



## **St. James Lutheran Church, ELCA**

PO Box 4596, 109 York Street

Gettysburg, PA 17325-4596

717-334-2012 Fax: 717-334-3596

<https://StJamesGettysburg.org>

*"We respond to God's abundant grace by being hearers, proclaimers and doers of the Word."*

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Volume 65, No. 9

# THE MESSENGER

September 2020

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## Walking Together as Church During this Difficult Time

*A message from Pastor Mike*

*"Darkness is shorthand for anything that scares me—either because I am sure that I do not have the resources to survive it or because I do not want to find out. If I had my way, I would eliminate everything from chronic back pain to the fear of the devil from my life and the lives of those I love."*

**~Barbara Brown Taylor from *Learning to Walk in the Dark***

If Barbara Brown Taylor were writing her book today, I'm sure she would have added "*I would have eliminated the COVID-19 pandemic.*" As you hear in our worship announcements each week, here at St. James the work of the church continues.

### WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?

Our office staff continues to stagger their times when they are in the office. We are answering phones, responding to emergencies, as well as the needs of the congregation and the community. We have welcomed *Staci Grimes* as our new **Administrative Coordinator** in the office and she is "up and running" in an amazing way! We are accepting gifts of food, masks, and financial resources that so many of you continue to generously share! Our **Early Center** is operating with a full staff and following strict protocols set by our *COVID-19* Task Force. Our **Congregation Council** continues to meet, the past two months at an outdoor pavilion. Most of our **Committees** and many **Sunday School** classes have

met via zoom; budgets are being planned for the coming year, our outreach has continued to the community as well as several missions throughout the world.

The ***Alcoholics Anonymous*** group meets for one meeting each day. Our ***Prayer Group*** meets monthly; and the ***Monday morning “connect” group*** where members are invited to sit together with pastors Mike and Andrew for informal conversation.

Our two weekly ***Bible Studies*** are meeting via zoom. We have been holding ***outdoor worship at Camp Nawakwa*** twice monthly and we continue to provide a recorded weekly worship from the church building, with many individuals taping their parts from their homes. Some of the work on the building authorized through the ***Capital Campaign*** is being accomplished. The process to explore hiring a ***Minister of Music*** has begun. The Board of ***Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S.*** has been meeting to decide how best to care for the homeless in this community as we approach the winter months. Several ***funerals and weddings*** have been led by the pastors (not in the church building). Our Christian Education Committee, Kristin Slaybaugh and the pastors are working on how best to teach ***Christian Education*** into the fall. ***Worship planning*** is being coordinated by Pastor Mike and Pastor Andrew. ***Stephen Ministers*** and others from our congregation are making phone calls to members to check up on how others are doing at this time.

#### WHAT HAS NOT BEEN HAPPENING?

The big question individuals continue to ask has to do with when we plan to begin worship ***inside the building***. We continue to work with the ***COVID-19*** Task Force as well as Tom Bender, Building Supervisor to look at worship, as well as ***larger group meeting*** inside the building, and the needs related to continued cleaning of the spaces being used. We do not have a timeline on this but are trying to be creative, prudent and safe at the same time. ***Hospital visits, visits to nursing facilities*** and ongoing ***visits inside homes*** are not happening at this time.

FINALLY. . . . . the entire staff is working diligently to keep us connected as a congregation. There continue to be opportunities through email, the eblast, the church FaceBook page, the ***Morning Musings*** blog, and other opportunities to be connected to the members and events here at St. James. Please be in touch with a staff member if there is information about your family we ought to be aware of for the good of our faith community. We care about you and are passionate to get back together for worship and other events. *“Absolutely nothing can get between us and God’s love because of the way Jesus our Master has embraced us”* [Rom. 8:39—**The Message**].

*A message from Pastor Andrew*

As I reflect on the past “months of COVID,” like so many of you, I feel a mix of emotions. Sadness and disappointment over things missed. Frustration with the way things currently are, with not being able to do ministry in the ways I would like. Anger and more sadness over some of the behaviors I have witnessed locally and afar, especially when said behavior comes from “good and faithful people.” Fear, worry, and anxiety, at times even, hopelessness for what may come in the days ahead. But too, there are those positive emotions as well. Gratitude for the love and support I have seen and received from my family and friends and from those within our family of faith here at St. James, and for the dedication, commitment, and collegiality of our staff. Excitement for the new work we are doing around digital worship and communications, and for the added responsibilities around worship planning that Pastor Mike and I now have with Tim’s retirement. Hopefulness for what God is doing in this time of unknown and uncertainty, rooted in the promise that new life will indeed come.

While there is so much uncertainty in our lives and in our world, one thing is certain; as St. Paul writes, “Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.” I pray that you hear and experience this promise for yourselves during this time. That no matter what you are going through, God’s love is always present.

As Pastor Mike and I sit in conversation each week, this prayer is at the root of all we discuss. While we recognize that nothing we do digitally will be the same as what we do in person, we hope that the work coming from our staff has been a sign of this love over these months of social distancing.

In saying this, there is no clear answer as to when we will gather within the church walls. From a pastoral perspective, our primary concern is the safety of God’s children. BUT, as I preached a couple weeks ago, the building is not the Church. WE are the Church. And, united by Christ, the One whose love surpasses all understanding, nothing can stop us from being so. As the faithful, we are called to be Church in whatever reality we find ourselves in.

Looking towards the fall and winter seasons, we have some exciting things in mind for how to be Church! Possibilities include: Decorating the exterior of the church building for Halloween and some added fun! Midweek Advent services in the parking lot surrounded by outdoor heaters (bundle up)! The exterior building being fully decorated for Advent and Christmas. Maybe even a stage off the York Street steps for a Nativity scene and potential set up for Christmas Eve worship (of course, old fashion toy candy lollipops and glow sticks included)! And, who

knows, maybe even drive through greetings and gifts from Santa and his elves with a guest appearance from Rudolf straight out of Santa's workshop!

While these are just ideas, with nothing officially set in stone, we are hard at work thinking of how to make the upcoming months, especially the holidays, take place in ways that build positive memories never to be forgotten.

Again and again throughout scripture we hear words of promise and assurance that God walks with the faithful through life's most challenging times. So it is with us today. Before going to the cross, Jesus promised an advocate in his absence... a counselor, a helper, to be with us forever – the Spirit of truth. In John's Gospel, Jesus proclaims that this Spirit, the Spirit, will never leave us. That it lives with us and in us wherever we go. Whatever comes your way during this continued time of COVID, wherever you go, whatever feelings you have, know that God is with you and so are we!

With love,

Pastor Andrew

## Worship Previews

### SEPTEMBER 6 – PENTECOST 14

*Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*

Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20.

### SEPTEMBER 13 – PENTECOST 15

*In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

Readings: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35.

### SEPTEMBER 20 – PENTECOST 16

*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we*

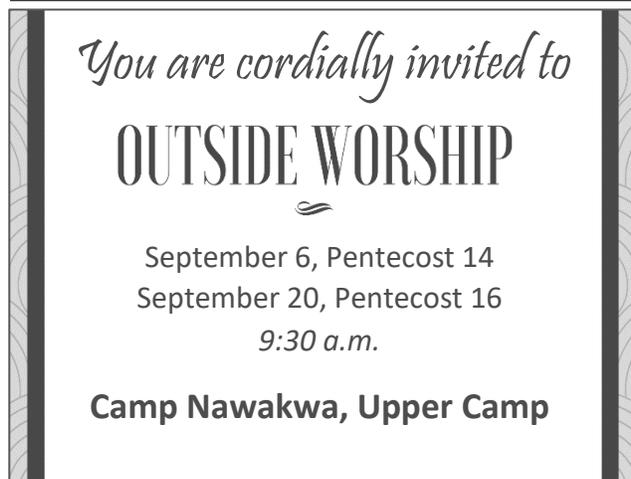
receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Readings: Jonah 3:10--4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.

## SEPTEMBER 27 – PENTECOST 17

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Readings: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.



### BRING

- Communion elements
- Chair / blanket
- Bulletin and pen
- Masks (must be worn at all times)

### LEAVE HOME

- Tents / canopies
- Pets
- Picnic baskets

If you are feeling ill, please stay home and recover quickly.

*Bathrooms open for emergencies    Please sign in on clipboard    Offerings dropped at table*

## Connect

As a part of our continued efforts to connect with people throughout our current COVID reality, Pastor Mike and Pastor Andrew will be setting aside time on Monday mornings in the Music Room from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. for small group conversation.

The pastors will begin with a short devotion, which will be followed by general check-ins and discussion, and ending in prayer. In accordance with CDC guidelines and in following the recommendations and policies set forth by our COVID-19 Taskforce, masks will be required and a maximum number of participants each week of 13 has been set (sign-up online ahead of time). People can also call the office (717-334-2012) to sign-up as an attendee if they aren't comfortable signing-up online.

After being physically distant for several months, we are looking forward to this time together!

~Pastor Mike and Pastor Andrew



Sign up at [StJamesGettysburg.org/MondayConnect](https://StJamesGettysburg.org/MondayConnect)

*If you want to RSVP, but don't use the internet,  
please call the church at 717-334-2012.*

## God's work. Our hands.

Sunday, September 13, 2020

The ELCA is continuing the tradition of *God's work. Our hands. Sunday*, however the service activities will look slightly different to accommodate safety concerns around COVID-19.

Join us for a ministry snapshot with Bishop Ambele Mwaipopo from the Lake Tanganyika Diocese in Rwanda via Zoom at 1:00pm (pre-registration is required).

There are then a variety of community service projects that you can sign-up to participate in on September 13.

- Camp Nawakwa Beautification
- Cloth Face Masks, Quilting & Prayer Shawls
- Garden Growing Project
- Glean and/or Pack at SCCAP

To provide extra social distancing, we are providing additional volunteer dates for Camp Nawakwa Beautification on Wednesday, September 16 at 10:00am and Thursday, September 17 at 6:00pm.

You can sign up for all *God's work. Our hands.* volunteer opportunities here. (<https://signup.com/go/ivthmZW>)

You can also participate in LAMPa letter writing at any time. We put our faith in action – visible year-round as we respond to God calling us into the world to serve together. This year there are several options available for you to advocate and engage in advocacy on *God's work. Our hands. Our Voices.* [All details regarding GWOH 2020 are on our website.](https://www.stjamesgettysburg.org/GWOH) (StJamesGettysburg.org/GWOH)

### Support for Community Water Project in Nicaragua

The World Outreach Committee approved at its August 18 meeting the contribution of an estimated \$200-300 for a community water project for Talolinga, a poor, remote village in the hills outside of the city of León.

Seventy-four households and over 300 inhabitants of Talolinga will benefit from the new system. They have never before had access in their homes to clean drinking water, and they had to spend up to two hours daily hauling water from unsafe sources to their homes.



The estimated cost of the water project—approximately \$42,000—is a very large sum for Project Gettysburg/Leon. However, this amount covers the background engineering studies, the digging of a well, the installation of the pump and electrical system, the laying of pipe to the newly constructed water storage tank above the village, as well as installation of water pipes and faucets for each of the 74 households.

PGL is particularly pleased that from early on the community of Talolinga expressed its support of the project, that residents have contributed many hours of volunteer labor, and a committee of community members will oversee the ongoing administration of the water system.

## World Outreach to Tanganyika Diocese

### “Mobile Pastors on Motorcycles”

As part of our *God’s work. Our hands. Sunday* event on September 13, there will be an opportunity to be in conversation by Zoom with Bishop Ambele Mwaipopo from the Lake Tanganyika Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. On September 27, 2020 the diocese will ordain four individuals who have received theological training. The diocese has developed a model for pastors called “mobile pastors.” On April 19th the diocese ordained thirteen pastors and each pastor was given a motorcycle and sent out for mission outreach as a mobile (wondering) pastor. Bishop Mwaipopo describes this ministry in the following way.

*These pastors, upon their ordination, are provided with motorcycles which enable them to conduct Sunday Services at two to three centers in a single Sunday. Take note that we have many points of worships in far distant with a limited number of pastors to minister to in those centers. By providing motorcycles to these pastors and work aggressively teaching Christian Education during weekdays and conducting Sunday Services in two centers or so in a single Sunday helps to fill the gap that will otherwise felt without the provision of the motorcycle.*

The diocese is in the process of securing four motorcycles for those to be ordained on September 27. The cost of each motorcycle is \$1100 (U.S. dollars). The brand of motorcycle is a Shineray and can be purchased in Tanzania. Bishop Mwaipopo indicates that if well taken care of with timely servicing they can last a long time. Our World Outreach Committee recently designated \$1100 from their budget to purchase one motorcycle. If members of our congregation wish to donate monies to this exciting project, please do so through our church office, checks can be made out to St. James, with “Lake Tanganyika Project” in the memo line. What a terrific way to support the work of the Church in Tanzania!

## Soup Kitchen

To all of you who donated meat loaves, potatoes, etc. for the Soup Kitchen,

The Soup Kitchen will no longer be accepting food which has been prepared at home. This policy will be continued after the pandemic ends. The Kitchen staff has adopted protocols and procedures to protect the safety of guests and staff. All food items are prepared in-house. Meals are packaged and distributed to guests in take-out form.

<p><b>Gettysburg Soup Kitchen</b> P.O. Box 3445 Gettysburg, PA 17325</p>
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Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the meal St. James did on the 4th Monday of the month for many, many years. We have committed to providing the money for the 4th Monday meal. If you are interested in donating to the Soup Kitchen, the address is included here.

## Source of Life Ministries (SLM) in Haiti – Tafana’s Journey



August 18: Thank you for continuing to pray for Tafana! She has been home from the hospital for five days now and continues to improve following brain surgery.

Tafana is scheduled to go to the doctor tomorrow (Aug. 19) to have the staples removed from her head. Please pray for safety for Harold, Marie-Ange, Mamoune and Tafana as they travel to Port-au-Prince and return for this appointment.

The hospital recommended a physical therapist from their staff who is willing to come to the SLM safe home in Gressier on his day off to work with Tafana. This would be a real blessing since it eliminates the need to travel to Port-au-Prince through areas that can be dangerous.

The wonderful response to SLM’s July appeal for funds blessed us with enough to meet the immediate need for \$5,000 to pay the surgeon and hospital costs. Tafana’s mother Mamoune and SLM’s Marie-Ange also had meal, taxi and other expenses during the week of the surgery and initial recovery. Additionally, Marie-Ange paid laboratory fees in advance for examination of the tumor removed from Tafana’s brain stem.

Still unknown are the costs for PT and transport for the therapist, and the frequency of therapy sessions. While seeking these details we hope supporters and friends of SLM will sustain Tafana with both prayers and financial contributions toward her ongoing medical expenses.



Our new fundraising goal is \$2,000 for physical therapy and ongoing care.

The doctor has been very pleased with Tafana’s recovery so far, and we lift our praise to God for every small step forward! New pictures are on the way, stay tuned for further updates.

### Congregation Council Meeting Minutes

St. James Lutheran Church  
Wednesday, July 15, 2020; 7:00 PM  
1000 Heritage Dr, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Installation of new council members: Pr. Geib installed the new council members. They are Carol Cook, Jim Dunlop, Alan Haynes, Emili Scavitto, and Brent Smith.

New Members/Baptisms: these baptisms took place on Saturday, July 4, 2020 and the following individuals were accepted into St. James membership: Charles Scott Haberkorn; Annabelle Mae Haberkorn; and Emmy Lynn McCabe. **Accepted into membership by unanimous consent.**

Review of Minutes from June 17, 2020 – **Accepted by unanimous consent.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The "Actual Giving Fund" is ahead from this time last year; however, we are behind anticipated giving. The PPP proceeds (Payroll Protection Program) are unallocated and will be allocated by council in the future once forgiveness is decided. Dan Bringman is working on loan forgiveness eligibility based on the updated guidelines from the SBA. **Financial reports were accepted by unanimous consent.**

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### *ELC (Early Learning Center) Financials:*

- ELC operations are behind and are catching up. St. James does not participate in PA unemployment insurance and therefore the ELC staff were ineligible for state unemployment. They were eligible for federal COVID-19 unemployment benefits but very few staff actually received it. **ELC financial reports were accepted by unanimous consent.**

### *Capital Campaign:*

- \$548,931 received in contributions since inception and \$317,548 has been expended. The projects continue to move forward on a timeline.

## REPORT ON COVID-19 IMPACT AND PLANS

- Some small groups are meeting in accordance with task force guidelines in the building. Staff will approve use requests if within the guidelines. There will be monthly outdoor worship services at Camp Nawakwa.
- Worship in the building: the task force is starting to review plans to be in the building.
- Discussion about guidelines and protocols taking place in the Early Learning Center.

## COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

### *Property Committee & ARD update:*

Motion to increase expense of \$3,500 to \$23,500 from the capital campaign to pave the parking lot AND the alley area. **Motion approved by unanimous consent.**

### *Personnel committee updates:*

- Administrative Coordinator: The personnel committee has offered the position to Staci Grimes. She has accepted and will begin on July 29.
- Minister of Music hiring process: A 9-person task force has been established to assess the position of minister of music, gather feedback from the congregation, and ultimately implement the filling of professional music ministry responsibilities.
- Personnel Budget detail: the committee will limit the detailed distribution of the individual salaries and benefits of each employee during its budgeting process.

## OLD BUSINESS

Retreat follow up: The council will continue the conversation next month around priorities developed at the last retreat.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Committee Assignments: Each council member was assigned to a Church Committee.
- Committee charter cleanup: Committees are to update [individual charters which can be found and reviewed on the website.](#)
- Council documents: All council documents will be distributed on a Sharepoint versus emailed.

## GOOD FOR COUNCIL – GOOD FOR CHURCH – GOOD FOR GOD

The pastors will review the list of recipients of the mailed Messenger as there is concern that some are not receiving the mailed copies any longer

## Endowment Committee Update

Proverbs 13:22a - A good person leaves an inheritance to his children's children.

Recently St. James was the recipient of 2 very generous bequests totaling \$173,000. These bequests will increase our Endowment Fund by about one-third, will continue to grow and, at our current dividend, contribute over \$7000 annually to the mission of our church in perpetuity, distributed per our Endowment Policy.

The Endowment Fund was established "to encourage, receive and administer these gifts in a manner consistent with the loyalty and devotion to our Lord expressed by the donors and in accord with the policies of this congregation."

These bequests were made possible through the generosity and desire to share what God has given them, of our members and their families, and by the foresight and planning to have a portion of their estates gifted to St James.

As our Endowment Policy states, "Christians can give to the work of the church through bequests in wills, assignment of life insurance charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder and other trusts, assignment of certificates of deposit, and transfers of property".

On behalf of the congregation of St. James, the Endowment Committee thanks the donors and their families for these generous bequests, which will create a lasting legacy of support for our mission.

## Capital Campaign Report

*Through July 31, 2020:* St. James Lutheran Church has now received \$609,490 in contributions towards the three year Capital Campaign that started in November 2019. That is more than 60% towards the goal of \$1,000,000 and we are very Blessed and appreciative of congregation support.

The congregation expended \$326,542 towards projects plus gifts-in-kind of about \$45,000 donated from generous members. There is a cash balance on hand of \$282,948 for completion of remaining projects. Major projects substantially completed include repair and replacement of the roof, replacing the generator and repointing brick and repair of the capstones. Also completed was replacement of the windows on the North East section of the building, installation of an upgraded fire alarm system and new kitchen cabinets. Projects underway include enclosing the lower level stairway to eliminate the security gate and upgrading the front entry doors (north) to allow easier and more secure egress from the building and repaving the parking lot. Projects in the planning stage include repair or replacement of remaining windows on the south and southeast portion of the building and an upgrade to the A/V and sound system.

We are very grateful for the volunteers and staff who have worked tirelessly on the project thus far and the many donors who have made this possible.

Submitted by Daniel Bringman, Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee



# **St. James**

## **Lutheran Church, ELCA**

PO Box 4596

Gettysburg, PA 17325-4596

PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE

LABEL

### Visiting St. James

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Ring the doorbell at the Zerfing Alley entrance.

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

When calling our church office, you will reach the automated phone system. You can either listen to the options before selecting, or you can immediately dial an extension below to reach an individual staff member or their voicemail.

**201 Katy Clowney**  
*Church Administrator*  
[kclowney@StJamesGettysburg.org](mailto:kclowney@StJamesGettysburg.org)

**206 Pr. Andrew R. Geib**  
*Associate Pastor*  
[ageib@StJamesGettysburg.org](mailto:ageib@StJamesGettysburg.org)

**202 Staci Grimes**  
*Administrative Coordinator*  
[sgrimes@StJamesGettysburg.org](mailto:sgrimes@StJamesGettysburg.org)

**207 Kristin Slaybaugh**  
*Youth Minister*  
[youth@StJamesGettysburg.org](mailto:youth@StJamesGettysburg.org)

**205 Pr. Michael E. Allwein**  
*Senior Pastor*  
[mallwein@StJamesGettysburg.org](mailto:mallwein@StJamesGettysburg.org)

**215 Tom Bender**  
*Building Superintendent*  
[sexton@StJamesGettysburg.org](mailto:sexton@StJamesGettysburg.org)