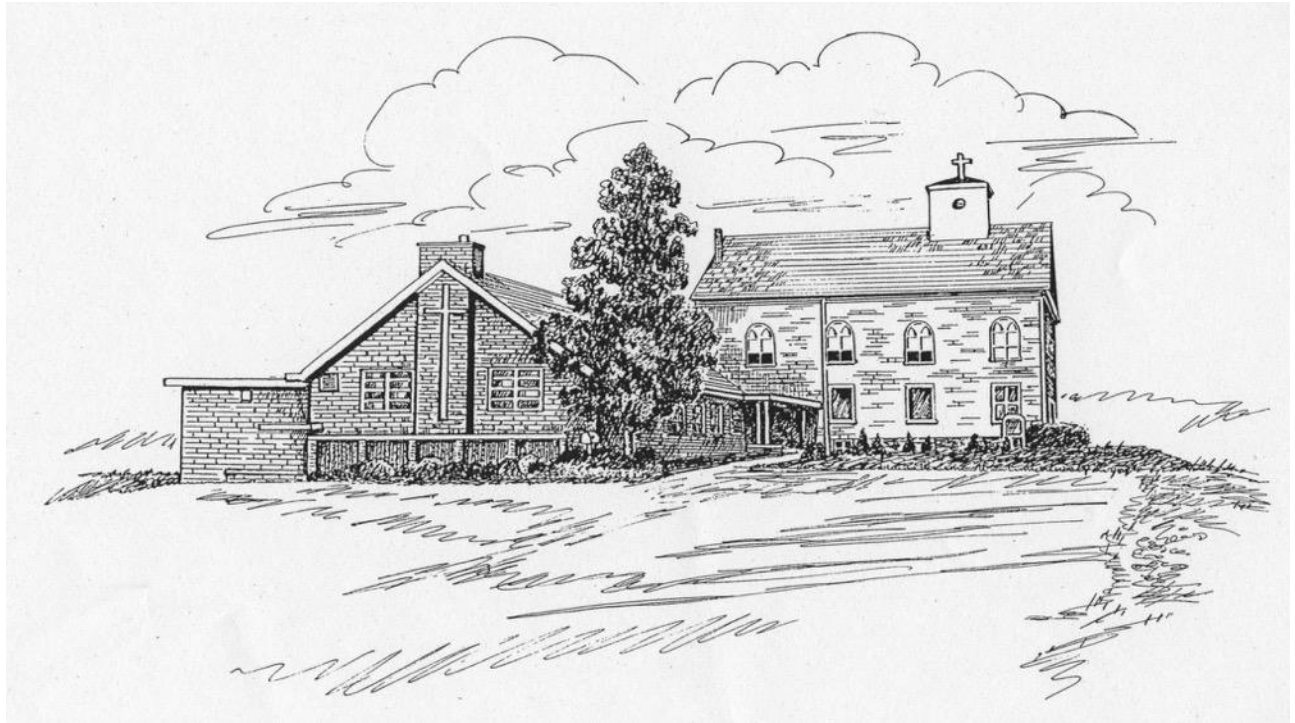


WISPS OF STRAW



St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 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:

The phrase, *time flies*, proves itself over and over.
Can you believe we're in the tenth month of 2019 already?

In the church, one of the things this means is that we're beginning to plan for next year. In turning to the Bible, we are reminded the Lord's guidance on stewardship. *For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?* (Luke 14:28) We are not building a tower, although we continue to improve our St. James property and build our ministry plans for 2020. Your continued generosity will help us dream big as we continue to explore enhancements to St. James and look at where God is leading us!

Looking back at the end of Summer, we had some really great events at St. James. In August, we welcomed Pastor Gerry Kramer for his informative session "**Bible as Unique.**" Adults and teens from our congregation, in addition to members from Convent Church, joined in the interactive discussion on August 6. Our famous **BBQ chicken** event in September was sold out faster than ever; over 200 chicken dinners were grilled outside and they smelled delicious. It was great fellowship for the volunteers that helped out to put smiles on so many members and passers by stopped by that day. Our Sunday School program has kicked off again this year with Polly Newbold, Barbara Gulick and Marly Rapse helping to inspire our next generation. In addition, Dave Morris has offered to facilitate a new **adult Sunday School** on Sunday mornings as well. I thank all of them for continuing to provide learning about the Bible and ourselves outside of church service.

Church council is also keeping busy. Council met with Pastor Summer in August for a morning "offsite" to discuss what it means to be a family church and the qualities we would look for in a new pastor. The meeting closes a year of healing and preparing to move forward to find a new pastor. I encourage you to connect with council members on qualities you would look for in a new pastor. We are seeking input as we work towards the call process – defining who we are, where we are going, and who would be a great fit to join in that mission. In addition, council is looking into architecture plans to enhance the facilities of the church kitchen; ultimately bringing it up to code for cooking events like the monthly breakfast and BBQ dinner. More information will be provided as we get closer to the 2020 congregational meeting.

In a small bit of Synod news, I'm excited to see Pastor Schantzenbach will be a featured supply pastor for St. James in Q4. Just retired from Synod in June, it looks like he still loves spreading the good news! Check out the website for more information on who will be preaching each Saturday or Sunday.

And finally, read more about our **Live Nativity** in December and **Congregation Challenge** for October on the following pages. Raising money for ELCA Disaster Relief is a great cause, and I hope to see you at Chick-Fil-A on October 16!

Dan Gulick

St. James Church Council President

Upcoming Events



Get Into the Christmas Spirit! **Live Nativity at St. James**

Sunday, December 8, 2019
4:00 – 6:00PM

Join us for a reading of the Christmas story
around the manger and live animals.

Food, drinks and kids crafts will be part of this
new experience in our area! Open to all!

*A tree in the Ed Frey lobby has been setup.
Pickup an ornament and sponsor an animal
at our upcoming Nativity event!*

St. James Vendor Fair

Saturday, December 14
9AM – 3PM

Now recruiting vendors!

Contact Barbara Gulick - 908-421-1199

Straw Church Country Breakfast

First Saturday of every Month
We'll see you on
October 5, 2019 or
November 2, 2019
7AM – 11AM

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

How to Find Us?

Our Website:

www.strawchurch.com

Follow Us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/groups/StrawChurch/

Social Ministry Notes

Social ministry is now collecting Hats, Gloves
and Scarves through October 31. The project,
in partnership with NORWESCAP benefits local
Phillipsburg children.

Starting in November, a collection will start for
two Thanksgiving Baskets to be distributed to
two local families. Look for more information
to come.

Thanks for everyone who donated school
supplies as part of the summer campaign.

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

Congregation Challenge for Lutheran Disaster Response

Through October 31, consider giving a directed donation through St. James to Lutheran Disaster Response

St. James will match the total congregation donation, up to \$2500

Please ensure donations are marked for “Lutheran Disaster Relief”

Are you up for the Challenge?

About the Organization:

Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. We are a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others. Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ’s call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need.

More Information available at:

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development>



Chick-fil-A® is located at 1194 US-22, Phillipsburg
Right in front of the Phillipsburg Mall.

Help Support the Mission and Fellowship of
St. James Lutheran Church
“Feast with Friends”

Just stop by and present this flyer
at Chick-fil-A® restaurant on:

Wednesday, October 16, 2019
5:00PM – 8:00PM

Based upon evening sales, Chick-fil-A® will
donate a portion of sales.

**All proceeds will go to
ELCA Disaster Relief**

**Don’t Forget to Bring
this Flyer with You!**

An Old Sexton

from: Easton Free Press, April 27, 1871

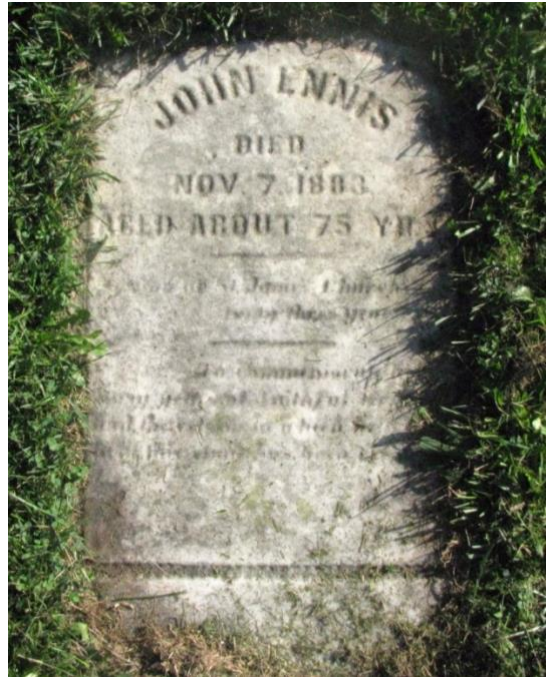
There resides at St. James Ev. Lutheran Church, Greenwich, Warren County, a colored man named John Innes, who has held the position of sexton in the above named church for a period of thirty-one years on the 1st of April last. His history is an interesting one, and is deserving of more than a passing notice.

At the age of four years he was bound out by his mother to a Major Hougabour, who lived near St. James' Church until he should reach the age of twenty-one years. He not only remained until the close of the time for which he was indentured, but continued with his old master for three years longer. He then spent six months in the village of Bloomsbury, where he was married. On the 1st of April following his marriage, he removed with his wife to the vicinity of the church where he was raised, and has served in the capacity of Sexton ever since.

During that time he has dug over six hundred graves, except four or five graves, which were moved by others, he has opened every grave in the burying ground of St. James' since his entrance upon his duty as sexton. It is also worthy of notice that the church was opened by himself for thirty-one years, except on four occasions on account of sickness or absence.

He has enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the congregation, and is highly respected by all. In the long period during which he has served the church, nothing even of the most trifling character has occurred to mar the pleasure between him and his employers, and should his life be spared, may many more years be added to the already long term of his service.

It is doubtful if another case like the above can be produced. Usually the term of service is not of long continuance, because of difference



between him and the church he serves, or on account of an unwillingness to remain long in such a position, but the case of J. Innes, of St. James' church, proves that sometimes a difficult duty may be performed for a long time to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Article found, transcribed and provided by Wayne Sherrer. Picture and format by David Morris

Grow through Scripture

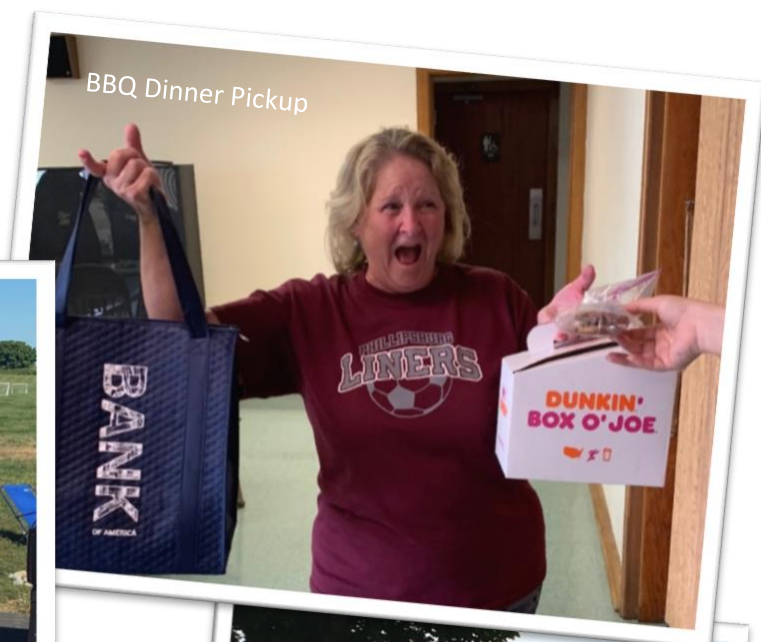
In August, our congregation member Holly Chemidlin provided a talk on his understanding and reflecting on the readings for the day.

After reflecting on the Gospel lesson from Luke 13:10-17, she left the congregation with these 2 thoughts:

1. Recognize that to praise the Lord and to take care of others is not a job, but a privilege.
2. Set aside your personal tuggings and focus on the Lord and praise him.

If you take the time, maybe too your prayers will be answered.

St. James Photo Wall



Worship Leaders Schedule - October & November

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Counters</u>
OCTOBER				
Sat 10/5				
Sun. 10/6	Polly Newbold	Polly Newbold	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Stocker / B. Babcock
Sat. 10/12				
Sun. 10/13	Ralph Avard	Ralph Avard	H. Walters / R. Knoble	D. Gulick / R. Avard
Sat. 10/19				
Sun. 10/20	Jaime McLain	Jaime McLain	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris
Sat. 10/26				
Sun. 10/27	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	H. Walters / R. Knoble	C. Steible / L. Steible
 NOVEMBER				
Sat. 11/2				
Sun. 11/3	Ralph Avard	Ralph Avard	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Stocker / B. Babcock
Sat. 11/9				
Sun. 11/10	Polly Newbold	Polly Newbold	H. Walters / R. Knoble	D. Gulick / R. Avard
Sat. 11/16				
Sun. 11/17	Jaime McLain	Jaime McLain	H. Walters / R. Knoble	S. Agans / C. Morris
Sat. 11/23				
Sun. 11/24	Dan Gulick	Dan Gulick	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*