

THE SEASHELL

A Newsletter of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

25 N Adams Street, West York, PA. 17404
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JUNE/JULY, 2022
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6/7

SEE-FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In the coming weeks of summer two events affecting your life and the lifestyle of our community will happen. The Supreme Court will release its ruling on Thomas E. Dobbs, State Health Officer of the Mississippi Department of Health, et. al, Petitioners v. Jackson Women's Health Organization et. al. considering the right of women to receive an abortion, and the Lighthouse Baptist Church of Dover will host Christian Nationalist, David Barton. Then, in September, Franklin Graham, (son of the late Billy Graham), will be speaking at the York Expo Center.

These events are occurring in the context of our Christian faith and reflect upon all Christians, regardless of our own statements of faith, beliefs, and morals. As the spiritual leader of our congregation, and one who has vowed to uphold the teachings of the church, it is important that I speak to you about these things and ask that you weigh and consider your own Lutheran Christian responsibilities in this climate. The following are guideposts so that you use to guide your own friends and neighbors in conversations in the days ahead.

First, regarding abortion. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America social statement on Abortion (1991) states, "Women and men share equally in the responsibility and accountability for procreation, although it is women who are most intimately affected by decisions about abortion...As a community of faith we seek to live out our support for life in all its dimensions. We are committed to supporting those who face problematic pregnancies in ways that effectively address their immediate as well as long-term needs. This can include financial, nutritional, medical, education, social, and psychological, as well as spiritual support." This church is pro-choice. This church supports decisions around the creation of families to be made with pastoral counsel. A decision to outlaw all abortions is a violation of the ELCA's stance on abortion. Copies of the ELCA Social Statement on Abortion are available in hard copy at the church.

Second, Christian Nationalism is a dangerous movement that stands in contradiction to our understanding that all humanity is created in God's image, and all people are equally loved by God. The ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has aligned the ELCA with *Christians against Christian Nationalism*. Their statement can be found in this newsletter for your reference.

Third, when I lived in Boone, North Carolina, home to Franklin Graham's organization, I became familiar with his Evangelical-Baptist point of view. In a nutshell, it's not Lutheran. His tour is called the "God loves you" tour. His version of God's love is that God loves you if you live rightly. As you know (if you've ever heard me preach), "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)." This is

the good news for us, and I hope it is that which you share with your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances this summer as our faith is used as a political weapon, and for self-aggrandizing glory.

May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Liz Polanzke

CHRISTIANS AGAINST CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM: A STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN THE U.S.A.

As Christians, our faith teaches us everyone is created in God's image and commands us to love one another. As Americans, we value our system of government and the good that can be accomplished in our constitutional democracy. Today, we are concerned about a persistent threat to both our religious communities and our democracy — Christian nationalism.

Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities, distorting both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. Christian nationalism demands Christianity be privileged by the State and implies that to be a good American, one must be Christian. It often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation. We reject this damaging political ideology and invite our Christian brothers and sisters to join us in opposing this threat to our faith and to our nation.

As Christians, we are bound to Christ, not by citizenship, but by faith. We believe that:

- People of all faiths and none have the right and responsibility to engage constructively in the public square.
- Patriotism does not require us to minimize our religious convictions.
- One's religious affiliation, or lack thereof, should be irrelevant to one's standing in the civic community.
- Government should not prefer one religion over another or religion over nonreligion.
- Religious instruction is best left to our houses of worship, other religious institutions and families.
- America's historic commitment to religious pluralism enables faith communities to live in civic harmony with one another without sacrificing our theological convictions.
- Conflating religious authority with political authority is idolatrous and often leads to oppression of minority and other marginalized groups as well as the spiritual impoverishment of religion.
- We must stand up to and speak out against Christian nationalism, especially when it inspires acts of violence and intimidation—including vandalism, bomb threats, arson, hate crimes, and attacks on houses of worship—against religious communities at home and abroad.

Whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths. All are equal under the U.S. Constitution. As Christians, we must speak in one voice condemning Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy.

CREDO INSERTS

Every week for several weeks this year a Credo "I believe" insert has been stapled to the weekly news sheets in church. If you are interested in obtaining a single compiled book of these statements about our faith and practice as Lutherans, please e-mail Pastor Liz. If we have sufficient interest, then we may compile the books for a small cost.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The Worship Committee met before Easter to review the liturgical practices to date and discuss the remainder of this calendar year. Among those decisions were to establish Christmas Eve services at 6 and 10 PM. Now, you can plan ahead and put them on your calendar and get your family ready!

FAREWELL AND GOSPEED TO JACOB DRAWBAGH

Jacob has joined the Navy and will be leaving for Basic Training in June. We will offer him a farewell and Godspeed at our service on June 12, 2022. We will be presenting him with a gift from the congregation at that time.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be June 20th through June 23rd 6pm-8:30pm.

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

Every Fourth Sunday after Sunday School. June 26, No Meeting in July, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27, December 18 (Third Sunday)

LEARN

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Teachers: Mike Cooper, Mark Snyder, Shirley Trout, Pastor Liz Polanzke

Junior Sunday School

Sonja Hoke, Ann Marie Loucks, and Peggy Funkhouser are a team teaching the junior class (2nd- 6th grade). The juniors will be studying the book of **Luke** this the spring.

Confirming and Confirmed Youth Class are using **The Wired Word** curriculum in addition to the activities of catechesis.

PRAY

PHONE PRAYER CHAIN is an important quick prayer service ministry for members of St. James. Those wanting to add a name to the phone prayer chain are asked to please contact Pastor Liz 717-654-2334, and you may also call Shirley Trout, 717-846-4784, Janice Sewell, 717-767-4122, or Deb Meckley, 717-764-0372 for prayer.



WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AT 9:00 AM AND OFFERED IN-HOUSE AND LIVESTREAMING VIA FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sponsors for 2022 - \$38 per week

The Chart for 2022 sponsors has been posted on the Adams Street bulletin board. Please sign-up!



INVITE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be June 20th through June 23rd 6pm-8:30pm.

CHURCH GARDEN NIGHT: Bring your gloves and implements of destruction to weed the Memorial Garden on Wednesday, June 8 at 5:30 pm. See you there!

Calling all Veterans or Families with members in the military On June 12, we will be sending Jacob Drawbaugh off to basic training to begin his service with the Navy. We will do this with special prayer petitions (and of course, we'll be singing "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"). If you would like to offer a prayer petition, that is a prayer in 2-3 sentences, please e-mail or give it to Pastor Liz before worship that day. (A week in advance is appreciated). lpolanzke@yahoo.com

SERVE

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE West York Bulldog Pantry: We will not be collecting food items for the months of May, June, and July. Thank you to everyone for your donations.



A special thank you from Social Ministry on behalf of the Bulldog Pantry for the funds received from the Lenten Special Envelopes. We were able to forward \$490 to the pantry.

The next Social Ministry meeting will be on September 12th.

HAM & CHEESE PRETZEL SANDWICH SALE

Proceeds (\$758) from the May Sandwich Sale went to Sami McConnell, Pastor McConnell's granddaughter to help with her day-to-day care and expenses.



The next Ham and Cheese Pretzel Sandwich Sale will be in August. The deadline for ordering will be August 28th. Pick up will be September 7th.

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.

ENCOURAGE

OUR COFFEE/FELLOWSHIP TIME: Following worship time please join with us in the social room for refreshments and fellowship. Volunteers are needed to host weekly social time. Please sign up on Adams St. bulletin board.

LITURGY" IS THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

The word "liturgy" means "the work of the people". It takes a cast of dozens to offer worship every Sunday.

All worshippers are asked to participate in assisting with worship. There are many opportunities. Now, that we have returned to communing at the altar and singing, we need as many hands-on deck as possible. If you are able to help, please consider joining the choir or serving as an usher, communion assistant, lector, tech operator, nursery team member or altar guild member. Instructions and training are available in all positions.

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE FOR JUNE & JULY

June 5th **Day of Pentecost** **Red**
Council Member of the Month: Rod Drawbaugh Lector: Phil Kern
Ushers: Marie Drawbaugh, Bethany Drawbaugh Communion Assistant: Gabe Besore
Altar Guild: Carol Knaub, Bonnie Loucks Nursery: Sue Brodbeck & Sonja Hoke

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June 12th **The Holy Trinity** **White**
Council Member of the Month: Rod Drawbaugh Lector: Rod Drawbaugh
Ushers: Vicki Besore, Gabe Besore Communion Assistant: Sue Brodbeck
Altar Guild: Steph Laird, Pat Mummert Nursery: Ann Marie Loucks, Kelly Scott

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June 19th **2nd Sunday Pentecost** **Green**
Council Member of the Month: Rod Drawbaugh Lector: Mark Snyder
Ushers: Kay Gerrick, Ken Gerrick Communion Assistant: Theresa Scheuing
Altar Guild: Pat Reigert, Deb Meckley Nursery: Sue Brodbeck & Sonja Hoke

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June 26th **3rd Sunday Pentecost** **Green**
Council Member of the Month: Rod Drawbaugh Lector: Debra Meckley
Ushers: Marie Drawbaugh, Bethany Drawbaugh Communion Assistant: Mark Snyder
Altar Guild: Norma Smith, Deb Starner Nursery: Ann Marie Loucks, Kelly Scott

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July 3rd **4th Sunday Pentecost** **Green**
Council Member of the Month: Rod Drawbaugh Lector: Jeff Laird
Ushers: Vicki Besore, Gabe Besore Communion Assistant: Dennis Wagner
Altar Guild: Aurela Wilhelm, Theresa Scheuing Nursery: Sue Brodbeck & Sonja Hoke

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July 10th **5th Sunday Pentecost** **Green**
Council Member of the Month: Rod Drawbaugh Lector: Carol Knaub
Ushers: Kay Gerrick, Ken Gerrick Communion Assistant: Gabe Besore
Altar Guild: Vicki Besore, Linda Kern Nursery: Ann Marie Loucks, Kelly Scott

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July 17th **6th Sunday Pentecost** **Green**
Council Member of the Month: Rod Drawbaugh Lector: Phil Kern
Ushers: Marie Drawbaugh, Bethany Drawbaugh Communion Assistant: Ruth Hoover
Altar Guild: Carol Knaub, Bonnie Loucks Nursery: Sue Brodbeck & Sonja Hoke

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July 24th

7th Sunday Pentecost

Green

Council Member of the Month: Rod Drawbaugh

Ushers: Vicki Besore, Gabe Besore

Altar Guild: Steph Laird, Pat Mummert

Lector: Phil Kern

Communion Assistant: Theresa Scheuing

Nursery: Ann Marie Loucks, Kelly Scott

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July 31st

8th Sunday Pentecost

Green

Council Member of the Month: Rod Drawbaugh

Ushers: Kay Gerrick, Ken Gerrick

Altar Guild: Deb Meckley, Pat Reigert

Lector: Debra Meckley

Communion Assistant: Jeff Laird

Nursery: Sue Brodbeck & Sonja Hoke

Aug 7th

9th Sunday Pentecost

Green

Council Member of the Month: Mike Cooper

Ushers: Marie Drawbaugh, Bethany Drawbaugh

Altar Guild: Norma Smith Theresa Scheuing

Lector: Mark Snyder

Communion Assistant: Debra Meckley

Nursery: Ann Marie Loucks, Kelly Scott

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Leah Strathmeyer Birthday	2 Sr Group 11:30 Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 Day Of Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School Eleanor Hied, Madison Heid Birthday	6 Bible Study 6pm	7 Cindy Rutkowski Birthday	8 Church Garden Night 5:30p.m.	9 Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 The Holy Trinity 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School	13 Bible Study 6pm Bradley Rinehart Birthday	14	15	16 Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 2nd Sunday Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School	20 VBS 6pm-8:30pm Bible Study 6pm	21 VBS 6pm-8:30pm James Schroyer Birthday	22 VBS 6pm-8:30pm	23 VBS 6pm-8:30pm Ann Bridge Birthday Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 3rd Sunday Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School Council Meeting	27 Bible Study 6pm	28	29 Janice Sewell Birthday	30 Rod Drawbaugh, Choir Rehearsal		

July 2022 at St. James Ev. Lutheran Church—West York, PA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 4th Sunday Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School  Chad Starner Birthday	4 Bible Study 6pm	5	6  Andrew Kramer Birthday	7	8	9  Sherri Jennings Birthday
10 5th Sunday Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School	11 Bible Study 6pm	12	13	14	15  Bethany Drawbaugh, Kenneth Gerrick, Tim Strathmeyer Birthday	16
17 6th Sunday Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School	18	19	20	21	22	23  Charlotte Hoke Birthday
24 7th Sunday Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School  Debra Meckley, Donna Jo Orris, Colleen Snyder Birthday	25 Bible Study 6pm	26	27  Kelly Jo Scott Birthday	28	29  Shirley Trout Birthday	30
31 8th Sunday Pentecost 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School						

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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2022

STAFF AT SJELC

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David Smith, Sexton

Sonja Hoke, Custodian

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.STJAMESYORK.ORG

