June/July 2026

Volume 25
Issue 6

175 Years & Beyond

The Voice of St. James

Thoughts from our Pastor

WORSHIP
Sundays
10 am
Live & via Zoom
&
Wednesday
7pm

Share the welcome.

Invite a friend.

Use below to connect to Zoom Link

I attended a workshop on Confronting Christian Nationalism. Below is some of the information that was shared to give a basic understanding. We hope to have further discussion in the future to help guide us.

"**Patriotism** encompasses devotion to the country as a whole – including all the people who live within it. It motivates efforts to improve the country" as opposed to

Nationalism which "refers to devotion to only one group of people over all others and is expressed primarily defensively."

Charles de Gaulle led France during WWII and the turbulent

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

times around that. He stated "**Patriotism** is when love of your own people comes first;" and "**Nationalism**, when hate for people other than your own comes first." "By defining patriotism as love rooted in unity and care for one's own people, and nationalism as a form of identity built on exclusion and hostility toward others, de Gaulle warns against the dangers of chauvinism disguised as loyalty. His emphasis is clear: true patriotism uplifts, while nationalism divides and corrupts."

So what is Christian Nationalism?

"Definition: A political ideology and cultural framework that seeks to merge "American" and "Christians" identities.

•Premise: "Real" Americans are Christians, and true Christians hold a particular set of beliefs enmeshed with American Exceptionalism.

- Historical, Social & Theological Problems: Re-writes history, threatens democracy, destroys "freedom for all", and distorts Christianity by shifting a gospel of love into a gospel of power.
- •Linked to: Racism, Misogyny, Nativism,

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Authoritarianism, Queerphobias, and Militarism."

The Difference between Christian Nationalism and Lutheran Theology:

Christian Nationalism is Power-oriented seeks "to retain or gain power in the public sphere—whether political, social, or religious—by promoting an image of what is "truly" American and promising God's blessing if Christianity is instituted."

Lutheran Theology believes "God is revealed among those who Suffer (in contrast to the Theology of Glory). Luther taught that God does not bless believers with a good life of prosperity, rather faithful believers will experience hardship."

The table on page 4 is by Hope Turner and gives a good summary of the contrast between **Christian Nationalism vs. The Way of Jesus**

As you consider this, think of what Jesus is calling you to do in the midst of this. As faithful people we are called to be more like Christ, and to follow his command of Loving God and then one another as Christ has loved us. It calls us into serving one another.

Christian Nationalism	Jesus's Teaching
Seeks political power to enforce Christian values	"My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36)
Views America as a chosen nation like Israel	"Make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)
Prioritizes national interests and borders	Crossed boundaries to reach Samaritans, Gentiles, outcasts
Uses force and legislation to advance the kingdom	Advanced the kingdom through sacrificial love and service
Treats political opponents as enemies	"Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44)
Emphasizes protecting "our way of life"	"Whoever wants to save their life will lose it" (Matthew 16:25)
Values power, influence, and control	Washed His disciples' feet, chose the cross over a crown
Fears demographic and cultural change	Welcomed the marginalized and celebrated diversity in God's kingdom

WORDS THAT HONOR DAD!

Create this artwork to show your love and appreciation for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.

What you need:

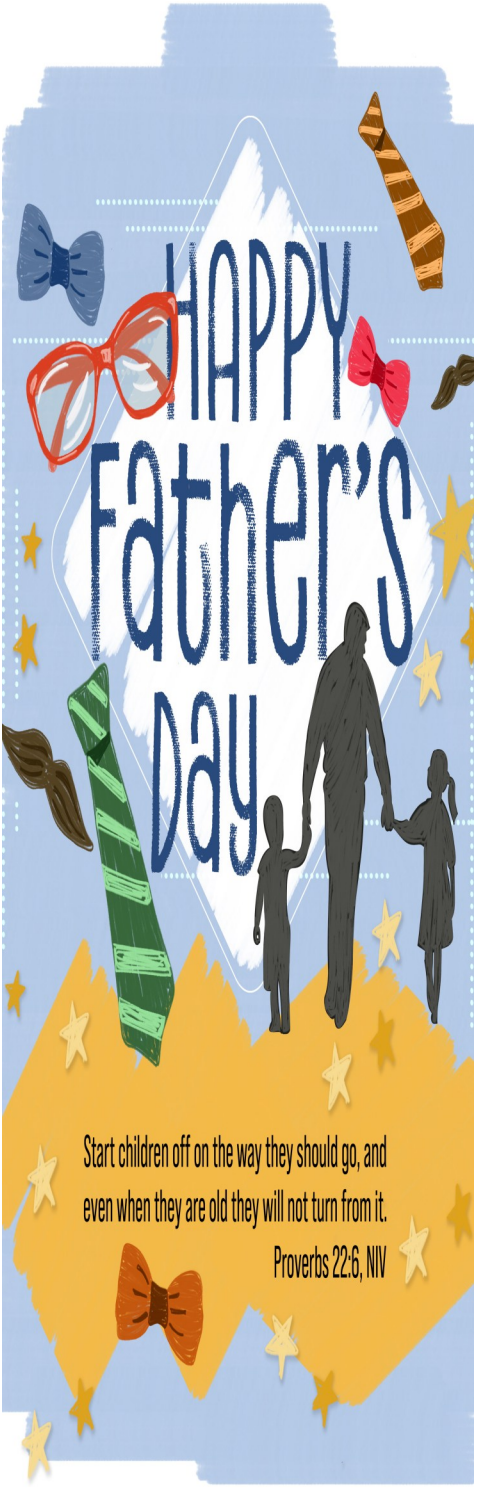
- A white painting canvas, foam-core board or poster board
- Letter stickers or letter stamps

What you do:

1. Using the letters, spell out words that describe your dad's character (loving, honest, godly, etc.) and/or his roles (protector, provider, mentor, etc.).
2. Arrange the words in a crossword-style design, placing them both horizontally and vertically.
3. Once you're happy with the layout, stick the words onto the canvas or board.
4. Decorate the canvas as you like, then present it as a meaningful reminder of your love and appreciation for who he is.

3rd - Sue Valenti
4th - Bette Jackson
5th - Winnie Ziegler
14th - Jade Houck
22nd - Libby Morgan
28th - Bryan Stites

4th - Claire Moschik
8th - Zachary Morgan
11th - Quinn Cowan
12th - Lee Phillips
13th - Mario Triboletti
15th - Luther Houck
17th - Debbie Caglianone
21st - Michael Hozik
22nd - Judy Dunleavy
26th - Thomas Librizzi
28th - Joe Costa



June/July Worship Volunteers

JUNE

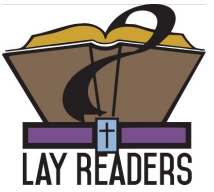
7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th

Rose Jones & Betty Pollock

JULY

5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th

Rose Jones & Betty Pollock



JUNE

7th - Dolores Fiori

14th - Ed Volpa

21st - Fred Tichy

28th - Mario Triboletti

JULY

5th - Sally Costa

12th - Judy May

19th - Jim Valenti

26th - Dolores Fiori

JUNE

7th - Volunteers Needed

14th - Volunteers Needed

21st - Volunteers Needed

28th - Volunteers Needed

JULY

5th - Volunteers Needed

12th - Volunteers Needed

29th - Volunteers Needed

26th - Volunteers Needed

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7pm Evening Devotions	4	5	6
7 10am Worship	8	9	10 1pm God's Stitchers 7pm Evening Devotions	11	12	13 5:30pm Dine Out Night at LB1
14 10am Worship with Michael Hozik	15 7pm Council	16 6:30pm Outreach	17 7pm Evening Devotions	18	19	20 11am-3pm Pride in the Park
21 10am Worship	22	23	24 1pm God's Stitchers 7pm Evening Devotions	25	26	27 6 pm Family & Friends Fun Night
28 10am Worship Blueberry Order Pick Up	29	30				

AA Groups
Tue - 7pm
Wed - 7pm
(Women only)
Fri - 8 pm
Sat - 6:30pm
Sun - 7:30pm

JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AA Groups **Tue - 7pm** **Wed - 7pm** **(Women only)** **Fri - 8 pm** **Sat - 6:30pm**			*1* 7pm Evening Devotions	*2*	*3*	*4*
5 10am Worship	*6*	*7*	*8* 1pm God's Stitchers 7pm Evening Devotions	*9*	*10*	*11* *5:30 Dine Out @ TBD*
12 10am Worship with Bryan Stites	*13*	*14*	*15* 7pm Evening Devotions	*16*	*17*	*18*
19 pulpit exchange 10am Worship with Pastor Rachel Sutphin	*20* 7pm Council	*21* 6:30pm Outreach	*22* 1pm God's Stitchers 7pm Evening Devotions	*23*	*24*	*25*
26	*27*	*28*	*29* 7pm Evening Devotions	*30*		

May Meeting Highlights

Your Church Council met on May 20th to review ministry updates, finances, and ongoing projects around our campus.

Members requested clearer financial breakdowns and hope to have the Treasurer join a future meeting for deeper discussion.

Pastor Pam shared updates on pastoral care, worship planning, and community events. Council approved moving forward with sound system upgrades using Memorial Funds, and conversations continue about improving our digital presence and exploring digital giving options.

Property repairs at St. Jacobus and the parsonage are complete, with basement cleanup planned for May 31 and stucco/painting finishing soon. Quotes for landscaping and a small fence to enclose are under review.

Ongoing outreach includes the diaper drive, toiletries for migrant workers, and preparations for the June blueberry sale. Upcoming events: Dine Out (6/13), Pride in the Park (6/20).

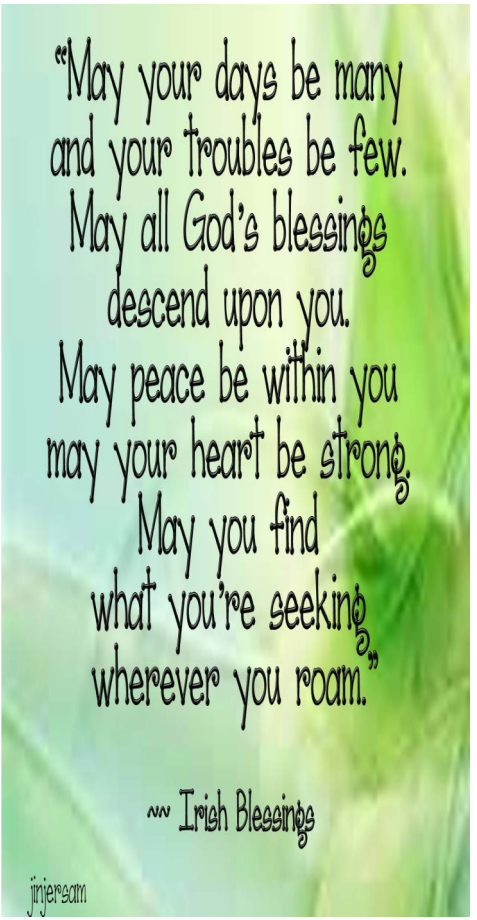
Next meeting: June 15th.

pulpit exchange

Sunday, July 19th, we are delighted to share that Pastor Pam Werner will be participating in a pulpit exchange with Pastor Rachel Sutphin from the Presbyterian Church of Hammonton.

A *pulpit exchange* is a long-standing tradition where two pastors swap congregations for a Sunday, offering each community the gift of a fresh voice, shared ministry, and a deeper sense of connection with our neighbors.

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Rachel to St. James, and to supporting Pastor Pam as she shares the Gospel message with our neighbors at the Presbyterian Church.



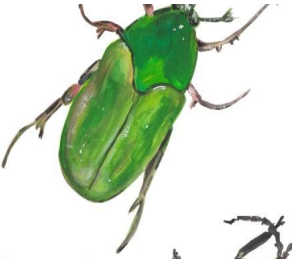
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday School classes have ended for the season and will resume in September. The exact dates will be shared as they become available. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy a wonderful summer break!

We are pleased to again collaborate with the Presbyterian Church of Hammonton to offer Vacation Bible School. Please refer to the flyer on the next page for details. You may register in advance or sign up at the door on the first day of the program.

Our Annual Blueberry Sale is almost here!

Keep an eye out, ordering will begin soon. Proceeds from this year's sale will help offset the cost of our 2027 *Pulling for Vets* dinner and continue our support of the Disabled American Veterans. Your participation makes a real impact, and we're grateful for every purchase.



Vacation Bible School

August 9-13

6:00-8:30pm

All ages welcome
(*middle and high students will be teacher aides and can receive volunteer hours*)

Presbyterian Church at Hammonton
326 Bellevue Ave

For questions call (609) 561-0168

Register online in advance or in-person

GAME NIGHT
JUNE 27
6:00 PM
BRING SNACKS TO SHARE.
INVITE FRIENDS.

There are blessings in every day. find them. create them. treasure them.
DAILY INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES
FACEBOOK.COM/D.I.QUOTES

Pride in the Park

June 20th, 11am - 3pm

St. James will be a part of Atlantic County's Pride in the Park

You can volunteer to greet people who may visit our table and to hand out goodies. If you are interested in helping, please sign up in the narthex.

There will be various vendors as well as Food Trucks at the event.

Event is sponsored By:
Atlantic County Council of Education Associates and the Atlantic County Queer Association.
Located at: Lincoln Memorial Park 5125 Harding Highway, Mays Landing

Looking ahead...

School Supply Collection - *July*
Markers and colored pencils for students in need.

Hammonton Group Home - *August*
Surprise them with Luigi Water Ice Cups

Community Picnic - *September*
Cookout, ice cream, games and more with our local community.

Folsom School Trunk or Treat - *October*
Wizard of Oz/Wicked Theme

Our Altar Flower Memorial Program offers a meaningful way to honor loved ones while helping provide the flowers that brighten our altar each week.

If you'd like to donate altar flowers, please review the available dates below and place the completed form in the offering plate.

On Sundays when both vases are open, you may choose to sponsor one or both.

The following dates are still available:

Both Vases ($40):
June 14, August 23,
October 11, November 29

One Vase ($20): August 16

ALTAR FLOWER SIGNUP

Please note the available Sunday you would like to donate altar flowers.

Please see the list of available dates on the next page.

DATE: Sunday, _____

The Altar flowers should be dedicated as follows:

In Memory/Honor/Celebration/Thanksgiving of:

_____

_____

By_____

PLEASE CIRCLE BELOW IF YOU ARE DONATING ONE VASE AT $20 OR TWO VASES FOR $40.

The cost of the flowers is $20/vase, or $40 for both.

You will be billed at the time of your scheduled donation.

Please remit your check payable to: *St. James Lutheran Church, 1341 Mays Landing Road, Folsom, NJ 08037.*

Would you like to continue your donation for 2027?

___YES ___NO

If you checked yes, we will automatically add you to our schedule for 2027.

Please Pray for:

Dolores Fiori, Laura Librizzi, Claire Gilmore, Diane Eby, Winnie Ziegler, Hannah Bonchi, Margaret Rea, Rita Ricca, Mario Triboletti, Gillian Lee Phillips, Betty Haines, Dorcas Schellhas, Bette Jackson, Maggie Rider, Marlene Triggian, Ed Shine, Bob & Ellie Frietag, Christina Spahn, George Cappucio, Dan P., Tom Dixon, Arlene Calletta, Mike Fountas, Nick Pobletti, Bill Link, Sophie Stites, Arlene Deptula, Thomas Rose, Linda Slater, Chip Stewart, Octavia Marie, Lisa 'Ambrosia, Chenza Cerrato, Charlie Patton, Ed Marinelli, RoseAnn Lucca, Mia Arrison, Carol Ann Conner, Will Longtin, Patricia Dudley, Peggy Bucceri, Rita Sarro, Robert DelRoss, John Thame, Gaelen Houck, Rosie Ranier, Paul Morris, Corenne Hickey, Walter Meinke, Tennile Limbaugh, Chick Kisby, Carol Kaplan, Alex McKee, Sharon Rossiter, Justin Stewart, Sean Bennett, Yuri Zaitsev, Joseph Brigandi Jr., Keith Anderson, Kim Canama.

and For the NJ SYNOD, Bishop Compton and staff, and ELCA Bishop Curry, and its ministries.

LB One

6605 Black Horse Pike,
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

www.lbonesteakhouseeht.com

facebook.com/p/LB-ONE-100063539111425/

June 13th

We will dine at 5:30 pm

Carpool from Church at 4:45 pm

Name:_____

Number of Guests:_____

Phone Number/Email:_____

_____

Please RSVP no later than June 7th!

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor Pamela Werner — C 609-335-3083
Laffinggal@comcast.net — O 609-561-4488
Office Administrator - Amanda Dilks — C 609-204-5516
O 609-561-4488
stjameslutheran@folsom.comcastbiz.net

Office Hours - Wednesdays & Thursdays
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
All other times by appointment

CHURCH COUNCIL

Jayne Carmen - President
Colleen Kase - Secretary
Bryan Stites
Judy May - Vice Pres.
Patti Zellers
Mario Triboletti

Worship - Sundays 10 am
Live and Via Zoom
Link on www.stjamesfolsom.org

Our Mission

Welcoming all people to abide in Christ,
to experience God's love, and
to do God's work in the world around us.

St. James Lutheran Church
1341 Mays Landing Rd.
Folsom, NJ 08037

Visit our Website at www.stjamesfolsom.org