

The Beacon

"I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications."

Psalm 116:1



Volume 8

August 2023

Issue 89

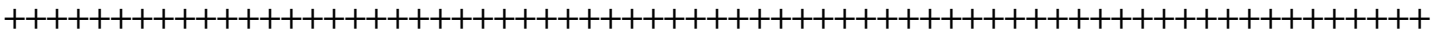
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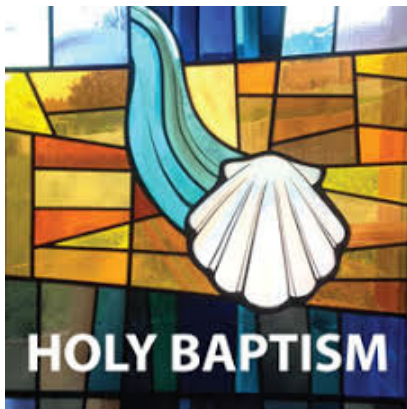
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From the desk of Pastor Ken



Do you remember your baptism?

Many of you do not because you were young when it happened. Or, maybe some of you do because you were older. Martin Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (2017, Concordia Publishing: St. Louis) gives us a clearer understanding of and adds scriptural voices to the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, from Matt. 28:19, according to the institution of Christ (also read Matt. 3:13-17).

+ As Christians, we are God's baptized people! We are his adopted children, together with all believers, and we live and die in the confidence that he has redeemed us and we are his. +

What does the word baptize mean?

Baptize typically means "to wash with water," whether by immersing, pouring, or sprinkling. Christian baptism refers to the washing with water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (read Mark 7:4).

What is different about the water of Baptism?

The water in itself is not different or holier than any other water, but because "God's Word and command are added to it," it is a "divine water." (Ephesians 5:25-26, Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water and the word.)

Who instituted Holy Baptism?

Our Lord Jesus Christ, after his death and resurrection, commanded his church to baptize all nations (in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by men, but by God himself. Therefore, although it is by human hands, it is truly still God's own work. In baptism, God puts his saving name on us and is truly present to bless us with all his gifts and his children as heirs. (read Num. 6:23-27, Exodus 20:24, and 1 Kings 8:27-30, 1 Kings 9:3.)

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

The **Worship and Music Committee** will meet on Thursday, August 3 at 6:30 p.m.

A **Property Committee Workday** is scheduled for Saturday, August 5 at 8:00 a.m.

The **Women's Meeting** will be Monday, August 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room. All women of the church are invited to attend.

The **Evangelism Committee** will meet on Wednesday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Building.

Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Community Blood Drive is August 23 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. See page 3.
Choir Rehearsal will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Acolyte Training for the Youth and Adults will be August 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

The **Men's Breakfast** will be on Sunday, August 27 at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Building.

Blessing of the bookbags will be August 27 during the Worship Service.

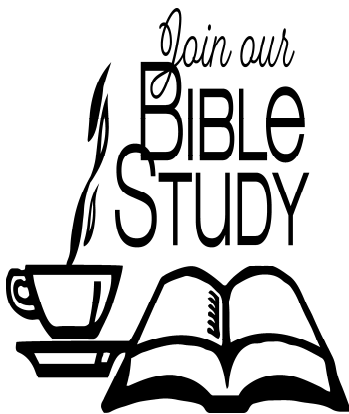
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NEW - Thursday Morning Bible Study each week
with Pastor Ken @ 10:30am
beginning Sept. 7th in the Fellowship Bldg.

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BIBLE STUDY CLASS



Our weekly Bible Study Class continues **every Tuesday night** in the Fellowship Building at 7:00 p.m. Each week we read, discuss, and pray on the readings for the upcoming Sunday Worship Service. The Holy Spirit, working in and through God's Word, opens our hearts and minds to better understand and more fully appreciate the proclamation of the Gospel on Sunday morning.

Come join us! All are welcome!

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IMPORTANT DATES IN AUGUST

Purple Heart Day

August 7



AUGUST Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3. Pastor Bob Alle
- 4. Robin Burgess, Gary Reitzel, Nora Smyre
- 5. Barbara Sigmon, Chris Travis
- 8. Alexis Barr Horne, Johnnie Bolick
- 10. Jeff Sigmon
- 12. Emily Barr, Laura Miller
- 14. Jessie Clark, Kyle & Montana Lineberger, Cheryl Sigmon
- 15. Kristen Helton
- 17. Jessica Little, Nicole Morrison, Joe Verbos
- 20. Jack Reed
- 21. Barbara Harris
- 23. Gabby Hernandez
- 25. Emmett Clark, Nancy Spriggs
- 28. Kyle Thompson
- 31. Raegan Black, Steve Ferguson, John Houser

SEPTEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1. Debra Self, Amanda Young Valone
- 3. Tanya Stinson, Janey Link Thern
- 4. Scott Arney, Darby Crouch
- 5. Jerry Stikeleather
- 8. Tim Sipe
- 9. Lindsey Arney
- 10. Carolyn Travis
- 12. Andy Sipe
- 14. Gracie Elizabeth Sipe
- 16. William Stewart
- 17. Amber Beal
- 20. Barbara Smith
- 21. Robert Dixon
- 22. Wally Hill
- 23. Logan Devine, Luke Devine, Zachery Lowman
- 24. Dennis Craig, Ellen Miller
- 27. Johnny Sigmon



- 5. Mr. & Mrs. Andy Sipe
- 6. Mr. & Mrs. Clay Chapman
- 14. Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Craig
- 23. Mr. & Mrs. J C Sipe

- 3. Mr. & Mrs. Ben Young
- 14. Mr. & Mrs. Joe Devine
- 16. Mr. & Mrs. Chad Deal
- 17. Mr. & Mrs. John Schlie
- 20. Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sharpe
- 21. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Crouch
- 26. Mr. & Mrs. Luke Devine
- 27. Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne Sipe

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THE LAITY TEAM

Keeping with our Lord's calling and care for our members of St. James, a Laity Team will be checking on other members to see if they need anything. We are ALL in this together — One Body in Christ!

Call Kristy Painter or Keeley Stikeleather (co-chairs) at any time to pray with and support our members with health issues and/or surgeries.

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COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

St. James is hosting a Blood Drive!

Wednesday, August 23 from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Building. You can sign up online.

See Sharon Sipe or Connie Bell for more information or if you would like to donate snacks.

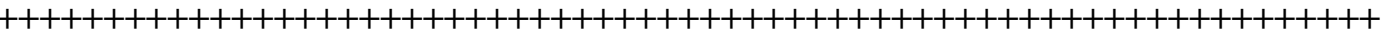
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The **Council Minutes** are updated each month and are in the Library for all members. Anyone who wants a copy emailed to them may contact Benjamin Stewart at Benjamin@stewart.tc. The minutes will no longer be published in the newsletter.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Thanks to everyone who came out for the ice cream social and to hear the Cockman Family entertain us. We are blessed to have so many folks willing to help make our projects successful.

On September 9th, we are planning a trip to West Jefferson and that area, with a few stops on the way. We will also visit the Cheese House and other businesses there. Lunch will be at the Winners Circle Restaurant in Jefferson, NC. Depending on the number of folks going, cost should be no more than \$35.00. You will be responsible for the cost of your meal. We will have a sign-up sheet available by Aug. 20th. If you have questions or suggestions, call any member of the Evangelism team (Celia, Gary, Joy, Joseph, Margie, Susan H., Tanya or Wesley.)



Did you know that there are benefits to singing? According to an article by Alexandra Moe in the *Washington Post* called "Singing is good for you. Singing with others may be even better," there are many benefits to singing – especially in a group! According to The "Sing With Us" study, singing in the choir is linked to "reduced stress hormones and increased cytokines, proteins that can boost the body's ability to fight serious illness. Other studies have found

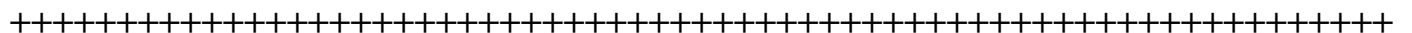
a connection between singing generally with lessened anxiety, stimulated memory for those with dementia, increased lung capacity, and an easing of postpartum depression." The article also states that choirs are like large families and singing in them helps contribute to a sense of belonging and joy and that people who sing in choirs are found to be more optimistic, more likely to vote, less lonely, possess stronger relationships, and more likely to contribute positively to their communities than non-singers.

Think you can't sing? "If you can breathe and make sound, you can sing and receive its benefits," says Suze Zumpe, creative director of ENO Breathe.

"Singing has numerous health benefits for older adults too: fewer falls, doctor visits and prescription drugs, better social connections and better cognitive function, according to a study sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts."

Do you want to reap the benefits of singing in our choir? Choir rehearsal begins Wednesday, August 23 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us!

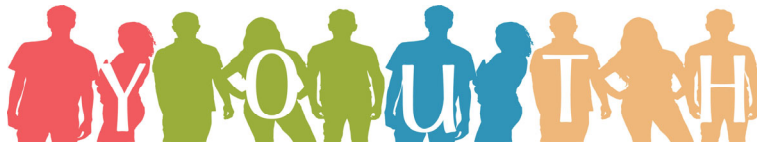
Kristy Painter, Choir Director



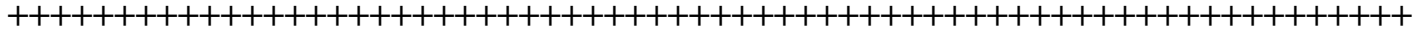
The **St. James Church Car & Truck Show** will be on Saturday, September 16, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The rain date will be September 23rd.

Registration is \$15.00. To pre-register, please contact Randy Cline (828) 234-7952 or Jeff Sigmon (828) 640-3304.





The **American Heritage Girls** will participate in the Soldier’s Reunion Parade in downtown Newton on Thursday, August 17. They will begin their new year on August 28. *Wreaths Across America*, which the AHG and Trail Life Boys sponsor, will be held on December 16 at 12:00 p.m. You may purchase a wreath beginning in August.



NALC Young Adult Gathering

May 5-11, 2024

Winnipeg, Manitoba

The NALC Young Adult Gathering is a week-long gathering where young adults from all over North America gather to study God’s Word and witness together. The gathering is for members of NALC congregations ages 18 to 28.

This year the participants will be doing mission work in inner-city Winnipeg.

Winnipeg is a city of almost 850,000 people, and we will be ministering to the physical and social needs of the most vulnerable as well as being a witness for Christ and the Gospel during the day and studying the Word together in the evenings.

Cost of the gathering is only \$50 plus personal travel to Winnipeg.

Cost of accommodations, food, and transportation at the gathering are being covered by the Canadian Mission District.

NALC Continental Youth Gathering

July 1-4, 2024

Boerne, Texas

The NALC Continental Youth Gathering is a four-day gathering to provide opportunities for NALC youth to grow in faith and relationships with others as the Body of Christ. It is a time to worship together, study God’s Word, be equipped through large and small group sessions, reach out to the community through mission events, and engage in fellowship and fun.

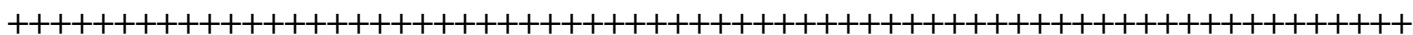
Youth ages 12-18 can attend as youth participants.

Young adults ages 19-24 can attend as leaders in training.

Adults over age 24 can attend as team leaders.

Cost of the gathering is \$250 for youth and adults and \$175 for leaders in training.

For more information on the youth gathering go to thenalc.org/cyg.



On Sunday, August 6, William Stewart is hosting a luncheon following the worship service. This is a fundraiser for his Freedom Award Project, the highest rank in the Trail Life program. The boys will be fixing hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and other good foods. Please plan to stay and help William support his project.

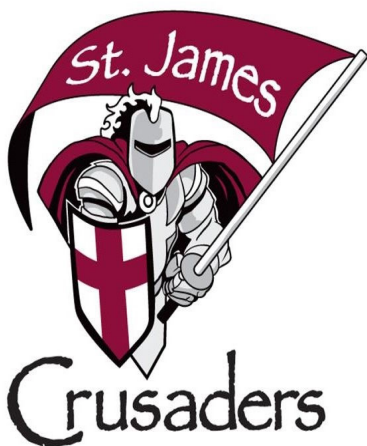


in Kentucky and Ohio

On our way to serve in Springfield, Ohio, we stopped by the Ark Encounter in Kentucky to see this display of what Noah's Ark may have contained and looked like. The next day, we headed to Ohio, where we slept in classrooms, worshipped in a gym, ate in the cafeteria, and served in various homes across the community. We had a great week, each of us facing the challenges God presented with the love and support of our church and fellow workers.

This trip marked Noah and Gabby's first experience, and Donovan's last as a youth participant. I believe that everyone would be willing to go again, though!

Thank you once again, St. James, for all of your love, support, and help to make this possible!



JULY HAPPENINGS AT ST. JAMES

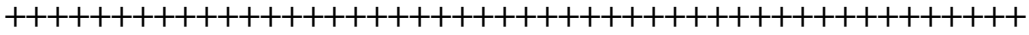


CONGRATULATIONS!!

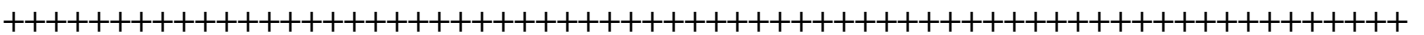
Mildred (Millie) Gilbert joined our congregation. She is the sister of Margie Moose. Welcome!!

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On Sat. June 22, Raymond Cline and Betty Williams were married.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL WITH THE COCKMAN FAMILY



St. James Senior Citizens,

Thank You

Thank you for the memorial in memory of Glenn. Your thoughts and prayers during the passing of Dad were truly felt by his family.

Robert & Darbie Crouch