

# St. James Journal

Our Mission Statement:  
"We Proclaim and Practice Christ's Love"

August 2020  
www.stjamesmc.org

## Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 AM Outdoor Worship  
10:00 AM Online Worship

### ZOOM BIBLE STUDY!

Join us each Wednesday at 6:30 for an online Bible Study with Pastor Sid. Links are posted to Facebook each week.

You can also e-mail Sid at [sid.bohls@gmail.com](mailto:sid.bohls@gmail.com) to have the link e-mailed to you or call Sid for more information about how to join in the discussion!

We study the following Sunday's Scripture readings each week.

### WAYS TO GIVE:

Thank you, Thank you for your continued support of our ministry and mission through these difficult months!

Weekly offerings can be brought to the outdoor service and placed in the box on the usher's table. They can also be mailed to the Church office. Or you can sign up to give online. Simply go to our website [stjamesmc.org](http://stjamesmc.org) and sign up for online giving. Offerings can be recurring or one-time donations. Contact the office for questions on how to sign up!

## Returning to Normal??

How many times did we hear those words at the beginning of the Coronavirus shutdowns? WHEN would we return to normal? How would we return to normal? What would normal even look like?

It has become apparent as this has gone on that we may not return to anything resembling "normal" for quite some time. And we have no idea what it will look like when we do.

This leaves plans and decision making difficult whether in your work life, the lives of your children, your home life, and certainly here at St. James.

We are so thankful that we have been able to continue offering an online worship option for you and that so many of you have been able to join us for that. And we are also thankful that we found a safe way to gather in-person outside. Your commitment to the safety of your fellow siblings in Christ is evident in your willingness to wear masks and stay physically distant. We appreciate the care you are showing to one another. It is one way we live out Jesus' call to "love our neighbors as ourselves."

Because we aren't all scientists or public health experts, our council and return to worship committee make our decisions based on the best advice we can receive. We are constantly praying, researching, consulting with others, and talking about the ways we can remain safe and still be the Church together. That is why we have asked you to wear masks and distance even outside and why we have limited bulletins and changed so much of the service. It is also why we are not gathering indoors for worship at this time. We appreciate your patience as we continue to grow, change, and make decisions that we hope will keep you all as safe as possible.

Because there is so much virus activity in our community, we will not be moving into new phases yet, so for the time being, we will continue to only gather for outdoor worship. We hope to continue to be outside as long as the weather allows. Our return to worship committee will be

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meeting to discuss our plans for fall and we will keep you updated on decisions we make.

During these difficult times, we want to be together. We want to find the support and love we can within this beautiful Body of Christ: the Church. We hope you are finding ways to remain in community even when we can't be together. Call and check on one another. Pray for each other. Have an outdoor or online or telephone prayer meeting, devotion time, or even Bible Study.

ONE WAY you can remain in community is letter writing. We would love to set you up with a pen pal. We announced this a couple of month ago, but did not get very many signed up yet. NOW is a great time to get signed up. This is a great opportunity for all ages to get to know your fellow St. James members. Simply e-mail Pastor Jeni ([pastorjeni@mchsi.com](mailto:pastorjeni@mchsi.com)) to sign up. Once I have a number of people signed up, I will assign pen pals. You can write letters, pray for one another, and connect in other ways. Once we come back to "Normal," we will have a big pen pal celebration!

We continue to encourage you to let us know of any prayer requests, community needs, or other issues that come up. Call, text, or e-mail us any time.

In times like this, many of us struggle. When will we return to normal? How? What will that look like? And we all want something resembling normal back.

That may not be the case for awhile yet, but here is what we do know. God's love for us never changes even as the world around us does. God walks with us in the normal and the strange. In the joys and in the sorrows. We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds our future. We trust in that promise always.

Pastor Jeni and Pastor Sid

## VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL *Fruits of the Spirit!*



### **We are bringing Vacation Bible School to YOU this year!**

Join us August 3-7 as we explore the **FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**. Fun songs, skits, and stories will be posted each day at 9 AM on Facebook, YouTube, and our website, but you can participate ANY TIME throughout the day!

VBS kits will be distributed that will include stories, crafts, and activities for each day of the week. You can pick those up at our outdoor service on August 2, at drive-thru communion on the 2nd, or stop by the Church office between 10-12 on Monday August 3. The kits (minus the craft) will also be available on our website.

***Invite your friends and family to join us!***

# St. James News

## THANK YOU:

Members of St. James,  
I would like to extend my sincerest thanks for the cards and memorials that you sent at the time of Larry's passing. It was a difficult time and your comforting words help me heal. Special thanks to Pastor Sid and Pastor Jeni for their comforting words at the funeral.

Sincerely, Carmen Madson

To our St. James family, Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers when our daughter-in-law passed. Pastors Jeni and Sid, thank you for all the kind words and prayers.

Arlin and Sandee Pals

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## CONGRATULATIONS:

- to Stacie Dingman and Jeff Harms, who were married on May 16.
- to Adam Pommrehn and Jennifer Knutson, who were married on May 30.

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## CONGRATULATIONS:

- to Adam and Jennifer Pommrehn on the birth of Ava Lea on July 13, 2020!
- to Lily Grant and Matt Freiberg on the birth of Charles Daniel on July 21, 2020!

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## OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY:

- To the family of Walter Fuller
- To the family of Lauren Lee
- To the family of Larry Madson
- To the family of DaleAnn Dusheck
- To the family of Lois Schwade
- To the family of Connie Lunning
- To the family of Dennis VonHagen
- To the family of John Lundberg
- To the family of Kelly Tyler
- To the family of Jeannette Polly
- To the family of Ralph Wandry
- To the family of Leo Priebe

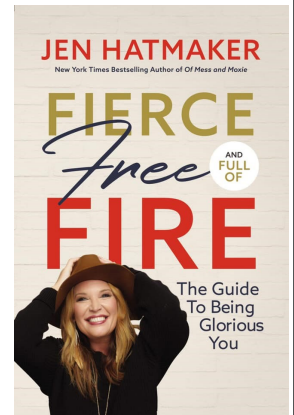
## DRIVE THRU HOLY COMMUNION:



Join us Sunday, August 2 and 16 from 2-3 PM for drive-thru communion. Please remember to wear masks and stay in your cars. After a prayer at your car window, we will share communion. The pastors will be carefully sanitizing between each car. **VBS KITS will be available for you to pick up during communion on the 2nd.**

## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB:

We miss book club! And while we can't get together quite yet, we can start reading together! Our next book club selection is *Jen Hatmaker's brand new book "Fierce, Free, and Full of Fire."* You can order this book on Amazon or buy it locally at Target. Start reading any time and when we can safely meet again, we will start our discussion!



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## CONFIRMATION UPDATE:

Parents of 7th, 8th, and 9th grade youth:

We are excited for a new year of confirmation!

Meetings will be held in August regarding confirmation plans for the fall. We will meet outside weather permitting (in case of rain, we will meet in the gym). The meetings will be held on the following evenings at 6:30 PM:

- 9th grade: Tuesday August 25
- 8th grade: Wednesday August 26
- 7th grade: Thursday August 27

*If you can't come on your scheduled night, please join us at one of the other meetings. Thank you!*

# St. James Contact Information

## **ST. JAMES STAFF**

**Pastor Jeni Bohls**

[pastorjeni@mchsi.com](mailto:pastorjeni@mchsi.com)

**Interim Pastor Sid Bohls**

[sid.bohls@gmail.com](mailto:sid.bohls@gmail.com)

**Administrative Coordinator**

**Jill Nonnweiler**

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**Financial Secretary**

**Mike Fitzgerald**

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**Building Supervisor**

**Jennifer Hansen**

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**Worship & Music Coordinator**

**Bill Grant**

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**Kitchen Coordinator**

**Sherri Fitzgerald**

[sherrifitzgerald1965@gmail.com](mailto:sherrifitzgerald1965@gmail.com)

**Choir Director**

**Ashley McLaughlin**

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[@St James](https://www.facebook.com/StJames)

**As you join us for outdoor worship, please keep the following guidelines in mind as we work together to stay safe:**

- Our expectation is that persons attending must not be experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 as outlined by the CDC.
- All must use proper social distancing practices
- All in attendance are asked to wear a mask. We will have a small supply for those who may forget. This is to protect you and those who also attend.
- Offering box will be placed in a central location.
- Bulletin will not be printed and distributed. An online option will be available as well as other options to ease following along.
- Please bring your own chairs. If you need assistance with your chairs or don't have one available, please ask an usher for assistance.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available to ensure proper hand hygiene.
- We will continue to have special music and recorded music for you to enjoy during worship.
- If it rains, the service will be cancelled.
- The bathrooms inside the main door will be available.
- Ushers will record who is at worship so we can inform you right away if there is a COVID case in our community.
- There is a designated area for those who wish to worship from their car.
- Drive through communion will still be available at times separate from the worship service.
- We will continue our online service for those who are not comfortable worshipping in public.

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP: 9 AM**

**ONLINE WORSHIP: 10 AM**

