



# St. James Lutheran Church, ELCA

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*“We respond to God’s abundant grace by being hearers, proclaimers and doers of the Word.”*

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THE MESSENGER

May 2020

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## MUSINGS from Pastor Mike

[to muse (*myooz*), v. to think, gaze, or say wonderingly]

*“Come to me all you who are weary, and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest!” [Mt. 11:28]*

During this time of uncertainty, let your human spirit breathe deeply into the rhythms of this life that look very different to each of us.

A few glimpses of where we are here at St. James:

Our staff is motivated by a deep commitment to the mission of St. James to provide the highest quality of pastoral care; however, each staff member also carries the burdens of personal and family challenges in face of their lives up-ended by COVID-19. We are maintaining a presence in the office with limited hours and not more than three staff members present at the same time.

St. James is standing on solid ground. Countless individuals have come forth to attend to every aspect of congregational life. Uncertainty is affecting the giving practices of some of our members. We trust we will make it through this unsure time; however, if increased generosity is possible for you, we appreciate your kind heart! Thank you for your sacrifices, for those of you working in difficult situations, for supporting each other in these complicated times.

**There are not enough words to express the appreciation that the entire staff feels for the ongoing support given and shared by each one of you!**

People often ask me how to keep faith in a time like this. These days my answer is simple: **gratitude**. If this seems like a strange answer, take time to think deeply about what you are thankful for, precisely at this time. If it is another person, let that person know! Gratitude rescues us from negative emotions, connects us to others in meaningful ways, and multiplies the goodness that surrounds us—even in difficult times!

***From my musings point of view***, let’s continue to hold each other (at a distance), as we are being held. There is still One whom we can still get close to when we are weary and carrying burdens!

# WORSHIP PREVIEWS

## MAY 3 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Youth Sunday/Waterlife.*

Readings: Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10.

## MAY 10 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today’s gospel includes Jesus’ promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father’s house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus’ mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light.*

Readings: Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14.

## MAY 17 – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism.*

Readings: Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21.

## MAY 24 – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*We gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today’s gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek unity that Jesus had with his Father.*

Readings: Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11, John 17:1-11.

## MAY 31 – DAY OF PENTECOST

*Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God’s presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God’s presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God’s redeeming love to all the world.*

Readings: Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23.

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## DEATH

April 12, 2020 Terry R. Gardner

## WEDDING

April 25, 2020 Cora Grempel & Robert Coles

## 50+ WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

May 14, 1961 Barry C. & Donna G. Bixler 59 years

May 22, 1965 Jerry T. & Sandra I. Mills 55 years

**Parish  
Records**

# APRIL 15, 2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

(Meeting held remotely.)

## Special Council Meeting:

A virtual meeting via Zoom was held on April 6 to act on a motion dealing with the federal small business loan program called Paycheck Protection Program. The purpose of the loan was to enable continuation of salaries for St. James church and Early Learning Center personnel. The following motion was made and approved: ***“To authorize St. James Lutheran Church to obtain a Paycheck Protection Program loan through the Small Business Administration for \$235,076 to provide staffing costs for St. James Lutheran Church and St. James Early Learning Center and to approve and ratify the application submitted April 3 and signed by Dan Bringman, Council President.”***

**Devotions, Correspondence & Minutes:** Minutes from the March 18, 2020 meeting were approved.

## Dialogue of Thanksgiving:

**Pastor Andrew and several members of Council provided devotions celebrating Pr. Mike Allwein’s 40 years of ordination. The congregation was to celebrate Pr. Mike’s 40<sup>th</sup> year at a Sunday service this month, but due to the Corona virus, the celebration was impossible. We thank God for Pr. Mike’s love, service and devotion to our congregation.**

## Treasurer’s Report:

Karen Lentz’s treasurer’s report was approved. After three months of 2020, the giving income was about \$20,000 below the same period in 2019, and about \$34,000 below the 2020 budget.

## Committee Reports:

***Capital Campaign*** - The Capital Campaign has received \$509,489 thus far and has spent \$189,283, leaving a balance of \$320,206.

***Property*** – Things have been at a standstill recently since most construction has been shut down. Most of the roof is complete and no leaks have been seen since the new roof and new caps on the brick parapet have been installed. The new alarm system is mostly complete as well. When the state legislature and governor open construction businesses, the work will continue.

***Mission Fund*** – The fund contained \$6,180 and the committee decided that they would use only \$5,000 in 2020. The balance would be reserved for the 2021 distribution. The Mission Fund Committee moved that \$2,500 be allocated to fund Reach Workcamps and \$2,500 be allocated for the Lutheran World Relief Middle East Appeal. Council approved the recommendation.

***Council Nominations*** – Four people and a youth representative have agreed to be nominees for Council beginning in July. They are: **Carol Cook, Jim Dunlop, Alan Haynes, Brent Smith, and Emili Scavitto** (youth representative). Council is researching how the nominees might be elected to begin in July without having church services (where nominations and elections have been traditionally held).

***Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)*** – Dan Bringman reported that the PPP (approved by Council April 6 as reported above) was approved April 15. The Early Learning Center and Church Staff will begin to be paid with the loan dollars in the coming weeks.

## Good for God/Church/Council:

Pr. Allwein reported that the Gettysburg Ministerium has been meeting frequently and he was pleased to report that there has been wonderful cooperation and coordination between the Ministerium and social programs in the county. The spirit in the community is excellent. They have been dealing with issues related to food distribution and facemasks. Also, the St. James staff has been meeting remotely. Staff is working to stay in contact with people, and the pastors are available to anyone in need of assistance.

# ST. JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA  
PO BOX 4596, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325-4596

PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE

*The Messenger* will next be processed Wednesday, May 27. All articles must be e-mailed to [dnimtz@stjamesgettysburg.org](mailto:dnimtz@stjamesgettysburg.org) BEFORE FRIDAY, MAY 15.

LABEL

## Calling St. James at (717) 334-2012

**Office Hours Mondays - Thursdays, 10 am – 12 noon (RING THE DOORBELL)  
During PA Governor Wolf's Stay-at-Home Order**

*When calling our church office, you will reach the automated phone system. **Please leave a message** on staff members' voice-mails by immediately pressing their extension number listed below.*

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