



St. James Lutheran Church

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HAPPY
Mother's Day



Last day of Sunday school is
Sunday May 22nd
And will resume on
September 11th



In Memory of Jeanette Sikkas, \$100 was given to caring friends and \$250 was given to the organ fund

In Memory of Wilbert and Lois Milleville, \$950 was given to the organ fund

In Honor of Dave and Jane Milleville's 40th Anniversary, \$195.21 was given to the organ fund

Serving in God's House in May

Trustee:

- May 1 – Brain DeVantier
- May 8 – Andrew North
- May 15 – Dave Antonelli
- May 22- Dave Milleville
- May 29- Chris Schimschack

Accompanist:

- May 1 – Janet Galvano
- May 8 – Jennifer Parris
- May 15 – Janet Galvano
- May 22- Lianda Waugaman
- May 29- Jennifer Parris

Readers:

- May 1– MaryAnn Kowalski
- May 8 – Maureen Milleville
- May 15 – Sue Milleville
- May 22 – Danielle Nemi
- May 29 – Youth

Communion Assist:

- May 1 – MaryAnn Kowalski
- May 15 – Maureen Milleville

Acolytes: Volunteer Needed

Altar Care: Joyce and Kristen Rafter

To my St James family: Well, it's that time again, time for me to saddle up, hop on my bike (and stay on it) and go for the 5th year of the Ride for Roswell. Since I began doing the Ride I have been blessed by the support and prayers of my St James family, friends and family and have raised over \$20,000. I continue to ride for our daughter Beth (Praise the Lord in remission), and our dear friend Lynn and my church brother Al W. I also ride in remembrance of those who have fought this terrible disease and are now at peace with our Lord. So once again your prayers and contributions are appreciated to continue the fight for a cure. To contribute online simply go to www.rideforroswell.org, donate and type in my name. PS: Going for 70 miles this year (more or less)!!!!

Blessings, Ted Washburn



A Lutheran View of Baptism

Lately we have had a good string of baptisms here at St. James. Since I have been here there have been fourteen baptisms in all, with more to come this spring. I thought this would be a good time to remember what, as Lutherans, we believe about baptism.

Lutherans believe that the Bible teaches that a person is saved by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone. The Bible tells us that such "faith comes by hearing" (Rom. 10:17). Jesus Himself commands Baptism and tells us that Baptism is water used together with the Word of God (Matt. 28:19-20). Along with God's written and spoken Word, we believe that Baptism is one of the miraculous means of grace, through which God creates and/or strengthens the gift of faith in a person's heart (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:1-4; Col. 2:11-12; 1 Cor. 12.13).

Terms the Bible uses to talk about the beginning of faith include "conversion" and "regeneration." Although we do not claim to understand fully how this happens, we believe that when an infant is baptized God creates faith in the heart of that infant. We believe this because the Bible says that infants can believe (Matt. 18:6) and that new birth (regeneration) happens in Baptism (John 3:5-7; Titus 3:5-6). The infant's faith cannot yet, of course, be verbally expressed or articulated by the child, yet it is real and present all the same (see e.g., Acts 2:38-39; Luke 1:15; 2 Tim. 3:15). The faith of the infant, like the faith of adults, also needs to be fed and nurtured by God's Word (Matt. 28:18-20), or it will die.

Lutherans do not believe that only those baptized as infants receive faith. Faith can also be created in a person's heart by the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's (written or spoken) Word. Baptism should then soon follow conversion (Acts 8:26-40) for the purpose of confirming and strengthening faith in accordance with God's command and promise. Depending on the situation, therefore, Lutherans baptize people of all ages from infancy to adulthood.

We do not believe that Baptism is ABSOLUTELY necessary for salvation. All true believers in the Old Testament era were saved without baptism. Mark 16:16 implies that it is not the absence of Baptism that condemns a person but the absence of faith, and there are clearly other ways of coming to faith by the power of the Holy Spirit (reading or hearing the Word of God). Still, Baptism dare not be despised or willfully neglected, since it is explicitly commanded by God and has His precious promises attached to it. It is not a mere "ritual" or "symbol," but a powerful means of grace by which God grants faith and the forgiveness of sins.

I am so grateful that I have been able to be a part of this time, here at St. James, as so many are welcomed into the Body of Christ. At the same time, I am concerned. As Lutherans, when a child is baptized, their parents and sponsors make vows on behalf of the child that they will be raised in the faith – to live among God's faithful people, to be brought to the Word of God, and the Holy Supper, to be taught the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, to be given the holy scriptures and nurtured in faith and in prayer. The church also promises to support the child in their new life in Christ. Too often these things do not happen. After the "big day" we fall into our regular routines that too often do not include prayer, the reading and teaching of God's Word, or even attending God's divine service. I hope and pray that we ALL hold to the promises we have made for all those who have been baptized.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Randy

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

(Galatians 3:27)

