

ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

A Letter From The Pastor

On August 4th we here at St. James shared a watch party for the Phillies game (we broke their losing streak too!) As part of that watch party we invited neighbors from around the church to come join us. The watch party was to say thank you to our neighbors who keep an eye on the church when there are no events happening. It was also a great way to be a good neighbor.

The event is an excellent example of organic evangelism. Our goal with the watch party wasn't to “win souls for Jesus” or expand membership, it was to say thank you. This is evangelism. Reaching out to our neighbors, and the people in our communities and sharing a meal is one way we can reach out to those around us. It lets people know that we are a welcoming and vibrant church and that we love baseball.

Evangelism can be a scary thing. The idea of sharing our faith and potentially being judged is terrifying. But sharing a meal is so scary, watching a game isn't too terrifying. Organic evangelism is leading on our values, the things we care about, and connecting to others in our communities or our lives who care about the same things. Sometimes those values are ministry or justice oriented, like hunger, homelessness, or climate justice. But sometimes those values are about our love of community, food, and even baseball.

One venue of organic evangelism we do really well with is worship. By being welcoming and joyful in our worship together we have found great success with the visitors who come to us. Our values in worship, of being family oriented, graceful, and willing to laugh off the little things give people who are looking for a church home a reason to come back.

Sometimes evangelism is as easy as sharing what we value, and what we love, and letting the people who value and love those same things find us. We will need to do those things publicly, and maybe that's a little scary. But we will do them like we do worship, like we did the watch party, together.

Peace,

Pastor Mason Hahn

Summer vacation with our St James family



Jeff and Erin in Aruba, and with their St. Louis Cardinals giveaways while on a summer road trip.



Carol A. enjoying a margarita flight while on vacation with her daughter, Sandy, in New Orleans.



Back to School!



Doug Passaro is gearing up for his senior year at Williamstown High School, and he's excited to hit the field for another season of baseball. We wish him and all of our St. James students the best for a great school year!



Pitman Manor Invites You

Saturday, **September 7th** from 10am-12pm

535 North Oak Ave. Pitman, NJ 08071

(Rear Parking Lot)

For info call the UMC Sales Team at

856-589-7800



Join us in supporting our neighbors at the Church of the Good Shepherd's Street Festival on Saturday, **September 7th**! All donations will benefit the Pitman Food Pantry. Come out and enjoy food, games, music, and activities while helping a great cause. See you there!



Save the date!

World Food Day

Celebrating 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger

When: Tuesday, **Oct. 15**, 7 p.m. Central time

Where: Zoom webinar; [Register Here](#)

Members of the Month

Judy Heineman & Lynne Leadbeater

Judy has been part of St. James Lutheran Church since 1993. She loves attending services during the Advent and Christmas seasons, and one of her fondest memories is when her children participated in the Sunday School Christmas service, accompanied by their sheep, Humphrey. Judy enjoys watching *The Proposal* and dining at Botto's. Her favorite travel destination is Charleston, SC. An interesting fact about Judy is that she leads the Gloucester County Shepherd's 4-H Club!

Lynne has been a member of St. James Lutheran Church since 1990 and loves being involved in the choir and music ministry. One of her most cherished memories is watching both of her children be baptized and confirmed. She enjoys watching Ted Lasso and dining at Martini's on Broadway. Her favorite travel destinations are Utah and Iceland. A unique fact about Lynne is that she met her husband, Scott, at summer camp in 1982 when they were counselors. Thirty years later, after reconnecting, they married in the camp's chapel with Pastor Leslie officiating in 2014!

2024 Church Council

Pastor: Mason Hahn

President: Michael Weiss

Vice President: Lynne Leadbeater

Treasurer: Jeff Nienstedt

Secretary: Jenna Passaro

Council Members: Judy Heineman, Stacey Kirwin, Joe Knorr, Cathy O'Neill, John Thompson, Barbara Keifer

Youth Member: Doug Passaro

Upcoming Activities

September 8 -- Rally Day

September 15 -- Council Meeting **11am**

September 30 -- Book Club

The Women by Kristin Hannah

Monday Nights 7pm -- Motivation to Move

Contact the church office for information about Sunday School, Adult Forum, Hand Bells/Choir.

To be a Member of the Month fill out this Google Form: [Member of the Month](#)

This monthly newsletter is a way to get to know our members. If you have anything for the next issue, email secretary@stjamespitman.com

Saint James Lutheran Church

400 Columbia Avenue, Pitman, NJ 08071

856-589-1180

www.stjamespitman.com

www.facebook.com/StJamesPitman/

Welcoming God's people together in Christ to worship, serve, and share God's love. St.

James is a member church of the New Jersey Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY IN PERSON AT

9:30 AM