

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE HERALD

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Bishop To Visit

Bishop Michael Rinehart is coming to visit St. James/Santiago Apostol on May 3. He will preach at both the 10:00 a.m. and the 12:30 p.m. services. Please plan to attend!

In Response To The Call Of God's Mission

Dear brothers and sisters of St. James / Santiago Apóstol:

My name is Adriana Rev. Johnson-Rivas, and I feel very pleased and blessed for accepting this new challenge in my life and hearing the call of God. Many of you met me on Sunday, April 19, when I attended the worship service and let you know that I was born in Medellin, Colombia. I belong to a large family of six girls and two boys, and I have lived in the United States approximately 27 years. My family consists of two children from my first marriage and a stepson from my current husband Silas Rivas. During this time I have had unconditional support from my family, which makes me feel very blessed and loved by God.



When asked when or for what reason I felt the need to do God's work, my response is swift; I say it was through service, an unconditional desire to help others. "I serve God, I live for God, and I am glad to be your daughter." There is much work to do; we cannot sit by. I invite you to join me in this wonderful project, the project of God's mission. I promise you that I will be a constant worker, a fighter of injustice, passionate about what I do, and concerned about the development of more leaders who are committed to the work of Christ. We need leaders with spiritual maturity, sufficiently trained so that they can multiply and teach others to evangelize and do good mission. "The mission is the Church sent into the world to love, serve, preach, teach, heal and deliver ... evangelism therefore is a call to serve, is calling people to the mission."

Brothers and sisters, spread peace, and look at others with the eyes of Christ.

Adriana Rev. Johnson-Rivas

Growing Together

By: Arthur Murphy, Pastor and Mission Redeveloper

As you know, we are a church in mission redevelopment. We voted a few short years ago not to die, but to rebuild God's church into a vibrant, growing church. And here is the good news: we are already on our way to rebuilding God's church. Last year we grew attendance at the 10:00 a.m. worship service by 52%. And the second service at 12:30 p.m. is

growing too. Our new Pastora, Adriana Johnson-Rivas, is off to a great start, already forming a choir of smiling singers to make worship even more exciting!



We were the fastest growing church in our synod of over 100 churches in this part of Texas and Louisiana. And that is a sign that we are following where Jesus is leading us. We are becoming . . . we are not there yet, but we are becoming . . . a church with an active, bold, courageous faith to share with our neighbors.

Now we are willing and able to invite more people to grow with us. 52% growth is fantastic, but we cannot stop now. We have to keep growing, keep inviting, keep telling people about the God who has changed our lives for the better. And we have to continue to help people find here a safe place to come, to encounter, and to ask questions about this Jesus who has changed this church and changed our lives. And we must tell people how this church is a place where they can worship, learn about the Christian life, and serve this neighborhood in ways that make a difference in the lives of the people around us. Jesus is calling us to follow, and we must keep moving along with Him. So, we don't want to stop now. Let's stretch ourselves even more this year, and let's reach out to our neighbors with even more faith, hope, and love as we follow Jesus.



How do we do this? I want every person in our congregation and in the world to have a deep, rich, vibrant relationship with God. We can do this with a holistic approach to reaching neighbors that builds on relationships, centered around events and gatherings, and focused on meeting the specific needs of people in the community. For this overall approach, we need to be:

- ♦ Grounding our mission in relationships – inside and out
- ♦ Encouraging and equipping people of the congregation to invite others from within their natural webs of relationships to “come and see”
- ♦ Focusing on being relevant to the context: We provide a Christ-centered Community Center for our neighbors

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- ♦ Tying the Great Commission (Go and make disciples) to the Great Commandment (Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbors as yourself)
- ♦ Dedicating our church to the proposition that everyone has something to offer

What can you do? Where can you start? The best way to start is by getting more involved here at St. James/Santiago Apostol through regular worship attendance. Everything starts with worship. Worship flows into fellowship and small group conversations. And then fellowship and small groups flow naturally into service in the community. Regular worship attendance also will give you the time, focus, and priority of inviting others to worship with you. Worship attendance grows by friends bringing friends. So, invite your best friends to worship with you. A second place to start is by devoting yourself to the hospitality and welcoming ministries here. Help with the coffee and breakfast treats during the Learning Hour on Sundays. A third way is by making children and youth important priorities. Help with the Learning Hour classes for children, and volunteer to help with Camp Hope from June 15—July 3 this summer. Finally, you can start with community involvement. Community involvement is evangelism, and the more you serve in the neighborhood and model Christ in the community, the more you will naturally invite others to “come and see.”



“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” Theodore Roosevelt

Baptisms And First Communions

On Sunday, April 12, St. James celebrated the baptism of Ulysses Saavedra, whose parents are Natieli and Martin Pazdra. We extend a very special welcome to Ulysses as he joins his “water family” here at St. James/Santiago Apóstol. We will celebrate the baptisms of four young children on Sunday, May 3, with Bishop Mike Rinehart participating. They are Damian Nicolás Bernal, Amanda Grace Bernal, Patrick Benjamin Roman, and Susanna Marie Roman, and their parents are Oscar Daniel Bernal and Vianey Del Carmen Bernal, Rogelio Roman and Nubia Patricia Mejia. We also look forward to the baptism of Andres Angel Graciano on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. He is the son of Catarino Graciano and Mercedes Ascencio Lopez.

First Communion Sunday will be May 17. Nine young adults are expected to receive their first communion that day. They have received instruction in the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, and have been really good students and a joy to have in class. We welcome them to full participation in this sacrament.

These six baptisms and nine first communions are a wonderful sign of the bold, active, mighty faith spreading throughout the people in our church community.



Capital Campaign Halfway To Goal

The good news is that the Capital Campaign has raised \$8,000 of its \$15,000 goal--a little more than half. The bad news is that the first half of any fund-raising goal is usually much easier to reach than the second half of the goal. We all need to keep striving to raise the total amount needed to fund the repairs needed at St. James. They include painting and repair of the narthex, renovation of the fellowship hall, replacement of the heating and cooling system in the pastor's office, replacement of the exterior lighting system, general servicing of all the air conditioning, and general painting. Work on painting has already begun: all the exterior doors have been repainted.



Camp Hope To Be Held Again

This year Camp Hope is scheduled to be held from Monday, June 15, through Friday, July 3. Applications are now available for children who wish to attend. Activities will include Bible stories, games, and crafts.

Library News

Attention, all readers! Come by the St. James Library and check out our new book selections, which include *Otto Runs for President*, *Late For School*, and *Clifford, the Big Red Dog*.

Stay tuned for more information in our next newsletter on the 2nd Annual Reading Contest, to be held in July and August.



MANNA'S Bowling Fundraiser



MANNA's Bowling and Silent Auction Fundraiser will be held from 8:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight on Saturday, May 30, at the Del-Mar Lanes, located at 3020 Mangum. The funds raised will be used to support MANNA's food pantry and assistance programs. Attendance at the fundraiser costs \$15. Tickets may be purchased online at <http://sparesometimeformanna.eventbrite.com/>. Contact MANNA Board President Robert Rivera at St. James or Executive Director Patricia Dornak at 713-504-5486 for more information or if you are able to offer more substantive support.

Worship Assistants

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2015

DATE	USHER	ASSISTING MINISTER	ALTAR CARE	TELLER
May. 3 10:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Baber	Steve Grimsley	Maria Grimsley	Elizabeth Baber
May. 10 10:00 a.m.	Kimberley Tessier	Vicki Faulkner	Maria Grimsley	Elizabeth Baber
May. 17 10:00 a.m.	Rose Rivera		Maria Grimsley	Elizabeth Baber
May. 24 10:00 a.m.	Stephen Gould	Vicki Faulkner	Maria Grimsley	Elizabeth Baber
May. 31 10:00 a.m.	Robert Rivera	Steve Grimsley	Maria Grimsley	Elizabeth Baber

Happy Birthday To You!



May 1	Austin Clark
May 1	Linda Arguijo
May 3	Rosalie Rivera
May 17	Hester Clark
May 24	Orie Clark III
May 29	Elizabeth Baber



Sunday Worship (English) at 10 A.M.

Misa en Domingo (Español) a las 12 del mediodía

Christian Education | Catecismo: Sunday | Domingo @ 11 A.M.

Prayer Circle/Bible Study | Circulo de Oración/Estudios Bíblicos:

Wednesday | Miercoles @ 7 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
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ST JAMES CHURCH ELCA

Please see inside for a version of this newsletter in English and Spanish.
Por favor vea el interior para una version en ingles y español de este boletín de noticias,

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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