



The 7th Sunday of Easter Ascension Sunday May 16, 2021

"Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God." (Luke 24:50-53)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let's Attract Inactive Believers

Smile a lot! Be cheerful, positive and enthusiastic about your life. This reflects your faith. Nothing turns others off as much as the glum "frozen chosen" among us.

Treat others honestly and sincerely.

Know your faith. You do not need to be a theologian or a Scripture scholar, but you should be able to explain the reason, the foundation, of your faith. Confirm your belief, based on your previous experience, that everything always has a purpose and works out for the best.

Express sincere interest in and concern for others. Share their joy and share their burdens.

Seize the moment! Take every opportunity to share the goodness of God in whatever situation you find yourself. Celebrations and tragedies alike provide opportunities.

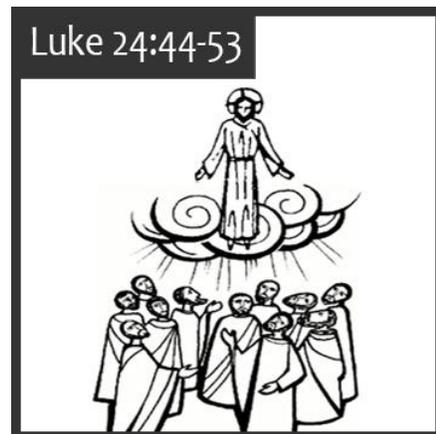
Recommend or give inspirational books or music as gifts. Send greeting cards with scriptural messages. Remember we are His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Doug

- **Join us this Sunday, Worship Service 9:30 A.M. Pastor Doug Gast**
 - Bulletins Available
 - Come forward for communion (kneel if that is your preference and common cup if so desired)
 - Our service is being live streamed
 - Hand sanitizers are available throughout the church
 - The last four pews on the right side of the sanctuary (as you face the altar) is for those that prefer to wear a face mask and socially distance and the left side and front four pews on the right side (as you face the altar) for those that prefer to not socially distance with face masks optional.
 - Beginning this Sunday, we will be passing the plate during offering.

Scripture Readings

Acts 1:1-11
Luke 24:44-53



- **Happening Around St. James**

Children's Sunday School is happening at 10:30. Join us

Adult Forum is happening at 10:30 as well. Join us.

Reminder.....coffee is available in the Narthex. We hope you stop and enjoy a cup with your St. James family.

- **Happy Ascension Sunday** A movable feast observed 40 days after Easter, a holy day of obligation, it commemorates the Ascension of Christ into heaven 40 days after his Resurrection from the dead. The feast recalls the completion of Christ's mission on earth for the salvation of all people and His entry into heaven with glorified human nature. The Ascension is a pledge of the final glorification of all who achieve salvation. Documentary evidence of the feast dates from early in the fifth century, but it was observed long before that time in connection with Pentecost and Easter.
- **Coffee with Council** will be this Sunday following worship. Come listen to the goals and things our council are working on now. We hope this is an open line of communication to keep everyone abreast with the workings and ministry of the church.
- **Next Sunday is the last day of Children's Sunday School before summer recess.** We were so thankful to be able to get Children's Sunday School up and going safely during the Covid pandemic. Hopefully by fall we will be at a more relaxed and normal schedule.
- **Grief Share . . . Not too late.** This is a wonderful program of support for those who have lost a loved one and are struggling through the grief process. Time will be 6:30 PM every Wednesday. Questions? Contact Cindy Gregory.
- **Bible Studies**
 - **Women's Bible Study** Mondays at 11 A.M.
 - **Men's Bible Study Gathers** . . .at 9 A.M. on Tuesdays.
 - **Additional Bible Study Opportunity.** . . included with this weekly update is a bible study for you to use in the comfort of your home.
- **Continue to Hold our Call Committee in Prayer** as we await someone who can be a pastoral candidate. May the Holy Spirit move strong in our midst and in the heart of the person who will take the reins of leadership as pastor of St James.
- **Greetings from the HMD Council** for the month of May 2021.
 - Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) Congregation of Adams Lutheran Church in Batesville Indiana and Pastor Tamara Keen.
 - Pray that the Congregations and Call Committees of our HMD's churches of Living Faith in Wabash Indiana and St. James in Greenfield Indiana have patience while they wait for God's will to work through the Holy Spirit and provide pastoral candidates for each of these churches.
 - Pray that the North American Lutheran Church's newly announced organizational restructuring as well as the search for the new General Secretary are blessed and will further the mission of the church.
 - Pray for the North American Lutheran Church's new seminarian graduates. Ask for blessings for them as they make their way in their new vocation of ministry.
 - Continue to pray for guidance, support and strength from the Holy Spirit for HMD seminarian Ben Black.

I can be contacted at pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com, or by phone 317 727-0612, or calling the St James office.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug