

The Servitor

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

January 2008

Pastors Elizabeth & John Backus

(816) 531-6078

Internet: <http://www.stjameskc.org>

E-mail: pe@stjameskc.org

pj@stjameskc.org

Dr. Susan Marie Smith to Lead Tengdin/Werner Lecture Series

Inside this issue:

Notes from the Pastors	2
Project Group	2
Birthdays	3
Estate Planning	3
Family matters	4
Address changes	7
Parish bulletin board	7
Book Club	7

The adult education committee is pleased to announce our Agnes Tengdin/Phyllis Werner lecture series for the three Sundays of January. Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Susan Marie Smith**, assistant professor of Preaching and Worship at St. Paul's School of Theology.

The lecture series topics include:

- **Daring to Eat God:** Carrying the power of the Eucharist into our work day world
- **Rituals:** What are worshipful ways to deal with transitions in our lives?

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.

Please join us for an enlightening discussion series.



Special points of interest:

Epiphany Decorating

...will be on Saturday, January 5, at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come and help.

Pledges Still

Wanted

If you have not yet turned in your pledge for 2008, we encourage you to do so soon. You may either place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office.

RIC Sunday on January 27

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 is a ministry of this congregation and Lutherans Concerned/North America (www.lcna.org). The RIC Roster now includes over 335 congregations, 24 Lutheran 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.





Notes from the Pastors

First Communion Classes and Celebration

First Communion students in the 4th grade (or older, if you missed out earlier) are invited to be instructed for First Communion.

The classes will be held **from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 28, Wednesday, January 30, and Thursday, January 31.**

These students will celebrate their **First Communion on Sunday, February 3.**

New Prayer List

We begin with a new prayer list twice each year at Saint James. The list **will be cleared January 1.** If you have a name to add to the prayer list, please call the church office.

2008 ReStart Dinners Have Been Scheduled

The following dates have been set for Restart Dinners in 2008:

- February 10
- April 13
- June 8
- August 10
- October 12
- December 14

Triennial Gathering

Now is the time to make your plans for the Seventh Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA, **July 10-13, 2008, at the Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah.** The following information comes to you from our Triennial Gathering Promoter, Debbie Selland.

Check the Central State Synod Women of the ELCA newsletter, "Walking in the Word" and the Central States Synod website and the ELCA women's link, for updates. Individual registration and room reservations opened September 4 and early bird registra-

tion of \$275 will continue through January 21. After that, registration will be \$325. If you need help making travel arrangements, please let Debbie know.

Organize a group from your congregation! There are women who have never taken part in an event like this and would be uplifted and strengthened by experiencing this gathering. An invitation is all the need.

As the TGP, Debbie can help! Please feel free to contact her at dbselland@hotmail.com or:

116 Center
Willis, KS 66434

Love One Another As I Have Loved You...

In John 15:12 (NRSV), Jesus says, *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."* Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job – it's something Jesus calls us all to do!

Stephen Ministry is a special ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it.



2008 Altar Flower Chart



The 2008 Altar Flowers calendar is up in the narthex. We have many openings available. If you would like to contribute flowers, please sign your name and telephone number. Our flower coordinator, **Jan Nuernberger**, will call you the week before to get the information needed.

The arrangements cost \$20, \$23, and \$25. When you contribute altar flowers, you may place your check in the offering plate and earmark it for "altar flowers."

Project Group Makes a Big Contribution in 2007

2007 was a great year for the Project Group. They made:

- 95 large quilts
- 21 medium quilts
- 20 afghans and baby quilts
- 194 caps
- 67 stockings
- 25 lap robes
- 15 pillows
- 4 stuffed toys
- 5 pairs of gloves
- 172 cookie cans

We gave \$50 for the school project. The Project Group wishes to thank all those who helped or donated supplies to them. A special thank you for the TLC who did so much for the Project Group.



News in Brief

Employment Assistance

The Employment Assistance Support Group meets at Saint James on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. **In January, that date will be the 15th** (January 1 is a holiday and there will be no meeting on that date). Anyone is welcome to attend! Please encourage your friends and neighbors.

Senior Games

The next dates will be **Monday, January 14 and 28 at 1:00 p.m.** Anyone is welcome to come and join in on the fun! Please bring a snack to share!

Simply Giving

If you are new to St. James, or are already giving through the Simply Giving program and wish to change the dates, bank name or amount of your pledge, please remember to fill out a new form. 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 on the same day on the same day they are withdrawn from your bank account at no cost to you or the recipient.

January Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Martha Burson | 19 Ed Acton |
| 2 Don Carsten | Keith Baskin |
| 3 Edna Barrett | Brynne Davis |
| Pam Skirpsky | Bob Dever |
| Ashlyn Vaughn | Rick Johnson |
| 4 Fred Barth | Kelly Stover |
| Karen Jennings | 20 Eric Joslin |
| Candace McNabb | Marilyn Lundy |
| 5 David Wright | LeAnn Walker |
| 6 Bill Betker | 21 Micah Proctor |
| Justin Owens | Josie Rosson |
| 8 Julia Kuhn | 22 Charles Cayce |
| 9 Glenn Bray | 23 Wayne Diezman |
| Tyler Wilson | 24 Kaya Alvegaard- |
| 14 Dennis Jennings | Struble |
| 15 Robin Acton | Victor Luerding |
| LaVonne Kothe | Dan Lundy |
| Gary Mortimer | 26 Gretta Coffe |
| 16 Donna Campbell | 27 Morgan Crooks |
| 17 Jeffrey Baskin | 30 Sara Leasure |
| Clint Coffman | Sally Schlarmann |
| 18 Mary Bishop | 31 Cordell Collins |
| Hannah Cline | Corey Leasure |



Steps to Remember Your Favorite Ministries in Your Estate Plan



Have a Current Will

80% of end-of-life gifts to ELCA ministries come in the form of a bequest. That is, gifts through will, beneficiary designations and other instruments. However, 70% of Americans die without a will. Additionally, if your will is more than three years old, it may be time for a review. Does the document reflect your current desires or the real needs of the loved ones and ministries to whom you bequeath your assets?

If you have not previously included a ministry in your estate plans, would you consider a gift to a ministry that you have supported during your lifetime? For more information about the ministries of the church, contact Lutheran Planned Giving Services.

Make an Informed Decision

Meet with a Gift Planner from Lutheran Planned Giving Services to determine the ideal planned giving strategy for you and your family. Some assets are better to give to family (life insurance, cash, etc.) and others are good assets for ministry (IRAs, ELCA

Board of Pensions account, etc.) Many planned giving tools are available — gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, etc. Which is best for you? A Gift Planner, your attorney and other financial advisors can help you discern the proper instrument and strategy for your situation.

Naming Ministry

Deciding which ministries to name and how to transfer assets can be a challenge. Do you want to leave the ministry a lump sum or an income stream? Some people wish to designate their gift to a particular need in their favorite ministry. There are some pitfalls to avoid in giving such a gift. If your desire is to give to your congregation's Mission Endowment Fund, you need to make sure the language you use in your will properly directs your gift. Lutheran Planned Giving Services can help you with the appropriate language for these documents.

Report Your Gift

Ministries of the church would like to say "thank you!". Lutheran Planned

Giving Services can help you notify the leadership of the ministries you have named in your estate plans. These leaders want to hear your story and the reasons you named a particular ministry. When they ultimately receive your gift, they will know your story. Stories also encourage others to consider a planned gift for ministry.

Recognition

You will also be honored as a member of the Willing Witness Community, which honors all who have created a planned gift for an ELCA ministry, regardless of size or type of gift.

Remember, you are not just giving a gift. You are planting a seed. Your gift has the power to inspire others to do the same. Becoming a member of the Willing Witness Community is an opportunity to encourage fellow members of the ELCA to create a legacy for ministry.

To learn more, contact our regional director for Lutheran Planned Giving, **Joyce "JP" Palmer** at (816) 204-5181 or jcpalmer49@aol.com.

Report of Congregational Meeting

The Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 9th had several items on the agenda. Despite the bad weather fifty voting members constituting a quorum were present. A heart felt "Thank You" to those that attended.

The Constitution and By-laws were approved unanimously and will take effect upon approval of the Synod hopefully within 60 days. The bulk of the

meeting was spent on the increased call of the Pastors and the budget for 2008. While they are separate items, they have to work hand-in-hand. The budget presented unfortunately did not reflect an increase in the Pastor's call. It did however reflect a 2 ½ % increase for all personnel. The very disappointing part of the budget is the reduction of benevolence from 21 ½ % to 20%. The budget

passed with several dissenting votes.

The discussion concerning the increase in call from 1 ½ to 1 ¾ call of the pastors was very beneficial for all attendees. The pastors did a time study this summer over a 5 week period. The study reflects a combined average of 92 hours per week. As you know the summer is a slow period in the life of our congregation. The

Synod defines a full time call as 40 hours per week. The discussion ranged from the possibility of the pastors working only 60 hours a week to how to raise the pledges and money to compensate them for the work they perform. No real answer to the problem was determined. However the increase in call will be a major discussion item at the next Congregational Meeting in May.

Piano Recital

There will be a piano recital, **Saturday, January 19, at 2:00 p.m.** here at St. James. **Dolores Palmer** will be the pianist. The program will include works by J.S. Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Debussy, Scott Joplin, Elton John, and Jay Ungar.

A free-will offering will be taken for Saint Philip Church, which serves a number of homeless and impoverished people who live north of the river in Kansas City.

Dolores Cloepil Palmer, a native of Tarkio, Mo., studied with the late Gavin Doughty of Tarkio College and with Richard Angeletti of the University of Kansas. She taught piano for many years in Lawrence, Kansas, and most recently in Kansas City, North. She is currently pianist and director of liturgical music at Saint Philip Church.

A Season of Global Awareness

The Central States Synod encourages us to celebrate Epiphany as a "season of global awareness" ... a time to nurture our relationships with our companion synods.

The children of Papua, New Guinea, and Far East Russia say "Please remember us!" Invite a speaker, host a visitor, build relationships, provide support, pray. Let us not forget them!

Resources are available online at www.css-elca.org. Click on "Ministries" and scroll down to "Companion Synods".

MLM Items for January

- 6 - Macaroni & cheese; Jell-O
- 13 - Pork & beans; spaghetti
- 20 - Peanut butter & jelly; baby food
- 27 - Canned fruit & vegetables

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

- Saturday, January 5Epiphany Decorating at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, January 6Natural Church Development Team Meeting at 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 3.....First Communion for 4th Graders
- Sunday, February 10Stewardship Meeting at 9:45 a.m.
- Sunday, February 24Altar Guild Meeting at 9:45 a.m.
- Saturday, March 1Spring Fling



Directory Changes

Kate Black
501 Westminster Ave
Box 068
Fulton, MO 65251-1230

Sarah Blair
11732 Melrose St
Apt 96
Overland Park, KS
66210-3819

Michael & Rebecca Cervera
14513 W 138th Ter
Olathe, KS 66062-4593
(913) 839-2463

Marianne Craft
6500 N Cosby Ave
Apt 317
Kansas City, MO 64151-3959
(816) 584-2666

Anna Mae Layman
The Cedars of Liberty
200 W Ruth Ewing Rd
Room 120
Liberty, MO 64068-9496
(816) 407-9570

Terry W. Royal
6328 N London Ave
Apt D
Kansas City, MO 64151-4305

Kyle Simon
1503 S Joplin St
Apt 454
Pittsburg, KS 66762-5945
(816) 686-2170

Mike Snyder
445 S Lawrence St
Hobart, IN 46342-4641
(773) 425-0364
mfstiger@yahoo.com

E-Mail

Pam Beaman
pam@pambeaman.com

Jan Cartwright
jancart@kc.rr.com

Hannah Proctor
ozsomehpc@aol.com

Micah Proctor
mnpnine@aol.com

Deanna Wheeler
dwheeler@murcys.com



A "Thank You!" Note from Tim Feiertag

The Endowment Committee would like to share a thoughtful thank you letter with the congregation:

Thank you for your continued support of my ministry through the Runzer scholarship. Those funds were most helpful in retiring the transportation costs that it took to return to the West Coast. I am so glad that I was able to be HOME at St. James this summer.

*In gratitude,
Tim Feiertag*

Please consider donating to St. James through the Endowment committee to support efforts such as the Runzer scholarship. If you would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Liz, who will put you in touch with a committee member.

Thanks!

NURSERY ATTENDANT NEEDED!



Ideal position for a college student. A nursery attendant is needed for Sunday mornings and Sunday Night Live! Candidates must be at least 18 years old, responsible, patient, and enjoy working with young children.

If you know someone who might be interested, please contact Pastor Liz or Angie Hill at (816) 781-4020.

Parish Bulletin Board



We Rejoice With...

David & Shannon (Skripsky) Morgan on the birth of their son, **Reese Michael Morgan**, on November 30. Reese is also the grandson of Pam & Vern Skripsky.

Our Sympathy

...is extended to the following:

- Pam Skripsky and family at the death of her father, **John Janssen**.
- Fred Barth & his family at the death of his mother, **Myrtle "Marge" Barth**.
- Deborah Ostwald and her family at the death of her father, **Dick Ostwald**.

May God offer them comfort at this time.

Thank You

Fred & Carole Barth wish to thank the congregation for their prayer and concern during the illness and death of Fred's mother, Marge.

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.

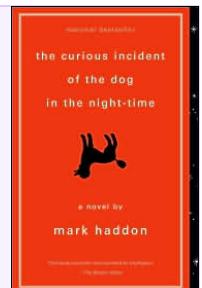
The Staff

St. James Book Club

The new Book Club List for 2008 is available in the narthex.

The selection for the next meeting, on Monday, January 21, at 7:00 p.m. will be **Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** by **Mark Haddon**.

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



Family Matters



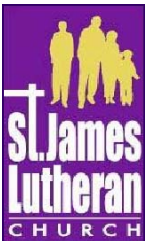
The Sunday School Christmas Program and *Adventures in Babysitting* make for a memorable December.

Watch for Events in January and February

Featuring St. James Youth

⇒ **“Lunch with Jesus” at Noon on January 13th. Meet in Youth Room**

⇒ **Confirmation Re-starts on January 9th at 6:30 pm**



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

St. James welcomes all of God's children with open arms; we embrace people of all colors, race, disability or economic background. St. James welcomes persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities to share in the worship of God and the work of God's dominion.