



# St. James Journal

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

February, 2021  
www.stjamesmc.org

## February Worship

### Schedule

Sunday: 9 AM in person  
9 AM online

Mid-week Lent beginning February 17  
6:30 in person  
6:30 online

Sunday School: 8 AM online

The Annual Meeting of  
St. James Lutheran Church  
will be held on

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

**AT 10 AM.**

This meeting will be held in the Sanctuary  
and also broadcast live through Zoom.

The zoom link will be sent out the week of  
the meeting via e-mail. You can also call the  
office any time after February 1 to receive  
the link.

Please call or e-mail the Church office or  
one of the pastors if you would like more  
information or help navigating zoom. We  
will be happy to find someone to assist you.

Thank you!

### Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday from 9-12.  
Pastors available other times by  
appointment.

## An Update from the Return to Worship Committee

Dear Congregation,

Our return to worship committee has met and voted to resume in-person worship on Sunday, February 7 at 9 AM. For now, we will have ONE in-person service. We will continue to broadcast online services at 9 AM each week.

To ensure the safety of our congregation, we will require masks or face shields for all in attendance. We will also adhere to physical distancing guidelines. Our pews are marked to ensure distancing. Due to those guidelines, we will only be able to hold 75 people, including pastors and worship assistants, in the Sanctuary at this time. We will NOT require pre-registration at this time, however if we begin to exceed numbers, we will resume that.

We strongly encourage you to continue to worship online if you aren't able to attend in person. More guidelines for worship can be found on the back page of the Journal. We look forward to welcoming you indoors for worship again!

Our number one priority will be your safety. Please know that these decisions can change at any time. Watch your email and our Facebook page for changes in schedule. Please call the Church office if you would prefer a phone call when worship changes are made.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to prayerfully navigate these decisions!

Return to Church Phase Committee:

Shawn Janssen  
Kim Ostrander  
Pastor Jeni  
Jere Merrill

Leonard Johnson  
Cheryl West  
Pastor Sid

Gary Lafrenz  
Nick West  
Jennifer Hansen

# St. James News



Introducing our Lenten Series:

## **HOLY VESSELS: GUIDING US INTO SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS**

Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love.

We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces.

In this Lenten season of recovery for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken.

**Join us each Wednesday for worship as we heal, refresh, and renew our bodies and spirits.**

**Worship will be held in person at 6:30 PM and will also be online beginning at 6:30 PM.**

**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship on February 17.**

**LENTEN WORSHIP PACKETS** will be available for the entire congregation in February. If you are attending in-person worship, you can pick up those worship kits on Sunday, February 14 or on Ash Wednesday, February 17. If you are attending on-line, you can pick those Worship kits up in the narthex or the gym OR we can deliver them to you. Please call or e-mail the office or one of the pastors if you would like one delivered to you. These will be important additions to your Lenten worship time.

HELP US FEED HUNGRY PEOPLE through our annual SOUPERBOWL OF CARING event. On February 7, we will collect non-perishable food items for the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank and dollars for World Hunger. If you attend in person that day, you can bring your donations to Church. If you attend online, there will be a collection box for food outside the gym door the week before the 7th. Monetary donations for World Hunger can be mailed or dropped off at church.

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**BUILDING USE:** Rooms are available for meetings and other events on a limited basis. There is a COVID capacity limit posted on the doors of each room to ensure proper distancing is maintained during meetings. Please adhere to these guidelines. It is extremely important you contact Jill with the meeting date and time as cleaning will be needed following all events.

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**SIMPLY GIVING** is a great way to ensure your offering gets here even when you can't so that the mission and ministry of St. James can continue. Simply Giving is our electronic giving program. Forms to have your offerings automatically deducted are available in the church office.  
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# St. James News

## **OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY:**

- To the family of Dorothy Nolte
- To Marilyn Butters and family at the death of Jerry

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Recently remembered in prayer: Gene Larsen, Mike Cervantes, John Clarke, Leroy and Colleen Olson, Carol Bahnsen

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## **THANK YOU!**

- Thank you to all those who helped assemble and deliver care packages in December: the Witte family, Kathy Grant, Grant Bohls, Scott and Becky Miller, the Bogema family, and Bob and Kathy Follmuth.
- Thank you to ALL those who provided special music for our Christmas services and our Facebook page during the Advent and Christmas season. We were blessed by your willingness to share your gifts! Thank you also to those who read lessons and helped in any way!
- Thank you to those who participated in our Advent Food Box Challenge and to those who brought mittens, hats, and other items for the WELCA mitten tree!
- Thank you to all of you working behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly during these Covid times. Thank you to our St. James staff for your continued hard work, to our council and boards, to our return to worship committee, those helping with worship services, and to all those who continue to help with projects around the Church. Our ministry continues even when we can't be together as often as we would like! We thank all of you for going the extra mile to make sure our ministry continues!



## **THE SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF ASH WEDNESDAY**

### **Sunday, February 14—Celebration of Holy Communion**

9 AM communion during worship  
2-4 PM “Walk thru” in the Sanctuary.

### **Wednesday, February 17—Imposition of Ashes**

4-6 PM Individual Imposition of Ashes in the Sanctuary  
6:30 PM Ashes during worship

*Ash Wednesday Worship will be broadcast beginning at 11 AM and available to view all day.*

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## **FIRST COMMUNION**

**INSTRUCTION** will be held in February. If your child is interested in participating in First Communion this year, please contact Pastor Jeni. Dates and times for instruction will be announced soon!

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**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** will not meet on February 17. Students are required to attend worship either in person or online. Please watch your e-mail for information about times for the remainder of the Wednesdays in Lent.

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will be held online each Sunday in February. Openings will be posted online beginning at 8:30. Other materials for Sunday School will be on our website.

ON **FEBRUARY 14**, join us for a special Valentine’s Day Service Project at 10 AM in the gym!



**As you join us for 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 (6 feet)
- If you have young children, be sure that they remain with the family (arm's length).
- 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.
- No coffee/donuts provided.
- The service will be displayed on the screens instead of bulletins.
- The red pads will not be distributed.
- The pews in the sanctuary will be roped off to allow for proper distancing.
- Cushions have been removed from the pews.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available to ensure proper

hand hygiene at designated stations.

- Ushers will be needed to take count and record names of those in attendance. Ushers will also usher each pew out at the end of the service.
- The bathrooms inside the main door will be available.
- "Walk thru" communion will be available at times separate from the worship service.
- There will still be an online service for those who are not comfortable worshipping in public. This will be available at 9 AM.

SUNDAY IN-PERSON WORSHIP: 9 AM

SUNDAY ONLINE WORSHIP: 9 AM

**ST. JAMES STAFF**

**St. James Contact Information**

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