

St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter



**104 Union Street South
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DRIVE-IN WORSHIP/ COMMUNION

Wednesday, Nov. 11 & 25

Join us on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 pm for Drive-In Worship with Communion on the top level of the parking deck beside the church. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed. Plan to join us now!

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IN-PERSON WORSHIP

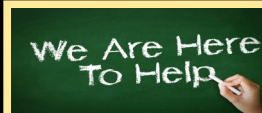


In-person worship will resume on November 15 at St. James. Social distancing, distanced seating, masks, and temperature checks will be required. Congregational singing will not be an option indoors, but we will have music and other means of congregational participation. We understand that not everyone will be comfortable returning to the building so the recorded service will still be available on-line.



COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

A reminder that all nominations for Congregation Council must be received in the church office by November 8. If you are nominating someone, please be sure that they are willing to serve. If you would like to nominate someone for Council, please call the church office. 704-786-0166



Your church is here for you. Please do not hesitate to call the church office, 704-786-0166 and leave a message if you have needs. This could include picking up medicine, groceries, etc. Your church family is here for you!

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices
Who wondrous things hath done
In whom His world rejoices
Who from our mother's arm
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today

FROM THE PASTOR

*O give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 107:1)*

It is that time of year when our hearts and minds turn toward family gatherings, delicious foods, parades, holidays shopping and as we will celebrate on November 26, giving thanks for the blessings of a bountiful life. Except, 2020 has been anything but bountiful as many of the things we are often most thankful for have been compromised or taken from us because of the pandemic and social distancing, not to mention the election taking place on November 3 and the potential consequences of the results. In a time where the one thing we seem to have an abundance of is fear and anxiety, how can we give thanks?

That is where Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor and the author of the hymn “*Now Thank we all Our God,*” is helpful. The hymn is thought to have been written during the Thirty Years War in Central Europe, where between 4.5 and 8 million people died, mostly from disease and starvation. Life was anything but bountiful. In addition to having trouble providing food and shelter for his family, at the heart of the plague in 1637 Rinkart was the last remaining minister in his village and did and many as 40-50 funerals a day. So how could he give thanks?

Rinkart’s song of thanksgiving begins by recalling God’s countless gifts of love:

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom our world rejoices; who, from our mother’s arms, has blest us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

It is Rinkart’s focus and gratitude in God’s past faithfulness that enables him in the second verse to pray for God’s continued care:

Oh may this bounteous God through all our live be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all harm in this world and the next.

This in turn leads Rinkart to give praise and thanks for God’s eternal nature and care:

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son and him who reigns with them in highest heaven, the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Ultimately, Rinkart’s ability to give thanks and praise had little to do with his current circumstances and everything to do with the one who was present in the midst of his circumstances, the one whose countless gifts of love had always and would always sustain him and the world...and the same is true for us.

I invite you this month, to focus less on what we don’t have and what might or might not happen, and more on what we do have, and the one whose goodness and mercy and countless gifts of steadfast love has always and will always sustain us!

Thankful for the life we share,
Pastor Tony

Procedures for the Resuming of In-door Worship

Saint James Lutheran Church —Approved by Council – October 13, 2020

Social distancing will be practiced and masks are to be worn at all times

ARRIVAL

1. The only entrance to the church will be through doors coming into the narthex (front) entrance. These doors and the doors to the sanctuary will be left open for ventilation.
2. Greeters/ushers will stand outside the entrance doors to take temperatures. They will maintain social distance while greeting worshippers. Individuals with a temperature of 100 or higher will not be permitted to enter.
3. Signage will be placed along the walkways to the doors emphasizing social distancing, the expectations for the wearing of masks, and other relevant information.
4. Tape will be used as markers on the walkways to maintain appropriate distance between groups if they must wait to be seated.
5. Two greeters (ushers) will check in and/or list the name[s] of the church member/group attending. All worshippers will check in and provide a contact number for tracing purposes if necessary.
6. Ushers will be at the doors entering the sanctuary to seat individual worshippers or family groups.

SEATING

1. For social distancing purposes and to reduce the likelihood of overcrowding, the congregation will be seated according to a council approved seating schematic developed by the Health and Safety Committee.
2. Seating will occur in every other row of seats in the sanctuary. Signs will be placed in rows where seating is not allowed. ["PLEASE LEAVE THIS ROW VACANT"]
3. The balcony will not be used.
4. If two services are held, the rows of seats used and not used in the first service will be reversed and the signage will be moved from the rows not used in the first service to the rows that were used in first service. Therefore, no one will be sitting in the same seats used in the first service.

DURING WORSHIP

1. No nursery will be provided at this time.
2. Offering will be received in the plates in the narthex.
3. Bulletins will be placed in the pews prior to the service and available digitally for those who use a tablet or phone.
4. There will be no congregational singing.

DISMISSAL AFTER SERVICE

1. Remind the congregation before the end of service of procedures to follow after dismissal.
2. Ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows and sections to reduce the crowding that currently occurs at the entrance to the sanctuary.
3. Worshipers will exit through the narthex and not stop or gather in the sanctuary, the entrance to the sanctuary, or on the ramp.
4. Pastor Tony will move to the Portico entrance to talk with members that wish to drive by and speak with him.

AFTER THE SERVICE OR BETWEEN SERVICES [Volunteers / Outside Cleaning Service]

1. Wipe down the back and sides of chairs and pews.
2. Remove articles or trash that is left 3. Check and clean restrooms (only the second floor bathrooms will be accessible)



***To the Glory of God and
In Loving Memory***

Hal Merriott

By Tom and Ann Ridenhour
By Tom and Carole Grady
By Maureen Hollmeyer

William Patrick Downs

By Tom and Carole Grady



- ◆ **Ralph & Sandy Barnhardt**
- ◆ **Joan and Pat Mahoney**
- ◆ **Cliff and Lee Caffrey**
- ◆ **Richard Benz** **Phyllis Harward**
- ◆ **Clary Phillips** **Doris Smith**
- ◆ **Alex Patterson** **Alex Barnhardt**
- ◆ **Don Eng** **Bill Hardister**
- ◆ **Richard Benz** **David Smith**
- ◆ **Judy McAnulty** **Terri Fleck**
- ◆ **Carole Grady** **Ray Faggart**
- ◆ **Barbara Merrell**
- ◆ **Chelsea Rhymer Larkin, friend of
Deborah Bradshaw**
- ◆ **Kevin Velasco, friend of Lois Marlow**
- ◆ **Our homebound members, all in need
of prayer**



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|---------|--|
| Nov. 1 | Juanita Fitts |
| Nov. 2 | Mary Elizabeth Stewart
Patricia Weisel |
| Nov. 3 | David Cruse
Kerri Kiker |
| Nov. 4 | David Klein |
| Nov. 6 | Ed Ballard |
| Nov. 7 | Brittany Wilson |
| Nov. 8 | Deborah Bradshaw |
| Nov. 9 | Chip Harward, Jr. |
| Nov. 10 | Edith Gronynor
Orietta Grady
Bradley Propst |
| Nov. 11 | Jazmin Harward
Ben Kuly
Erin Kuly
Tom Ridenhour |
| Nov. 14 | Kim Johnson |
| Nov. 15 | Douglas McAnulty
Jimmy Summers |
| Nov. 16 | Heidi Patterson
Noah Pittard |
| Nov. 17 | Jane Craver
Buddy McEachern, Jr. |
| Nov. 18 | Emerson Baker |
| Nov. 19 | LeeAnn Miller |
| Nov. 20 | Ralph Barnhardt |
| Nov. 26 | Lauri Fowler |
| Nov. 28 | Lee Caffrey
Kyleigh Hughes |
| Nov. 29 | Garrett Baker |
| Nov. 30 | Patrick Matthews |

SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs

of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46





SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day 9:30 am Online Worship 5:00 pm Youth In-Person	2	3	4 9:30 College Online	5 6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre-2nd 7:00 pm Bible Heroes 3rd – 5th	6 7:00 pm Youth Drive-In Movie	7
8 Pentecost 23 9:30 am Online Worship 10:00 am Sunday School – Zoom 5:00 pm Youth Zoom	9	10 6:00 pm Congregation Council	11 7:00 pm Drive-In Worship 9:30 College Online 	12 6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre-2nd 7:00 pm Bible Heroes 3rd – 5th	13 7:00 pm Youth Drive-In Movie	14
15 Pentecost 24 10:00 am In-Person Worship 5:00 pm Youth In-Person	16	17	18 9:30 College Online	19 6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre-2nd 7:00 pm Bible Heroes 3rd – 5th	20	21
22 Christ the King 10:00 am In-Person Worship 2:00 pm Confirmation Cluster 5:00 pm Youth Zoom	23	24	25 7:00 pm Drive-In Worship 	26 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28
29 Advent 1 10:00 am In-Person Worship No Youth	30					