



Pastor's Musings

It was 100 years ago, Scotsman Eric Liddell refused to run a heat in the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris. The race was scheduled on a Sunday. It was against his religious faith to do anything on the Sabbath. His faith significantly impacted his life, some difficulties but other positive outcomes. You may remember this story from the movie, "Chariots of Fire." Has your faith ever gotten in the way or significantly affected your life?

Lent starts in a few weeks. Does your observance of Lent interrupt anything in your life? Traditions or events that interrupt our lives are not emphasized in the Lutheran tradition even though some may experience them. Many Christians and world religions do emphasize those events or experiences that may interrupt their life.

Anne in her past life as a Catholic said she would give up all goodies for Lent. A few months ago our Grace group was meeting with the people of Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ (a Pentecostal church), we brought snacks for all to enjoy. To our surprise they said they were fasting that month and would not eat them. We Lutherans felt somewhat embarrassed. Muslims celebrate Ramadan and fast for a month during the day. This is a difficult decision for some athletes.

Our Lenten theme this year is "Sing With All The Saints in Glory" It lifts up many historical figures who's faith influenced their life and/or history in significant ways. John and Charles Wesley because of their faith, started the Methodist movement. Gregory the Great a pope in the 6th century, influenced our liturgy and the calendar we use. Oscar Romero and Perpetua (she lived in the 3rd century) sacrificed their lives for their belief. Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth fought for the freedom of African Americans and women.

We may not have mountain top experiences or change the world around us. However, God is always with us and affirms us no matter who we are or how we share our faith.

Blessings,
Pastor Gordon



Feb 13th **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch at Noon**
Feb 14th **Ash Wednesday Service, 1 pm**

Lenten Services

Our Lenten journey this year is titled “Sing With All The Saints in Glory.” Each week we will lift up the lives of saints from the past. You will find a list of the many saints that we commemorate in the front of our hymnal. In remembering these Christians who have gone before, we find inspiration for our own Christian journey.

Feb 21st Grace Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship
Inheritance of Faith

George Herbert was an English Anglican country priest and renowned poet.

John and Charles Wesley were Anglican priests, missionaries to America, and eventual founders of the Methodist movement.

Feb 28th St. James Lutheran, Noon Soup, 1 pm Worship
Perseverance with Endurance

Perpetua and Felicity were early Christian martyrs who chose to die rather than forsake their faith in Jesus and their commitment to each other.

Harriet Tubman was Moses to her people, leading many enslaved people to freedom during the horror of American slavery.

Sojourner Truth was an enslaved woman in New York, sued for her freedom, then spent the rest of her life working for abolition and women’s suffrage.

March 6th Zion Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship
Faithful in Prayer

Gregory the Great was a sixth-century pope who is often remembered as one of the “fathers of Christian worship” because of his work revising the liturgy and making developments in church music.

Patrick was a missionary to Ireland. Called by God to carry the good news of Jesus to the Irish, he became one of the founders of the great Celtic tradition of Christianity.

March 13th Grace Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm worship
Striving for Justice

Archbishop Oscar Romero was an outspoken critic of the government corruption, military abuse, and oppression of the people of his native El Salvador and was martyred while celebrating mass in 1980.

Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt becoming refugees at the hands of a tyrant ruler.

March 20th Bethlehem Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship
Dying and Rising with Christ

Hans Nielsen Hauge, a nineteenth-century Norwegian lay preacher who initiated a religious revival in his home country, Norway.

John Donne was a seventeenth-century English poet and dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London.



Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Claire Viette, Zeby (Ellen & Charles' grandson), Charlotte Shifflett (Danny's aunt), Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt), and Susan Zirges (friend of Sherie & Paul).

Prayer Request for

Charles, Ellen, and the family of Loretta Whiting (Sherie's mother).

Community Conversations

- February flowers are given by Anne Putnam
- February 6th Open Circle meeting at 1pm. Debbie is our hostess.
- February 13th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon at noon.
- February 13th Council meeting following the Pancake Luncheon (approximately 2pm.)
- February 18th Congregational meeting for acceptance of the Annual Report.
- February 20th Quilt Group meets at 1pm.
- Last Sunday's Soup & Sandwich Luncheon raised \$224 for WARM. Many thanks to all!
- Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater. Sign up sheet to indicate any/all of the performance you're interested in seeing.
- Choir practice every Tuesday at 6pm at Betty Bartley's home.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
 - February—Ivan Diehl



February

- 4th Sam Diehl
- 11th Ivan Diehl
- 18th Bambi Straw
- 25th Anne Putnam

FEBRUARY



- 1st David Bartley
- 5th Pastor William Stewart
- 11th Mark Grove
- 14th Jean Geiser
- 14th Bambi Straw
- 15th Alex Diehl
- 20th Pam Diehl
- 27th John Wright

Don Rieron sent an email giving us an update:

"... just a quick update. I have relocated to a retirement community in Greensboro to be closer to my brother." He said he has finished his cancer treatments and recovering from some side effects. "I'm active in film and podcast circles ... enjoying new skills and people. Tell everyone I said hello. My new email is riersongd@outlook.com."

Check out our new webpage!

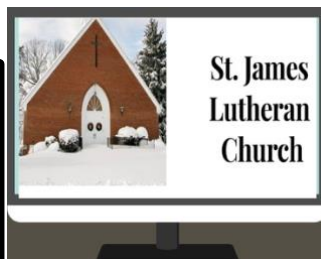
You will find a lot of good information.

Weekly bulletins

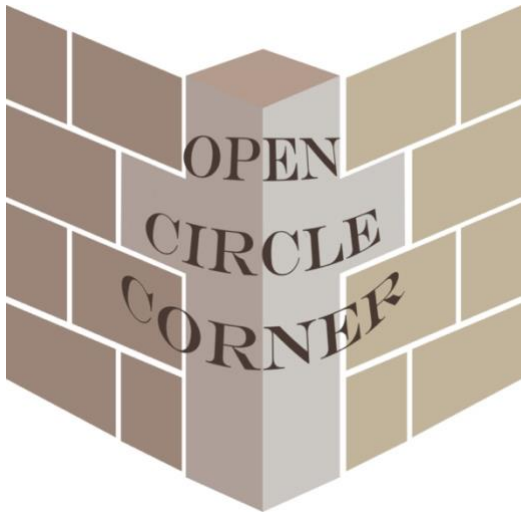
The monthly newsletter

Photos and the history

sjchurch.org



The 2023 Annual Report is available. There is a hard copy for each family at the church. It is also on the [website](http://www.sjchurch.org)



We began the new year with lots of energy and excitement.

We began making plans for our Soup & Sandwich luncheons. The goodwill offering of \$224 for our January luncheon will go to WARM. In February, the recipient will be Valley Mission and in March our proceeds will go to the Verona Food Pantry.

We purchased 15 bottles of multi-vitamins for the Health Ministry of Micah Ecumenical Ministries. These will be distributed to the homeless and/or those living in shelters in the Fredericksburg area. This is part of our VSWO service project for 2024.

Our Quilt Group is busy stitching up a storm. We met two times in January. Already we have two small quilts tied; two tops completed; and one cut out and ready to be stitched. We were blessed to learn about some funding through Thrivent Insurance that will cover the cost of the batting needed to finish the quilts. We also are grateful for the table “legs” that Paul Rohal made for us. These extensions are amazing. Our backs are grateful too!

Upcoming Events:

February 6th – 1pm. Open Circle meets at St. James. Debbie is our hostess.

February 20th – 1 pm. Quilt Group meets at St. James.

We will be selecting a date to go to Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater in Feb/Mar to see *Steel Magnolias*. There is still time to sign up for this performance. The sheet is in the Narthex.

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

Advent	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 2/4/2024	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
Transfiguration of our Lord 2/11/2024	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
Ash Wednesday 2/14/2024	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
First Sunday in Lent 2/18/2024	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
Second Sunday in Lent 2/25/2024	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38



We have 19 kids. there are 17 children in the BackPacks Program. Food and monetary donations are used to fill the backpacks. \$330 to \$350 is needed every two weeks to meet this need. Thanks to all who regularly support this ministry.

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| 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 |



Altar Flowers

- February—Anne Putnam
- March—No Flowers—Lent
- April—Ellie Sander

Thrivent Insurance has always had a program to donate money to churches. Recently they have offered a program called Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you have an account with Thrivent you can go online and designate money to St. James. Call 800-847-4836 or Thrivent.com/thriventchoice

In December we received two anonymous donations. One was for a \$1000 for our roof project. The second was \$407 for our Backpacks program. We thank whoever the generous person

St. James Church Business

St. James Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
January 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Ivan Diehl, Lynda Diehl, Anne Putnam, Paul Rohal, and Pastor Putnam

Council Members Absent: Joyce Dull and Gene Giltner

Visitors Present: None

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

Pastor Gordon opened the meeting with a devotion describing the backstory of baptism. Central to baptism is relationship, God with us, Emmanuel. That is what our community is about, relationships.

The **Minutes** for the December 12th Council Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Ivan and seconded by Anne to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The **Minutes** from a combined Council/Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting held on December 24th were shared for informational purposes (see below). No action required.

The **Financial Report** for December was presented. A motion was made by Lynda and seconded by Paul to accept the report. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Gordon reported that he continues to make home visits and recently had some hospital visits. He discussed the Lenten service schedule and queried for input regarding midday rather than evening services, with a simple soup meal. He stated that he has reached out to the other pastors regarding midday services and is waiting for responses.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

- Property Committee: Paul reported no activity in December. The next item to be addressed are the locks. A keypad option was suggested. Paul will investigate this as a solution. Also, there is a need to change the outdoor lighting by the doors.
- Stewardship & Finance: Anne reported that the audit will be completed in the last week of January.
- Social Ministry & Evangelism: Anne stated that she had spoken with Joyce, and that she is suggesting a pancake luncheon rather than dinner on Shrove Tuesday. Anne made a motion that we hold a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon, inviting the other Lutheran churches as in the past. Lynda seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Worship, Music, & Altar: Pastor Gordon reported that the choir has prepared a Cantata for this Sunday. He asked the Council's opinion on moving the Ash Wednesday service to noon. He will query the congregation on Sunday.
- Constitution and By-Laws Committee: No report.

Unfinished Business:

- Secure the building and make sure the lights are turned off on Sundays after church.
 - January = Joyce
 - February = Ivan
 - March = Paul
- The changes to the keyholders for the Safe Deposit Box and signers on the bank accounts at DuPont Community Credit Union is scheduled for 1/17/2024.
- Committee Reports will be due on 1/28 for inclusion in the Annual Report.
- A Congregational Meeting will be held on 2/18 to vote on the Annual Report.

New Business:

- The IRS Standard Mileage Rate has been increased to \$0.67, effective 1/1/2024.
- Begin planning for the July Fourth fireworks to protect our property and cemetery. Also, the possibility of a fundraising opportunity – held over to next month.
- Discuss Council meeting time at February meeting.

Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 13th at ~ 2pm in the Fellowship Hall, following the Shrove Pancake Luncheon.

With no further business, Ivan moved to adjourn the meeting. We closed with The Lord's Prayer at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Putnam

Anne Putnam, Secretary

Bach Around the Clock, March 16, at Christ Lutheran Church, Staunton

Bach Around the Clock, a twelve-hour extravaganza of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach will be held on March 16, 2024, at Christ Lutheran Church, 2807 N. Augusta Street, Staunton.

This daylong free program is presented in partnership with the Heifetz International Music Institute. From 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. superb performers will play and sing the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, who wrote intricate string compositions, hundreds of organ and keyboard works, and over 300 cantatas.

Performers on this year's program include Jeanette Fang from the Garth Newell Piano Quartet; Andrew Gonzalez playing the Viola da spalla; Charlottesville AGO organists and Dr. Timothy Olsen, Professor of Organ, the NC School of the Arts, playing the magnificent Taylor & Boody Pipe Organ; bass Adrian Smith in the solo cantata, "Es ist genug;" Pianist Jingxuan Zhang performing the "Capriccio on the Departure of the Beloved Brother;" the BATC Chamber Choir and Orchestra combining for Cantata 131, a setting of Psalm 130; and a Bach for Kids program.

The hourly schedule as well as a digital program will be posted at <heifetzinstitute.org/event/bach-around-the-clock-2024-free/> Donations are encouraged at the event, or potential patrons may contribute until March 9 by contacting Dr. Paul Weber at paul.weber49@gmail.com For further information call (828) 244-5264. Come and enjoy the elegant music of Bach in Christ Lutheran Church's acoustically vibrant space!

St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report
December 2023

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 12/1/2023:	\$ 2,223.41
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Receipts Deposited:	December 2023	Year to Date
Record of Contributions	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 47,508.00
Loose Offering	589.00	2,017.43
*Property Improvement Fund	1,300.00	3,365.00
*Social Ministry	502.00	832.00
*Louis Dixey, Jr. Fund	-	1,000.00
*Transfer from Raymond James Acct	-	15,814.13
*Transfer from DCCU Savings Acct	-	2,000.00
Benevolence	-	3,000.00
Other Special Appeals	-	1,010.91
Dividend/Interest Income	0.53	6.92
Total Receipts	\$ 8,791.53	\$ 76,554.39

Disbursed:		
Rev. Putnam - Monthly Compensation	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 15,000.00
5 Services @ \$200	1,000.00	6,650.00
210 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	138.60	1,329.54
Rev. Trost		
2 Services @ \$200	400.00	4,775.00
48 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	31.68	384.21
Musician - 0 Services	-	1,250.00
Supply Pastor		200.00
Mileage	-	7.92
Worship Supplies		
- Art Supplies	11.99	143.88
- Annual Bulletin Service	-	398.00
- Church Year Calendars	11.97	11.97
- Communion Supplies	29.40	120.22
- Copy Paper	-	95.98
- Toner	26.27	55.80
- Directory	-	21.00
- Offering Envelopes	171.52	171.52
- Postage	66.00	302.61
- Web Page Renewal	160.70	160.70
- Flowers (Easter)	-	313.90
Hannah Pingel, Pianist - 7 Services	875.00	5,875.00
Betty Bartley, Pianist	-	250.00
Glenda Strickler - Sexton	200.00	2,250.00
Cleaning Supplies	-	74.71
Christmas Gifts	500.00	1,000.00
Bank Safe Deposit Box	-	40.00
Fuel Oil	-	3,146.26
Electricity	110.34	1,294.34
Benevolence	-	3,400.00
Repairs & Maintenance	92.74	1,331.64
Fire & Liability Insurance	412.40	4,575.88
HomeComing Expenses	-	179.51
*Transfer to Raymond James Account	1,222.61	7,866.38
*Transfer to DCCU Savings Account	-	-
*Transfer to Social Ministry	502.00	832.00
*Pavillion	-	6,164.62
*New Roof on Sunday School	-	6,800.00
*Special Appeals	-	200.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 7,213.22	\$ 76,672.59

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 12/31/2023:	\$ 3,801.72
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St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report
December 2023

	12/1/2023			12/31/2023
	<u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>End Balance</u>
Dividend/Interest Income				
DCCU Savings Acct Bal as of 12/31/2023:	\$ 1,005.21	\$ 0.03	\$ -	\$ 1,005.24

	12/1/2023			12/31/2023
	<u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>End Balance</u>
Raymond James Investment Account				
Detail of St. James Fund Designations:				
Property Committee Fund	\$ 30,446.59	1,200.00	35.98	31,610.61
Youth Account	2,208.46			2,208.46
James Williams Memorial	264.88			264.88
Linda Diehl Memorial	2,629.18		41.41	2,587.77
Non-Designated Funds	9,489.48			11,519.14
Accrued Int. & Dividends & Change in Value		2,029.66		
Balance as of 12/31/2023	\$ 45,038.59	\$ 3,229.66	\$ 77.39	48,190.86

Operating Budget Barometer	Dec Receipts	Dec Disbursements	Over (Under)
	\$6,989.53	\$5,488.61	\$1,500.92
*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)
	\$53,543.26	\$53,561.67	(\$18.41)

