

Saint James Lutheran Connection



January
2012



If you would like to see this newsletter in color, check it out at our Saint James Website:

www.saintjameslutheran.com

Saint James Ev. Lutheran Church

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NEW Saint James Youth Website: www.saintjamesyouth.org

Why Is January 6th Called “The Gentile Christmas?”

The season of *Epiphany* begins on January 6th, based on the visit of the Magi to worship the infant Jesus as reported in **Matthew 2: 1-12**. It is also called “*The Gentile Christmas*,” as it celebrates the arrival of Gentile magi “from the East” to worship the newborn King Jesus. The Russian Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on January 7th, following the old Julian Calendar, which is 13 days behind the Gregorian Calendar which most modern Christians follow.

All through the season of Epiphany the scripture readings “unwrap the Gift” and “manifest” one attribute of Jesus after another. After the weeks of Epiphany comes Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, followed by the 6-week penitential season of Lent.

So Epiphany Season looks backward, remembering Christmas when God presented His Gift of His Son into world history, and, at the same time, it looks forward to the observance of Lent, the 6-week season when we especially focus on the suffering that the baby born in Bethlehem came to endure for us.

As you worship with us during January and February, look for attributes of Jesus as the Scripture readings “unwrap the Gift” before our eyes of faith. Is He all-powerful, wise, compassionate, forgiving, or something else? The invitation of the Christmas Carol still persists during Epiphany: “O Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!” *rhs*

Attention Snowbirds!

Please notify the office when you leave for the winter – this saves us money on returned mail. Also, if you would like to receive CDs or DVDs of our services please let us know and we’ll be happy to send them to you. Call the office at 651-457-9232 or drop us a note. Thank you!

Worship Opportunities @ Saint James

Every Sunday: 8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

(Holy Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays)

Every Monday: *Evening SonRise*
6:30 p.m.

Casual, informal worship utilizing sturdy hymns of the faith as well as more contemporary, modern hymns.

January Fireside Room Bible Class Suspends *Unraveling The Revelation* Until January 29th.

The Fireside Room Bible Class has worked through the first 15 chapters of The Revelation. The class will not meet in January while Pastor Stadler is teaching in India among the Christians in the Bible Faith Lutheran Church in India. When class resumes on Sunday, January 29 at 9:15 a.m., we will examine the images in Revelation 16, and also report on what questions the pastors and seminary students raised about The Revelation, since Pastor Stadler will be leading them through it for one week of classes in India. If in the meantime you wish to catch up on sessions you have missed, you can listen to them on our website: www.saintjameslutheran.com. rhs



Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study – Reacting to Acts

The men meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month. We gather in the Fireside Room about 8:00 AM. Refreshments are usually provided. Sometimes we start with a review for anyone who missed the previous session. Then we read from the book of Acts, comparing several different English translations and making pertinent applications to our lives today. When we have to go, we close with prayer. We usually try to finish by about 9:30 AM.

Last month we began our discussion of Acts chapter 21, where Paul is hurrying back to Jerusalem at the end of his Third Missionary Journey. He wants to get to Jerusalem for Pentecost. Did he make it? Luke tells us that Paul greeted James, the brother of Our Lord, and the elders of the church. He took their advice and accompanied four men who were going to the Temple to purify themselves, evidently in connection with a Nazirite vow they had taken. This took a week. At the end of the week, Paul got arrested. But Luke says nothing about Pentecost. Can we reconstruct the timeline and figure out whether Paul got arrested before, during or after Pentecost? How did Paul's plans change after he got arrested? What can we learn from this story about making plans for the future?

This month we plan to meet on January 7 and 21, Lord willing and weather permitting. All men are cordially invited to join us. For more information, please contact Todd Readinger at 651-276-6902.

Saturday Morning Women's Bible Study Considers Paul's Speech to Herod Agrippa

An intergenerational group of women meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month in the Fireside Room. We have been studying the story of Paul's Jewish and Roman trials, which led to his first imprisonment in Rome. Last month we talked about Paul's trial before the Roman governor Festus. After Paul appealed to Caesar, Festus did not know how to explain to Caesar why Paul was being sent to Rome. So Festus hoped that King Herod Agrippa could help him. Agrippa was anxious to hear Paul speak, as Herod Antipas had been anxious to see Jesus. Paul told Agrippa the story of his conversion on the road to Damascus. Was Paul trying to defend himself? Or was Paul more concerned about witnessing to Agrippa? Was Paul expecting that Agrippa would have a dramatic conversion experience? Did Paul ever tell other people that they should expect such an experience? What can we learn from Paul about witnessing to people today?

We will meet on January 14 and 28. All women are welcome. Arrive at your convenience any time after 8:00 AM. Pastor Albrecht joins the group at about 8:30. For further information, please call Donna Albrecht at 651-746-4841.



The Chapel Bible Class: Singing the Song of Solomon

We are preparing to read the Song of Solomon by reviewing what the Bible tells us about Solomon's life. Last month we started discussing the story of Absalom's rebellion. How old was Solomon when David fled from Jerusalem? Did Solomon remain in Jerusalem or did he go with his father? At this point in time, was Solomon already expecting to become the next king? How did these events shape young Solomon's perspective on marriage and family life?

Your questions and comments are encouraged. The class meets downstairs in the chapel between services on Sunday morning. The class is repeated on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 in the Fireside Room. Audio CD's are available in the Fireside kitchen. You can listen to the class or download it at our Saint James web site www.saintjameslutheran.com.

Couples Date Night - Saturday January 21 - 6:00 PM

Over the past year the Saint James Education Committee has sponsored a series of Couples Date Nights. Each couple brings some food to share. The evening begins with casual conversation so we can get to know each other better. Previous Date Nights featured a DVD called "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage" by Mark Gungor. Now we intend to move on to another speaker who will entertain us and give us some ideas about how to make a good marriage even better. Pastor Albrecht will conclude the evening by leading a brief discussion of what the Bible has to say about the topic for the evening.

If you did not come to any of our previous Date Nights, but would like to see what is going on, you are welcome to the next one, a free night out. You don't have to purchase a ticket for this movie. Just bring a favorite dish to share. If you can't make it promptly at 6:00, just come when you can. After eating and socializing with each other, we will settle down to watch the video.

There is no need to register ahead of time, but we would like to provide a nursery for couples who would appreciate having child care available. On the one hand, we want to save you the expense of hiring a baby sitter, but on the other hand we also want to give the young volunteers who are watching your children some compensation for their time and service. So if you are interested in child care, please contact Ron Ecker by email at rcecker@q.com or by phone at 651-457-3177 or contact Mark Reichenbach at 651-686-4760 or by email at m.reichenbach@yahoo.com.

Our Hymns, A Kaleidoscope of Worship Traditions-2012

Do you know who wrote the hymns you are singing in church? Do you know whether they come from a Norwegian, African American, Scottish or German source? The pastors and the music staff are going to address that question in 2012. Each month we will identify one group of our hymns from a particular source and background. In January, we will identify hymns with a Latin background, some dating back to the earliest centuries of Christian worship. Then in February we will focus on hymns from an African American background. In March we will identify hymns from Irish Christians. Each month we'll focus on hymns from a different source. Before we finish in December, you may discover your ancestry represented among the hymns we sing. We hope the effort will enhance your worship and stimulate your own curiosity to explore the wide spectrum of ethnic, geographical and theological sources for the hymns we sing. *rhs*

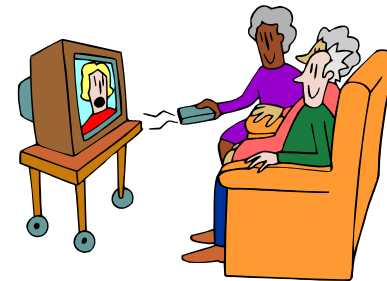
Sunday & Monday Worship Services on DVD's and Audio CD's

We now produce DVD's and CD's of our worship services. Extra copies are in the Fireside Room kitchen and in the new narthex at the Visitor Welcome Center.

If you wish a DVD or Audio CD copy of a Saint James service, simply call the church office (651-457-9232) and indicate what you prefer.

If you know someone who would appreciate a copy of our worship services on audio CD or video DVD, please call the church office and we will mail them a copy each week

You Can Watch Saint James' Services on Comcast – Town Square Television – Channel 16.



Monday	9:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
Thursday	12:00 noon
Friday	9:00 a.m.
Saturday	6.00 a.m.
Sunday	3:00 a.m.

In St. Paul, we are on Channel 14, Wednesdaysat Noon And 7:00 P.M.

Check out the Interactive Calendar on our Website

One useful feature on our Saint James Website is the interactive calendar. Just go to our website and click on "Church Information" and then on "Calendar." When you hold your cursor over an event title, additional information may pop up to explain it. Just go to our website and try it: www.saintjameslutheran.com.





They pray with each other, and they pray for their families back home.

Please Pray for Those in Military Service and their families.

These members and friends of Saint James are in active military service. If you know of others, please call the church office and let us know so we can send them mail and let them know that we are keeping them in our prayers. But also remember to pray for their families, too, because they are making a significant sacrifice on the home front. And while we are praying for our own citizens, let us also remember to pray for the people whose countries are being ripped and destroyed by violence and bloodshed.



- Steve Beckwith, Army**
- Randy Berg, Army**
- John Coleman, Army in Iraq**
- Tyler Dobberstein, Air Force, Okinawa**
- Brent Hassler, Air Force**
- Derek Henrich, Marines**
- Joseph Holm, Army in Kuwait**
- Nick Olson, Navy Seals, Afghanistan**
- Tony Olson, Navy**
- Ransome Springer, Navy**
- Hailey Ulrich, Navy**
- Derek Yackel, Marines in Afghanistan**



Saint James Finances

“The Lord Is Good. His Mercy Endures Forever!”

The official computations are not completed yet for 2011, but early results indicate that we have much to be thankful for because of the generous hearts who have supported the ministry of Saint James during 2011. We are hoping that the contributions during November and December were generous enough to eliminate the deficit we faced at the end of November. We will have a detailed report in the February newsletter when we have crunched all the numbers.

In the meantime, we thank God for all the faithful members of Saint James who cheerfully and generously give their gifts, large and small, as they are able, to support the Lord’s work among us. Thank You for your partnership in the Gospel work of our Lord!



In every season of life, the Lord blesses us with His grace and mercy, love and peace. As we remember how much He gives us, we simply respond with faith as He has blessed us.

Official Acts in December



- Baptisms:**
- Dec. 4----Mya Marie Albrecht, infant daughter of Carl Albrecht and Laura Metzen
 - Dec. 11---Lauren Amanda Wendel, infant daughter of Gerald and Melissa Wendel



- Wedding:**
- Dec. 10---Mercedes Fuentes and Jacob Wilson



- Funerals:**
- Dec. 5----Keren Schonfeld
 - Dec. 19---Alice Wicker
 - Dec. 29---Hilda Huseby

Pastor Stadler Labors in India in January

Pastor Stadler will be laboring in India during January to assist our brothers and sisters in the Bible Faith Lutheran Church. Pastor Stadler will be in India for two weeks. While there, he will be teaching in the seminary, preaching in congregations on the weekends, and speaking at the Symposium for Pastors, which last year drew over 400 Lutheran and Pentecostal pastors to Guntur. He will bring to the Indians of the BFLC assurances of our Saint James prayers and support. When he returns he will also report to Saint James how the Gospel work is progressing in a country where over 80% of the people are Hindus, 10% are Muslims and less than 7% are Christians. Please pray that the work in India will be a blessing not only for our brothers and sisters in Andhra Pradesh, India, but also for us here at Saint James, as the lessons learned there are shared with our people. *rhs*

Ladies Guild Hears Pastors' Reports and Sees Pictures from 2011 on February 7th.

The Ladies Guild meets on the first Tuesday, February 7th, at 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Room. After the pastor's devotion, the pastors will present their annual reports. The ladies will have a chance to see pictures from many of their meetings and events held at Saint James throughout 2011. You will hear reports about the missions we support, our stewardship program, youth and evangelism outreach and other interesting aspects of our ministry. If you have wondered, as one member asked in December, "When will we get to see all these pictures you are taking?" The answer is: **February, at the Guild meeting!** All ladies are invited to attend. *Phyllis Malmgren*

On the Lighter Side: Challenging Technology

I was driving when I saw the flash of a traffic camera. I figured that my picture had been taken for exceeding the limit even though I knew that I was not speeding. Just to be sure, I went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed. Now I thought, this is funny. So I drove even slower through the same area once more. The traffic camera flashed again. I tried a fourth and fifth time with the same results. Now I was laughing as the camera flashed while I rolled past at a snail's pace. Two weeks later, I got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt. You just can't fix stupid.

Got Questions? Bring them to the New Series of D.D.D. Classes, Jan. 31st.

Do you have questions about the Christian faith that you didn't have before? Do you have questions that you have had for a long time and would like to find out what the Bible says about them? Are people asking you questions about the Christian faith that you



would like to be better equipped to answer? Do you know someone who would like to know more about how Lutherans answer some of the tough questions that are being asked of Christians? Then, maybe, you and your friend would enjoy participating in **Digging Deeper As A Disciple** classes at Saint James!

D.D.D. classes allow you to ask questions, all the questions you have ever wanted to ask, in a safe, informal environment where no question is regarded as silly or stupid. In 12 sessions, we will cover all the major teachings of Christianity, find out what the Bible does and does NOT say about them, how Lutherans are similar to and different from other Christian denominations and give participants the chance to ask the questions they've been wanting to ask. Our sourcebook is the Bible. We will dig into it and mine it for its treasures. You may have gone to Sunday School and Confirmation classes, but you are older, wiser and more experienced now. You have discovered how complicated life can be. You may see the need for insights that you did not appreciate when you were 14 years old. You've learned to learn from others, and that is what we do in D.D.D. classes, as people from various backgrounds share what they have learned along the way, too.

No one will be forced to read aloud or give answers. Some choose to simply sit and listen. Others learn by asking questions and posing hypothetical situations. All are welcome.

It all begins again on Tuesday, January 25th, 7:15-8:45 p.m. Both members and non-members are welcome. At the end of the sessions, non-members are welcome to join the congregation, but no one is pressured to do so. Come for all the sessions or only those that interest you. **Each Tuesday, 7:15-8:45 p.m., starting January 31st.** *rhs*

Thanks to Those Who Delivered Poinsettias and Prayer Shawls to Seniors on December 3rd

Poinsettia plants were recently delivered to 45 seniors and others who are not able to attend church very often. The plants are a way of sharing the joy of the season with the recipients, and of reminding them that they are loved and appreciated by our congregation.



In addition to the poinsettia plants, several prayer shawls also were given to people who had not received one previously. Nancy Unruh leads the prayer shawl ministry, and she coordinated that aspect of the delivery that took place on December 3rd. Thanks to Nancy and to all the ladies who knit the prayer shawls. They are greatly appreciated!

The delivery teams this year included:

Tom & Sue Clawson, Howard & Nancy Unruh, Lorna Redding and Dana Andersen, Roland & Arlis Anderson, Dorothy & Harry Scott, Ginny & Al Pieper, Duane and Donna Kastner, Janet Hodnik & Tim McCarthy, Ed, Cirrie, and Brianna Byrnes, Don & Shirley Hess, Ross & Pat Butenhoff, Barb and Val Namen, and the Pone family. Thanks to these teams for representing our congregation so well in extending the joy of the Christmas season.

Thanks too to the Ladies' Guild for sponsoring a project again this year that brings joy to so many.
-rnr-

Lenten Sermon Theme:

"The Power of Forgiveness."

Lent Begins February 22nd.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. This year, the pastors of Saint James will focus their sermons on Bible stories that display *"The Power of Forgiveness."* Nothing can cripple lives more than guilt and un-forgiven sin. Nothing can poison relationships, marriages and families than bitterness, God liberates burdened souls with His promise of forgiveness in Christ. God also enables sinners to forgive each other and neutralize the acid of bitterness. Forgiveness heals broken hearts and relationships and restores hope and joy as it melts pettiness and hostility. Plan now to set aside time during Lent for a memorable midweek Lenten worship tradition. Ponder the power of God's forgiveness not just for yourself but also for others.

S²@SJ

(Sunday School at Saint James)

Greetings!

We've had a busy December, which included not only our Sunday School lessons, but three Saturday practices and the Children's Christmas Service. Many thanks to all of the people involved with these events.

After all of the Sunday School children took their well deserved treat bags (containing peanuts, Clementine oranges, gum, and wrapped candy) there were 15 left. These extra bags were given to the Naomi residence and will be given to the children residing there.

Thank you to all who've placed winter clothing on the "Giving Tree" – all of the items donated have been, or are in the process of being distributed to the Listening House, The Naomi Residence, and Joseph's Coat.

As we head into a New Year, we continue our lesson series on Jesus:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, January 1, 2012 | No Sunday School |
| Sunday, January 8, 2012: | <i>Mark 1: 1-13</i>
The Baptism & Temptation of Jesus |
| Sunday January 15, 2012: | <i>John 1: 43-51</i>
Jesus calls Philip & Nathanael |
| Sunday, January 22, 2012: | <i>Mark 2:13-17</i>
Jesus calls Matthew |
| Sunday, January 29, 2012: | <i>Mark 10: 13-16</i>
Jesus & the Little Children |

THANK YOU for allowing us to have your children with us at Saint James Sunday School. We cannot do our work without your help.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact your Sunday School Superintendents:

Mark & Juli Kinzer, E-Mail: kinpar1092@aol.com
(H) 651-222-3825, (C) 612-743-6234

What Does It Cost To Join The Saint James Choir In 2012?

Answer: Not a cent. If you are willing to invest 90 minutes each Wednesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. with a group of delightful people, a delightful director Tom Rowland, making music for worship, that's it! Sure, there's no such thing as a "free lunch!" But choir is! Just come and try it! Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Youth News



Laura Devereaux & Josie Thune in the 2008 Talent Show

Youth & Family Talent Show & Brunch

Save the date for the 4th annual talent show & brunch – Sunday, February 19th at Noon. Scrumptious food, great entertainment & fun fellowship ~ all to support the youth! We have already collected items for door prizes & a silent auction. We are looking for Saint James entrepreneurs who would like to offer their wares at the show! Contact Terese or Carrie Ecker for a spot. Tickets on go on sale January 15th!



Cookie Bake off Winning Team! Julia, Bailey, Kate, Isabel & Katie. Pictured with one of the esteemed judges Mr. Mark Sir.

Upcoming dates for Jr. & Sr. League Activities!

Thurs. Jan 5th @ 6:30pm – Youth Band in BOB
Sun. Jan. 8th @ 9:15 – HS Bible Class Christmas Party
Mon. Jan 9th @ 7:30pm Ski Trip Meeting
Fri. Jan 13th-Mon. Jan. 16th – Giant's Ridge Ski Trip
Fri Jan 20th – evening Family Ski @ Afton Alps
Sun. Feb. 19th @ noon – Youth Talent Show & Brunch
Fri Feb 24th – evening Family Ski @ Afton Alps
Sat Mar 3rd – all day Family Ski @ Afton Alps
Wed. March 7th – Youth Lenten Taco Supper
Sun. July 15th-Sun. July 22nd Youth 2012 Mission Trip
Mon. Aug. 6th-Fri. Aug. 10th – V BS 2012



Family Ski @ Afton Alps

Families can take advantage of three ski dates available at Afton this winter! Fri, Jan 20th, Fri, Feb 24th & Sat March 3rd. Cost is only \$25 for a full day lift ticket per skier & only \$16 for an evening. This special price is available for skiers of all ages at Saint James. Contact Terese to find out how to take advantage of this great opportunity! Information is available on her office door.

Friday Evenings, 4:30pm-9:30pm \$16 lift ticket
Full Day Saturday, 9am-9:30pm \$25 lift ticket
Ski/Board Rentals \$18 & Ski/Board lessons or
Helmet Rentals only \$4

High School Youth Band

If you like music & are in 9th grade & above, please come by to check out the youth band in BOB on Thursdays @ 6:30pm. Even if you don't play or sing, we need a promotion team! So if you like music, stop in!



High School Bible Study

All youth 9th grade & above are invited to the High school Bible class Christmas party next Sunday, January 8th @ 9:15am. Bring a white elephant gift if you would like to participate in a gift exchange & wear your ugliest sweater with a festive spirit! Warm drinks & goodies, along with talk about the greatest gift of all! In BOB every Sunday! ☺
No experience necessary, open seating! :-p

www.saintjamesyouth.org - you can also email or call Terese @ 651-336-211tthune@saintjameslutheran.com
~Terese Thune –youth worker

Harvesting This Year's Christmas Trees



The team closes in on the quarry.



The team takes a break for the paparazzi!



Safely at Saint James!



Bringing the trees into the sanctuary.



Dragging the trees to their resting place before they are put in place.



A perfect fit!

Former Saint James Vicar Pastor Jerome Kingsbury With The Lord

Pastor Jerome Robert Kingsbury, age 80, passed away December 1, 2011. He was born on April 9, 1931 in St. Paul and baptized in St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Paul, where his parents were charter members. He attended Sunday School and taught Sunday School there until he was confirmed at Saint James Lutheran in 1951 by Pastor Carl Bolle.

He attended public grade schools and Concordia Lutheran High School and Junior College, St. Paul, earning an Associate in Arts degree. In 1951, he enrolled at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, transferred to and graduated from Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin. He graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1958. During his third year, he served as a vicar here at Saint James under Pastor Bolle. After graduation he served as a tutor at Dr. Martin Luther College, then vacancies at Crandon, Argonne, Hiles and Wabeno, Wisconsin. He was ordained and served as the pastor of two of the congregations in Crandon and Hiles for eight years. He also served congregations in Appleton, Daggett and Wallace, Wisconsin, during his 44 year ministry. He provided a 3-6 minute message through his "Dial-A-Meditation" program, which he continued until his death. He was preceded in death by his wife Lee. He was buried in Escanaba, Michigan. *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. 'Yea,' says the Spirit, that they rest from their labors and their works do follow them."* Revelation 14:13

Comprehension Quiz.

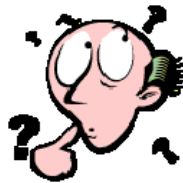
If you read the E-Newsletter, Can You Answer These Questions?

(It is o.k. to scroll back for the Answer.)

1. How many poinsettia plants were delivered to homebound and shut-in members of Saint James on December 3?
A) 24 B) 45 C) 60
2. If Wikileaks released the theme of the Pastors' Sermons during Lent 2012, what would it be?
3. How many soldiers are we asking you to pray for regularly? How many of them are in combat zones?
4. Why is January 6 called "*The Gentile Christmas?*" *(page 1)*



5. What do you have to pay to join the Saint James Choir for 2012?
(Answer on page 6!)
6. Where can you go to ask the gnawing questions you have always wanted to ask about God and Christianity in a safe setting where questions are encouraged?
(Answer on page 5)



Want to go directly to our interactive Calendar? [Click Here.](#)