



Pastor's Musings

Do you want to know how I prepare for a sermon? Probably not, but I will tell you anyway. I will look ahead a few weeks to see what the lessons are to begin the process. As I think about the lessons, I will decide which lesson will be the primary one I will use. Most of the time it is the Gospel. This summer the semi-continuous lessons in the Old Testament, Genesis and Exodus are the primary ones. My next thought is, how does this story relate to us, the people of St. James.

Monday morning, at least most Mondays, I have a ZOOM text study group. There we talk about the scripture for the coming week. Commentaries online and in my library give me background and reflections on the text. One online commentary that I use regularly is called "Working Preacher". It is from Luther Seminary in Minnesota. I recently purchased a commentary on Genesis to add to my library. I sometimes look online at the "Dollar Store Children Sermons" kids sermon ideas. What do you mean kids' sermons? Sometimes when you look at a scripture it is best to make it simple. I use the Men's Group on Friday and Anne to bounce ideas off of or to see if they make sense.

Sermons are creations of the preacher, coming from his or her perspective. At the Synod Assembly closing worship, a woman preached the sermon. It was an excellent sermon on the story of Hagar and Ishmael. It was much different than how I preached it. It came from a woman's perspective. I could not have preached that sermon. Preacher's experiences and biases come out in their preaching.

Here is what I hope some of my sermons may do, knowing some will not. I hope they can allow you to think about your own understandings. Even if you don't accept how I see the world, can you reflect on how you see it? Do new or different perspectives give you pause and even begin to change or support your own thinking? There is not one way to read the Bible or one way to preach it or one right answer. We live in a world of grey and that in itself can be a challenge.

Blessings,
Pastor Gordon



Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

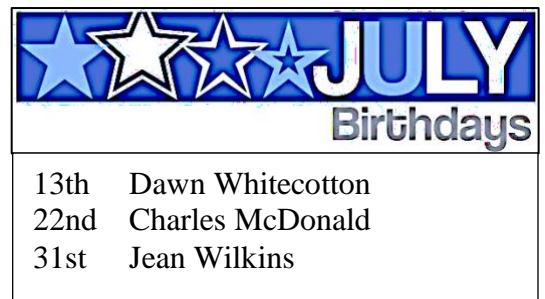
Norma Turak, Gillian Taylor, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Betty Diehl, Eliza Kelley and family (Sherie’s great niece), Bob Dixey, Anna Taylor (Gillian’s daughter), Charlotte Shifflett (Danny’s aunt), Sara Pieper (Bambi’s friend), and Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie’s aunt).

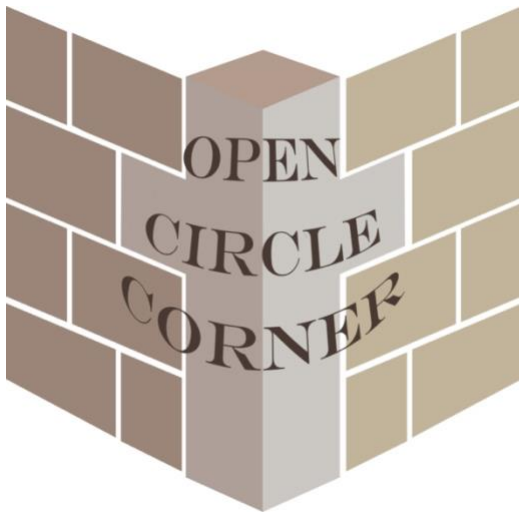
Prayer Request for

Randy Swisher (friend of Joyce), Zebby (grandson of Ellen and Charles), Jimmy Snyder (Danny’s father), Linda Peal (Lynda’s friend), Nancy Colvin (Cindy and John’s daughter) and Taunya McDonald (friend of Pastor Gordon and Anne).

Community Conversations

- Saturday 7/8, from 9am-3pm (as you are able)— Congregational Cleaning Day. Lunch from the Lunch Box (Dutch-Treat)
- Tuesday, 7/11, Open Circle meets at 1:00 pm at St. James. Bambi is our host. Last meeting to bring items for our VSWO service project: bears, trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper, or deodorant.
- Wednesday, 7/12—Council Meeting at 7:00 pm.
- July flowers are given by Bambi & Steve Straw.
- Men’s Group meets at 9:00 am at St. James every Friday.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
 - July—Paul Rohal
- Becky Dick’s new email address is: becky.dick65@gmail.com.





St. James' Open Circle is an active group of ladies. Since last fall, we've been working diligently on our Homecoming – August 5th & 6th. More than 115 invitations were mailed out in June. If you've not RSVP'd, please do so. We hope you can join us.

In May, Cindy, Bambi, Sherie, Betty, Flora, and Anne attended a SVWO Bible Study at Salem Lutheran Church, lead by our own Pastor Gordon. Our service project was for Habitat for Humanity. With your help, we donated 106 assorted size batteries, 1 first aid kit, 8 flashlights, 3 laundry baskets, 8 nightlights, and 18 washcloths. These items, along with different items from the other churches, will be given as Housewarming Gifts when families move into a Habitat House. Thank you!

In June, we sponsored a salad luncheon the last Sunday of the month. The goodwill offering of \$123 went to support SACRA. Thank you, again!

Upcoming Events:

- July 11th – Meeting at St. James; Bambi is our host
- July 21st & 22nd – VSWO Convention in Roanoke
- July 30th – Salad luncheon to benefit Western State
- August 1st – Meeting at the home of our host, Flora
- August 5th & 6th – St. James Homecoming
- August 12th – SVWO sponsored Sight & Sound movie “Noah” at the Sipe Center in Bridgewater
- August 27th – Salad luncheon to benefit the BackPacks Program

All ladies of St. James belong to our Circle. Please consider joining us for meetings and events.



SVWO Bible Study at Salem Lutheran Church



A continuing part of our Prayers during worship involves our prayer for relatives and friends, as well as for our members. We know the importance of continued prayer, especially as those we love and care for face longer term illness and recoveries. We also want to be sure that we can continue to add the names of all friends and relatives who are in need of prayer. We have people we want to keep in our prayers every week because they have long term needs. There are also people who have situational needs, and we want to keep them in our prayers, however we will take them off the prayer list after four weeks unless you request that their names remain on the list longer.

GATHER with us

Homecoming 2023 and 140 Year Celebration



100th ANNIVERSARY
ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FISHERSVILLE, VA

Saturday August 5, 2023
4pm to 8pm
Fellowship, Food, Fun, & Games
Ending with Vespers

Sunday August 6, 2023
Continental Breakfast at 9:30
Worship at 11am

join us

AS WE CELEBRATE

Saturday August 5, 2023
4pm to 8pm
Fellowship, Food, Fun, & Games
Ending with Vespers

Sunday August 6, 2023
Continental Breakfast at 9:30
Worship at 11am

You're encouraged to bring old photos to share
(Put your name on them please)

Let us know if you'll attend

RSVP by July 15th to

Pastor Gordon Putnam:

grputnam1949@gmail.com or 434-760-0263

Mrs. Anne Putnam:

anneputnam55@gmail.com or 434-465-0206

Season after Pentecost	Continues First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 7/2/2023	Genesis 22:1-14	Psalm 13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
Creation Sunday Barron Ridge 7/9/23	Genesis 2:4b-22	Psalm 96:1-13	Acts 10:34-42	John 3:1-16
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 7/16/2023	Genesis 25:19-34	Psalm 119:105-112	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 7/23/2023	Genesis 28:10-19a	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 7/30/2023	Genesis 29:15-28	Psalm 105:1-11, 45b	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

SYNOD NEWS

At the Virginia Synod Assembly in June we elected a new Bishop. (See her information below.) Throughout the Assembly there were a number of interesting videos shown that highlighted the work of the Virginia Synod and the ELCA. One that was particularly interesting was the Serving Boldly Award, created by the Virginia Synod Council in October 2020. It was given to five lay leaders who embody and demonstrate a commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ in their congregation and/or community. Nominations were received from numerous Virginia Synod congregations. The Synod recognized the 2023 recipients of the award with a video highlighting their accomplishments.

See the video at this web sight: <https://vimeo.com/vasynod>

There were several other videos that showed the Virginia Synod and how it works and a number of organizations that we collaborate with.

You can see them at this web site:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcKmvAsQHeo&list=PLUQjKpVxReTi0OOR0RjX3smtD_FktGTXR&index=8



The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton, Pastor at Holy Communion in Portsmouth Virginia, was elected June 11 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Virginia Synod. The election took place during the Virginia Synod Assembly, June 9-11, at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia.

There was some excitement and amazement because on the normal fifth and final ballot Pastor Phyllis Milton and the Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, (Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod) were tied 171 to 171. It had never happened before in the ELCA and necessitated a sixth vote. On the sixth ballot Bishop-Elect Milton was chosen with 175 votes to Pastor Bayer Derrick's 172 votes.

Pastor Milton has served as Pastor at Holy Communion in Portsmouth since 2022. Prior to that, she served as Interim Associate Pastor at First Lutheran in Norfolk from March-November in 2021; Pastor and School Chaplain at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and School in Hampton from 2013-2021; Synodical Minister for Christian Formation for the Virginia Synod from 2012-2017.

Pastor Milton earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Morgan State University in 1976, Masters degrees from Georgia State in 1980 and Bethel Seminary in 1995, and her Doctorate of Ministry in Church Leadership Development and Organizational Systems from Bethel Seminary in 2004 and completed her Lutheran Semester at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 2010.

Bishop-Elect Milton will be the first female bishop and first African American bishop in the history of the Virginia Synod. She will take office on September 1 and will be installed on Saturday, October 21 at First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro.

Living
Lutheran

The ELCA's magazine Living Lutheran is going online only. You can get it free by signing up at <https://www.livinglutheran.org> It is a great resource with lots of great stories about how people live out their faith and information about the ELCA.

St. James Church Business

St. James Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
June 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Joyce Dull, Gene Giltner, Anne Putnam, Pastor Putnam, and Paul Rohal

Council Members Absent: Ivan Diehl and Lynda Diehl

Visitors Present: John Wright

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

Pastor Gordon opened the meeting by playing a recording of the remarks made by Bishop-Elect Phyllis Milton upon her election on June 11th at the Synod Assembly.

The **Minutes** for the May 9th Council Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Joyce and seconded by Anne to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

The **Minutes** for the May 21st Congregational Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Paul and seconded by Joyce to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Gordon reported on the Synod Assembly, pointing out the use of short video clips lifting up a variety of organizations and individual for their service to those in need. He will put links to the videos in the upcoming newsletter.

He reported that Hannah will be gone for the next four weeks. Pastor Carl has agreed to play his guitar in her absence.

Pastor Gordon reported that he and Anne will be on vacation from August 28th through September 16th. Pastor Carl will be leading worship the first two Sundays in September.

Zion, Bethlehem, and Grace have been invited to participate in our Barren Ridge services.

Correspondence: We received a flyer from Southern States Petroleum Co-Op regarding Furnace Maintenance Plans. Paul offered to take it for consideration by the Property Committee. Historically, we have not committed to a set program. Anne stated that she would provide information to Paul regarding the maintenance done last year.

Unfinished Business:

- Homecoming (8/5-6/2023) - Anne reported that the invitations were mailed on June 8th. She also asked for input regarding parking for the event. John stated that the field can be used, and parking along the road is an option. Anne expressed concerns regarding safety and suggested having a valet option. No decision was made.

- Secure the building and make sure the lights are turned off.
 - June = John
 - July = Paul
- Pastor Gordon reported that the Pastor Photo Gallery update is nearing completion.
- Our "Deep Cleaning" Day was set for Saturday, July 8th, from 9am to 3pm. Everyone is encouraged to participate for all or a portion of the day. We will be cleaning inside the building and the grounds outside. Lunch will be ordered from The Lunch Box (Dutch Treat).
- Research continues regarding the lighting in the Sanctuary.
- Paint color options for the Fellowship Hall to be presented to the Property Committee by Flora & Cindy. Joyce and Debbie are working to obtain three estimates. It was acknowledged by Council that this will not be completed before Homecoming.
- The need for a Stair Chair has been placed on hold.
- Joyce has made numerous attempts to meet with Jeff Flint of the Village Garden Center regarding our picnic area. Still pending.

New Business:

- Election of Officers - By consensus, the 2022-2023 officers will continue in their current roles for the 2023-2024 term.
- Committee Assignments – Copies of the current listing of committee assignments will be distributed to the congregation for the purpose of indicating his or her intention to remain on a committee.
- Debbie Snyder's request to borrow some tables was approved.
- Ellen McDonald's request to us the Fellowship Hall on 7/22 was approved.
- Arranging for pick-up of our shut-ins was discussed. Pastor Gordon will discuss this with the individuals during his next visits.

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, July 12th in the Fellowship Hall.

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
May 2023

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 5/1/2023:	\$ 1,427.71
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Receipts Deposited:	<u>May 2023</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Record of Contributions	\$ 3,585.00	\$ 19,038.00
Loose Offering	85.00	88.29
*Property Improvement Fund	290.00	1,300.00
*Social Ministry	60.00	150.00
*Louis Dixey, Jr. Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
*Transfer from Raymond James Acct	-	810.77
*Transfer from DCCU Savings Acct	-	-
Benevolence	-	2,000.00
Other Special Appeals	-	810.91
Dividend/Interest Income	0.42	2.90
Total Receipts	\$ 5,020.42	\$ 25,200.87

Disbursed:		
Rev. Putnam - Monthly Compensation	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 6,250.00
2 Services @ \$200	400.00	3,050.00
168 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	110.88	536.22
Rev. Trost	-	
1 Service @ \$200	200.00	1,700.00
24 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	15.84	130.77
Musician	-	125.00
Supply Pastor	200.00	200.00
Mileage	7.92	7.92
Worship Supplies		
- Art Supplies	11.99	59.95
- Annual Bulletin Service	-	398.00
- Church Year Calendars	-	-
- Communion Supplies	-	49.45
- Copy Paper	-	45.99
- Toner	-	29.53
- Directory	-	21.00
- Offering Envelopes	-	-
- Postage	16.53	144.21
- Web Page Renewal	-	-
- Flowers (Easter)	313.90	313.90
Hannah Pingel, Pianist - 3 Services	375.00	2,875.00
Betty Bartley, Pianist	-	125.00
Glenda Strickler - Sexton	50.00	850.00
Cleaning Supplies	19.00	19.00
Christmas Gifts	-	500.00
Bank Safe Deposit Box	-	40.00
Fuel Oil	-	2,385.13
Electricity	111.14	590.14
Benevolence	-	2,400.00
Repairs & Maintenance	-	1,158.92
Fire & Liability Insurance	319.62	1,598.10
HomeComing Expenses	-	250.98
*Transfer to Raymond James Account	1,290.00	1,881.40
*Transfer to DCCU Savings Account	-	-
*Transfer to Social Ministry	60.00	150.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 4,751.82	\$ 27,885.61

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 5/31/2023:	\$ 1,696.31
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St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report
May 2023

	5/1/2023 <u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	5/31/2023 <u>End Balance</u>
Dividend/Interest Income				
DCCU Savings Acct Bal as of 5/31/2023:	\$ 3,005.07	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,005.07

Raymond James Investment Account	5/1/2023 <u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	5/31/2023 <u>End Balance</u>
Detail of St. James Fund Designations:				
Property Committee Fund	\$ 38,354.08	540.00		38,894.08
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	2,670.55			2,670.55
Louis Dixey, Jr. Memorial	-	1,000.00		1,000.00
Non-Designated Funds	5,889.14			5,465.48
Accrued Int. & Dividends & Change in Value		(423.66)		
Balance as of 5/31/2023	\$ 54,757.23	\$ 1,116.34	\$ -	55,873.57

Operating Budget Barometer	May Receipts	May Disbursements	Over (Under)
	\$3,670.42	\$3,401.82	\$268.60
*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)
	\$21,940.10	\$24,624.84	-\$2,684.74

