



ST. JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2023 and January 2024 The Journal

December Worship Services

Advent Evening Services

Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th, & 20th at 6:30 pm in the Chapel

Advent Bible Study at 5:00 pm

Dinner at 5:45 pm

First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd

Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10th

Worship at 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17th

Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24th

Worship at 11:00 am

No Sunday School on Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion, December 24th

Preservice at 6:15 pm & Worship at 6:30 pm

First Sunday of Christmas, December 31st

Worship at 11:00 am

Sunday Mornings:

Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Fred at 9:15 am

Sunday School at 9:45 am

A message from Pastor Fred...



Happy New Year!

Whether you are reading this in December or in January, as this newsletter is for both, we are celebrating a new year. In December we celebrate the start of the liturgical calendar. It begins with Advent, which starts us off with what is necessary for new beginnings: preparation. We are preparing for Christ coming to be among us, and we are filled with anticipation, hope, and joy for the love he brings as God coming to dwell among us. In January we celebrate the New Year in a different way. Our Gregorian calendar begins again, and people around us will set new goals for themselves.

As we prepare for our new year as a church, what goals and preparations do you have for us as a worshiping body of Christ?

This January, our church council will get together for a visionary meeting. We will discuss where we hear God calling St. James as we live into our purpose for God's mission in this world. I remain open to what the Spirit has in store, and I am excited to see what we plan to do together in the coming new year.

There may be some new things in store, but we will simultaneously hold true to our call. St. James will continue shining the light of Christ during Advent as we prepare for Christ's birth. Together in Christmas worship, we will read in John, that "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God," and we will shine Christ's light into the new calendar year. Reading Jeremiah 23:29 recently has added an illustration for me: "Is not my word like fire?" says the Lord."

As I look at the candles we will hold on Christmas Eve, I think of the flame on top of them. We light them for Christ, who is the Word, who is also like fire in a way: so beautiful, so powerful, so necessary to life! I pray that you see Christ's light and love in abundance in this wonderful new year.

God's Peace to you,

Pastor Fred



December Upcoming Events

Advent Bible Study: Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th, & 20th at 5:00 pm
prior to the Advent dinners and worship services.

Advent Evening Services & Dinners: Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th, & 20th
Dinner will be served in the fellowship hall at 5:45 pm.
Advent Worship will be held in the chapel at 6:30 pm.

If you can provide soup, sandwiches, or dessert, please call or email Kathy
or sign up on the sign-up sheet outside of the office.

Please join us in this time of anticipation!

**Church Council will meet on
December 10th at 5:00 pm.**

Games will not meet in December.

**WELCA/LMM will meet on
Monday, December 11th for lunch together
at 1:00 pm.**

All women and men are invited to attend.



2024 Church Council Members

Caroline Andrews, Lisa Bryant, Charles Busbee, Patti Cutshall, Ashton DeRemigio,
Carol Horsley, Garrett Maroney, Mike Willis, Ronald Wood.

Thank you to Daphne Carroll, Jim Cobb, and Robbie Franklin for their service on church council.



Poinsettias given for the beautification of the sanctuary and in memory or in honor of someone are available for purchase through the church office. The poinsettias are red in color and in 6-inch pots. **The cost is \$15 each. Checks should be made payable to Saint James Lutheran Church.** Order forms are available in the bulletin and in the narthex. Please place the completed form and payment in the offering plate or in the box on the secretary's desk.

Deadline for orders is December 17th.



ACTS Heater Drive

Give the gift of warmth for Christmas.

Donations are being accepted through December 31st for ACTS to purchase small heaters for clients. The cost of a heater is \$25, but you may give any amount that you wish.

Please make your check payable to St. James and earmarked for "Heaters."



Music Rehearsals:

Service Choir: Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th and 20th at 7:00 pm
Choir party at the Busbee home on December 22nd at 6:00 pm.

St. James Ringers Rehearsal: December 10th and 17th after worship

Please make every effort to attend these few practices.

Thank you all for your dedication and service to our music programs!

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 28th after worship with a covered dish meal in the fellowship hall.

All information for the Annual Report is due in the church office by January 12th.

Please email reports to stjamesnewsinfo@gmail.com.

New Offering Envelopes will be placed in your St. James mailbox by the end of December. Please do not use 2023 envelopes after December 31st as some of the envelope numbers have changed. Please remember that using the offering envelopes helps ensure that your contributions are recorded correctly.



Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for their generous donations of non-perishable food items, coats, hats, gloves, socks, underwear, and blankets for 2nd ACTS in Graniteville and to our volunteers who loaded and delivered the items to the ACTS store on November 16th. Also, thank you to Thrivent for their support of our Food & Coat Drive.

Thank you!

Pastor Klinker & St. James Church,

Thank you all so very much for your collaboration with us for Trunk or Treat. I believe it was a great success! I am already looking forward to next year.

Kristen Weathersbee
Gregg Park Program Coordinator

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Lisa Kirby, Tom Hair, Bob Petrulovich, Wendy Swygert, JoAnne Reisser (Friend of Karmen Spletzer), Diana Floyd (Friend of Caroline Andrews), Vandy Haggard (Friend of Sharon Willis), Angela Vandegrift, John Bundrick (Friend of Barbara Cobb), Vivian Hill (Andy Cone's grandmother), Hong & Larry May (Friends of Barbara Cobb), Frank Sanford (Friend of Cindy Hatcher & Barbara Cobb), Benny Hydrick (Friend of Tony Carroll), Nanci Carter (Bob Petrulovich's daughter), Gene Moyer, Libby Scott, Ronnie Gordon, Bobbie Bauserman, Pat Weeks. **Anchor:** Mary Ellen Johnson **Trinity:** Bobby Reece **Augusta Gardens:** Sheri Abreo **Silver Bluff Grove:** Vicki Bolton

May the Lord bless them with His healing presence and keep them in true faith. Amen.

Please review the prayer list and contact the church office with updates.

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/

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

December Volunteer List



Lay Readers & Lay Assistants

December 3: Gloria Sloan (& Lay Assistant)

December 10: Lanny Valentine

December 17: Georganne Weeks (& Lay Assistant)

December 24 (AM): Teddy Weeks

December 24 (Christmas Eve): Garrett Maroney (& Lay Assistant)

December 31: Jim Cobb

Worship Team

December 3: (A) Kaylee Sharpe (C) Brayden Weed

December 10: (A) Justin Joiner (C) Brayden Joiner

December 17: (A) Spencer Johnson (C) Zoe Ford

December 24 (AM): (A) Justin Joiner (C) Brayden Joiner

December 24 (Christmas Eve): Worship Team: Dominic Price, Justin Joiner, Brayden Joiner, Spencer Johnson, Brayden Weed

December 31: (A) Brayden Weed (C) Kaylee Sharpe

Altar Flowers

December 3: Tom & Donna Hair in memory of Effie Redd & her parents, J. E. & Olive Black

December 10: Janalyn and Garrett Maroney- \$ ACTS Heaters

December 17: Gaines & Lang Entrekin in honor of their wedding anniversary

December 24: Bill & Elese Cegelis in memory of Elese's grandparents, Rev. J. Virgil & Mrs. Elese Addy and Mr. L.T. & Mrs. Deasaux Fulmer

December 31: Open Date

Sound Technicians

December 3: Lane Rogers

December 10: Robbie Franklin

December 17: Lane Rogers

December 24 (AM): Ben Sharpe

December 24 (Christmas Eve): Robbie Franklin & Ben Sharpe

December 31: Ben Sharpe

Altar Guild: Jim & Barbara Cobb

Ushers: Mike Cutshall & Steve Murphy

Greeter: Ben Sharpe



December

Happy Birthday

Joel Antley	1
Ronnie Gordon	5
Brent Spletzer	9
Garrett Maroney	12
Ben Sharpe	12
Carol Gibson	13
Kyle Vandegrift	21
Karmen Spletzer	26



Happy Anniversary

Jim & Carol Horsley	December 6th
Ronald & Helen Wood	December 14th
Gaines & Lang Entrekin	December 22nd

January

Nelson Johnson	9
Tanya Odom	12
Angela Vandegrift	13
Else Cegelis	15
Bob Petrulovich	20
Makayla Storey	20
Jaxen Coleman	21
Shelley Jones	22
Katie Rogers	30

Happy Birthday



January Volunteer List

Lay Readers & Lay Assistants

January 7: Caroline Andrews (& Lay Assistant)

January 14: Angela Vandegrift

January 21: Barbara Cobb (& Lay Assistant)

January 28: Robbie Franklin



Worship Team

January 7: (A) Spencer Johnson (C) Zoe Ford

January 14: (A) Kaylee Sharpe (C) Brayden Weed

January 21: (A) Justin Joiner (C) Brayden Joiner

January 28: (A) Zoe Ford (C) Spencer Johnson



Altar Guild: Gloria Sloan & Karmen Spletzer

Ushers: Mike Cutshall & Kenneth Johnson

Sound Technicians

January 7: Robbie Franklin

January 14: Lane Rogers

January 21: Robbie Franklin

January 28: Ben Sharpe

Greeter: Patti Cutshall

Altar Flowers

January 7: Judy Lees in memory of Bob, Irv & Ellie Lees

January 14: Ronald & Helen Wood in memory of Allison Katherine Wood- \$ Backpack

January 21: Kenneth Johnson & Melissa Johnson in memory of Kevin Johnson- \$ Backpack

January 28: Open Date



January Worship Services

**Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 7th
Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 14th
Worship at 11:00 am**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 21st
Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, January 28th
Worship at 11:00 am**

*Sunday Mornings
Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Fred
9:15- 9:45 am
Sunday School at 9:45 am*





ST. JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor: Rev. Fred Klinker

President: Ronald Wood

Director of Music/Organist: Tonia Busbee

Secretary: Kathy Rogers

Treasurer: Caroline Andrews

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Rogers

Newsletter Designer: Tonia Busbee

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Joy to the World!



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