

FEBRUARY 2024

ST. JAMES JOURNAL

WE PROCLAIM AND PRACTICE
CHRIST'S LOVE

WINDOWS TO THE DIVINE: An Exploration of Art and Faith

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday Services on February 14. Join us at 11 AM and 6:30 PM for Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion as we start our Lenten Journey.



Our Lenten series this year will be based on art and spirituality. On Wednesdays, and also during Holy Week, we will be looking at pieces of art and thinking about what they might teach us or show us about God. Have you ever walked through a museum and witnessed something spiritual? Seen a beautiful picture and noticed God? Have you ever stood in awe of a beautiful sunset or mountain or ocean view? God can be seen in so many pictures and faces and places.

These are some of the things we will be exploring through various pieces of art. During Lent, we will also be encouraging you to create art that shows God or depicts your faith.

We will be encouraging you to share photos you take, to join us for art adventures, to color pictures that will be given out each Wednesday, and to think about how various kinds of art have impacted your life and

relationship with God.

We will also encourage you to declutter your life in order to see the window to the divine more clearly by giving up something during Lent or perhaps actually decluttering your home, office, or yard. Everyone will be given a garbage bag on Ash Wednesday that you can use to get rid of things you no longer need or use. You can donate those things, recycle them, or throw them away. Ridding our lives of the "stuff" that gets in the way of our life of faith is a good way to see God and hear God's voice.

There will be weekly and daily devotions through Lent. And we will explore the art of music and worship during both our Sunday and Wednesday worship services.

Watch the bulletin and our Facebook page for listings of events and activities, for a calendar of photos you can take and share, and for other information about our Lenten Series, "Windows to the Divine."

Lenten Resources will also be made available at our Pancake Supper on February 13th.

CHURCH NEWS

BOOK CLUB

BOOK CLUB: Join us for one more discussion of the book "7 Days of Christmas" by Jen Hatmaker on February 19 at 7 PM. This month, we will be exploring more about how simplifying our lives draws us closer to God. All are welcome!

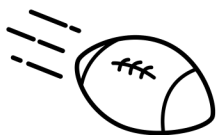


MASON CITY HIGH SCHOOL FOLLIES 2024



MASON CITY HIGH SCHOOL will present The MCHS Follies, the Annual Variety show, on February 8 and 9 at 7:30 PM and February 11 at 1 PM at NIACC. We have several St. James members participating. Tickets are on sale now at Hy-Vee East and Hy-Vee West. They will also be available at the door.

SUPERBOWL FOOD DRIVE



We will hold our ANNUAL Superbowl Food Drive on Sunday, February 11! 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!

CALLING ALL THRIVENT MEMBERS!

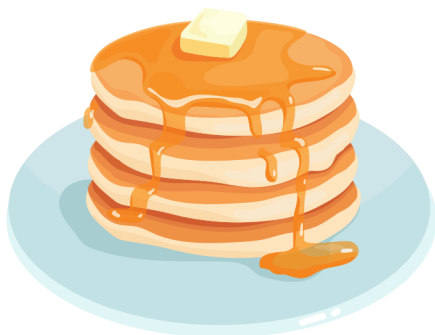
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: If you are a Thrivent member with choice dollars to donate to a non-profit organization, please consider donating them to St. James. It is a great way to support our ministry and the work we are doing. The deadline to direct your choice dollars from last year is March 31. If you have questions about choice dollars, please contact one of the pastors or your Thrivent Representative. Thank

you!

February 2024

CHURCH NEWS

Pancake Supper February 13th,



Join us for a Mardi Gras Pancake Feast on February 13th, from 5 pm to 6:30 pm. We will have pancakes and all the fixins' plus tons of fun activities for all ages! Proceeds will benefit our youth attending the National Youth Gathering and camps this summer!

This Month We Prayed For:



Ron Jensen
Leonard Johnson

and the families of Lynnanne Bull
and Dorothy Nuehring

February 2024



Thank you for the prayers, words of concern and cards during Merv's sister, Connie's, illness and passing. Our family is very appreciative.

Merv and Ann Sletten.

February Dinner Menu Wednesdays, 5:30 pm

- 1-31-24: Lasagna
- 2-7-24: Chili / other soup
- 2-14-24: No Meal
- 2-21-24: Casseroles
- 2-28-24: Breakfast



WELCA THANKOFFERING

Our annual Thankoffering service will be in November. All women are encouraged to give an offering in grateful appreciation for all the blessings we have received. If you would like to set aside an offering during the year for blessings you receive or things you are thankful for, containers are available on the table in the narthex.

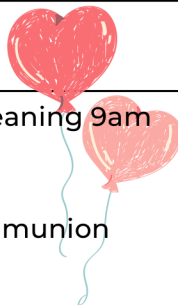
Beginning in the late 19th century, Lutheran women were given small Thankoffering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. From their use came the idea of an annual church service to celebrate their collection. The first Thankoffering service was created by the General Synod's Women's Home and Foreign Ministry Service in 1889 in celebration of their 10th anniversary. At that time \$6,100 was collected. Today Women of the ELCA collect more than \$1 million in Thankofferings annually for the ministries and mission of our women's organization.

It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community and of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us.

Help keep this tradition going by participating!

WELCA Mission Action

Coming Up



February 3: Church cleaning 9am to noon

February 10: First Communion class 9-12

February 11: Souper Bowl Sunday Collection

February 13: Mardi Gras Pancake Supper 5-6:30

February 25th Koinonia 5pm



Familiar Faces

Did you get snapped last month? Check out the photos below and don't forget to take a peek at our social media to see some familiar faces!



Blessings to The Newly Baptized!



Bella Rose Ott
Jaxton James Ott
Harley Kay Ott

**Baptized on January 28th
2024**

Mark Your Calendars!

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION will be held on February 10 from 9-12 for all youth in grades 3 and older who have not yet had instruction. Please sign up by calling or emailing Pastor Jeni or the Church office.



Join us for BUNCO on Sunday, February 25th at 3 PM. No experience necessary—just a willingness to laugh and have fun! Bring friends! You are also invited to bring a snack to share.

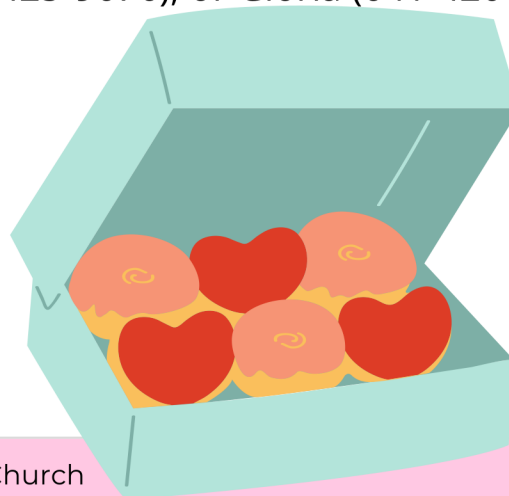
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Volunteers are needed for ushering and reading during our worship services. We also need hosts for Fellowship Time and people to make bread for visitors. All of those sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex. Please consider signing up to help with these Sunday morning opportunities. Thank you!

Valentine Care Boxes

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and that means it's time to pack and send a new round of care boxes! We have 5 college students away from home, who we would love to bless with some goodies, (4 boys, 1 gal).

We will be packing the boxes on Sunday, the 11th, between services on the stage. If you have any questions, call Kathy (641-425-9676), or Gloria (641-420-2967).



Heifer International Project

Heifer International is an organization that helps accelerate the path to living incomes for all people internationally. Nutritious food. Shelter. Clean Water. A decent education. Access to health care.

And a safe and secure environments are considered by this organization for all people to have a life free from hunger and poverty. To this end, St. James is working toward providing funds to this organization through special "Well Offerings". Our goal this year to raise \$300 to aid in their efforts to provide clean water to people who need it. Our gift will help provide fresh water to drink every day.

We will have the well up in the sanctuary and ask that everyone drop their coins—or dollars!—into the bucket provided each Sunday.

We pray that by the end of the Sunday School year, we have collected enough money to provide water to those who need it!

2023 MITTEN TREE THANK YOU!

Thank you to the all the St. James members contributing to the Mitten Tree. Harding and Roosevelt elementary schools received this year's "decorations" which included 18 pairs of socks, 26 pairs of gloves, 14 pairs of mittens, 38 hats, and 7 hat/mitten combos. Both schools were very appreciative of the donations. We also collected a large box of personal care items for high school students!



We are so happy to have a great group of young people joining us each Sunday for Sunday School. We begin each Sunday at 9am in the Chapel for a short opening and the kids are dismissed from their classes at 9:40. We encourage and welcome all preschool and elementary students to join us! Older youth are also welcome to be part of Sunday School by volunteering to help!

On February 11th, our Sunday School students will be helping with "Souper Bowl Sunday" activities. We will have a lesson on Hunger around the World and will be helping collect money and non-perishable food items between services, along with the Confirmation Students. Everyone is encouraged to wear their favorite team gear on that day.

Also on February 11th, the youth of St. James will be singing at the 9:45 service. We encourage all the St. James Youth to join in the fun!

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

During March we will be collecting items for personal care kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief in April.

When families find their homes destroyed or must flee for their safety and arrive in a refugee camp or other safe place, simple items included in a personal care kit provide self-care, germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity in a time of uncertainty. The following items are needed for a personal care kit:



- One light-weight bath towel, dark color
- Two to three bars of wrapped soap equaling 8-9 oz.
- One wide-tooth comb (remove packaging)
- One metal nail clippers (remove packaging)

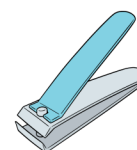


Any items that are donated are much appreciated. If a family would like to provide a personal care package, all the above items can be wrapped in the towel and tied with yarn or ribbon.

There will be a bin inside the gym door for any items that you would like to leave at the church. Donations can also be put in the brown baskets in the narthex.



Thank you for participating!
WECLC Mission Action







FEBRUARY 2024



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

				1 9-1 PM SERVE AT COMMUNITY KITCHEN	2	3 CHURCH CLEAN OUT 9AM- NOON
4 8:30 AM TRAD. SERVICE 9 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 CONTEMP. SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION	5 7PM BOOK CLUB	6 9AM DO-DAYS	7 7AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 5:30 PM DINNER 6PM ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30 CONFIRMATION 7PM CHOIR	8	9	10 FIRST COMMUNION CLASS 9AM-12PM
11 8:30 AM TRAD. SERVICE 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 CONTEMP. SERVICE SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY COLLECTION	12	13 9AM DO-DAYS PANCAKE SUPPER 5PM-6:30 PM	14 7AM MEN'S BREAKFAST ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES 11AM AND 6:30 PM	15	16	17
18 8:30 AM TRAD. SERVICE 9 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 CONTEMP. SERVICE	19 BOOK CLUB 7PM	20 9AM DO-DAYS	21 7AM MEN'S BREAKFAST LENT SERVICE 11AM 5:30 PM DINNER LENT SERVICE 6:30PM CHOIR AND CONFIRMATION 7PM	22 COUNCIL 5:30 PM	23	24
25 8:30 AM TRAD. SERVICE 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 CONTEMP. SERVICE ANNUAL MEETING 10:45AM 3PM BUNCO 5PM KOINONIA	26	27 9AM DO-DAYS	28 7AM MEN'S BREAKFAST LENT SERVICE 11AM 5:30 PM DINNER LENT SERVICE 6:30PM CHOIR AND CONFIRMATION 7PM	29		

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

				1 LEROY OLSON TOM TISOR	2 JERRY BIEKERT	3 ROSS LYBBERT
4	5	6 WAYNE FICK CHRISTA GUTHRIE HARVEY VON WALD	7 ERIN MAHONEY	8 DAVE SKATTEBO	9	10 TYLER BOUCHER MACEY BURTNES CINDY SKATTEBO TIM WENDEL
11	12 SANDRA DIAZ BOB FOLLMUTH KARRIE FRENZ JO HANSEN	13 LAURYN HALVERSON JENNIFER LEE NICOLE PATRICK ODELLA VOSBURGH	14 DANIELLE CORONADO ASHLEY MCLAUGHLIN MARY WITTE	15 CYNTHIA TOMPKINS	16 DARRELL HAMMARSTEDT	17 ISAAC BUHR RYAN BUHR SPENCER DRUMHELLER LEXI ROWE
18 LADONNA HASSENSTAB	19 JERRY GARL	20	21	22	23 DOMINIC BOUCHER ELAINE BROSDAHL	24 JACKIE SCHULTZ DEBRA WARD TOM YEZEK
25 LORI JORGENSEN BRETT SMITH	26 JARED FAIRBANKS JOHN MCMURRAY LINCOLN MICKELSON JAMES TRASK LARRY WESTLING	27 LISA LAWSON DANIELLE OLTHOFF	28 CHLOE BROERS ROBERT HUNN MARLIN JENSEN KATIE SIEVERS	29 JUDY CLARKE	1 MARCH	2 CORRINE BOLZ
3 MCKENZIE MYERS SYDNE THOMPSON	4 LAURA FURLEIGH ERIK MCHENRY DOROTHY NELSON LINDA PAULSEN	5 KINZIE JOHANNIS AMBER MCLAUGHLIN HAL POHLMAN	6 ERIC MCMURRAY KAREN PAULSEN PENNY STURGES	7 TERRY NELSEN ALLISON SCOTT	8	9 NEAL AMUNDSON



For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

