

The Beacon

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near."

Isaiah 55:6



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Sherrie McKean, Secretary
Office Hours: 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Monday-Friday
Gary Reitzel, Custodian

Council Members: Wesley Stinson (Vice Chair), Karen Stewart (Secretary),
Celia Reece (Treasurer), Robert & Darbie Crouch, Kristen Link,
Kristy Painter, Ashton Hatley, and Tanya Stinson

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ST. MARK: A Voice of the Saints.

(Our Thursday Morning Bible Study group at St. James is currently walking through the Gospel of Mark. In my reading of Bert Ghezzi's wonderful edition of "A Voice of the Saints" [2024, Word on Fire Publishing] I came across this essay on the first century Mark that we've come to know through the New Testament. I've edited it due to its length, but it gives us a glimpse of the ever-elusive person of Mark.)

Some speculate that St. Mark slipped a self-portrait into his Gospel. He is supposed to be the young man who followed Jesus after his arrest. Mark says that he was wearing nothing more than a linen cloth, and when the mob grabbed him, he left them holding his cloak and fled naked (see Mark 14:51). Perhaps Mark recounted this vignette to confess a fault he felt deeply. But like Peter, whom Mark later served as an associate and interpreter, he became a faithful and hardworking disciple.

We usually identify the saint with John Mark, the son of Mary, whose house in Jerusalem was a gathering place for the Twelve (Acts 12:12 and 25). Barnabas, his cousin, was a Levite from Cyprus, and we may guess that Mark shared his roots. When Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch from Jerusalem, they took Mark with them. And he joined them on their missionary journey to Cyprus.

Paul, however, lost confidence in Mark because he left the team and returned to Jerusalem. He opposed Barnabas' desire to take Mark on the next mission, and thus he became the issue that divided Barnabas and Paul. However, Paul later changed his mind about Mark, who had helped him during his first imprisonment (Colossians 4:10). Just before his martyrdom, Paul urged Timothy to "get Mark and bring him with you, for he is helpful to me in the ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11).

Mark may have written his Gospel at Rome shortly before AD 70. His account of the Jesus story, the shortest of the four Gospels, is simple and direct, and charged with reality. Consider, for example, his stark report of the resurrection (Mark 16:1-18).

Tradition says that Mark died, possibly as a martyr, in Egypt, serving as bishop of Alexandria. St. Mark's day of commemoration is April 25.



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Nights - 7:00 pm in the Library to study the upcoming Sunday scriptures.
Thursday Mornings (Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26) - 10:30 am in the Choir Room with Pastor Ken



CATECHISM INSTRUCTION for 5th, 6th and 7th GRADERS

Confirmation Saturday

Mar. 21 @ 9:30am-12:00pm
May 16 @ 9:30am-12:00pm

WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (9:30am)



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|----------------|---------------------|--|
| Children (NEW) | Upstairs | Infant - 4 years |
| Children | Upstairs | Grades K-4 th |
| Youth (NEW) | Upstairs | Grades 5 th -12 th |
| Adults | Library | |
| Adults | Fellowship Building | |

GRADES 5th through 12th

Sunday, Feb. 8 @ 6:00 pm - Super Bowl Party
Sunday, Feb. 22 @ 5:00 pm - Bible Study & Games
Sunday, Mar. 8 @ 5:00 pm - Jacob's Ice Cream
Sunday, Mar. 22 @ 5:00 pm - Easter Party Preparation



WOMEN'S GROUP meets on Monday, February 2nd at 7:00 pm.
WOMEN'S CRAFT DAY is Thursday, February 5th at 2:00 pm.
RE-DEDICATION OF FELLOWSHIP BUILDING & SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH - February 8th following Worship Service.
EVANGELISM COMMITTEE meets on Wednesday, February 11th at 6:30 pm in the Library.
CHURCH COUNCIL meets on Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 pm in the Library.
WOMEN'S CRAFT DAY is Tuesday, February 17th at 10:00 am with lunch to follow.
SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER is February 17th at 6:00 pm.
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE is February 18th at 7:00 pm.
MEN'S BREAKFAST is Sunday, February 22nd at 8:00 am.
BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS are in the Secretary's office following Worship Service on Sunday, February 22nd.
LENTEN SUPPER & BIBLE STUDY is Sunday, February 22nd at 6:00 pm. (see below)

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EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Committee will be having their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 17th at 6:00 pm. Please come and enjoy fellowship and a meal together. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11th at 6:30 pm in the Library.

Gary Reitzel, Chairman

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LENT AT ST. JAMES

On Sunday's beginning at 6:00 pm, we will enjoy supper and Bible Study in the Fellowship Building by *Reading the Psalms with Martin Luther*. The dates are February 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, and March 22.

ST. JAMES' WOMEN'S GROUP

CRAFTING QUEENS

We will start meeting in February for a few months while it is too cold to get out and do anything else. Our first project will begin on Thursday, February 5th at 2:00 pm. The second date in February is Tuesday, February 17th at 10:00 am with lunch to follow. We hope to have a good turnout to start projects for the Bazaar.

LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten services will start on Sunday, February 22nd at 6:00 pm. We will start the first service with a covered dish meal. We will have soup and sandwiches for the remaining Sunday evening services. A sign-up sheet will be available on the first night.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

I wanted to inform everyone that after some delays and setbacks, the Directory has been submitted and we should have a copy to approve within a couple of weeks. Once approved, we should have our copies back with 2-3 weeks. Sorry for the delay, but we feel that everyone will be pleased.

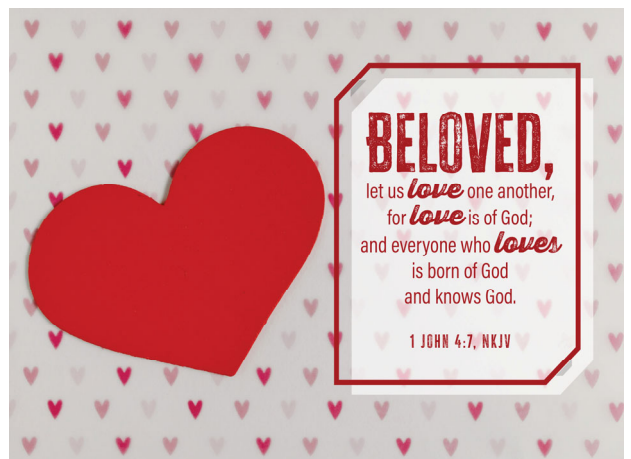
BAZAAR PAYOUTS

Thanks to all!! Our final total income was \$8,545.00. We paid registration fees for AHG and Trail Life troops. We supported Pregnancy Care Center, Family Care Center, Exodus House, Wood for Warriors, Meals on Wheels, Liam White, and helped with the purchase of new costumes for the children's Christmas program. In addition, we gave money to help with another church project as needed. Because of all the hard work and countless hours put in by everyone, the 2025 Bazaar was a **HUGE** success!!

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SPECIAL DATES IN FEBRUARY

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| February 2 | Groundhog Day |
| February 14 | Valentine's Day |
| February 15 | Transfiguration Sunday |
| February 16 | Presidents Day |
| February 18 | Ash Wednesday |





- 2. Victor Lineberger
- 3. Amy Brown, Brandon Nelson
- 6. Linda Sipe, Preston Workman
- 8. Seth Ford, Lorelai O'Brien
- 9. Regina Lee
- 10. Shanna Smyre Rabon
- 13. Judy Brown, Taylor & Zach Harris,
Ron Sipe
- 14. Colby Collins, Max Lowman
- 16. Heather Hagan
- 18. Susie Devine, Earl Sipe
- 20. Annabelle Hernandez
- 21. Kristy Estep
- 22. Allison Ford
- 23. Bill Armstrong, Joseph Reitzel,
Dwayne Sipe
- 25. Kaitlyn Stewart
- 26. Lynn Hill



- 1. Amy Bolick, Rick Heavner, Bobbie Sain
- 3. David L Link, Jessie Sipe, Margaret Travis
- 4. Ricky Estep
- 6. Molly Booher, Isaac Crouch
- 8. Jessica Beal, Bain Sipe
- 11. Kristy Painter
- 16. Benjamin Stewart
- 17. Jane Sain
- 19. Sharon Arnold
- 21. Janice Elmore, Donna Sigmon
- 23. Jeff Link
- 25. Torre Boldon
- 26. Bob Hullet
- 28. Susan Cook, Jill Raines
- 29. Ashton Hatley



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. & Mrs. Kelly York 3. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sipe 6. Ps. & Mrs. John Lingle 9. Mr. & Mrs. Victor Paquin 21. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smyre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Mr. & Mrs. Chris Painter 9. Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Clark 12. Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Brittain 22. Mr. & Mrs. Nickie Sain |
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THE LAITY TEAM

The Laity Team plans to meet monthly to assess the current status of Church members. Prayers, cards, encouragement, and support to each other is our calling from our Lord. Kristy Painter or Keeley Stikeleather, co-chairs, may be contacted. The committee consists of Robin Burgess, Betty Hawn, Sue Lindley, and Claire Sipe. God's continued blessings and peace to everyone.

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Many thanks to everyone for the gift card at Christmas time.

Molly Booher

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