

St. James Journal

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

December, 2021
www.stjamesmc.org

Office Hours:

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00 Traditional Worship
 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study
 9:30 Contemporary Worship
 10:30-11:15 Sunday School

Our 9:30 worship service will be
 live-streamed.

In case of technical difficulties, the
 online service will be uploaded later
 in the day.

*December 26 and January 2: ONE
 worship service at 9 AM.*

2021/2022 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.

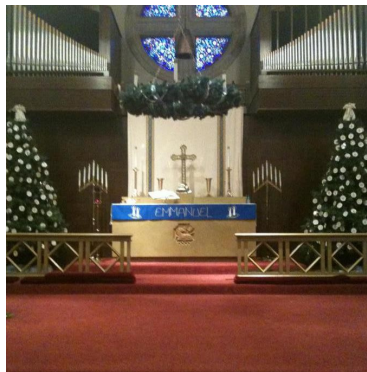
Flowers are \$21.

COMMUNION WILL BE HELD

on the first and third Sundays
 of the month.

*If you are not comfortable with
 In-person worship or unable to attend
 and would like to set up a communion
 time, please contact one of the pastors!*

Advent and Christmas Special Services



Sunday, December 5th and 12th: "The Message of
 Advent through Children's Books."

Sunday, December 19th: *"Visit to Bethlehem:
 Through Story and Song"* Join us as we journey to
 Bethlehem to hear about life in the days Jesus was
 born. We will have special music from the choir and
 from some of our youth. We will hear voices of those
 who were part of the first Christmas story. Following
 our 9:30 worship, we will have activities for all ages to
 help you prepare for the coming of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: Join us on December
 24th for Christmas at St. James at 3 PM, 5 PM, and 10
 PM. Our 5 PM service will be streamed live on our
 website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel.

December 26th and January 2nd: ONE worship
 service at 9 AM

St. James News



Dust off your best Christmas Sweaters and your thinking caps and:

Join us for TRIVIA NIGHT on December 17th at 7 PM!

Location will be announced on Facebook and in the bulletin this week.

Put a team together or join a team that night!

Prizes will be given for both your trivia skills AND Christmas fashion!

SPECIAL MUSIC NEEDED!

We would love to have your voices or instruments as part of our upcoming worship services! If you would like to provide music on any Sunday in Advent or on Christmas Eve, please contact Bill Grant or one of the pastors. We need music on Christmas Eve at 3, 5, and 10. Practice times can be arranged with Bill.

In place of our regular Christmas Program this year, we are having a special day called “Visit to Bethlehem” on December 19th. We would love to have LOTS of children’s voices and instruments that day! You can provide music at the 9:30 service, or at both 8 AND 9:30. Contact Bill Grant or one of the pastors if you are willing to share your gifts that morning as we journey together to Bethlehem!



CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING! Join us on DECEMBER 19th at 4 PM for our Annual Christmas Caroling to homebound members and nursing homes. Dress warmly as we will be singing outside doors and windows in order to keep our members safe! Join us as we sing praise to God...and remember “The Best Way to Spread Christmas Cheer is Singing Loud for All to Hear!”



COME ONCE AGAIN TO HEAR THE STORY OF CHRIST’S BIRTH!

Join us for Christmas Eve Worship services at 3 PM and 5 PM, with a beautiful candlelight service at 10 PM. This year, invite someone to share this story with you and bring them to worship. Let us fill the Sanctuary with song and praise as we gather to celebrate this Holy Night! Our 5 PM service will be streamed live online and available any time after that as well.

We are looking for READERS!

- **Advent Candlelighters:** If you or your family would like to help light the Advent candle at 8 or 9:30, please talk to Pastor Jeni!
- **Visit to Bethlehem:** If you would like to play a character in our Visit to Bethlehem, please contact Pastor Jeni. This involves a one-page reading—and maybe a costume! We need readers for BOTH services and would love it if you could sign up for both. Thank you!

St. James News



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY:

- To the family of Jack Page.
- To the family of Roland Brosz.
- To the family of Carren Schaer.
- To Don and Jeanette Priebe at the death of Don's mother, Faith.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Dolores Bowers, Margaret Christensen, Bill Mason, Leonard and Leslie Johnson, Sherri Fitzgerald.

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THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A big thank you to our St. James family at the time of Bryan's passing. All cards, calls, and remembrances meant a lot to us.

~Ron and Myrna Jensen, Teresa, Cody, and Casey Brandau

We would like to thank everyone for their kind words, expression of sympathy, cards and memorials after the death of Don's mom, Faith Priebe. We so appreciate it.

~Don and Jeanette Priebe



DO DAYS NEWS

Christmas is coming!
Do Days gals can help with your holiday shopping list.

We have quilts on the sanctuary pews through Christmas to be sold for \$25 each (cash or check). What a deal! Check them out and we'll be happy to help.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Now that the weather is getting cooler, grab your yarn and start stitching! We'll be praying over them in January.

ANNUAL REPORTS

WILL BE DUE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!
(Where has the year gone??)

If you are a BOARD President, it is time to start thinking about writing your year end report. You can bring or send them to the office at any time.

VIDEO LIVESTREAMING

We have begun use of our new video system. There have been some technical glitches as we get started, but we expect those to be fixed very soon. Thank you for your patience. And thank you to our team working so hard on this project!

BATHROOM REMODEL

We are excited that our bathrooms by the offices are getting spruced up! Thank you to Jennifer Hansen and our mighty team of volunteers for the hours spent painting and assisting in the completion of the project.

CONTINUED COVID PRECAUTIONS

Due to the continued COVID cases in our community and the stress on our hospital and healthcare workers, we have re-instituted a mask requirement in the building.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE!

It will be December 6th
from 12:00-5:00 pm.
Schedule your appointment
online at redcrossblood.org
or text/call Diane Francis
at 641-430-2228.

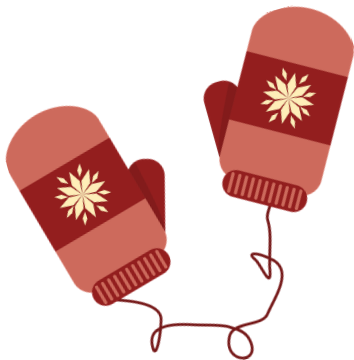


Join Us For Our
**Annual WELCA
Christmas Soup Social**

Sunday, December 12, 2021
at 1:00 pm in the gym.

Bring a friend!

We will also be drawing for new
Prayer Partners for 2022.
The sign-up sheet is located on the
Welcome Desk.



The MITTEN TREE

will be available in the Narthex for “decorating” beginning in December. “Decorations” may include mittens, gloves, stocking hats, sweat pants, socks, and underwear for elementary boys and girls.

For safety purposes, scarves are not accepted.

Last year students at Jefferson and Harding schools received our donations. This year the donations will be distributed to Roosevelt and Hoover schools. An additional box will be available under the tree for high school and middle school students.

Deodorant is needed for both male and female students, as well as sweatshirts and leggings in all sizes.

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.

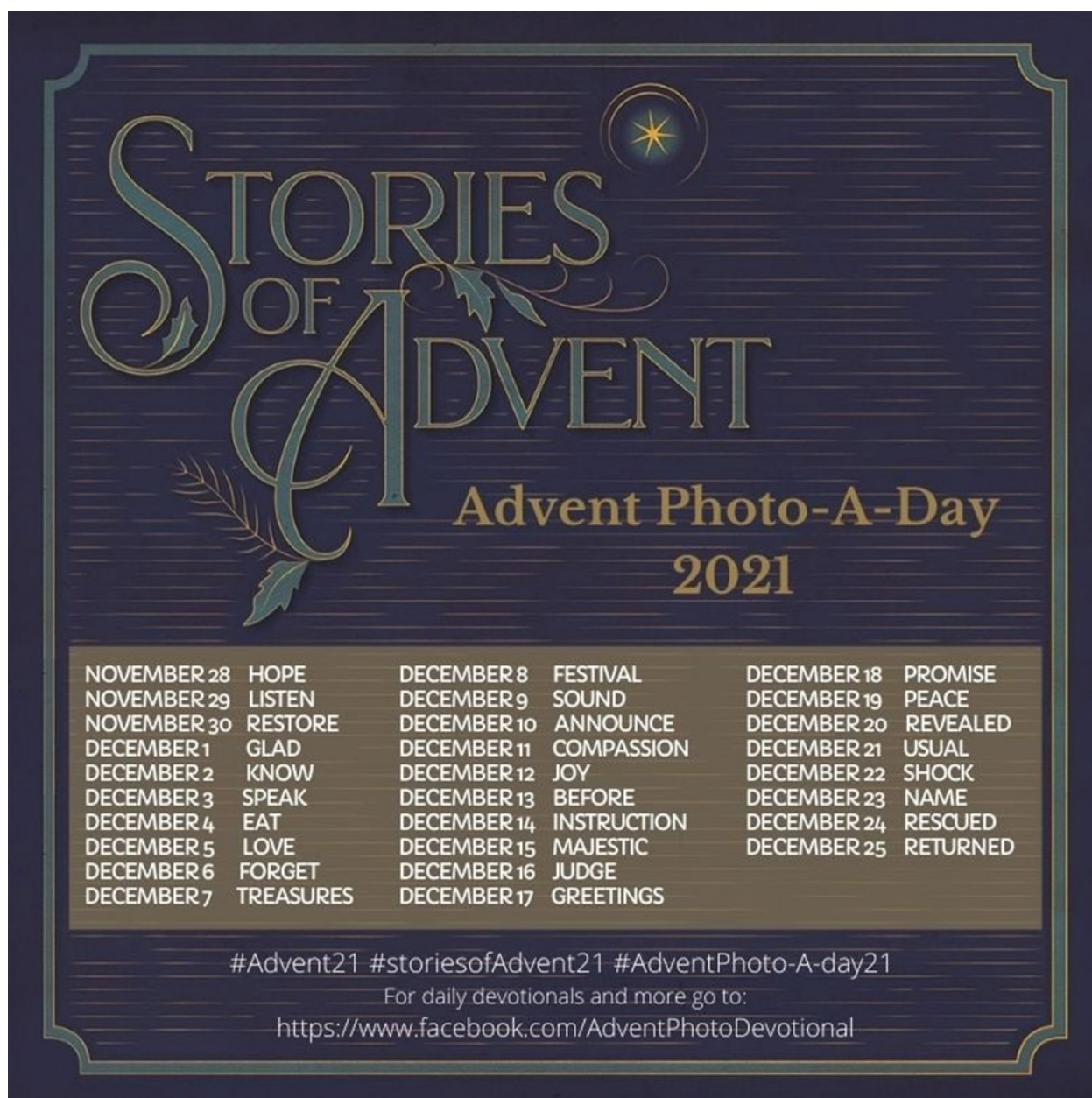


PHOTO-A-DAY CHALLENGE FOR ADVENT!

Post your pictures each day to Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter.

Be sure to tag St. James or use the hashtag #stjamesmc,
 along with the #Advent21 Hashtag.

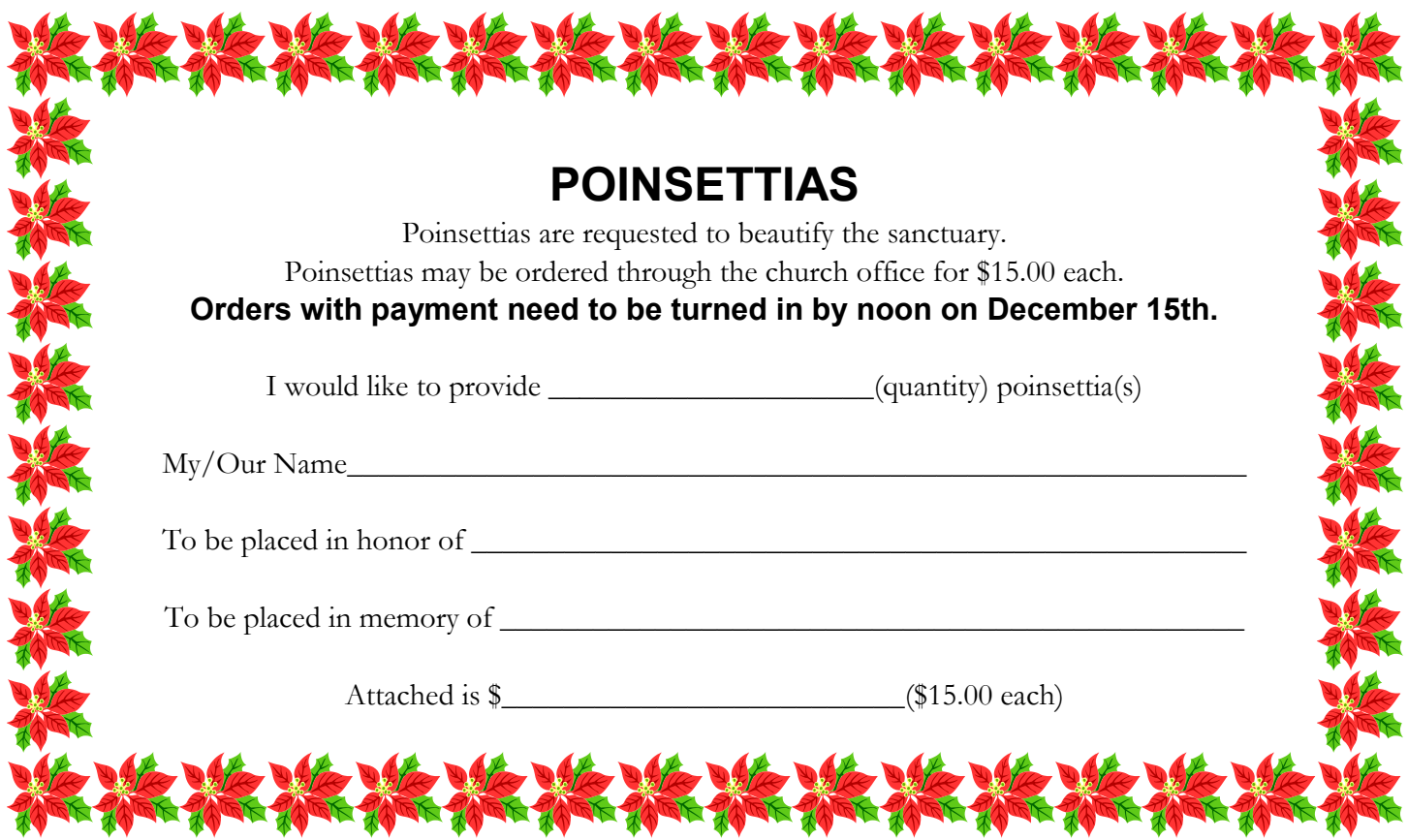
Check out the Advent Photo-A-Day Facebook page for Daily Devotions.
 The St. James Facebook page will also have a verse and picture each morning.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

December 1 - box of cereal
December 2 - peanut butter
December 3 - stuffing mix
December 4 - boxed potatoes
December 5 - macaroni and cheese
December 6 - canned fruit
December 7 - canned tomatoes
December 8 - canned tuna
December 9 - dessert mix
December 10 - jar of applesauce
December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
December 12 - cranberry sauce
December 13 - canned beans
December 14 - box of crackers
December 15 - package of rice
December 16 - package of oatmeal
December 17 - package pasta
December 18 - spaghetti sauce
December 19 - chicken noodle soup
December 20 - tomato soup
December 21 - can corn
December 22 - can mixed vegetables
December 23 - can carrots
December 24 - can green beans

*Make a box of food and either take it to the Food Bank in December
or bring it to Church on or before Christmas Eve.
Make giving a part of your Advent devotions!*



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias are requested to beautify the sanctuary.

Poinsettias may be ordered through the church office for \$15.00 each.

Orders with payment need to be turned in by noon on December 15th.

I would like to provide _____(quantity) poinsettia(s)

My/Our Name _____

To be placed in honor of _____

To be placed in memory of _____

Attached is \$ _____(\$15.00 each)

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT!

Children and Youth of all ages are invited to join us on Wednesday December 15th from 6-8 PM for the movie, "THE STAR."

An End of the Year Party for confirmation and ALL youth!

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CHRISTMAS SCAVENGER HUNT!



A fun Family/Congregational Event on
SUNDAY DECEMBER 12
At 4 PM
Meet at the Church.
We will have pizza and hot chocolate after the hunt!

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB!

We will meet on *Saturday, December 11 at 10 AM at Cabin Coffee* as we continue to discuss the book "Fierce, Free, and Full of Fire."

Please read as much of the book as you can by that day! Don't worry if you haven't finished the book. Join us for the conversation and fellowship!

We will also pick a new book for the new year so bring your ideas!



SUNDAY MORNING DONATIONS NEEDED

If anyone is willing to donate small bottles of water and juice boxes/pouches, we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you!!!

SUNDAY READER SIGN-SIGN UP SHEET

Sunday readers are needed.

There is now a sign-up sheet located on the WELCOME Desk in the Narthex.

GREETER & USHERS NEEDED

We are working on scheduling greeters & ushers for the fall. If you're interested please contact Diane or Tim Francis, or Jill in the office.



VIDEO VOLUNTEERS!

Our new video system has been installed in the sanctuary, and we are in the middle of training people how to use it. If you

would like to learn about video production, or if you would like to help run the live stream during worship services, please let one of the pastors know, and we will get you trained!

HOME, NURSING HOME, AND HOSPITAL VISITS

We want to visit you! But we also want to respect your comfort levels! Please: If you, or a family member would like to schedule a communion visit or any kind of visit with a pastor, contact them or the office to set that up.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES COMING SOON

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry at St. James! Offerings can be received on our web-site: www.stjamesmc.org at the "give online" tab, where you can sign up for one-time or recurring donations. Offerings can also be mailed to the Church office at 1148 4th St SE, Mason City, 50401.

CHANCEL CHOIR

The CHANCEL CHOIR practices Wednesdays at 7 PM. All singers are welcome to join us in the sanctuary to learn some new music for worship.



St. James Staff & Contact Information

Pastor Jeni Bohls
pastorjeni@mchsi.com

Pastor Sid Bohls
sid.bohls@gmail.com

Administrative Coordinator
Jill Nonnweiler
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Financial Secretary
Mike Fitzgerald
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Building Supervisor
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redress5309@gmail.com

Worship & Music Coordinator
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Kitchen Coordinator
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Choir Director
Ashley McLaughlin

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