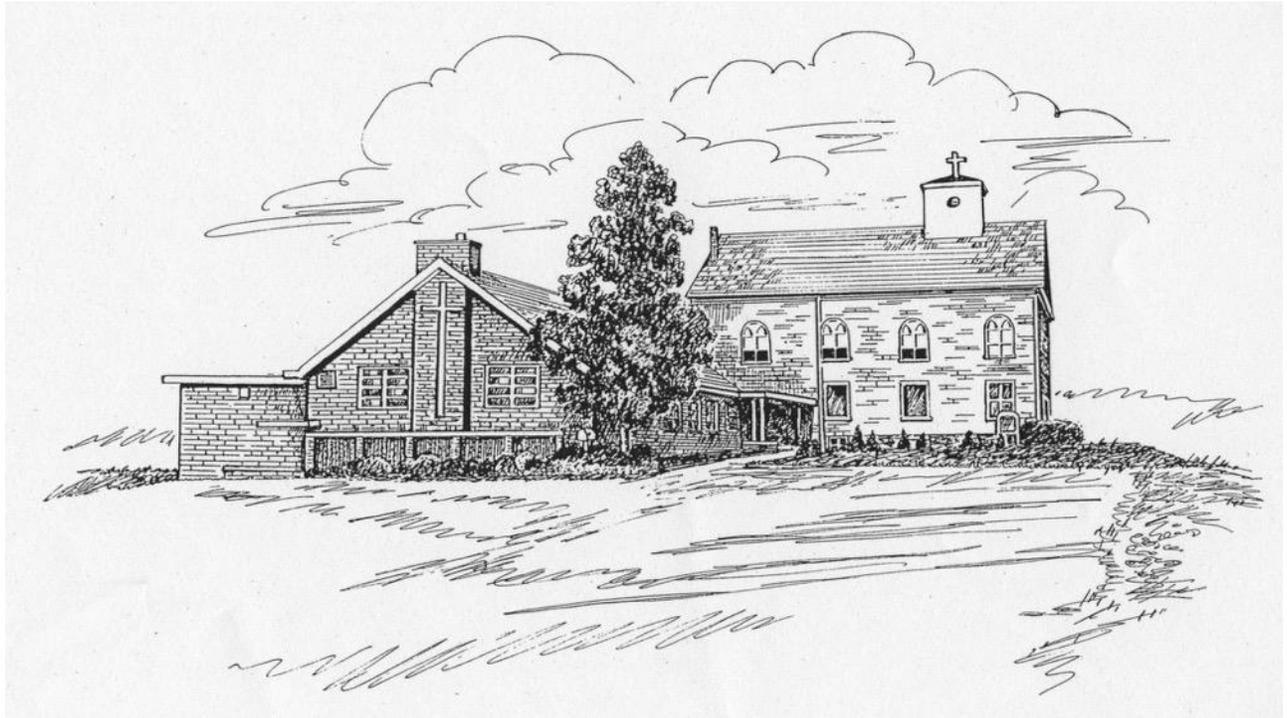


WISPS OF STRAW



St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter

August 2019

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:

Summer time is here and it has been HOT HOT HOT. This is the first year in awhile that my wife and I have really had a chance to enjoy the pool more than once or twice. In addition, we are thankful that we have had opportunities to enjoy it with family and friends. The time in the pool has allowed some time for reflection. First, we've watched our Goddaughter gain confidence in the pool and really trusted those around here as she has started to swim more on her own; or even more daring jumping into the pool and into the arms of one of us! Apply that concept to your faith – at times we are hesitant to commit to jumping into faith in God. At times we will face deep waters and struggle, but it does mean that God isn't with us. He's there with arms open and swimming beside you all the way. Aside from the pool parties, I've also just enjoyed sitting in the pool alone and letting the stresses of the day wash away while a feeling of peace takes over. Each of us also needs time alone with God. A time when we can go to Him and share our burdens and joys with Him. Find time to go to God in prayer and listen out for His voice and rejoice in the peace He can offer. Consider that the next time you sit poolside; God's right there next to you.

**"Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
- Isaiah 41:10**

Since our last newsletter, a number of key events have occurred that I want to celebrate. First, as mentioned in the last newsletter our NJ Synod met for its annual assembly in early June. The assembly re-elected Bishop Bartholomew to a second six-year term. We will continue to work with Synod and the Bishop as Council works on how we approach the call process this fall.

Our BIG event in July was the success our of Vacation Bible School! With 16 kids, lots of volunteers, hundreds of photos and plenty of memories it was a great event. I am so thankful for the coordination and creativity that Karoline Avard and Polly Newbold provided to make the event as unique and entertaining as it was. I am also looking to a few upcoming events, which have more information in the newsletter. Our **Country Breakfast** is back on Saturday, August 3; spread the word that those giant pancakes and delicious omelettes are back after the kitchen took July off. We also have our annual **BBQ Chicken Dinner** on Saturday, September 14 which is successful each year thanks do the donations from ShopRite, volunteers from the congregation and all you out there that buy 1, 2, or 6 meals each year! **Rally Day** will be on Sunday, September 15th which will be when we **resume Sunday School**.

Finally, I am excited that **Pastor Gerry Kramer** has offered his time for a conversation on the Bible. Focused toward our younger (teen) generation, although open to all, on Tuesday, August 6th at 7PM he will share his perspective on how we would seek to give Christians a way to answer criticisms of the Bible - not in giving us ammunition to win an argument, but to help open up the critic to the Christian faith. Come grow in your faith and understanding through this special event.

Keep Cool!

Dan Gulick

St. James Church Council President

Upcoming Events

Straw Church Country Breakfast

First Saturday of every Month
We'll see you on
August 3, 2019
7AM – 11AM

Pancakes | Omelets | French Toast
Hash Browns | Pork Roll | Sausage
and more!



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

How to Find Us?

Our Website:

www.strawchurch.com

Follow Us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/groups/StrawChurch/

Social Ministry Notes

Social ministry is still collecting new sneakers and socks for the "Sneakers for Little Souls" project through August 11. The project benefits homeless children starting school this fall in the Phillipsburg area.

The Back to School supplies effort is going very well and will continue through August 11. Supplies will be packed and given to Norwescap.

In addition, the team in June has assembled 26 hygiene bags and delivered to Easter Seals; and provided 8 lap blankets to Brakeley Care Center in Phillipsburg.

(Still) 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



SPECIAL EVENT!
“Bible as Unique”
Tuesday, Aug 6 – 7PM

St. James welcomes Pastor Gerry Kramer (St. James’ Pastor 1991-2005) to put on a special program titled “Bible as Unique.”



The Bible is literature, in a way that is not found in other sacred texts. It contains historical works, poetry, love poetry, hymns (the Psalms), wisdom literature and short stories (Ruth, Jonah), and genealogy. It is this characteristic of the Bible which speaks to our human condition in a very close and real way.

This will not be a traditional Bible study, but an attempt to give insights on how the Bible is different from other sacred texts. Not in its teachings about God, which would be quite obvious, but in the very manner of its presentation. The intent is to give Christians a way to answer criticisms of the Bible common in our culture today - not in giving us ammunition to win an argument, but to help open up the critic to the Christian faith.

While Pastor Kramer would like to use this to prepare our young adults as they sprawl out on their own, the evening presentation is open to anyone interested.

Through the conversation the intent is that we can have a deeper understanding of the Bible, and help in relating it to the issues of today.

Come join and be part of the conversation!
St. James Church, 7:00PM – 8:00PM

Back Packs and BBQ

Bring a Back to School Supply to Donate for a Special Dessert Treat

BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

St. James Lutheran Church
\$12 PER DINNER
ORDER IN ADVANCE

Pickup or Eat In at St. James
Saturday, September 14, 2019
1PM – 4:30 PM

Each Meal Includes:
BBQ Rubbed Chicken Half & BBQ Sauce
Smoked Baked Beans + Baked Potato +
Coleslaw

TO ORDER call 908-421-1199
or eMail barbiegulick@icloud.com

Rally Day and Sunday School

While we will be sad to approach the end of Summer, we are excited to kick off our new church year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 15th. Join in for service and fellowship afterward in Ed Frey Hall.

In addition, our Sunday School program will start on September 15th. Come that day to have your child registered for the school year.

See you then!



Church Giving

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 save the stamp!

Donate With our Online Partner, 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.



Grow through Scripture

In July, our church council president Dan Gulick provided a talk on his understanding and reflecting on the readings for the day.

After reflecting on Genesis 18 and Colossians 2, he left the congregation with these 2 points:

1. Treat everyone around you with hospitality, you may never know if you've encountered an angel along your life's path.
2. Don't be afraid to Ask and Knock through prayer; the Lord is always waiting on the other side to open his door ... and his arms ... and listen to you.

On occasion, St. James does not have someone to discuss the weekly reading. If you are interested to share your views on the reading for the week, or engage in/facilitate a discussion with the congregation, please contact Dan Gulick to look at upcoming opportunities.



St. James Photo Wall



Worship Leaders Schedule - August & September

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Counters</u>
AUGUST				
Sat 8/3				
Sun. 8/4	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Stocker / B. Babcock
Sat. 8/10				
Sun. 8/11	Ralph Avard	Ralph Avard	H. Walters / R. Knoble	D. Gulick / R. Avard
Sat. 8/17				
Sun. 8/18	Jaime McLain	Jaime McLain	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris
Sat. 8/24				
Sun. 8/25	Polly Newbold	Polly Newbold	H. Walters / R. Knoble	C. Steible / L. Steible
Sat. 8/30				
SEPTEMBER				
Sun. 9/1	Jaime McLain	Jaime McLain	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Stocker / B. Babcock
Sat. 9/7				
Sun. 9/8	Ralph Avard	Ralph Avard	H. Walters / R. Knoble	D. Gulick / R. Avard
Sat. 9/14				
Sun. 9/15	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris
Sat. 9/21				
Sun. 9/22	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	H. Walters / R. Knoble	C. Steible / L. Steible
Sat. 9/28				
Sun. 9/29	Polly Newbold	Polly Newbold	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*