

# 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 2023**

## Have you checked on your neighbors?

Dear Friends,

The number of people attempting or completing suicide or acts of self-harm are on the rise. Locally and nationally, you may have learned of someone or know someone who this affects. Regardless of the reasons, as Christians our call is to love our neighbors. That means, we check on them and make sure that they are getting the support they may need, whether it's a listening ear or more.

The Suicide and Crisis Lifeline has been nationalized as an emergency number 9-8-8. This number can be reached by CALL OR TEXT. Please share this number with the people you know, whether you think they need it or not. Because even if you think they may not need it, you could be saving a life through them to someone they know.

This Lent, be the extraordinary grace you wish to see in the world.

Love you neighbor.

Love your enemy.

May God watch over us while we are apart.

Your sister in Christ,

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

## DISCERNEMENT

### MERGER TASK FORCE

Phil Kern, Emily Kramer, Jeff Laird, Pat Mummert, Scott Rutkowski, Dave Scott, and Pastor Liz comprise the members of the Merger Task Force. This group will be investigating all shared ministry options and possibilities – a merger being just one of many. They are reading *Better Together* by Jim Tomberlin and Warren Bird as the primary resource for their conversations.

Jeff Laird and Scott Rutkowski have volunteered to serve as co-chairs, and Pastor Liz is secretary and convener. To date the MTF has had two meetings and anticipates its next meeting on March 1. They are in the exploring phase of discernment, and talking to local ministries to explore what is “out there”.

This task force is a working group. If there are any actions to be taken, those recommendations will go to the Council who will discuss, debate, and then determine what needs to happen to those recommendations. Despite any rumors you may have heard\* no decisions can be made by this Task Force or any Task Force of the congregation, unless directed to do so by the Council. For example, the Booster Task Force (a.k.a. Community Spirit Task Force, Right Now Task Force) was formed by the Council to encourage community solidarity and enthusiasm.

\*Community rumors heard by our members to date include that we are leaving the ELCA to become a non-denominational congregation; and/or we are selling our building to another congregation. If you have heard these rumors, please tell the speaker that both are untrue and that gossiping is unseemly behavior for Christians (Romans 1:28-31).

## WORSHIP

### LENT BEGINS – ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent, a time for intensified charity, prayer, and fasting, continues through the month of March. The Worship and Music Committee elected to forgo offering mid-week services this Lent. We hope you will join one of our local ministry partners as part of your Lenten discipline.

#### **St. Paul's Lutheran Church/St. Peter's Lutheran Church**

25 W. Springettsbury Ave, York

**Wednesdays**

**Dinner at 6:00 PM, Vespers at 7:00 PM**

#### **St Matthew Lutheran Church**

839 W. Market Street

**Wednesdays – Chapel Vespers 7-8 PM**

#### **North-West York Lutheran Congregations**

**Each week the meal and service will be on Wednesdays at a different location, as follows:**

**Mar 1 Rohlers**

791 Rohlers Church Rd, Dover

**Mar 8 Shiloh**

2201 Church Rd, York

**Mar 15 Calvary**

9 N. Main St, Dover

**Mar 22 Rohlers**  
**Mar 29 Calvary**  
**Meal is served from 5:30-6:30pm, Worship is at 7pm**  
**Collected Offerings will go to New Hope Ministries**

**Lent concludes with Holy Week. Services at St. James will be as follows:**

**Palm Sunday, April 2**                      Worship followed by an Egg Hunt for children

**Maundy Thursday, April 6** 6:30 PM Worship with Holy Communion

**Good Friday, April 7**                      6:30 PM Worship

**Easter Sunday, April 9**                      9 AM Easter Worship

**Risus Pascalis Sunday, April 16** 9 AM Holy Laughter Sunday Worship  
featuring Children's Program

## **ENCOURAGEMENT**

### **MEMBERS TRANSFERRED**

Rick and Anita Ashton's congregation membership was transferred to St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Hanover, PA. Godspeed them and may St. Matthew be blessed by them as we have been. Ralph Ashton remains a member of St. James as a shut-in.

## **PRAYER**

The Prayer Chain is now in email form ONLY and can be reached through the office by calling your prayer request to LaToya Thompson (Administrative Assistant in the office), 717-854-7198 OR Pastor Liz, 717-654-2334, who will email it to the group **OR** you can email your prayer request to Pastor Liz, [lpolanzke@yahoo.com](mailto:lpolanzke@yahoo.com), OR LaToya Thompson, [secretary@stjamesyork.org](mailto:secretary@stjamesyork.org), OR Deb Meckley, [debim31773@comcast.net](mailto:debim31773@comcast.net).

If you would like to be a member of the email prayer group, simply request that Pastor Liz add you to the list. Written requests are preferred.

We pray for Sonja Hoke, custodian, will be on vacation from March 16 – March 26 that she may have fund and safe travel.

## **LEARN**

The Adult Sunday School class will be concluding their study of the Gospel of Matthew this month. Bring a friend and your Bible! Sunday School is from 10:15 – 11:15 AM after worship. We are happy to welcome the return of Mark Snyder who will resume teaching.

## **GIVE**

The Good Samaritan Fund of St. James was able to distribute \$300 in the month of February, which brings the total below \$1000 remaining in the fund. If you would like to give in order to help fellow human beings in their time of need, simply mark your donation to the Good Samaritan fund and mail it in or drop it in the offering plate.



**SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE** is 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.

### **SERVE**

**LUTHERAN DAY AT THE CAPITOL** is a day of advocacy hosted by the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania (LAMPa) on April 27. These regular events give Lutherans an opportunity to speak to state senators and representatives about the issues we care about including hunger and housing. Stay tuned for more details about the schedule of events for April 27 through LAMPa's Facebook page or our Weekly News.

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY FEMALE VOTING MEMBER SOUGHT** for March 12, May 20, and June 2-3. March 12 is the local York Conference Assembly which will be held at Zion Lutheran Church. May 2 and June 2 are online. June 3 is in-person at Trinity Lutheran Church in Camp Hill. If you are interested in participating in church events beyond our congregation, this is a good opportunity to see what is up and participate in elections and decision-making. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Liz. Rod Drawbaugh will be the male voting member from St. James.

### **Breakfast Blessings**

Breakfast Blessings wants to thank everyone for their ongoing support to the breakfast outreach program. For the upcoming breakfast we could use men and woman deodorant, laundry soap, toilet paper, body wash and shampoo.

God Bless,

Breakfast Blessings

### **Altar Flowers**

Sponsors for 2023 -\$38 per week

**THE 2023 FLOWER CHART WILL BE POSTED ON THE ADAMS STREET BULLETIN BOARD**

We will not prefill dates with names from previous years. If you would like to sponsor a date you've used in the past please be sure to sign your name next to that date.



## INVITE

**Seniors:** The seniors group will be meeting March 2nd at 11:30. Our entertainment will be The Jokesters, a group of women who tell funny stories and jokes. Please remember to pack your lunch, desserts will be provided.

**Ham Supper!** Good News, mark your calendar for March 4<sup>th</sup> for the return of our Public Ham Supper 4pm-6:30pm Adults \$12 Kids \$6. If you are interested in helping, see Sonja or call me at 717-792-0245. Baked goods and desert donations are welcomed and greatly appreciated.

**Book Sale!!** Please save your books for us and gather books and puzzles from friends and relatives. Date to is to be determined. More news to follow.

**Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal:** Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Junior Room. Anyone Middle School age or older is welcome to join. You do not have to read music to be part of this group.

**Spiritrust Auxiliary Drive Membership** will start in April, just a reminder to be prepared.

## "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 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**2 Lent**

**Purple**

Council Member of the Month: Emily Kramer  
Ushers: Brian & Peggy Funkhouser  
Altar Guild: Norma Smith, Tammy Loucks

Lector: Debra Meckley  
Communion Assistant: Theresa Scheuing  
Nursery: Sue Brodbeck & Sonja Hoke

=====

**March 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**3 Lent**

**Purple**

Council Member of the Month: Emily Kramer  
Ushers: Tom Kramer, Ryan & Andrew  
Altar Guild: Aurela Wilhelm, Deb Starner

Lector: Rod Drawbaugh  
Communion Assistant: Ruth Hoover  
Nursery: Ann Marie Loucks, Kelly Scott

=====

**March 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**4 Lent**

**Purple**

Council Member of the Month: Emily Kramer  
Ushers: Brian & Peggy Funkhouser  
Altar Guild: Theresa Scheuing, Carol Knaub

Lector: Jeff Laird  
Communion Assistant: Norma Smith  
Nursery: Sue Brodbeck & Sonja Hoke

=====

**March 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**5 Lent**

**Purple**

Council Member of the Month: Emily Kramer  
Ushers: Tom Kramer, Ryan & Andrew  
Altar Guild: Vicki Besore, Linda Kern

Lector: Carol Knaub  
Communion Assistant: Deb Meckley  
Nursery: Ann Marie Loucks, Kelly Scott

=====

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Palm Sunday**

**Purple**

Council Member of the Month: Rod Drawbaugh  
Ushers: Marie, Bethany Drawbaugh  
Altar Guild: Steph Laird, Pat Mummert

Lector: Phil Kern  
Communion Assistant: Theresa Scheuing  
Nursery: Sue Brodbeck & Sonja Hoke

# March 2023 at St. James Ev. Lutheran Church- West York, Pa

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|---|-----------|--|--|--|---|
|  |   |           | <b>1</b><br>Merger Task<br>Force Meeting<br>6pm  | <b>2</b><br>Seniors Meeting<br>11:30am<br><b>Hand Chime</b><br><b>6:30pm</b><br><b>Choir Rehearsal</b><br><b>7pm</b> | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b><br>Breakfast<br>Blessings 9am<br><br>Ham Supper  |
| <b>5</b><br><b>2 Lent</b><br>Worship/Comm<br>9am<br>Sunday School<br>10:15am<br>Ham and Cheese<br>orders due!  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b><br><br><b>Hand Chime</b><br><b>6:30pm</b><br><b>Choir Rehearsal</b><br><b>7pm</b>                           | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b><br> Brian Funkhouser<br>Birthday |
| <b>12</b><br><b>3 Lent</b><br> Peg<br>Funkhouser<br>Birthday<br>Worship/Comm<br>9am<br>Sunday School<br>10:15am | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br> Nancy Laird<br>Birthday<br>Ham and cheese<br>pickup.<br><br>Merger Task<br>Force Meeting<br>6pm | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b><br> David Smith,<br>Scott Stock<br>Birthday | <b>18</b>   |
| <b>19</b> <b>4 Lent</b><br>Worship/Comm<br>9am<br>Sunday School<br>10:15am<br>Tulip Orders Due<br>Council Meeting  | <b>20</b><br> Ann Hied<br>Birthday | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b><br><br><b>Hand Chime</b><br><b>6:30pm</b><br><b>Choir Rehearsal</b><br><b>7pm</b>                          | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>   |
| <b>26</b><br><b>5 Lent</b><br>Worship/Comm<br>9am<br>Sunday School<br>10:15am<br><b>Daffodil Sunday!</b>   | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br>Merger Task<br>Force Meeting<br>6pm   | <b>30</b><br><br><b>Hand Chime</b><br><b>6:30pm</b><br><b>Choir Rehearsal</b><br><b>7pm</b>                          | <b>31</b>  |   |

**St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2023

**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](http://WWW.STJAMESYORK.ORG)