

Good News Epistle 1

January 2024

**St James exists to be the
heart and hands of Christ in community**



St. James Episcopal contact information

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FROM

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
321 South Lakeside Drive
(on Lake Alice)

To:

The 2023 Annual meeting held on January 28, 2024

The Annual meeting was a huge Success. We had 11 members and 8 non members attend. Ron and Mark fixed a lovely Prime Rib, and the congregation furnished all the other dishes.



We enjoyed several salads,
Scalloped Potatoes
scalloped corn
and several sides of Beans

Also a lovely table of deserts!



FEBRUARY

Sundays in February 2024		Wear RED today to celebrate Heart Month	Lent 1	Lent 2
Date	2/4/2024	2/11/2024	2/18/2024	2/25/2024
TYPE SERVICE	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist
OFFICIANT	Mark Helland	Pastor David Strom	Pr David Strom	Rev. Tom Sinning
MUSICIAN	Deborah Embretson	Deborah Embret-	Deborah Embretson	Deborah Embretson
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	Mark Helland	Ramona Heitmann	Kristen Tuel	Mark Helland
LECTOR	Rev Amy & Don Mayo	Roger Harty	Steven Vergiels	Carole Mitchell
USHER	David Emery	Roger Harty David. Emery	Steven Vergiels David Emery	Carole Mitchell David Emery
ALTAR	Judy Clark	Judy Clark	Judy Clark	Judy Clark
HOSTESS		Judy Clark		
FLOWERS	Judy Clark in memory of Edna DeWerff	Jan Gladson in memory of husband Don Sr. and son Don Jr.	No Flowers during Lent	No Flowers during Lent



Light Supper
& Study
5:30PM

Wednesday *Lenten Services*

Evening
Prayer
6:30 PM

February 2024	Ash Wednesday	1 Lent Wednesday	2 Lent Wed.
Date	2/14/2420	2/21/2024	2/28/24
TYPE SERVICE	HE& imposition of ashes	Evening Prayer	Evening Prayer
OFFICIANT	Pr. David Strom	Kristin Tuel	Mark Helland
MUSICIAN	Deborah Embretson	Deborah Embretson	Deborah Embretson
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	Ramona Heitman		



**February
2024**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me: he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. Isaiah 61:1-3

Jesus quoted from Isaiah 61 when He read from the scrolls at His hometown synagogue near the beginning of His ministry. It probably would have gone ok for Him had he not added the comment, "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." But He did, and it was the right thing to do. Right from the outset, there would be those who believed in Jesus and His words, and those who would take great offense due to what He said, including many of His friends and neighbors in Nazareth.

Now, by quoting from Isaiah 61, I am not suggesting that in any way shape or form, am I somehow a secondary fulfillment of this passage. However, in a way, all of us are. God calls us to bring good news to those who are oppressed in spirit and by the powers that be. We are also called to make appropriate connections with those who have run afoul of the Law. We are called to proclaim, to comfort and to provide for others not in our own strength, but in the love of God as it works into our being and overflows through our speech and our actions.

Lent, which is just a few short weeks away, leads us to the culmination of the year of the Lord's favor, the Cross and the Empty Tomb. During Lent, we proclaim, we minister to the needy, we take care of our families, and we know by the grace and wisdom of God when it is time to REST. We should always be wary of neglecting self care. Working all the time, or being busy all the time is not healthy. Resting is part of proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor. Doing what we are able to do to take care of ourselves and minister to others is a privilege and God knows that we need what He can provide, so that we might live into His fullness.

As you and I begin the journey through the 40 days of Lent, I would like to suggest that you will need encouragement; you will need to know that you are loved; you will need to experience the sharing of God's love with others, all within the context of who Jesus is and what He has done for us, providing a means by which we might have a close relationship with the God of the universe, through His Son, Jesus.

We are living within the general concept of the "year of the Lord's favor", which is not limited to 12 months, but is an era of God's love and work being made obvious in the world in which we live, for God loves you with an unlimited resource of love. God's love is our beginning and it is also our end. God also promises that we will become "oaks of righteousness" reflecting the glory of God. What a privilege indeed!

May God bless you all. Thank you for the opportunity to be your pastor.

Pastor Dave



Happy February. Wishing you a lover-ly Valentine's Day. This is also the month for the American Heart Association to celebrate your heart and Women's Heart Health Month as well as Black History Month.

Thank you to all who donated to our last change jar for Pillars. Pillars is an organization that helps those Afghanistan refugees that helped our soldier's during the Afghanistan war to settle into our country providing housing and necessities needed. Our new change jars are dedicated to raising funds for our local food shelf. This will be a shortened period because March is their fundraising month and they receive matching funds for all that they received. So, grab a jar, fill it, and return by March 15 th .

Ten women and young ladies came to the Women's Winter Luncheon. Surprising as the weather really didn't want to cooperate with windchills in the 40 degrees below. Just goes to show that St. James women are hardy and fearless. We had good food, great fellowship and a little fun thrown in for good measure. Thank you, Toast Restaurant, for good the great food.

I missed the January newsletter so I want to give a big shout out and thank you to all who supported our Giving Tree outreach. Your generosity gave \$715 to purchase gifts for the Salvation Army Toy Shop. Our St. James family is amazing. Thanks again. Also in the holiday spirit, nine poinsettias were sent to shut-ins to wish them a Merry Christmas from St. James.

Wear red to church on Sunday February 11th to celebrate your heart.

Check out the Episcopal Church website to see what Episcopalians are doing to celebrate Black History Month.

Happy Valentine's Day.
Judy Clark



21st Annual
 **someplace safe**
 SAFETY. OPTIONS. HOPE.

 **Tea Fundraiser**

Saturday, February 17th
M-State, Legacy Hall, Fergus Falls

10:30 am

Doors Open for Silent Auction Bidding

11:30 am

Program, Luncheon, Tea

Featuring:

Performance by Fergus Falls School of Dance and Entertainment

Tickets:

Adults \$30 / Children 12 and under \$15

Tickets may be purchased at 106 South Union Avenue, Fergus Falls or by calling 218.739.2853. Space is limited.



Check out
Tea Fundraiser updates at:
www.facebook.com/someplacesafefergusfalls

Violet will host 1 Table for St James
For the Someplace Safe Tea on Feb. 17th
 The Table Theme this year is :
"A Garden Tea Party"

 I am asking all at this table to come dressed in garden attire (Sundresses are OK). Garden Hats will be provided to all.
I have 5 seats available.

Living without God

Remember February 11 is

Sunday
 Lets see you in Church before the Game!


 Is like Dribbling a Football

George's Corner  