



# St. James Journal

Our Mission Statement:

*"We Proclaim and Practice Christ's Love"*

July 2016

[www.stjamesmc.org](http://www.stjamesmc.org)

## SUNDAY SUMMER SCHEDULE

(July 3)

8:30 AM Potluck Breakfast  
9:00 AM Outdoor Worship

(July 10)

9:00 AM Outdoor Worship  
10:00 AM Brunch

(July 17, 24, & 31)

7:30 AM Potluck Breakfast  
8:00 AM Outdoor Worship  
9:15 AM Outdoor Worship  
10:30 AM Indoor Worship



**ON JULY 3**, we will celebrate 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend with ONE service at 9 AM. The service will be outside, weather permitting. The potluck breakfast will begin at 8:30.

**MID-WEEK WORSHIP** Join us each Wednesday at 6:30 PM for mid-week worship in the Courtyard. Bring a lawn chair, or use one of the benches provided. If you have to miss Sunday—or if you just need some mid-week spiritual refreshment—this is a fun, casual service to attend.

**OFFICE HOURS FOR THE SUMMER:** Summer office hours will be 8:30-12 Monday through Friday. The office will occasionally be open in the afternoon, but Pastor Jeni and Bryan will be out many afternoons visiting. They can be reached on their cell phones for emergencies or to set up appointments.

**CHURCH OFFICES** are temporarily located in the Friendship Room while work continues on the steeple.

## From the P.I.T.

To my dear St. James family,

I've had people ask me why I would ever choose to work full-time AND try to get 2-3 classes done per semester. It seems crazy and more than a little daunting. I've wondered myself, sometimes, as I stay up late writing papers or read so much that I'm pretty sure I start to sound like a theological encyclopedia. But as my time at St. James comes to a close, I can honestly say that I can't imagine what my life would be like without you all. As I've learned from text books, I've learned from you. You all have taught me so much and I could never repay you for what you've meant to me and my family. You have played a huge role in the pastor that I will become and I can't say "thank you" enough.

I've had a number of people ask me if I'll be coming back to St. James. At this point, I just have to shrug. Honestly, 3 years ago, I never thought I'd be here, and where God will lead my family and me is a mystery. But here is what I do know: you have great power and influence that you can ever know. You are a great congregation to learn from and serve. My prayer for you is that you can harness that influence and use it to turn the world around, one day, one person, one life at a time. Whoever comes after me is lucky to have you and wherever I end up, I'm lucky to have known you.

So thank you. Thank you for being my church home these last two years. Thank you for supporting my family and me. Thank you for putting up with my wacky ideas. And thank you for keeping me in your prayers.

Going with peace,  
Bryan Odeen

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**ON JULY 10**, we will have a Farewell Celebration for Bryan and his family as they prepare to leave for internship. We will have ONE service at 9 AM. Following the service, there will be a celebration brunch. We will provide Egg Bakes. The congregation is invited to bring fruit, baked goods, and other breakfast items to share.



## News From Our Members

**DUE TO INCREASED PRIVACY REGULATIONS** at the hospital, it is very important that you call the Church office when you or someone you love is hospitalized so we can make sure you receive a visit. You can leave a message on the machine or call Pastor Jeni at home or on her cell phone. Thank you!

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to:**

• The family of Delores Sabbann  
*When there is a death of a family member, please call the church office so that we may make a note of it in an upcoming Journal. Also please call the church office if a name has been inadvertently omitted.*



**COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:** We are in the process of updating our visitation lists. If you or anyone you know is homebound and would like communion brought to you at home, please contact Pastor Jeni, Bryan, or the Church office.



**CHRISTMAS IN JULY!** Dust off those Christmas sweaters and get ready to sing some Carols! We are celebrating **CHRISTMAS IN JULY** on Sunday, July 17 at all three services. We'll have favorite hymns, cookies, and a reminder of the joy of the Christmas Promise! **KIDS**—Come at 9:15 to share a special Christmas song with the congregation! (Don't worry—you'll know it!).

**ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11,** St. James will join ELCA Congregations across the nation in celebrating "God's Work, Our Hands" Day—a national day of service. St. James is partnering with our Lutheran brothers and sisters in the area to clean parks and volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. There will be **t-shirts to order** in July for "God's Work, Our Hands" day. They are \$6.50 and come in sizes for youth and adults. Our Stewardship Board will be selling them between services on July 17, 24, and 31. Mark your calendars for our day of service in September!

**PHOTO DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!** If you got your picture taken, or submitted, pick up your free copy today. There will be extra copies available for those who did not get pictures taken at a later date.

## Steeple News

The restoration of the St. James' bell tower began the end of May with Dave Randall Construction from Osage doing the work. As we embarked on this project last fall, we knew that unexpected issues could be lying under the surface. As work began, it was immediately found that the cement blocks under our cracked outside bricks were also chipped, cracked and in some places quite deteriorated. An engineer was called in to help Dave assess the situation and after thorough inspection, they formed the plan for taking down the defective brick and block, and reinforcing the structure as they put up the new. They are adding a water barrier over the new block and wicks under the brick to help carry any future water away. The bricks are put back on in the form of a reversed pyramid in order to give us an air space under them and reduce the chance of damage from moisture erosion. The good news is that the inside of our bell tower is intact and there is no structural damage. The bad news is that the project is costing us more than the original estimate. As we continue this project, fundraising projects and other financial suggestions will be forthcoming.

Your Trustees are kept closely informed on all aspects of this project and many of them have been up on the bell tower scaffolding with Dave Randall inspecting, listening, asking questions and making suggestions. It is projected that the total cost of the project will be around \$50,000 more than the original estimate. Our goal is to keep the cost down, yet do a thorough job of restoring the tower so that it will be structurally strong and safe for generations to come. We pray for God's guidance as this project concludes.

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### **The \$10 a Week Challenge**

Additional funding for the steeple repairs and ongoing operating expenses is needed. We feel we have a close approximation of the final cost for the steeple repair – although we all know that things can come up. We also know that we are continuously falling short in general giving for our operating expenses. After doing the math we need every household to give an **additional \$10 per week (\$40 per month)** to meet both expenses. It would be great to get this set up in Simply Giving on [www.stjamesmc.org](http://www.stjamesmc.org) to ensure that we are able to meet our obligations. We will go through details during the congregational meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> and we are always happy to address any questions and receive ideas regarding the needed funds. We have received the challenge and this is where we rise up to the challenge together. Yours in Christ – The Steeple Committee and Stewardship Board

# St. James News



## SCRIPTURE READERS

If you are unable to read on the scheduled Sunday please call the church office.

	8:00 AM	9:15 AM	10:30 AM
<b>July 3</b>	One Service	Sue Cira	One Service
<b>July 10</b>	One Service	Mariah Piippo	One Service
<b>July 17</b>	Corrine Bolz	Cindy Dahl	Gene Larson
<b>July 24</b>	George Arduser	Ann Sletten	Pastor Jeni
<b>July 31</b>	Laurie Haugen	Suzan Koehler	Sue Cira

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**THE AUGUST JOURNAL** deadline is by July 19th at 9:00 AM.

**THE AUGUST JOURNAL** assembly date will be announced at a later date. Please watch the bulletins for an announcement.

*Please call the church office if you are able to help.*

**BULLETIN ARTICLES** are due on Wednesday by 9:00AM every week.



**PRAYER SHAWL** will be meeting on July 24th at 9 AM in the conference room to pray over finished shawls.

**SENIOR SAINTS** will meet on July 21st at 5:00.



**THE KONONIA AND ST. JAMES** campout will be held at Wilkinson Park in Rock Falls on August 5th and 6th. A picnic is being planned for Saturday night August 6th.

**CHRIST IN OUR HOME AND PORTALS OF PRAYER** for July through September are available at the church on the tables in the Narthex.



**DID YOU KNOW?** You can hear our Sunday sermons on our website! Just go to [www.stjamesmc.org](http://www.stjamesmc.org) and click on the sermon link for audio versions of each week's sermons. They are usually posted by Tuesday.

**SIMPLY GIVING:** As summer approaches, we know that there will be weeks you may miss worship because of vacations and other activities. To continue to regularly support our mission and ministry, you can sign up to have your weekly offerings automatically deducted from your bank account through our "Simply Giving" Program. Go to our website or contact the church office to enroll. You can also mail contributions to the church any time. Thank you so much for your continued support!

The **Simply Giving** Program  
 endorsed by



## 2016 CO-ED Church League Softball Schedule

**July 1**—6:15 Diamond 3 @ Messiah Lutheran & 8:45 Diamond 2 @ First Baptist

**July 8**—6:15 Diamond 3 vs. Rhythm & 7:30 Diamond 2 vs. Rhythm #2

**July 15**—6:15 Diamond 3 vs. First Covenant & 7:30 Diamond 2 vs. Grace E Free #1

(All games are held at Fredrick Hanford Park  
 23rd St. SW Mason City)

*Whether you're playing or cheering, let's have some fun!*



# St. James Youth & Family News



**JAVA AND JESUS** will continue to meet in the month of June. Join us for coffee and fellowship each Tuesday at Cabin Coffee at 9:09 AM!



**Join us for CAVE QUEST July 25-28.** We will have live music with our Worship Band, as well as Bible Stories, skits, science experiments, games and lots of other fun! You can go to our website to register or fill out the form in the newsletter. Then you can drop off, mail, or e-mail forms back to the church office. ***We also need HELPERS!*** Adults and youth in grades 7 and up are welcome to help! We need teachers, group guides, singers, and kitchen helpers. Please talk to Pastor Jeni, Shannon Lerdal, Alyse Hesley, or Kathy Grant if you are interested in helping. Thank you!! And please remember to invite your friends to Vacation Bible School—***July 25-28 from 5-8 each night.***

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ISN'T JUST FOR KIDS!** An adult Bible Study will be held each night in the Fireside Room. Come for supper at 5 and join us for a week of fun for all ages!

**JOIN US FOR A VBS KICK OFF CELEBRATION!** Sunday, July 24, we will kick off Bible School week with a party for the whole congregation. Join us at 5 PM for hot dogs, kick-ball, and other fun! Invite friends to join you.



**ON SUNDAY JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>,** our VBS youth will present songs from their week at the 9:15 service. Be sure to join us!



**SAVE THE DATE!** The Youth and Family Board will be hosting an event in the church yard following the 9:15 service on August 21st. Stay for games such as kickball, ladder golf, bags, Bingo, and cards or board games in the shade. A meal will also be provided. It will be fun for all ages!

## **ST. JAMES STAFF**

**Pastor Jeni Bohls**  
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**Assistant Minister Bryan Odeen**  
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**Administrative Coordinator Amy Halverson**  
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**Summer Office Assistant Crystal Florman**  
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**Financial Secretary Mike Fitzgerald**  
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**Building Supervisor Bill Trask**  
bljjjt@msn.com

**Worship & Music Coordinator Bill Grant**  
honeyguitar@msn.com

**Choir Director Zack Carlson**

**Kitchen Coordinator Sherri Fitzgerald**

## **ST. JAMES CONTACT INFORMATION**

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