

Volume 39 |

Issue 8

August

2023

The Messenger



Michelle is out of the office this week, so I volunteered to give a try at completing most of the newsletter. I'm going to do my best, but good luck trying to follow along as I contend with my learning curve! ~Pastor John

ST. JAMES' STAFF NEWS

** Michelle Dix continues on bereavement leave following the death of her mother Marie, who lived in Germany. The funeral is Friday, August 4. Michelle is scheduled to return to the office on Friday, August 11. Many thanks to Valerie Brewer who has been filling in on a volunteer basis.

** Chris Colon has blessed St. James the last 4 ½ years with musical leadership and talents. He has offered us energy in worship, renewal of handbell choirs, and special efforts to make music part of our recorded YouTube streaming worship during COVID.

Sadly, on August 20th we will say farewell to Chris. He has accepted an offer to be on the music staff of another congregation that will offer him more opportunities for personal and professional growth. While we will miss him, yet we rejoice in and honor the Spirit's moving in this new opportunity.

A reception will be included in the *Red, White, and Back-To-School Fellowship Time* following worship on August 20th.

Please join the congregation council in prayerful discernment to hear Spirit's guidance in this time of transition. The congregation will be updated as decisions unfold.

JOYFULLY
Connecting
FAITH 🌿 LIFE 🌿 PEOPLE

Congregational Fellowship Events

Memories of July Third Friday Fellowship



Group Outing to Woodpecker Baseball



There are a few tickets still available for this group time on Friday, August 18th. Game time is 7:05, but you'll want to be there early and be in your seat as our own Anna Lisa Johannessen sings the National Anthem. Signup in the Gathering Space or go online to church website.

August Fellowship Time – August 20 following worship

We continue the theme of *Welcome Home – Red, White, and Back-To-School.*

- ** Lunch provided (Brats, hotdogs, burgers, sides, dessert)
- ** Crafts and activities (all ages!)
- ** Fellowship time with others
- ** Reception for Chris Colon
- ** Music & Devotions; our focus is *Welcome Home for New Beginnings!*
- ** Games (cornhole, gaga ball, 4-square, and more)
- * Reception for new members

Signup now for attending or to volunteer in Gathering Space or online church website

Worship in August

Worship Leaders' Calendar

Assisting Ministers

8/06Allan Winter
8/13 Jason Lorentzen
8/20 Jordan Slaymaker
8/27 Ruth Ann Crecelius

Lectors

8/06 Beverly Beale
8/13 Todd Burns
8/20 Bill Rettmann
8/27 Valerie Brewer

Communion Assistant

8/06 Dave Runkle
8/13 Nancy Oliver
8/20 Lela Pell
8/27 Delores Schiebe

Ushers

8/06 Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
8/13 John & Gayle Frinak
8/20 Roscoe Killett & Gary Eissinger
8/27 Tonie Neal, Kathleen Heinrich

Acolytes

8/06 Aaron Thomas
8/13 Gabriel Thomas
8/20 Nate Stockham
8/27 Hannah Rea

Greeters

8/06 Joanie Eissinger
8/13 Barbara Azzarelli
8/20 Linda Stellfox
8/27 Kathleen Heinrich

Nursery

8/06
8/13
8/20
8/27

Rover

8/06 Paula Burns
8/13 Rob Whitt
8/20 Ed Samuelian
8/27 Todd Burns



Special Aspects of Worship

- Sun. Aug. 6 Recognition of Purple Heart Recipients
- Sun. Aug. 13 Scott Masorek will be playing piano while Chris is on vacation;
- Sun. Aug. 20 New Members; Godspeed for Chris Colon
- Sun. Aug. 27 Bookbag and Backpack Blessing; Back to School Blessing

Other Ministry Opportunities

Social Ministry

Item-of-the-Month

Back to School!!



During the month of August, Social Ministry will be collecting donated items for Stoney Point Elementary School in Cumberland County. Stoney Point has a clothes lending closet, which is used all year. So, there are some clothing items on the suggested donation list. Please see the list below for suggested items.

- Backpacks—kid-friendly
- Headphones (to be used with the student-issued school laptops)
- Girls' underwear—sizes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
- Boys' underwear—sizes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
- Girls' Leggings—sizes: 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12
- Boys' warm up pants—sizes: 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12
- T-shirts—plain colored—sizes: Small, medium, large



You may place your donations in the decorated boxes located in the gathering space. Thank you so much in advance for your gracious Back-to-School donations!

Youth Ministry



After several years of disappointment (Postponed, then cancelled due to COVID), the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will be in New Orleans in July 16-20, 2024.

This triennial event has been a main part of youth ministry since the beginning of the ELCA (and its predecessor bodies.) On **Sunday, August 6, following worship**, we will take time to share information and think of possibilities. Because of the cancellation of the previous gathering, none of the eligible youth in our congregation have attended a gathering. So, there should be a lot of questions.

Registration for the 2024 event opens September 15, 2023 (that's in a couple of months!)

Youth participants must be in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration (fall 2023). Adult leaders accompanying youth to the Gathering must be at least 21 years old at the time of the Gathering.

*THE FIRST-EVER Young Adult Gathering for those 18-35 will be offered concurrently. Except for the invitation to the Mass Gatherings, programming and housing will be separate from the Youth Gathering, For more info, go to <https://www.elca.church/gathering/faqs> or see Pastor John.

Around The Parish

Prayer Concerns

People at Home or restricted

Charlotte Davis
 Claudia Doyle
 Shirley Johnson
 Loraine Breisch
 Brenda Killett

St. James/Family/Friends

Joe & Dara Lehner
 John Tucker
 Beth Sessoms
 Ellen Blocker
 Orose family
 Sara Beth Lyth
 Thomas Oliver
 Michelle Dix
 Jason Evarage

Military

Luke Steffen
 Riley Broding
 Grant Alexis
 Earl Stockham*
 Nikki Rettman (now retired)
 Jessie Hewins
 Darian Dix
 Joshua Trogdon
 Kelly Steenrod
 David Oliver
 Bella Fish
 Sarah Fox
 Rob Whitt
 Austin Hilken
 Dan Gibson
 Tristan Bonde

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Jacque Yacobuccii 8/11
 Larry Schiebe 8/12
 Nikki Rettmann 8/13
 Amy Allison 8/15
 Heather VanDervoort 8/17
 Charlie Halverson 8/23
 Elizabeth Slaymaker 8/24
 Suzie Wilkinson 8/24
 Valerie Brewer 8/30
 Stella San Miguel 8/31

ANNIVERSARIES

John Locke & Anna Lisa Johannessen 8/10
 Michael & Chandra McClenahan 8/21
 David & Amy Burks 8/21