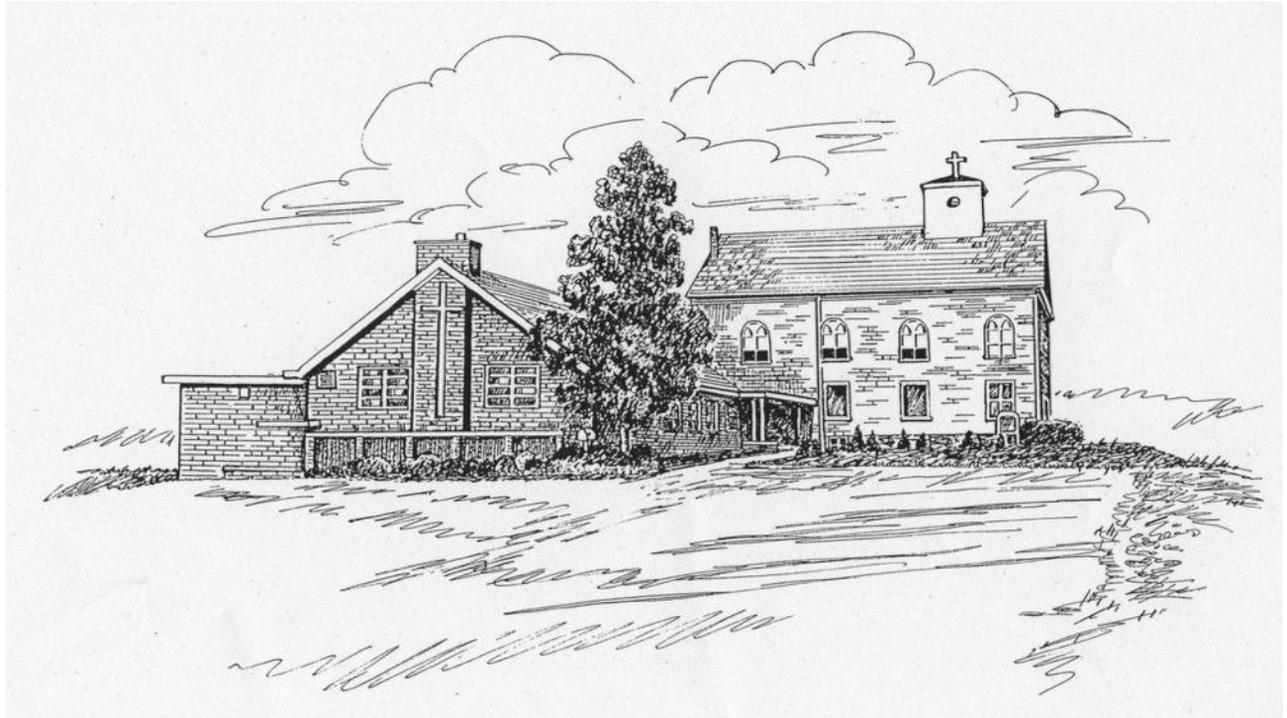


# *WISPS OF STRAW*



## *St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter*

*June 2019*

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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:

As I write this article during the Memorial Day weekend, where we take a moment to remember those that have protected our country, I am also reminded that it's still Easter. That's right, the Christian Easter Season goes well beyond just one Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Technically our Easter season began on Easter Sunday and lasts until June 9<sup>th</sup>. That in mind, what if we continued to say "Happy Easter" to our family or those we pass over the next few weeks; how would they respond? Ironically, as a society we start to say "Happy Holidays" from late October to well into January. As Christians, shouldn't we be as excited to continue to celebrate the Easter Message as much as the Christmas message? If you are not going to outwardly celebrate the season, at least reflect on the directives from God in scripture (1 Thessalonians 5:16) who loves us, and wants to help us in every challenge.

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*  
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

As I look back, a lot of big events have happened over the last 2 months. In April we welcomed supply Pastor Reeb for Palm Sunday as we processed into the sanctuary with our Palms held high. This was just the start of a busy week with Pastor Schantzenbach, Pastor Dunkle and Pastor Kramer joining us to lead Easter Week services. It was wonderful to see the sanctuary full on Easter Sunday and we will know for next year to print extra bulletins!

In addition, I would also like to thank all the youth who assisted in Youth Sunday in April. A powerful story written by senior Ashley Wrede highlighted the service, although many chipped in to fill the roles from start to finish. Our next big youth event is Vacation Bible School which runs July 8-12, and we are looking for youth of all ages to participate or volunteer!

And before I forget, I wanted to let you know that Pastor Schantzenbach will be retiring from NJ Synod in June. Ordained in 1978, he has been the Assistant to the NJ Synod's Bishop since 2003. And aside from leading our Maundy Thursday service (amongst others), he has been involved in various facets behind the scenes ensuring the successful operation of St. James when consultation has been needed. We thank him for his support over the years and wish him well in his next chapter of life!

In closing, we typically celebrate the approach of the summer months, although at Church we also begin to see a slowdown of participation and giving. While that is the normal flow of life in ministry, and it's okay to take that breath and rest, there is still much to be done at St. James. I encourage you to get involved and stay involved as we continue to celebrate and work for the mission of our Lord.

Happy Easter!

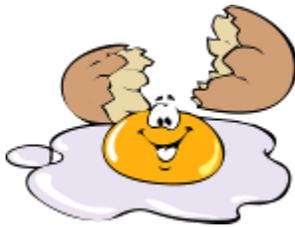
*Dan Gulick*

St. James Church Council President

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Straw Church Country Breakfast**

First Saturday of every Month  
We'll see you on  
June 1, 2019  
7AM – 11AM



## *How to Find Us?*

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

Follow Us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/groups/StrawChurch/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/StrawChurch/)

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)

## *Social Ministry Notes*

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Links of Love fundraiser in March/April. \$200 was raised and benefitted the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault. The links are now showcased at the back of the sanctuary.

In addition, thank you to those that supported the April bake sale. Money raised (\$431) has been donated to the VBS fund to help support a free program for all interested kids this year.

NORWESCAP Donations: 171 lbs food (YTD)

Social ministry is now collecting new sneakers and socks for the "Sneakers for Little Souls" project. The project benefits homeless children starting school this fall in the Phillipsburg area. Look for the collection box in Frey Hall lobby.

## *For Sale!*

Ed Frey Hall has an Organ that no longer  
has a need at St. James.

Do you know of a good home  
it could be donated to?  
Contact the Church Office



## Overseas Travel Opportunity

**REMINDER:** Pastor John of *Word Covenant Church* is traveling to his homeland of Ghana, West Africa to visit the three churches he counsels there. St. James has offered his congregation a local place to worship (including Sundays 10:30AM) for over a year now.

He is planning a July trip and has graciously offered any member of St. James free accommodations and guidance if they wish to visit while he is there. Airfare would be at your own expense.

If this offer sparks some interest deep down inside you, please contact Dave Morris or Dan Gulick to see if accommodations can still be made

“The longest journey begins with a single step.”  
*Lao Tzu*

### 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.

## Synod Assembly Update

NJ Synod will be hosting its annual Assembly June 6-8 and will be holding an election for our Synod Bishop for the next 6 years. Please keep our voting members in your prayers as we go faithfully do this work on behalf of all NJ Synod congregations.

## Vacation Bible School

Christian Education is getting ready for our 2019 VBS program at St. James. The theme will be *ROAR! Life is Wild, God is Good*. This year the event will be run July 8<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup> - 9AM to 12PM each day. Register your child at [www.strawchurch.com](http://www.strawchurch.com).

Like prior years, we will also be looking for senior youth and adult assistance to make the event fun, safe and exciting for the children!



**Save the Dates: July 8 - 12**

**To support the VBS activities and decorations for the event, a sign-up sheet for donations are listed in Frey Hall Lobby.** Requested items include a kiddie pool, bag of river rocks, crepe paper, lanterns, blank CDs and other items. Your support is appreciated to making this year a success! Pledge to donate something next time you're at church!

## House Update

The original financial goal of making the house habitable for under \$10,000 is nearly complete. There were some significant, unforeseen surprises that will put us over the original estimated cost, but with some future donations these cost can be covered.

Raised for <u>Material</u>	\$10,045.17
Spent	\$10,044.01
Available	\$1.16
Unpaid receipts	\$122.67

The remaining cost for the project is minimal however much labor remains to be done.

Charlotte and I are committed to:

- Lay the flooring in the three bedrooms and upstairs hall.
- Prep and paint the bedrooms
- All heater covers need to be sanded, installed and painted.
- Touchup existing woodwork
- Paint and install final trim
- Hang bathroom fixtures

We would appreciate additional help (labor) in the following areas:

- Painting the basement walls (Drylock)
- Backfill dirt against the outside foundation for proper drainage.
- Cleaning windows
- Removing satellite dish
- Paint basement stairwell
- Pressure wash
- Paint porch posts

There are still many things to do. Please have a look and provide your thoughts and evaluations.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make this project a success

Dave & Charlotte Morris

## Church Giving

As mentioned in the Council President report, we typically see a slowdown in church participation in the summer months. Yet even when you are not there, the mission of the church needs to continue.

Aside from donations in your weekly envelope, consider one of the following alternatives that also saves the stamp!

### Donate With our Online Partner, Vanco

Vanco, an ELCA supported online payment vendor, can help you setup a one-time or recurring weekly donation directly to the church. More information available at:

<https://strawchurch.com/VancoDonations>

### Bill Pay with your Bank

Setup a one-time or recurring payment through your online bank account to send your offering directly to St. James.

### DO YOU HAVE A THRIVENT ACCOUNT?

Eligible members of Thrivent products and services are able to direct Thrivent charitable giving to the non-profit of their choice through the *Choice Dollars* program. Consider donating yours to St. James Lutheran Church.



**THRIVENT**  
FINANCIAL®

# St. James Photo Wall



Youth Choir, "This Little Light of Mine"



Youth Sunday, Sermon



Easter Lillies on the Altar



Easter Sunday, Communion



Easter Sunday, Sunrise Service



Church Breakfast/Fellowship

## Worship Leaders Schedule - June & July

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Counters</u>
<b>JUNE</b>				
Sat 6/1				
Sun. 6/2	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Stocker / B. Babcock
Sat. 6/8				
Sun. 6/9	Ralph Avard	Ralph Avard	H. Walters / R. Knoble	D. Gulick / R. Avard
Sat. 6/15				
Sun. 6/16	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris
Sat. 6/22				
Sun. 6/23	Polly Newbold	Polly Newbold	H. Walters / R. Knoble	C. Steible / L. Steible
Sat. 6/29				
Sun. 6/30	Jaime McLain	Jaime McLain	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris
<b>JULY</b>				
Sat. 7/6				
Sun. 7/7	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Stocker / B. Babcock
Sat. 7/13				
Sun. 7/14	Ralph Avard	Ralph Avard	H. Walters / R. Knoble	D. Gulick / R. Avard
Sat. 7/20				
Sun. 7/21	Polly Newbold	Polly Newbold	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris
Sat. 7/27				
Sun. 7/28	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*