

# March 2022 Newsletter



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317-462-7340

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Website: [www.stjamesnalc.org](http://www.stjamesnalc.org)

Our Mission:

*To bring people to Christ, encouraging relationships  
with Him and others.*

March 2 - April 17



*Join us each week and weekend as we  
explore various bible characters on our  
journey through this Lenten season.*

*Satan, Nicodemus, Lost Son, Mary...*

## Special dates

- Ash Wednesday, *March 2, 2022*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 4, 2022*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 13, 2022*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2022*

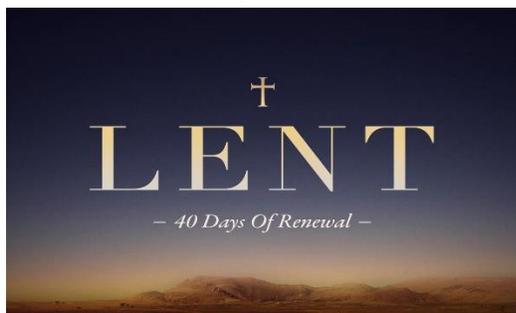
Pastor Doug's Lenten Musings  
March 2022

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16-17 NIV)*

Every year it begins on Ash Wednesday and will carry through until our Lord's resurrection on Easter. It is a 40-day period set aside to think deeper of how our Lord lived His life for us and how we are living our life for Him. When I think of 40 days, I always wonder . . . . . will myself and others here at church come out different at the end of this time we call the Lenten season?

Forty days is just six weeks . . . . . seemingly short. But I also wonder what Jesus would have said about how long that period of time felt, after spending 40 days in the wilderness. But I bet he learned some things out there in the desert . . . . . things about God, about himself, and certainly about the devil. He went out there into the desert with almost nothing except the Word of God that was written in His heart. That Word of God that was deeply implanted in His heart was like a mighty sword in the battle with temptation. And in the end, it was the Word that was in Him that won the day.

We are embarking on a 40-day journey not into the desert, but rather a 40-day journey into God's Word. My prayers have been that these next 40 days will be long enough to affect a change in each of us. I am praying that we grow in our understanding of God's Word, the way of the cross, the sacrifice Jesus has made on behalf of us all, and that we set aside the time daily for devotions and prayer so that we grow deeper and filled with greater appreciation for the life giving and life sustaining presence of God and His amazing grace.



and equip us to do every good work.”

The purpose of the Bible is more than just showing us what is wrong in our lives or how we should live. God gave us His Word to radically transform our lives.

The Bible describes itself in different ways. For example, it calls itself a hammer, a sword, and a scalpel. Each of those are tools. And when those tools are placed in the hands of a skilled craftsman, they become a means to an end. A hammer is an important tool to build with. A sword was always a powerful way to defend oneself. And a scalpel in the hands of a surgeon is used to bring healing. Each of those tools can make essential changes. Yes, God accepts us right



where we are, but He never wants to leave us there. God intends for the Bible to dramatically change our lives.

The Bible also describes God's truth as milk, water, bread, and meat. Those four things are the things we need daily to keep us strong and sustain life. If you don't eat or drink them regularly, you'll die. In the same way we are dependent on the Word of God for a strong and vital life.

At the end of our 40 day journey together, it is my fervent prayer that we will truly LOVE THE WORD . . . . even more than we love it today. And I pray that we will LEARN THE WORD . . . because we are lifelong students and God is always revealing new and different things every time we delve into His Word. There is no end to what we can learn. And my greatest prayer is that we all LIVE THE WORD . . . . so that we embody the Word of God in our attitudes and actions, in our values and relationships.

God has given us the Living Word -Jesus to be the author and the finisher of our faith, and He has given us the Written Word to prepare us to live out our faith in our world. May the Word of God be heart and center of all we do . . . . all we are . . . . and all we hope to be. Let's get going!

Joyfully serving together,

Pastor Doug

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# CHURCH COUNCIL

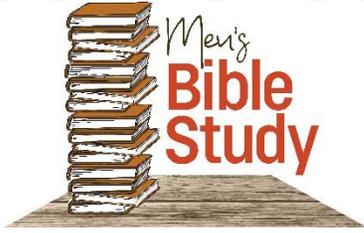
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## Church Council Update

- Council held its February meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and elected new officers. The council president for 2022 is Joe Soberalski. John Browder was elected as the vice-president. Linda Hess was re-elected as secretary; Jessie Stearns was elected for Mutual Ministry, Neal Guffey for Property Committee and Cindy Gregory will continue as treasurer. The next council meeting is Tuesday, 15Mar.
- Mark your calendars! Please plan to attend the mid-week worship on Thursday, 10Mar. The pastoral call candidate to St James will lead us in worship. This is your chance to meet and greet the pastoral call candidate.
- We are planning on having a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, 20Mar after worship to consider extending a call to a new pastor. Attendance is absolutely critical as we discuss and decide a potentially extending a pastoral call.
- We are tentatively planning on having Coffee with Council after worship on Sunday, 01May.
- I wanted to encourage everyone to volunteer. I can say without reservation that it is Fun, and the sense of Fellowship and Community working alongside fellow St James members is Priceless. We as a church body need everyone's help to reach our full potential. Each one of us has time and talents that we can bring to St James. All efforts matter, and they make a difference!
- Speaking of our volunteers, I wanted to extend a heartfelt Thanks! to all of our volunteers! These are truly exciting times at St James because of their efforts. I want all of our volunteers to know that I appreciate and admire them!

- Joe Soberalski, St. James Church Council President

# Bits and Pieces



## Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study is meeting Tuesday's at 9 a.m.



## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study is meeting Monday's at 11:00 a.m.



## Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School is now meeting.

Questions, please contact Joyce Kissell.



## Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School is meeting after the worship service.



## Daylighters

Daylighters will be meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm. *It is TBD if they will be meeting March 16<sup>th</sup> due to the Lenten meal.*

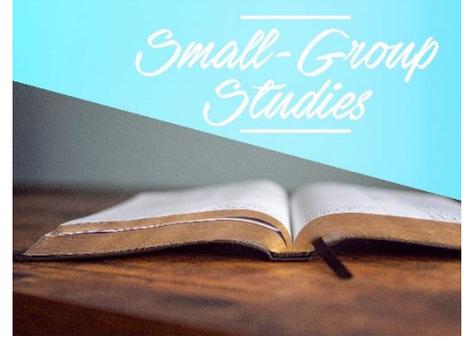
Questions, please contact June Gries

## SOUTHERN COMFORT CHRIST CARE GROUP

Southern Comfort Christ Care group is now meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

*They will not be meeting March 10<sup>th</sup> due to the Lenten meal and service.*

Contact Joyce Kissell at 317.512.9561 if interested in the group.



## CHANCEL FLOWERS

Altar flowers are funded by special contributions or sponsorship through the flower fund. Special contributions for the fund can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office and sponsors can sign up on the flower chart outside office.



## NEED PRAISE BAND MEMBERS

Our praise team is small, but mighty! We do have room for more musicians, though. If you are interested in adding to the mix, we could use guitar, bass, drums, or if you're an experienced wind instrument player we'd love to have you! Brother Joe.



## NAME TAGS

If you are needing a new name tag, please contact the office and we have one ordered for you.



*St. James Lutheran Church*

## North American Lutheran Church (NALC) News

Checkout the latest NALC Newsletter [NALC News](#)



## MAILBOXES

We are starting to clean out and update the mailboxes. Stay tuned

## Do You Have a Family Member or Friend Serving in the Military?

### If you do – please tell us!



We are refreshing our Military Tribute bulletin board that is located to the right of the main doors to the sanctuary and we want to have everyone listed!

We will also stay in touch with your service members(s) and provide prayers and support.

We need the following for each service member:

Picture (if possible)

Name

Rank

Address

Your Name(s)

Relationship to you (nephew, niece, husband, wife, cousin, friend, etc.)

Send the information to [office@stjamesnalc.org](mailto:office@stjamesnalc.org) or drop it off at the office!

## New Church Council Members

Welcome to our newly elected Church Council members:

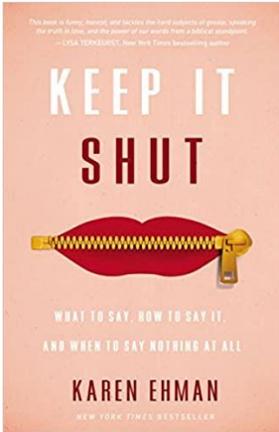
Joe Soberalski *President*

John Browder *Vice President*

Neal Guffey *Property Committee*

Linda Hess *Secretary*

Jessie Stearns *Mutual Ministry*



**A new Bible Study, *Keep It Shut*, has been postponed until Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6pm due to all the other activities.**

**If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Guffey**

*Don't forget to spring forward on March 13<sup>th</sup>*





# LENTEN SCHEDULE 2022



<b>March 2</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>March 6</b>	<b>Lent 1</b>	<b>Satan &amp; Temptation</b>
<b>March 9</b>	<b>Midweek 1</b>	<b>John the Baptist – Witness to the Light</b>
<b>March 13</b>	<b>Lent 2</b>	<b>Nicodemus Most Famous Conversation</b>
<b>March 16</b>	<b>Midweek 2</b>	<b>Barabbas Being Set Free</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Lent 3</b>	<b>Fig Tree (One More Chance)</b>
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Midweek 3</b>	<b>Peter Restoration at the Cross</b>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Lent 4</b>	<b>Prodigal Son (Lost &amp; Found)</b>
<b>March 30</b>	<b>Midweek 4</b>	<b>Pontius Pilate Hardness of Heart</b>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Lent 5</b>	<b>Mary (It's in the Air)</b>
<b>April 6</b>	<b>Midweek 5</b>	<b>Malchus Out of Control</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Donkey</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
<b>April 15</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Two Criminals</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Easter</b>	<b>The Empty Tomb Resurrection</b>

## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE



Our first Lenten Midweek will be on Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>. **On that evening we will have the opportunity to meet and greet Pastor Blue and his family. And he will be leading our worship time that evening as well.**

**Here is the schedule for that evening:**

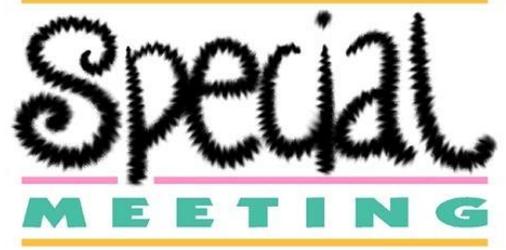
- 5:00 PM **Open time to greet Pastor Blue and his family and ask any questions you may have.**
- 6:00 PM **Dinner. Italian. There is a sign up in the narthex, so we have a good idea of how many to prepare for.**
- 7:00 PM **Devotional Worship**
- The rest of our midweek fellowship and worship will be on Wednesdays.

March 15<sup>th</sup> is our Church Council Meeting **at which time we will be voting on presenting Pastor Blue for extending a call as our next Pastor. Now is the time to double down in prayer as we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance both for us and Pastor Richard.**

March 20, 2022, Special Congregational Meeting. **At this meeting, we will gather as a church body for the purpose of extending a call to Pastor Blue.**

**All St. James Members are Encouraged to  
Attend!  
Special Congregational Meeting  
Call a New Pastor**

**20-Mar-2022 – After Worship**

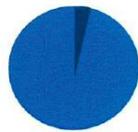


**Agenda:**

- † Opening Prayer - Paster Doug.
- † Determine if Quorum exists - VP John Browder.
- † If Quorum does not exist, the Special Congregational Meeting is effectively ended, and no call can be extended. Presentations, discussions, conversations, and Q&A can continue. However, without a quorum, no formal action can be taken.
- † Tracy Guffey, chair of the Call Committee, will present their recommendation to extend a Pastoral call.
- † Floor will be open for discussion.
- † Voting will be anonymous, written ballot.
- † Results will be announced. It takes 2/3 majority vote to affirm a pastoral call.
- † Closing Prayer - Pastor Doug.

# WHAT IS PTSD?

Posttraumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, is a mental health concern that some people develop after they see or experience a traumatic event.



**7 to 8%**

of the U.S. population will have PTSD at some point in their lives.



What it's like to have PTSD may be different for everyone. There are four types of PTSD symptoms.



## Reliving or re-experiencing the event

- Nightmares
- Flashbacks
- Triggers



## Hyperarousal or being on guard

- Being jittery or overly alert
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating
- Feeling angry or irritable



## Avoidance

- Avoiding crowds
- Avoiding certain smells, sights, or sounds
- Avoiding talking or thinking about the event



## Negative changes in beliefs and feelings

- Losing interest in things you used to enjoy
- Feeling guilty or ashamed
- Unable to trust others

## Do you have PTSD Symptoms?

- Hear Veterans share their experiences with PTSD and PTSD treatment at **AboutFace**
- Learn about and compare effective treatment options using the **PTSD Treatment Decision Aid**
- Explore the National Center for PTSD website for information, videos, and tools to help manage PTSD: [www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov)

National Center for  
**PTSD**  
POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Let's Talk About it

We are not connected with the National Center for PTSD or Veterans Affairs

St James Lutheran Church  
1741 S State St (State Rd 9)  
Greenfield IN 46140

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
Starting January of 2022  
6:30 pm to 8 pm  
A light meal provided at 6:30

For Vets, First Responders, Healthcare and Domestic Abuse Trauma

## **NALC Heartland Mission District Prayer Request - March 2022**

Greetings from the HMD Council for the Lenten season and the month of March 2022

Please include the following this month in your prayers of the church during worship, through any other prayer ministries your Church has and in your own personal prayers:

- Continue to pray for the crisis now of war in the Ukraine. Pray for strength for those that are suffering as a result of the actions by Russia. Pray for the Christians in both countries - ask God to guide them as their faith is being tested in new ways. Pray for the safety of Americans that are in Ukraine and for the US troops headed to the region.
- Pray for all churches and their members to grow deeper in discipleship and more grateful for Christ's sacrifice on their behalf, during this Lenten season.
- Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) congregation of Peace Lutheran Church in Connersville Indiana and Pastor Norman Dew.
- Continue to pray for guidance, support and strength from the Holy Spirit for seminarian Ben Black.

Thank you all for your prayers.

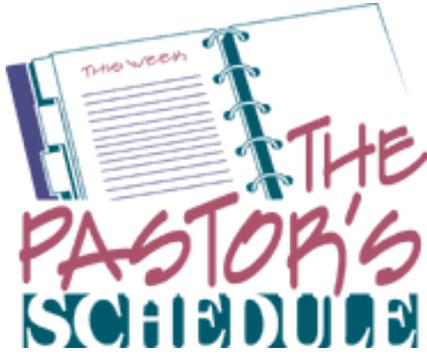
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### **Discovery Class for New Members**

Participants will discover a deeper understanding and appreciation for Lutheran theology and heritage and have a little fun as you get to know our church and its mission and varieties of ministries.

If you are interested in this class or would like more information, please note that on your connection card, call the office or call Pastor Doug directly at 317-727-0612.





## Worship Leaders & Congregational Care Schedule

March 2<sup>nd</sup> Ash Wednesday – Pastor Doug Gast

March 6<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Martins Irbe

Mid-week March 10<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Blue

March 13<sup>th</sup> – Ben Black

Mid-week March 16<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Doug Gast

March 20<sup>th</sup> – Joe Rudy

Mid-week March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pastor Doug Gast

March 27<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Doug Gast

Pastor Doug will be with us 3 days a week albeit one will be remote and is available the rest of the week except for one week each month.

*Pastor Doug will not be taking time off the month of March.*

Pastor Doug can be reached at (317) 727-0612 (mobile), [pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com) or by calling or emailing the church office.

During the month he is off Pastor Martins Irbe and Joyce Kissell has agreed to be the point of contact for any Pastoral Care needs that are needed.

Pastor Martins can be reached by calling or emailing the church office or by calling him at (317) 379-7526 and Joyce Kissell at (317) 512-9561.

## Baptism and First Communion Classes

The Baptism class will prepare parents or individuals for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism.

The First Communion class is for any 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade students or adults who have been baptized and wish to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

If you are interested in these classes or would like more information, please note that on your connection card or call the office or call Pastor Doug directly at 317-727-0612.



Don't  
Forget  
Your  
Tithe

### Reminder...

Please continue your generous support for this ministry by clicking the "giving" tab on the St. James website at <http://www.stjamesnalc.org/> or send your contribution to the church at 1741 S. State Street, Greenfield, IN 46140.

### Check out the REWARDS table . .

Give a gift that gives back! Purchase gift cards from the Rewards Table in the Narthex and St. James receives a percentage back at no extra cost to you. You can give the cards themselves as gifts or use them to purchase that special item for those you love. We keep a variety in stock, but if we don't have what you need, we can likely order it from our extensive list of suppliers. Questions? See Cindy Gregory.





## ***Happy Birthday....***

*March 1 – Wanda Wooten  
March 9 – Leonard Meyer  
March 11 – Debby Brooks  
March 13 – Kenya Ostermeier  
March 15 – Sydney Kruegar  
March 18 – John Browder  
March 20 – Terry Clark  
March 27 – Tracie Amundson  
March 28 – Claudia Soberalski  
March 30 – Larry Boone  
March 31-Sophia Moss*

***Please consider sending a card or an email with best wishes to these members. For current addresses check with the Church office.***

## ***Happy Anniversary....***

Christian and June Gries – March 23<sup>rd</sup>



Did you know that you could access this from your home computer?  
Go to <http://stjamesnalc.org/> and look for "CALENDAR" in the dark blue bar.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Daylighters Small Group 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<b>3</b> 5:45 PM Stewardship Committee via Zoom	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Pastor Doug Gast 9:30 AM In-Person & Live Stream Worship Service 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Sunday School	<b>7</b> 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM PTSD Meeting	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Worship Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<b>10</b> 5:00 PM Come Meet Pastor Blue 6:00 PM Lenten Meal 7:00 PM Lent Midweek Service 7:00 PM Southern Comfort Christ Care	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Ben Black 9:30 AM In-Person & Live Stream Worship Service 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Sunday School 1:30 PM Linda Petty-4 H	<b>14</b> 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Church Council	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Daylighters Small Group 4:30 PM Property Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Lenten Meal 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Lent Midweek Service	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1:00 PM Leonard Meyer 90th Birthday Party
<b>20</b> Joe Rudy 9:30 AM In-Person & Live Stream Worship Service 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Sunday School	<b>21</b> 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Mission Benevolence Outreach Committee 6:00 PM Lenten Meal 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Lent Midweek Service	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM Southern Comfort Christ Care	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Pastor Doug Gast 9:30 AM In-Person & Live Stream Worship Service 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Sunday School	<b>28</b> 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Gods Embrace Game Night	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Lenten Meal 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Lent Midweek Service	<b>31</b> 6:00 PM Keep It Shut Bible Study		

## **COUNCIL CONTACTS**

*Joe Soberalski (President)*  
(810) 241-6243 or [jsoberalski@hotmail.com](mailto:jsoberalski@hotmail.com)

*John Browder (Vice President)*  
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*Marieta Boone*  
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*Neal Guffey*  
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*Betty Perotti*  
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*Jessie Stearns*  
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*Wanda Stephens-Wooten*  
317-398-1109 or [beachcowboy5@msn.com](mailto:beachcowboy5@msn.com)

*Cindy Gregory (Treasurer)*  
317-326-7534 or [cindyjohngreg4@aol.com](mailto:cindyjohngreg4@aol.com)

*Ron Westerfeld (Financial Secretary)*  
765-969-3177 or [rmwesterfeld61@gmail.com](mailto:rmwesterfeld61@gmail.com)

### **STAFF**

*Pastor Doug Gast*  
317-727-0612 or [pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com)

*Joe Faith (Music Director)*  
916-671-4736 or [joefaith55@gmail.com](mailto:joefaith55@gmail.com)

*Wendy England (Administrative Assistant)*  
317-462-7340 or [office@stjamesnalc.org](mailto:office@stjamesnalc.org)