

The Servitor

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JUNE 2007

**PASTORS ELIZABETH
& JOHN BACKUS**

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NEW CHURCH COUNCIL FORMED

During the Congregational Meeting on May 6, **Gary Snyder, Sarah Cline, Jerry Ramos** and **Bud Stracker** were chosen for full 3-year terms. **Mary Meyer** and **Mark Unterreiner** were elected to 3-year terms of the Endowment Committee and **Toby Proctor** was elected to a 1-year term on the Endowment Committee.

Council leaders for the 2006-2007 year:

- President..... Hank Guggenmos
- Vice-President Kevin Stephens
- Secretary Denise Proctor

Appointments:

- Treasurer Nina Leip
- Financial Secretary Keith Kuhn

Committee assignments:

- Arts in Ministry Kevin Stephens
- Church in the World Denise Proctor
- Education Gary Snyder
- Endowment..... Melissa Felton
- Evangelism Michael Cook
- Finance Hank Guggenmos
- Gifts & Memorials Jerry Ramos
- Membership Neva Locke
- Property Melissa Felton
- Stewardship Bob Brunker
- Worship & Music Candace McNabb
- Youth..... Bud Stracker

Two items of great importance to the worship life of our congregation were passed at the congregational meeting.

New Hymnals

First, we will be moving toward purchase of the new hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The new book will be an exciting change, and will enrich our life together.

New Piano

Second, in accord with the motion as passed, a Walnut finish grand piano has been ordered. It may even be in the sanctuary by the time you read this. No permanent place in the sanctuary was selected. Several great minds are working on places to locate it properly, but it will be in the sanctuary as soon as it arrives.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Spring Graduates

This is the time of year when our young people wrap up their high school or college careers. Read about our graduates on Page 2.

Contribute from

Your IRA

Looking for a way to bypass the IRS and give a gift to St. James? Terry Noland tells you how on Page 7.

SAINT JAMES GARDEN PARTY

The eleventh annual St James Garden Party is now being planned. For those of you who are new to the Church or who may never have attended the event, we would like to provide a little background information.

The St James Garden Party was begun in 1996 by interested St James gardeners who thought it would be nice to visit other member's gardens to glean some helpful information

from them for their own gardens. A later benefit to this plan was that starters of plants were made available to take home to enrich the gardens of the visitors. This also was a way to thin out those gardens that were overgrown.

Lawrence and Alta Darrah had the first garden of interest since they were rumored to have a vegetable garden that was beyond "Home & Garden" quality. From there the party just

snowballed into a great event. At one point we had over 20 homes on tour and had two completely separate tour routes. Our pastor's John and Liz have always been the final tour home since they have continually offered the congregation a respite from the tour and also because they have a home that is a great place for the pot-luck dinner. They normally supply the best Barbeque Min-

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SPRING GRADUATIONS

Tyler McArthur, son of Steve & Carol McArthur, graduated May 5 from Iowa State University with a Degree in Civil Engineering.

Joseph Murphy, son of Larry & Jane Murphy, graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems.

Shannon Layman, granddaughter of Anna Mae Layman, graduated from the

University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Music Performance. She has been accepted to the graduate school at the University of Texas (Dallas) this fall to continue her studies for a doctorate in Psychology.

David Joseph Catt, son of Vicki & Carl Catt, graduated from Oak Park Hill School. He has been accepted into the Navy and

will report in August, specializing in intelligence.

Mallory Cartwright, daughter of Joe & Jan Cartwright, graduated from Oak Park High School.

Danielle Hankes, daughter of Mark & Dawn Hankes, graduated from Oak Park High School. She will be attending Missouri State University in Springfield this fall.

Jade Hankes, daughter of

Mark & Dawn Hankes, graduated from Linn-Mar High School (Marion, Iowa). She will be attending the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa, this fall.

Lauren Luerding, daughter of Jeff & Cindy Luerding, graduated from North Kansas City High School. She will be attending William Jewell College in the fall.



DIRECTORY CHANGES

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NOTES FROM THE PASTORS

Welcome New Members!

We welcome the following new members to our church:

- Aaron Ahles-Iverson
- Martha Burson
- Guy Clardy
- Kathy Fuger
- Angela Harris
- Michelle Moseman

- Robert L. Ragan
- Taylor Stephens
- Bob & Linda Stivers
- Vickie L. Vaughn
- Keith Weuve

Hollis Renewal Center

Hollis is offering two weeks of Day Camp (June 11-15 and June 18-22) for area churches this year. The Day

Camp is for elementary students (completed K-5 by June). The Day Camps will be led by the camp staff of Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries and volunteers. Our church staff has details about this week and registration forms. Cost is \$65 per person before June 1, \$75 after that. Call the Hollis office with any questions (913) 441-0451 or visit us online at www.holliscenter.org.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Senior Games

The next dates will be **Monday, June 11 and 25, 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 relatives, friends and neighbors.

Simply Giving

If you are new to St. James, or are already giving through the

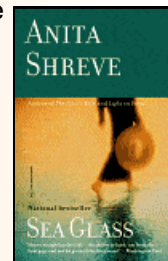


Simply Giving program, and wish to make any changes in the dates, bank name or amount of your pledge, please remember to fill out a new form each time. Then give it, along with a voided blank check, to David in the church office.

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 preauthorized withdrawal from your bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account—at no cost to you or the recipient.

St. James Book Club

Any member who enjoys reading and discussing books is encouraged to join the St. James Book Club. The club meets **in the St. Timothy Room at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month.** We welcome people to join us on an every month basis or on an occasional basis. The books discussed are ordered through Mid-Continent Library, so there is no cost to be a book club member.



The book for the **June 18** meeting is **Sea Glass** by **Anita Shreve.**

The book club will be discussing the classic, **A Wrinkle in Time** by **Madaline L'Engle** at their **July 16** meeting. We are sure there a number of younger members who have read this classic; so we would like to invite anyone who has read this book to attend and discuss this book with us.

If you have any questions, contact Barb Buehrer at (816) 734-7192.

ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY JUST AROUND THE CORNER



(Continued from page 1)

nesota brats that can be found in Missouri.

If you would like to have folks

come to your home to see your garden (flowers or vegetable), just call Glenn Bray at (816) 454-8919 or register on the sign up sheet found in the church narthex. **The party will be on June 17 this year,** aka Father's Day. So you can celebrate Father's Day by trimming the yard and flowers so the congregation can stomp around the yard and take pictures of the damage.

No garden is too small or incomplete to put on display as we mostly just talk to one another anyway. By driving to all the homes to see the gardens, we also to learn who makes the best cookies and punch.

If you have no interest in flower or vegetable gardens, you can always just do a pot-luck meal and bring it to the Pastor's home at the end of the tour. That way you can have a great time, have a chance to see the latest colors of paint available from the local hardware store found on one or other wall and you may even be offered a piece of pottery from the LB collection.



PARISH BULLETIN BOARD

God's Blessings...

...to **Ashlyn Nicole Vaughn**, daughter of Nichole & Travis Vaughn. She was baptized March 25.

...to **Kale Joseph Calvin-Diezman**, son of Michelle Calvin & Wayne Diezman. He was baptized on May 5.

God be with them as they grow in faith at Saint James.

Congratulations...

...to **Connie & Vic Royal** in the birth of their grand-daughter, **Magdalen Ann Fitzpatrick**, born March 12.

...to **Michael Cervera and Rebecca Jo Mortimer.** They were married on April 27 in Parkville, Mo. Rebecca is the daughter of Gary & Laura Mortimer.

Thank You!

The Arts in Ministry Committee wishes to express its thanks to those who graciously allowed us to display their bibles in our Beloved Bibles Exhibit. Special thanks also to the volunteers who served as attendants and to **Pam Vollers, David Killen, Ray Pinnick, Phil McGaf-**

frey and **Pastor John** for their enormous help in setting up.

Teacher Thanks!

Thanks very much to the teachers and helpers for our Sunday School program this year. The staff included **Amy Todd, Marvin McNabb, Marie Summers, Dorothy Ramos, Renee Knopf, Chris Cline, Kevin Acton, Rachel McNabb, Julie Sherbo, Glenda Collins, Tim Verner, Mark Unterreiner, Tracey Johnson, Mary Verner, and Lori Harvey.**



We appreciate your efforts!

Our Thoughts and Prayers

Our sympathy is extended to the following:

- The family and friends of **Lawrence Darrah**, who died May 7.
 - Jan & Marvin Nuernberger on the death of their brother-in-law, **Bob Legino.**
 - Bonnie Dickson in the death of her friend, **Susan Bandy.**
- May God offer them comfort at this time.

FAMILY MATTERS

JUNE SEES MIDDLE SCHOOLERS IN COLORADO

Sky Ranch is our destination! Three vehicles worth of us will travel westward to Fort Collins. We'll worship there Sunday morning, June 10th, and then travel up the mountain to Sky Ranch. We'll greet old friends there and have a wonderful week learning about "Created Backwards!" Hold us in your prayers while we're gone, please!



⇒ June is a big month for the students of St. James!

HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULTS HEAD TOWARD NOLA!

Nola, of course, stands for New Orleans, Louisiana. We will spend a week there working with Lutheran Disaster Response

in demolition and construction. More construction is on the schedule now, as more and more of the mess left by Hurricane

Katrina has been cleaned up and waiting for new builds. Pray for us while we are gone, please. We are *your hands* in NOLA!

SUMMER SURPRISES



Be watching the Servitor in July for some *surprise events* com-

ing up in July and August. We have been in the habit of not doing much over the summer except summer camp. We're going to try to make this a different summer than that.

So! Be watching. Check the calendar on the website (www.stjameskc.org) or email Pastor John (pj@stjameskc.org) to learn more!



HOW TO BYPASS THE IRS AND GIVE A GIFT BY TERRY NOLAND



The Pension Protection Act of 2006 represents a unique opportunity to support your favorite charity or ministry (such as St. James). The Act includes a variety of charitable giving incentives. If you are 70 ½ or over, you make a charitable gift of up to \$100,000 directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or Rollover IRA. There still remains one year (2007) to take advantage of gifting strategy.

Previously, if you took a distribution and donated it to a charity, it probably was an after-tax gift. Under the 2006 Act, the distribution will be

excluded from the donor's taxable income. Another benefit of the IRA Charitable Rollover is that the charitable distribution may be used to satisfy a portion or all of their required minimum distribution requirements.

Depending on each person's financial situation, such a strategy may accomplish the following:

- In the case of a gift to St. James, you could not only satisfy this year's pledge but you could also pre-pay next year's pledge.
- It gets 100% of the pre-tax rollover to the charity for its ministry.
- It moves assets out of your estate and may save

on estate taxes.

- By excluding the amount of the donation from your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), you get the same effect as a 100% deduction and may not get pushed into a higher tax bracket, as you might had it been included.

The key is that the distribution must be an outright gift distributed directly from the IRA trustee or administrator directly to the charity or ministry. This means that life income gifts such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts are not eligible to be funded by an IRA distribution. Distributions from retirement ac-

counts other than IRAs are also not eligible under the Act.

It is important to add that each person's financial situation is different and you should consult your financial advisor or tax advisor to make sure this strategy is right for you. Another source you might consult with is:

Joyce "JP" Palmer
 Director/ELCA Regional Gift Planner
 Lutheran Planned Giving
 Phone: (816) 861-6584
 E-mail: jcpalmer49@aol.com



STAY OUT OF THE ROUGH – NORTHLAND ASSISTANCE CENTER'S THIRD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Dust off your clubs, schedule some time at the practice range, and mark your calendar for Northland Assistance Center's 3rd annual *Stay Out of the Rough* golf tournament scheduled for **Saturday, June 16**, at Paradise Pointe Golf Complex - The Posse in Smithville. The tournament promises to be an exciting day on a beautiful course with check in/continental breakfast at 8:00 a.m.,

four-person shot-gun start at 9:00 a.m., lunch following with awards ceremony, and the added benefit of keeping Northland families *out of the rough*.

Proceeds from the tournament will provide families with a combination of food, financial aid, crisis intervention, case management, and/or referral information. You can participate by putting together a team of four

golfers at \$100 per player, becoming a hole sponsor for only \$200, or for only \$500 you can be a hole sponsor *and* have a team of four. Please check out Northland Assistance Center's website www.northlandhelp.org to print off your registration form or contact NAC at (816) 421-2243 for details. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Robin Hansen | Sara Harvey | Mike Snyder |
| Jean Hicks | 15 Lisa Crooks | Mary Temperelli |
| 3 Lacie Beaman | 17 Tom Ericksen | Amanda Temperelli |
| Lauren Bender | Beverly McCaffrey | 25 Nick Vollers |
| Philip McCaffrey | 18 Terry Greathouse | Lisa Watkins |
| 4 Jan Harter | 19 Rick Hill | 26 Richard Woody |
| 5 Dana Smallwood | Harold Poppa | 27 Alexander Carpenter |
| 6 Karissa Huckins | Mark Unterreiner | Bob Stivers |
| 7 Beverly Ellwein | 20 Glenda Collins | 28 Dawn Hanks |
| 8 Jessica Lee | Carol Noland | 29 Susan Bray |
| 9 Joyce Acton | Lane Rupard | Noah Cline |
| Lyndsey Coffman | 21 Alta Darrah | Debbie Haggerty |
| 10 Lori Cross | Kathryn Seyboth | Frances Moody |
| Sherri Leasure | 22 Kathie Burrichter | Jerry Ramos |
| 13 Ian Hilderbrand | 24 Kate Black | |
| 14 Samantha Brunker | | |

MLM Items for June

- 3 Macaroni & Cheese; Jell-O
- 10 Bath Soap & Toilet Paper; Spaghetti
- 17 Peanut Butter & Jelly; Baby Food
- 24 Canned Fruit & Vegetables; Pork & Beans

Adult education for June

- 3 Adoption and Finding a Birth Parent: Kristy Odle
- 10 Understanding the Stock Market & the Economic Trends Which will Influence the Stock Market: Michael Cook
- 17 Preventing Identity Theft: Jerry Ramos
- 24 Quirky Summer Reads: Barb Buehrer
- July 1 – Free Day: Social Hour

HOLLIS RENEWAL CENTER NEWS

Join Hollis for its Third Annual Family Art Fair **Sunday, August 26, from noon to 5:00 p.m.** The fair will include artists from local churches and the community, food, a kid's art shelter, and performing artist shelter. There is no cost to attend, though some of the activities have a small charge. Food is available via concession. If you are (or you know of) an artist who would like to participate, please call Hollis Renewal Center for more details at (913) 441-0451 or holliscenter@kc.rr.com.

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

PRESSURE: A BURDENSOME, DISTRESSING, OR WEIGHTY CONDITION



Are you feeling pressure right now? Is it affecting your health, your attitude, or your relationships with your family and friends? Would you like to have someone to talk to, just to help get through the next month or two? Our Stephen Ministers can help.

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

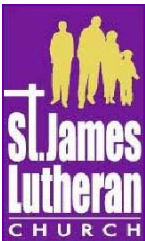
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Central States Synod Office is in need of volunteers who can help with large mailings, specifically our monthly newsletter. Our office is centrally located at 71 Highway & Linwood Blvd. We can't pay you, unless you count coffee and doughnuts; but we can promise you a fun atmosphere working with and meeting other Lutherans from around town. We love our volunteers and appreciate all they do for us! If you're interested, please contact Christina Brooks at the Synod Office, (816) 861-6584 or cbrooks@css-elca.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



- June 1-3 Synod Assembly in Overland Park
- June 9-16 Confirmation Camp at Sky Ranch in Colorado
- Sunday, June 17 Saint James Garden Party
- June 23–July 1 Mission Trip for High School Students to New Orleans



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN 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