



Pastor's Musings

Twenty-three years ago all the world seemed to be afraid that the new century would destroy all that we knew. Somehow computers were going to go crazy and destroy bank accounts, airplanes would fall out of the sky and you know the rest. It didn't happen, the ball fell in New York Times Square, fireworks were sent into the sky, and football was well and good. In some sense politicians and the news media are saying the same thing today; the world is falling apart and we are coming to the end of time. The reality is our life will go on in the same way as it did 23 years ago.

In this world of conflicting opinions, personal difficulties and catastrophes around the world, a pastor is called to preach. There are dangers in preaching, not because people will fall asleep. A simple way to understand preaching may be pastoral or prophetic. Pastoral is to care for the hurting, the sinful, to be a comfort and understanding. Prophetic is when you confront the sinfulness, challenge the comfortable, and hope for transformation. Being prophetic is dangerous; a pastor can end up on a cross like Jesus.

Many times I'm not sure if I am preaching God's words or mine. Most weeks in preparation to write my sermon, I connect with other pastors to talk about the lessons for that week. I read commentaries, and most importantly contemplate, or ruminate about them. Sometimes the sermon comes easy, at other times not so much. It is also hard to get feedback if I am making any sense to people. Some people do respond by saying they liked a sermon, but most of the time I get little feedback. My hope is that occasionally you might have a conversation about something I said.

Preaching does require some understanding of who I'm preaching to. It was four years ago that I visited many of you at St. James. I learned a great deal from those visits. I want to visit each of you again. I would especially like to learn the concerns you may have about your own life, about the community, about the country or internationally. My goal is to listen not to dialogue.

I hope this Christmas (since it is still Christmas until January 6th) and new year brings many blessing to all at St. James.

Pastor Gordon

St. James Lutheran Church
320 St. James Road
Fishersville, VA 22939



Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

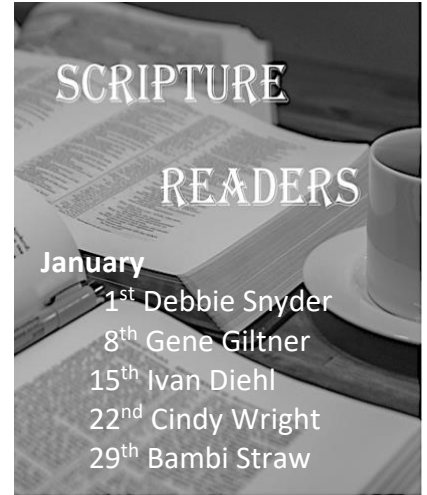
- Norma Turak, Gillian Taylor, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Don Rierson, and Betty Diehl.

Prayer Request for

- Cindy (daughter of Ellen and Charles), and Vrla Leach (Ashley’s mother), Eliza Kelley and family (Sherie Whiting-Rohal’s great niece), Pam Dixey (Lynda’s sister-in-law).

Community Conversations

- Tuesday, January 3rd Open Circle meets in the Fellowship Hall at 1pm, bring your completed lists of names and addresses.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon and/or Cindy Wright.
- Council Person of the Month
 - January—John Wright
 - Responsibilities include making sure the building is secure after worship and lights are turned off.



Birthdays in January:

- 19 Kevin Dull. (Son of Joyce Dull)
- 20 Blake Dull (Grandson of Joyce Dull; son on Kevin).

**The annual St. James
Congregational Meeting
will be February 12, 2023.**

Committee Reports for the 2022 Annual Meeting are due to Anne by 1/29/2023

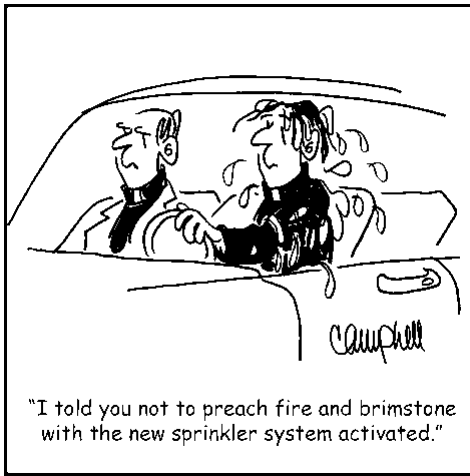
- Pastor’s Report - Pastor Gordon
- President’s Report – Gene Giltner
- Audit Committee – Lynda Diehl/Ellie Sander
- Property Committee – Becky Dick/John Grove
- Social Ministry – Joyce Dull
- Worship & Music Committee – Flora Williams
- Open Circle – Cindy Wright

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



Holy Name of Jesus 1/1/2023	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21
Baptism of the Lord 1/8/2023	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Second Sunday after the Epiphany 1/15/2023	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Third Sunday after the Epiphany 1/22/2023	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 1/29/2023	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12

St. James Church Business

St. James Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
December 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

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

Pastor Gordon opened the meeting by sharing the history of Christmas.

The **Secretary's Minutes** for the November 8th Council Meeting were presented for approval. John made a motion to approve the minutes. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The **Secretary's Minutes** for the December 11th Congregational Meeting were presented for approval. Ivan made a motion to approve the minutes. John seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The **Financial Report** for November was presented. John made a motion to accept the report. Flora seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Gordon reported that he continues to see 4-5 members unable to attend worship. He reported that 23 people attended the Advent Service we had at St. James. He plans to begin tracking attendance going forward. Pastor Gordon also reported that Sherie & Paul Rohal have requested a transfer of their membership to St. James. We will officially welcome them into the congregation in January.

Correspondence: None

Unfinished Business:

- Homecoming (8/5-6/2023) - Anne reported that Open Circle is still collecting names and addresses for the guest list.
- LED Lighting - Gene presented an LED light fixture with a "footprint" that matches what we currently have, eliminating the need to repaint the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall. Gene distributed information comparing pricing at Lowe's, Home Depot, and Capital Electric. The best option is Lowe's. Anne will work on establishing a Tax-Exempt status in the Lowe's system prior to purchase.
- "Council Person of the Month" - Secure the building and make sure the lights are turned off.
 - December = Ivan
 - January = John
 - February = Gene
- Oyster Supper & Cake Auction - Joyce reported that we made around \$800. Money is still coming in as the remaining oysters are being purchased.

New Business:

- Jean Wilkins has requested that she be removed from the Stewardship & Finance Committee. Request approved.
- Pastor Gordon suggested that we send our worship folder to shut-ins on a weekly basis. We have envelopes available for use. Postage will be \$0.60 per bulletin sent. Council approved this action.
- There was concern that the doors off the Fellowship Hall are sometimes open/sometimes closed. Council confirmed that the doors should remain closed.
- An introductory meeting to determine the interest in forming a Men's Group/Bible Study will be held in January. Pastor Gordon will establish a date, time, and place.
- The Pastor Picture Gallery in the Conference Room is due to be updated. The first step is to determine who is missing. Pastor Gordon will work to access photos from the Synod.
- 2022 Annual Report / Meeting
 - Committee Reports Due to Anne by – 1/29/2023
 - Pastor's Report – Pastor Gordon
 - President's Report – Gene Giltner
 - Audit Committee – Lynda Diehl / Ellie Sander
 - Property Committee – Becky Dick / John Grove
 - Social Ministry – Joyce Dull
 - Worship & Music Committee – Flora Williams
 - Open Circle – Cindy Wright
 - The Congregational Meeting will be on 2/12/2023.
- It was suggested that the high-pressure sodium security lights outside could be replacement with LED lights. Gene will contact the power company for information.
- John requested use of the Fellowship Hall for a family gathering one day (TBD) the week before Christmas. Request approved.

Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m.

With no further business, Gene moved to adjourn the meeting and we closed with The Lord's Prayer at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Putnam

Anne Putnam, Secretary

St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report
November 2022

DCCU Checking Account No. xxxxxxx846 Balance as of 11/1/2022:	\$ 2,156.90
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Receipts Deposited:	November 2022	Year to Date
Record of Contributions	\$ 3,214.00	\$ 35,368.00
Loose Offering	200.00	1,295.76
*Property Improvement Fund	200.00	4,969.00
*Transfer from Raymond James Account	990.00	7,177.00
*Transfer from DCCU Savings Account	-	4,650.02
*Specified for "Christmas Card"	-	50.00
*Specified for "Easter Flowers"	-	233.15
Benevolence	-	1,020.00
Envelope Purchase Contributions	-	27.00
Dividend/Interest Income	0.58	3.55
Total Receipts	\$ 4,604.58	\$ 54,793.48

Disbursed:	November 2022	Year to Date
Rev. Putnam - Monthly Compensation	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 13,750.00
3 Services @ \$150	450.00	4,200.00
148 Miles @ \$0.585/mile	86.58	804.40
Rev. Trost	-	-
2 Service @ \$150	300.00	3,300.00
34 Miles @ \$0.585/mile	19.90	218.83
Jan Tobias	-	330.00
Worship Supplies	-	-
- Art Supplies	11.99	131.89
- Annual Bulletin Service	-	398.00
- Copy Paper	-	86.10
- Batteries	-	-
- Communion Supplies	-	-
- Offering Envelopes	-	-
- Devotions Booklets	-	-
- Church Year Calendars	-	12.25
- Hymnals (3)	-	37.86
- Web Page Renewal	-	156.85
Don Rierson, Organist	-	2,200.00
Hannah Pingel, Pianist - 5 Services	625.00	2,525.00
Betty Bartley, Pianist	-	100.00
Glenda Strickler - Sexton	150.00	1,650.00
Cleaning Supplies	-	35.62
Bank Supplies - Checks	-	71.21
Bank Safe Deposit Box	-	40.00
Fuel Oil	-	4,417.66
Electricity	102.35	1,076.07
Benevolence	-	2,000.00
Repairs & Maintenance	25.26	279.26
Fire & Liability Insurance	324.90	2,235.90
*Transfer to Raymond James Account	-	761.00
*Transfer to DCCU Savings Account	-	4,650.00
*Specified for "Christmas Card"	-	75.00
*Light Bulbs for Sanctuary	-	1,359.79
*Keyboard-Carol Ambler & Roberta Giltner	-	-
Memorial Funds	-	250.00
*Parking Lot Landscaping-Property Fund	-	945.00
*Water Pump	-	1,315.21
*Refrigerator	-	729.73
*Routine Furnace Maintenance	-	315.00
*Leaf Removal	550.00	550.00
*Cake for Graduates Celebration-RJ Youth Fund	-	101.47
*Directory-RJ Non-Designated Fund	-	246.68
Total Disbursements	\$ 3,895.98	\$ 51,355.78

DCCU Checking Account No. xxxxxxx846 Balance as of 11/30/2022:	\$ 2,665.50
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**St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report
November 2022**

	11/1/2022 <u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	11/30/2022 <u>End Balance</u>
Dividend/Interest Income				
Transfer to/from DCCU Checking				
DCCU Savings Acct. No. xxxxxxxx846 Bal. as of 11/30/2022:	\$ 1,005.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,005.04

Raymond James Investment Account	11/1/2022 <u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	11/30/2022 <u>End Balance</u>
Detail of St. James Fund Designations:				
Property Committee Fund	\$ 38,878.00	325.00	1,315.00	37,888.00
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	3,972.37			6,722.15
Accrued Int. & Dividends & Change in Value		2,749.78		
Balance as of November 2022	\$ 53,413.83	\$ 3,074.78	\$ 1,315.00	55,173.61

Operating Budget Barometer	November Receipts	November Disbursements	Over (Under)
	\$ 3,414.58	\$ 3,345.98	\$ 68.60
 *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)
	\$ 38,314.31	\$ 38,871.21	\$ (556.89)

