



## Pastor's Musings

As we get into the season of the presidential campaign... No, No that's not what I wanted to say. As we get into the season of Lent, at the end of February, that time when we sacrifice, contemplate, and slow down... No, I am not sure any of us change what we are doing in the next month. (Forgive me if I am being a little too cynical.)

Spring cleaning, working outside in the garden, NCAA March Madness, baseball season starting and just living life gets in the way. Anne talks about having a discipline of not eating sweets during Lent, she doesn't do that now she's a Lutheran. Some might have a practice or discipline however it may not change how the rest of your life is affected.

As I participate with Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ I am struck by the disciplines they have throughout their life. In January they fast every weekday from early morning to evening. Through the rest of the year they fast one day a week. I get the sense that if they have an event at their church and one outside the church that the church event would come first. I don't see those kinds of disciplines in our modern-day mainline churches.

This is a musing, thinking out loud not a conviction of what we do or don't do. In the movie "Babette's Feast" there is a community that is very dreary, pietistic and does not seem very happy. One family's French maid wins the lottery. She uses the money to create an exquisite French feast. As they start to eat such lush food you can see them transform, starting to talk and laugh and sunshine comes into their life.

There is a time and place for discipline. I wish I had been taught that when I was young. However, what may be more important is to look at our lives today. How comfortable are you with your life? What is it you want to do now? How can you celebrate who you are?

I was talking to a member the other day who is looking at their health issues. They said they could be anxious waiting but they said they were turning it over to Jesus, let Jesus worry about it. I wonder if that is not what Lent is about. The sacrifice of Jesus is what gives us permission to be who we are.

Blessings,  
Pastor Gordon



**Prayer Concerns**

Ongoing Need for Prayer

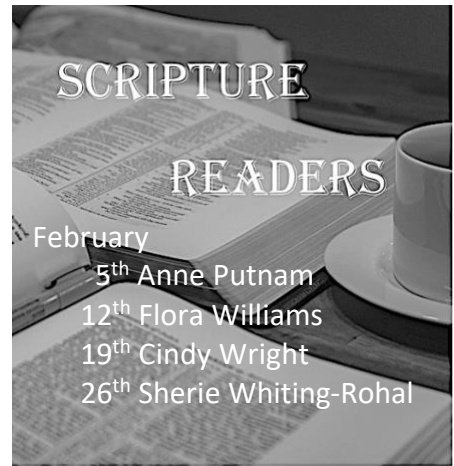
- Norma Turak, Gillian Taylor, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Don Rierson, Vrla Leach (Ashley’s mother), and Betty Diehl.

Prayer Request for

- Cindy (daughter of Ellen and Charles), Ellen, Charles, Eliza Kelley and family (Sherie’s great niece), and David Strickler (Debbie and Danny’s friend).

**Community Conversations**

- Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> Open Circle meets at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Eleanor to host.
- Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting after church.
- Men’s Group meets at 9:00 am at St. James every Friday.
- Choir practice is starting up again on Monday nights.
- The goodwill offering from January’s soup and sandwich lunch was \$132 will go to support WARM. Thank you for your generosity.
- Today’s flowers are given by Lynda Diehl.
- A big thank you to all who helped put up the new lights in the fellowship hall: Organizer Gene Giltner, Ivan Diehl, Sam Diehl, John Grove, Paul Rohal, John Wright, and Pastor Gordon.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon and/or Cindy Wright.
- Council Person of the Month
  - February—Gene Giltner

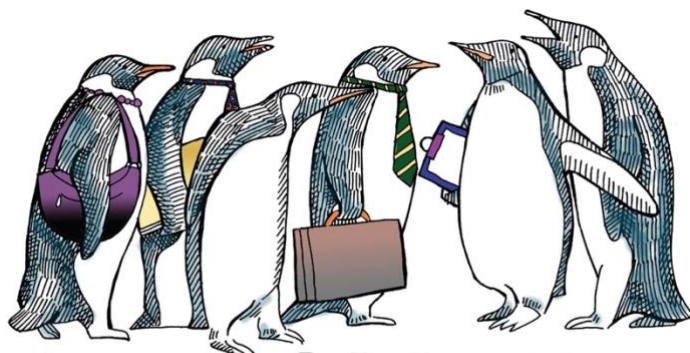


The Backpack program has 19 kids. Your support by purchasing any of the items listed below is much appreciated. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex.



- 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

**THE ANNUAL ST. JAMES  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
WILL BE FEBRUARY 12, 2023.**



Annual Meeting

# FEBRUARY



1<sup>st</sup> David Bartley  
 5<sup>th</sup> Pr. William Stewart  
 11<sup>th</sup> Mark Grove  
 14<sup>th</sup> Jean Geiser  
 15<sup>th</sup> Alex Diehl  
 20<sup>th</sup> Pam Diehl  
 27<sup>th</sup> John Wright



Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 2/5/2023	Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalms 112:1-10	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	Matthew 5:13-20
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany 2/12/2023	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalms 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Transfiguration Sunday 2/19/2023	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalms 2	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
Ash Wednesday 2/22/2023	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalms 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
First Sunday in Lent 2/26/2023	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalms 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11

## St. James Church Business

St. James Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
January 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Ivan Diehl, Gene Giltner, Anne Putnam, Pastor Putnam, Flora Williams, and John Wright

**Absent:** Joyce Dull

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

Pastor Gordon opened the meeting with a devotional – Living a Life of Gratitude, followed by a prayer.

The **Minutes** for the December 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Flora and seconded by Ivan to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

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

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Gordon reported that several years ago he visited most members of the congregation. He would like to visit members again, possibly utilizing a sign-up sheet to assist in scheduling these visits. Pastor Gordon initiated discussion regarding Lenten services with Zion, Grace, and Bethlehem, as we have in the past. The Council agreed that we should continue this practice.

**Correspondence:** None

### Unfinished Business:

- Homecoming (8/5-6/2023) - Anne reported that Open Circle is poised to send "Save the Date" cards by the end of January/early February (six months prior to the event).
- LED Lighting – Gene and Pastor Gordon will install 1 LED light in the Fellowship Hall on 1/11/2023. Feedback from the congregation is requested.
- Tax-Exempt status has been established at Lowe's. Expires 1/4/2028.
- "Council Person of the Month" – Secure the building and make sure the lights are turned off.
  - January = John
  - February = Gene
- Worship Folders are now being mailed to shut-ins each week.
- Copies of the monthly newsletter will be available in the Narthex for those without email access.
- An introductory meeting to establish a Men's Group is scheduled for 1/13/2023 at 10am at Panera's.
- Pastor Gordon is working with the Synod Office to update our Pastor Photo Gallery.
- A listing of the responsible parties for the Annual Committee Reports was reviewed. Reports are due to Anne on 1/29/2023 to allow time to prepare the

2022 Annual Report. Reports will be distributed on 2/5/2023 and presented for approval at the Congregational Meeting on 2/12/2023.

- Following discussion, it was determined that no further action will be taken regarding replacement of the high-pressure sodium security lights in the parking lot with LED lights.

### **New Business:**

- 2023 Synod Assembly (Summer – date to be announced)
  - ZOOM meetings will take place on 1/23, 2/27, 3/27, 4/24, & 5/22 at 7pm in preparation for the Assembly.
  - Pastor Gordon will be attending the Synod Assembly. In addition, St. James may send two delegates. Anne plans to attend.
- Congregation Cleaning Day(s)
  - Anne & Pastor Gordon will create a plan for presentation at the next meeting.
- Following discussion regarding music, it was agreed that Pastor Carl will be paid the musician's stipend only when playing in lieu of our scheduled musician.

**Next Council Meeting** – Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

With no further business, Gene moved to adjourn the meeting and we closed with The Lord's Prayer at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anne Putnam*

Anne Putnam, Secretary



St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report  
December 2022

	12/1/2022 <u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	12/31/2022 <u>End Balance</u>
Dividend/Interest Income		0.03	0.04	
Anonymous Donation		2,000.00		
<b>DCCU Savings Acct. No. xxxxxxxx846 Bal. as of 12/31/2022:</b>	\$ 1,005.04	\$ 2,000.03	\$ 0.04	\$ 3,005.03

<b>Raymond James Investment Account</b>	12/1/2022 <u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	12/31/2022 <u>End Balance</u>
<b>Detail of St. James Fund Designations:</b>				
Property Committee Fund	\$ 37,888.00	865.00		38,753.00
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			2,720.00
Non Designated Funds	6,722.15	234.69	1,330.00	3,930.83
Accrued Int. & Dividends & Change in Value			1,696.01	
<b>Balance as of December 2022</b>	<b>\$ 55,173.61</b>	<b>\$ 1,099.69</b>	<b>\$ 3,026.01</b>	<b>53,247.29</b>

<b>Operating Budget Barometer</b>	<b>December Receipts</b>	<b>December Disbursements</b>	<b>Over (Under)</b>
	\$ 7,361.38	\$ 4,310.86	\$ 3,050.53
 *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.			
	<b>YTD Receipts</b>	<b>YTD Disbursements</b>	<b>Over (Under)</b>
	\$ 45,675.69	\$ 43,182.06	\$ 2,493.63

