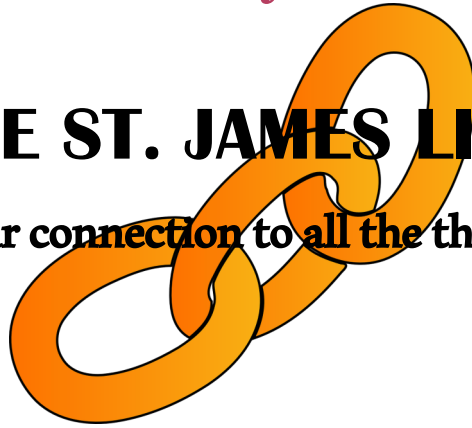


May 2023 Newsletter

THE ST. JAMES LINK

Your connection to all the things



1741 S. State Street Greenfield, IN 46140

317-462-7340

office@stjamesnalc.org



1741 S. State Street
Greenfield, IN 46140
Phone: 317-462-7340



Pastors Musings

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I write to you to share the exciting news of the growth of our church. Over the past ten months, we have seen increased attendance at our services and participation in various ministries. We have also welcomed new families into our community, and I am so grateful for how God works in and through HIS CHURCH at St.James!

As we reflect on this growth, we are reminded of the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, where he says, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18 ESV). These words remind us that St. James's growth is not something we can take credit for ourselves; instead, it results from God's work in our midst.

At the same time, we also recognize that much work still needs to be done. We are called to continue to share the good news of the Gospel with those around us and to serve as witnesses to the love and grace of Jesus Christ. We are also called to care for one another, support one another in our struggles, and celebrate with one another in our joys.

Looking to the future, I believe God has great plans for St.James. We are called to continue to grow in our faith, deepen our relationships with one another, and reach out to those around us who are in need. I believe God is calling us to be a community deeply rooted in the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions and committed to living out our faith in every aspect of our lives.

As we consider this vision for the future, we are reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, where he writes, "Now to him who can do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV). These words remind us that God can do far more than we could ever imagine or ask for and that as we trust in him and follow his leading, he will continue to work in and through HIS CHURCH at St.James for HIS glory.

As we look to the future, we also turn to the writings of Martin Luther and the Lutheran Confessions for guidance and wisdom. One of the critical teachings of the Lutheran Church is the doctrine of justification by faith, which emphasizes that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone and not by any works that we can do. This doctrine reminds us that our salvation is a gift from God and that it is not something that we can earn or achieve on our own.

At the same time, the Lutheran Confessions also emphasize the importance of good works and living out our faith daily. In the Augsburg Confession, for example, we read that "it is also taught among us that such faith should produce good fruits and good works and that we must do all such good works as God has commanded, but we should not rely on these works to merit justification before God" (Article VI). This teaching reminds us that our faith is not just something we believe in our hearts but should be reflected in how we live and interact with others.

As we consider these teachings, we are reminded that HIS church is called to be a community of faith rooted in God's grace and committed to living out our faith in every aspect of our lives. We are called to be a community marked by love, compassion, righteousness and a deep commitment to serving others. As Jesus himself said, "By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you have a love for one another" (John 13:35 ESV).

I believe that as we continue to grow in our faith and commitment to living out the Gospel, God will continue to bless St.James and use us to make a difference in our community and the world. I am excited about the possibilities and am grateful for how God is already at work in our midst.

At the same time, we also recognize that there will be challenges along the way. We will face difficulties and obstacles, and sometimes we are tempted to lose heart or sight of our vision. But in those moments, we can take comfort in the words of the Apostle Paul, who reminds us that "we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9 ESV).

As we continue to move forward as a church community, let us hold fast to the hope we have in Jesus Christ and be steadfast in our commitment to living out our faith in every aspect of our lives. Let us continue to grow in our love for one another, to serve one another in humility, and to be a light to the world around us.

May God continue to bless St.James, and may we continue to grow in our love for him and one another.

Need to reach Pastor Blue?

Call his cell at 317-606-3669

Email at Pastor@stjamesnalc.org

Cell phone (call or text) 317-606-3669

In Christ, Pastor Blue+



Greetings from Dean Doug with two important messages.

A Special Invitation

I hope that you have been getting information on the upcoming Heartland Mission District Convocation. This year it will be held in May and not in the fall. And in addition we are sharing our time with the Ohio Mission Districts. It is a two day event . . . on Friday and Saturday. Friday is a Faith Formation Festival and Saturday is our joint convo. But there will be time for a breakout session just for us in the Heartland District.

This first ever Faith Formation Festival (FFF) will be Friday, May 5 from 10:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M. The goal of the FFF is to strengthen, encourage, and equip anyone working with or related to a young person. We have invited speakers on a variety of topics identified as areas highly in need of instruction from a Biblical perspective including: vocation & calling, gender dysphoria, suicide & youth, grief, raising children to be disciples in a broken world, and how we keep faith in the school system. Parents, grandparents, relatives of young people, Sunday school teachers, youth volunteers, and anyone involved in a young person's faith web are encouraged to attend.

On Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:15 P.M. we will gather for the annual OMR HMD Convocation. Many of the speakers from Friday's FFF will be on hand to present a shortened version of their presentations. Additional speakers will also present on other topics.

These events will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Westerville, which is just outside Columbus, Ohio. You are welcome to attend Friday only, Saturday only or both days. Registration for either or both events can be made with Linda Karlin at livingfaithwabash@gmail.com. Our HMD will cover the registration costs for you and those coming from your church. A registration brochure is also available online at thenalcoho.org.

I pray that we have a good turnout. The topics are timely and relevant. The speakers are engaging and knowledgeable. The opportunity to be together with other brothers and sisters in Christ will be uplifting and inspirational. REGISTRATION DEADLINE is Friday, April 21. Hope to see you there!

Dean Doug

Important PS

Dan Richardson who coordinates our Disaster Relief Ministry at Peace Lutheran sent an inventory of supplies at our HMD Disaster Relief Warehouse. Because of the recent tornadoes in our area our Warehouse has responded to the needs but is desperate need of restocking. We in our warehouse are now in need of everything especially School Kits, Health Kits and Quilts, because we are out completely. Bulk goods and cash donations are welcome and appreciated. With cash gifts Dan will buy what is needed. Please consider responding generously and quickly.



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



MAY

2023

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|---|---|-----|---|
| 30 | May 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In Person & Live Stream Worship Se 11:30am New Members Class 12pm Youth Group (6th-12th grade) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage 6am Monday Morning Prayer Group 11am Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Tri Kappa Meeting (Carol Hudson) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Men's Bible Study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Daylighters Small Group 6:30pm Grief Share (Choiy Gregory) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Day of Prayer (Courthouse plaza) Cinco de Mayo | | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am New members service 9:30am In Person & Live Stream Worship Se 12pm Youth Group (6th-12th grade) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6am Monday Morning Prayer Group 11am Women's Bible Study 1pm Worship Committee Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Men's Bible Study 11:45am Women's Connection Luncheon 4pm Property Meeting 5:30pm Finance Meeting 6:30pm PTSD Meeting 7pm Christian Ed Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Prayer and Care 6:30pm Grief Share (Choiy Gregory) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Southern Comfort Bible Study | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother's Day 9:30am In Person & Live Stream Worship Se 12pm Youth Group (6th-12th grade) 1pm 4H Clip Clover Club Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6am Monday Morning Prayer Group 11am Women's Bible Study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Church Council Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Grief Share (Choiy Gregory) | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Baptism Service 9:30am In Person & Live Stream Worship Se 12pm Youth Group (6th-12th grade) 1pm 4H Clip Clover Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6am Monday Morning Prayer Group 11am Women's Bible Study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Men's Bible Study 5pm MBO Meeting 7pm ABC of Hancock County meeting (Debt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Grief Share (Choiy Gregory) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Healing Service 7pm Southern Comfort Christ Care | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Jun 1 | 2 | 3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am In Person & Live Stream Worship Se 12pm Youth Group (6th-12th grade) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Day 6am Monday Morning Prayer Group 11am Women's Bible Study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Men's Bible Study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Grief Share (Choiy Gregory) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month 7pm Praise and Worship Night | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Guffys Fireside Room |



Bits and Pieces

Need To Store Something at St. James?



Need to Find Something at St. James?

We now have a room dedicated to organized storage! If you need to store something – please place it in Room 3 Storage on the table or on the floor nearby if it's too large for the table and it will be labeled and stored inside the room. **PLEASE do not put your items on the shelves.**

In addition, if you are looking for something - check the room for it – it just may show up there! Contact Dawn Hahm with any questions at djhahm@indy.net.

Mark your calendars! Sunday **June 11** after worship will be the **annual congregational meeting!**

Time to be thinking about your **Via de Cristo Weekend.**

No one has ever come back disappointed.

What is Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo is a Spanish term meaning “Way of Christ.” It is a three-day leadership experience with a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. Via de Cristo is a highly structured weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, through them, their families, churches and the environment in which they live and work. It is a united effort of laity and clergy to aid congregations **in developing Christian leaders** to more effectively serve Christ in the church.

Go to <https://inkyvdc.org/> for more information

◇ **Oct 19-22, 2023** Via de Cristo Co-Ed Weekend



Rev Ben Black will begin holding a Healing Service on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30pm beginning in May.

May 25th 6:30pm

Plan to attend and help spread the word!

Mark your Calendar for VBS!!
Thursdays 6-8pm 6/15, 6/22, 6/29,
7/13, and 7/20 with a Celebration
during Worship on 7/23 9:30am.

STELLAR
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

ALTAR FLOWERS

The price of Altar flowers are \$30.00 per vase.



Altar flowers are funded by special funds or sponsorship through the flower fund. Special contributions for the fund can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office. **Sponsors can sign up on the flower chart outside of the office on the date you would like to**

sponsor. If roses are requested the cost is \$50.



Welcome new members Cody & Becky Young and their boys Seth and Cash!!!

The Young's joined St James as members on Sunday April 16, 2023.

Rev. Ben Black was installed as Vicar at St James on Sunday April 16, 2023.



GREENFIELD WOMEN'S CONNECTION
Monthly Luncheon & Program



"SENIOR SOLUTIONS"

SPEAKER: Elaine James, St Charles, IL
"Major Mind Overload"

FEATURE: Suzanne Derengowski
Hancock Senior Services

MUSICIAN: Monica Cantrell

When: Tuesday, May 9, 2023
11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

Where: NineStar Connect
2243 E. Main St, Greenfield, IN

Cost: \$15.00 (Covers Lunch & Program)

RSVP: By Friday, May 5, 2023
Call Patty (317) 627-5715
or Ellen (317) 498-3501
or email: grfldwomensconnection@gmail.com
Affiliated with Stonecroft

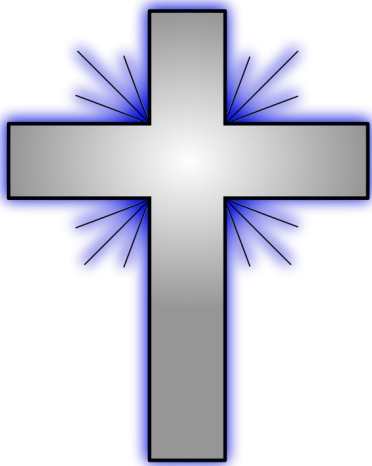
May is National Foster Care Awareness Month



Every child
DESERVES
a family.

Many of you know my family serves as a foster family right here in Hancock County. This has been a deep subject on my heart from God. There is a mighty work to be done helping to care for the vulnerable of our community. If you ever have questions about how foster care has made an impact for my family and the families we serve, don't hesitate to ask.

—Mynde in the office



YOUTH GROUP

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to youth group on Sunday Afternoons after worship service and Sunday school! Lunch will be provided!! Special THANKS to Olivia Moss & Christian Bell for leading this initiative!!

No youth group Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

If you are willing to donate food please sign up in the Gathering Area.

Meals are needed for this group of kids. If you are willing to provide a meal one Sunday please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. This does not have to be restaurant purchased. A Crock Pot full of something delicious goes a long way!! THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR FILLING THIS NEED!



Would you like to serve??



We also need folks willing to serve as **audio/visual support** during worship services. You will be trained. Contact Jessie Stearns if this could be you.

GRIEF SHARE[®]

Cindy Gregory is coordinating another Grief Share class beginning Weds April 12. Group will meet each Weds for 13 weeks from 6-8pm. Interested in joining or helping? Contact Cindy

*Thank
You*

June Gries wants to extend a Thank You for all of the cards, flowers, food and prayers during her recent surgery. We are thankful that she is on the mend!



NALC FAITH FORMATION FESTIVAL

Everything you want to know about youth & family ministry

May 5, 2023

CONVOCAATION

*Ohio Mission Region Convocation &
Heartland Mission District*

May 6, 2023

Speaking the Truth from Sincere Hearts

*Speaking the truth from sincere hearts, (Psalm 15:2b) (therefore)
guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and
my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:5)*



Grace Ev. Lutheran Church

100 E Schrock Rd, Westerville, OH 43081-3447

(614) 882-3026 | office@grace43081.org

May Birthdays!!!

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Debbie Mowrey | May 2 |
| Ronald Kissell | May 13 |
| Steve Brooks | May 15 |
| Benjamin Black | May 23 |
| Elizabeth Clark | May 24 |
| Cody Guffey | May 26 |
| Linda Hess | May 26 |



Happy Anniversary!

May Wedding Anniversaries!!

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|----------|
| Joe & Carol Hudson | May 6 | 51 years |
| Ronald and Joyce Kissell | May 13 | 56 years |

Check out the REWARDS Table . .

Purchase gift cards from the Rewards Table in the Gathering Area with Cindy Gregory 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 and it will be here in a week. Questions? See Cindy Gregory.



Also- Kroger donates a percentage of your spending to a charity of your choice, and St. James is one of the charities you can choose!!! This is a free to you donation to us!!



Music Director

We are so excited to announce the addition of Dan Petry as the Music Director and Angela Rodgers as the Assistant Music Director. Please give them a warm welcome!!!



We prayed for you!



Greater Hancock County

INDIANAPOLIS IN 460

P.O. Box 192
Greenfield, IN 46140

11 APR 2023 PM 3 L



Dear Rev. Blue,
Love, Inc. is praying
for all the churches
in our area. We wanted
you to know that we
prayed specifically for
your church and
congregation. We ask
God's blessing on your
ministry.
Love Inc. Staff

St. James Lutheran
Church
1741 S. State St.
Greenfield, IN 46140

40-250001

Helping churches help people.

April 27/2023:

St. James Lutheran Church Staff,

Thank you so much for allowing Love INC to hold our Faith & Finance class at the church this past February. We were blessed to have a wonderful group of church volunteers who assisted us: Phil Miller, Diana Clements Scott, Karen Bell & Jane Hale. The meals prepared by "Chef Jane", that's what I like to call her, were AMAZING!! Karen was nice and helped our class participants pick out H2O items as part of their incentive for attending the program. Phil and Diana both shared the responsibility of securing everything and locking up after each class.

We were grateful for the opportunity to meet with 8 neighbors at the start of the program. And we celebrate the 4 participants who completed the entire 6-week program! All 4, are continuing to meet with their Allies! The class is the first step. The ongoing relational support of our Allies and the Healing Power of the Holy Spirit, is where real transformation takes place.

I would like to share a couple quotes from our recent class graduates:

"I wanted to give up a million times, but it all prevailed in the end. God is so Good! I learned skills for building savings and budgeting. I also learned to include faith in my plan! We don't have everything that we want, but we have all that we need "

"I feel more confident in my finances. Learning to believe in the fact that God will provide took a load off my shoulders and filled me with an unimaginable peace!"

It's more than a budget class. It's a community of people from all different income levels and education levels, coming together to share a meal, share our life experiences and to explore what it means to seek first God's kingdom and His righteous reign over all things, including our finances! Walking with our neighbors on the journey of reconciliation and change.

Thank you so much for being a part of this!

Cristy Warren
Transformational Ministry
Financial Literacy Program
Love INC of GHC
Love In the Name of Christ of Greater Hancock County



Mobilizing local churches to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ





LOMIK CONFIRMATION CAMPS

at

Lutherwald • Lutheran Hills • Lake Luther



Lutherwald

June 4-9, 2023

June 11-16, 2023

Lutheran Hills

June 11-16, 2023

July 16-21, 2023



Lake Luther

June 4-9, 2023

June 25-30, 2023



Confirmation Camp is a Sunday afternoon through Friday afternoon program for confirmation-aged youth and their adult leaders. Two hours of daily morning instruction by the adult leader takes place in the middle of an active week of camp led by our trained college-aged counselors and program staff. Cost: \$400. Pastors and adult helpers pay \$200. Contact your church for details on how to register.

2023 Curriculum & Theme: The Holy Trinity:

Overview: Revelation 22:13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." From the apocalyptic writing of John of Patmos, this text emphasizes who God in Christ Jesus is and does so by way of the Greek alphabet. As each day explores a particular question about the Triune God and our relationship with the Trinity, beginnings and/or endings will be emphasized.

For more information, contact:

Chris Miller, Technology/Admin Director
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky
5215 N 450 W, Angola IN 46703
(574) 370-1622 • chris@lomik.org

CONFIRMATION CAMP

Register at LOMIK.org

He is Risen!!!



Praising God for another year to celebrate Easter at St James. Huge thanks to all the hands that prepared and served at the extra services, bought candy and stuffed it into colorful eggs, baked casseroles for easter breakfast, purchased flowers and prepared the altar for each service. What a fabulous opportunity we were given to celebrate our risen Savior, Jesus Christ!!!

