



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Journal

October 2026



OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Creation in Christ Sunday

October 4

Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am

Blessing of the Animals at 3:30 pm

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11

Worship at 11:00 am

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18

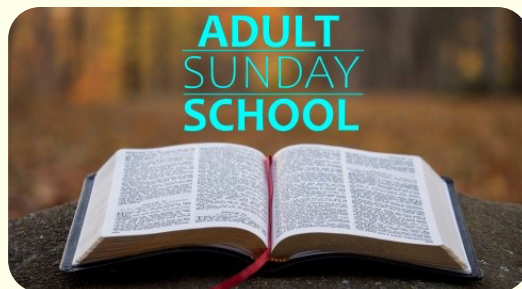
Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am

Reformation Sunday, October 25

Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 am

Oktoberfest Lunch & Valley Empty Stocking
Fundraiser

Sunday Mornings
Coffee & Conversation at
9:15 - 9:45 am
Sunday School at 9:45 am



Pastor Zach invites you to join the
Adult Sunday School class
in a study of the book,
"Reading the Bible with Bonhoeffer."
This class will explore the life of
Bonhoeffer and how it influenced
his study of scripture.
Join us in the chapel on Sunday
mornings at 9:45 am.



From the desk of Pastor Zach

Grace and Peace from God our Creator!

The month of September in the Orthodox church is a time of thanksgiving to God for the first gift we ever received from God - Creation and the universe itself. This past March, the Lutheran World Federation, along with many other Christian denominations, decided to join our Orthodox siblings in celebrating Creation in Christ, which will become a brand-new liturgical season in a few years' time. During this season, we give thanks for the cosmos, the earth, and all that is in it, as well as remember the first commandment we received from God: to tend the garden and be good stewards of the earth. We celebrate the wonderful, diverse world that is given to us. We remember the ways in which God's love is revealed through beautiful gardens, faithful pets, and every stunning sunset.

But Pastor Zach, this is October's newsletter! Why are we talking about September? I believe that Creation is not something that happened once in the past. Indeed, God created the world, but that act of creation has not stopped. Day by day, we are created anew through God's grace. At the end of October, we celebrate Reformation Sunday, where we recognize that the Church is also a creation of God, sustained by the Holy Spirit, and called to action through Jesus. Reformation is when we remember that, just like the world, God is always working through us to do something new. As I look back on my two months of work here at St. James, I see how active the Holy Spirit is in this place, through all of us, and all the new things happening: a new Campus Ministry, a new Sunday School and Confirmation year marked by Rally Day, and a new excitement to be St. James. Thanks be to God for the courage to create something new! I'm always looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us in the future.

Mit Große Liebe (with much love),
Pastor Zach Lindler



Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 4, at 3:30 pm
As part of the Season of Creation,
we invite you and your pets to join us for a
Blessing of the Animals on
Sunday, October 4, at 3:30 pm.
All pets are welcome! If you can't bring your
pet, bring a picture!



OCTOBER UPCOMING EVENTS

USCA Campus Ministry Meetings
Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
(St. James hosts dinner on October 21st.)

Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 4, at 3:30 pm

Church Council will meet on
Sunday, October 11, at 5:00 pm.

Tie Blankets will meet on
Monday, October 12, at 1:00 pm.

Confirmation
Sunday, October 18, at 3:00 pm
Sunday, October 25, after worship

Trunk or Treat at Gregg Park Civic Center
Thursday, October 22, 6:00-7:30 pm

Oktoberfest lunch hosted by
WELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission
Sunday, October 25, following worship in the
fellowship hall

WELCA/LMM will meet on
Monday, October 26, at 1:00 pm
for a potluck lunch, followed by the meetings.



Please join us for Trunk or Treat!
Gregg Park Civic Center
Thursday, October 22nd
6:00-7:30 pm

Decorated vehicles are needed!

Please sign up on the list outside the
office by October 11th.

(See Tonia for a required registration form
or if you have any questions.)

Donations for candy are needed!

Over 500 children attended the
event last year.



Oktoberfest Lunch

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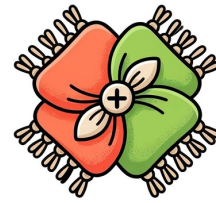
Valley Empty Stocking Fundraiser October 25

Join us after worship on
Sunday, October 25, for an Oktoberfest
celebration with our Lutheran Men in
Mission and WELCA! Enjoy delicious
bratwursts, hot dogs, and authentic
German sides and desserts.
Pastor Zach will share photos from his
trips to Germany, highlighting Martin
Luther's life and work. A freewill
offering will be collected for the Valley
Empty Stocking Fund.



Food and Coat Drive for 2ND ACTS

Throughout October, we will collect non-perishable food items, as well as coats, hats, gloves, socks, underwear (adults and children of all sizes), and blankets for 2nd ACTS in Graniteville. Any non-perishable food is welcome, including ready-to-eat canned goods with pull-tab tops, which can be distributed to the homeless. Please place donated items on the pew in the fellowship hall. Thank you for your generosity!



TIE BLANKETS



After a summer break, the St. James Tie Blankets group returned to monthly meetings in September. They made two fleece tie blankets this month. The group meets once a month to make tie blankets to donate to local organizations that support those in need of the warmth and comfort of a blanket. They also collect and donate items for local Blessing Boxes. All are invited to join in this ministry. Check your newsletter or bulletin each month for more information.



St. James provided a pregame meal for the Midland Valley JV Football team on Thursday, September 10, and for the Aiken High School Varsity Football team on Friday, September 18. Pastor Zach delivered the devotion for both teams. Thank you to Daphne Carroll for coordinating the meal for Midland Valley and to the volunteers who helped with decorating, cooking, and serving. Thank you to Jodi Tyler and Elaine Johnson for coordinating and serving the meal for the Aiken High team. We also appreciate everyone who made monetary donations and thank Thrivent for their financial support of both meals.

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Rusty Findley (Friend of Becky Johnson), Martha Baker (Cathie Valentine's sister), Cheryl Richard (Cathie Valentine's sister-in-law), Stephen Youmans, Hunter Youmans (Stephen Youmans' brother), Mike Franklin, Phil Homan, Robert Coleman, Ben Sharpe, Barry Kirby (Son-in-law of Ronald & Helen Wood), Margaret Wise (Aunt of Charles Busbee), Randy McCormack (Uncle of Emily Sharpe), Benny Hydrick (Friend of Tony Carroll), Libby Scott

Trinity on Laurens: Bobby Reece, Jean Plunkett, 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.



RALLY DAY



On Sunday, September 20th, we celebrated Rally Day with the theme "Let's Hit the Track with Pastor Zack!" After worship, we enjoyed a congregational dinner filled with food and fellowship, sharing many laughs while playing car-themed games.

Thank you to everyone who helped in the kitchen and assisted with clean-up and to all who submitted pictures for our car slideshow. A special thanks to Wolfman Jack (Lane Rogers) and Pastor Zack for hosting our Rally Day festivities.





October Volunteer List

Lay Readers & Lay Assistants

October 4: Tiffany Coleman (Lay Reader) Garrett Maroney (Lay Assistant)

October 11: Gloria Sloan (Lay Reader)

October 18: Patti Cutshall (Lay Reader & Lay Assistant)

October 25: Garrett Maroney (Lay Reader & Lay Assistant)

Worship Team

October 4: (A/C) Garrett Maroney

October 11: (A) Brayden Joiner (C) William Johnson

October 18: (A) Justin Joiner (C) Barrett Johnson

October 25: (Reformation Sunday):

Spencer Johnson, Dominic Price, Brayden Weed, Barrett Johnson, William Johnson

Altar Guild

October 4, 11, & 25: Becky Johnson & Elaine Johnson

October 18: Karmen Spletzer & Gloria Sloan

Ushers

October 4 & 11: Mike Cutshall & Mike Willis

October 18 & 25: Mike Cutshall & Kenneth Johnson

Greeter: Sara Rutland

Altar Flowers

October 4: Gary & Lisa Bryant in honor of their grandchildren - \$ Capital Fund

October 11: Mike & Sharon Willis - \$ Backpack

October 18: Becky Johnson in memory of Everett Johnson

October 25: Reformation Sunday

Sound Technicians

October 4: Lane Rogers

October 11: Robbie Franklin

October 18: Lane Rogers

October 25: Robbie Franklin



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Cassel Sloan
October 4

Gemma Carter
October 24

Helen Wood
October 5

Ethan Youmans
October 30

Kaiden Palmer
October 9

Otis Gibson
October 31

Jean Plunkett
October 9

Elaine Johnson
October 31



Ralph Abreo
October 14

Kara Willis
October 31

Jodi Tyler
October 22



*Happy
Anniversary!*

Gary & Lisa Bryant
October 3

Mike & Sharon Willis
October 3

Phil & Doris Ann Homan
October 9



Thank You

Dear St. James Lutheran Church Family,

Over five months have elapsed since my husband Anthony passed away very suddenly. I sent thank-you notes to members of the congregation who provided tremendous support and assistance to me in the days and weeks that followed, but I did not send a thank-you to the entire congregation. I was so appreciative of the members of the congregation that I did not know very well, that came to support my entire family during his service that was held on March 26th. It meant so much to me to have so many people attend his goodbye service. I also greatly appreciate members of the congregation that support me each Sunday. You have shown true concern by asking me how I am doing and telling me that I am in your thoughts and prayers. I also love the kind gestures of a warm hug that I receive from so many of you each week. Always know the difference you made during this extremely difficult time in my life.

Yours in Faith,
Dianne Medico



Offering Option:

www.stjamesgraniteville.com/giving/

Donations can be made on the St. James website! You have the option to give a one-time offering or set up a recurring donation. In the description box, please specify where you would like your offering to be directed (Current & Benevolence, Capital Fund, Backpack, etc.).



ST. JAMES
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Charles Busbee

Vice-President

Carol Horsley

Secretary

Patti Cutshall

Treasurer

Caroline Andrews

Church Secretary

Kathy Rogers

Director of Music/Organist

Tonia Busbee

Newsletter Editor

Kathy Rogers

Newsletter Designer

Tonia Busbee

Find us on FACEBOOK and stjamesgraniteville.com