



Lent 4 March 27, 2022

"His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you and I are very close and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found.'" (Luke 15:31-32)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Most of us have security blankets in life – they can range from family or marriage, to jobs or positions in the community. Yet so many times in life, our security blankets can begin to unravel or even be cut up. This may be one of the reasons Jesus was not so popular with the “in crowd” of his day: He threatened their security. He “hung out” with those who were not popular, or those who were looked upon by society as not being “right” with God.

So it is good to know that God is there for us when our security blankets begin to fall apart. He remains as a constant, forgiving and welcoming. The lesson from this wonderful and well-known story of the prodigal child helps us to know that security is not found in inheritances or jobs or power or relationships. Security is found in a relationship with a loving God, who we find fully expressed in Jesus Christ.

Join us this Sunday, Invite a Friend to Worship Service --9:30 A.M.

Scripture Readings

II Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Happening Around St. James

Sunday School is meeting this week. Welcome all our young disciples

Adult Forum resumes this week. Continuing our study of the Epistle to the Philippians.

Women's Bible Study Monday 11 A.M.

Men's Bible Study Tuesdays at 9 A.M.

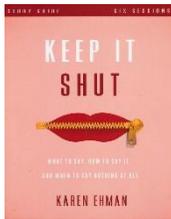
- **Our fourth Lenten Midweek will be on Wednesday March 30th.** We will continue in our sharing with the “Cast of Characters Around the Cross.” This week’s cast member will be Pontius Pilate. We begin at 6 PM with a delicious supper, followed by our devotional service at 7PM. Come and join us. You will be blessed.
- **March 20, 2022 Special Congregational Meeting.** We gathered last Sunday and had a very open and positive meeting. Our conversation was around the decision of extending a call to Pastor Richard Blue. The result was 36 to 1 to extend a call. Exciting news.....Pastor Blue has just accepted our call. Details will be forth coming. We will begin finalizing the details of the relocation. They are super excited! This is the beginning of an exciting chapter in the life of St. James.

Holy Week Return to the Lord

- **Palm Sunday**
March 28th 9:30 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday**
April 1st 7:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday**
April 2nd 7:00 p.m.
- **Easter**
April 4th 9:30 a.m.



- **April Newsletter** . . . we are putting together our April Newsletter. If you have an article or anything that you would like to get included, please get them to the office by early next week. Thank you for your help.
- **Lenten Midweek Offerings** are being designated to a mission that St James has supported for a number of years, "The Village of Hope" in Haiti. Haiti has gone through and continues to go through because of natural disasters as well as gang violence and fuel and food shortages. The Village of Hope serves students in both education and health center operations. Our donations will go for up front support as they reopen their Village in order to recreate a vibrant campus. In addition to salaries, money will be used to purchase school supplies, textbooks, medical supplies, and lunch for 600 students daily. We give thanks that St James can be a partner in ministry with them.



- **Keep It Shut** Postponed until March 31 due to so many other activities. . . . Keep It Shut is a six-session, video-based small group Bible study that explores how to control the tongue. Each session features a different character from the Bible, using them either as an example of someone to emulate or whose verbal actions we should avoid replicating.

Sign up if you would like to share in this engaging group study/discussion. If you have questions, contact Tracy Guffey.

- **Movie Afternoon Coming**.....On Sunday April 10th we will be sharing a powerful movie entitled "Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years." This is a true story that takes place in Nazi Germany, of how God's love transformed ambitious, atheistic hedonists into one of the greatest Christian couples of the 20th century. Great character is sometimes forged amid great turmoil. Sabina risks her life to show Christ's love to a trio of Nazi soldiers. Why would a Jewish Christian risk her life to help her enemies-members of the army that killed her entire family? Come and join us as we experience the amazing true story that has redefined the concepts of love and forgiveness for millions around the world.
- **Altar Flowers**.....As is the case with many things, it will cost more. Beginning April 1st the price of Altar flowers is being raised from \$25 to \$30. Inflation is hitting us all.
- **GriefShare**.....Coming Soon. You are invited to join our 13-week sharing, April 20th -July 13th. 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 6:30p.m. every Wednesday.
Questions? Contact Cindy Gregory.

- **Time and Talent Sheets** are available in the narthex. Please pick one up and fill it out and return here to church. Thanks.
- **VBS Is Coming** Dates are set . . . we'll be gathering on 5 Wednesdays starting June 15, 22, 29, July 13 & 20. From 6 to 8 pm. We are looking at some exciting materials. Right now we are looking for a coordinator. You don't have to have kids to lead. If you are interested in leading this important education/fun/fellowship/adventure, please contact Joyce Kissell by March 6th. We are hoping to generate a lot of excitement.
- **Youth Progressive Dinner is set for April 30th.** Right now, we need 4 host homes to host a course . . . appetizer, salad, main course and dessert. If you are willing to host one of the courses, indicate your interest on the connection card.

Here are prayers from our Heartland Mission District for the month of March 2022

- 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. Thank you all for your prayers. 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