

THE SEASHELL

A Newsletter of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

25 N Adams Street, West York, PA. 17404

717-854-7198

www.stjamesyork.org



NOVEMBER, 2022
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Exciting Opportunities

November 6 is All Saints Sunday. On this day we recognize our connection as a baptized people. Through Christ, we are always connected those saints in temporal (earthly) life and the saints in light. Christ has given us an eternal life, and it is why we are always alive together. In him, we are one people. On All Saints we will take time to name in the Intercessory Prayer all those saints in light who we miss and remember.

The color of the day is white. All members of the congregation are encouraged to wear white that day, especially because after worship we will be taking a group selfie picture. That picture will be put on Christmas cards to our shut-ins, military members, and students. The cards will be placed in care packages for them. If you wish a December care package to be sent to a military member or student, please submit their name, address, and \$10 in an envelope to the office or via the offering plate. The Youth of our congregation will be assembling the care packages in November for December delivery.

After our picture, everyone is encouraged to join the Council downstairs in the Social Hall for a congregation discussion about the future of the congregation. After spending time praying and listening, some concerns have arisen about which the Council wishes to discuss and get feedback from the congregation. This is not a meeting of the congregation, so while Council members will be making notes of your comments, there will be no action or voting items. Come with a prayerful, open, honest heart to the discussion.

Some have asked if I will be present, and the answer is yes! As a member of Council, the congregation's pastor, and called Synod representative, I am a bridge for the congregation to the resources of the synod and broader church. I will be listening to the conversation, while other members lead.

At some point for various reasons, many members of the congregation grew to distrust the pastoral office of the congregation. Consequently, I appreciate that there may be some discomfort talking about the congregation with me present. But the things we are talking about (persistent 20%-50% drop in yearly worship attendance for the last ten years, aging membership, waning volunteerism, growing community needs, etc.) existed before my arrival. My call is to help the congregation address the issues and figure out how to move forward. This conversation is a very important part of the process. It's not an occasion to review my ministry, but an occasion to review the congregation's ministry in light of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

We pray that the Spirit will open our hearts and minds to the possibilities that God is making for us. We offer Holden Village's Prayer of Good Courage:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Your Sister in Christ, Pastor Liz Polanzke

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.

Council Meeting Schedule for 2022

Every Fourth Sunday after Sunday School, November 27, December 18 (Third Sunday)

WORSHIP

Wear WHITE! On November 6th when we celebrate All Saints Day and remember the saints who have died.

All Saints Remembered Submit the names of the baptized who have died that you would like to remember in the Intercessory Prayers by October 30th. Write down their names, or email them and give them to Pastor Liz DIRECTLY. lpolanzke@yahoo.com OR drop them in her mailbox in the office.

Pastor Tom Caruso will be leading worship on November 20, Christ the King Sunday, while Pastor Liz is away. Welcome Pastor Tom!

PRAY



IN PRAYER: for the following: Judy Cooper, Gaye Lauer, Ron Crone, Betty Burkhart, Jennifer Roosa, Joanne Nolt, Molly Slyder. Prayers also for those in the military, Benjamin (Ben) Reeder, Brodey Decker, Adam Reed, Lakyn Wedlock, and Jacob Drawbaugh. To add a name to the prayer chain please contact Pastor Liz 717-654-2334 or one of the Prayer chain chairpersons, Shirley Trout, 717-846-4784, Janice Sewell, 717-767-4122, or Deb Meckley 717-764-0372.

Emergent Prayer requests may be phoned-in or emailed. By phone, please call Deb Meckley, (717-764-0372), Shirley Trout (717-846-4784) or Janice Sewell (717-767-4122). By email, please email Pastor Liz, lpolanzke@yahoo.com



2022 POINSETTIA ORDER

Please use this order form to order your Christmas poinsettia. Completed form and payment may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off in the office during the week. All orders must be received by **November 28th** (This is the florist deadline so that they can reserve the number of plants we need.)

PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER in an envelope and mark POINSETTIA(S)
do not place loose form and payment in the offering plate.

Poinsettias, supplied by Chas. Schaefer, will be \$10.00

ORDERED BY _____

(Name)

(Env. #)

Please indicate whether the announcement is

IN MEMORY OF

or

IN HONOR OF

I desire the announcement to read as follows:

by _____

POINSETTIAS may be picked up following the **late** service on Christmas Eve, December 24th, after worship on Sunday, December 25th or by making other arrangements to pick up by calling the church office 717-854-7198.

WILL PICK UP ON CHRISTMAS EVE _____

WILL PICK UP ON SUNDAY _____

WILL PICK UP later in the week. _____

Number of plants _____ @ \$10.00each

Payment enclosed: \$ _____

Submit this entire form – please do not tear in half, thank you

LEARN

Adult Sunday School has resumed. Every Sunday at 10:15 AM after post-worship fellowship. The Schedule is as follows:

November 13	The Book of Esther with Pastor Liz Polanzke
November 20	The Christmas Story with Mark Snyder
November 27	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Weekend)
December 4	TBA
December 11	The Christmas Story continues with Mark Snyder

Youth Sunday School

The Gospel of Matthew for Ages 5 – 7th Grade

The Wired Word (Contemporary issues) – Senior High and Confirmands

GIVE

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

Holiday Care Packages If you would like a care package sent to a military member or college student, submit their name, USPS mailing address, and \$10 by November 6th. The youth of St. James will be assembling the packages.

Donate Shoe Boxes For Holiday Care Packages to the Youth of St. James by November 6th. Our young people will be creating and mailing Holiday Care Packages. (see announcement above) Shoe boxes may be placed on the back pew of the Nave on the pulpit side.

Breakfast Blessings

Breakfast Blessings is doing an amazing job serving a hot breakfast the first Saturday of each month to our community. In November we will pick 2-3 families to help and supply everything to make a Thanksgiving meal. If you would like to make a Monetary donation please send to church office and label it Breakfast Blessings.

At our December 3rd breakfast we are going to have Christmas items available for people to wrap. If you would like to donate new children toys for the adults to wrap for their child or a special gift for a mom or dad that the children could wrap please place it on the pool table by November 30th. We will also accept Monetary donations if you would like us to shop for you. Thank you to the congregation, sunshine workers and Weis Markets for your ongoing support to the breakfast community outreach program.

**God Bless,
Breakfast Blessings**

Ham & Cheese Pretzel Sandwich Sale

Ham and Cheese Pretzel Sandwich Pick up will be November 9th 11am-12pm. The deadline for ordering will be October 30th. Order forms will be available on the entrance table.



Social Ministry: Would like to thank the Quilters for donating 5 quilts to the Lutheran World Relief.

INVITE

Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal: is Thursday at 6:00pm 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.

St. James Seniors will be meeting on Nov. 3, 2022, at 11:30. Our entertainment that day will be Scott Mingus, a Civil War author. Please join us, pack your lunch, desserts will be provided. Our **Christmas Banquet** will be Dec. 1, 2022, at Hoss's in West York at 11:30. If you will not be at the Nov. meeting to sign up for the banquet and would like to attend, please call Karen Arnold (717-792-3240) to register for the event. Please call by Nov 23, 2022.

Congregational Photo

On November 6th, **All Saints Sunday** we will be taking a Congregational photo. We will be taking a group selfie on November 6, immediately following worship. The picture will be developed and sent with care packages to college students and military personnel. The photo will be taken immediately following worship service on November the 6th, so please plan on coming and bring your best smile!

The Future of St. James

The Council will sponsor a conversation with the congregation about the future of St. James on November 6th after worship. The purpose of this conversation is to have open, honest, loving, and productive dialogue about St. James. Church council will be leading this discussion. Please plan to attend and participate in this critical conversation.

Christmas Pageant

Save the date!!!! St. James youth will be putting on a Christmas pageant during the 9am worship service on December the 18th.

ENCOURAGE

Keep a Devers K-8 Student warm this Winter! The Teachers at Devers Elementary have launched a drive to buy Devers' Sweatshirts for all 700 students. The cost for each sweatshirt is \$20. Donation slips are available on the table outside the sanctuary. Please feel free to take a donation slip to your employer as well. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

November 2022 at St. James Ev. Lutheran Church- West York, Pa

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Heath Laird, Richard Mummert Birthday	3 St. James Seniors Meeting 11:30 a.m. Hand Chime Rehearsal 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm	4	5 Hilda Flickinger Birthday
6 All Saints Sunday Worship/Comm 9am Sunday School 10:15am "Wear White" *Congregational Photo *Future of St. James Meeting Casey Becker Birthday	7	8 Wilfert Lauer Birthday	9 Ham and Cheese Pickup 11am-12pm	10 Kay Gerrick Birthday Hand Chime Rehearsal 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm	11	12 Leigh Lauer, Birthday
13 23rd Sunday Pentecost Worship/Comm 9am Sunday School 10:15am	14	15 Wesley Bridge Birthday	16 Ann Marie Loucks Birthday	17 Teresa Euculano Birthday Hand Chime Rehearsal 6pm	18	19
20 Christ The King Last Sunday Pentecost Worship/Comm 9am Sunday School 10:15am	21 Carolyn Welkom Birthday	22 Catherine Berkheimer Birthday	23	24 Hand Chime Rehearsal 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm	25	26
27 1st Sunday Advent Worship/Comm 9am Sunday School 10:15am Council Meeting	28	29 Betty Lauer Birthday	30 Gabriel Besore Birthday			

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2022

STAFF AT SJELC

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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