



## Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 5, 2021

*“And looking up to heaven, (Jesus) he sighed and commanded, “Be opened!” instantly the man could hear perfectly and speak plainly.” (Mark 7:34-35)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### **What I Hear You Saying Is...**

One of the greatest challenges in the world today is how to communicate effectively. There are shelves of self-help books on the topic and seminars galore for people to attend. We modern Christians need to learn how to communicate better so that the Gospel message can come through in our speech. And we need to make sure that we are communicating the right message.

Jesus wanted his followers (then and now) to grasp the message of God’s love, compassion, and desire for people to return to him. Jesus didn’t want people to be distracted by the miracles he performed. Jesus never refused requests to heal, but was wary of people seeking him out only for miracles. We, too, must make sure that when we reach out in Jesus’ name to heal that we do so because we want others to come to know Christ as Savior, not just to “show off” how “good” Christians can be.



- **Join us this Sunday, Worship Service . . . . 9:30 A.M.** Pastor Martins Irbe
- **Scripture Readings**
  - Isaiah 35:4-7a
  - James 2:1-10, 14-18
  - Mark 7:(24-30), 31-37
- **Happening Around St. James**
  - Sunday School is recessed til September 12<sup>th</sup>**
  - Adult Forum continues Joining Jesus on His mission. All are welcome.**
  - **Rally Day is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>.** We will be kicking off Sunday School. There will be a new adult forum based on the book entitled “Waiting.” Timely for us, don’t you think? We will celebrate with Anna Marie Turner as she will be confirmed. Sign up your children and invite neighbors and friends. We have a good thing going. We ask God’s blessings on this discipleship part of our ministry.
  - **New Adult Bible Study starting September 12<sup>th</sup> lead by Tracy Guffey.** The title is Waiting . . . a study on patience, hope, and trust as the Spirit works in our lives. This is a timely topic that all of us will benefit from. Join us following worship. Sign up sheets are available in the Narthex.
  - **Darrel’s Benefit September 18<sup>th</sup>.** Shelbyville VFW Post 2695, American Legion Post 70 and American Legion Rider Post 70 are uniting to help Darrel and his family. They are sponsoring and cooking up a delicious Lasagna or Spaghetti dinner with all the fixings. They will be serving dinner from 4:00 pm til 7:00 pm. Cost is \$10 a person. There will be a

band playing from 7:00 pm to 10 pm. There will also be a silent auction and a 50/50 drawing. Address is 1622 East State Road 44. Come join the good food and fellowship and support Darrel in process.

- **Grief Share** . . . has returned. We will be offering a 13 week beginning August 11 through November 3rd. 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.
- **September is St James turn to take responsibility for filling the Community Blessing Box.** The Blessing Box is located at the Greenfield Police Dept. and is sponsored by different churches each month. We are collecting shelf stable products (like cocktail franks, canned meats, cracker filled with cheese or peanut butter. Cereal bars, and Raman noodles. There will be a more detailed list in the August newsletter. Ahead of time let me express personal appreciation for your generosity and support.
- **Bible Studies**
  - **Women's Bible Study.....will not be meeting this Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> due to Labor Day.** It will continue the following Monday 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 Church 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 Here are prayer concerns to lift up to the throne of God as we join in prayer both individually and as a church family:**

- Intentional and intensive prayer for Ethiopia during this time of significant political unrest. Pray for the seminary community there which is reeling from a devastating flood that took the lives of 8 people including 2 who were pastors. The flood also destroyed a number of buildings on the campus. The NALC is in a full-communion relationship with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the largest Lutheran church in the world.
- Pray for Afghanistan - they need urgent prayer right now, more than ever. Please pray for the small group of believers in the country. Pray for the displaced. Pray for the women. Pray for the sick. Pray that the healthcare system will not collapse. Pray that the country will not be a haven for extremists.
- Pray for the Spirit to empower our North American Lutheran Churches for ministry.
- Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) congregation of House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown Kentucky - including Pastor Pam Thorson, Dean of the NALC Heartland Mission District.
- Continue to pray for guidance, support and strength from the Holy Spirit for HMD seminarian Ben Black. Ben will be spending the next 4 months in officer training school in South Carolina

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**