

April Newsletter 2024

St. James: WE GROW. WE GO. WE GATHER.

From Pastor Schaeffer:

Friends in Christ: some people say we waste our time coming to worship and studying the Bible. Bill Gates, for example, said, *"Just in terms of allocation of time resource, religion is not very efficient. There's a lot more I could do on a Sunday morning."* (CPR, Vol. 10, Part 4, p. 26)

We who have walked with our living Lord and who have had our minds and eyes opened by the Spirit of the Lord know better, don't we? We know there are few better



ways to spend our time than sitting at our Savior's feet and listening to His teachings ... to be nurtured in our faith ... instructed in the ways of the Lord. As Paul says to Timothy, *"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching,*

rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:14-16) Martin Luther said, *"Among all the gifts the gift of the Word of God is the most valuable. For if you take this away, it is like taking the sun away from the earth."*

It is my prayer that you will do what Jesus' disciples always do: that you will not only study God's Word but that you will share His Word with others! The women told of Jesus' resurrection. Peter and John reported to the disciples that the tomb was empty. The two Emmaus disciples recounted their encounter with the living Lord. The disciples described to Thomas Jesus' sudden appearing. The disciples announced the resurrection of Jesus in various tongues on Pentecost. Philip explained to the Ethiopian eunuch how Jesus fulfilled Isaiah 53. Stephen preached to the angry crowd. Peter narrated the gospel to Cornelius and his family. Paul defended the faith before Stoic and Epicurean philosophers. ... The history of the mission of the Christian church is one of Jesus' disciples making other disciples who make other disciples. There is an old German proverb that says, *"That which fills the heart overflows from the lips."*

To whom is Jesus sending you so that you might be His witness? A family member? A friend at school? A co-worker? A golfing buddy? You may think, “Jesus surely can’t use me.” Oh yes, He can! You are instrumental to His plan. He places you in people’s lives and opens your mouth to speak His powerful, life-creating Word!

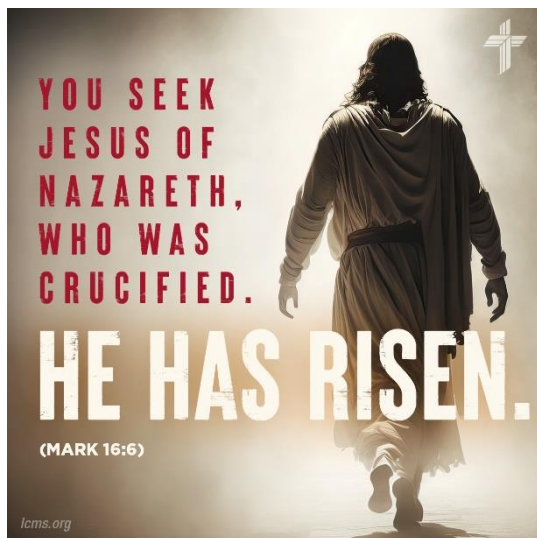


There will be people who think the gospel is foolish ... silly ... unsophisticated ... beneath them. But oh, the places you can take them ... to the stable in Bethlehem ... to the stilling of the stormy seas ... to the Feeding of 5000 ... to the Mount of Transfiguration ... to the Upper Room ... to the Garden of Gethsemane ... to Golgatha ... to the empty tomb ... to the Mount of Olives. Oh, what a journey you can take them on and as you do so, the Lord who gives life to the dead will open eyes and minds too!

He is risen! Alleluia!

Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
1 Timothy 6:12

Easter and Its Season



Easter is a victory celebration, a time for all Christians to proclaim boldly their faith in a risen and victorious Savior. For the early Christians, Easter was not merely one day, it was, and is, a whole season that that also includes the celebration of Jesus’ ascension. The fifty days between Easter and Pentecost, known as the Great Fifty Days, was the first liturgical season observed in the first three centuries of the Church. This fifty-day celebration is a week of weeks, renewed in the last decades by emphasizing the Sundays as being “of Easter.” The season’s length is fitting because we are dedicating one seventh of the year to the Lord’s resurrection.

Easter is the richest and most lavishly celebrated festival of the Church Year. Congregations may hold a sunrise service, commemorating the surprise of the women

visiting the empty tomb of Christ, as well as services that celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Forty days after Easter (Acts 1:3) the Church celebrates the Ascension of Our Lord, who ascended into heaven not only as God but also as man. The final Sunday of the Easter season, celebrated as Pentecost, was adopted by Christians to commemorate the first great harvest of believers for Christ (Acts 2:1-41) Thus, Pentecost is often referred to as the “birthday” of the Christian church, as the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and they gave their compelling witness about the resurrected Lord. Pentecost is a day of joy in the gifts of the Spirit as He still reaches into our lives, just as He did to the crowds on the first Pentecost: through the preaching of God’s Word and Holy Baptism.

ALL MEN ARE INVITED

to the

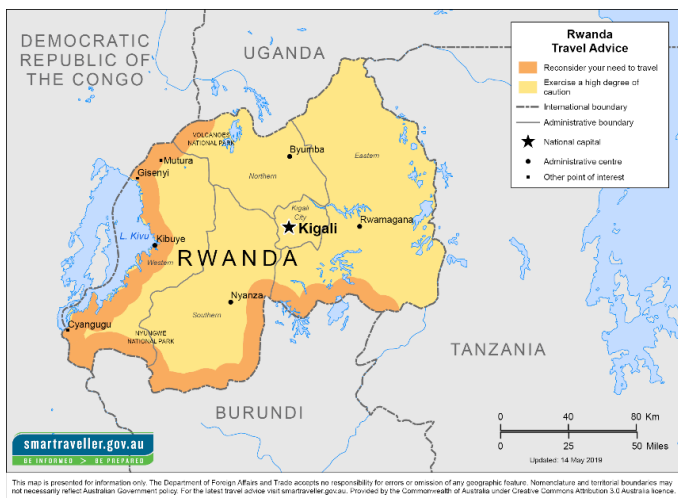
Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study

Saturday, April 6th (NOTE THE CHANGE of DATE!!!)

From 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

RSVP to Pastor Schaeffer at glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com by noon on Friday, April 5th.

Rwanda Mission Trip 2024



Pastor Schaeffer will be heading to Rwanda on Sunday afternoon, April 21 and will return late in the evening on May 6. His mission trip to Rwanda will include:

- Leading a three-day seminar on the Lord’s Prayer with 80-100 pastors.
- Leading a one-day seminar on tithing with the leaders of Beth Ammi Christian Fellowship Church.
- Traveling to various towns and cities in Rwanda to preach at worship

services. He hopes to visit Pastor Eldaphonce and meet the unwed mothers who St. James has been supporting.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will use Pastor Schaeffer to help the leaders be equipped for service and pray for his safe travels.

If you would like to make donation to offset the cost of the mission trip, please seal your money in an envelope with the note that it is for the Mission Trip fund or write a check to: St. James Lutheran Church and in the memo line note that the money is for the Mission Fund.

Faith, Family, and Our Future



Reserve Saturday, April 20th on Your Calendar!!!! The Grand Rapids LCMS churches are hosting a daylong convocation. The theme is: *"Faith, Family, and Our Future."* The convocation will be a time for us to gather for Christian worship, education, and fellowship! It will start at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 3:30 p.m. If you can't come for the whole day, come for part of the day!

The Convocation will be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (5125 Cascade Rd SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546).

Due to a generous Michigan District CEF grant, the registration and a catered lunch is FREE. Childcare will also be available for children ages 3-12.

The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Gary Zieroth (Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne). His topic is, *"Spiritual Warfare and Mental Illness."* There will also be a variety of breakout sessions that address matters that are of interest to single people, couples, and parents.

For more information about the Grand Rapids Circuit convocation (e.g. schedule, breakout sessions, etc.) and to register online for the Convocation, please visit or click on the link: <https://bit.ly/faithfamilyfutureconvocation>. Mail in paper registration forms are available on the table in the lobby.

Please register by **Wednesday, April 10th** so that the caterer knows how much food to prepare.

St. James' LWML Notes

*"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said, Come and see the place where He lay."
(Matthew 8:6)*

St. James LWML will be hosting their April meeting on Sunday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m. Grace Rosema will be leading us in Bible study and refreshments will be provided by Irene Talen. We hope you will join us!



Having A Heart for Africa - Calling all those who love to bake! The LWML would once again like to have a bake table at this Spring's Second-Best Sale. If you would like to help raise funds for Rwandan mothers and babies, by baking, you can donate wrapped baked items. The dates for the sale are May 2-4, 2024.

The LWML Grand Rapids Zone Spring Rally, "Look and See" will take place on May 4th, 2024 at St. Mark



Lutheran Church in Kentwood. Registration and breakfast begin at 8:45 am and the rally runs until Noon. Registration fee - \$10.00. Presenter - Danielle Bult Executive Director of "Love INC". Danielle will speak to us on poverty, homelessness, people in need in our area and how we can help. **Ingathering:** Personal Care Items to be given to The Image - deodorant toothpaste, toothbrushes feminine care products, diapers, shampoo.

Registration is now open for the 2023 LWML MI District Convention:
"Taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 34:8

The LWML MI District convention will be held June 28-30, 2024, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. Carol Bifulco will be representing the Grand Rapids Zone, and Grace Rosema and Sandra Schaeffer will be representing St. James LWML as voting delegates. All women of St. James are invited and encouraged to attend.

- **Goal:** Experience God's goodness and grace as we grow spiritually being nourished by His Word.
- **Objectives:** Abiding in the safety of His refuge, attendees will be:
 - Equipped to know that the steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord is to all generations.
 - Equipped to model to others that taking refuge in Christ satisfies more than any food or drink.

- Equipped to make relying on the Lord a habit.
- Equipped with confidence to share the Good News so others may taste and see the Lord is good.

Registration is now available. Early Bird Pricing, March 4th – April 15th: \$125.00 Regular Pricing, April 16th- May 25: \$130.00 Late Registration, May 26- June 28, \$150.00. If you would like more information, please contact Sandra, Grace, or Carol.



Gifts from the Heart:

- Walmart gift cards for our seminarians and their families (mark the amount on the gift cards).
- Supplies for our local Lutheran Schools – markers, pencils, crayons dry erase markers, glue sticks, and disinfecting wipes.

Starting April 8th, Monday evening services will become Monday AFTERNOON services.



The Monday evening service will now be at 4:15 p.m. starting April 8 (on a trial basis). One of the primary reasons for this change is to avoid nighttime driving.

If you haven't attended a Monday service, they are like Sunday's service, although there are some notable differences:

- Holy Communion is served at every service (unless Pastor Schaeffer is away).
- The services are shorter in length of time, with Pastor preaching the same sermon he preached on Sunday.
- Hymns are sung acapella.
- The worshippers are fewer in number.
- We sit at the front of the sanctuary!

If you typically attend the worship service on Sunday, but miss it for some reason, please come out Monday afternoon!

Being Physically Active Can Make Up for Sitting

We've all heard about the health consequences of sitting for periods of time such as:

- Weakening your leg and gluteal muscles.
- Causing your hip flexor muscles to shorten, leading to hip problems.
- Increasing your risk of developing type 2 diabetes.
- Escalating your risk of suffering a heart attack and stroke.

The good news is that a little exercise can offset the damages of prolonged sitting. A study published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* showed that just 20-25 minutes a day of physical activity helped to offset a sedentary lifestyle.



The study involved 12,000 people (aged 50+ years) who wore movement detection sensors for at least two years. The researchers found that those who sat for more than 12 hours a day had a 38% higher risk for an early death than those who sat for eight hours – but only if they also had less than the recommended 20-25 minutes a day of exercise. The more active a participant was, the more the risk declined.

The study was observational, so the data could not show cause and effect, but researchers concluded that even small amounts of physical activity may be an effective strategy to lessen the mortality risk due to being sedentary. (Source: *U.S. News, and Medical News Today, Reported in "Better Health" – A Publication of Concordia Plans, Spring 2024.*)



Dorcas Meeting On Thursday, April 11th Dorcas will be meeting at 1:00 pm in the gathering room. We will be decorating lunch bags for the kid's food basket. They supply lunches for children who are food-challenged. Please join us for fun and fellowship.



WALK FOR LIFE

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12 NIV

Unite, Walk, Pray
Saturday, June 15, 2024



I am writing to extend a heartfelt invitation to Saint James Lutheran to join us in an inspiring event that aims to unite our community in a powerful display of support for life – the Walk for Life, taking place on Saturday, June 15.

Walk for Life is an opportunity for us to come together as the body of Christ and make a tangible impact. **This event brings together individuals and churches from across Grand Rapids to walk, pray, and stand for life.** This year, our walk will feature three prayer stops at significant locations:

1. **Life International:** A moment to pray for the protection of unborn life and the families who seek support and guidance.
2. **Fountain Street Church:** A time for prayer for our state leaders and unity among believers as we advocate for life with love and compassion.
3. **Planned Parenthood:** A powerful moment to intercede for those affected by abortion, offering hope and healing during difficult circumstances.

Together, as we walk and pray at these locations, we are not only raising funds for PRC Grand Rapids but also shining a light on the importance of choosing life and supporting those who are vulnerable in our society. **We believe that by standing together and lifting our voices in prayer, we can *change the future, one life at a time.***

Here are the details of the Walk for Life:

Date: June 15, 2024

Locations: **PRC Grand Rapids**
415 Cherry St, Grand Rapids, MI



“Knit/Crocheted Together in Love”

sponsored by LWML

Where:

St. James Lutheran Church Classroom
Located on the first floor



When:

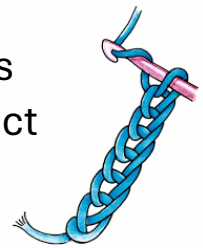
After Church on **Sunday, April 21, 2024**

11:45 am to 2:00 pm

Who:

Anyone, male or female, ages 13 and up interested in:

- learning the basics of knitting/crocheting
 - advancing knitting/crocheting skills
- sharing knitting/crocheting skills and patterns
- visiting with others while working on own project
 - fun and Christian fellowship



What to bring:

- **Your own snack/lunch or something to share**
- **Knitting needles or Crochet hook if you have them/one.** If not, no problem, we will have some for you to borrow.
- **Yarn, if you have some.** If not, we will have some for you.
 - **Enthusiasm** to learn

How to Sign-up:

No need to sign-up. Just come.

