

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When I was researching for my PhD I came across an Easter sermon preached in Norway in the 1800's. Given how long it is, I'd say the sermon lasted over an hour. There is a section of the sermon, however, that moved me to tears and I would like to share it with you.

This is therefore the happy news we have to proclaim to each other by the Lord's open grave, that death 'is swallowed in victory', that the chamber of the grave only is an entrance to the room in their Father's house for his believing children. Yes, if I in truth believe that you, my Lord and Savior, have loved the unworthy me so much, have taken upon you my flesh and blood, have wandered around in the real poor body; if I believe, that you because of love for me, your enemy, have suffered the pain of the cross, have drunk the bitter cup of the wrath of God; if I believe that you are risen, have gone before me to Galilee, and that I there shall see you face to face, share with you all your love, joy and salvation for ever: then I have also gone over from death to life. If I could only truly believe this – my faith is so small, so weak! Lord, let me come to you every day and say: "Increase my faith, help my disbelief!" Oh, if I could be moved to give you hand and heart, body and soul, to daily let go of everything else and follow you as a true crusader to the Jerusalem, which is above here; if I daily could penetrate your 'sweet union' more, and by your grace hold on to my crown, so that nobody took it away from me, then I could also say, when the hour of God once tolls: throw off my grave – throw it off in the name of Jesus Christ. I do see that it is dark, but You, the light of the whole world, have, however, laid there; I do see that it is unclean, but still you, oh Holy and Innocent, wanted to rest there; I do see that it is narrow, but You, whom God put as an heir of all things, and by whom He also created the world, you have after all slept there! How you have adorned and sanctified this last, poor dwelling of mine here on earth, how you have made it into a dwelling of peace, in which this fragile heart will not be frightened by sorrow, nor tempted by sin, nor deceived by the world; how you have made it into a friendly bedchamber for the tired and troubled, to a place of refuge for the persecuted, to a Bethesda, a house of mercy for all your sick, your troubled, your miserable! Now, because we have this Easter Day, it can be said: "Blessed are the dead, who died in the Lord!" they are blessed: they rest in the arms of God the Father; and where can I, tired child, rest more safely? They rest by Christ's heart, and where can you find a softer bed? They were to come forward when the great festival bell tolls, and what the children of God are then to become, has not yet been revealed, but John says, that they were to become like Him. To become like your Savior – what hungry and thirsty human heart can desire more?

May your joy go as deep in your bones as this Norwegian preacher of 150 years ago!

**ALL SERVICES AND
ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED THROUGH THE
MONTH OF APRIL**

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Friends & Relatives of Church Members

Vincent Slice-

Son of Olin& Retha Slice

John Chisolm Jr.-

Friend of Hollis Family

Boyd Shorter

Father of Gwen Freeman

Sylvia Worley-

Sister of Gail Long

Holley Sheppard-

Family of Laney Strickland

Gene Crumpton-

Uncle of Janet Taylor & Mike Crumpton

Sandy Martin-

Friend of Jane & Russell Taylor

Emma Snelgrove-

Mother of Cheryl Austin

Lanell Hicks-

Mother of Miranda West

Samantha Molnar-

Sister of Carolyn Steele

John Hotaling -

Brother of Mary Browder

Taylor Armstrong -

Grandson of Jimmy & Katrina Shealy

Kenn White-

Friend of Carin Seward

Continue to remember those who have illnesses or needs in their lives.



The Guardian Angel Prayer Group is asking for all of its members and the members of St. James to please say an extra prayer for our community and country.

Prayer request will be posted for 30 days .

Should you need to place someone back on the list, **Please resubmit a new prayer request form.**

*Thank you,
St. James Office*



Members

H.O. & Doris Sharpe

Bill Hogan

Bob Koch

Kathy Goings

Vickie Johnson

Harold Roland

Holly Kyzer

Von Goff

Chuck Backman

Shut-ins

Jackie Metz

Dollie Pounds

Anna Ree Roland

Kathleen Smith

Alice Raffa

Retha Slice

Virginia Hall

Lance Steadman

Cynthia Lopez

Military

Joseph Brown-

Grandson of Kathryn Kyzer

Ryan Caulder-

Son of Mot Caulder

Aaron Frazier-

Grandson of Jean Frazier

Daniel Herb-

Son in law of Mot Caulder

Jeremy Jolly-

Grandson of Hazel Bachman

Wayne Watkins-

Nephew of S. Jeffords

David Supowit-

Son in Law of Kathleen McLean

Levi Dane Kyzer-

Grandson of Holly Kyzer

If you have an active Military family member that you would like St. James to send them a Care Package please get with Myra Weeks and let her know.



CHURCH NEWS

Latest on the Corona Virus Covid-19: www.cdc.gov

If you would like the devotional booklet, *The Word in Season*, we will happily mail it to you. Just contact the church office either by phone (803) 359-2122) or by email (office@stjameslex.com)

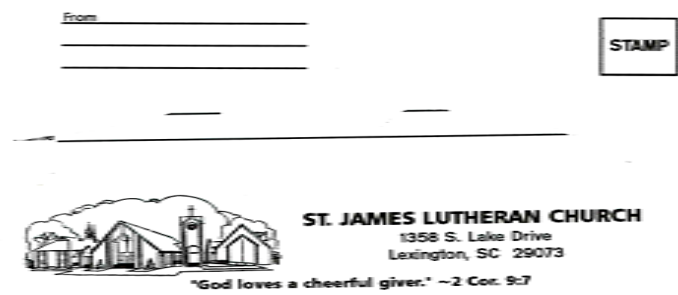
Make sure you keep an eye on the website stjameslex.com and our Facebook page Friends of St. James to keep up with any information the office may send out.

If you would like something to be posted email it over and we will do our best!

Just a reminder the office **is open Monday - Thursday from 9-2** during this time. Should you have any questions, or concerns please let us know.

St. James is encouraging our members if they would like to come in and spend a few minutes in the Sanctuary give the office a call and we can set up a time schedule.

Your offering envelope is designed to be mailed just put a stamp on it. Please remember the ongoing expenses for the church to maintain during this time. If you did not receive your envelopes let the office know.



Thank you so much for all your thoughts, prayers, calls, cards and messages we have received since the passing of our mother, Colene Smith Hook. God is so good even through our deepest valleys. Please continue to lift us in your prayers as well as our country during these uncertain times.

*Thank you in Christian love,
Kristie Joyner and Family.*

**St. James
Lutheran Church**
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Visit us on the web at

www.stjameslex.com

Facebook:

Friends of St James

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4/1

Carolyn Monts

4/8

Ben Freeman

Myra Weeks

4/9

Dale Hutto

4/13

Joshua West

4/15

Sharon Duke

Susan Gossett

4/16

Steven Jenkins

4/17

Ann Kyzer

Charles Johnson III

4/19

Hailey Bouknight

4/25

Jacob Feaster

4/26

Margaret Hollis

Jan Sharpe

4/30

Jennifer Boone



**If your name was left
off this month's list,
please call or email
the church office so
we may add it to the
list.**



April 21st from 10-11AM

Pastor

Kevin Ogilvie, PhD.

Music Director

Sharon Witherell

Secretary

Sharon Summers



Service Schedule

Sunday

Adult Sunday School

9:15AM

Worship Service

10:30AM

***If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact St. James
Lutheran Church office at 803-359-2122***