Mark Loder (10), Marvin Miller (10), Gayle Ristow (10), Thomas Diers (11), Lila Hennen (11), Darlene Lind (13), Cass Cardinal (14), Bonnie Jones (14), Karen Kirchenwitz (14), Gwen Love (14), Waverly Stueven (14), Casey Stueven (16), Joseph Pehl (17), Jaime Zander (17), Timothy Zander (17), Marlene George (19), Riley Gruenhagen (19), Shane Heber (19), Hathaway Stueven (19), Mark Burau (20), Dan Glessing (20), Elijah Wellnitz (22), Shari Zander (22), Kennedy Sparkman (23), Barbara Schmieg (25), Vivian Nikko (27), Emma Diers (28), Rena Gruenhagen

7/8 Bernard & Margaret Marketon  
7/8 Timothy & Jamie Zander  
7/9 Brad & Jenna Davis  
7/12 Adam & Beth Koch  
7/13 Justin & Angela Gabbert  
7/19 Steve & Kimberly Koosman  
7/19 Terry & LaNette Thorson  
7/20 Zachary & Kiera Koosman  
7/22 Jed & Tami Zander  
7/25 John & Darlene Lind  
7/26 Dave & Samantha Zillmer  
7/31 Ronald & Roberta Weibel  
8/2 Adam & April Stueven  
8/4 Jared & Cassey Glessing  
8/10 Ray & Jan Cardinal  
8/11 Dennis & Nancy Butterfass  
8/12 Luke & Kelsey Fleck  
8/15 Mark & Molly Loder  
8/16 Glenn & Michelle Hofer  
8/17 Jeff & Leisha Diers  
8/18 Dan & Lynn Barney  
8/18 Jake & Gabby Wurm  
8/19 Nick & Taylor Esping  
8/21 Jacob & Jaime Diers



Vicar Totenhagen opened our June meeting with devotions based on Titus 2; 3-5, urging us to have healthy relationships, living a Godly lifestyle, being good examples and grow and live in Christ. We were happy to welcome Vicar Totenhagen and his family as our guests for the evening and learn of Vicar's background, family and his experiences serving St. James as our Vicar this year. Refreshments and a brief business meeting followed. A motion passed to donate towards the Mission Walk at the National Convention which will go to mites. Barb and Bonnie will be participating. June & July birthdays were recognized.

Our annual tour will be to the Plymouth Playhouse July 11<sup>th</sup> to enjoy the Church Basement Ladies Play. The next meeting will be August 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM. Come Join Us!!

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

*Thank  
you!*

Dear Saints of St. James Lutheran Church,

As my time at St. James draws to a close, I wanted to give you all my sincere thanks. Thank you first of all for being willing to participate in the vicarage program. It is a very necessary and fruitful thing for the training of new pastors for our synod, and we need congregations like you that are not only able but especially willing to support vicars. Thank you for the many learning opportunities that you have given me throughout the last year, such as preaching, leading the liturgy, and teaching Bible study and

school classes. I have learned much about the pastoral office and the Christian congregation during my time at St. James, and I am very appreciative for my time here. Thank you for the welcome and Christian love that you have shown towards me and my family. We ask that you please keep us in your prayers as we return to the seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana for my final year. God bless you and keep you.

In Christ,  
Vicar Nicholas Totenhagen

## Monthly Financial Report

St. James Lutheran Church  
Monthly Financial Summary  
May 2025

	Year -to Date	
	Actual	Budget
<b>Receipts</b>		
Offerings & Donations	519,609	543,959
Tuition & Other Receipts	421,876	298,454
Mission Receipts	12,919	8,333
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>954,404</b>	<b>850,746</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries-Church & School	525,471	525,726
Benefits/Payroll/Taxes/Mileage	137,660	149,736
Administration & Program Expenses	95,171	80,291
Utilities/Maintenance & Repair	248,056	161,367
Mission Disbursements	4,735	958
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,011,094</b>	<b>918,078</b>
<b>Net Receipts/Expenses</b>	<b>(56,690)</b>	<b>(67,332)</b>



### Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as “no big deal.” St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God’s purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer. The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord’s, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How is He calling me to respond?

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God’s glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. Weekly. Daily. Faithfully.



**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM**  
**in the Fellowship Hall.**

## CURRENT STATISTICS:

11.1% or 1 in 9 adult population (20-79 yrs.) is living with Diabetes. Over 4 in 10 are unaware they have Diabetes. 38.4 million people have Diabetes in the USA. 28.7 million people, including 29.45 million adults are diagnosed as Diabetics. 8.7 million people (22.8% of adults with Diabetes) are undiagnosed.

There are two types of Diabetes:

Type 1 Diabetes- this is an autoimmune disease. This means the body's immune system attacks the insulin producing cells in the pancreas- leading to a lack of insulin.

Type 2 Diabetes This type occurs when the body doesn't produce enough insulin or when the cells don't respond properly to insulin.

Type 1 requires life-long insulin therapy through injections or an insulin pump to manage blood sugar levels. The exact cause is unknown. Symptoms are abrupt in onset, often in childhood or adolescence. Excessive thirst, frequent urination, unexplained weight loss and fatigue. Type 2 is often symptom free or at a gradual onset. Most often in adulthood. Excessive thirst, frequent urination, fatigue. Insulin and other medications are used in treating Type 2 Diabetes. Having your blood sugar tested frequently is part of the treatment plan. Diet is carefully planned also, Understanding the disease and taking educational classes on it will be extremely helpful.

Risk factors for the onset are Obesity, physical inactivity, family history of Diabetes and older age. Alcohol can contribute. Neuropathy of toes and feet should be medically considered.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

Blood work testing will help identify if you are at risk or if you have pre-diabetes. A blood sugar of 100-123 is considered pre-diabetic. This is approximately 1 in 3 people.

## CONSIDERATIONS:

What matters? What are the goals for my life? Do I know what my Blood count is? How about your Blood Pressure? Careful toenail care is encouraged.

Do I understand my medications? Prescriptions? Do I accurately read the labels on my Prescriptions? How about Over the Counter Medications? Are they compatible with the rest of my medications?

Mentation- Prevent, identify, treat and manage my mental attitude in regard to health situations. If heredity plays a definite role in my health situation, how do I feel about that?

Do you feel that Diabetes is a death sentence? It definitely is not! If that plays a part in your life, it is important to talk to someone about that.

Another consideration is Fasting but must be done very cautiously and with a careful plan. A recent Physician speaker I heard has done and is currently conducting a controlled program with Diabetics who have been able to get their Blood sugar levels in a very good range using a controlled fasting program. I do have more information on this if you are interested.


Because this disease/condition is so prevalent, please seriously consider the possibility in your life and in the lives of your family.

Blessings and Peace,  
Parish Nurse,  
Darlene



# July

# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 1:30 Sarah Bible Study	4  Independence Day Church office Closed	5
6 Third Sunday after Trinity 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Divine Service	7 1:00 Naomi Guild	8	9 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Women's Bible Study	10 5:30 Community Meal	11	12 7:00 Iron Sharpening Iron Breakfast 9:00 Elders Meeting
13 Fourth Sunday after Trinity 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Divine Service	14 7:00 School Board	15 7:00 Leadership Council	16 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Women's Bible Study	17 1:30 Sarah Bible Study	18	19
20 Fifth Sunday after Trinity 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Divine Service	21	22	23 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Women's Bible Study	24	25	26 9:00-12:00 Private Confession/ Absolution
27 Sixth Sunday after Trinity 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Divine Service	28 6:00 SS Teacher Session	29	30	31		

# WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION –JULY 2025

**Elders:** 8:00 AM Harold Blanchette and Bill Wickesberg  
10:30 AM Tom Johnson and Loren Wegner

**Ushers:** 10:30 AM Mark Diers, Jeff Diers, Al Montgomery, Peter Zander, Chris Zander, Jeff Kilpela, Mike Sparkman

**Altar Guild:** Heather Zimmerman and Beth Koch

**Video Camera:** Jeff Schmieg

## Sunday, July 6, 2025

**Color:** Green  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** Micah 7:18-20, 1 Tim. 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10  
**Hymns:** 608, 737, 700  
**Communion Hymns:** 637, 641, 609  
**Organist:** Nancy Butterfass

## Sunday, July 13, 2025

**Color:** Green  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** Gen. 50:15-21, Rom. 8:18-23, Luke 6:36-42  
**Hymns:** 915, 504, 725  
**Communion Hymns:** 496, 852, 843  
**Organist:** Molly Loder

## Sunday, July 20, 2025

**Color:** Green  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** 1 Kings 19:11-21, 1 Cor. 1:18-25, Luke 5:1-11  
**Hymns:** 771, 688, 802  
**Communion Hymns:** 702, 560, 731  
**Organist:** Nancy Butterfass

## Sunday, July 27, 2025

**Color:** Green  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** Ex. 20:1-17, Rom. 6:(1-2) 3-11, Matt. 5:(17-19) 20-26  
**Hymns:** 590, 562, 824  
**Communion Hymns:** 746, 581, 857  
**Organist:** Molly Loder



# August

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6 Church Office Closed	7 1:30 Sarah Bible Study	1	2
10 Second Sunday after Christmas 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Confirmation/Sunday School	11 7:30 Trustees Meeting  The Epiphany of Our Lord	12	13 8:20 Chapel 6:00 Catechesis Extra 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	14	15	16 7:00 Iron Sharpening Iron Breakfast 9:00 Elders Meeting
17 First Sunday after Epiphany 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Confirmation/Sunday School	18 1:00 Naomi Guild	19	20 8:20 Chapel 6:00 Catechesis Extra 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	21 1:30 Sarah Bible Study	22	23
24 Third Sunday after Epiphany 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Confirmation/Sunday School	25 7:00 School Board	26 7:00 Leadership Council	27 8:20 Chapel 6:00 Catechesis Extra 7:00 Women's Bible Study 8:00 Worship Choir	28	29	30
31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 8:00 Divine Service 9:15 Bible Study/Confirmation/Sunday School						

# WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION – AUGUST 2025

**Elders:** 8:00 AM Dean Koosman and Jeff Diers  
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:** Marge Stueven and Sonia Lee  
**Video Camera:** Jeff Schmieg

## Sunday, August 3, 2025

**Color:** Green  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** Gen. 2:7-17, Rom. 6:19-23, Mark 8:1-9  
**Hymns:** 811, 561, 819  
**Communion Hymns:** 900, 622, 774  
**Organist:** Nancy Butterfass

## Sunday, August 24, 2025

**Color:** Red  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** Proverbs 31-8, 2 Cor. 4:7-10, Luke 22:24-30  
**Hymns:** 549, 583, 582  
**Communion Hymns:** 557, 763, 673  
**Organist:** Molly Loder

## Sunday, August 10, 2025

**Color:** Green  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** Jer. 23:16-29, Acts 20:27-38, Matt. 7:15-23  
**Hymns:** 745, 586, 669  
**Communion Hymns:** 707, 623, 643  
**Organist:** Nancy Butterfass

## Sunday, August 31, 2025

**Color:** Green  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** Gen. 4:1-15, Eph. 2:1-10, Luke 18:9-14  
**Hymns:** 559, 613, 566  
**Communion Hymns:** 616, 744, 618  
**Organist:** Nancy Butterfass

## Sunday, August 17, 2025

**Color:** Green  
**Liturgy:** Pg. 203  
**Lessons:** 2 Sam. 22:26-34, 1 Cor. 10:6-13, Luke 16:1-9(10-13)  
**Hymns:** 933, 730, 809  
**Communion Hymns:** 718, 738, 716  
**Organist:** Molly Loder



ST. JAMES - HOWARD LAKE

# Community Meal



## BAKED POTATO BAR

Thursday, July 10  
5:30 pm

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



*Summer Blessings To:*