



April 2023

Pastor’s Musings

We all have rituals or routine that we follow. Look at your morning routine, getting up, brushing your teeth, drinking coffee, eating breakfast, reading a devotional, and so forth. Those consistent and repetitive activities help us to be comfortable. We don’t need to think or decide what do I do next.

A few weeks ago Pastor Carl talked about the road we all travel. We know where we start and where it will end however what happens in-between is filled with potholes, curves, with some wonderful roads and who knows what else. That is where rituals and routines come in to help us navigate the potholes and curves that come to us on a regular basis.

The people of Israel were in the wilderness for 40 years. The book of Leviticus comes out of that time. It is rules and rituals to help the people live in their world of turmoil. That is what each of us develops in our lives, routines, rules or rituals to help us live in our own world. That is what the church calendar is about, a routine to help us, guide us through our journey.

This coming week we have the ritual of Holy Week. It starts with a celebration of Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem. It quickly moves us to the passion of Jesus. The week goes downhill as we go to the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday. Good Friday brings us to the edge of despair, that all is lost with Jesus on the cross. Suddenly there is a sunrise, bright light and the resurrection. New life comes to us from God’s actions.

Most of our lives will go smoothly however there will be potholes, curve and disasters on our road trip through life. Rituals, routines will help us navigate them. However, it is the reassurance of the presence of God that may be the ultimate assurance we need to survive. It is that God was willing to come to us in Jesus who was born as we are born, laughs like we laugh, cry like we cry and, in the end, to die as we will die. New life.

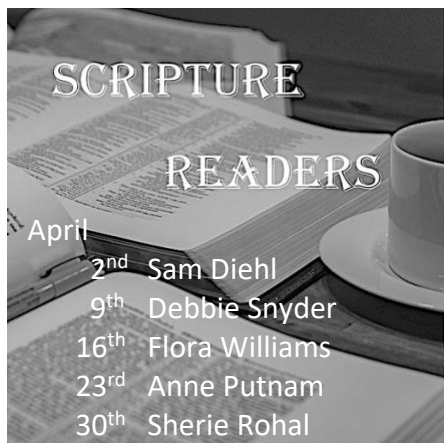
Blessings,
Pastor Gordon



- April 2nd Palm Passion Sunday
- April 6th Maunday Thursday
7:00 pm service
- April 7th Good Friday
7:00 pm service
- April 9th Easter
The Resurrection of our Lord
11:00 am service



Men’s Group invites you to
Easter
Breakfast
9:30



APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

1st	Andre Viette
5th	Savannah Peters
8th	Gillian Taylor
9th	Cindy Wright
9th	Gordon Putnam
12th	Betty Diehl
15th	Flora Williams
25th	Sharon Bartley
28th	Debbie Snyder
29th	Amanda Thompson

The Backpack program has 19 kids. Your support by purchasing any of the items listed below is much appreciated. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex.



- Backpack Needs**
- Mac and cheese
 - Kroger meals
 - Chef Boyardee meals
 - Ramen Noodles, any kind
 - Boxes of cereal
 - Poptarts
 - Oatmeal
 - Fruit cups
 - Boxed juices
 - Yahoo chocolate milk
 - Apple sauce
 - Raisins
 - "Hugs" Drink Barrels
 - All single servings

Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

- *Norma Turak, Gillian Taylor, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Don Rierson, Vrla Leach (Ashley's mother), Betty Diehl, Cindy (daughter of Ellen and Charles), and Eliza Kelley and family (Sherie's great niece).*

Prayer Request for

Flora, Joyce, Bob Dixey, Pam Dixey, Zebby (grandson of Ellen and Charles), Anna Taylor (Gillian's daughter), and Vickie Corbin (friend of Debbie).

Community Conversations

- The goodwill offering of \$157 from last week's luncheon has been given to the Verona Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity.
- There will be a Love Offering for Bob and Pam Dixey this Sunday April 2nd.
- Open Circle meets Tuesday, 4/4 at Anne's home at 1pm. Reminder to bring a charity bear, paper towels, toilet paper, kitchen size garbage bags, or deodorant for our VSWO Service project.
- Mark your calendar for Saturday, 4/22 from 9am to 3pm for a "De-Clutter" day. We will order lunch from The Lunch Box (Dutch-treat). All are encouraged to join us for all or part of the day.
- Men's Group meets at 9:00 am at St. James every Friday.
- Choir practice on Monday nights at 6:00.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
 - April—Anne Putnam

Liturgy of the Palms 4/2/2023		Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29		Matthew 21:1-11
Liturgy of the Passion 4/2/2023	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66
Maundy Thursday 4/6/2023	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday 4/7/2023	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalms 22		John 18:1-19:42
Resurrection of the Lord 4/9/2023	Acts 10:34-43	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
Second Sunday of Easter 4/16/2023	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalms 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
Third Sunday of Easter 4/23/2023	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
Fourth Sunday of Easter 4/30/2023	Acts 2:42-47	Psalms 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10



St. James Church Business

St. James Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
March 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Ivan Diehl, Joyce Dull, Gene Giltner, Anne Putnam, Pastor Putnam, and John Wright

Absent: Flora Williams

Call to Order: Gene Giltner, President, called the meeting to order.

Pastor Gordon opened the meeting with reflection of tonight's Lenten Service, where the story of Susannah was acted out. The consensus was positive.

The **Minutes** for the February 14th Council Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Joyce and seconded by John to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

The **Financial Report** for February was presented. A motion was made by John and seconded by Joyce to accept the report. The motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Gordon reported that our congregation has been impacted by the death of two individuals in the past month. Dennis Garber, special friend of Flora Williams, and Wanda Nucholes sister of Joyce Dull. He reported that he continues to visit and take communion to members of our congregation unable to attend services. Pastor Gordon reported that the Men's Group will be making Easter breakfast for all of us.

Correspondence: Information was received from Augusta Health regarding Hospice Volunteer Training. Also received was a letter from Shenandoah County SEARCH, Inc. Group Home for the purpose of raising awareness to their program for placement of special needs individuals.

Unfinished Business:

- Homecoming (8/5-6/2023) - Anne reported that in addition to the Social Ministry pledge of \$500, Open Circle has pledged \$527 toward expenses. The decision was made to purchase "St. James Homecoming 2023" pens for a keepsake. John will place the order. Open Circle also discussed possible activities during the event.
- Secure the building and make sure the lights are turned off.
 - March = Gene
 - April = Anne
- Pastor Gordon continues to work on obtaining information/photos from the Synod Office to update our Pastor Photo Gallery.
- All are encouraged to join us on Saturday, 4/22 from 9am to 3pm for a "De-Clutter" Day. We will order lunch from The Lunch Box (Dutch-treat).
- Worship at Barren Ridge Winery is in the planning stages.

New Business:

- Discussion regarding how to handle an unexpected visitor who has appeared on more than one occasion.
 - It was decided that we should not lock the exterior doors.
 - Let Pastor Gordon know in real time, should he return.

- A request to replace the kitchen screen door was made. John will discuss with John Grove. Funding to come from the Property Fund.
- Lighting in the Sanctuary was discussed. Options include replacement of the current lights and/or to convert the fans to lights. Pastor Gordon will talk to a lighting company to obtain recommendations.
- A request has been made to paint the Fellowship Hall. Council is in favor of doing this after a deep cleaning and prior to Homecoming.
- Joyce made a motion to support Bob & Pam Dixey with a Love donation of \$1,000 from Social Ministry. A "Love Offering" from the congregation will be held on April 2nd. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- There was discussion regarding the process for nominating Council candidates for the May election. John made a motion to identify two nominees to present to the congregation for voting and accept additional nominees from the floor. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed. (The Council will identify the nominees at the April meeting.)
- Anne made a motion that the Review/Update of the Constitution and By-Laws be tabled until the new Council members are installed. John seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 11th in the Freed Room.

With no further business, Gene moved to adjourn the meeting and we closed with The Lord's Prayer at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Putnam

Anne Putnam, Secretary

St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report
February 2023

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 2/1/2023:	\$ 4,048.49
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Receipts Deposited:	February 2023	Year to Date
Record of Contributions	\$ 2,828.00	\$ 7,208.00
Loose Offering	-	-
*Property Improvement Fund	240.00	520.00
*Transfer from Raymond James Acct	810.77	810.77
*Transfer from DCCU Savings Acct	-	-
Benevolence	-	1,000.00
Other Special Appeals	100.00	483.00
Dividend/Interest Income	0.65	1.45
Total Receipts	\$ 3,979.42	\$ 10,023.22

Disbursed:		
Rev. Putnam - Monthly Compensation	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 2,500.00
3 Services @ \$200	600.00	1,050.00
245 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	161.70	236.58
Rev. Trost	-	
2 Service @ \$200	400.00	700.00
48 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	31.68	51.57
Musician	-	125.00
Worship Supplies	-	
- Art Supplies	11.99	23.98
- Annual Bulletin Service	-	-
- Church Year Calendars	-	-
- Communion Supplies	-	49.45
- Copy Paper	-	-
- Directory	-	21.00
- Offering Envelopes	-	-
- Postage	23.70	75.54
- Web Page Renewal	-	-
Hannah Pingel, Pianist - 5 Services	625.00	1,125.00
Glenda Strickler - Sexton	150.00	300.00
Cleaning Supplies	-	-
Christmas Gifts	-	500.00
Bank Safe Deposit Box	40.00	40.00
Fuel Oil	1,342.20	1,342.20
Electricity	115.63	248.00
Benevolence	-	1,400.00
Repairs & Maintenance	-	1,020.32
Fire & Liability Insurance	319.62	639.24
HomeComing Expenses		
Postage	48.00	48.00
*Transfer to Raymond James Account	-	-
*Transfer to DCCU Savings Account	-	-
*Transfer Social Ministry	30.00	30.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 5,149.52	\$ 11,525.88

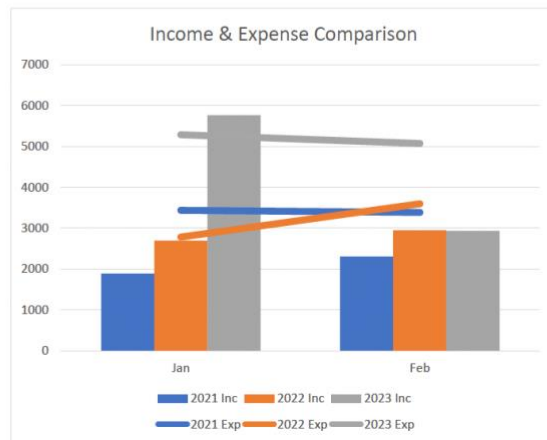
DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 2/28/2023:	\$ 2,878.39
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St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report
February 2023

	2/1/2023		2/28/2023	
	Beg Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	End Balance
Dividend/Interest Income		40.00		
DCCU Savings Acct Bal as of 2/28/2023:	\$ 2,965.03	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ 3,005.03

Raymond James Investment Account		2/1/2023		2/28/2023	
		Beg Balance	Income	Withdrawals	End Balance
Detail of St. James Fund Designations:					
Property Committee Fund	\$	38,753.00	280.00	1,020.32	38,012.68
Building Fund / Pavilion		4,270.00			4,270.00
Youth Account		2,208.46			2,208.46
James Williams Memorial		1,365.00			1,365.00
Linda Diehl Memorial		2,720.00		49.45	2,670.55
Non-Designated Funds		5,948.67		21.00	4,160.52
Accrued Int. & Dividends & Change in Value			0.27	1,767.42	
Balance as of 2/28/2023	\$	55,265.13	\$ 280.27	\$ 2,858.19	52,687.21

Operating Budget Barometer	Feb Receipts	Feb Disbursements	Over (Under)
	\$2,928.65	\$5,071.52	-\$2,142.87
*Does not include transfers into or out of the DCCU or RJ accounts or the Property Fund, which is a pass-through to the RJ account.	YTD Receipts	YTD Disbursements	Over (Under)
	\$8,692.45	\$10,357.11	-\$1,664.66



The former Lutheran Social Service is now called enCircle. Below is a new program they are starting, the Transitional Foster Care program. I am including the information for you. Pastor Gordon



We are excited to share that we are almost ready to welcome the first children to our new Transitional Foster Care program! **You can be an important part of this mission by donating today.**

In partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), enCircle will provide a centrally located site for daily learning and recreation, as well as physical and mental health services for unaccompanied immigrant children who are placed with foster families in our program. Typically, children stay with a foster family for an average of 30-60 days. It is our joy to provide this haven where they can learn, grow, and have room for imagination and laughter.



Our goal is to provide early tools and resources to help children successfully integrate into public schools and communities after they are placed with their family or sponsor. **We can't accomplish this without your help!**



Please help us get this program ready to welcome children this spring! Our immediate needs include:

- Two Smart Boards for teaching (\$2700 each)
- Two microwaves for kitchen areas (\$228 each)
- Two Smart Flat Screen TVs for waiting rooms (\$300 each)
- Cash gifts for classroom supplies
- Donations and/or cash gifts for children's backpacks, lunch boxes, and clothing