

St. James Lutheran Church  
900 South 17th Street  
Quincy, Illinois 62301

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*St. James Monthly Newsletter*

**December 2019** "TO SEE JESUS AND CAUSE HIM TO BE SEEN"



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STJAMESQUINCY.ORG

Dear St. James Faithful,

To Those Who Are Recipients of God's Grace,

This time of year we often hear the question, "What do you want for Christmas?" Now I don't want to suggest that that is a bad question to ask, but I really want people to consider, "What is it that you need?"

In a workshop I attended a number of years ago, Paul Foust said, "A day is coming when you won't need your wallet or your car keys. The only thing you will need is Jesus Christ and His forgiveness. He is the "One Thing Needful."

The Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:3-4 says <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths." That means they will be drawn to teachers who tell them what they want to hear rather than what they need to hear.

When asked to consider the necessities of life what would be on your list? Often our list would include car, house, food, money, clothes. Did you know there is a day coming when you won't need any of those things? That is why Jesus alone is the one thing needful.

I assume you remember the story of Mary and Martha. Luke 10 <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, <sup>42</sup>but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

That is why Scripture says Jesus is the one thing needful. But if you are asked to make a list of your necessities, would Jesus and His Word be on your list?

How does this relate to the church? Here are a number of thoughts:

At the end of the church year we need to be reminded that only one thing is needed.

At Thanksgiving we give thanks for food, clothes, and earthly gifts. Do we forget to give thanks for the one thing needful?

Christmas calls for a real celebration because God gives us the one thing needful.

Why do we give to missions? Why celebrate a Friend Day? Why reach out to the unchurched? We do it because they too need the one thing needful.

Why worship weekly? We do it because one thing is needful.

What is my most important responsibility as a parent? My greatest responsibility is to teach my children about the one thing needful.

Why does St. James have a Lutheran School? There is only one thing needed.

As you share your love for others this Christmas I hope that you will consider not only what they want but what they need. My hope is that as you consider your own wants and needs that you will recognize that your greatest needs are spiritual. And I hope that your Christmas celebration is joyous, cheerful and jubilant because you know that God in love has given you the one thing needful and has met your greatest need . . .

In Christ,  
Pastor Rempfer



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"TO SEE JESUS AND CAUSE HIM TO BE SEEN"

*Our Mission:*

**"To See Jesus and Cause Him to Be Seen"**  
*IN MY LIFE, IN MY HOME, IN OUR CHURCH,  
IN OUR SCHOOL, IN OUR COMMUNITY*

*Our Vision:*

**"A Visible Christ in our Lives and our World"**

*Our Values:*

**DEVOTION  
COMMUNITY  
LIFE!  
COMPASSION  
GENEROSITY**

## Advent Worship Meals

### December 4th

**11:30am** Volunteer Needed

**5:30pm** School Faculty  
Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Salad

### December 11th

**11:30am** Katie's Ladies  
Casserole and Salad

**5:30pm** Katie's Ladies  
Casserole and Salad

### December 18th

**11:30am** Beth Heinz,  
TBD

**5:30pm** TLC 2  
Chili & Chicken Noodle Soup,  
Sandwiches and Cookies

## SUNDAY WORSHIP IN ADVENT

We often pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." That is a fitting prayer for the Advent season. We often offer this prayer at mealtime, but it is also an appropriate prayer for when God feeds us spiritually. We have every reason to get excited when God comes to us. He does just that in Word and Sacrament.

Our three-part series, "Come, Lord Jesus" looks at not only God's desire to come to us, but, also all that the devil, the world and our flesh do to get in the way of His coming. This is a series that is focused on daily devotions because God comes to us in His Word. Please join us as we talk about God coming to us.



## ADVENT WORSHIP

One way to keep Christ at the center of this season is to make worship a priority. **Please note that this year our services will be at 12:10 and 6:30 p.m.** This is a change from the past when evening worship was at 7 p.m.

The theme for our midweek services will be: "Who Is Jesus?" Titles are: Week one, "Our Coming King," Week two, "A Sacrifice," Week three, "A Finisher."

Meals are being provided once again at 11:30 and 5:30. Please join us and strengthen our community and the Body of Christ in this place.

## THE DROP BOX VIDEO – UPCOMING BIBLE CLASS

This is a 77 minute video produced by Focus on the Family. One frigid winter, a pastor finds an abandoned infant on his church steps and builds a heated box to rescue others. This video tells the true story of South Korean pastor Lee Jong-rak and his heroic efforts to embrace and protect abandoned children. It is a story about the forgotten, the disabled, the discarded, and the man who gives everything to protect them.

This video will be shown in adult Bible class on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please note that if you want to see the whole thing you will need to come to class for both weeks. The stewardship committee believes it is worth seeing and will challenge you to consider how you can serve God and others. Please join us.



## ADVENT DEVOTIONS

We will have a devotion booklet available entitled, "A Savior Born for You" by Jane Fryar. We encourage you to pick up a copy in the entry.

In addition Lutheran Hour Ministry always offers Advent devotions. You can listen to them daily at lhm.org or print them out. This year their theme is, "Call His Name Jesus." Lutheran Hour Ministries writes the following: In *Call His Name Jesus*, Lutheran Hour Ministries' Advent devotions for 2019, we encounter an oft-told story in fresh, new ways. During the Christmas season, we focus our thoughts on that moment in time when God became one of us. This miracle of miracles—this most unlikely story—begins with the Christ Child—God in the flesh—Who was born poorly, humbly, vulnerably into this world of sin and darkness. "Christmas marks the point in human history where God's long-declared promise of redemption was fulfilled in the birth of Christ. This is the start of God's final act to save us," said Dr. Kari Vo, theological writer for LHM and the author of this year's devotions.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

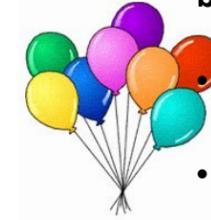
**Christmas Eve** - 5 p.m. & 7 p.m.

**Christmas Day** 10 a.m. Communion service

**New Year's Eve** – 6 p.m. Lutheran Church of St. John

## Happy birthday to these members of the 80 years and older club:

- Carol Reddick, 86 on December 24th
- Richard Cason, 81 on December 27th
- Beth Ertel, 86 on December 30



## Mission Tower

December Mission Tower gifts go to support Lutheran Child & Family Services of IL.

## Angel Tree

An Angel Tree will once again be in the Narthex for your support. Take an angel off and purchase that item for a child.

## Congratulations! These couples are celebrating 50 years or more of marriage:

- Charles and Vickie Stuedle, 51 years on December 10th
- Lewis & Joan Walbring, 55 years on December 11th
- Steve and Linda Peer, 52 years on December 27th



## Church Office Will Be Closed

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th thru Friday, December 27th for the Christmas holiday. We will be back to normal operations on Monday, December 30th.

## Church and School Financial Reports



### SCHOOL

	October, 2019		Year to Date	
	Actuals	Budget	Actuals	Budget
Income	\$63,662.91	\$65,728.00	\$218,067.14	\$195,282.00
Expenses	\$59,007.58	\$64,974.00	\$239,305.29	\$245,103.00
Difference Income or Loss	\$4,655.33	\$754.00	(\$21,238.15)	(\$49,821.00)

### CHURCH

	October, 2019		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actuals	Budget
Income	\$44,129.76	\$24,914.00	\$117,558.66	\$106,476.00
Expenses	\$25,163.25	\$30,250.00	\$92,087.10	\$104,012.00
Difference Income or Loss	\$18,966.51	(\$5,336.00)	\$25,471.56	\$2,464.00