

St. James Lutheran Church

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Serving in God’s House in January

Trustee:

January 7 – Brian Milleville
January 14 – Justin DeVantier
January 21 – Bruce Milleville
January 28- Brian DeVantier

Readers: January 7– Maureen Milleville

January 14 – Sue Milleville
January 21 – Danielle Nemi
January 28- Kristen Rafter

Organist: January 7 – Jennifer Parris

January 14 – Janet Galvano
January 21- Jennifer Parris
January 28 – Janet Galvano

Altar Care: Carolyn and Marshal Chapin

Communion Assist:

January 7 – Fred DeVantier
January 21- MaryAnn Kowalski

In Memory of Gregory Haseley, \$390 was given to Caring Friends

In Memory of Albert Wienke, \$225 was given to Capital Improvements

\$200 was given to Endowment Fund

\$45 was given to Caring Friends

Save the date for our annual fellowship meal. We are looking at Saturday February 3rd for a simply delicious meal and fun and fellowship!! Tickets go on sale January 8th. Details: 5:00 Appetizers, 6:00 Dinner, Adults- \$10.00, Child- 6-12 - \$5.00, 5 years and under-free

2024 Sign-up sheets are out! Please consider being a volunteer!

Church Closings will be posted on Facebook, channel 2 and 4

Cruising Into the New Year

Imagine this: You booked a Caribbean cruise months ago. Your swimsuits are packed as well as your best shorts and Hawaiian shirts. You've pre-tanned so you don't get burnt, as you plan to spend a lot of time in the sun. Then, the day before the cruise is to sail you are contacted by the cruise line. You are told, due to bad weather, instead of the Bahamas, you will be heading to Boston and then Canada.

"That could never happen," you say. Well, in fact it did. On Friday night, December 17th, hours before their cruise was scheduled to set sail to the Bahamas, MSC Cruises passengers said they received a disappointing email: Due to harsh weather conditions, their ship would no longer be heading to the Caribbean. Instead, they'd be heading north from New York City to Boston and then to Canada.

The passengers were offered the option to receive a voucher for a future cruise, but by this time many passengers would have made the trip to the departure port. For many, it wouldn't have been possible to reschedule their vacation time. What do you do? I'd like to say I would just go with the flow and think of it as a new adventure, but I'd be lying. I suspect I would be like many of you, angry and disappointed. I'd likely let it ruin my vacation.

As we begin a new year, we all come into the year with certain expectations. We seek to make this year better than the last. We'll get into shape, lose weight, maybe we seek to learn more, read more, or pick up a new skill. Maybe you're starting a new job or perhaps you are retiring. Whatever your plans are for the New Year, that proverbial harsh weather can change your plans. Instead of losing ten pounds, you gain five. You find you don't have the time you had hoped to read more or to pick up that new skill. That joy of retirement, well it just got derailed by the news you got from your doctor or your accountant.

We never know what is ahead of us, whether it's a new year or a new day. We can make our plans, but the storms of this world tend to get in the way. We can either complain about it, or we can go with the flow, trusting in the Lord knowing that he has a greater plan for us. Life in this world is but a blink of the eye compared to eternity. We can allow our "first world" problems, such as a rerouted cruise, to drive us to self pity and even sin, or we can look to what God is doing in our lives and find the joy in every situation.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Randy

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*