

The Beacon

"The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable."

James 3:17



Volume 8

July 2023

Issue 88

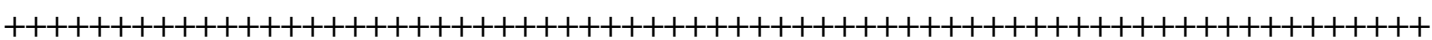
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From the desk of Pastor Ken

In last month's newsletter I shared a reflective devotional on the first half of the Lord's Prayer. Below is the second part. This prayer is a foundational part of the Lutheran-Christian tradition that appears in each worship setting, including occasional services (i.e. baptisms, funeral rites, weddings, individual confession and forgiveness). As I mentioned last month, these reflections are from the scripture and prayer book "For All the Saints, Volume II, Year 1. Again, the author is unknown, but the tone imagines a holy and honest monologue toward God who welcomes our contrite heart with renewal and forgiveness.



I cannot pray **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD...**
without expending honest effort for it, or, if I would withhold from my neighbor the bread I receive.

I cannot pray **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US...**
If I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot pray **LEAD US NOT INTO TO TEMPTATION...**
if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray **DELIVER US FROM EVIL...**
if I am not prepared to fight evil with my life and my prayer.

I cannot pray **THINE IS THE KINGDOM...**
If I am unwilling to obey the King.

I cannot pray **THINE IS THE POWER AND GLORY...**
if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory first.

I cannot pray **FOREVER AND EVER...**
If I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot pray **AMEN...**
Unless I honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer."

In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther writes this regarding the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer:

What does this mean? It means that I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable for our heavenly Father and are heard by him, for he himself has commanded us to pray in this manner and has promised to hear us. So we pray with confidence: "Amen," meaning, "Yes, it shall be so."

JULY ACTIVITIES

The **Women's Meeting** will be Monday, July 10 at 7:00 pm in the Assembly Room. All women of the church are invited to attend.

The **Evangelism Committee** will meet on Wednesday, July 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Building.

The **Worship and Music Committee** will meet on July 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, July 19 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Men's Breakfast** will be on Sunday, July 23 at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Building.

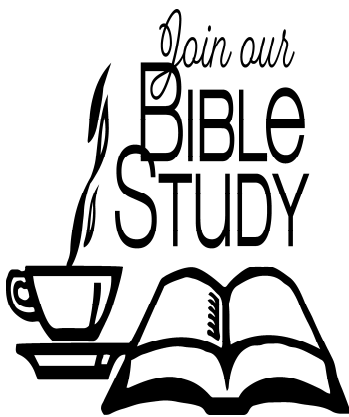
Ice Cream Social is Sunday, July 23, at 3:00 p.m. See page 4.

Our "**Book Sharing**" is an on-going success! We have an abundance of books at this time. Please remember our neighboring children who are out of school this summer and may need food on a recurring basis. Please help to keep our **Blessing Box** filled to help families in need.

There are **Collection Bins** in the Narthex for plastic bags, eye glasses, and bottle tops.

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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 JULY

Canada Day	July 1
Independence Day	July 4



JULY
Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4. Benji Burgess
- 5. Chris Clark
- 6. Jerry Abernathy, Travis Lee
- 9. John Schlie, Jon Travis, Glenda Verbos
- 10. Wrenn Travis
- 11. Louis Setzer
- 12. Tina Beal, Brian Sipe, Sandra Turner
- 13. David Arndt
- 14. Rodney Miller
- 18. Marilyn Craig
- 21. Emma Dixon
- 23. Linda Carswell
- 25. Jean Link, Robin Sigmon, Brent Stewart
- 26. Gary Burgess, Reagan Painter
- 31. Noah Dixon

AUGUST
Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3. Pastor Bob Alle
- 4. Robin Burgess, Gary Reitzel, Nora Smyre
- 5. Barbara Sigmon, Chris Travis
- 8. Alexis Barr, 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



- 2. Mr. & Mrs. George Young
- 3. Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hullet
- 5. Mr. & Mrs. Ron Sipe
- 8. Mr. & Mrs. Jared Little
- 20. Pastor & Mrs. Ken Reed
Mr. & Mrs. Brent Stewart

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

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THE LAITY TEAM

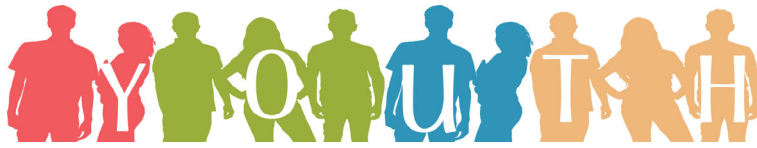
Keeping with our Lord's calling and care for our members of St. James, a Laity Team will be checking on other members to see if they need anything. We are ALL in this together — One Body in Christ!

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.



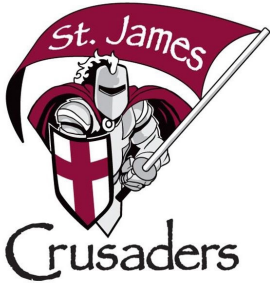
* EMILY BARR—received her Associates Degree in Nursing from CVCC in May.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are starting an Opening each Sunday morning at 9:30 for our children. We will be learning songs and Bible Verses. We will then go to class for our lesson.

We would love to have more teachers! If you could help us out even one or two times, it would be greatly appreciated. All lessons and supplies will be provided. Please see Keeley Stikeleather or Lori Devine if you can help. Thank you!

Well, St. James, you did it again. And all I can say is THANK YOU!!



So, what did you do this time? You have launched another group of eager, faith-filled Crusaders to go out in the world and be the hands and feet of Christ.

The deadline for this newsletter coincides with the first day of our mission trip. We will be serving in Springfield, Ohio, in many ways, but always representing St. James Lutheran Church from Newton, NC (unless they misbehave; then they will be from the Methodist Church :)).

The theme for this year’s trip is FORGED. And I can’t wait to see the results of this week on each one of these youth. They will be forged through...

- ...sacrifice (no home-cooked meals or warm, comfy beds)
- ...work (hard labor, where they will be working to improve someone’s life)
- ...outreach (meeting others, who may not be Christians, and bringing Christ to them)
- ...community (meeting others from around the country whom they will be working with)
- ...and faith (focusing on God’s Word and how it applies to their lives not only this week but always)

I look forward to hearing them tell you of their experiences, adventures, and God sightings. I am sure God has something BIG planned for each one of them.

Thank you again for making this possible!

Your servant in Christ,
Karen Stewart

The **American Heritage Girls** will participate in the Soldier’s Reunion Parade in downtown Newton on Thursday, August 17.

EVANGELISM TEAM

We thank everyone who made our Bingo Day so much fun. There were lots of cakes, cookies and other gifts for winners to choose from and everyone went home with one. The snacks and watermelon were an added treat. Thanks again to all!

This month on July 23rd, we are sponsoring our annual Ice Cream Social. At 3:00 pm the Cockman Family will be here to entertain us with their lively bluegrass and gospel music. It is always a joy to see their little ones join the family in song. Please bring a freezer of your favorite homemade ice cream and delicious cakes and cookies to share if you can. Drinks will be provided. You may want to bring your favorite lawn chair for added comfort.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

Thank You

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family. Your thoughts and prayers were felt in our hearts during the passing of Glenn. He will be missed. Please know that he loved this church and all of you.
The Crouch Family

Thank you so much for your continued support as we grow to support more in crisis in our community. We truly couldn't without your generosity. Thank you for helping us continue to provide a hand up to those in need.
Jenny Daugherty, ECCCM

On behalf of The Corner Table, we would like to express our appreciation for the continued support of our mission. Through your donations, we are able to "Feed the Need" in our community. Your generosity allows us to continue caring for those who are less fortunate. Blessings.

The Corner Table

Thank you for your ongoing support of Lutheran World Relief. Your love is being put to work caring for our neighbors in need around the world. I'm so grateful for your partnership in this work.

Emma Wagner, Lutheran World Relief

Note found in Blessing Box: Thank you for the Blessing. Please pray for us. God knows.

Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

B J K Q X Z

BWJITJHQHOB LZD GBOOK
DKFQROMTBHJOB SQEXZT
OKXWJHOB MIZTIJSDQKU
EWXBHEQNITKISIZNYOU
RPJZOWBEQRTOAXCZTXJ

DO NOT _____

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27, NIV

Bible Quiz

In what land and at what age did Moses die?

- A. The land of Israel; 100 years old
- B. The land of Canaan; 70 years old
- C. The land of Moab; 120 years old
- D. The land of Judah; 102 years old



Answer: C (See Deuteronomy 34:5, 7.)

PUZZLE

SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion. What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.

FROM as is can	NORTH from far	at the EAST FROM
is South AS	as do EAST far	the THIS up as
WEST that is East	far down WEST	THE be AS West



... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

Answer: As far as the east is from the west

JUNE HAPPENINGS AT ST. JAMES



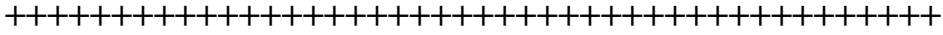
CONGRATULATIONS

to our 2023 High School Graduates:

Donovan Painter

Aiden Stikeleather

Zoie Miller



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



OUR LEADERS (??)



THE GANG HAYRIDING TO LUNCH



HAVING FUN WITH JONAH AND THE WHALE



THANKS TO THE SIGMON 'FARM' FOR THE PIGS, GOATS, BUNNIES, AND CHICKENS