

THE SEASHELL

A Newsletter of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

25 N Adams Street, West York, PA. 17404

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www.stjamesyork.org



AUGUST, 2022
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Discernment and Other News

The Congregation Council is in the last stages of goal setting. Once the goals have been honed and approved, they will come to the congregation for consideration and weighing in. Stay tuned for these exciting developments at the end of August.

Vacation Bible School ended with a wild night of petting zoo, crafts, songs and dancing. Thank you to EVERYONE, especially Emily Kramer who got us organized.

Thank you to the unsung cooks and volunteers who serve Breakfast Blessings every month. Special thanks to the Rutkowskis who keep it supplied, organized, and happening.

Sunday School is coming! As we prepare for fall adult classes on Sundays and Mondays, please submit your topics of interest to Mark Snyder, Mike Cooper, or Pastor Liz, so we can prepare accordingly. Children's classes will learn about the Gospel of Matthew.

Coming this fall, two of our confirmands have indicated an interest in affirming their faith on Reformation Sunday. They are currently working on their comprehensive essays. Their essays and names will be forwarded to the Congregation Council who has the last stamp of approval for those wishing to affirm their faith.

Follow-up to last newsletter: PA State Constitutional Amendment on Abortion

As I wrote you in our last newsletter, this summer would be marked with several events that would affect our spiritual lives together. Of particular note has been the *Dobbs* decision (overturning *Roe v. Wade*). Since the Supreme Court made this decision, I have been privileged to receive the stories of many of our congregation's women who have had or know someone who has had an abortion. It seems that nearly every woman in our congregation knows someone who has had an abortion. Many of these stories recount the time prior to the *Roe versus Wade* decision with a variety of outcomes.

One of the more challenging things for me as a pastor is to keep these stories in confidence while I see a grave injustice being done. I have been in the hospital rooms, homes, and occasionally, my office, while women and their families struggled with the decision to terminate or not terminate a pregnancy. No one makes this decision lightly.

But making abortion access illegal is not about abortion or babies. It is about substituting a political voice and decision in the place of the voice of the mother. I am trying to imagine counseling someone under the condition where her voice, her struggle, her prayers, and my spiritual counsel are irrelevant because a legal entity has already made the decision for her.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania (your Pennsylvania Senators and Representatives) have passed an amendment to our state constitution which would make abortion illegal in the State of Pennsylvania. It will most likely be on the ballot in May of 2023. As a proposed amendment, it will not visit the governor's desk. It is strictly up to you, the voter. There are strategic reasons for having a constitutional amendment on a primary ballot, and one of those is suppressing opposition, as PA primaries have a low turnout. You must be registered as either a Republican or Democrat to vote in PA primaries.

We must be vigilant for our neighbors and their welfare. This is one of those times where our faith meets public action. Much like the Good Samaritan, we must watch out for the welfare of those that would be left beaten on the side of the road. The ELCA, supports keeping abortion safe, legal, and within the discretion of the mother in consultation with her family, spiritual advisor, and doctor. It is my hope that you will vote against this amendment and preserve the religious liberty and spiritual welfare of women in our state.

WORSHIP

Worship services are at 9:00 am and offered in-house and livestreaming via Facebook and YouTube.

A Summer of Favorite Hymns

Thank you to everyone who submitted hymn suggestions for the months of June – September. There were some surprises, but overall, a reminder that classic hymns are classic for a reason. We love them. If the hymn request cards were a survey, *The Old Rugged Cross* would have been voted the congregation's favorite hymn.

Altar Flowers

Sponsors for 2022 -\$38 per week
The Chart for 2022 sponsors is posted on the Adams St. bulletin board. Please sign up.



PRAY



Please pray for Judy (Slenker) Vasellas (113 Kelly Cr., York, PA 17402), whose husband died the week of June 20th. There is no memorial service planned at this time.

Please pray for Judy Vasellas, Awahi Runkle and her fiancé, Donnie Hogan and their children Allie and Brantley, who will be joining our congregation. Allie and Brantley will be received by baptism, Awahi and Judy are renewing their membership, and Donnie is coming to us as a baptized member of God's family from a different Christian tradition.

LEARN

Mondays, 10-11 AM Bible Study in August. We will be studying the Gospel of Matthew over the five Mondays of August. Feel free to join for all or some of the days. We begin reading the Gospel of Matthew in worship this upcoming liturgical season beginning the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2022. Who wrote the Gospel and to whom? What is the significance of the Sermon on the Mount – particularly for Lutherans? Bring a friend and your Bible. If you don't have a Study Bible you read, understand, study, and write in, one can be provided for you from our congregation.



Look at what we're getting! St. James has been granted a 9-month loan of 37 hand chimes! They should be arriving in mid-August. Becky will be working with the Sunday School kids, and also with teens/adults who would like to give these a try. You don't have to read music to play! Becky will be having a "Rookie Ringers" session in the parlor immediately after worship on Sunday, September 11th, for about 15 minutes for ANYONE who wants to see what these are about. Becky hopes for the handchimes to play monthly during worship.

GIVE

Did you know that 75% of Jesus' sayings and parables concern money? They do. Consider what he says about paying taxes (Matt 22:20-22), how much one should give (Lk 21:1-4), and the value of earthly goods (Matt 6:19-20). To whom, how much and how to manage monetary resources is a challenge to any Christian who seeks to be faithful in following Christ. As we have returned to regular plate collections in worship, it is a good time to revisit your own giving practices and pray for God's guidance in your practice of generosity. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the mission of the church, and St. James, in particular.

Thank you to the family of Jean Williams, who designated memorial gifts in her name be given to the Good Samaritan Fund. This fund serves to provide emergency support to people by way of gas cards, rent and utility assistance. Inquire of Pastor Liz if you or someone you know needs temporary help. With the gas prices being what they are, gas cards have been especially appreciated.

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE will begin collecting items for the West York Bulldog Pantry.



Shopping/donation list includes the following items: Taco kits, hamburger meal kits, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, canned soups, vegetables, and fruit, applesauce, cereal, cereal bars, mac & cheese, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, cleaning supplies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, body wash, etc. Thank you to everyone for your donations.

Social Ministry Committee is joining in with the VBS Staff and extending the school supply drive until the end of August. Donations needed but not limited to Pencils, Pens, Crayons, Erasers, Bookbags, Notebooks, and Binders.

SERVE

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday is a specially designated day of service for Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregations. St. James, Christ Lutheran Church of Spry and Connection Christian Church are going to work together to clean-up the yard of a neighbor on Saturday, August 27 at 8 am. If you are interested in participating in helping with the lawn clean-up of a neighbor, sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Then, wear long pants, bring your lawn tools, and implements of destruction to 2428 Schoolhouse Lane in York (Polanzke's house) and instructions will be given that day.

HAM & CHEESE PRETZEL SANDWICH SALE

The next Ham and Cheese Pretzel Sandwich Sale will be Sept. 7th. The deadline for ordering will be August 28th. Order forms will be available on the entrance table.



BREAKFAST BLESSINGS

The breakfast is growing as the word gets out that we are back indoors.

We are averaging around 55-60 a month. We are looking for donations of toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, dish soap and body wash. Everyone appreciates the hot meal they receive and the household items and hygiene items we hand out. We would like to thank Weis Market, Sunshine Workers and the Congregation for their continued support to our community outreach program.

INVITE

A promotional poster for a community event. The background is a dark, grainy image of a crowd of people. At the top, there are logos for 'IGLESIA CASA DE RECONCILIACION', 'St James LUTHERAN CHURCH', 'WEST YORK BOROUGH', and 'M&T Bank'. The main text reads '08/06/22 Stop the VIOLENCE 12PM - 4PM'. The word 'VIOLENCE' is written in large, white, bold letters, with a red handgun icon replacing the letter 'O'. Below this, it says 'Shelly Park 248 N Highland Ave'.

Free food, community resources, and a chance for kids to meet our First Responders and explore their vehicles. (Please note the change in start time from 11 am to noon.)



FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT AT THE REVS

AUGUST 5, 2022 at 6:30 PM

CHARLESTON DIRTY BIRDS AT THE YORK REVOLUTION

Contact Scott Stock for tickets 717-887-9815

Trustees will meet at 5:30 on 8/10 to pull weeds from the garden. Everyone is welcomed to help and lend a hand. There will be a Trustees meeting following at 7pm.

VBS Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated money to our vacation Bible school outreach program! We were able to buy three goats and a water filtration system to send to a community in need through the Lutheran world relief organization. Our goal was to buy one goat and we were able to purchase much more due to everyone's generosity! Thank you for making this a huge success!

ENCOURAGE

Michelle Cooper has recently moved to Yorkview Nursing and Rehabilitation, formerly Colonial Manor Nursing Home. Please remember Michelle at her new address 970 Colonial Ave., York, PA 17403.

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

Every Fourth Sunday after Sunday School. August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27, December 18 (Third Sunday)

August 2022 at St. James Ev. Lutheran Church–West York, PA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Bible Study 10am	2  Mark Hoover Birthday	3	4	5	6  Jacquelyn Ryer Birthday
7 9th Sunday Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm *Karl Mincemoyer will be our substitute organist	8 Bible Study 10am	9  Mike Cooper, Taylor Hoke, Linda Kern Birthday	10 Trustee Meeting 7pm	11  Ben Hoover Birthday	12  Madison Hoover, Rodney Lentz Birthday	13
14 10th Sunday Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm  Natalie Hoke Birthday *Karl Mincemoyer will be our substitute organist *Steve Smith will sing Offertory	15 Bible Study 10am	16	17  Ura Jean Wetzel Birthday	18	19	20
21 11th Sunday Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm  Anita Ashton Birthday	22 Bible Study 10am  Beverly Ensor Birthday	23	24	25	26	27
28 12th Sunday Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm Deadline for Sandwich orders  Scott Rutkowski Birthday	29 Bible Study 10am Sunshine Workers 12 Noon	30	31			

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

25 N. Adams St., West York, PA 17404

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2022

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.STJAMESYORK.ORG