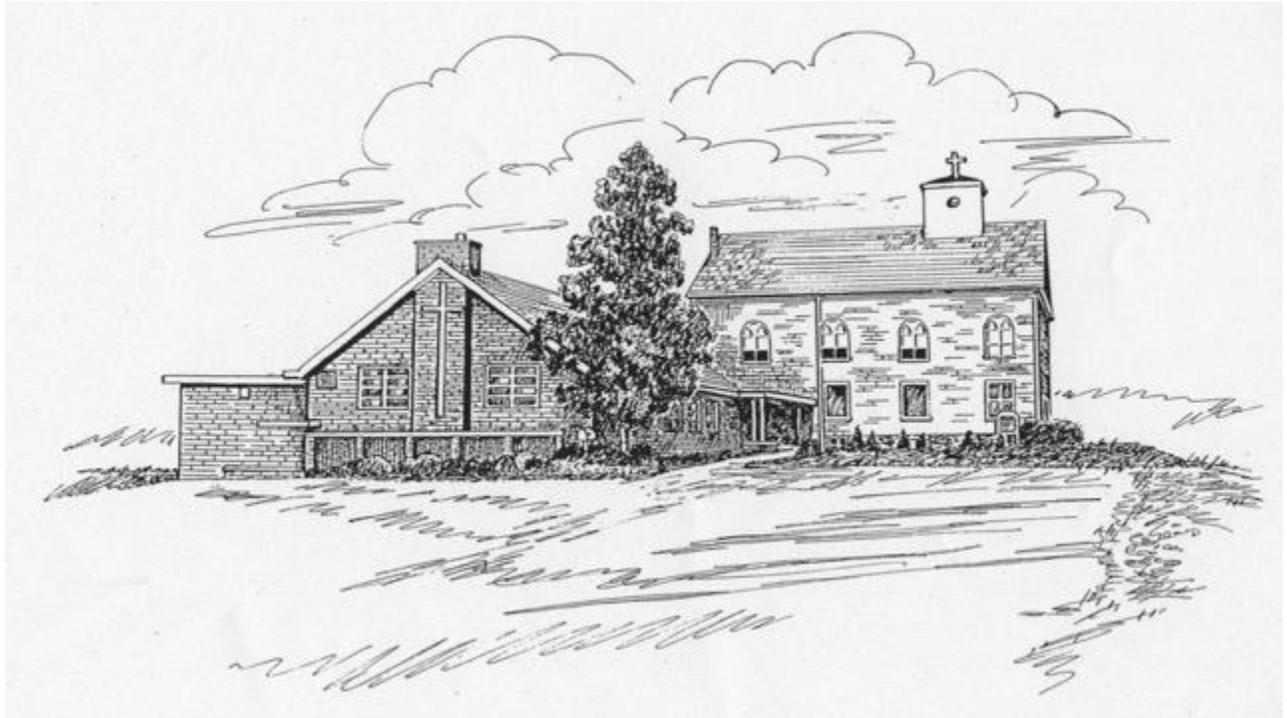


WISPS OF STRAW



St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter

November 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

Friends of St. James:

2018 appears to be flying by, although we need to realize that the year ends with opportunities for reflection, celebration, and most timely – giving thanks.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1st Thessalonians 5:16

Thessalonians says, “give thanks in all circumstances,” although it may seem it is not worth thanking God for *all circumstances*. As we look back, certainly some things are difficult to deal with or filled with tragedy – why give thanks? With the right perspective, realize we are not giving thanks *for* circumstances though *in* circumstances. If you consider that God does not guarantee happiness, yet provides an assurance that He allows events to happen to build our character – the perspective changes.

In this time, giving thanks is our duty, and we owe Thanks to God. We should be thankful for each breath, those who serve us, and for the simple joys of life. Make time this month, and every month, to give thanks for the events that happen to you and to those around you.

Within St. James I am thankful of the events big and small that are continuing to build our congregation and connect us with our community. Our **Season of Healing prayer service** on 10/13 and 10/14 was welcomed by all in attendance and I am thankful for the time that Pastor Schantzenbach, Pastor Van Wolfen and Anthony Capone put in to allow for our self-reflection. Pastor Mark Summers and Anthony Capone will continue to work with Council on strengthening our congregation moving forward. Other activities include the amazing outpouring of support for the **winter clothing drive** that filled the tree in the lobby and the continued growth of our **Church Breakfast** the first Saturday of each month. In addition, we continued **Feast with Friends** and again raised money for Disaster Relief work.

I also want to mention some other activities around the church. We've enhanced the bathroom downstairs with a new fixture making it more “kid” (and adult) friendly! In addition, we've taken down a tree in front of the Church providing better visibility of our building from the road (see the photos). Behind the scenes we are also working on **Christmas Eve services** - which will feature a new brass quartet at the 7PM service.

I want to also give Thanks to the family and friends of St. James. Our road forward will have its ups and downs, and your support helps me to realize that we're traveling through this mission together.

Peace,

Dan Gulick

St. James Church Council President

All Saints Day

Sunday, November 4th was an emotional, educational and moving day for me this year. I was blessed to be asked to assist with the ceremony in honor of All Saints' Day. Only in the last two years has this had an impact on my family. I had to do some research. Here are some things that I found interesting:

1. In the Middle Ages the Church celebrated both All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.
 - All Saints' Day was the day that the Church remembered Christian Martyrs, or those that died because of their faith
 - All Souls' Day was the day that the Church prayed for the dead for them to enter into heaven
 - At the reformation in the 16th century the existence of purgatory punishment was rejected
 - All Souls' Day was abolished
 - All Saints' Day was kept
2. As Lutherans we typically celebrate on the first Sunday in November
3. We commemorate those we have lost as well as the Christians who have lived before us. The sermon this year on All Saints' Day was focused on our thankfulness for those that taught us how to be Lutheran. *We were encouraged to continue on sharing our faith with others.*

At St. James, we have now begun a tradition to not only read the names of those that have passed, but we create a beautiful floral tribute with each person bringing up a flower to honor the people they wish to celebrate. Each name brought a tear and a smile to my face. The pain of loss is difficult, but knowing that they are raised up to Heaven is truly beautiful.

After the service, all of the flowers were brought to local facilities and distributed to residents to brighten their rooms. I truly hope we embrace this tradition for years to come!

- Barbara Gulick

Sunday School Update

Thank you to those who joined us for Rally Day, the kickoff of our newly returned Sunday School program! We had a great time with our new and returning students, making crafts centered around key Bible points, like God's promise in the rainbow, the miracle of Easter, and that each of us is God's greatest treasure.

We've had a change in curriculum this year, and are now using Sparkhouse Publishing's Whirl: All Kids line, as all of our students are on the younger side, although we welcome all students from Ages 3 to 6th grade.

We start every Sunday with music in the sanctuary with Marly, who is helping us to get ready to sing at a baptism in December, and maybe even on Christmas Eve!

I invite you to join us any Sunday in the sanctuary right after the service (10:00AM), or take a trip downstairs to join us for class! It is always exciting when we have a visitor to class, because it reminds the kids that they are part of our bigger St. James family, and reminds us of that, too!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the Christian Ed programs, and we look forward to seeing you in class soon!

- Karoline Avard

Look for a special gift to families of the St. James Congregation from Christian Education.

More information made available during the upcoming Saturday & Sunday services.

Upcoming Events

St. James' Invites You To Our Annual Holiday Vendor Fair

Saturday, December 8
9:00AM – 3:00PM

Now Recruiting Vendors
Space Limited!

To Reserve a Table contact:
Barbara Gulick
barbiegulick@icloud.com

Save the
Date!

Straw Church Country Breakfast

First Saturday of every Month
We'll see you on
December 1, 2018
7AM - 11AM



Annual Christmas Cookie Fundraiser 2018



We are collecting cookies to make trays to be sold at our **Annual Vendor Fair on December 8**. We are asking you to make 5 to 8 dozen of your favorite special cookie (or what you can). Last year we had 25 bakers, 50 trays, 75 lbs. and would like to make this even bigger this year!

The sign-up sheet will be in the Frey
Hall Lobby or Call

Bring your cookies Saturday night
December 1st or Sunday morning
December 2nd and place them on the
island in the kitchen. Pickup can also be
arranged.

Questions? Call Charlotte Morris.
908-319-7056 / dhmcs22@yahoo.com

Safe Harbor Easton is looking for help providing Lunch Meals for select days in December.

If you would like to help with a coordinated meal delivery in December,
contact Dan or Barbara Gulick. *More details coming soon!*

dang@pil.net / barbiegulick@icloud.com

Social Ministry Notes

Feast with Friends at Quaker Steak was a success with over 30 orders placed. Funds raised will be donated to disaster relief.

The collection of hats, scarfs and gloves in October was a huge success with over 100 items donated and given to Norwescap.

In November, we are looking for coat donations. Drop off in the lobby.

Also, we are supporting the ELCA World Hunger/Good Gifts mission. Select an ornament off the tree in the lobby - a chicken, a goat, or one of the many items - that will help support a local community in need. Mail-in or Drop-off your donation at the church office.



Pastoral Support

The upcoming schedule of Saturday & Sunday Pastors is listed outside Frey Hall 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, Baptisms,
Consuling, etc.

(908) 689-1976
stlukeswashington@verizon.net

December 24
7:00 PM
11:00 PM

**Join us for
CHRISTMAS!**

O Come Let us Adore Him



Sunday School

Hat, Mittens, Scarf Collection

All Saints Day

Feast with Friends, Disaster Relief Fundraiser

St. James Photo Wall



Before



After, Tree Removal

Worship Leaders Schedule - December & January

| | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Liturgist</u> | <u>Ushers</u> | <u>Counters</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| DECEMBER | | | | |
| Sat 12/1 | | | | |
| Sun. 12/2 | Dan Gulick | Dan Gulick | H. Walters / R. Knoble | S. Stocker / B. Babcock |
| Sat. 12/8 | | | | |
| Sun. 12/9 | Polly Newbold | Polly Newbold | H. Walters / R. Knoble | D. Gulick / R. Avard |
| Sat. 12/15 | | | | |
| Sun. 12/16 | Bob Babcock | Bob Babcock | H. Walters / R. Knoble | S. Agans / C. Morris |
| Sat. 12/22 | | | | |
| Sun. 12/23 | Jaime McLain | Jaime McLain | H. Walters / R. Knoble | C. Steible / L. Steible |
| Sat. 12/29 | | | | |
| Sun. 12/30 | Ralph Avard | Ralph Avard | H. Walters / R. Knoble | S. Stocker / B. Babcock |
| JANUARY | | | | |
| Sat. 1/5 | | | | |
| Sun. 1/6 | Dan Gulick | Dan Gulick | H. Walters / R. Knoble | S. Stocker / B. Babcock |
| Sat. 1/12 | | | | |
| Sun. 1/13 | Polly Newbold | Polly Newbold | H. Walters / R. Knoble | D. Gulick / R. Avard |
| Sat. 1/19 | | | | |
| Sun. 1/20 | Bob Babcock | Bob Babcock | H. Walters / R. Knoble | S. Agans / C. Morris |
| Sat. 1/26 | | | | |
| Sun. 1/27 | Jaime McLain | Jaime McLain | H. Walters / R. Knoble | C. Steible / L. Steible |

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*