



## Seventh Sunday After Pentecost July 11, 2021

*Jesus said, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me."  
(John 15:13-15)*

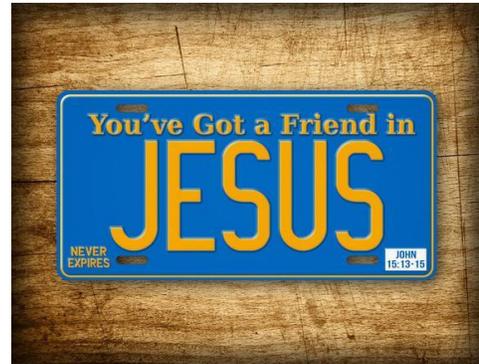
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We sing "What a Friend we have in Jesus." One of the last things Jesus shared with his disciples was this whole idea of friendship. Here a thought for us to ponder together. If Christ has befriended us, so ought we to befriend others. That is what the church is all about. It is about being a friend. It is about reaching out to other as Christ reached out to us. There is a story that sums up that kind of friendship.

A new student, a young boy was brought into the second grade Vacation Bible School class. The you fellow was missing an arm. Since the class was almost over, the teacher had no opportunity to learn of the background of his handicap or his state of adjustment. She was very nervous and afraid that one of the children would comment on his handicap and embarrass him. Since she had no opportunity to caution the children, she proceeded as carefully as possible.

As the class time came to a close, she began to relax and asked the children to join her in an unusual closing ceremony. "Let's make our churches," she said. "Here's the church and here's the steeple. Open the door and . . . ."

The awful consequence of her action struck her. She had done the very thing she was afraid the children would do. As she stood there speechless, the little girl sitting next to the boy reached over and placed her left hand in his right hand and said, "Davey, let's make this church together." That's the church at its best. We don't know what hardships or heartaches or bad things will enter our lives. But we have consolation that we don't and won't have to travel alone, because we have a friend in Jesus and in one another. Friends helping friends . . . following the footsteps of Jesus of making a friend and being a friend in Christ.



- **Join us this Sunday, Worship Service . . . .** 9:30 A.M. Seminarian Ben Black
  - **Scripture Readings**  
Amos 7:7-15  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

- **Happening Around St. James**  
**Children's Sunday School is recessed til August**  
**Adult Forum is still happening at 10:30 Join us.**

**Reminder...** coffee is available in the Narthex. Stop and enjoy a cup with your St. James family.

- **St James Website is Up and Running.** Let me encourage everyone to visit our new and updated website. We think it is attractive and informative and we hope it will be used fully.

We are keeping it current and fresh and there will be links added for the bulletin, newsletter and this weekend update. Please check it out.

- **Vacation Bible School is Coming at the End of July. . . . The title is Rocky Railway . . .** Jesus Power Pulls us through. July 25<sup>th</sup>-July 27<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Sign up in the narthex or also register online [here](#). I need someone(s) to come up to Bethel to help me load and bring decorations and scenery for our VBS. If you can help please contact me.
- **School Supplies Needed.** Hard to believe, but school start up is just around the corner. As we have in the past we will be helping students in need with what they need to get off to a great start. We hope to have the supplies in by **July 19<sup>th</sup>**. Here are some of the things they need:

Earbuds & headphones with straight jack composition	Kleenex	dry erase markers	wide ruled
Plastic pencil boxes	notebooks	highlighters	3x5 note cards
Regular #2 pencils protectors	sticky notes	crayons	plastic sheet
Colored pencils	erasers	1/2 or 1 inch binders	pens
Zipper binders with handles	calculators	hand sanitizer	face maske
Canvas zipper pencil pouches	spiral notebooks		water color
paint sets			
Broad tip washable markers		college ruled notebooks	
Heavy duty plastic folders (without brads) –red, blue, yellow, green			
Scissors –both for young and older students.			

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Terry Miller. Thanks ahead of time for the help.

- **Sunday School Volunteers are Needed this fall.** It looks like we will have a preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class, a 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade class and a confirmation class. We are now looking for someone(s) to teach the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade class and someone to help me lead the confirmation group. If interested contact me for more information. What an opportunity to help make a difference in the spiritual formation of our young disciples.
- **Adult Sunday Study continues after church.** Join us as we “Join Jesus on His Mission.” We will be reading and discussing Greg Finke’s engaging book by the same name. I think you will find this to be a fascinating and great way to grow in your witness and discipleship.
- **Mission Opportunity.** Our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia are in the middle of construction of a 3.6 million dollar building that will be on the seminary campus in Addis Ababa. Pastor Doug just got word that Dr Bruk, the Mekane Yesus Seminary President, is in need of a good laptop that can process large graphic files in this construction project. I know Dr Bruk personally and he is a man of faith and integrity and vision. The computer needed is in the \$1,500 price range. Our MBO committee is going to match any gifts up to \$600, dollar for dollar. If you would like to make a special mission gift, it be blessed and a blessing as well.
- **Blood Drive Scheduled** July 18<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM -2:00 PM Registration Available now on line or on the sign up sheet in the narthex. Help share the gift of life.
- **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 & in the heart of the person who will take the reins of pastoral leadership of St James. In the near future we will be sharing in a Bible Study on the Biblical understanding on the blessing and use of times of waiting.
- **Greetings from the HMD Council** for the month of July 2021. Include in your prayers
  - There is so much pain and conflict across the Middle East. We pray for leaders throughout the region to turn their hearts towards peace.
  - Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) congregation of Antioch Lutheran Church in Hoagland Indiana and Pastor David Taylor.
  - Pray for the Life-to-Life Discipleship Team's effort in developing disciple-making congregations and cultures as part of the NALC's 2020 Vision.
  - Continue to pray for guidance, support and strength from the Holy Spirit for HMD seminarian Ben Black.

Thank you all for your prayers.

I can be contacted at [pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com), or by phone 317 727-0612, or calling the St James office.

**Yours in Christ,**

**Pastor Doug**