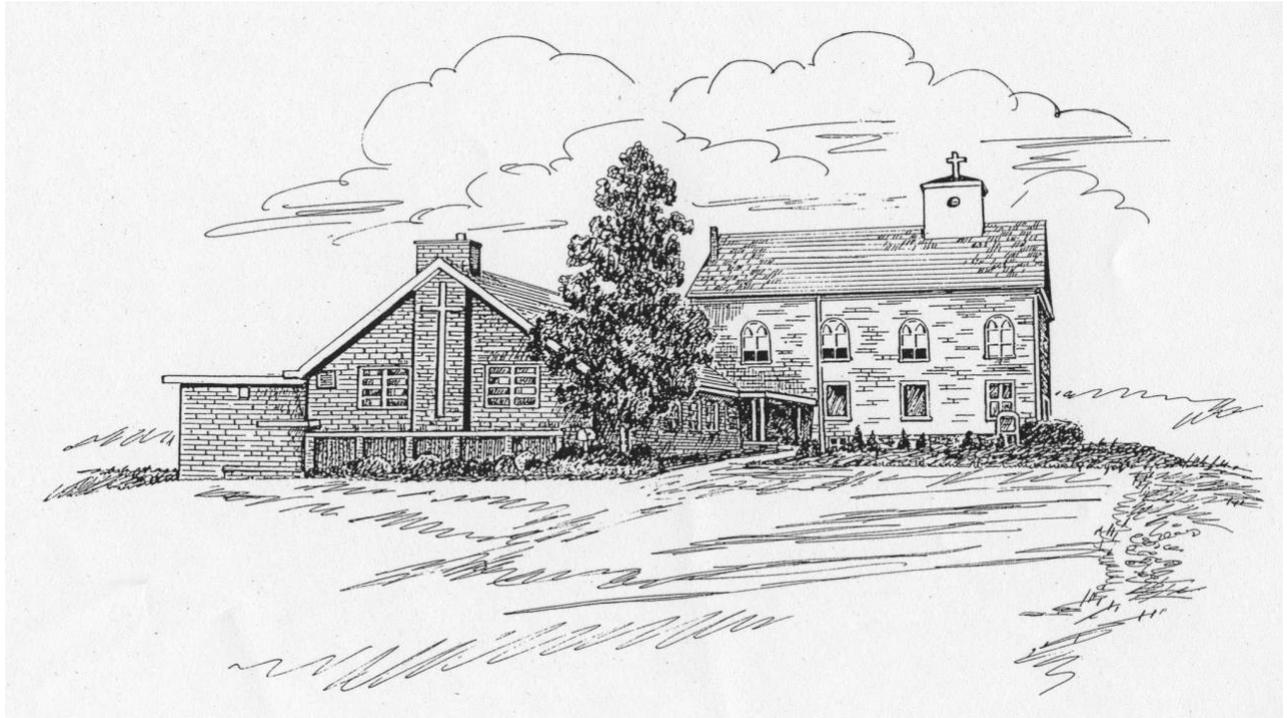


WISPS OF STRAW



St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter

August 2018

Church Office Phone: 908-454-2864

E-mail: strawchurch@gmail.com

Web site: www.strawchurch.com

*“Serving Christ in Word and Deed”
more than 265 Years*

From the Council President

Dear Friends and Members of St James:

The summer is flying by and so much has been and will be happening at St. James!

For those that were able to attend the **Bishop Committee** listening sessions and/or the committee Report Out on Sunday, August 5th *thank you* for taking the time to support the future of St. James. A full report-out is available and I encourage everyone to read and reflect on it. I am also thankful for the committee panel as their support moving forward will aid in bringing new thoughts and ideas to our congregation as we unite to love God.

As we look for opportunities to reach out to the community, I also encourage you all to look for more information in the attached about the upcoming Back Packs and BBQ (Sept 8), the return of the **Straw Breakfast** (Oct 6), and Feast with Friends (Sept 26). Mark your calendar!

Pslam 74:17

It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

More importantly, I invite everyone to **Rally Day** on Sunday, September 9th. As we look to refocus on our spiritual journey for members of all ages, this will not just be the kickoff/registration for Sunday School. Following service on September 9th, we will host a Pot Luck brunch for the congregation (if able, sign up to bring a dish in the Narthex). As we "rally together" - and follow the Gospel that day, we will be reminded that we need to focus on God and **be amazed** at the work of his son Jesus. I'm already excited that our Summer Fun Days (7/13 & 8/15) and VBS were great offerings for our youth opportunities to grow in their faith. So as a **call to action**, we invite all Youth to get ready for a **new year of Sunday School** and invite all congregation members to join in a morning of crafts, fellowships, and - as Lutherans do enjoy - food.

I continue to welcome your thoughts and feedback as we move forward.

Peace,

Dan Gulick

St. James Church Council President

Coming Events

Rally Day - Sunday Sept 9
Service & Pot Luck Brunch
Registration for Sunday School



St. James' Invites You To Backpacks & BBQ

Saturday, September 8
1:00 – 4:30PM

Pickup or Eat In! - \$12
Half Chicken, Baked Beans,
Baked Potato + Cole Slaw

To Order Contact:
Barbara Gulick
barbiegulick@icloud.com

Order
Early!

*Donate a Back-to-School Supply
and get a Free Dessert*

Straw Church Country Breakfast

Back by Popular Demand!

First Saturday of the Month
Starts, October 6, 2018. 8AM - 11AM



Social Ministry Notes

The picnic/BBQ hosted by Dan & Barb Gulick on July 25 was a success. All enjoyed a good time and an abundant of school supplies were collected.

The supplies were picked up on August 10th by Norwescap for distribution by the start of the new school year.

Pastoral Support

We are working closely with NJ Synod, as well as ordained friends of the congregation to staff weekend services.

The upcoming schedule of Saturday & Sunday Pastors is listed in the Narthex and the church website:

<http://www.strawchurch.com/>

For any pastoral needs for members of our congregation, you can contact:

**St. James' Vice-Pastor
Pastor Karol Van Wulfen**

Requests for
Visitations, Funerals, Consuling, etc.

(908) 689-1976
stlukeswashington@verizon.net

Updates on the Sexton's House Project

The Sexton's House project is moving along nicely. Though there were some surprises and we spent most of July with our grandchildren, we are now back in the Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 9 to 3 schedule. For a while the work was slowing down for lack of funds to purchase material. But now, through the generosity of Church members, the need for volunteers is becoming the hold up. We have all kinds of work to do from simple cleaning to overseeing some sub projects. So stop in or call 908-319-7056 and see what work we can match you up with.

The Christmas tree fund raising effort was a great success in getting the project started. The items purchased were discounted from the list price resulting in savings. Ron is way ahead on electrical and Lois has done wonders with the woodwork. The kitchen drywall is almost finished and ready for spackling. Some plumbing work is needed before all the drywall can be put up in the bathroom. The latest excitement was a gift from God in the form of a new red kitchen door from Lowe's at **90%** off.

Very soon we hope to have some volunteers to handle the spackling work which requires skill, patience, and youthful physical strength. Come visit us at your house. We will gladly stop to entertain and show off what has been done.

- Over 650 volunteer hours worked
- Raised so far \$6539.42
- Spent so far \$4223.36
- Balance on hand \$2316.06

Our thanks to everyone for your support of this project.
Dave and Charlotte Morris



St. James Photo Wall



Shipwrecked VBS 2018 An Amazing Island Adventure!

Children from throughout the Phillipsburg area were "shipwrecked" the week of July 23 for a weeklong Vacation Bible School (VBS) where they learned about Jesus and had a little summer fun as well. Through the combined efforts of St. James and Grace Lutheran Churches, we were able to serve 39 children and almost 25 volunteers helped to make the week a success! During the week, kids discovered how Jesus rescues us through life's storms. Our week was filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences with crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, tasty treats, and even campfires and smores! Each day we learned how to see God in everyday life—something we called God Sightings. The children were sad when the week was over and are already asking about next year!

Thank you to Jennifer Fischer for providing the article / photos



Worship Leaders Schedule - August & September

	<u>Communion Setup/Cleanup</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Counters</u>
AUGUST					
Sat. 8/11	Sue Miller				
Sun. 8/12	Marly Raspe	Polly Newbold	Polly Newbold	H. Walters / R. Knoble	D. Gulick / R. Avard
Sat. 8/18	Sue Miller				
Sun. 8/19	Marly Raspe	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris
Sat. 8/25	Sue Miller				
Sun. 8/26	Marly Raspe	Ralph Avard	Ralph Avard	H. Walters / R. Knoble	C. Steible / L. Steible
SEPTEMBER					
Sat. 9/1	Sue Miller				
Sun. 9/2	Marly Raspe	Bob Babcock	Bob Babcock	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Stocker / B. Babcock
Sat. 9/8	Sue Miller				
Sun. 9/9	Marly Raspe	Jaime McLain	Jaime McLain	H. Walters / R. Knoble	D. Gulick / R. Avard
Sat. 9/15	Sue Miller				
Sun. 9/16	Marly Raspe	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris
Sat. 9/22	Sue Miller				
Sun. 9/23	Marly Raspe	Polly Newbold	Polly Newbold	H. Walters / R. Knoble	C. Steible / L. Steible
Sat. 9/29	Sue Miller				
Sun. 9/30	Marly Raspe	Ralph Avard	Ralph Avard	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris

Saturday role data not collected in advance of publication

*In the event that you are unable to serve on your assigned date,
please remember to find a replacement and notify the office of the change*