



## Inside September 2020 Newsletter

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### *From the Pastor:*

On Facebook the other day I saw a meme that read, “This New Year’s Eve I’m going to stay up until midnight not to see the new year in, but to make sure the old year leaves.”

I suspect that most of us can relate to that sentiment. I know I have had enough of 2020. We have had to deal with a pandemic, stay-at-home orders, social distancing, distance learning, closed businesses, empty sanctuaries, civil unrest, wildfires, merging hurricanes, a derecho and more. And we still have four months to go! I’m ready to see 2020 leave and to get back to “normal.”

I’m ready to eat inside a restaurant again. I’m ready to walk the aisles of Jewel without wearing a facemask. I’m ready to watch the news and not see stories of violence and protests. And perhaps most of all, I’m ready to lead worship in a sanctuary with people actually in the pews and then have a cup of coffee and a donut around a table of friendly faces. As I imagine you are, too, I’m ready.

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Alas, I'm afraid that may not happen soon, though. As I write this, the number of positive COVID-19 cases on both sides of the river continue to rise. And while there are promising reports of vaccines and treatments, it sounds like they are still months away. 2020 is not done with us yet.

I wish I could offer to you some kind of promise that the worst of all this is over. I wish I could tell you that the end of the suffering is near. I wish.... But I can't.

However, what I can tell you is that even though we may be social distancing, we are not alone. No matter what the world may throw at us – pandemics, wildfires, hurricanes, derechos and all the rest – God is with us. God is with us in doctors and nurses. God is with us in essential workers. God is with us in utility crews restoring power. God is with us in first responders. God is with us in the providers of emergency shelters. God is with us in neighbors and friends looking out for each other. God is with us.

One of my favorite scripture passages is from Romans 8.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

My message to you is Paul's message to the Romans. God loves us. And nothing that 2020 can throw our will ever stop that. Paul doesn't say that there isn't hardship or distress, that there isn't height or depth or death or powers or anything bad. There is. But none of that will keep God away from us. We are not alone. God is with us.

In the Hope of Christ,

*Pastor Knowles*



## Communion for St. James

On Monday evening September 28th, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, Pastor Knowles will be available in the fellowship hall of St. James to offer communion to anyone who would like to receive it. This is not a regular service, but a time for people to come in, spend a few minutes in prayer and reflection, and receive the sacrament. Those who wish to participate may come anytime between 6:30 and 7:30 pm. It is important that those who come follow the guidelines for safety including wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing. A brief devotional liturgy will be available.



The third cleanup date for 2020 will be on Saturday, September 12, from 8:45 to 10:00 am. Please meet at the eastern parking lot of Mel McKay park in South Rock Island at 8:45.

Safety vests, gloves, garbage bags, grabbers, and garbage bag holders will be provided. We will maintain the recommended 6 foot physical separation.

## Worship News

### Sunday September 6th

#### First Reading

[Ezekiel 33:7-11](#)

#### Psalm

[Psalm 119:33-40](#)

#### Second Reading

[Romans 13:8-14](#)

#### Gospel

[Matthew 18:15-20](#)

### Sunday September 13th

#### First Reading

[Genesis 50:15-21](#)

#### Psalm

[Psalm 103:\[1-7\] 8-13](#)

#### Second Reading

[Romans 14:1-12](#)

#### Gospel

[Matthew 18:21-35](#)

### Sunday September 20th

#### First Reading

[Jonah 3:10--4:11](#)

#### Psalm

[Psalm 145:1-8](#)

#### Second Reading

[Philippians 1:21-30](#)

#### Gospel

[Matthew 20:1-16](#)

### Sunday September 27th

#### First Reading

[Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32](#)

#### Psalm

[Psalm 25:1-9](#)

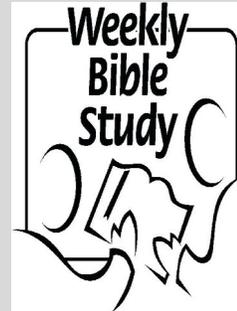
#### Second Reading

[Philippians 2:1-13](#)

#### Gospel

[Matthew 21:23-32](#)

We are holding an internet Bible Study (via Zoom) on Tuesday evenings (September 1st, 15th, & 29th), at 6:30 pm. There will be no Bible Study on the 8th or 22nd. If you would like to join the study, let Pastor know and he will send an invitation to you with the link to join the study. If you need more information, please ask.



# SEPTEMBER

## **Birthdays:**

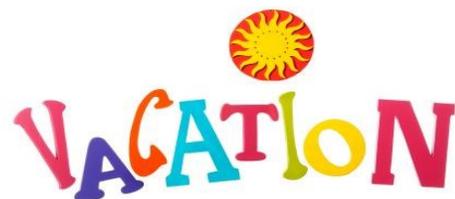
<i>Teresa Maness</i>	<i>09/05</i>
<i>Heather Coronell</i>	<i>09/08</i>
<i>Elaine Lestor</i>	<i>09/11</i>
<i>Linda Ryden</i>	<i>09/13</i>
<i>Courtney Cook</i>	<i>09/29</i>
<i>Kylie Terry</i>	<i>09/29</i>



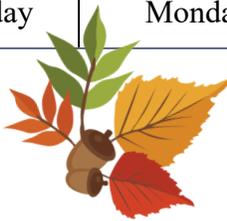
## **Anniversaries:**

<i>Robert &amp; Rhoda Frank</i>	<i>09/29</i>
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**Pastor Knowles will be  
on vacation  
September 21st-27th**



# September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:45pm Bible Study Via Zoom (SJ)	2 7:00pm Bible Study (AS)	3 6:30pm Cub Scouts (C)	4 <i>Office Closed</i>	5
6 10:30am Worship (AS)	7 	8 6:15pm Vestry	9 7:00pm Bible Study (AS)	10 6:30pm Cub Scouts (C)	11 <i>Office Closed</i>	12 8:45am Adopt A Highway (SJ)
13 10:30am Worship (AS)	14 4:00pm Stewardship/ Finance Via Zoom (SJ) 6:30pm Jr. Board (C)	15 4:00pm Executive Committee Via Zoom (SJ) 6:45pm Bible Study Via Zoom (SJ)	16 6:30pm Council Via Zoom 7:00pm Bible Study (AS)	17 6:30pm Cub Scouts (C)	18 <i>Office Closed</i>	19
20 10:30am Worship (AS)	21 5:00pm Choir Rehearsal (AS)	22 Bible Study (SJ) 	23 7:00pm Bible Study (AS)	24 6:30pm Cub Scouts (C)	25 <i>Office Closed</i>	26
27 10:30am Worship (AS)	28 6:30pm Communion (SJ)	29 6:45pm Bible Study Via Zoom (SJ)	30 7:00pm Bible Study (AS)			



## In Memoriam



**Judy Swanson**

**(11/22/1940–08/16/2020)**

**Harold Swanson**

**(02/20/1941–08/17/2020)**

## *August Council Highlights*

### ST. JAMES COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS, AUGUST 2020

The virtual August 2020 Council meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19th, with eight members present. Pastor Knowles opened with a prayer. The minutes of the two July meetings were approved. The Treasurer's report for July was accepted, subject to audit. We continue to be in good financial shape. Pastor Knowles reported that members Harold and Judy Swanson passed away, Judy on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, and Harold the next day. No arrangements have been made yet. Pastor Knowles also announced that he will be vacationing for a week in the last half of September. For the Sunday he is gone he will try to get a worship video from the Synod, but if he can't then it will simply be omitted. No drive-up services at Calvary will be held on that Sunday either. Speaking of the latter, several St. James members attended those services and described them as "wonderful." We approved up to \$2,500.00 to be spent on a portico for the lower-level door. Funding will be finalized soon, but in the meantime the Property Committee will design the portico and seek a building permit from the city. The Monday night Communion sessions went well, with 15 people attending on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12 on August 17<sup>th</sup>. In light of Labor Day and his vacation, Pastor Knowles will announce the September dates for these sessions. The Missions Team is filling 50 School kits again this year. They have about half of the needed supplies to go in them and have funds to purchase more. Donations are still welcome. The Junior Board has no known plans to use our building in September, nor do we know whether the 30/31 Book Club has been there. All Saints continues to hold services in the sanctuary, however. Pastor Knowles warned that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Congregational Meeting might not take place as usual in 2021. However, positions will still need to be filled. Also, doubts exist about St. James hosting the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service this year. Pastor Knowles will discuss it with the other pastors. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully,  
Luanne Beinke,  
Council Secretary

## School Kits

Thank you so much for donating school supplies and money towards the purchase of these items. If you will be donating supplies, you may leave them in a box outside the church office. Currently, we have enough pencils and erasers. If you would like to send a check to the church, we will do online shopping and pickups at local stores to complete the bags. Your generosity is appreciated!

If you would like any additional information, please contact Linda Ryden (309) 781-0167.

Each Lutheran World Relief school kit contains:

4—70 sheet spiral bound notebooks Wide or College ruled

1—ruler—30 centimeters/12 inches

1—hand held pencil sharpener

1—pair blunt scissors

5—unsharpened pencils

5—blue or black ballpoint ink pens (no gel ink)

1—box 16 or 24 crayons

1—2 1/2 inch eraser



**Stewardship/Finance Team Meeting** will be held September 14th @4:00pm via Zoom.

Did you know St. James has a Facebook page?

Check us out and give us a like!

[Facebook.com/saintjamesri/](https://www.facebook.com/saintjamesri/)



If you are not on Facebook you can find photos on our flickr page!

[www.stjamesri.org/photo-gallery](http://www.stjamesri.org/photo-gallery)



St. James a Reconciling In Christ  
Congregation

In our awareness that we are all broken people, we rejoice in God's abundant grace. Therefore, we welcome all who are seeking God's love and forgiveness regardless of national origin or ancestry, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, abilities, beliefs, political views, financial resources or family status.

There will always be a place for you at St. James.

\*Adopted on June 11, 2017\*

For more information check out Reconciling Works at [www.reconcilingworks.org](http://www.reconcilingworks.org)



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE