



Pastor's Musings

Paul writes in the first three chapters of 1 Corinthians about foolishness, “¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness...” How often have you felt foolish when you have talked about your beliefs and your faith. Think about how foolish the message is. Jesus says we should pray for our enemies. We should care for the immigrants, pray for those with the least and you can add many more who are strangers or different from us. I’ve said it a number of times that we are to care for that SOB neighbor. It is foolish to think this way. I hazard to say that all of us have a hard time caring for outcasts, opponents, or enemies. It’s foolish to think we could do it all the time.

I have always been foolish about my political beliefs. Yes, many of you have said that to me. Don’t turn me off yet. I have always foolishly felt I am more than a Demarcate, I’m a radical in that I take what Jesus says seriously. That is foolish since the radicalness of Jesus can never be realized.

Let me put this in perspective in context to our political beliefs. I am not expecting anyone to accept what my foolishness is, just hear me out. (continued next page)

1 Corinthians

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to

Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

What's foolish is that we should pray for the other political party, the one we don't belong to. That Demarcates would pray for Republican leaders and Republicans would pray for Democratic leaders. (We do pray this way almost every week in our worship.)

There are negative arguments about immigrants especially those at our southern border. Can you think of immigrants in our history? My grandparents were immigrants, or think of Christmas, the Exodus, the Israelite's in Exile all stories of immigrants.

The most radical foolishness, though, is to accept that we may not be right about our own beliefs, whether it be our politics or our faith. Yes, we should have convictions, however it may be more important to listen to others, to accept that they may be just as right as we are. It is in dialogue that we come to a fuller understanding of how we are to live out the foolishness of the Gospel.

Blessings,
Pastor Gordon

Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

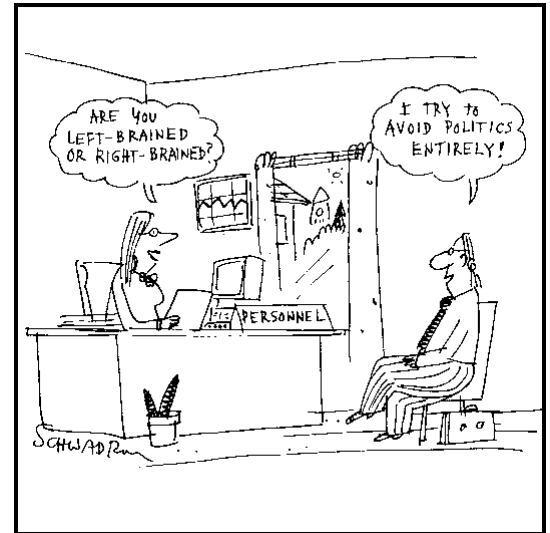
Norma Turak, Gillian Taylor, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Vrla Leach (Ashley's mother), Betty Diehl, Cindy (daughter of Ellen and Charles), and Eliza Kelley and family (Sherie's great niece), Bob Dixey, Pam Dixey, Zebby (grandson of Ellen and Charles), Anna Taylor (Gillian's daughter), Amanda Thompson, Charlotte Shifflett (Danny's aunt), Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt).

Prayer Request for

Randy Swisher (friend of Joyce) and Dorothy Back (Joyce's aunt).

Community Conversations

- June flowers will be given by Cindy Wright.
- June 6th next Open Circle meeting at 1pm at Sherie Rohal's home.
- June 14th next council meeting at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall—Note this is a Wednesday.
- 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
 - June—John Wright

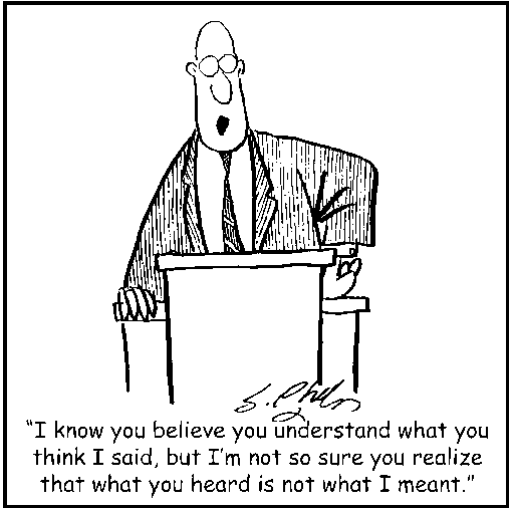
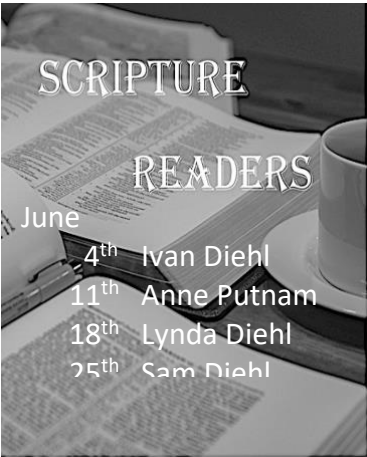





A continuing part of our Prayers during worship involves our prayer for relatives and friends, as well as for our members. We know the importance of continued prayer, especially as those we love and care for face longer term illness and recoveries. We also want to be sure that we can continue to add 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.



The Staunton City School Board has added St. James Lutheran Church to the 2023 Business Honor Roll. We have received a Certificate of Appreciation for our ongoing support provided to the schools. This recognition is directly related to our support of kids with food through the BackPacks Program and with the purchase of clothing for kids in need through our Social Ministry Program. Many thanks to each and everyone for your support of these programs through donations of food and money. A BIG shout out to Joyce Dull – as the coordinator, she makes it all happen!



 JUNE Birthdays	
6th	Cecilia Shott
27th	Joyce Dull
30th	Missy Southern

Season after Pentecost	Continues First reading	Psalm	First reading	Second reading	Gospel
Trinity Sunday	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8		2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
Second Sunday after Pentecost 6/11/23	Genesis 12:1-9	Psalm 33:1-12 or Psalm 50:7-15	Hosea 5:15-6:6	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
Third Sunday after Pentecost 6/18/23	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 or Psalm 100	Exodus 19:2-8a	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 6/25/23	Genesis 21:8-21	Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 or Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39

Note that there are two options for the First readings and Psalm. This is the semi-continues reading option for the season after Pentecost about 25 weeks. I am planning on using the readings in Genesis for a change of pace. Our preaching will be on these lessons.

Genesis is the origin for many of the major themes discussed in Scripture. Humanity’s origin and mission, its fall and predicament, human responsibility and divine sovereignty, God’s justice and mercy, his atonement for sin, the transformation of the sinner, the obedience of faith, the covenant of grace—all find their roots in Genesis. But Genesis is perhaps most often read for its vivid account of the pioneers of our faith—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—through whom God is known and can be trusted.



2023 Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization Women of the ELCA Convention

July 21-22, 2023

At Roanoke College

The annual convention will be held on July 21-22 at Roanoke College. The convention scripture is 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, and the convention hymn is “Weave” by Rosemary Crow. It was used at the convening convention of the Women of the ELCA in 1987.

Registration for non-voting members is due by June 30th. For more information about registration, fees, and lodging, talk to Anne.

St. James Church Business

St. James Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
May 9, 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 a reflection on 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, that he reflected on at the Southern Valley Women's Organization (SVWO) earlier that day. The theme was "Weave us Together". Pastor Gordon shared his insight into dealing with conflict by not letting it fester. This is what Paul told us to do in his letter to the Corinthians.

The **Minutes** for the April 11th 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 April was presented. A motion was made by John and seconded by Joyce to accept the report. The motion passed.

Pastor's Report: In addition to expanding on the SVWO Bible Study, Pastor Gordon reported that he and Anne had a good vacation in Virginia Beach, VA and Charlotte, NC. He continues to visit our shut-ins.

Correspondence: We received a Certificate of Appreciation from Staunton City Schools. This recognition is directly related to our support of kids with food through the BackPacks Program and with the purchase of clothing for kids in need through our Social Ministry Program. Thank you to Joyce Dull who organizes this effort.

Unfinished Business:

- Homecoming (8/5-6/2023) - Anne reported that the invitations have been selected and will go out in the mail the first week of June.
- Secure the building and make sure the lights are turned off.
 - May = Flora
 - June = John
- Pastor Gordon has obtained all pastor photos. He is ready to print and frame the photos for hanging in our Pastor Photo Gallery.
- Our "De-Clutter" Day on Saturday, 4/22 was a huge success. We will follow up with a "Deep Cleaning" Day in July.
- Research continues regarding the lighting in the Sanctuary.
- Flora & Cindy will be obtaining color samples for painting the Fellowship Hall. Debbie, Flora, and Pastor Gordon will obtain estimates from three painters to do the work.
- There was discussion regarding the need for a Stair Chair. Lynda will be scheduling a meeting with the companies, with Pastor Gordon, and at least

one other member of the Property Committee for the purpose of evaluating our options and obtaining estimates.

- Joyce will contact Jeff Flint of the Village Garden Center regarding clean-up of the grounds in our picnic area.

New Business:

- The Council voted to begin our outdoor services on Sunday, June 4th, weather permitting.
- The Council voted to remove the required “touchless” sharing of the peace. Those wishing to remain touchless should indicate as such when approached by another member of the congregation.
- The Council discussed our current financial situation. Anne pointed out that we have multiple projects currently on the table with a limited amount of money. It was acknowledged that committees have begun working to obtain information and estimates. Once the committees present their information to the Council, we will prioritize the work to be done.
- Following discussion regarding the need for a light at the lectern, John volunteered to make the purchase and install.

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 14th in the Fellowship Hall. (Note the change in day of the week due to members’ interest in attending Praise in the Park, held on Tuesday evenings during the summer.)

With no further business, Gene moved to adjourn the meeting and we closed with The Lord’s Prayer at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Putnam

Anne Putnam, Secretary

St. James Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
May 21, 2023, at 12:15 p.m.

Ivan Diehl, Vice-President, called the meeting to order.

Pastor Gordon opened with a prayer.

The Congregational Meeting was held for the purpose of electing two new Council Members. With 21 voting members present, a declaration of a quorum was announced.

Ivan introduced the Nominees for Council.

- Lynda Diehl has been a member of St. James for 44 years. During that time, she has been active in many capacities, too numerous to mention. Most recognizably as our greeter.
- Paul Rohal is new to St. James, having officially joined in January. Paul is active with the Property Committee and the Men's Group Bible Study.
- Both Lynda & Paul would like to see St. James grow.

Nominations from the floor were called for, there were none, so nominations were closed. A voice vote was taken, and they were elected unanimously. Lynda and Paul were announced as the new Council members. They will be installed on Sunday, May 28, 2023, each for a three-year term.

Pastor Gordon asked if there were any questions about St. James's financial situation. There were no questions.

With no further business, Ivan adjourned the meeting at 12:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Snyder

Debbie Snyder, Acting Secretary



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 Lutheran Church Financial Report
April 2023

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 4/1/2023:	\$ 2,119.51
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Receipts Deposited:	April 2023	Year to Date
Record of Contributions	\$ 4,735.00	\$ 15,453.00
Loose Offering	3.29	3.29
*Property Improvement Fund	250.00	1,010.00
*Social Ministry	30.00	90.00
*Transfer from Raymond James Acct	-	810.77
*Transfer from DCCU Savings Acct	-	-
Benevolence	1,000.00	2,000.00
Other Special Appeals	-	810.91
Dividend/Interest Income	0.46	2.48
Total Receipts	\$ 6,018.75	\$ 20,180.45

Disbursed:		
Rev. Putnam - Monthly Compensation	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 5,000.00
5 Services @ \$200	1,000.00	2,650.00
117 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	77.22	425.34
Rev. Trost	-	
2 Service @ \$200	400.00	1,500.00
48 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	31.68	114.93
Musician	-	125.00
Worship Supplies	-	
- Art Supplies	11.99	47.96
- Annual Bulletin Service	398.00	398.00
- Church Year Calendars	-	-
- Communion Supplies	-	49.45
- Copy Paper	45.99	45.99
- Toner	-	29.53
- Directory	-	21.00
- Offering Envelopes	-	-
- Postage	-	127.68
- Web Page Renewal	-	-
Hannah Pingel, Pianist - 6 Services	750.00	2,500.00
Betty Bartley, Pianist - 1 Service	125.00	125.00
Glenda Strickler - Sexton	350.00	800.00
Cleaning Supplies	-	-
Christmas Gifts	-	500.00
Bank Safe Deposit Box	-	40.00
Fuel Oil	351.29	2,385.13
Electricity	118.70	479.00
Benevolence	1,000.00	2,400.00
Repairs & Maintenance	-	1,158.92
Fire & Liability Insurance	319.62	1,278.48
HomeComing Expenses	201.06	250.98
*Transfer to Raymond James Account	250.00	591.40
*Transfer to DCCU Savings Account	-	-
*Transfer to Social Ministry	30.00	90.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 6,710.55	\$ 23,133.79

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 4/30/2023:	\$ 1,427.71
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St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report

April 2023

	4/1/2023	Deposits	Withdrawals	4/30/2023
Dividend/Interest Income	Beg Balance			End Balance
DCCU Savings Acct Bal as of 4/30/2023:	\$ 3,005.03	\$ 0.07	\$ -	\$ 3,005.10

Raymond James Investment Account	4/1/2023	Income	Withdrawals	4/30/2023
	Beg Balance			End Balance
Detail of St. James Fund Designations:				
Property Committee Fund	\$ 38,354.08			38,354.08
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
Non-Designated Funds	5,224.56			5,889.14
Accrued Int. & Dividends & Change in Value		664.58		
Balance as of 4/30/2023	\$ 54,092.65	\$ 664.58	\$ -	54,757.23

Operating Budget Barometer	Apr Receipts	Apr Disbursements	Over (Under)
	\$5,738.75	\$6,430.55	-\$691.80
*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)
	\$18,269.68	\$21,223.02	-\$2,953.34

