



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

August 2020

Gratitude! Gratitude! Gratitude!

Gifts are given. Gifts are shared. Gifts are remembered. Gifts carry us into the future.

Debby Nimtz has shared her gifts with St. James for 35½ years. **Tim Braband** has shared his gifts with St. James for 45 years. **Barbara Braband** has shared her gifts with St. James for 45 years.

In one turn of the calendar page on July 31, we will bid “farewell” to **over 125 years of mutual service and shared ministry from three members of staff** here at St. James. No small thing!

Too often an office secretary, an administrative assistant can be under-recognized and under-appreciated in the midst of the busyness of an office. **Debby** has witnessed several pastors begin their ministry and then retire or move onto another call from St. James. More so she has seen this with many other staff persons. **Debby** has always been the consistent person, holding the past-present-future together. **Debby** has been the one staff person who has bridged numerous leadership changes in a most elegant manner, while serving the community’s voucher system for those on the margins of our community, managing the newsletter, bulletins for all types of worship services, all with a welcoming demeanor.

Perhaps Martin Luther’s most widely recognized musical achievement was his dynamic encouragement that we all need to be singing together when we come together for worship. “It is the song of the people” that **Tim and Barbara Braband** have nurtured for these many years!

St. James has been known as a “singing congregation.” This has been one of the gifts **Tim** will leave with us. And, although, we have not been singing together since March inside our worship space, we have continued to sing in so many other venues and ways. **Tim’s** music ministry with the teenagers and younger members in weekly rehearsals and Sunday worship services has been amazing! The two adult choirs were second to no other! **Tim** has brought a new awareness to the greater community of the gift of how music touches us deeper than we oftentimes realize. **Tim and Barbara** arrived in Gettysburg together. **Barbara** began playing for the choir on their first rehearsal in 1975. Barbara was on the organ bench during anthems each Sunday. **Barbara** was the one practicing on Friday afternoons when we heard music coming from the worship space.

During this pandemic time, we all have heard it said many times, “*things will be different*” when we get back together! On August 3, 2020, as staff members gather for their weekly zoom meeting, there will be faces missing from the screen. There will be names missing from the agenda. There will be voices missing from the discussion. And when a staff member comes into the office needing a funeral bulletin, or next weekend’s worship service, or wanting to know the name of a former member of the congregation, or just hoping to hear organ music coming out of the worship space, we all on staff will surely realize that “*things are now different.*”

But in “*being different,*” it will not only be about remembering the past. For every staff member and every member of the congregation, and for so many individuals from our community, this time is also about moving into the future—on a solid foundation put in place by these three amazing persons! Whatever the worship and the music programs look like into the future; whatever the work and ministry coming out of the office looks like going forward, we, as a congregation, give thanks for the many, many gifts so freely given, shared by **Tim, Debby and Barbara!** We will carry these gifts into our future! **Thanks be to God!**

WORSHIP PREVIEWS

AUGUST 9 – PENTECOST 9

In the first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God.

Readings: Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21.

AUGUST 9 – PENTECOST 10

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. God sends us forth to be a sign God’s presence to others.

Readings: 1 Kings 19:9-18, Psalm 85:8-13, Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33.

AUGUST 16 – PENTECOST 11

In Isaiah we hear that God’s house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today’s gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society?

Readings: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Psalm 67, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28.

OUTSIDE WORSHIP AT UPPER CAMP, NAWAKWA AT 9:30 AM

The worship service will entail confession, reading, sermon, communion, and music, though there will be no congregational singing. **MASKS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.** *Please bring: your own chair or blanket, communion elements for your family (bread and wine/grape juice), bulletin and pen.* If you have coughs or fevers please stay at home. We ask that you not bring: tents/canopies, pets or picnic baskets. In case of inclement weather, the service will be cancelled. Bathrooms will not be available. Other details are: 14x14 foot squares will be marked out and your household will be assigned a square. Offering plates will not be passed; however, a bucket will be available for you to drop your offering in. Print the bulletin ahead of time. There will be a section for you to complete and turn in for attendance purposes (hence, bring your own pen, or complete it ahead of time). Parking attendants will guide you to your square. Seating people will take time, so arrive between 3:00-3:30 pm.

AUGUST 23 – PENTECOST 12

In Isaiah, the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter’s bold confession of faith. God’s word of reconciliation and God’s mercy are keys to the church’s mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ.

Readings: Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20.

AUGUST 30 – PENTECOST 13

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God’s words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn’t grasp Jesus’ words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Readings: Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28.

Farewell to Spiritual Gifts Coordinator, Lisa Poole

When *Lisa Poole* joined the St. James staff in May, 2018, she was entering a new venture here at St. James. We were looking for a staff member to be able to reach out to members of the congregation, identifying gifts and talents of individuals that could be used for the greater good of our faith community. *Lisa* brought great enthusiasm to the staff, visited Sunday School classes, joined several committees and worked tirelessly to create new levels of involvement. She reached out to our newer members, reconnected with many of our longer-time members with the hope of bringing together a greater sense of accomplishment and community by working together. *Lisa* worked with volunteers and Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S., with our Evangelism Committee, and with all committees seeking new ways that individuals might be involved here at St. James. *Lisa* celebrated the accomplishments of individuals within the congregation for work and volunteer opportunities outside the congregation.

As we restructure the office to hire an Administrative Coordinator, some of *Lisa's* duties are now included in the job description for this new position. We have appreciated and we celebrate *Lisa's* gifts given to us! Thank you, *Lisa*, for being a vital part of our staff! Thank you for your smile, and your ability to integrate the numerous ways ministry is brought forth in this congregation! Thank you for your willingness to be of service to all of us! *May God's blessings go with you!*

PARISH RECORDS

DEATHS

June 27, 2020 Aaron L. Latschar
July 6, 2020 Gerald E. Royals

BAPTISMS

July 4, 2020 Charles Scott Haberkorn
July 4, 2020 Annabelle Mae Haberkorn
July 4, 2020 Emma Lynn McCabe

WEDDINGS

July 18, 2020 Taylor Rudisill & Chase Balderas
July 18, 2020 Olivia Plank & Blake Windell
July 25, 2020 Stacey Green & Steven Schlosser

5th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

August 28, 2015 The Rev. Andrew R. Geib

50+ WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

August 5, 1966	Martin T. & Anne W. Young	54 years
August 15, 1970	William T. & Judith R. Leslie	51 years
August 21, 1965	Terry G. & Jane E. Fox	55 years
August 23, 1946	Julius & Charlotte L. Swope	74 years
August 25, 1963	Kenneth E. & Gloria A. Unger	57 years
August 26, 1951	Martin L. & Catherine S. Crabill	69 years

Welcome Staci Grimes!

Staci is a double alumna from Penn State, starting with an associate degree in Forestry, and most recently earning her Bachelor's degree in Business, with a minor in English. She worked for her alma mater at multiple locations for two decades before joining St. James as the new Administrative Coordinator. Staci is an avid reader and loves travel, outdoor adventures, and being active. She can often be found outside with a camera in her hand.

ST. JAMES

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

PLACE
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The Messenger will next be processed Wednesday, August 26. Please email all articles by **Saturday, AUGUST 15!**

LABEL

Calling St. James at (717) 334-2012

Office Hours: Mondays-Thursdays, 10 am-12 noon (RING THE DOORBELL)

*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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