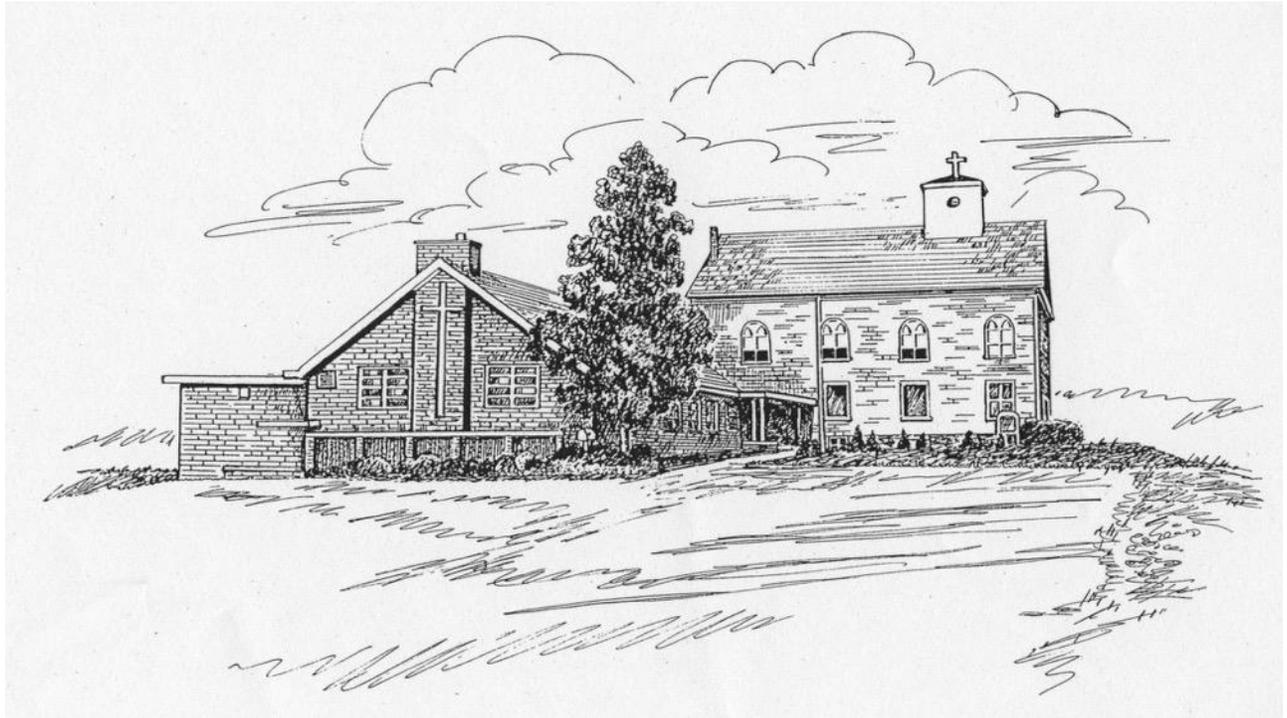


# *WISPS OF STRAW*



## *St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter*

*February 2019*

Church Office Phone: 908-454-2864

E-mail: [strawchurch@gmail.com](mailto:strawchurch@gmail.com)

Web site: [www.strawchurch.com](http://www.strawchurch.com)

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

## *From the Council President*

Friends of St. James:

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*  
1 Corinthians 13:4

While I do want to get to all the great things that have occurred the last couple months at St. James, I do recognize that we're already in February and it's almost Valentine's Day! A group of 4 to 8 year olds were asked "What does love mean?" Some of their answers were inspiring: "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired," said one and someone else said "Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." Someone else spoke very much like Jesus would: "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

As a society we use the 'love' word too often, but potentially not enough. We say "I love pizza" or "I love that video", but we do not always tell those around us that we love them. Our love is typically emotional, but Godly love is sacrificial. A read through Paul's letter to the Corinthians in Chapter 13 explains what love is and what it is not. What is described is not pointing to physical attraction, but focused on the well-being of the other person. As you go through the month, consider how you can show someone sacrificial love. Maybe together we can make Godly love brighten up the world around us.

Speaking of joining together, I have to go back to the Christmas season and acknowledge great memories. Our season was filled with joy thanks to the annual **Holiday Vendor Fair**, the youth event of **setting up the Christmas tree**, and our evening **Christmas caroling** at Lopatcong Nursing Center. You definitely know times have changed when paper song sheets are replaced by cell phone screens to read music from! In addition, I am thankful for the amazing music and attendance that filled our Church on Christmas Eve. Our annual tradition of singing Silent Night in only candlelight – this year with an expanded brass ensemble at the 7PM service – remains a highlight that truly helps to celebrate and allow us to reflect on the birth of Jesus.

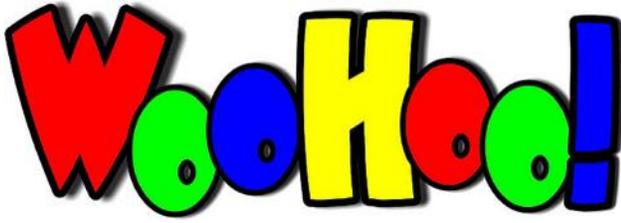
In 2019, we've already had a few events. Our **church breakfasts** were already successful on the first Saturdays of January and February. In addition, I appreciate the members of the congregation who attended the Annual Meeting in January. A little food, little fellowship, and a chance to discuss our Church. The dialogue that focused on both financials and the mission are critical parts to persisting the life of our church. We also welcome the addition of **youth participation** back to council with Ashley Wrede and Emma Raub.

Within our weekend services, NJ Synod continues to support us with great pastors each week including our own alumni Pastor Brunsell and Pastor Kramer to lift our spirits. I am also blessed to work with a great volunteers and I would appreciate your support this year as we continue the mission of spreading Jesus' love with those around us.

Peace,

*Dan Gulick*

St. James Church Council President



From NJ Synod:

2018 Mission Support contributions exceeded our stated goal by \$13,000!

This is the first time since I have been tracking Mission Support contributions in the New Jersey Synod that we met or exceeded our target. This is cause to pause for celebration!

Thanks again for the generosity demonstrated by your congregation last year, and thanks for sharing your 2019 intended commitment.

REV SCOTT C. SCHANTZENBACH  
*Assistant to the Bishop*

In 2018, St. James Lutheran Church donated over \$650 to support Mission Support efforts for the ELCA.

A majority was fundraised through the ELCA **Good Gifts** holiday ornaments. Thank you for those that supported the cause!

Will you pledge to join the cause for 2019?  
Consider an incremental offering to support the ELCA's efforts.

More Information:  
<https://www.elca.org/missionsupport>

## 2019 Congregation Meeting

The Saturday evening service was already canceled due to the weather, but the Lord wanted our Congregation event to continue on. While Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> started as a cold and snowy morning, many of the congregation came out to listen to Vice-Pastor Karol preach at the 8:45 service and then join for a pot-lock at 10AM for fellowship. As usual, no shortage of food.

The congregation meeting at 11AM had a basic agenda to review 2018 and set the road ahead for 2019. There was time dedicated to thank the work of all the committee volunteers, although a focused conversation occurred to acknowledge the work completed by social ministry. The fabric of our congregation involves giving back to our community and it was acknowledged in the pages of activities and donations provide by members of St. James and related activities. Council President also encouraged all members of the congregation to reach out to others in need. Our Church community will continue to grow as we take time to offer the love of St. James and the story of Jesus to others.

In planning for 2019, the 2019 budget was approved as presented by Council with little discussion. Church Council for 2019 has also changed a little. Jan R and Jaime M have completed their time on Council, we thanked them for their service. In addition, we welcome Polly Newbold, Ashley Wrede and Emma Raub. A listing of the full council is available on the church website.

## Upcoming Events

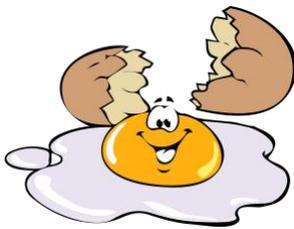
### Straw Church Country Breakfast

First Saturday of every Month

We'll see you on

March 2, 2018

7AM - 11AM



### Ash Wednesday

We welcome you to join us for an

**Ash Wednesday Service**

**Wednesday, March 6**

**7:00PM**

**St. James Lutheran Church**

*Look for More Details on Lent / Easter  
Services in the near future.*

### Seeking Volunteers!

Our St. James Altar Guild needs assistance to keep the altar linens looking their best and replaced during the change of the church seasons. Time Commitment ~1-2/hrs month.

Contact the church office if interested.

## Social Ministry Notes

Look out for additions in Frey Hall!

The Food Bank barrel has been decorated for food donations. In addition, a tub has been placed for the collection of clean used children's clothing – in partnership with United Methodist Church – for homeless children. We thank you in advance for your donations!

And start to save your appetite, the first bake sale of the year will be April 6<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the church breakfast. Look out for sign-up for baked good donations.

### How to Find Us?

Our Website:

[www.strawchurch.com](http://www.strawchurch.com)

Follow Us on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/groups/StrawChurch/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/StrawChurch/)

For Snow Closing Information:

[www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter](http://www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter)

or

WFMZ 69 TV

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,  
Counseling, etc.

(908) 689-1976

[stlukeswashington@verizon.net](mailto:stlukeswashington@verizon.net)

# St. James Photo Wall



Advent Flowers



Christmas Eve  
Candlelight



Youth Group  
Christmas Tree  
Setup



Christmas Eve  
Sunday School Practice



Breakfast Volunteers



Christmas Eve with Soloist Tori E.

## Worship Leaders Schedule - February & March

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Counters</u>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
Sat 2/2				
Sun. 2/3	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Stocker / B. Babcock
Sat. 2/9				
Sun. 2/10	Polly Newbold	Polly Newbold	H. Walters / R. Knoble	D. Gulick / R. Avard
Sat. 2/16				
Sun. 2/17	Bob Babcock	Bob Babcock	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris
Sat. 2/23				
Sun. 2/24	Jaime McLain	Jaime McLain	H. Walters / R. Knoble	C. Steible / L. Steible
<b>MARCH</b>				
Sat. 3/2				
Sun. 3/3	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Stocker / B. Babcock
Sat. 3/9				
Sun. 3/10	Polly Newbold	Polly Newbold	H. Walters / R. Knoble	D. Gulick / R. Avard
Sat. 3/16				
Sun. 3/17	Bob Babcock	Bob Babcock	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris
Sat. 3/23				
Sun. 3/24	Jaime McLain	Jaime McLain	H. Walters / R. Knoble	C. Steible / L. Steible
Sat. 3/30				
Sun. 3/31	Ralph Avard	Ralph Avard	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Stocker / B. Babcock

*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*