

The Servitor

1104 NE Vivion Rd • Kansas City, MO 64118 • (816) 452-1018 • sec@stjameskc.org

FEBRUARY 2007

**PASTORS ELIZABETH
& JOHN BACKUS**

(816) 531-6078

Internet: <http://www.stjameskc.org>
E-mail: pe@stjameskc.org,
pj@stjameskc.org

IT'S TIME AGAIN TO HAVE A BLAST!

It is that time of year again. Lent is going to be here very soon. That means it is time once again for the St. James party of the year - *The Last Blast Before The Fast*.

What is it (you may ask yourself)? It is our version of Fat Tuesday, but celebrated on the Saturday before Lent begins. It is a time for food, fun, festivities and fundraising.

Last year we asked you how much would pay at a nice restaurant for dinner and a show. The response was over-whelming. Over 125 people attended and \$900 was raised. This year our goal is to have more people attend and more money raised.

The meal this year will be a delicious lasagna dinner with bread and salad and our entertainment will be a game show theme. If you attended last year's Last Blast, you know how much fun we had. This year promises to be even better.

We will be having games for old, young and those in-between, with an improved sound system. Marvelous prizes that you will definitely be putting out in your next garage sale. And laughs. Lots of laughs. So plan to attend this year's Last Blast Before The Fast on **February 17 at 5:00 p.m. right here at St. James.**

This fundraiser is being organized by the Church in the World Committee, with money going towards our local food pantries and Heifer International. If you have any questions - just ask anyone on the committee or call Toby Proctor at (816) 455-0480.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NOTES FROM THE PASTORS	2
LENTEN SCHEDULE	2
DIRECTORY CHGS	3
RESTART DINNERS	3
PARISH BULLETIN BOARD	3
FAMILY MATTERS	4
BIRTHDAYS	7
VALENTINE'S DAY HISTORY	7
ADULT EDUCATION SCHEDULE	7

PREPARE FOR 2007 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING ON FEBRUARY 4

The 2007 Souper Bowl of Caring is coming!

Last year, ELCA congregations and youth groups reported raising over \$725,000 for ELCA World Hunger Appeal and other hunger-related organizations through the **Souper Bowl of Caring**.

While we don't yet know who will be playing in the Super Bowl on February 4,



we do know that even as millions in our country gather around TVs to watch the game, over 800 million people will be hungry around the world.

Watch for our youth to have soup pots to collect your dollars **after worship on Sunday, February 4.**

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Wheelchairs & Walker

Two wheelchairs and one walker are available for loan to those in need.

LENTEN SCHEDULE AT SAINT JAMES

Wednesdays in Lent begin with **Ash Wednesday** service at 7:00 p.m. on February 21. We continue, on Wednesdays through April 4, with education, food, and worship. There will be an attendant in the nursery as needed.

Wednesdays in Lent

The evenings of February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4.

- 5:15-5:45 Junior Choir
- 5:30 Dinner
- 5:45-6:50 Education for All
- 7:00 Lenten Service
- 7:30 Adult Choir

Pledges Still Wanted

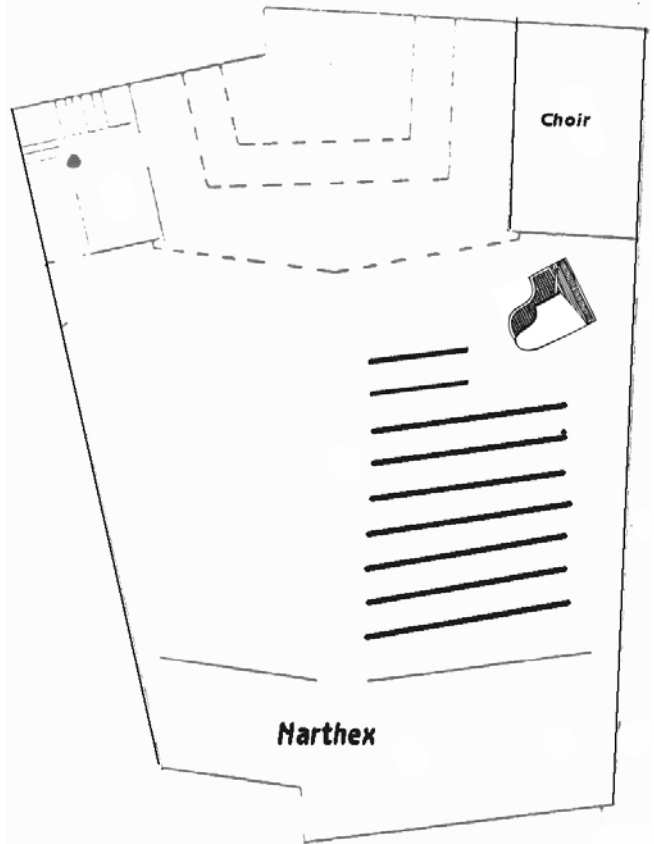
If you have not yet turned in your pledge for 2007, we encourage you to do so soon. You may either place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office.

GRAND PIANO SEARCH COMMITTEE

14 interested people met on January 9 to begin discussion on the purchase of a grand piano for our sanctuary. We did a lot of looking about the sanctuary, and even came up with one possible location for a piano (shown in the picture ...).

A team will be going out to listen to pianos over this month, and the group will meet again on **Tuesday, February 13, at 8:00 p.m.**

Anyone who is interested in this decision is encouraged to attend. Keep watching *The Servitor* for information.



POD PROJECT UPDATE

Due to reasons beyond the control of anyone at St. James or Metro Lutheran Ministry, the **POD Transitional Housing Project** (think trailer house on our parking lot a few years ago) has been abandoned.

There are still legal issues to be resolved as to ownership of the POD project, but it won't be a project of MLM for the foreseeable future.

There is a little over \$500 in our POD project fund at St. James. We hold very seriously the good faith of people who make special donations to St. James. At January's Church Council meeting, it was decided that since POD was a homeless project, we will be giving the POD funds to our **ReStart Homeless Dinners** efforts.

We will transfer the funds on April 1. If anyone who has donated has questions or concerns about this transfer, please contact Pastor John at church, home or mobile phone. We can deal with most concerns, and certainly wish to be forthright and fair with your gifts.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Pastor John

MUSIC OF MARTIN LUTHER TO BE PRESENTED AT ADULT EDUCATION

The Arts in Ministry committee proudly announce that **Ronald D. Mundt**, music director & conductor of **The Heart of America Wind Symphony** will present at Adult Education on **March 4**.

This will be a lecture/recital of music Martin Luther would have heard during his life. A transcription of the Nicene Creed as set by Palestrina will be fea-

tured. Palestrina's life, works and examples of musical instruments will be discussed.

All of the symphonies are fundraisers for charities. If interested, persons may leave a free-will offering for the MLM Northland Food Pantry after the lecture/recital. The Arts In Ministry committee will be matching funds up to \$150.

BRING US BIBLES

The Arts in Ministry Committee is seeking Bibles to use in an exhibit during the Easter season. The focus of the exhibit is to compare the art in the biblical illustrations, but we are also interested in Bibles that may have a special history or story that goes with them.

If you are willing to share a Bible with us for that purpose, please contact **Rachel McNabb, Carol Noland** or the church office.





NEWS IN BRIEF

St. James Book Club

The Book Club List for 2007 is available in the narthex. The selection for the next meeting, on **Monday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m.** will be *The Queen of Big Time* by **Adriana Trigiani**. Everyone is welcome to join the book club any-time. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Buehrer at (816) 734-7192.



Northland Assistance Center

The Northland Assistance Center is in need of **blankets, sleeping bags, hats, and gloves** for the homeless. Your donations should be marked for the Northland Assistance Center and placed in the office.

Senior Games

The next dates will be **Monday, February 12 and 26, at 1:00 p.m.** Anyone is welcome to come and join in on the fun! Please bring a snack to share!

Employment Assistance

The Employment Assistance Support Group meets on the **1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at St. James. Anyone is welcome to attend! Please encourage your friends, neighbors.

Preschool Scholarships

In partnership with our pre-school, Saint James has committed to awarding scholarships to help qualified, low-income families to send their child to our preschool. Would you be willing to sponsor a child for March, April, and May? The cost is \$30 per student per month and there are 4 students needing assistance. That's only \$120 per month.



Are you willing to help? Please earmark your donation "Preschool". If you have any questions, please see one of our pastors.

New Ministry for Gordon

Unfortunately, we'll be seeing less of **Gordon Mesley** around St. James in the coming months. But the good news is that Gordon has accepted the position of **Minister of the Chapel for St. Luke's Hospital** on The Plaza.

Gordon's new duties begin in February. Due to his work in the ministry of the chapel, Gordon will not be able to worship with us at St. James on Sundays. Please join us in congratulating Gordon on this new ministry opportunity.

RESTART DINNERS SCHEDULED

Thanks to everyone that helped with either supplying food or serving food at ReStart in 2006. We will again be serving in 2007. The dates are as follows and will be on Sundays except as noted:

- March 31 (Saturday)
- June 3
- July 29
- September 2
- November 4
- December 9

Simply Giving

If you are new to St. James, or are already giving through the Simply Giving program, and wish to make any changes in the dates, bank name or amount of your pledge, please remember to fill out a new form each time. Then give it, along with a voided blank check, to David in the church office.



Simply Giving helps you conveniently and consistently contribute to St. James, a Lutheran institution or pay tuition at a Lutheran school. Your gifts are made through a preauthorized withdrawal from your bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account—at no cost to you or the recipient.



PARISH BULLETIN BOARD

God's Blessings to...

...the following people who were all baptized on January 16:

- **Karissa Lynn Huckinson** – she is the daughter of Shawna Hamilton & Troy Huckins.
- **Jeremy Scott Huckinson** – he is the son of Donna Campbell & Scott Huckins.
- **Shannon LaShay Huckinson** – she is the daughter of Donna Campbell & Scott Huckins.
- **Taylor Breanne Hamilton** – she is the daughter of Shawna Hamilton.
- **Donna Kay Campbell** – she is the daughter of Carol & Phil Hamilton.

...and to **Tyler David Brainard** on his baptism on January 28. He is the son of Katie & Chris Brainard.

Congratulations

On Wednesday, January 3, **Ashlyn Nicole Vaughn** was born to Travis and Nicole Vaughn.

Our Thoughts & Prayers...

...are with the families and friends of the following people who died last month:

- **Sharon Janson**, sister of George Huckins,
- **Marty Stracker**, mother of Norb Stracker.



DIRECTORY CHANGES

Brent & Robin Hansen
906 Madelyn
Kearney, MO 64060
(816) 213-7857
e-mail: brent_h_64116@yahoo.com

Eunice Jungling
3913 N Kensington
Kansas City, MO 64117-2311
(816) 453-2099

Amanda & Patrick Tierney
617 Younger Street
Kearney, MO 64060-8700
(816) 635-2161

FAMILY MATTERS

SENIOR HIGH SNOW TUBING

Sunday, February 11th at 12:30 pm (that’s pretty much right after Worship) the Senior High (9th–12th graders) will go Snow Tubing at Snow Creek near Weston, Missouri. It looks like a great time. Dress super warm and be prepared to be cold, wet and joyful. Cost is \$20 for tube rental, plus if you need to bring money for snacks/ something to drink. We will leave St. James at 12:45 and return about 4pm. Carpooling! Please tell Pastor John if you intend to go!



⇒ : [Summer Camp Info](#)
 ⇒ [High School Plans trip to Snow Creek](#)
 ⇒ [High School Summer plans shaping up](#)

SENIOR HIGH WILL GO TO GULF COAST AS SERVANTS

Things remain somewhat uncertain—as in not completely made - but as of this writing, these are the plans for the Senior High Summer Trip.

We will go to New Orleans, or some other similarly damaged site on the gulf

coast, and volunteer to be their workers for 4, 5 or 6 days. We will leave here on MAY 30TH (a Wednesday) and return on JUNE 7th (a Thursday). We will spend one day doing just fun stuff (like a theme park) but the other days we will either be trav-

eling or working. This is the best gift we have offered as a High School in a long time. PLEASE sign up with Pastor John as soon as you can. Cost and more info will be published in the next Servitor. Cost will be about \$300.

SKY RANCH THIS SUMMER

I have the below students signed up currently for camp at Sky Ranch. If I have missed someone, please please let me know as quickly as possible. We are fast drawing on the add-subtract deadline set by the camp. We do have a few more spaces reserved, so if there are other students who would like to go, please have mom or dad give PJ a call! Sky Ranch is for Middle School Students currently in the 5th through the 9th grade.

Libby Hill	Jessica Lee	Emily Jennings	Kyla Odle
Libby Verner	Sam Brunker	Andrea Johnson	Taylor Wheeler
Becky Verner	Andrew Matheny	Kathryn Cross	Ryan Mason
Micah Proctor	Laura Boomgarden	Amanda Odle	



VALENTINE'S DAY – SWEETHEARTS AND PRISONERS

Like many holidays, the origins of Valentine's Day are shrouded in mystery and legend. While Valentine's Day is observed on the feast day of two Christian martyrs named Valentine, the origins of today's festival of romance and affection are probably linked to Lupercalia, an ancient Roman festival observed February 15 honoring Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage, and Pan, the god of nature.

In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius changed the date of Lupercalia to February 14 and renamed it Saint Valentine's Day, giving Christian meaning to a pagan festival.

According to Christian tradition, there were two Saint Valentines. One, a priest who lived in Rome during the third century, was jailed presumably for aiding persecuted Christians and credited with curing his jail keeper's daughter of blindness. Legend holds that on the night before his execution he gave the jail keeper's daughter a note of affection signed, "Your Valentine." Another St. Valentine, bishop of Terni, was martyred in Rome in 273 A.D., supposedly for converting a Roman family to Christianity.

Little is known about the tradition of giving

"valentines" before the fifteenth century when young people in England chose their valentines by writing names on slips of paper and then drawing them, by chance, from a vase. The practice of giving special Valentine notes of affection on this day has continued until the present.

For the card, candy and flower industries, Valentine's Day is one of the more lucrative days of the year. Discovering alternatives to buying these prepackaged expressions of affection for lovers, relatives and friends is one of the fun challenges of Valentine's Day.

In recent years, there have been attempts to incorporate the tradition of the two original St. Valentines into what has become a festival of romance by including a focus on prisoners, prisoners of conscience and the criminal justice system. In some denominations, the Sunday nearest February 14 is designated "Criminal Justice Sunday." (In other denominations, "Prisoners' Sunday" is commemorated the third Sunday in November.)

Without taking away from the importance of celebrating human relationships, this day can also be a time of learning about and remembering those in prison.

MISSION INTERPRETERS

Thanks to your support, the ELCA faithfully and effectively carries out practical and personal ministry in the Central States Synod and throughout the world. ELCA Bishop Hanson has asked us to "scatter seeds and be part of the planting of the Good News in the hearts of people around the world." Missions and ministries working toward this include:

- 47 new sites approved for congregational starts
- 8 seminaries preparing pastors and lay leaders
- 171 ELCA congregations under development
- 145 camps and retreat centers serving 450,000 yearly
- 280 social ministry organizations serving 3,000 communities
- 40,000 youth & adults attend Youth Gathering in San Antonio, 2/3's work on service projects
- 28 Lutheran colleges and universities
- 140 campus & 600 partner campus ministries
- 240 Lutheran elementary and 20 high schools
- 1,775 early childhood schools
- 286 mission personnel in 47 countries

"As followers of Christ we 'go and tell' and 'go and do' and trust that God will do the rest."

- Bishop Hanson

MLM Items for February

- 4 Macaroni & Cheese; Jell-O
- 11 Bath Soap & Toilet Paper; Spaghetti
- 18 Peanut Butter & Jelly; Baby Food
- 25 Canned Fruit & Vegetables; Pork & Beans

Adult education for February

- 4 Winnwood Elementary School with Susan Bartlett, Community Resource Specialist
- 11 Heifer International
- 18
- 25



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Kirsten Schlarman | 7 Martha Goodman | Jake Jacobs | 21 Kelsey Dufoe | Bobbie Miner |
| 2 Gabriel Coffman | Dorothy Ramos | 14 Carole Barth | 23 Hailey Knopf | Benjamin Schliesman |
| Rich Leip | Susan Tarkka | Jennifer Boomgarden | Norma Rutledge | 26 Lynne Cook |
| Amanda Odle | 9 Esther Eckhardt | Carter Hansen | Lenna Taylor | Allan Odle |
| 4 Boyd Ahrens | 10 Larry Murphy | Molly Hansen | 24 Jim Crooks | 27 Charles Wirick |
| Marsha Herndon | 11 Ty Schliesman | Angie Hill | Judy Longworth | 28 Nancy Poppa |
| 5 Brianna Knopf | Kyle Simon | 15 Colton Cavanaugh | Tena O'Hara | Toby Proctor |
| Jan Nuernberger | 12 Halie Bender | 17 Ryan Mason | Bobbi Stracker | 29 Alex Alshouse |
| 6 Jeanine Corbley | Christy Schliesman | Harvey Ressler | 25 Emily Backus | |
| JoAnn Joslin | 13 Pauline Fincham | 18 Kathy Stoenner | Pam Bergin | |

COMPASSION: DEEPLY SHARING THE SUFFERING OF ANOTHER, TOGETHER WITH THE INCLINATION TO GIVE AID OR SUPPORT

As we look at Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, we observe the ultimate example of compassion. He now calls us to follow his example and be deeply concerned for one another. Stephen Ministry is a ministry filled with compassion. It provides compassionate Christians with a place where they can use those gifts in ministry as a Stephen Minister. It also provides a haven where those in need of compassion can receive it in a confidential relationship with a Stephen Minister.

If you would like more information on our Stephen Ministry, please contact Pastor Liz.



AUTISM AWARENESS

Saturday, April 14, marks the fourth annual walk for Autism Awareness in Kansas City. Vicki Catt is interested in forming a team to participate in the walk, which provides public awareness for autism spectrum disorders and help fund programs throughout the Kansas City community.

Look for upcoming information on this event. Hope you can join us.



IMAGO DEI CONFERENCE

Imago Dei presents its Institute of Theology and the Arts: FAITH, ARTS, POPULAR CULTURE, on February 23 and 24 at St. Paul School of Theology.

The schedule of events can be found on the AIM bulletin board. Pastor Liz, Evelyn Mesley and Carol Noland will be attending. The AIM Committee will sponsor another attendee if someone is interested.

Join us for one or more of our Sunday Services:
8:30 a.m. , 11:00 a.m.,
5:00 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Sunday, February 4.....First Communion for 4th Graders
- Saturday, February 17.....Last Blast
- Sunday, February 18.....Altar Guild Meeting (between services)
- Sunday, March 11Assisting Minister Meeting (between services)



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

1104 NE Vivion Road
Kansas City, MO 64118

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

KANSAS CITY, MO

PERMIT NO. 4156



ST JAMES IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

In our house of worship, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities share the worth that comes from being individuals created by God