

The Servitor

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JANUARY 2007

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ADULT EDUCATION - AGNES TENGDIN/PHYLLIS WERNER MEMORIAL LECTURES IN JANUARY

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“PEACE, JUSTICE AND MERCY” IS THIS YEAR’S THEME

On the four Sundays in January, the Adult Education Forum will center on the Christian/Lutheran understanding of peace, justice, and above all, mercy.

The discussions will point towards the restoration of these qualities in our daily lives. The four topics are:

- January 7 Exploring the Biblical Basis for Peace, Justice and Mercy
- January 14 Basics of Restorative Justice
- January 21 Sacraments & the Formation of a Peace, Justice & Mercy People
- January 28 Practicing Restorative Justice in Jackson County

Dr. Andrew Bolton will lead the discussion on the first, third, and fourth Sundays. He coordinates Peace and Justice Ministries at the international headquarters of the Community of Christ, and also teaches at both Graceland and Park Universities. The annual Peace Colloquy in Independence is one of the more public parts of his efforts.

Diane Kyser, MS, is the leader for the second session. She is the Executive Director of the Community Mediation Center in Independence, is an adjunct instructor in Interpersonal Conflict Resolution at Park University, and has provided training in both U.S. and international venues.



Agnes Tengdin



Phyllis Werner

These adult education conversations honor the memory of **Agnes Tengdin** and her daughter **Phyllis Werner**. The annual series – usually in January – was established to help enlarge understanding of Christian faith and tradition. Come and learn!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Last Blast Just

Around the Corner

This year's edition of St. James' traditional Last Blast Before the Past is coming up on February. Stay tuned for more details!

Wheelchairs & Walker

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

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.**



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR'S

RIC Sunday On January 28

The fourth Sunday in January is designated by the ecumenical welcoming community as Welcoming Sunday (for us Lutherans that means "Reconciling in Christ or RIC Sunday"). On this day, we join other welcoming congregations from various denominations in celebrating the witness to God's love for persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is a ministry of this

congregation and Lutherans Concerned/North America (www.lcna.org).

The RIC Roster now includes over 335 congregations, 24 Lutherans synods, and 13 Lutheran colleges and organizations in North America. Our congregation was added to the list when we made a public Affirmation of Welcome that *explicitly* included people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

1st Communion Class

First Communion students in the 4th grade (or older, if you missed out

earlier) are invited to be instructed for First Communion.

Three evening classes with Pastor Liz will be held **Monday, January 29, Wednesday, January 31, and Thursday, February 1.**

Each class runs from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. These students will celebrate their First Communion on Sunday, February 4. Please mark your calendars.

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.

Thank You!

Thank you to the Saint James Congregation for the gifts you made to the staff this Christmas. Your generosity, and the way you tell us you value our work, is greatly appreciated.

The Staff

Epiphany Decorating

...will be on **Tuesday, January 2 at 6:30 p.m.** Everyone is welcome to come and help.

SUMMARY OF THE DECEMBER 10 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The congregation voted to **purchase the property** at 1120 NE Davidson Court. Financing is being arranged by the church council and treasurer. A committee will be formed quickly to begin planning the appropriate short and long term uses of this new addition to St. James.

The **Program Budget for 2007** was passed without changes. The total budget will be \$429,458, a 3.5% increase over last year. The mortgage payments for the additional house will

come out of the monies that in the past went to make our church mortgage payment. With the old mortgage due to be paid off early in the year, we have set aside that money for "Future Church Development".

The **By-Law changes** were tabled because we also need to change the constitution. A task force will begin work on **Monday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m.** If you would be interested in helping to make these needed changes, please see Pastor Liz. She

will get you copies of our current documents and the ELCA model constitution.

Worship and Music presented a motion to authorize **purchase of a grand piano** for the sanctuary. After some discussion, this motion was tabled. The Piano Search Committee will meet on **Tuesday, January 9, at 8:00 p.m.**, to discuss how best to proceed.

This, as all meetings at St James, is open to anyone interested.

PROJECT GROUP HAS ANOTHER BIG YEAR

2006 was another outstanding year for the Saint James Project Group. They made:

- 95 large quilts
- 6 medium quilts
- 20 baby quilts
- 28 lap robes
- 172 caps
- 65 stockings
- 8 pillows
- 162 cookie cans

Besides their fine handiwork, they also made the

following donations:

- Family back pack - \$ 20
- School supplies - \$ 100
- Christmas Store - \$ 250
- MLM Food Pantry - \$ 125

The Saint James Project Group wishes to thank all those who helped or donated supplies to them.

We, here at Saint James, thank all the terrific women who belong to the Project Group for their fine work.

HOBBY PARTY RETURNS ON JANUARY 13



The Hobby Party was conceived in hopes of chasing away the cabin fever blues that are so common in the cold and dark of winter. By getting together with other folks and sharing those activities, called "hobbies", we do in the privacy of our homes, we will get to know each other a little better and learn

about new and exciting pastimes.

This year's Hobby Party will be on **Saturday, January 13, at 6:00 p.m.** If you would like to share your hobbies, please sign up on the form in the narthex of the church sanctuary. Call Glenn Bray with any questions at (816) 454-8919.

LWR COFFEE PROJECT SUPPORTS COLOMBIAN FARMERS

"I was a chemical farmer; now I'm an organic farmer. Nothing in the world will make me go back to using chemicals." Zorayda Castillo, Project Manager for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in Colombia, shared these words of a Colombian coffee farmer. Organic farming helps farmers and their families protect their environment and lead a healthier a life, and this coming year **LWR Coffee Project Small Farmer Funds** will support organic coffee farmers in Colombia.

For every pound of coffee, tea and cocoa that Lutherans purchase through the LWR Coffee Project, Equal Exchange makes a donation to LWR's Small Farmer Fund. The funds will help 451 coffee farmers improve their farm productivity and family nutrition. Currently the age of their coffee trees, poor soil, and insufficient amounts of organic fertilizer result in low crop yields. Because they lack farm animals like chickens, farmers don't have enough raw materials like animal droppings to make sufficient supplies of organic fertilizer. The project will help families purchase chickens and other animals, create a nursery, renovate their farms with new, higher-yielding coffee trees, and increase the density of plantings.

Meanwhile, **BLACK GOLD**, an eye-opening and entertaining exploration of the business of coffee - from meticulously hand-picked bean to the \$3 cup - is a must-see film experience for everyone who drinks coffee. And after you've seen it, that grandé latte will never taste quite the same again.

Multinational coffee companies dominate an industry worth over \$80 billion, making coffee the most valuable trading commodity in the world after oil. While we pay premium prices, the price paid to coffee farmers remains so low that many have been forced to abandon their fields. Nowhere is this paradox more evident than in Ethiopia, the birthplace of coffee. **Tadesse Meskela** is on a mission to save from bankruptcy 75,000 struggling coffee farmers. As these farmers strive to harvest some of the highest quality coffee beans on the market, Tadesse travels the world in an attempt to find buyers willing to pay a fair price.

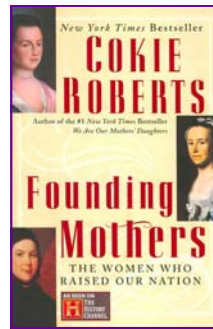


NEWS IN BRIEF

St. James Book Club

The new Book Club List for 2007 is available in the narthex.

The selection for the next meeting, on **Monday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m.** will be *Founding Mothers* by **Cokie Roberts**.



Everyone is welcome to join the book club anytime. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Buehrer at (816) 734-7192.

Senior Games

The next dates will be **Monday, January 8 and 22, at 1:00 p.m.** Anyone is welcome to come and join in on the fun! Please bring a snack to share!

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.

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.

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 pre-authorized 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...

...**Crighton John Tierney** on his baptism on December 3. He is the son of Amanda and Patrick Tierney.

...**Presley Kim Backus** on her baptism on December 10. She is the daughter of Brenda Backus.

...**Eunice Irene Jungling** on her baptism on December 17.

...**Timothy Thomas Haggerty** on his baptism on December 17.

Our Thoughts & Prayers...

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

- **Andy Kramer**, father of Kathy Stoenner,
- **Jean Sarratt**, sister of Mary Bishop,
- **Madelyn Weaver**, aunt of Victor Royal,
- **Callie Marie Quick**, great-granddaughter of Shirley Quick, and
- **Norma Schumacher Kolb**, great-aunt of Susan Bray.



DIRECTORY CHANGES

Patricia Townsend
430 N Missouri St
Liberty, MO 64068-1734
(816) 415-8925

Herm & Denise Hagedorn
e-mail address is now
hdhagedorn@comcast.net

FAMILY MATTERS

NYSSA BROCKHOFF PREACHES JANUARY 7



To begin fulfillment of her letter of call to a year of service at St. James, Nyssa Brockhoff will be preaching the sermon on Sunday, January 7th at all three worship services. Make certain that you're there at worship on the 7th to cheer Nyssa on!

A "Letter of Call" is issued to each student upon confirmation. They are asked to work with St. James for one year as a servant.

- ⇒ [Nyssa Brockhoff to Preach](#)
- ⇒ [Youth Quake News](#)
- ⇒ [Senior High Info](#)

YOUTH QUAKE NEWS

The registration deadline for the Wichita Youth Quake has come and gone. We did not have any registrations, so we will

not be going to the Wichita Quake this year. April 20-22nd, there is a Quake in Omaha, Nebraska. We will consider going to

that if there is interest. Registration is through Pastor John. Pick up a form at Confirmation if you are interested!



SENIOR HIGH INFO

January 7th at 6:20 is our monthly "go out to eat" gathering of SERMs. All high school students are welcome. We pick a place and go out for dinner. We will also hold our Youth Planning Team

meeting that night, using the folks assembled there to talk about our possibilities for the next couple of months. SERMs are going well. SERMs are for High School Students, and

we study the Bible texts that were read on that Sunday. SERMs are a great way for students to learn about how Lutherans look at the Bible! Hope to see you there!

DEAR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS:

February 21st begins our Lenten Schedule for Confirmation. I hope you will use Lent as a good time for your family this year. Lent Wednesdays at St. James are important and pleasant.

Remember to keep up with your Highs and Lows! Parents need reminding you know.

MLM CHRISTMAS STORES SERVE OVER 1100 HOUSEHOLDS

Thanks to the generosity of Lutheran congregations throughout the city, MLM Christmas Stores in Jackson and Wyandotte counties were able to provide Christmas gifts, food vouchers and blankets to over 1,100 families in the metro area.

Here at St. James, the collection began with Blanket Sunday on November 12. The ladies of our **Project Group** began by putting out decorated containers for Christmas cookie bakers, stocking kits and the many lovely quilts they had been working on all year. We are grateful for all their work for others (*see related article on Page 2*).

By December 3, the narthex was crowded with more blankets and gifts. Thanks to all who contributed! Thanks also to those who helped load the delivery vehicles and to **Marvin Neurenberger, Ty Schliesman, Mary Temperelli, Kevin Stephens and Cathy Stone** for delivering all the gifts, cookies and blankets to the store locations.

The following week, more St. James helpers delivered



70 bikes and tricycles to the Jackson County store. Thanks again to **Marvin** and his crew - **Vern Skripsky, Cameron Crooks, Ed Acton** and **Mary Temperelli**.

Organizers of both stores were pleased that they were able to give every "shopper" both a clothing item and another gift item, plus a blanket.

With last minute donations they were able to buy extra teen gifts and small appliances for women – two things that are always in short supply.

They expressed their thanks to the members of St. James for your generosity in helping to make this year's stores successful!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Don Carsten | LaVonne Kothe | Marilyn Lundy |
| 3 Edna Barrett | Gary Mortimer | 21 Micah Proctor |
| Pamela Skripsky | 17 Jeffrey Baskin | 22 Charles Cayce |
| 4 Fred Barth | Clint Coffman | 24 Victor Luerding |
| Karen Jennings | 18 Mary Bishop | Dan Lundy |
| Candace McNabb | Hannah Cline | 25 Lesley Hale |
| 5 David Wright | 19 Ed Acton | 26 Gretta Coffey |
| 6 Bill Betker | Keith Baskin | 27 Morgan Crooks |
| 8 Julia Kuhn | Bob Dever | 30 Sara Leasure |
| 9 Glenn Bray | Rick Johnson | Sally Schlarman |
| Tyler Wilson | Kelly Stover | 31 Cordell Collins |
| 14 Dennis Jennings | 20 Eric Joslin | Corey Leasure |
| 15 Robin Acton | Leann Jurgens | |

MLM Items for January

- 7 Macaroni & Cheese; Jell-O
- 14 Bath Soap & Toilet Paper; Spaghetti
- 21 Peanut Butter & Jelly; Baby Food
- 28 Canned Fruit & Vegetables; Pork & Beans

Adult education for January

- 7 Peace and Justice
- 14 Peace and Justice
- 21 Peace and Justice
- 28 Peace and Justice

FIGHTING HUNGER IN OUR AREA

ELCA World Hunger does more than just give food to people who are hungry: it addresses the root of the problem. Domestic hunger grants fund projects that strengthen the foundations of communities impacted by hunger and poverty. If the foundation of a community or household is not strong, food assistance will only prolong the inevitable outcome of a person or family starving, because they cannot maintain steady employment or organize their communities to fight hunger as a united body.

In 2006, the Central States Synod gave domestic hunger grants to **America's Second Harvest of Greater St. Joseph; Budget and Financial Management of Kansas City; and Feed My People of St. Louis.**

HUMAN SEXUALITY DOCUMENT RELEASED

The Presiding Bishop of the ELCA has released the third document in the Human Sexuality study authorized by an assembly of the ELCA. This is a large document, and worth the time to read. We have a couple copies for loan in the office, or you may read it as a web document at <http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/pdf/study03.pdf>. The study is called: "Free in Christ to Serve the Neighbor."



CHANGE: TO GIVE A RADICALLY DIFFERENT POSITION, COURSE, OR DIRECTION

Changes can be difficult - especially when they are unexpected. Stephen Ministers are trained to help people learn to cope with the changes that have happened in their life.

If you have experienced great changes or know someone who has and would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry, see Pastor Liz.



SEE PAGE 3 TO
READ THE STORY
BEHIND THE MOVIE
"BLACK GOLD".

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

BEAUTIFUL BIBLES

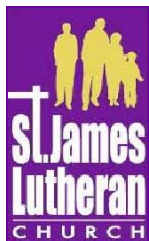


If you possess a Bible which is unique in some way, the Arts in Ministry Committee is requesting your permission to display it in our coming exhibit. During the Easter Season, AIM plans to hold an exhibit of various styles and editions of the Bible. The main focus of the exhibit will be the art used in the Biblical illustrations. However we also hope to show Bibles which may have other interesting aspects such as their age, origin or individual history. If any of you, or someone you know, would allow us to use your special Bible it in our exhibit, please contact Carol Noland or the church office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



- Tuesday, January 2 Epiphany Decorating at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, January 13 Hobby Party at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 4 First Communion for 4th Graders
- February 17 Last Blast
- February 18 Altar Guild Meeting (between services)
- Sunday, March 11 Assisting Minister Meeting (between services)



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CHURCH

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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