

This Sunday, June 4, is Trinity Sunday. We celebrate and reflect upon God's triune nature on this feast day. We believe God is three-in-one, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator, Christ, and Spirit. Three distinct parts, all of which comprise one united God. We see this witnessed in the Scriptures, as Jesus speaks of his Father in heaven and promises the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to the disciples upon his departure from his earthly ministry.

One of the things that strikes me most vividly about the theology of the Trinity is that it affirms God's distinct natures, all in unity with one another. All dance together in mutual love, each submitting to the authority of the other, yielding and leading and moving as one. Christ needs the Spirit. The Spirit honors the Creator. The Creator blesses and sends Christ. And what is most profound as we consider this is how God invites us, humanity, into participation in this divine dance. God looks upon us and says, "Come, welcome, join the dance."



Corresponding with our liturgical movement in this part of the year is our national celebration of Pride Month. In June, communities around the country will celebrate and support LGBTQIA+ folx as they remember the hard-fought work for equal rights and recognition in our world. As a church, we celebrate Pride by participating in our local community gatherings (Mark your calendar for Pride in Bellingham on July 8 & 9 - we'll have a table there!) We also affirm the God-given gift of queer folk to our broader church community, knowing that like God in divine dance with the other members of the Trinity, we need each other, in our rainbow of identities and expressions of personhood, to help us see God's goodness and presence in the world. To be a Christian and to affirm LGBTQIA folk is to say - "I need you to show me who God is in you. And may you welcome me to mirror back the same to you."

It's common knowledge that the Church has not always been good at offering this affirmation. Instead, Christians have been downright hostile to LGBTQIA+ people in many public ways and sadly continue to be so. We confess this brokenness, recognizing that in the same way, we may be drawn to think God is patriarchal or diminishes some in favor of others. We confess that we've fumbled over how to be "welcoming" in authentic ways. And we affirm God's grace, which moves us toward healing and reconciling love.

At St. James, it has long been a core value that we are a welcoming, open congregation for all people. I know it can be easy to take this for granted. However, this month and throughout the year, I would like to encourage us, with our whole hearts and minds, to respond to gratitude to God for instilling this value and Spirit in our community. It is a blessing, as we can learn from those who are like us and those who are not. It is good for us, like people who worship the Triune God, to honor our diversity with unity.

As we head into this Summer, I will be preaching on the Psalm texts from the Revised Common Lectionary. I love the Psalms because they are like the divine dance of the Trinity in the emotional, personal realm. The Psalms range from expansive songs of worship to deep cries of agony. In their entirety, we can see how God's movement in our lives meets us in all states - joy, sorrow, affliction, and celebration. Like learning how to welcome diverse expressions of our humanity in our community, we also learn to embrace the distinct parts of ourselves and each other - the raw, genuine emotions and feelings that life stirs in us.

I pray that we learn to be curious about what others may teach us. I pray that we learn to see the face of God in each beautiful expression of humanity that walks through our doors. And I pray that you know, deep in your being, that you are beloved, accepted, and cherished as a member of the family of God.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pastor Seth

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

Submitted by Tracy Caruso, Children & Family Ministry Director, tracy@saintjamespres.org



Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries!

We have had a busy month of May at St. James with a couple fun events and lots of planning for a fun summer.

Our Godly Play classroom has been consistently full and we had a month of some great stories we hadn't heard in a couple years. For June we will finish up our stories with the Holy Trinity and then take a small break from stories until July when we begin our People Who Inspire series. Both the Godly Play classroom and the Nursery will remain open during the summer. Childcare will be available beginning at 9:45am until after choir breaks for the summer, then will be available beginning at 10am.

We had a fun pizza and movie night with a great movie and some good fellowship. The newly formed Trailmixers had their first hike at Whatcom Falls Park and had a great turnout and a ton of fun!

Coming up this summer we will be celebrating all our children, childcare staff and volunteers during our annual milestone Sunday on Sunday June 11th.

Our Vacation Bible School is coming up June 26th-29th. We will need donations of snacks and help with decorating on Sunday the 25th. Check with Tracy if you can help or can donate snacks.

Youth group will be held on Sunday June 25th from 5:30-7:30. Anyone entering, in, or recently graduated from middle or high school is welcome to attend.

On July 8th Christian Faith Formation and Buildings and Grounds committees are holding a work party combined with some basic skills lessons. Come help out around St. James and at the same time get some lessons on technology and some basic electricity! We are hoping these events will help spread some of the wealth of knowledge we have at St. James so if there are areas you are wanting to learn some skills in or if you have a skill you are knowledgeable in and would like to teach others about it please let Jimmy Parks or Aaron Caruso know.

St. James will have a table set up at the Bellingham Pride festival the weekend of July 8th and 9th. Look for more information to come and a signup to help man our St. James table.

July 16th at 1:00pm we will have a group going to the Bellingham Bells baseball game! Tickets are \$13 and our seats are in the grandstand (shade). Please see Tracy or contact the office if you are interested in joining us.

We also hope you will join us for the annual All Church Picnic on July 23rd after service at Squalicum Creek park. Look for more details to come but mark your calendars and plan for a fun afternoon of games and fellowship.



There is so much going on around St. James this summer and so many ways to get involved! If you have any questions or want to volunteer or get involved please let Tracy know!

Godly Play for June:

June 4th- The Holy Trinity

June 11th- Milestone Sunday

June 18th- Clean/Work Day

June 25th-Work Day

ST. JAMES TRAILMIXERS

St. James Trailmixers is a new group of folks at the church that want to get outside and enjoy God's creation and each other's company. This group is for varying hiking abilities and we have chosen four days for spring and summer to hike, walk, maybe swim and have fun. This is for kids, adults, men, women and everyone in between. ALL ARE WELCOME! Walking together in community is inherently a type of pilgrimage. Being out in this beautiful world God created is a spiritual practice. Please invite friends and family even if they are not connected to St. James or church at all.

Mark your Calendars! These are the dates and locations we will be hiking together:

Date: June 17th

Location: Fragrance Lake

Time/Plan: Meet at St. James Church at **9:30 AM**. We will carpool to Larrabee. This is a 3 mile round trip and will take 2ish hours. There is swimming if the weather is nice.

What to bring: Bring swim stuff and snacks. **Bring a Discover Pass if you have one.**

Date: July 29th/30th

Location: TBD

Time/Plan: We have selected this date for a possible overnight. *Please contact Ryan if you are interested in an overnight or if you have suggestions for an overnight camping trip.* If we don't decide on an overnight trip the Trailmixer committee will select a day hike instead for the July 29th outing.

Date: August 26th

Location: Fort Casey State Park, Coupeville, WA

Time/Plan: Meet at church at **9:30 AM**. This is a full day trip to Fort Casey. This one is particularly fun for kids of all ages. Fort Casey is a really cool fort we can explore. There is a beach, lighthouse and short walks/hikes to do together. Pack lunch. Possible stop for dinner on the way home. **Bring a Discover Pass if you have one.** Contact Ryan with any questions or suggestions.

Ryan Knight

360-798-1819

knight.ryanp@gmail.com

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

submitted by Faye Hill, Clerk of Session

Highlights of the Session Meeting on April 23, 2023

(there was no meeting in May 2023)



- The Board of Deacons and the St. James Session met together to confer on matters of mutual concern before the Session meeting. Following a wonderful lunch, the two boards discussed (1) What they most appreciate about St. James, and (2) what areas of our congregational life are most concerning and need attention. Following this discussion, the deacons and elders separated to hold their regular meetings. The following highlights refer to the meeting of the session that followed.
- All members of the Session were present for the meeting.
- Pastor Seth presented the Treasurer's Report for January 1, 2023 through April 23, 2023. The Session voted to accept the report.
- The Session was reminded that there will be no Session meeting in May and we will meet again on June 11, 2023.
- The Building and Grounds Committee announced that two work parties are scheduled soon. On May 20th the Boy Scouts will join the work party to assist with several projects. All members are invited to the work parties and there are enough jobs both inside and out for many folks. No experience is needed.
- The Session voted to forgo the internal audits of our finances for 2021 and 2022 due to the illness of our treasurer and the constraints of COVID during that time, and to continue the audit for 2023.
- The Session received the report of the Personnel Committee that Katie Dunne has been hired for the position of Church Treasurer, beginning April 21, 2023.
- The Session voted approval for Ruling Elder Fred Hartsook to serve communion at St. James on Sunday, May 7, 2023.
- The Session voted to elect Aaron Caruso to a second term as Trustee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Faye Hill, Clerk of Session

ST. JAMES STAFF IS AT YOUR SERVICE

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas, pastor@saintjamespres.org

Children & Family Ministry Director: Tracy Caruso, tracy@saintjamespres.org

Music Director: Ta Wei Tsai, music@saintjamespres.org

Treasurer: stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com

Administrative Ministry Assistant: Sharon King, office@saintjamespres.org

SESSION OF ST. JAMES

Tess Bowers

Aaron Caruso

Sarah Condreay

Faye Hill (Clerk of Session)

Maureen Kosa

Andrew McLaurin

Jimmy Parks

Nebiyu Tesfa

DEACONS

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Deacons Parish 1 | Merry Thomas*, Alice Bailey |
| Deacons Parish 2 | Pam Gibson, Judy Buchan |
| Deacons Parish 3 | Julie Keyes, Carla Shafer |
| Deacons Parish 4 | Valerie McBeth, Claudia Allan |
| Deacons Parish 5 | Pam Gibson, Adam Beaty |
| Deacons Parish 6 | Kirsten Oliver, Amy Morriss* |

* Deacon Co-Moderators



<https://mlp.org/>

Worship Schedule - Online and In-Person, Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Live streaming at:

<https://saintjamespres.org/live>

<https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/>

Church Office Hours:

9:00am - 2:00pm, Monday - Thursday



UPCOMING EVENTS

BOOK CLUB

St. James book club is currently reading *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr, a soaring story about children on the cusp of adulthood in worlds in peril, who find resilience, hope, and a book. Copies of the book are available in the office. We will meet tomorrow, Monday June 19th, at 7:00pm via zoom. Contact Tracy for the zoom link.

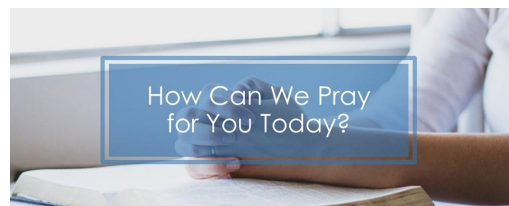
PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY

AA Fairhaven Group
 AA Grateful Hearts Women's Group
 AA Men's Book Study Group
 AA SOS Men's Group
 Bayside Co-op Preschool
 Bellingham Community Chorus
 Bellingham Ukulele Group
 Boy Scouts Troop 7
 Happy Hour Al-Anon
 Liberation Yoga
 Linda's Tai Chi
 Little Sapling Music
 Overeaters Anonymous
 St. James Fitness
 The Table Church
 Whatcom Weavers Guild

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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|------|-------------------------|---|
| 6/1 | Alice Beaty | 🎂 |
| 6/3 | Tracy Caruso | 🎂 |
| 6/4 | Craig & Julie Keyes | 💕 |
| 6/7 | Eden Engels | 🎂 |
| 6/9 | Jane Botsford | 🎂 |
| 6/9 | Fred Dugert | 🎂 |
| 6/10 | Terri Inge | 🎂 |
| 6/12 | Bob and Madeleine Smith | 💕 |
| 6/15 | Sue Smith | 🎂 |
| 6/17 | Mark & Alice Beaty | 💕 |
| 6/19 | Dick & Virginia Green | 💕 |
| 6/20 | Amber Wainscott | 🎂 |
| 6/23 | Bob Smith | 💕 |
| 6/25 | Bob & Nancy Pace | 💕 |
| 6/27 | Corinna Bowers | 🎂 |
| 6/28 | Sharon King | 🎂 |
| 6/30 | Claude & Faye Hill | 💕 |

Add your request to the St. James Prayer Chain
 Contact your Deacon or St. James at:
 360-733-1325 | office@saintjamespres.org



Deadlines for church publications

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday, 2:00pm
 Weekly email: Thursday, 2:00pm
 Monthly "the Pulse": the 25th, 2:00pm





910 14th Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
www.saintjamespres.org
office@saintjamespres.org
(360) 733-1325