

St. James Lutheran Church

February 2022
The Journal

200 Laurel Drive Graniteville, SC 29829
StJamesNewsInfo@gmail.com www.stjamesgraniteville.com

God Is Love

We often think of Valentine's Day as the day for couples to show their love to one another, but rarely do we use the day to remind us of God's unmatched love for us, His children.

In 1 John 4:8, the author says, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

God is love itself. We wouldn't have any conception of "love" at all if it weren't for God, the definition of love.

God further defines love in the classic 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 passage that reads, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

God describes love in this way, and then tells us that He is love. This further emphasizes that God himself is all of these things.

God is patient and kind. He keeps no record of wrongs. He always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. God's love is a perfect love that no one on earth could ever emulate.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." He gave His only son for us. He gave us eternal life because of His great and unmatched love for each of us.

God loves you so much. If you were the only one on earth, He still would have sent His son for you.

So this Valentine's Day, remember to set your sights not on earthy relationships, but on the God above who loves far more fully and abundantly than we could ever imagine.



A message from Pastor Fred...

Grace and Peace to you, with an extra bit of warmth in this season,

This February I turn my focus to the Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5 and Luke 6. Initially this came out of a love for the Beatitudes, and then I looked ahead in the lectionary. The Beatitudes are going to be highlighted in our gospel this month during worship. The Beatitudes are also the subject of our confirmation curriculum this month. It seems that the Beatitudes were going to be my focus before I even realized it - quite a fun parallel into our life as Christians responding to our call. The placement of the Beatitudes in scripture is intriguing as well. We have had our Epiphany: God has come to be with us in Jesus Christ. What is it that he came to do? We see his words, and we see his actions, and in that we are able to hear and see God's will.

"When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

In the Latin version of the Bible, the Vulgate, each of these verses start with "Beati", meaning blessed. The term "beātītūdō" describes the blessedness that Jesus speaks of here. Seeing God bless that which seems so humble and those who seem to lack power is empowering to us as Christians. As children of God, we are intertwined in God's work. In what way is God calling you for the kingdom of heaven?

God's Peace to you in your earthly journey,
Pastor Fred

Upcoming Events

Confirmation: February 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th at 3:00 pm

Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Fred: Monday, February 7th at 9:30 am

Crafts & Games: Monday, February 14th at 1:00 pm

Lifestyle: Wednesday, February 16th at 12:00 pm

WELCA/LMM: Monday, February 28th at 1:00 pm



Crafts & Games Group



Crafts & Games will meet on Monday, February 14th at 1:00 pm. *All men and women are invited to come and enjoy crafts or games monthly on the second Monday of each month.* If you have crochet or knitting needles, please bring them to the meeting. There will be someone to teach those who are interested in learning. If you don't already have needles, please don't buy them yet.

The Crafts & Games group will be collecting socks and underwear for girls and boys ages 2 to 10 for the month of February for Children's Place in Aiken. Please put your donations on the bench in the fellowship hall. The mission of Children's Place is to protect, heal, and strengthen children and families from the impact of trauma in their lives through education, treatment, and preventive services.



tacklehunger.org

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 13th

Souper Bowl donations will be collected at the church doors by our youth as we leave worship on February 13th. The donations will be given to a local hunger ministry. Please drop your donation of cash or check made payable to St. James into the soup pot bearing the logo of the team you hope will win the Super Bowl football game. Donations will be col-

lected only on Super Bowl Sunday this year. In thanks to God for all his blessings given to us, please give generously to feed the poor and hungry even if you are not a pro football fan.



HEATER DRIVE FOR ACTS

Thank you for your generous donations to the heater drive! We collected \$1,325.00 for this project.



Service Choir Rehearsals

Sundays, February 6, 13, 20 and 27 after worship



SC LCY Winter Retreats are Back!

11th & 12th Grade: February 18-20
at Coastal Retreat Center

Middle School: March 18-20 at Camp Kinard
9th & 10th Grade: Postponed- New date TBD

Please contact Mrs. Kathy
for registration information.

February Volunteer List

ALTAR FLOWERS

February 6: Ronnie Gordon in memory of Ann Gordon

February 13: Bobby Reece in memory of Carolyn & Jeffrey Reece- \$ Backpack

February 20: Ruth Vance in memory of Gilbert Vance- \$ LMM

LAY READERS & LAY ASSISTANTS

February 6: Karmen Spletzer (Lay Reader & Assistant)

February 13: Robbie Franklin

February 20: Mike Willis

February 27: Barbara Cobb (Lay Reader & Assistant)

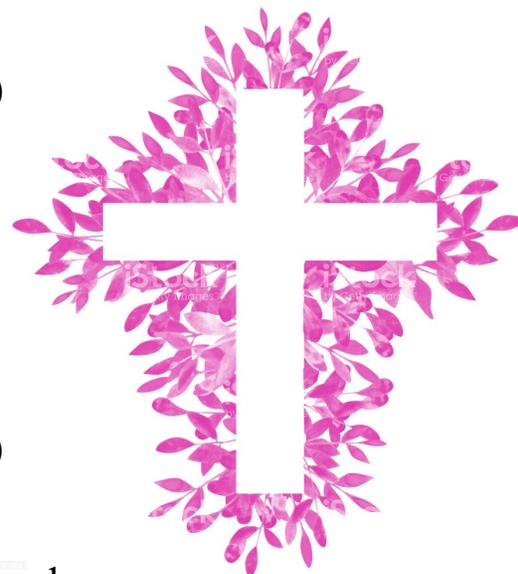
WORSHIP TEAM--Acolyte (A) & Crucifer (C)

February 6: Dominic Price (A) Kaylee Sharpe (C)

February 13: Kristen Franklin (A) Zoe Ford (C)

February 20: Nathan Vandegrift (A) Brayden Weed (C)

February 27: Trey Johnson (A) Spencer Johnson (C)



ALTAR GUILD (February): Sara Rutland & Helen Wood

USHERS (February): Mike Cutshall & Kenneth Johnson

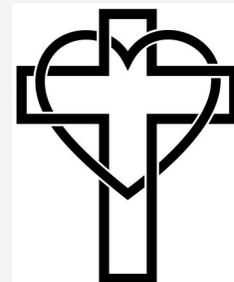
Offering Option

You can now give online on our website! You can give a onetime offering or set up a recurring offering. In the description box, please note where your offering should be directed (for example, Current and Benevolence, Backpack, etc.)

www.stjamesgraniteville.com/giving/

Financial Update December 2021

General Fund:	<u>December 2021</u>	<u>Jan-December 2021</u>
Offering	\$ 15,305.00	\$ 174,163.61
Expenses	\$ <u>21,338.06</u>	\$ <u>197,211.92</u>
Net Total	\$ (6,033.06)	\$(23,048.31)



Church Council Minutes and Financial Reports are available in their entirety in the church office. Please contact the church secretary if you would like a copy.

Share your good news and church events with your church family!
Email the information to: StJamesNewsInfo@gmail.com

Lifestyle

The next Lifestyle meeting will be Wednesday, February 16, at noon. Diana Silas, Executive Director of the Gregg-Graniteville Foundation, will be the guest speaker. She will address growth and improvements at Gregg Park Civic Center. A light lunch will be served. All members and guests are urged to attend. Please sign up on the sign-up sheets located in the narthex and on the table outside of the church office so that the proper amount of food can be prepared.



Lifestyle met for its first meeting on Wednesday, January 12th. The meeting began with a lunch provided by Ronald & Helen Wood and a devotion led by Pastor Fred. The guest speaker for the meeting was Brent Hoover, USC Aiken Instructor of Economics. He delivered a presentation on the economic forecast for 2022.






FEBRUARY



Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Danny Epting	1
Kathy Rogers	2
Timothy Gonya	4
Mike Willis	6
Patti Cutshall	8
Becky Johnson	9
Teddy Weeks	9
Barry Antley	12
Mike Cutshall	14
Jen Storey	14
Lang Entrekin	16
Scott Vandegrift	18
Jeffrey Maroney	19
Ronnie Johnson	22
Kenneth Johnson	22
Sarah Swygert	26



Donald & Cindy
Hatcher
February 25th



*Help us keep our church records up to date...
If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or
missing from our list, please contact Kathy
Rogers so our membership records can be
corrected. Thank you!*
StJamesNewsInfo@gmail.com

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers:
Barry Kirby, Ruth Vance, Nanci Carter (Bob Petrulovich's daughter), Charles McGee,
Bobby Reece, Ben Ashby (Karmen Spletzer's brother), Gene Moyer, Libby Scott,
Ronnie Gordon, David Speight, Bobbie Bauserman, John Thompson, Pat Weeks.
At **Anchor**: Mary Ellen Johnson. At **Trinity**: Ruth Orr, Carolyn Hendrix. *May the
Lord bless them with His healing presence and keep them in true faith. Amen.*



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

200 Laurel Drive • Graniteville, SC 29829 • 803-663-6809
StJamesnewsinfo@gmail.com • StJamesGraniteville.com

Pastor: Rev. Fred Klinker 803-292-1400

President: Georganne Weeks 803-979-1886

Director of Music/Organist: Tonia Busbee 706-830-8418

Secretary: Kathy Rogers 803-648-0815

Treasurer: Caroline Andrews

Newsletter Editors: Tonia Busbee & Kathy Rogers

Follow us on Facebook!!



We can email you our newsletter in color!!
SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO StJamesNewsInfo@gmail.com