Our Mission:
To bring people to Christ, encouraging relationships with Him and others.

INSIDE THIS EDITION
- Pastor’s Page
- Worship
- Fellowship
- Bits and Pieces
- Graduates
- New Members
- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- Council Directory

No greater blessing could come to our land today than a revival of the spirit of religion. I doubt, if there is any problem in the world today – social, political or economic – that would not find happy solution if approached in the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount.

~Franklin D. Roosevelt~
Dear Friends of St. James,

As I prepare to celebrate our nation’s independence this week, I can’t think of a more exciting kick-off than the decision by the Supreme Court to uphold the rights of Christians and those of other religions to extend their spiritual values and conscience into the businesses they create. I’m of course referring to the Hobby Lobby case. Hobby Lobby is owned by the Green family, who are evangelical Christians.

The HHS mandate (Obamacare) required them to include an insurance benefit that would pay for abortion-inducing drugs. They were willing to pay for 16 types of birth control, but not the four “morning after” types.

The federal government tried to argue that corporations cannot have the religious freedoms that individuals have. Now I’m no attorney, but common sense tells me that if I started a business, putting thousands of hours of thought into it and years of hard work building it and creating a culture that celebrates Christian values, the government should not be able to force my business to take actions that seriously assault my moral conscience or that of my Christian-values-based business.

Justice Alito responds well to critics of the recent ruling, noting that “furthering corporations' religious freedom also furthers individual religious freedom," He makes it clear that no wedge can fit between one's faith and one's business enterprise. It is impossible for the Greens to simply shut down beliefs which have long guided their lives from the very core of their being. To ask them to deny these beliefs simply denies their humanity. In holding that closely held for-profit corporations can exercise religion, the Court simply recognizes the inseparable nature of religion from informing all areas of a person's life.

Whether corporations are engaged in social responsibility programs, voluntary community initiatives, or religious practices, corporations have always done much more than just "make a profit." Whether the case features a Jewish butcher, a Muslim financier, or the Green family's decision to see their religious beliefs reflected in their business practices, corporations have always served to reflect the beliefs of the human beings behind them. The Court's ruling simply recognizes this principle.

The most interesting thing I learned in reading the Justices’ opinions is that their conclusions were made possible by a law passed back in 1993 that was completely bipartisan and almost unanimous. It is called the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and was signed into law by President Clinton. It basically says that the government cannot “put a burden” on someone’s free exercise of religious beliefs.

I hope you’ll join me in thanking God for that law and for the Supreme Court’s interpretation of it in this very important case. I also hope you will be at worship on July 6th. We have a very exciting, patriotic, and informative service planned!

Have a wonderful 4th of July holiday!

Pastor Larry
Your Church Council, in cooperation with Pastor Gember, has invited Dr. Stephen Flink to preach at St. James on July 27th and August 3rd. Dr. Flink is physician with the Anderson Family Practice in Greenfield and is known to many of our members. A devout evangelical Christian, he has spent many years researching the biblical creation account in light of modern scientific research and will share his findings with our congregation, as he has at many other churches and several colleges in Indiana. It is likely that there are varying views among our members regarding creation vs. evolution. Dr. Flink understands that your salvation is not at stake when it comes to your beliefs on this issue, but he has some powerful concepts for us to reflect upon. We encourage you to invite non-believers and Christian skeptics to attend this series. Dr. Flink has even agreed to make himself available for questions of clarification and challenges following the worship services.

Below are some quotes from Dr. Flink:

The purpose of my two-part talk is to defend the authority and reliability of the Bible against the primary attack against it in our day and age—evolution and millions of years.

Why is this important? The attack on the deity of Christ, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and the gospel itself often comes indirectly by an attack on the creation record in Genesis. Evolution and millions of years is used in an attempt to discredit the biblical record of creation in Genesis. If Genesis is not reliable, then why would anyone trust the rest of the Bible including the New Testament? If the New Testament is not reliable, then how do we know Jesus is God, that He was raised from the dead, or that the gospel is true?

Evolution and millions of years is not consistent with the Bible. Rather it is the number one attack on the authority and reliability of the Bible.

What are the benefits of listening to these two talks?

- The risk of believers, especially younger believers, losing their faith or leaving the church would be significantly reduced by countering the false claims of evolution and millions of years taught by the secular education system.
- Believers will understand how the scientific evidence, when properly interpreted, actually supports the biblical view of creation and they will know that the Bible is completely reliable.
- Believers will be much better equipped to defend their faith by understanding scientific evidence they can use in witnessing.
Sermon from June 29 – Definition of Marriage

In the wake of the decision by a federal judge to strike down Indiana’s marriage law, Pastor Gember prepared a careful, sensitive, and biblical sermon which he delivered at St. James on June 29th. If you were unable to be there, we encourage you to listen to it at our website, www.stjamesnalc.org. Just click the “Messages” tab.

Interested in Teaching Sunday School?
We are looking for people with the spiritual gift of teaching for our younger children K-2nd grade. Class will take place during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. If we get several volunteers, a rotated schedule of one month on, one month off would be possible. Please contact Cindy through the church office or at 219-789-6948. More details on Sunday School classes and Adult Bible Studies will follow in the August newsletter.

Confirmation Class
Calling all 7th and 8th graders! Classes will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:00 a.m. Sessions begin on Sept 7th. Please direct any questions to Cindy or Pastor Larry.

Proverbs 22:6
Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Thank you to the following talented individuals who signed up to inspire us through special music this summer: Cody Guffey and David Elser, Marieta Boone’s Bell Choir, Christian Gries, Maggie Bode, Jane Koors-Mahan, Julia Teskey, Alison and Brittany LaFlower, Diana Clements-Scott.

Love to Sing?
If you do, joining the choir may be for you! Watch for details in the Sunday bulletins and the August newsletter. In the meantime, pray about it . . . perhaps God will lead you to use your talent to praise His name in song.

The two will become one flesh.
Mark 10:8, NIV
Church Picnic
Mark your calendar for
**Sunday, August 24th @12 noon**

At Jelly Stone Campground in Knightstown. Volunteer work details are listed on the information table in the gathering area. A sign-up sheet for pitch-in items will be posted closer to the event date.

Many thanks to Dan and Beth Moll for hosting the event at their campground. Pool, paddleboats, hiking, and fishing are just a few of the activities!

Summer Family Movie Night
Join us on Friday, July 25th at 7:00 p.m. As we watch a movie on the “big screen” in the worship space **Free Popcorn!** -Title to be announced - **ALL WELCOME**
Sign-up in the gathering area

A Splashing Good Time!
The high school youth are invited to a pool party and BBQ at the parsonage on July 6th at 1:00 p.m. Don’t forget to bring a friend! The junior high pool party is scheduled for August 3rd at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served 😊
Christian Bell, son of Richard and Karen Bell, and Trevor Hale, son of Tom and Jane Hale recently participated in the Children’s Summer Theater presentation of “The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree”. Proud grandparents are Christian and June Gries and Harry and Mary Lou Morgan. Watch out for those swashbuckling boys!

World Travelers!
Mathilda Bell and Courtney Hale were selected to travel to Europe June 18-July 3 with the Indiana Ambassadors of Music. They will be on a 16 day, 7 country tour where they will perform, and sight-see, along the way. The students who were selected were nominated by their band directors based on musicianship, leadership, and character. A total of approximately 115 students from 15 schools participated.

Pastor Larry and Cindy would like to thank everyone for their well wishes and interest regarding the travels of their sons David and Matthew. Many people have been asking for updates – The boys have traveled through, and performed in Tennessee and North Carolina, hiked in the Smokey Mountains, are presently performing in Nashville and will be headed to Texas next. According to both boys it has been a very spiritually fulfilling journey thus far. Other than a bout of poison ivy for Matt, all is going well. We appreciate your continued prayers for safe travel.
Megan Pohland and Matthew Witkovsky will be united in Matrimony at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lancaster, PA on Sunday, July 6th. Megan is the daughter of Ray and Becky Pohland and niece of Greg and Susan Eaton. She became a member of St. James when she was 18 months old. The family asks that you pray for God's blessings and guidance for this young couple, and for safe travel for the family to and from Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to newlyweds Ryan Westerfeld and his wife Juanita who married on June 28th at Boondocks Farms in Knightstown. The rain cleared and the sun came out to provide a beautiful evening to celebrate. Ryan is the son of Ron and Marsha Westerfeld.
MEET OUR GRADUATES

Higher Education

Pictured to the left are Daryl John (Mowrey) Emowrey and David Daniel Mowrey, sons of Debbie Mowrey and grandsons of Leonard and Jean Meyer.

David graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine with a Doctorate in Biophysics-Computational Biology.

Daryl is a graduate of Trinity Lutheran Seminary with a Masters of Divinity.

Both boys were in the interviewing process for their careers at the time the information for the newsletter was gathered.

Pictured to the right is Laura Clingler daughter of Mike and Jennifer Herron. Laura graduated from IUPUI with a Bachelor of Science in Education in Secondary Education focusing in Social Studies.

Pictured to the right is Valerie Herron, also the daughter of Mike and Jennifer Herron. Valerie received her Bachelor of Science in Education in Elementary and Elementary Special Education from Indiana University.

Not pictured is Madison Teskey, daughter of John and Ruth Teskey. Madison is a graduate of Butler University with a Bachelor degree in Sociology and Theology. Madison will be working as an event planner this summer.
Pictured here are David Michael Elser, Erik Alan Cliburn, and Nick Ramsey, graduates of Greenfield Central High School. David will be traveling the United States this summer, performing music and sight-seeing as he decides which direction the arts will take him. Erik is planning to attend The University of Indianapolis to take general courses. Nick is staying home a year as he continues working, while taking on-line general courses.

Connor Whitfield and Andrea Bell, both graduated from Knightstown High School. Connor will be attending Vincennes University in Evansville pursuing a degree in music production and broadcasting. Andi is undecided and will stay home for a year while praying over where the future will take her. She is excited about assisting Cindy as they volunteer to lead an 18 to 20-something young adult group.

Emily Ann Lewis, daughter of Eric (Diane) Lewis is also a graduate of Knightstown High School. Emily will be attending Ivy Tech to complete her required courses before moving on to courses that lead to a career in counseling.

Alicia Elizabeth Beyer, daughter of Steve and Elizabeth Beyer and granddaughter of Fred and Marlene Leitenberger, graduated from Shelbyville High School. She will be attending Vincennes University to study Veterinary Technology.
Tera Fair, granddaughter of Jane White, graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

Rachel Elizabeth Miller granddaughter of Mark and Maggie Bode graduated from Heritage Christian High School, as Salutatorian. She is working at Walmart for the summer after which she will attend the University of Southern Indiana concentrating on Chemistry.

Melissa Peterson, granddaughter of Christian and June Gries (Becky’s daughter) graduated with a Bachelor degree from the University of Georgia, Athens. Grandson Adam Peterson graduated from High School in Alpharetta, Georgia.

Merle and Avis Amundson are very proud of both their grandsons. Matthew Amundson (Paul’s son) graduated from the University of South Dakota. Matthew majored in Chemistry and may return to the Greenfield area.

Their other grandson Jacob Amundson (also Paul’s son) graduated from South Dakota State University which is the same college Avis and Merle attended.

Amy Timmerman, granddaughter of Howard and Dottie Timmerman and daughter of Tracy (Eric) Amundson graduated from Dayton University and will be attending George Washington University for graduate school. Amy received a full ride scholarship for her graduate work.
Welcome New Members!

We are so pleased to introduce you to the newest members of the St. James Family . . .

Pictured on the left are Cara Gruell, Jon Garvey and their children Elizabeth Garvey and Jayden Gruell (inset).

935 Burbank Road  
Indianapolis, IN  46219  
317-357-1926

Bottom left is Timothy (Tim) Leeson  
12139 Broadway Street  
Oaklandon, IN  46236  
317-823-9828

Bottom right is Terry Moore  
130 Howard Street  
Greenfield, In  46140  
317-459-6127

Please give them a warm St. James welcome and add their contact information to your directory.
Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of member Marie Stephens, who was called home to our heavenly Father. Her daughters, Linda Hess, Wanda Wooten, granddaughter Jennifer Turner, and the entire family wish to extend their sincere thanks to everyone for their thoughts, prayers, phone calls and cards during her illness and passing.

We also extend our condolences to Cindy Gregory and her family for the recent loss of her mother Marjorie Johnson. Cindy would like to thank those who provided comfort through thoughts, prayers, calls, texts, flowers and cards during this difficult time.

Please continue to pray for comfort and strength for both families.

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GreifShare Recovery Group at St. James

GreifShare, a support group, aimed to assist those who have recently lost a love one journey through the grieving process, will begin a new session on

**Wednesday, August 6th – October 29th**

If you have any questions you can contact

*Debbie Degner at 317-448-0397 or Joy Reed at 317-695-6422*

This ministry is open to anyone in the community. If you know of someone who might benefit from GriefShare please feel free to refer them to Debbie or Joy.
Six years ago on June 1, 2008, Pastor Gember was in the pulpit for his very first sermon as the new pastor of St. James Lutheran Church. His arrival had been eagerly awaited following the retirement of Pastor Mielke and the following 2 year interim served by Pastor Gerwing. Many changes were in the future of the church, including an affiliation change from the ELCA to the NALC, staff changes, structural changes to the church, membership changes, and the introduction of technology into the worship service. Along with these many changes was one thing that did not change . . . Pastor Gember’s tenacity to teach the Word of God. His sermons and teachings have always been based in Scripture, and have served to make us stronger disciples. His encouragement has led many people in new directions and have brought people to a stronger belief in the Lord. How fortunate we are to have his leadership, dedication, guidance, and faith. **Thank you** Pastor Gember for your faithful service to our Lord and to the people of St. James.
Happy Birthday and God’s Blessings

July 1 – Marsha Westerfeld
    July 2 – Joan Shaw
    July 3 – Tina Beck
    July 8 – Sylvia Borden
    July 12 – Greg Branson
    July 13 – Deb Jackson
    July 18 – Caitlyn Brummett (Pohland)
    July 25 – Kyle Kindig
    July 28 – Kayden Patten
    July 29 – Cindy Gregory, Jane Koors-Mahan
    July 30 – Harry Morgan
    July 31 – Dawn Hahm

Happy Anniversary

July 2 – Steve and Elizabeth Beyer
    July 10 – Chet and Penny Ellis
    July 13 – Richard and Karen Bell
    July 14 – Larry and Lynne Jannotti
    July 15 – Greg and Vicky Branson
    July 19 – Roy Carlson and Dawn Hahm
    July 22 – Leonard and Jean Meyer
    July 28 – Larry and Delinda Kindig
    July 28 – Phil and SarahBelle Sprowl
Church Council Members
Larry Gember:  lagember@stjamesnalc.org
Greg Branson:  branson.gregory@yahoo.com
Mike Herron:  michaelmherron@yahoo.com
Linda Hess:  sunshine851@sbcglobal.net
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Ray Pohland:  rcpohland@att.net
Cindy Gregory*:  cindy.gregory@dfas.mil
Cindy Gember*:  ckgember@stjamesnalc.org

*Non-voting member

All information for the August newsletter must be turned in no later than July 20th. Exceptions have been made during our computer difficulties, but we are back on track. Thank you for your patience these past few months and for your cooperation moving forward. Please use the church email for all submissions: office@stjamesnalc.org
Have a safe and happy GOD BLESS AMERICA