

# St. James Journal

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

February, 2022  
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.

## 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

Communion will be held on first & third Sunday 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!*

## *What does it mean to be united?*

There is a new game that took the internet by storm in the last month. "Wordle," in case you haven't heard of it, is one of the simplest word games I have seen. You go to a website every morning and try to guess the word of the day in 6 or less guesses. Simple in design and in rules, but sometimes a bit complicated in execution!

But here is the thing about "Wordle." Though it looks like just a word game, it is actually a game that is bringing us all together! Think about it: EVERYONE working toward the same goal—finding the same word. And MILLIONS of us have started to play that game: young and old alike (everyone in our family is playing it from the teenagers to the grandparents!). My entire Facebook and Twitter feeds most mornings are people's Wordle scores. And frankly, I love to see it! It's a welcome break from political cartoons and the latest doom and gloom news stories. It's fun to see something that UNITES us instead of divides us for a change.

Unity is hard to come by these days. With all of the division in our world, made even worse in the last couple of years, conflicts aren't just little disagreements that make us bigger. They impact the ways we treat each other, the love we share, the ways we worship, and every single part of our lives.

I get excited for "Wordle" because for a change we can walk across the line: the generational lines, political lines, religious lines and all the other lines...and just play a game together.

In John 17, Jesus prayed for the Church to be one—for his followers to be united in his mission.

This doesn't mean we have to agree on everything. And it certainly doesn't mean we should accept injustices, racism, hatred, and other evils just for the sake of unity.

But Jesus does call for us to find where our true unity can lie. LOVE is what brings us together. The love of God, shown to us in Jesus Christ, is the bond which holds us together. It is this love that calls us to mission and ministry in Christ's name. We don't have to agree on everything to share God's love. We don't have to agree on everything to be kind to one another. We don't have to agree on everything to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the hurting, fight for justice, pray for one another, and share God's Word. We just have to agree on the One Thing—the Most Important Thing. The love of Jesus Christ and the call to be his body in this world.

I think the goodness of humanity is seen when we all unite around one internet game. But more than that, I think the goodness of humanity is seen when we share love, when we embody kindness, and most definitely when we strive to be Christ to one another. May we all find peace and joy in that unity and may we strive to share it with the world!

*Pastor Jeni*

# St. James News



**RECENTLY REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:** Dolores Bowers, Pam Harris, Arlin Pals

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**THANK YOU!** As many of you know, several of our staff and families of our staff experienced Covid in January. We appreciate all of the volunteers who stepped up into leadership positions through those weeks—those who helped lead worship, those who took care of needs around the building, and all those who stepped up to see that our daily needs were met. We all continue to pray for those affected by Covid and for all of our healthcare workers who are working tirelessly in our community and around the world to take care of those who are sick. God bless you all!

**THE ST. JAMES ANNUAL MEETING has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 6th:** Due to the outbreak of illness in January, we have decided to postpone our annual meeting. It will be held Sunday, February 6 at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary. A zoom link for the meeting will be e-mailed out ahead of time. We hope you will be able to join us!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL FUN IN FEBRUARY!**

*ALL AGES are invited to join us during the 10:30 Sunday School hour for all of these events!*

January 30— We will make Valentines for Veterans. These Valentines will be taken to KCMR Radio for their “Valentines for Veterans” campaign.

February 6— We will make Valentines that will be delivered to local nursing homes to help share God’s love!

February 13— SOUPERBOWL Sunday— Join us as we learn about World Hunger and hear how we can help combat it!

February 20— Extra long Sunday School time as we watch the movie “American Underdog: The Kurt Warner Story” together.

February 27— We will burn Palm Branches and learn about Lent as we prepare for Ash Wednesday.

## **HOME, NURSING HOME, AND HOSPITAL VISITS**

If you, or a family member would like to schedule a communion visit or any kind of visit with a pastor, please contact them or the office to set that up. If you know of anyone who is hospitalized or needs a visit, please contact one of the pastors. Thank you!

## **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!

## **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. Please be mindful of the needs of others and help us to follow Christ’s call to “love our neighbors as ourselves.” Thank you!

## **CARE BOX DONATIONS NEEDED**

Our last Care Team box for our college kids, away at school, will be packed up on Sunday, February 13th. We only have 8 boxes to fill and we’d love some donations. Treats, candy, baked goods...anything individually wrapped that you think our college kids would be excited to get. Bring the items to the stage on the 13th when you come to worship or get ahold of Kathy 641-425-9676 or Gloria 641-420-2967. Thank you so very much!!!

## **DRAMA CLUB**

The St James Drama club has had its first meeting, but it is not too late for YOU to join. We are seeking people to do skits and monologues during worship and other times. Contact one of the pastors or the church office to have a part!

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**FIRST COMMUNION:** Our Rescheduled First Communion Class will be held on Saturday, February 5 from 9-12. First Communion Sunday will be Sunday, February 20. Call or email Pastor Jeni to sign up!

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## Introducing our 2022 Lenten Series: “Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith”

We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility—climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever-more-likable social media accounts. We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do “the right thing.” But life happens, right? Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we’ve just slipped from. So what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our “good enough” lives.

Our 2022 Lenten series will explore this theme through worship, Scripture, song, and other activities. Join us as we begin the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Mid-Week worship during Lent will be held at 11 AM and 6:30 PM.

### WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB!

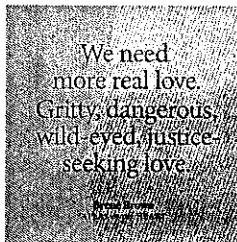


Our February Book Club Selection is “Atlas Of the Heart,” by Brené Brown.

One description of the book reads: “If we want to find the way back to ourselves and one another, we need language and the grounded confidence to both tell our stories and to be stewards of the stories that we hear. In *Atlas of the Heart*, we explore eighty-seven of the emotions and experiences that define what it means to be human and walk through a new framework for cultivating meaningful connection. This is for the mapmakers and travelers in all of us.”

Join us beginning FEBRUARY 12th at 10 AM at Cabin Coffee for our first Book Club of 2022.

The book can be found at Target, Amazon, or most book selling locations.



### MOVIE DAY!!

Join us on Sunday, February 20th at 10:30 AM for a St. James Movie Day!

We will be watching the movie: “*American Underdog: The Kurt Warner Story*,” about Iowa Native, UNI Alum (Go Panthers!), and Super Bowl Winning QB, Kurt Warner!

We will meet in the Sanctuary after the 9:30 service.

*ALL are welcome!*

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### SOUPERBOWL OF CARING!



We will hold our ANNUAL Superbowl Food Drive on Sunday, February 13!

You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food DONATIONS for the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank or DOLLARS for ELCA World Hunger!

*Please help us as we work together to TACKLE HUNGER!*

# Opportunities to Serve!

## 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.



## VIDEO VOLUNTEERS!

Our new video system has been installed in the sanctuary. 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!

## 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.

## LOOKING FOR A NEW WAY TO SERVE??

Have you considered joining a St. James BOARD or the CHURCH COUNCIL?? New board members are needed! Talk to a member of the Executive board or one of the pastors for more information!

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES can be found in the Narthex. If you do not have any envelopes, please contact Jill in the office and she will assign you a box.

Your offerings can be given at Church on Sunday mornings. They can also be received on our web-site:

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

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

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**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF:** In March we will be collecting items to assemble for personal care kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief in April. Personal care kits contain *bath towels, soap, wide tooth combs, toothbrushes and nail clippers*. Please watch for more details in the March Journal. Thank you for your participation!

WELCA Mission Action

## St. James Staff & Contact Information

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