



Pastor’s Musings

Last Sunday, the First Sunday in Lent, the Gospel was Jesus in the desert being tempted by the devil. How you understand Jesus being tempted indicates how you see God acting in our lives. Was Jesus tempted just like we are tempted? He was fully human and it was a real struggle after fasting for 40 days. Or was he not affected by the devil’s temptation because he was fully God and God has the power?

There is no absolute right answer to this question. Is Jesus fully human or fully God has been debated for centuries. The Nicene Creed in 325 ADE argued about it, Martin Luther in 1500 debated it and today it is still a question. As a chaplain and as a pastor, I have witnessed many people in crisis struggle with this question. Depending on how they understood the answer to this question may help or hinder them in their life.

One answer that helps a lot of people is the affirmation, “They are with Jesus now.” However when an aunt said this to her nine year old nephew who was crying when his mother died, he looked at her and said, “I don’t want my mother with Jesus, I want her with me.”

Some will see and have the understanding that everything happens for a reason, or it is God’s will. For many this is a comforting thought. However, in my first congregation when a couple’s 12 year old son died they were so angry at God they never came back to church after the funeral. A woman that I visited in the



English Literature: A Community
2d · 🌐

"Today was a Difficult Day," said Pooh.
There was a pause.
"Do you want to talk about it?" asked Piglet.
"No," said Pooh after a bit. "No, I don't think I do."
"That's okay," said Piglet, and he came and sat beside his friend.
"What are you doing?" asked Pooh.
"Nothing, really," said Piglet. "Only, I know what Difficult Days are like. I quite often don't feel like talking about it on my Difficult Days either."
"But goodness," continued Piglet, "Difficult Days are so much easier when you know you've got someone there for you. And I'll always be here for you, Pooh."
And as Pooh sat there, working through in his head his Difficult Day, while the solid, reliable Piglet sat next to him quietly, swinging his little legs...he thought that his best friend had never been more right."
A.A. Milne

hospital would not turn off her husband's life support, even though the doctors said there was no hope of recovery. She was convinced that God would decide whether he lived or died, and he lingered for quite a while.

I am a practical theologian. That means I try to understand our theology to help us live in this world that has so many bad things happen. In the end I do not argue whether Jesus was fully human or fully God. What I argue is that God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born as we are born, to live as we live, to laugh as we laugh and to die as we will die. In Jesus we are given the ability to forgive and the ability to love which are the weapons God has given us to live fully, bravely and meaningfully in this less-than-perfect world. Pooh and Piglet are a great example of practical theology.

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



New this year.
Men's group is going to make breakfast for you.
10:00 am

Wednesdays in Lent - "The Apocrypha - The Story of You"

The Apocrypha is considered a part of Holy Scripture in the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, but we know little of it in the Lutheran and other Protestant Churches.

During this Lenten Season, we'll take a look at our Faith Story - "The Story of You"- through the lens of the Apocrypha.

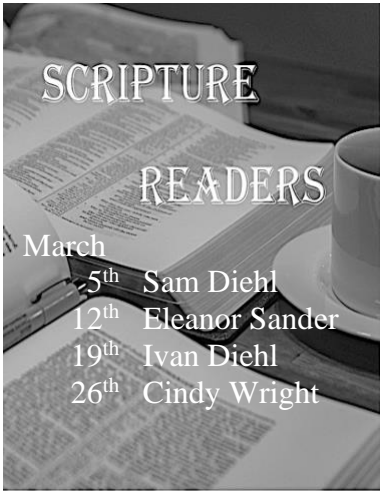
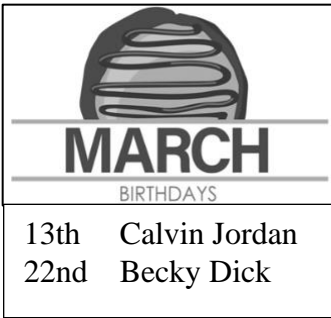
The books of the Apocrypha were written in the period of history between the Old and New Testament. They contain Prayers, Wisdom Literature, Short (and sometimes wild!) Stories, as well as "straight up" History.

We'll discover, during this Lenten Season, that this collection of sacred documents "off the beaten path" can be a strong aid to our own baptismal journeys of faith; "the story of you" on the way to the cross, the tomb, and the resurrection of our Lord!

***All Wednesday services have a Soup Supper at 6pm,
followed by Evening Prayer worship at 7pm.***

- March 1 Zion Lutheran Church**
An Overview of the Apocrypha and finding God's Grace there.
- March 8 Grace Ev. Lutheran Church**
The Wisdom of the Apocrypha - God in all things.
- March 15 St. James Lutheran Church**
The short and surprising stories of the Apocrypha - Finding God and the very human in this world.
- March 22 Bethlehem Lutheran Church**
The history of the Apocrypha - revealing the origins of a familiar Holiday, and the expectations of a Messiah
- March 29 Grace Ev. Lutheran Church**
The Story of You - and finding God in your prayer, wisdom, stories, and history.

You can watch the service on Grace Lutherans YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@graceevangelicallutheranch2371/featured>



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

- Our prayers go out to Flora and the family of Dennis Garber who died Tuesday 2/28th.
- Our prayers go out to Joyce in the death of her sister Wanda Nucholes on Wednesday March 1st.
- Our prayers go out to Bob Dixey who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer this week and to Pam Dixey who continues recovering from a car accident. To Becky who had a procedure on 3/2 and is doing well. To Lynda who is recovering from COVID.

Community Conversations

- February 26th Soup Luncheon. The goodwill offering of \$169 went to Valley Mission. Thank you for your generosity.
- March 7th, Tuesday—Open Circle meets at 1pm at the church. Betty Bartley to host.
- March 15th, Wednesday—Council meeting following the Lenten Service.
- March 26th, Sunday—Soup Luncheon. The goodwill offering will go to the Verona Food Pantry.
- 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
 - March—Gene Giltner

Second Sunday in Lent 3/5/2023	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
Third Sunday in Lent 3/12/2023	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Fourth Sunday in Lent 3/19/2023	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Fifth Sunday in Lent 3/26/2023	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45

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



"No, Peter Cottontail was not an apostle!"



"Hope the choir does some hip-hop for Easter!"

St. James Church Business

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

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

Absent: Ivan Diehl

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

Pastor Gordon opened the meeting with a devotional surrounding "gratefulness". Not only should we be grateful for what we have, we should be grateful for what we don't have – illness, food insecurities, etc. This was followed by a prayer.

The **Minutes** for the January 10th Council Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Flora and seconded by Joyce to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

The **Minutes** for the February 12th Congregational Meeting were presented. A motion was made by John and seconded by Joyce to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

The **Financial Report** for January 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 the Hogan family will be using the Fellowship Hall on 2/15/2023 for a Celebration of Life of the 5th anniversary of their son's death. He will be in the building as a representative of St. James. He shared a handout describing the theme for this year's services. It also listed the dates and locations of each Wednesday service, noting that there will be a Soup Supper prior to each worship service. Pastor Gordon reported that he continues to see those unable to attend services on a regular monthly basis in addition to other home/hospital visits as needed. He will be contacting Angela of Barren Ridge Vineyard to schedule two summer services. The suggested dates are 7/9 and 8/20 or 8/27.

Correspondence: Each member of the council signed a thank you card to Jeff Flint for the mulching that was recently done around the church.

Unfinished Business:

- Homecoming (8/5-6/2023) - Anne reported that "Save the Date" cards were mailed on 2/8. There was discussion regarding a budget for the event. At this point, we will track the expense. Joyce offered a \$500 donation from Social Ministry.
- "Council Person of the Month" – Secure the building and make sure the lights are turned off.
 - February = Gene
 - March = Gene
- The Men's Group is meeting every Friday morning at 9am in the Fellowship Hall. There are currently 7 men participating. All are welcome.

- Pastor Gordon is working with the Synod Office to update our Pastor Photo Gallery.
- A preliminary plan for a congregational “de-clutter” day was presented. All are encouraged to join us on Saturday, 4/22 from 9am to 3pm. We will order lunch from The Lunch Box (Dutch-treat).

New Business:

- A motion was made by John to accept the Synod’s recommendation to increase the compensation for pulpit supply for rostered ministers to \$200 per service. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Noting the IRS standard mileage rates for 2023, Joyce made a motion to increase the mileage reimbursement to meet this standard of 65.5 cents per mile. John suggested 66.0 cents for ease in calculating. Flora seconded this amended motion. The motion passed.
- Review/Update of the Constitution and By-Laws was tabled.

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, March 15th following the Lenten Worship Service.

With no further business, Gene moved to adjourn the meeting and we closed with The Lord’s Prayer at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Putnam

Anne Putnam, Secretary

St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report
January 2023

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 1/1/2023:	\$ 4,381.05
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Receipts Deposited:	<u>January 2023</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Record of Contributions	\$ 4,380.00	\$ 4,380.00
Loose Offering	-	-
*Property Improvement Fund	280.00	280.00
*Transfer from Raymond James Acct	-	-
*Transfer from DCCU Savings Acct	-	-
Benevolence	1,000.00	1,000.00
Other Special Appeals	383.00	383.00
Dividend/Interest Income	0.80	0.80
Total Receipts	\$ 6,043.80	\$ 6,043.80

Disbursed:			
Rev. Putnam - Monthly Compensation	\$	1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00
3 Services @ \$150		450.00	450.00
128 Miles @ \$0.585/mile		74.88	74.88
Rev. Trost			
2 Service @ \$150		300.00	300.00
34 Miles @ \$0.585/mile		19.89	19.89
Musician		125.00	125.00
Worship Supplies			
- Art Supplies		11.99	11.99
- Annual Bulletin Service		-	-
- Church Year Calendars		-	-
- Communion Supplies		49.45	49.45
- Copy Paper		-	-
- Directory		21.00	21.00
- Offering Envelopes		-	-
- Postage		51.84	51.84
- Web Page Renewal		-	-
Hannah Pingel, Pianist - 4 Services		500.00	500.00
Glenda Strickler - Sexton		150.00	150.00
Cleaning Supplies		-	-
Christmas Gifts		500.00	500.00
Bank Safe Deposit Box		-	-
Fuel Oil		-	-
Electricity		132.37	132.37
Benevolence		1,400.00	1,400.00
Repairs & Maintenance		1,020.32	1,020.32
Fire & Liability Insurance		319.62	319.62
*Transfer to Raymond James Account		-	-
*Transfer to DCCU Savings Account		-	-
Total Disbursements	\$	6,376.36	\$ 6,376.36

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 1/31/2023:	\$ 4,048.49
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St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report
January 2023

	1/1/2023 <u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	1/31/2023 <u>End Balance</u>
Dividend/Interest Income			40.00	
DCCU Savings Acct Bal as of 1/31/2023:	\$ 3,005.03	\$ -	\$ 40.00	\$ 2,965.03

Raymond James Investment Account	1/1/2023 <u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	1/31/2023 <u>End Balance</u>
Detail of St. James Fund Designations:				
Property Committee Fund	\$ 38,753.00			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	3,930.83			5,948.67
Accrued Int. & Dividends & Change in Value		2,017.84		
Balance as of 1/31/2023	\$ 53,247.29	\$ 2,017.84	\$ -	55,265.13

Operating Budget Barometer	Jan Receipts	Jan Disbursements	Over (Under)
	\$5,763.80	\$5,285.59	\$478.21
*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)
	\$5,763.80	\$5,285.59	\$478.21