

THE SEASHELL

A Newsletter of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

25 N Adams Street, West York, PA. 17404

717-854-7198

www.stjamesyork.org



MARCH, 2022
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

IS IT NECESSARY?

We Lutherans, by virtue of the *Book of Concord*, make a distinction between two categories of theological debate: Status Confessionis and Adiaphora. I compare these to the difference between a picture and a frame.

Status Confessionis (“confessional status”) issues are those things that are NECESSARY for salvation. They are the picture of our faith. All things within the Nicene and Apostles’ Creed are *status confessionis*. The death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ are the most central of those things. The confession that Jesus is God is of particular note as it is that which separates us from Christian-like movements like Mormonism and Jehovah’s Witnesses. Theological points of view on issues necessary for salvation are not debatable. Jesus died. Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus will come again. God created the heavens and the earth. The Holy Spirit is that which mediates forgiveness of sins and creates the church. Not debatable.

Adiaphora issues are those things that are not necessary for salvation, but arise from those things that are necessary. Like a frame that is to complement or highlight the picture. Typically these are issues involving ethics or morality. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has many social statements addressing issues of adiaphora, such as: the death penalty, abortion, gambling, economic life, caring for creation, education, healthcare, gender justice, genetics, human sexuality, world peace, and racial and ethnic justice. As the ELCA states, Christians of good conscience may disagree (even passionately) on any of these issues

Before entering any conversation with a fellow Christian, it is most helpful to first establish into which category the issue-at-hand falls. Is this a matter of salvation or a debatable topic of ethics or morality? Sadly, issues of adiaphora have divided the church and led Christians to categorize one another as “bad Christians” or as unfaithful followers of Christ.

In the ELCA we are committed to faithful debate around all adiaphora, understanding that Christians of good conscience may disagree on a host of issues, while we confess the Triune God of the Nicene and Apostolic creeds. We are encumbered with teaching the world how to love amid debate and disagreement. This means communicating, sharing, listening and leaning into one another sympathetically, prayerfully with open hearts and minds.

Pastor Liz Polanzke

www.stjamesyork.org | 717-854-7198 | secretary@stjamesyork.org

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Weekly News Deadline (handed out at worship) – Every Wednesday at Noon

The Seashell Deadline – The 15th of the month prior to the month of events (June/July and December/January are joint issues.)

Both the *Weekly News* and *The Seashell* can be delivered by email. If you have an email address, please share it with the office: secretary@stjamesyork.org

LEARN

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

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

March 6 *Suffering: An overview* (Pastor Liz)

March 13-April 3 *Suffering and Trauma* (Mike)

Other upcoming topics in the spring: *Gardening & Caring for the Earth, The Art of Arguing*

Junior Sunday School

Sonja Hoke, Ann Marie Loucks, and Peggy Funkhouser are 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.

EMAIL PRAYER GROUP Prayer requests may also be e-mailed to Pastor Liz who will send the request onto the Email Prayer Group. lpolanzke@yahoo.com

WORSHIP

SUNDAY service will continue at 9 AM. The Council will review Covid-19 protocols with the Task Force recommendations at its monthly meetings.

ASH WEDNESDAY services (March 2) are at Noon and 7 PM.

12 PM Prayer and Imposition of Ashes

7 PM Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

WEEKLY LENTEN services will be held on Thursdays at 7 PM
March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7

HOLY WEEK (April 11-15) services will be every evening Monday – Friday at 7 PM
An additional service – a prayer walk - will be held on Good Friday (April 15) at Noon. This service will occur outdoors and will involve walking the neighborhood. Please dress appropriately.

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!



Easter Tulips! Orders are due March 27th

FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Lent and Easter are soon to be upon us. Becky is already choosing music for the choir to sing, and has a piece she'd like the children to sing for Easter, as well. The children practice during the opening of Sunday School. If you have children/grandchildren of Sunday School age who would like to sing, bring them to church with you!



Choir rehearsals will be after the evening Ash Wednesday service, and after the midweek services. They will only be 30 minutes long.

INVITE

NEW MEMBER CLASSES will be held every Wednesday at 10 AM through Lent.
March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP regardless of age, if your child has not received any proper first communion instruction, please plan to have your child attend this workshop on Sunday, April 3 during the Sunday School hour.

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL SHABBAT service The Confirmands will be attending Friday evening Shabbat service on April 22 at 7 pm. The entire congregation is encouraged to attend with them. Temple Beth Israel is a Reform Jewish worship and spiritual center located next to the Jewish Community Center at 2090 Hollywood Drive, York.



SUNSHINE WORKERS will meet for a class meeting on **Monday March 7th** at 12 noon in the social room. New members always welcome! Sunshine Workers continue to sell Weis, Giant & Hoss's gift cards. Stop by the Social Room on Sunday mornings to purchase cards or contact Rosemary Rafferty.

SENIORS GROUP will meet the 1st Thursday of the month **March 3rd 11:30am** in Social Room. Bring your own sandwich. Dessert and beverage provided.

SERVE

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

Every Fourth Sunday after Sunday School.

March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, No Meeting in July, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27, December 18 (Third Sunday)

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE continues to collect 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.

HAM & CHEESE PRETZEL SANDWICH SALE

Next sandwich sale will be March 23rd, deadline for orders are March 13th.

Reminder Daffodil Sunday March 27th. Pick up following service.

BREAKFAST BLESSINGS

Our next Breakfasts will be March 5th and April 2nd. Closer to the date we will decide if it will be dine in or take out. We are looking for donations of pop tarts, body wash, shampoo, toilet paper and laundry soap.

In April we will help 3 families with an Easter dinner. If you would like to help with a monetary donations they can be sent to the church office for the breakfast blessings. We will do all the shopping. Thank you for your ongoing support to our outreach program. Everyone who attends appreciates everything.

God Bless You,
Breakfast Blessings

GIVE

ADVENT ENVELOPES 2021 were designated to be given to ELCA World Hunger.

LENTEN SPECIAL ENVELOPES 2022 are in your envelope packets and offerings received are designated for the West York School District Bulldog Pantry.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND Thank you to the many who donate to the Good Samaritan Fund. The Fund provides emergency support to those in special circumstances. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, see Pastor Liz or make a check out to St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church and designate it for the Good Samaritan Fund.

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.

=====

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

March 2nd **Ash Wednesday** **Purple**

Council Member of the Month: Emily Kramer Lector: Deb Meckley
Ushers: Team 3 Communion Assistant: Gabe Besore
Altar Guild: Deb Meckley, Pat Reigert Nursery: Ann Marie Loucks, Kelly Scott

=====

March 6th **1st Sunday Lent** **Purple**

Council Member of the Month: Emily Kramer Lector: Phil Kern
Ushers: Team 3 Communion Assistant: Rod Drawbaugh
Altar Guild: Norma Smith, Deb Starner Nursery: Ann Marie Loucks, Kelly Scott

=====

March 13th **2nd Sunday Lent** **Purple**

Council Member of the Month: Emily Kramer Lector: Linda Kern
Ushers: Team 3 Communion Assistant: Jacob Drawbaugh
Altar Guild: Aurela Wilhelm, Theresa Scheuing Nursery: Sue Brodbeck & Sonja Hoke

=====

March 20th **3rd Sunday Lent** **Purple**

Council Member of the Month: Emily Kramer Lector: : Rod Drawbaugh
Ushers: Team 3 Communion Assistant: Sue Brodbeck
Altar Guild: Vicki Besore Linda Kern Nursery: Ann Marie Loucks, Kelly Scott

=====

March 27th **4th Sunday Lent** **Purple**

Council Member of the Month: Emily Kramer Lector: Jacob Drawbaugh
Ushers: Team 3 Communion Assistant: Ann Bridge
Altar Guild: Carol Knaub, Bonnie Loucks Nursery: Sue Brodbeck & Sonja Hoke

=====

April 3rd **5th Sunday Lent** **Purple**

Council Member of the Month: Nancy Laird Lector: Deb Meckley
Ushers: Team 4 Communion Assistant: Gabe Besore
Altar Guild: Steph Laird, Pat Mummert Nursery: Ann Marie Loucks, Kelly Scott

=====

www.stjamesyork.org | 717-854-7198 | secretary@stjamesyork

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Ash Wed Service 12 Noon and 7pm New Mem 10am Choir Reh.	3 Seniors of St. James 11:30am Social Room	4	5 BREAKFAST BLESSINGS 7:30-9:00 a.m. 
6 1st Sun. Lent 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School	7 Sunshine Workers 12 Noon	8	9 New Members Class 10am	10 Lenten Service 7pm  Deborah Rinehart Birthday Choir Reh.	11  Brian Funkhouser Birthday	12  Peg Funkhouser Birthday
13 2nd Sun. Lent 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School Ham and Cheese Orders due	14	15  Nancy Laird Birthday	16 New Members Class 10am	17 Lenten Service 7pm  David Smith, Scott Stock Birthday Choir Reh.	18  Nolan Ryer Birthday	19
20 3rd Sun. Lent 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School  Ann Hied Birthday	21	22	23 New Mbr 10am Ham and Cheese Pret. Sale Pick Up 11-12 & 5-6	24 Lenten Service 7pm Choir Reh.	25	26
27 4th Sun. Lent 9AM Worship/Comm 10:15 Sunday School Daffodil Sunday Council Meeting	28 Social Ministry Meeting @11am	29	30 New Members Class 10am	31 Lenten Service 7pm Choir Reh.		

www.stjamesyork.org | 717-854-7198 | secretary@stjamesyork

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2022

STAFF AT SJELC

Office Phone (717) 854-7198

Pastor Liz Polanzke, 717-654-2334, lpolanzke@yahoo.com

Rod Drawbaugh, Congregational Council President, rdrawbaugh@verizon.net

Becky Pulling, Music Minister, pulling4@comcast.net

LaToya Thompson, Executive Assistant, secretary@stjamesyork.org

David Smith, Sexton

Sonja Hoke, Custodian

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.STJAMESYORK.ORG