



Is it me or has this has been a strange year for weather. There have been several days of near 80 degree weather. We have had days that included a little winter and summer all in a day of spring. This weather has been teasing us for over a month. In spite of it all, I cannot believe how excited I am about the possibility of spring. I cannot wait to spend more time in the yard and in the garden. The gardens seem to be alive already. It is like they could not wait any longer. I love watching the gardens come alive.

Taking care of the garden has become a series of great life lessons for me. One of those lessons is that I am still learning to balance the hard work of gardening with remembering to take time to enjoy the garden. I find seeking that balance interesting metaphor for life. We sometimes get so busy doing life that we forget to enjoy life. However, that being said, I am actually thinking about a couple new garden ideas for this year. They are always a work in progress. Last year included weaving the Stations of the Cross through my existing spiritual gardens. Once again, we will see how the plan unfolds.

I love the sight, sound and smell of spring, full sensory overload. The garden in early spring serves as a wonderful reminder of all the miracles of life. Just like in our own lives, there is a lot of amazing stuff going on, but because it often happens just below the surface, we sometimes forget to notice it. There exists an amazing opportunity for transition, both in our yards and in our lives. Often where and when we least expect it.

So this Easter season I hope you continue to look for the miracles wherever and whenever they may appear, regardless of how big or how small they may be. Remember, this is truly a season of hope and resurrection. As I work in the garden and experience the joy of new life, my hope is that each of us has the opportunity to experience new life spiritually as well.

With all of challenges that life brings, both in the world and in some of our own homes, it is sometimes hard to remember that God is with us always and at work in our lives. I think that is one of the true miracles of Easter and spring. We are reminded with every winter there comes a season of rebirth and new hope. Sometimes it just takes a while for us to notice it.

So look around, take a deep breath or two, and know that God is at work in your life right now. Even if you cannot see or feel it yet, God is preparing you for a personal Easter moment.

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace and there is a place for you here in at St James.

Take care and be well, Peace
Ken



Prayers for

Karen Marie, Sue, Scott, Mimi, Dan, Kathy, Rich, Maraleen, Doug, Gordy, Jack Bishop Sr., George, David, Angel, Josh, Deborah



If anyone in our congregation will be celebrating a 50th wedding anniversary this year, please let Lynn Robertson, Stella Czenkus or Bev Kulman know so we can plan to help you celebrate with a coffee hour in your honor.

Graduates

If you are graduating this year please let Jerry Lindke or Kim LaDuke know. We would like to recognize your achievements during worship in June.



K.I.D.S. in Distress

Please don't forget Kids in Distress is an ongoing project at St. James. A tote box is in the basement for your gently used clothing. They are in need of kids shorts and shirts of all sizes. Thank you for your support.

Cemetery Clean-Up

Please join us on Saturday, May 21st at 9am. We will work together to help get our corner ready for the summer season. Bring gloves, shovels, rakes....etc.

Discretionary Fund

The first Sunday in the month all loose offering and designated envelopes go to the pastors discretionary fund which is used to help our members and neighbors in need.



Liturgist May

May 1 – Open

May 8 – Bev Kulman

May 15 – Open

May 22 – Open

May 29 – Open



Ushers & Greeters

May

May 1 – Open

May 8 – Bev & Gordie Kulman

May 15 – Open

May 22- Larry Bandlow & Doris Doss

May 29 -Open

Scripture Readings for May

Sunday, May 1

*Acts 16:9-15

*Ps 67

*Rev 21:10,22-22:5

*John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Disciples Together

Sunday, May 15

Pentecost Sunday

*Acts 2:1-21 or Gen 11:1-19

*Ps 104:24-34,35b

*Rom 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21

*John 14:8-17,(25-27)

Gathered & Scattered

Sunday, May 8

*Acts 16:16-34

*Ps 97

*Rev 22:12-13,16-17,20-21

*John 17:20-26

Breaking Chains

Sunday, May 22

Trinity Sunday

*Prov 8:1-4,22-31

*Ps 8

*Rom 5:1-5

*John 16:12-15

Wisdom Calls

Sunday, May 29

*1 Kings 18:20-21,(22-29),30-39

*Ps 96 or 1 Kings 8:22-23,41-43

*Ps 96:1-9

*Gal 1:1-12

*Luke 7:1-10

Faith of an Outsider