



St. James Lutheran Church

God's work. Our hands.

HONORING OUR FAMILY

At St. James, we are a family of all ages and varied backgrounds with a wide array of interests. Many folks have been members a long time, and some even several times. We live in a large area – many of us live 15-20 minutes or more away from the church building. Our youth attend five different high schools. Even though we might be part of other communities, we are a part of St. James family because of our shared identity through Christ.

Our older adults - our Seniors - are valuable and precious to our congregation. Sharing their life experiences and their wisdom of God's presence in their lives, they offer us a faith-filled hope for the future that inspires us all. Keeping in touch with our Seniors through visits, worship videos, home communion ministry, and fellowship groups such as Prime Timers assures them they are still valued and honored. Personal attention given them by our Pastor is also crucial to their spiritual health.

We want all our adults – young and old – to be a part of the fellowship of St. James. Groups such as Lutheran Men in Mission, Theology on Tap, Women of The Vine, our celebration of high school graduates, WELCA circles, Cards-R-Us, weekly Coffee and Connectivity time after worship,

college student support, and Martinlutherville (Reformation celebration) are some of the ways we engage one another and build personal bonds.

In 2017, a few of our goals are to welcome Bishop Tim Smith in January with a catered meal, celebrate new life with a Spring-Fling Festival, create a fellowship dinner plan for all congregational families, increase the effectiveness of our outdoor signage, and a develop a “welcome” kiosk for the gathering space.

Investing in the Ministry of Fellowship, as well as Evangelism and ministries for our Men, Women, and Seniors, will continue to build family-like relationships at St. James. All of these ministries are included in our God's Gifts 2017 Stewardship Appeal. We want St. James to be an enthusiastic and fun place to build faithful relationships! Our goal for God's Gifts 2017 is to increase offerings by \$43,000, some of which will be for these ministries.

Pray for a generous response to this appeal. Pray about your own response. Consider increasing your giving as the Lord leads you. Be ready to make your commitment known on God's Gifts 2017 Commitment Sunday, November 13.

GOD'S GIFTS 2017

Our gifts and offerings, joined together and blessed with God's Spirit, accomplish ministry in many and varied ways.

This bar graph displays a breakdown of our giving at various levels. One bar shows how many gifts are currently being given at the indicated weekly amounts. The other bar shows how many gifts are needed in each level to reach our 2017 goal.

Look over the charts. Ask yourself these questions:

- "How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?"
- "How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I have received?"
- "Where would I be if I doubled my offering? And can I consider doing that?"
- "How much more could I give if I really wanted to?"

St. James Lutheran Church Giving

