



# First Sunday in Advent Thanksgiving Weekend November 28, 2021

*“Jesus said, ” I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.” (Luke 21:32-33)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is clear that Christ wanted his followers to be spiritually alert, on watch and ready “to stand before the Son of Man.” Jesus’ story about the five foolish maidens who ran out of oil before the bridegroom’s arrival is a message for us to be prepared at all times for the presence of the Lord.

The clue to watchful waiting is developing a mature spiritual life. This involves learning to pray deeply and often. “Prayer,” said a wise Christian, “should be the key of the morning and the lock of the night.”

Awakening with prayer, finding time for prayer throughout the day, and falling asleep with God in our thoughts is a healthy way of being “on watch.”



**Join us this Sunday, Invite a Friend to Worship Service . . . . 9:30 A.M.**  
**Scripture Readings** I Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

### Happening Around St. James

**No Children’s Sunday School this weekend Thanksgiving break**  
**No Adult Forum in Fireside Room from now til January 9<sup>th</sup>. Resume then.**

**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.**



“Give thanks to the Lord, because He is Good; His love is everlasting.” (Psalm 106:1)

“Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim His greatness; tell the nations what He has done.” (I Chronicles 16:8)

“Praise the Lord, who carries our burdens day after day; He is the God who saves us. (Ps 68:19)

“Don’t worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking Him with a thankful heart” (Phil 4:6)

“Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (I Cor 15:57)

Dear God . . . . Thank you for . . . . .

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In Jesus name . . . . Amen.

- **Advent Coming This Weekend . . . .** Advent begins November 28<sup>th</sup>. Join us not only on Sundays but also on Wednesdays. We will be sharing a meal and devotions on December 1, 8, and 15<sup>th</sup>. Meal at 6 PM. And a 45 minute devotion service follows. The theme is Signs of God's . . . . mark it on your calendars now.
- **St. James will be sponsoring a family for Christmas.** THANK YOU to all who took tags from the tree in the gathering area to help sponsor a young family. They will truly be appreciative of all that you have done to help make their Christmas brighter. **WE NOW HAVE ANOTHER FAMILY TO SPONSOR.....**Monetary donations are now being accepted on behalf of Darrel Turner. The family has run into some unexpected expenses and could use our help. Advent offerings will be given to the family, along with any donations made by the congregation. Please give your donations to Terry Clark, Terry Miller, or Dawn Hahm, or place it in a clearly marked envelope in the offering plate.
- **Hanging of the Greens . . .** December 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30 am. All hands-on deck . . . we will be decorating our church for the Advent and Christmas season. We need the help of one and all. Come join your St James family as we prepare our church home for the holidays.
- **Church Council Nominations . . .** we are now looking for 3 people to serve on our Church Council. This is a special role in the leadership of our church. If you are interested, contact me & I will be happy to answer any questions and give you details of what is involved.
- **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**

- Pray for the Ethiopian Mekane Yesus Evangelical Church and Seminary and the North American Lutheran Church's disaster relief effort for the flooding and devastation that has impacted the area, church and seminary. Pray that the people there feel the Lord's presence, as they go through these troubled times and that peace and healing is sent to all.
- Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) congregation and call committee of First United Lutheran Church - Hammond Indiana and for the mission of Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc. - Ft. Wayne Indiana including Executive Director Pastor Leslie Haines.
- Pray that the HMD's new disaster relief warehouse under construction at Peace Lutheran Church in Connersville Indiana is built quickly and before the cold weather comes.
- Pray for guidance, support and strength from the Holy Spirit for Pastor Doug Gast, the newly elected Dean of the HMD as well as seminarian Ben Black and Pastor Chris Wendel who are both currently at Ft. Jackson in Chaplain Officers Training.

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**