



St. James Journal

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

December, 2022
www.stjamesmc.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
8:00 am -1:00 pm

Sunday Worship—Dec. 4-18th

8:30 Traditional Worship
9:45 Contemporary Worship
*The 9:45 Worship service will be
live-streamed.*

**Please note: On December 25 and
January 1, we will have ONE Service
at 9 AM with no Sunday School.**

Construction on the gym roof has
been delayed, but will begin as soon as
our roofers are ready. We will keep you
posted at Church on Sundays and
through our email blasts. While
construction is going on, please use the
main entrance and the Maple Drive
entrance when coming to the building.
Thank you!

2023 FLOWER MINISTRY

A poster size sign up sheet is available
on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
There are plenty of dates yet to be filled
if anyone would like to Honor or
Remember a loved one with altar
flowers. **Flowers are \$21.**

Sunday School Schedule for December:

December 4 and 11:

Christmas Program Practice 9-9:40

December 18, 25, and January 1:

No Sunday School

January 8: Regular Sunday School
begins from 9-9:40

Merry Christmas From the St. James Staff!

Please join us for Christmas Eve
Worship Services at
3, 5, and 10 PM
as we celebrate once again the birth of
Jesus into the world.

3 PM —Outdoor Worship (*in our new worship
area!*) with Holy Communion (*in case of cold
weather or bad weather, we will move inside*)

5 PM —Candlelight Service with Holy
Communion

10 PM —Candlelight Service with Holy
Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY—9 AM Worship
NEW YEAR'S DAY—9 AM Worship



**Have a blessed Christmas
and a very Happy New year!**

St. James Community

PRAYERS

Our deepest sympathy to:

- The family of John Clarke.
- Diane and Tim Francis and family at the death of Diane's nephew.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone for their kind words, prayers, and memorials given to me at the recent loss of John.

I will be sending a memorial to Mercy One Hospice of North Iowa, the Mason City Senior Center, and St. James.

It is my hope to put benches in for our outdoor worship.

I would like to donate one in John's name.

~ Judy Clarke and family

- A BIG THANK YOU to Kris Dornbusch for repainting and repairing our outdoor Nativity pieces!
- THANK YOU to all who helped set up the Advent Wreath, trees, and outdoor Nativity scene!
- THANK YOU to all who donated and helped with our Thanksgiving Meal and Winter Clothing Giveaway!



Thank you for the beautiful Veterans quilt! It was so much appreciated and a wonderful surprise!!

~ Denny Umphress

Thank you SO MUCH for the Care Package from St. James. I especially enjoyed the fresh bread! It is so nice to hear from people at home. I am having a great first semester at Rice and look forward to being back at St. James during Christmas break.

~Grant Bohls



We'll have supper, games, karaoke, trivia, and lots of other fun!
We will ring in the New Year at 10 PM by ringing the Church bell.
ALL are welcome! Bring friends and snacks to share!

Daily Scripture Readings for Narrative Lectionary

12/1: Esther 2:1-11

12/2: Esther 2:12-23

12/3: Esther 3:1-15

12/4: Esther 4:1-17

12/5: Daniel 3:1-12

12/6: Daniel 3:13-30

12/7: Daniel 5:1-12

12/8: Daniel 5:13-31

12/9: Daniel 6:1-13

12/10: Daniel 6:14-28

12/11: Isaiah 42:1-9

12/12: Isaiah 43:1-7

12/13: Isaiah 44:21-28

12/14: Isaiah 52:13-15

12/15: Isaiah 53:1-12

12/16: Isaiah 55:1-5

12/17: Isaiah 55:6-13

12/18: Matthew 1:18-25

12/19: Isaiah 7:10-17

12/20: Jeremiah 33:14-18

12/21: Luke 1:5-25

12/22: Luke 1:26-38

12/23: Luke 1:39-56

12/24: Isaiah 9:2-7

12/25: Luke 2:1-20

12/26: Genesis 1:1—2:3

12/27: John 1:1-18

12/28: John 1:19-28

12/29: John 1:29-34

12/30: John 1:35-42

12/31: John 1:45-51

These daily lectionary lessons go along with our narrative lectionary series. Read one passage a day as part of your daily devotions.

Feel free to ask the pastors if you have any questions about these readings!

It's New Year's Eve!

Let's have a party!

Join us for a SAFE, FUN party for ALL AGES

On Saturday, December 31

Beginning at 6 PM

St. James News

*The BEST way to spread Christmas Cheer is
SINGING LOUD for all to hear!*

Help spread Christmas Cheer this year as we go **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** to some of our nursing homes and Church members on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 at 3 PM!**

Meet at the Church at 3. Following Caroling, we will meet back at St. James for pizza and fellowship. Please join us!

LET'S RING SOME BELLS AND HELP SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

St. James has reserved times to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Hy-Vee East on:
December 12 from 4-6 PM
December 19 from 6-8 PM
December 20 from 10AM-12 PM
December 20 from 4-6 PM

Sign up sheets are available at Church for you to sign up to help serve. Sign up with a group, a friend, or individually.
Thank you!

Help us bless families at Christmas time!

If you would like to donate to support people in need this Christmas, please talk to the pastors about ways you can help provide food or gifts for a family. You can also give a donation marked "Pastor's Discretionary fund" or you can donate gift cards.

We are also collecting items for the Food Bank through our "Reverse Advent Calendar." Donation suggestions can be found on the Advent Resource table in the Narthex.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 11 AT 9:45 AM



ALL young people ages 2 through High School are encouraged to participate in this year's program!

Practices will be held:

Sunday, December 4: 9-9:40 AM
Wednesday, December 7: 6-7 PM
Saturday, December 10: 9-10 AM
Sunday, December 11: 9-9:40 AM

The Program will be held Sunday, December 11 during the 9:45 Worship Service. Cookies with Santa (!) will immediately follow the program!
For any questions please talk to/call/text
Kathy Grant at 641-583-1602
Thank you!



While there is a lot to celebrate at this time of year, we know that there are many in our

community who are hurting because of loss, grief, illness, conflict, struggle, or pain. *We invite you to join us for a Blue Christmas Worship Service on Thursday, December 8th at 6:30 PM.* This will be a special time of reflection, prayer, and song as we remember that the light of Jesus came in the midst of the darkness of this world, and the promise of Christmas meets us even in the darkest days. Following the service, there will be refreshments served. Please join us, and invite anyone who you think might benefit from a service like this.



The **MITTEN TREE** is available for “decorating” in the Narthex. “Decorations” may include mittens, gloves, stocking hats, sweatpants, T-shirts,

socks, and underwear for elementary/preschool boys and girls. For safety purposes, scarves are not accepted. Last year students at Hoover and Roosevelt schools received our donations. This year the donations will be distributed to Jefferson and Harding schools. As you’re shopping for Christmas gifts, please remember the MITTEN TREE. These gifts are very much appreciated by our schools. The “decorations” will be delivered to the schools in January.

WORSHIP IN A “STABLE”

This Christmas Eve, join us for a special outdoor event as we think about what it was like for Jesus to be born in a stable.

Our **3 PM service** will be held (weather permitting) in our new outdoor worship area. We will sing the same beautiful Christmas hymns and hear the story. We will also share Holy Communion.

If it is too cold or the weather is bad, we will move to the Sanctuary.

Our 5 PM and 10 PM services will be candlelight services held indoors.

Join us for any OR all of our beautiful Christmas Eve services. And invite a friend to join you to hear the story of Jesus’ birth!

Grief Group will be held on December 1st and 15th. The Blue Christmas Service will be held on December 8th.

There will be no Grief Group on December 22 or 29.

Grief Group meets on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30. New members are welcome.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEALS

December, 2022

Served 5:30 - 6:15 pm in Fellowship Hall

DECEMBER 7

Oven roasted pork chops
Stuffing and/or mashed potatoes & gravy
Green beans
Hot dogs

DECEMBER 14

Confirmation Christmas PARTY
NO MEAL

DECEMBER 21, 2022 - JANUARY 4, 2023

CHRISTMAS BREAK
NO MEALS

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

MEAL DONATIONS
\$5 PER PERSON

All meals served with lettuce salad,
dessert, and beverage.
We look forward to dining with you!!

PUZZLE AND BOOK EXCHANGE!

Mark Your Calendars! On Sunday, January 22, we will have a PUZZLE and BOOK EXCHANGE, along with a soup contest!

You can bring gently used puzzles and books to the Church beginning after Christmas. There will be a sign up sheet at the Church for the soup contest.

Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins and the January “Journal.”



Join us for the Presentation of the Choir Cantata during both the 8:30 and 9:45 Worship Services on December 18 as our Chancel Choir presents the story of Christmas through song.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE!



We are in need of volunteers to be part of our **Nominating Committee**. What is this you ask??

The **Nominating Committee** is made up of six voting members of the congregation, two of who shall be the Vice President and the Secretary of the Congregational Council and 4 members of the congregation.

The duties of the nominating committee are to fill open positions on boards as well as open executive positions. It's a position that doesn't require participation throughout the entire year unless an executive position needs to be filled. Otherwise your responsibility is to begin working on the open positions in October with the hopes they are filled by December in preparation of the annual meeting. The term is a 2 year term.

Please consider being a member of this committee.

Interested? Please contact:

Jere Merrill at [641-420-3345](tel:641-420-3345) or jere.merrill@gmail.com or Pastor Jeni

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES IN WORSHIP

- **WORSHIP SLIDES**: We are looking for people to both make slides for worship and run slides during worship. We could use people at both services. Please talk to Diane Francis or Pastor Sid for more information.
- **USHERS AND GREETERS** are also needed for both services. Talk to Leonard Johnson if you are able to help.
- **RUNNING OUR LIVE STREAM VIDEO**: Contact Bob Grant if you are interested in working on our Live Stream Crew. We would love to train more people to be part of this important outreach ministry!
- **SCRIPTURE READERS**: Are you interested in getting on our schedule for Scripture readers during the service? Please talk to one of the pastors or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

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MINISTERS OF CONNECTION: St. James has a group (The Ministers of Connection) that was formed in 2017 to assist our pastors in visiting nursing home residents and those home bound persons who are church members. Our group selected persons from a prepared list and we visited them and gave them communion. When Covid 19 hit in 2020, most of our visitations ceased and were modified to be phone calls, cards and letters. Since that time, some of our Ministers of Connection group have dropped out and we have lost some of those we were visiting due to their passing.

Persons who are interested in continuing the Ministers of Connection AND becoming a part of this important group, please call Sandy Thede at [641-425-2394](tel:641-425-2394) or email: sthede@mchsi.com in the next couple weeks. If there is interest in continuing this group, we will call a meeting and proceed with planning. Please give this your consideration.



**You're Invited to our annual St James
WELCA Christmas Soup Social
Sunday, Dec 4th at 4pm,
in Friendship Room.
Our Speaker is Heather Hucka
from Lime Creek**

Opportunities to Serve and Learn!

CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need USHERS, READERS, GREETERS, and SPECIAL MUSIC for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services. If you would like to help in any way, sign up at Church or contact Bill Grant or one of the pastors. Thank you!

THANK YOU for your continued support of our ministry at St. James! We are excited about the many building projects, worship opportunities, and programs we have been able to accomplish this year! As costs have risen, our monthly operating expenses have exceeded our income. Shortfalls have ranged from \$2000-4000 per month depending on the month and time of year. Utilities, insurance, food, wages, benefits, and supplies have all increased. As we approach the season of giving, please consider an increase in your giving to support St. James and help us offset this increase in expenses so that we can continue to rebuild our ministry and move forward in a positive direction! Thank you!

OFFERINGS: You are encouraged to sign up for our SIMPLY GIVING auto-offering program, a way to continue your gifts even when you are not able to be present. Sign up for Simply Giving on our website <http://www.stjamesmc.org/giveonline.html>



(or click on this box to go right to the website).
Contact the Church office for more information.

We thank you for your continued support of our ministry at St. James!

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Join Pastor Sid for ***THEOLOGY ON TAP***, a time for conversation, refreshments, and fellowship. We will meet on December 6th and 20th at 5:30 at Fat Hill Brewery! **All are welcome!!**

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FELLOWSHIP TIME HOSTS NEEDED
Sign up to host Fellowship Time Sunday mornings! There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex to provide treats for the congregation before and after services on Sunday mornings. Please consider helping with this ministry! Thank you!

St. James Staff & Contact Information

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