

# The Servitor

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March 2008

Pastors Elizabeth  
& John Backus

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## It's time!



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The time has come to begin the work needed to replace the MLM building, and carefully re-configure the land and buildings that St. James owns. This is a big project, and will call upon all of the congregation to show vision and hope for the future of our Church.

We have the support of our neighborhood - and throughout the process, we will be working to gain the support of our faith neighbors and our larger church. I believe that this project is going to have an effect on much more than just St. James. We will be leaders in the Church, as the Church grows in its life of service to the community.

In order to accomplish this goal, we need a Task Force of people who believe that they are and can be on fire for this task for two solid years - 2008 & 2009. In that time, we hope to accomplish these goals:

- 1) learn about our current facility
- 2) learn the best way to accomplish the goal of building a better place for our community ministry to take place. Basically put: Replace the MLM building.
- 3) keep St James congregation in constant contact with what the Task Force is doing
- 4) secure an architect willing to work with us in this re-configuration and design of new structure.

5) secure major funding from sources outside the congregation to accomplish this building.

6) Bring the project to such a place that in early 2010, ground can be broken for the new structure.

There will be specific committee investments in this project, and so a member from Property Committee and one from Church in the World will be sought. Pastor Liz and I will also be asking specific individuals in the days to come. If you believe that you are one of the people who should be on that Task Force and are ready to be on fire for the project for two years ... please see me (Pastor John) and offer your service!

And finally - it will take some money (we are not yet certain how much) to get the project started. In next month's *Servitor*, I hope to have an idea how much - and I will be asking (with council's authorization) for your gifts to "seed" this great and wonderful endeavor.

It is a great joy to serve this congregation which stands so ready to serve.

Watch in the days and weeks ahead, as we continue to grow together!

God's Peace be with you,

*Pastor John*

### Special points of interest:

#### **Nursery Request**

The nursery is in need of a cordless broom or dust buster for small clean-up jobs. If you can help, your generosity would be appreciated.



## Notes from the Pastors

### Annual Assisting Ministers Meeting

The annual meeting of assisting ministers is scheduled at **9:45 a.m. on March 9.**

### Service of Healing Coming Up on March 2

Our Lord Jesus healed many who were sick as a sign of the reign of God come near, and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing. Through prayer in Jesus' name, and by the laying on of hands and anointing, the disciples witnessed to the power and presence of God.

In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we entrust to God all who are in need of healing and hope.

Come join us for a Service of Healing on March 2. We will offer our prayers for those who are gathered there, both physically and in our minds and hearts. We will commend to all the grace of Jesus Christ, so that God may ease their suffering and grant them health and salvation.

### Clay County Clothes Closet Clothes Clear-out!

(Say that fast 6 times!) We will have our annual Clay County Clothes Closet clothes collection drive on April 13, 20, and 27. The CCCC serves Northland residents who need a little help. You can donate clothes that you wore, but no longer wear, or new clothes that you would like to donate.

They have many needs, such as shoes, jeans, shirts, and underwear for school age children, along with needs for adults.

### Delegates Needed

We need 1 male and 2 females to be delegates for the Synod Assembly to be held **June 5 to 8 in Saint Louis.** If you are interested, please see Hank Guggenmos.

### Our Calling in Education

A social teaching statement entitled, "*Our Calling in Education*", was adopted at the Churchwide Assembly in August. We have received a copy of this statement in the office. It includes discussions of such topics as, "*What Does God Have to Do with Education?*" and "*Will Our Church Have Schools and Colleges?*" If you are interested, please let one of the pastors know.

### First Lutheran Church

The members of First Lutheran Church invite you to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Fashioned Swedish Smorgasbord on **Saturday, March 1.** Information is available on the narthex board and the board in the Great Hall.

For additional information or to order tickets, please call First Lutheran at (913) 362-4150.

### Triennial Gathering

Now is the time to make your plans for the Seventh Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA, **July 10-13, at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt**

**Lake City.** The following information comes from 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 is \$325. If you need help making travel arrangements please let me 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 gather. An invitation is all they need. As the TGP, I can help! Please feel free to contact me at [dbselland@hotmail.com](mailto:dbselland@hotmail.com) or 116 Center, Willis, KS, 66434.

## Double Meanings

Sometimes one word can mean different things. For example, think of the uses we give the term "trunk." It can mean an elephant's snout, a vehicle luggage compartment, a container for storage or shipping, a swimsuit or even the main body of a tree. All of these uses can be downright confusing unless we know the context of the message. And even then it can be overwhelming to someone who is just getting acquainted with the English language.

Double meanings can also confuse those who are learning about planned giving. For example, we use the term "trust" to mean both a gift vehicle and an attitude of personal confidence. We seek to engender *trust* with our friends to make it easier for them to entrust some of their assets in a charitable *trust* for the benefit of ministry.

Here is another set of terms: appreciation and appreciation. We talk about the appreciation of assets and possible capital gains

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## Equipping the Saints...

In Ephesians 4 (NRSV) Paul talks about pastors and other leaders as gifts God has given the church "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Stephen Ministry has given us an organized way to equip those gifted for caring ministry so that they can build up the body of Christ by providing Christian care and support to those experiencing a difficult time. If you would more information on our Stephen Ministry, please call Pastor Liz.





## News in Brief

### Easter Flowers

We are taking orders for Easter Lilies and Spring Flowers for Easter. The plants will be in 6" pots and cost \$6 each. To purchase a plant **please make checks payable to the church and use the envelopes provided in the red attendance books**. Mark "flowers" in the memo field of your check. Specify the type of plant and how many. Plants may be picked up following the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter. Those left after March 30 will be given away.

### Easter Decorating

Easter decorating will be **Saturday, March 22**. Look for further information in the upcoming bulletins.

### Senior Games

The next dates will be **Monday, March 10 and 24 at 1:00 p.m.** Anyone is welcome to come and join in on the fun! Please bring a snack to share!

### MLM Spring Fling

It's time to mark your calendars for Spring Fling 2008! This event is the major fund-raiser for the MLM Christmas Store and will be held on **Saturday, March 1 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Bethany Lutheran Church, 91<sup>st</sup> & Lamar in Overland Park**. The fun-filled morning will include pancake breakfast, games for the kids, silent auction, home-made baked goods, candies and crafts to purchase. Tickets are available from Cathy Stone.

### 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 March, those dates will be the 4th and 18th**. Anyone is welcome to attend! Please encourage your friends and neighbors.

It was recently asked why we don't take advantage of Harvester's delivery program for the MLM food pantry. Good question. And here is the amazing answer:

The Northland MLM food pantry gets a food order from Harvesters every other week. Harvesters charges \$70 per delivery. This means that the team of volunteers, headed by **Jim Crooks**, who pick up the order, load and unload, sort and disperse the food are able to purchase an extra 5.5 TONS of food each year. That is a lot of rutabagas!

If you are interested in helping to make a difference, MLM is always looking for volunteers.



### Committee Reports

All yearly committee reports for the May Congregational Meeting are due to the church office **by Sunday, April 20**. Please have the reports typed and copy ready (or e-mail the reports to David at the church office). NOTE: David's e-mail address is sec@stjameskc.org.

### 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.


### Thank You Sarah Cline!

We really appreciate Sarah's work in the Nursery the past few years. She will now be enjoying our services in the Sanctuary with her family. Please thank her when you see her!

## March Birthdays



- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Norb Stracker     | 17 Kaitlin Gram       |
| 3 Jane Adney        | Scott Jones           |
| John Haggerty       | 22 Alanna Sherbo      |
| 4 Rob Bergin        | 23 Christine Blank    |
| Thierry Hale        | Julia Summers         |
| 6 Chandler Coe      | 24 Kristy Odle        |
| James Ressler       | Madison Wirick        |
| 7 Shamiso Siyakwazi | 25 Ken Gillespie      |
| 8 Susan Hockett     | John Hilderbrand      |
| Majorie Rupard      | Ava Wilson            |
| Julie Sherbo        | 26 Tara Coffman       |
| Mary White          | Stephen Grafelman     |
| 9 JoNell Priestly   | Americo Mabrey        |
| Gladys Scheelk      | 27 Erika Summers      |
| Mufaro Siyakwazi    | 28 Tabitha Greathouse |
| 10 Shane Hicks      | 29 Jamie Baskin       |
| 11 Andrea Johnson   | Kristi Cavanaugh      |
| Myron Schultz       | Todd Ellwein          |
| 12 Toni Owens       | Richard Greene        |
| 13 Cynthia Brunker  | 31 Mary Crooks        |
| 14 Tina Jacobs      | Dave Johnson          |
| 16 Kathryn Fuger    | Steve Schlarmann      |

<p>Lent 4 <b>SERVICE OF HEALING</b> 8:30—Communion 9:45—Adult Education 9:45—Sunday School 11—Communion 5—Sunday Night Live!</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6:30—Church in the World Meeting 7—Evangelism Team Meeting 7—Women to Women Meeting</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6—Employment Assistance Meeting 7—Neola Circle</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>10—Project Group 3:15—Staff 5:15—Junior Choir 5:30—Lenten Supper 6:15—Education for All 7—Lenten Worship 7:30—Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9—TLC 4—Packing the Backpacks</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>8</b> Membership Committee Meeting</p>
<p>Lent 5 8:30—Worship 9:45—Adult Education 9:45—Sunday School 9:45—Assisting Minister Meeting 11—Communion 5—Sunday Night Live!</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>1—Senior Games 7—Church Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>7—Arts in Ministry Meeting 7—Property Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>10—Project Group 3:15—Staff 5:15—Junior Choir 5:30—Lenten Supper 6:15—Education for All 7—Lenten Worship 7:30—Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9—TLC 4—Packing the Backpacks 7—Stephen Ministry Meeting</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> SERVITOR DEADLINE</p>
<p>Passion/Palm Sunday 8:30—Communion 9:45—Adult Education 9:45—Sunday School 11—Communion 2—Natural Church Development Team Meeting 5—Sunday Night Live!</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>7—Book Club</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>6—Employment Assistance Meeting 7—Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>10—Project Group 3:15—Staff 5:45—Junior Choir 7—Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Maundy Thursday 9—TLC 7—Worship with Communion</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>  <p>Good Friday 7—Worship</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>22</b> 6—Shalom House</p>
<p>Easter Sunday 8:30—Communion 9:45—Potluck Easter Breakfast 10:15—Easter Egg Hunt 11—Communion 5—Sunday Night Live!</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>1—Senior Games 7—Outside the Box</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:30—Mutual Ministry Meeting 7:30—Worship &amp; Music Meeting</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>10—Project Group 3:15—Staff 5:45—Junior Choir 6:30—Confirmation Class 7—Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9—TLC 4—Packing the Backpacks</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Omaha Youth Quake Event Starts</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>29</b></p>
<p>Easter 2 8:30—Communion 9:45—Adult Education 9:45—Sunday School 11—Worship 5—Sunday Night Live!</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>1—Senior Games 7—Outside the Box</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>SPREAD THE WORD FOR HE HAS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!</b></p>			

## Worship Assistants

Please try to find a replacement if you cannot attend, or call the church office. Thank you!

	March 2 8:30	March 2 11:00	March 9 8:30	March 9 11:00	March 16 8:30	March 16 11:00	March 20 7:00	March 21 7:00
Acolytes	Luke Temperelli Katherine Cross	Mufaro Siyakwazi Katie Bradshaw	Micah Proctor	Laura Boomgarden Shane Hicks	Megan Unterreiner NEEDED	Erica Brunker Natalie Platel	Katherine Cross OPEN	
Altar Guild	The Sherbo Family	Pam Kerns Adele Sandstede		Lenna Taylor Marilyn Schweitzer	Edna Barrett Kathie Burrichter	Donna Wrede Ken Wrede	The Temperelli Family	
Assisting Ministers	Bud Stracker Bobbi Stracker	NEEDED NEEDED	Ann Woody	Tom Ericksen NEEDED	NEEDED NEEDED	NEEDED NEEDED	Bobbi Stracker NEEDED	
Common Cup	NEEDED	NEEDED		Bobbi Stracker	Eva Husted	NEEDED	NEEDED	
Ushers	Ray Pinnick NEEDED	Michael Cook Chris Hill	Toby Proctor Richard Woody	Bud Stracker Caryn Boomgarden	Barb Buehrer Marvin Nuernberger	Bob Brunker NEEDED	Ed Acton Joyce Acton	Eva Husted Lloyd Kerns

# Worship With Us

	March 23 8:30	March 23 11:00	March 30 8:30	March 30 11:00
Acolytes	Libby Verner NEEDED	Sara Boomgarden Tara Boomgarden	Samantha Brunker Erica Brunker	Evan Todd
Altar Guild	Pam Skripsky Vern Skripsky	Clara Felton Melissa Felton	Carol Noland Terry Noland	
Assisting Ministers	Mary Verner Gene Carbaugh	Tom Ericksen Bill Betker	Bud Stracker NEEDED	NEEDED
Common Cup	NEEDED	NEEDED	Eva Husted	
Ushers	Becky Verner Joyce Acton	NEEDED NEEDED	Don Carsten Marj Rupard	Ken Wrede Donna Wrede

### CHURCH STAFF HOME PHONES

<b>Pastors</b>	<b>Liz and John Backus</b>	<b>816-531-6078</b>
<b>Church Secretary</b>	<b>David Killen</b>	<b>816-453-6265</b>
<b>Organist &amp; Choir Director</b>	<b>Evelyn Mesley</b>	<b>816-833-2890</b>
<b>Custodian</b>	<b>Jack Miller</b>	<b>816-454-5366</b>

Family Matters

Summer Activity Registration Deadlines

Dear Students and Parents:

**Registrations due for Confirmation Camp  
March 16th.**

Paperwork is available from Pastor John, or in the plastic container at the North Door. Most of you have already received copies. Camp will be from Saturday Morning, June 14<sup>th</sup> through Saturday Evening, June 21<sup>st</sup>. (Sorry—this engulfs Father’s Day.) Cost is \$350 per student, complete. Includes all transportation, meals & T-shirt.

**Registrations due for Boundary Waters High School Camp  
April 16th.**

If you need another copy of the brief paperwork, please ask Pastor John. We leave Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> and return Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. We will spend one day working with Habitat for Humanity in Duluth, Minnesota. Otherwise, we will be in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area camping, worshiping, Bible studying and learning good camping skills.

**Registrations due for Trip to New Orleans to rebuild the city:  
April 30th.**

As last year, we will take a group to New Orleans, Louisiana to work with Lutheran Disaster Response in rebuilding homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. We are going back to demonstrate our commitment to help rebuild homes and lives over a period of years—not just a “once over lightly” promise. A skill sheet will be provided to anyone who wishes to go. Cost is \$150 per person total.

⇒ **:Deadlines fast approaching!**  
⇒ **MLM Midnight Volleyball Marathon**

Midnight Volleyball Marathon Is Back!

**Friday Night to Saturday Morning  
April 18-19,  
11 pm—6 am**



St. James High

School Students will meet at Saint James at 9:47 pm to car pool to the Tomahawk Sports Dome (17501 Midland Drive, Shawnee,

Kansas. In order to participate, you need to have filled out a pledge sheet and get some sponsors. Sponsors can be family members, school classmates, or members of St. James Lutheran Church. You might even get a pastor to sponsor you, if you ask *really really nicely!* We need 6 students minimum to participate. There is

no maximum of those that can. BUT! PJ needs to know you are planning to go by March 23rd. (this, happily, is a Sunday!) We will have a great time!

A special ending for this year’s confirmation studies is planned! All students, and all their parents and their families and their friends and just about anybody else you can think of is invited to join us on Wednesday, April 30th, for a very special musical presentation called:

*Making History*

The good students of Knox Presbyterian Church will present this musical in the sanctuary at St. James at our regular confirmation time (6:30pm) SO! Make plans for the whole family to attend our close of year event!



## Parish Bulletin Board

### Welcome Michelle Davis!

The new face in our Nursery is that of Michelle Davis, a Park University Art Education student who will be our Nursery Attendant on Sunday mornings and during Sunday Night Live. Stop by and introduce yourself!

### Congratulations

To **Jeremy Huckins, Brianna Knopf** and **Mufaro Siyakwazi** on receiving their First Communion last month.

On February 5, **Grant Ryan Kerns** was born to Jeremy & Leslie Kerns. His proud grandparents are Lloyd & Pam Kerns.

### Our Sympathy...

...is extended to the following:

- Joyce & Ed Acton on the death of their brother-in-law, **Kenny Hoppen**.
- Neva Locke on the death of her brother-in-law, **Clifton Kieffer**.
- Judy Huckins on the death of her

mother, Darlene Cushing. May God offer them comfort at this time.

### Thank You

Thanks to all who helped with this year's **Last Blast**. We wish to thank those who planned the event, prepared the food, and did the cleanup after this year's event. We raised \$334.01 for the New Orleans Trip.

### Hymnal Exhibit

The Arts in Ministry Committee will hold a Spring 2008 exhibit with Hymnals as its theme. The hymns we sing have always been a vital and personal part of worship. Our hymnals are a true reflection of theological and musical history. Lutheran Hymnals may be featured in the display, but the collection plan is to include as many varieties and styles as possible.

AIM is now requesting help from our St. James members and friends to create this exhibit.

Please contact the church office if you can help us find Hymnals to display.

### Women to Women

We have found inspiration from a recent article in *The Lutheran* titled "Women to Women". We are considering a quarterly event to sell donated homemade items.

The group in the article sold "fine jewelry, homemade note paper, knitted and crocheted baby sets, purses, afghans, lap robes, slippers, scarves, shoe bags, wine gift bags, aprons, table runners, pottery, needlepoint, baked goods, pickles, jams and jellies, herbal vinegars, tomatoes, peppers, rhubarb, green beans, blackberries, garden flowers, and wooden toys, bowls and platters". The ideas are limitless. The money raised would then go to various worthy causes that St. James supports throughout the year.

There will be an organizational meeting on **March 3 at 7:00 p.m.** For more information please talk to a member of the Church in the World Committee.



## Directory Changes

### **Rob & Rachel Bergin**

4414 NE 78<sup>th</sup> St  
Kansas City, MO 64119-7902  
(816) 436-3366

### **Carl Brockhoff**

5017 NW Linden Rd  
Kansas City, MO 64151-1982  
(816) 505-0822  
musicmaj04@yahoo.com

### **Lyndsey Coffman**

14309 Anchor Ave  
Liberty, MO 64068-8228  
(816) 792-0489

### **DeEtte & Whitney Johnson**

5407 N Washington Ct  
Kansas City, MO 64118  
deette@mac.com

### **Anna Mae Layman**

Ashton Court  
1200 W College St  
Room 19A  
Liberty, MO 64068-1036  
(816) 407-9570

### **Bri, Nathan, & Micah Polichnia**

6000 College Dr, Apt 103  
Suffolk, VA 23435-2064  
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### E-mail

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### **Christi Carter**

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### **Brent Hansen**

brent\_h\_64116@yahoo.com  
bhansen@winbury.com

### **Brianna Knopf**

bratzcatzz@hotmail.com

### **Lisa Watkins**

#### Weekdays:

lisaw@completehomeconcepts.com

#### Weekends:

lisaberger2@yahoo.com

## SOUPER BOWL RESULTS ARE

It's official, the Giants barely won on the football field last month and barely won our annual Souper Bowl over the Patriots. The final result was:

**GIANTS: \$159**

**PATRIOTS: \$152.76**

**CHIEFS: \$25**

All monies collected will go to support our MLM Food Pantry in the Northland.

### St. James Book Club

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

The selection for the next meeting, on Monday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m. will be **March** by **Geraldine Brooks**.

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



# Double Meanings

(Continued from page 2)

tax. We also seek to express our appreciation to those who indicate they have remembered ministry in their wills. And speaking of wills, how about the person who just does not seem to have the will to get his or her will done? And finally, consider the term "fund." We invite donors to fund an endowment fund with a planned gift. There are other double-meaning words as well, and we are eager to communicate clearly so there will be no confusion about the wonderful opportunities for you to make a planned gift to ministry.

One way we can help is to provide you with basic, informative literature that keeps things simple and clear. We have, in fact, a free brochure for you on planned giving that you will appreciate, especially if you are new to these methods of charitable giving.

In addition to the printed material, our synod and ELCA ministry organizations provide funds so we can have a person skilled in communicating the features of planned giving in a personal and understandable manner. Our ELCA Regional Gift Planner is Joyce "JP" Palmer and she is available to have a confidential visit

with you. To receive a free brochure, and to request a personal meeting with "JP" Palmer, contact her at (816) 861-6584 or toll-free at (866) 915-3548, on her cell phone at (816) 204-5181, or by e-mail at jcpalmer49@aol.com.

All services are available without cost or obligation.

## March MLM Items

- 2 - Macaroni & Cheese; Jell-O
- 9 - Pork & Beans; Spaghetti
- 16 - Peanut Butter & Jelly; Baby Food
- 23 - Canned Fruit & Vegetables
- 30 - Toilet Paper & Toiletries

## Adult Education

Topics for the March Adult Education hours will be announced in future bulletins. See details as they become available.

Join us for one or more of our Sunday Services:

8:30 a.m.

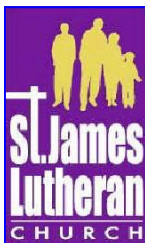
11:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

## Mark your calendars



- Saturday, March 1 ..... MLM Spring Fling at Bethany Lutheran
- Sunday, May 18 ..... Garden Party

	<b>Saint James Lutheran Church</b> 1104 NE Vivion Road Kansas City, MO 64118 Address Service Requested
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# MARCH 2008

 SAINT 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.