



# The Beacon

*"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." John 14:27*



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St. James Lutheran Church NALC   Telephone: (828) 464-1953   Fax: (828) 465-2084

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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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## “Christmas Prayer”

by  
St. Ephrem the Syrian (306-373)

The feast day of your birth resembles you, Lord,  
because it brings joy to all humanity.  
Old people and infants alike enjoy your day.  
Your day is celebrated from generation to generation.

Kings and emperors may pass away,  
and the festivals to commemorate them soon lapse.  
But your festival will be remembered until the end of time.  
Your day is a means and a pledge of peace.

At your birth, heaven and earth were reconciled,  
since you came from heaven and earth on that day,  
You forgave our sins and wiped away our guilt.

You gave us so many gifts on the day of your birth;  
a treasure of spiritual medicines for the sick;  
spiritual light for the blind;  
a cup of salvation for the thirsty;  
the bread of life for the hungry.

In the winter when the trees are bare, you give us  
the most succulent fruit.  
In the frost when the earth is barren, you bring new  
hope to our souls.  
In December when seeds are hidden in the soil, the  
staff of life springs forth from the virgin womb.

### About Saint Ephrem (author of “Christmas Prayer”)

Saint Ephrem had a prolific pen, and his writings best illumine his holiness. Although he was not a man of great scholarship, his works reflect deep insight and knowledge of the Scriptures. In writing about the mysteries of humanity's redemption, Ephrem reveals a realistic and humanly sympathetic spirit and a great devotion to the humanity of Jesus.

It is surprising to read that he wrote hymns against the heretics of his day. He would take the popular songs of the heretical groups and using their melodies, compose beautiful hymns embodying orthodox doctrine. Saint Ephrem became one of the first to introduce song into the Church's public worship as a means of instruction for the faithful. His many hymns have earned him the title “Harp of the Holy Spirit.”

(references: “Advent & Christmas with the Church Fathers”, TAN Books; [FranciscanMedia.org](http://FranciscanMedia.org).)



## JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Nights - 7:00 pm in the Library to study the upcoming Sunday scriptures.  
Thursday Mornings (Jan 8 & Jan 22) - 10:30 am in the Choir Room with Pastor Ken



## CATECHISM INSTRUCTION for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> GRADERS

Confirmation Saturday

Jan. 24 @ 9:30am-12:00pm



## WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (9:30am)

Children (NEW)	Upstairs	Infant - 4 years
Children	Upstairs	Grades K-4 <sup>th</sup>
Youth (NEW)	Upstairs	Grades 5 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>
Adults	Library	
Adults	Fellowship Building	



## GRADES 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, Jan. 4 @ 3:30 pm - Bowling: Pin Station  
Sunday, Jan. 18 @ 3:00 pm - Bible Study & Games  
Sunday, Feb. 8 @ 5:30 pm - Super Bowl Party  
Sunday, Feb. 22 @ 5:00 pm - Bible Study & Games

**WOMEN'S GROUP** meets on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Library.

**SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH** - January 11<sup>th</sup> following Worship Service.

**EVANGELISM COMMITTEE** meets on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Library.

**RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE** - January 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Building.

**WORSHIP & MUSIC** meets on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** is Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS** are in the Secretary's office following Worship Service on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

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## **ST. JAMES' WOMENS GROUP**

**MONTHLY MEETING:** The Ladies will meet on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**CRAFTING QUEENS:** There will not be any crafting days in January. A crafting date will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm to see what interest this date and time may hold for anyone during the cold weather. A second day will be on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am with lunch to follow.

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## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Library. On Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, we will host our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the Fellowship Building.

Gary Reitzel, Chairman



1. Marshall Sigmon
6. Jeff Arndt, Logan Arney, Jean Harris, Dakota Smith
7. Darbie Crouch, Adam Dixon
8. Joe Devine
10. Todd Sipe
11. Sue Lindley
15. Nell Houser
17. Rue Horne, Dottie Rudisill
18. Ray Ford Jr, Jimmy Long, J.C. Sipe, Kade Preston Warren
19. Jamie Smyre Smith
20. Betty Hawn, Tracy Montgomery
22. Reagan Saunders, Charlie Sigmon
24. Averi Crouch O'Brien
25. Kay Sigmon
27. Jeremy Clark, Amber Crouch, Tammy Link
28. Joe Dean Sigmon
29. Teresa Turner



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



17. Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Sipe
29. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Smyre

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

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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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THE LAITY TEAM



Many thanks to everyone for all the calls and cards from my St. James family at Christmas time.

Linda Carswell

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THE LAITY TEAM



The American Red Cross Blood Mobile will be at St. James on January 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 7:00 pm. Please consider giving blood if you are able.

## THANKFUL AND BLESSED



David Link replenished and replanted the flower beds around the Fellowship Building. David cleaned out the gutters around the church building.



Benjamin is installing new wiring for our WiFi.



The Evangelism Committee put together luminaries for our Christmas Eve Service.

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Maiden High School JROTC leads the procession into the graveyard.



The Main Speaker is Lt. Col. Joseph Thomas, Senior JROTC leader at MHS.

Veterans post a wreath in remembrance of each branch of service.



David Thornburg played *Amazing Grace* on the bagpipes.

Gun salute performed by American Legion Post 16 Honor Guard.



Gabby lays a wreath at a Veteran's grave



American Heritage Girls Troop 0333

## A VERY MIXED UP CHRISTMAS - CHILDREN'S PLAY 2025



### SPECIAL DATES IN JANUARY

January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	Epiphany
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day

