



VOLUME: MAY | JUNE 2026

# SPOTLIGHT

ON SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

## AT A GLANCE

- **5/14 Ascension Service at 6:30pm**
- **5/24 Special birthday and anniversary coffee hour**
- **5/31 First Annual Shrimp and Bull Roast**

## May | June 2026



**Alive in Christ - Jesus Raised is our Victory and Vocation**

### *From the Pastor's Desk...*

As the Church continues to live in the light of the resurrection, we do not walk alone, nor do we labor by our own strength. Our Lord has not left us as orphans (John 14:18), but has given us His Holy Spirit—the Lord and Giver of Life—who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and who even now calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth.

The work of the Holy Spirit is not abstract or distant. He is not merely a feeling or a fleeting emotional experience. Rather, He is the very breath of God, active and present through the Word and Sacraments, delivering Christ to sinners and sustaining faith in the hearts of believers. This is no small work. This is the very life of the Church. And yet, the Spirit's work does not end at the font or the altar rail. Having brought us to faith, He sends us out into the world—not as isolated individuals, but as those placed deliberately into vocations. These vocations—whether as fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, workers and students, neighbors and citizens—are not accidents of circumstance. They are the very arenas in which the Holy Spirit is at work through us for the sake of others.

In our Confessional Lutheran understanding, vocation is not about self-fulfillment, but about faithful service. It is the mask behind which God Himself is hidden, caring for His creation. A mother comforting her child, a laborer working honestly, a friend offering counsel—these are not merely human actions. They are the Spirit's work through the baptized, bearing fruit in love toward the neighbor. The Christian is not to live for himself alone, but for the good of others. This reflects the very life of Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. The Holy Spirit conforms us to this image—not by compulsion, but through the Gospel, which frees us from ourselves and turns us outward.

This outward turn is especially seen in our calling to share the Gospel. Evangelism is not reserved for a

select few, nor is it a program to be implemented. It is the natural fruit of faith created by the Holy Spirit. As the Word of Christ dwells in us richly, it cannot help but be spoken. The same Spirit who gave boldness to the apostles gives us words to confess Christ in our daily lives. St. Augustine once said, *"We speak because we believe; we do not believe because we speak."* Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17).

Therefore, our task is not to manufacture conversions, but to be faithful in speaking the truth in love, trusting that the Holy Spirit will do His work through the Word. This is both a comfort and a challenge. It frees us from the burden of results, yet calls us to faithfulness. In a world that often resists the truth, we may be tempted to remain silent. But the Spirit strengthens us to confess Christ crucified and risen, even when it is unpopular or costly. For we know that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, take heart. The Holy Spirit is at work—in you and through you. In your vocations, in your conversations, in your quiet acts of service and your bold confessions of faith, He is accomplishing far more than you can see. Therefore, remain in the Word. Receive the gifts of Christ. Pray for the Spirit's guidance. And go forth in your callings with confidence, knowing that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

In Christ, *Pastor Bednash*

# Altar Guild



**Servers for May: Ms. Belle Wynn and Debbie Taylor**

**Servers for June: Ms. Betty Pezzica and Mrs. Elisabeth Dzambasow**

## ALTAR GUILD

Servers for May:

Mrs. Belle Wynn  
Mrs. Debbie Taylor

The white paraments will dress altar, pulpit, and lectern for almost the entire month of May as we observe the Fifth through the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Ascension, and The Holy Trinity. The one exception is on May 24 when we celebrate The Day of Pentecost when the bold red paraments will dress the chancel. Red is the appointed color for Pentecost Sunday when we remember the power and fire of the Holy Spirit. The Day of Pentecost initiates the non-festival half of the church year which can last up to 28 Sundays, concluding with The Last Sunday of the Church Year.

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

Come Holy Ghost, Creator blest,  
And make our hearts Your place of rest;  
Come with Your grace and heav'nly aid,  
And fill the hearts which You have made.

LSB 498

In His service,  
Susan Pullen, Director  
The Altar Guild

“Lord, I bow my head asking you to fill me with Your Holy Wind, that I might be a source of power to those around me.

# Altar Guild

## ALTAR GUILD

Servers for June:

Mrs. Elisabeth Dzambasow  
Ms. Betty Pezzica

In June the long growing season begins, and we observe the Second through the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. The green paraments will dress altar, lectern, and pulpit as we mark these Sundays following Pentecost. Green is the color of growth, and the Sundays following Pentecost emphasize our need to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ.

“I will sing to the Lord all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.”

Psalm 104:33

“Have you ever thought about the beautiful relationship between faith and music and how music is a natural expression of that faith? What person hasn't burst forth in a song of praise to God when his heart overflowed with joy? And, even through his tears the Christian sings. How fitting if each of us could claim 'My life is a song to the Lord Jesus'.”

This summer, as we travel near or far, may our lives be songs of praise to the risen and ascended Lord. May others see Him in us, and may our lives overflow with praise as we sing of the mercies of the Lord.

In His service,  
Susan Pullen, Director  
The Altar Guild

“Let us sing a new song, not with our lips, but with our lives.”  
St. Augustine

# Altar Flowers

Given in honor and memory of...



- May 3:** In honor of her sisters, Lynn and Nikki, from Heather Rutz
- May 10:** In honor of Colin's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday from the Robertson Family
- May 17th:** In loving memory of her mom, Funeko Baker's birthday, from Keiko Baker
- May 24th:** In honor of Brian Shank's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday from the Shank Family
- May 31st:** In honor of Colin's high school graduation from the Robertson Family
- June 7th:** In loving memory of her son, Nicholas's birthday, from Keiko Baker
- June 14th:** In loving memory of his mother, Joy Dowling's birthday from Mike and Millie Weese

## Greeters and Communion Assistants



Greeters	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild
<b>5/3</b> - Sue and Paul Pullen	Mike Robertson and Aaron Holtmeier	Belle Wynn and Debbie Taylor
<b>5/10</b> - Sue and Paul Pullen	Kevin Nezworski and Bill Taylor	Belle Wynn and Debbie Taylor
<b>5/17</b> - Sue and Paul Pullen	Steve Clough and JB Bowling	Belle Wynn and Debbie Taylor
<b>5/24</b> - Sue and Paul Pullen	Mike Robertson and Devin Rathman	Belle Wynn and Debbie Taylor
<b>5/31</b> - Sue and Paul Pullen	Bill Taylor and Steve Clough	Belle Wynn and Debbie Taylor

Greeters	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild
<b>6/7</b> - Millie and Mike Weese	Kevin Nezworski & Aaron Holtmeier	Betty Pezzica & Elisabeth Dzambasow
<b>6/14</b> - Millie and Mike Weese	Mike Robertson and JB Bowling	Betty Pezzica & Elisabeth Dzambasow
<b>6/21</b> - Millie and Mike Weese	Devin Rathman and Steve Clough	Betty Pezzica & Elisabeth Dzambasow
<b>6/28</b> - Millie and Mike Weese	Bill Taylor and Kevin Nezworski	Betty Pezzica & Elisabeth Dzambasow

# Birthdays and Anniversaries



**May the Lord bless and keep these dear saints in life and in love together**

**May Birthdays:** **5/2** Kim Bowling, **5/4** Barb Jackson, **5/5** Don Wiseman, **5/7** Colin Robertson,

**5/8** Abigail Bowling, **5/11** Marlene DeFrank, **5/25** Mike Robertson, **5/25** Bryan Shanks

**May Anniversaries:** **5/7** Paul and Sue Pullen (54 years) **5/23** Yuriy and Elisabeth Dzambasow (34 years),

**5/27** Kevin and Jen Nezworski (19 years)

**June Birthdays:** **6/23** Betty Pezzica, **6/25** James Scheler

**June Anniversaries:** **6/26** Tom and Debbie Foelber (50 years), **6/14** Aaron Holtmeier and Belle Wynn (1 year),

**6/16** Don and Betty Wiseman (64 years)

# Items of Interest

News and Notes



***Do you have any news and notes to share with Saint James? Email the church office to include any items of interest for next month's issue!***

## **Congratulations to Colin Robertson!**

We celebrate with Colin as he graduates from Eastern Technical High School on May 26 from the IT Magnet Program. His hard work, dedication, and passion for technology have prepared him well for this next exciting chapter. This fall, Colin will continue his studies at Stevenson University, where we know he will shine. Please join us in praying for God's blessings on his journey ahead and in congratulating him on this wonderful achievement.

If you would like to remember a loved one for Mother's Day or Father's Day, please place your Memorial information in the offering plate or contact the church office at 410-668-0158 or [saintjamesbaltimore@gmail.com](mailto:saintjamesbaltimore@gmail.com) by **Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>** for Mother's Day and **Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup>** for Father's Day.

# Items of Interest

News and Notes



**Save the Date!!!** Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 31**, 1–5 PM, when **St. James** hosts our **first major annual fundraiser**—a Bull & Shrimp Roast right after church at Rosedale Gardens. We're building a great team to plan it, and we invite you to consider joining the committee. **Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased by clicking on the link below.** You can also click on the QR code.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/bull-and-shrimp-roast>



# Items of Interest

News and Notes



To make our first annual Bull and Shrimp Roast a success, we are asking our families to donate a basket to raffle. Below is a list of ideas. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we do not have repeating baskets. The FUN Committee will put the baskets together - you just need to gather the supplies! We ask that all donations be brought to church no later than Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. A list of ideas are below.

We are collecting **door prize items valued between \$5 and \$15** for the Bull & Shrimp Roast. Popular options include small gift cards—**Rita's, McDonald's**, or any fun items . Please **label your donation "door prize"** before placing it in the collection box in the narthex. **All items need to be brought in by May 17th.**

A **sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex** for anyone willing to help with day-of duties at the Shrimp & Bull Roast – all tasks are organized in **30-minute time slots**. Your help, whether for one slot or two, keeps the event running smoothly and makes the day a success for everyone.

Additionally, we are requesting that each St. James family donates a bottle or two of liquor for one of our showstopper baskets. We would like to gather 20 - 30 bottles of alcohol for a special raffle at our Bull and Shrimp Roast. You can bring your donations into church anytime between now and May 24<sup>th</sup>! Place it in the box in the narthex marked:

**"Cheers to 120 Years! Celebrating St. James' 120<sup>th</sup> year of Ministry!"**

Together we can make this an awesome fundraising event!!!

1. **Family Movie Night:** Popcorn buckets with microwave popcorn, candy boxes, cozy blanket, \$25 streaming or movie theater gift card, family board game, etc.
2. **Picnic in the Park:** Classic picnic basket, outdoor blanket, lemonade mix, snacks and crackers, paper goods, gift card to local deli, etc.
3. **Italian Dinner Night:** Pasta and premium sauce, olive, oil, garlic bread mix, italian spices, kitchen towel, restaurant gift card, etc.
4. **Coffee Lovers Basket:** Specialty coffee, travel mug, flavored syrups, biscotti, \$20-\$30 local coffee shop gift card, etc.
5. **Chocolate Indulgence:** Assorted chocolates, hot cocoa mix, chocolate covered pretzels, cute dessert plates, etc.
6. **Spa Day Basket:** Bath bombs, lotion and body wash, face masks, cozy socks, candle, spa or nail salon gift card, etc.
7. **Fitness and Wellness:** Water bottle, resistance bands, healthy snacks yoga mat,

- protein bars, etc.
8. **Game Day:** Team blanket or hat, chips and dip, salsa and queso, grill tools, cooler bag, etc.
  9. **Kids Activity Basket:** Craft supplies, coloring books, outdoor toys, sidewalk chalk, family attraction gift card, etc.
  10. **Faith and Fellowship Basket:** Devotional book, beautiful journal, nice pen set, candle, mug with scripture, gourmet tea or coffee, etc. (Great for adults of all ages!)
  11. **Family Bible Night:** Family devotional, Christian board/card game, study Bible or children's Bible, popcorn and snacks, cozy throw blanket, etc.
  12. **Sunday Brunch:** Pancake/waffle mix, syrup, coffee cute dish towel, local diner gift card, etc.
  13. **Comfort Food and Casserole Basket:** Nice casserole dish, recipe cards, soup mix, cornbread mix, wooden spoon, pot holder, etc.
  14. **Bull and Shrimp Night Basket:** Old Bay seasoning, seafood crackers, bibs, cocktail sauce, grill tools, local seafood restaurant gift card, etc.
  15. **Local Date Night:** Restaurant gift card, movie tickets, box of chocolates, candle, etc.
  16. **"Handyman Helper" Basket:** Hammer, tape measure, screwdriver set, hardware store gift card, etc.
  17. **Garden Blessings Basket:** Gardening gloves, flower/vegetable seeds, small tools, decorative plant pot, garden center gift card, etc.

### High-Ticket "Showstopper" Ideas

YETI Cooler and gift cards

Lottery Ticket Tree

KitchenAid Mixer and baking kit

Weekend Getaway (if someone donates a cabin or beach stay)

# Items of Interest

News and Notes



**Orphan Grain Train:** This is a Christian volunteer network that provides humanitarian aid to people in need across the United States and in 71 different countries worldwide. They collect and distribute food, clothing, medical supplies, and other essential items to support communities facing hardship. The organization operates through 27 regional locations, relying on volunteers to gather donations and fund relief efforts.

If you're interested in learning more or getting involved, you can visit their official website - [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org). Scan the QR code below to access more information regarding this organization as well as their newsletter, which gives more information on what they are doing in the Baltimore area.



**Compassion Place**, run by the Lutheran Mission Society (LMS), operates multiple centers in Maryland and Southern Pennsylvania that provide free food, clothing, and spiritual care to those in need. They also run a Thrift Center selling affordable items and accept donations of clothing and housewares. Additionally, some Compassion Places may offer professional counseling services, focusing on topics like relationship issues, trauma, anxiety and depression.

Scan the QR code below to access more information regarding **The Compassion Place** as well as their newsletter, which gives more information on what they are doing in the Baltimore area.



# Items of Interest



## News and Notes

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### RaiseRight Fundraiser Reminder

Our RaiseRight fundraiser is ongoing! Simply click the QR code to install the app and start shopping. Every purchase helps support St. James. If you have any questions, please see Jen.

### Enrollment Code

N9W729F2KNFY



TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



# Experience the right way to fundraise

Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

## How it works



### You buy a gift card

You get the full value.



### The brand gives back

No extra money comes out of your pocket.



### Your organization earns

Impacting what matters most to you.

## Shop 750+ popular brands

Getting your morning coffee. Doing DIY projects around the house. Ordering takeout. Conveniently raise money by doing everyday things.



"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

*Jen H., earns for hockey*

Get started by downloading the [RaiseRight™ app](#) on your phone or go to [RaiseRight.com](#) on your computer.

For step-by-step instructions, visit [RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning](#).

**ENROLLMENT CODE: N9W729F2KNFY**

Raise Right Coordinator: Jen Nezworski (443) 255-1937



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# Items of Interest



## News and Notes

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**Altar Flower Chart:** Please sign the chart when you know which week(s) you are interested in placing flowers on the altar for 2025. The cost is \$40. Please also indicate on the chart why you are placing them (*whether to honor someone, something, or in memory of someone*). The flowers may be taken by the donor after the worship service.

**Deacon and Council Meeting Notes:** Copies for reference will no longer be included in the monthly Spotlight article. Printed copies will be available for pickup in the Narthex monthly or by request via email for anyone who desires.

**LMWL and LMS:** Food offering and mite boxes due every fourth Sunday - **Due May 24 and June 28th.**

**July/August Spotlight Deadline:** Articles of interest may be given to Elisabeth directly or emailed to the church office at [saintjamesbaltimore@gmail.com](mailto:saintjamesbaltimore@gmail.com) - please send details no later than Tuesday, **June 23.**

*\*Please be patient as we continue to refresh the Spotlight. Please let us know if we forgot anything or if you want to see any additional items, so we may add them to next month's issue. The Spotlight will be available in print for anyone who desires, or as a digital email for those who prefer to receive it electronically.\**

## Calendar Important Dates:

- **May 5<sup>th</sup>** Mother's Day Memorials Due
- **May 14<sup>th</sup>** Ascension Day Service 6:30 pm
- **May 24<sup>th</sup>** Birthday and Anniversary celebration coffee hour
- **May 31<sup>st</sup>** **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Shrimp and Bull Roast**
- **June 16<sup>th</sup>** Father's Day Memorials Due
- **June 24<sup>th</sup>** Birthday and Anniversary celebration coffee hour

# Resources for Study



**Growing in faith and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Issues Etc.** - [🌐 Home - Issues, Etc.](#)

On the Line Podcast - [https://www.youtube.com/@otl\\_podcast\\_videos](https://www.youtube.com/@otl_podcast_videos)

Memento Men's Ministry - [www.memento70.com](http://www.memento70.com)

Lutheran Institute of Theology LIT - [institute.ontheline.net](http://institute.ontheline.net) Please check with the pastor concerning your (free) one-year membership access to all LIT study resources and classes.

	March 1	Second S. in Lent	Gen. 12:1-9	Psalm 121	Rom. 4:1-8, 13-17	John 3:1-17
	March 8	Third S. in Lent	Ex. 17:1-7	Psalm 95:1-9	Rom. 5:1-8	John 4:5-26 (27-30, 39-42)
	March 15	Fourth S. in Lent	Isaiah 42:14-21	Psalm 142	Eph. 5:8-14	John 9:1-41 or John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39
	March 22	Fifth S. in Lent	Ezek. 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Rom. 8:1-11	John 11:1-45 (46-53) or John 11:17-27, 38-53
<b>HOLY WEEK</b>	March 29	Palm Sunday ( <i>Palmarum</i> )	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 118:19-29 or Psalm 31:9-16	Phil. 2:5-11	<i>John 12:12-19 procession</i> ----- Matt. 26:1-27:66 or Matt. 27:11-66 or John 12:20-43
	April 2	Holy (Maundy) Thursday	Ex. 24:3-11	Psalm 116:12-19	Heb. 9:11-22	Matt. 26:17-30
	April 3	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22 or Psalm 31	Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1-19:42 or John 19:17-30
<b>EASTER</b>	April 5	The Resurrection of Our Lord ( <i>Sunrise</i> )	Ex. 14:10-15:1	Psalm 118:15-29 or The Song of Moses and Israel	1 Cor. 15:1-11	John 20:1-18
		The Resurrection of Our Lord	Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6	Psalm 16	Col. 3:1-4	Matt. 28:1-10
	April 12	Second S. of Easter	Acts 5:29-42	Psalm 148	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
	April 19	Third S. of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-14	1 Peter 1:17-25	Luke 24:13-35
	April 26	Fourth S. of Easter	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10



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Rev. Eric Z. Bednash  
- *Pastor*

Rev. J. Thomas Foelber  
- *Pastor Emeritus*

Elisabeth Dzambasow  
- *Office Manager*

## Worship and Study

- **Divine Service** - Every Sunday at 10 am
- **Youth** - Sunday at 9 am (September -May)
- **Adult Bible Study** - Small Group LIT studies available - ask for more info.

**Saint James Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**8 West Overlea Ave.**

**Baltimore, MD 21206**

## Social Media

[www.saintjamesbaltimore.com](http://www.saintjamesbaltimore.com)

[www.facebook.com/saintjamesbaltimore](https://www.facebook.com/saintjamesbaltimore)

YouTube:  Saint James Baltimore

## May / June 2026

Address Service Requested	Recipients Address  Dated Material
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