

St. James Journal

Our Mission Statement:

"We Proclaim and Practice Christ's Love"

January, 2023

www.stjamesmc.org

Office Hours:

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 am Traditional Worship
9 am Children's Sunday School
9:30 am Adult Bible Study
9:45 am Contemporary Worship
*The 9:45 am Worship service
will be live-streamed.*

FELLOWSHIP TIME VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking for members to host and provide treats for our fellowship time on Sunday mornings. You can partner with another family, with a group, or just on your own! Responsibilities include providing treats, setting them up, and making sure things are cleaned up after church. Fellowship time is held from 8 AM-9:45. Please consider volunteering for this ministry! A clipboard is available in the narthex for you to sign up for a date.

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.

What are Your Gifts?

And how can you use them for ministry in this world?

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ~1 Corinthians 12:4-7

These words from the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian people were meant to help them see that every person has gifts from the Holy Spirit to use in this world. Every person has a role to play in the Body of Christ. And these words are just as appropriate and important today as they were in the time of Paul.

We may spend a lot of time doing tasks. We may volunteer a lot. We may work to get things done. But how often do we stop and think about our own unique gifts and how to use them to build up the Body of Christ in this place and in the world?

This winter, we will be doing that during our worship time. Our Narrative Lectionary takes us to the Book of Matthew and the early days of Jesus' ministry. As we learn about this and learn about the ways he called people to follow him and help him with his mission, we will ponder the ways he is calling us and what gifts we have to offer. We will reaffirm our baptisms, think about where God is leading us, and look at our Spiritual Gifts and talk about how to use them. We will think about ministries of prayer and healing; teaching and fellowship; mission and service. How can we be a part of the new things God is doing at St. James and out in the world? How can we work together to reach the people of our community? How can we best support each other?

Join us this winter as we talk about these things! And look through this "Journal" to see ways you can start getting involved now.

~Pastor Jeni and Pastor Sid

St. James Community

PRAYERS

Our deepest sympathy to: the family of Darlene Fredrickson and the family of Marie Nannenga.

Recently remembered in prayer: Margaret Christianson, Kris Buehner, Dar Wade

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 AT 10:30 AM IN THE SANCTUARY. All confirmed members are eligible to vote at the annual meeting. Please mark your calendars and join us!

THANK YOU to all who provided music, read lessons, helped with ushering and greeting, assisted with worship, provided treats, helped with set-ups, and ALL who did so much to make for a beautiful Christmas Season at St. James!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all who blessed our family with gifts and cards for Christmas. We appreciate your generosity and care, and are thankful for another year of wonderful ministry at St. James! Thank you also to the St. James staff and leaders for your partnership in ministry during this season and all through the year!

~Pastor Sid and Pastor Jeni

NOISY OFFERING!

In 2023, we will begin our Noisy Offering Ministry. On the FIFTH SUNDAY of the month, bring in all of your coins and drop them in the offering plate. That money will be given to a local ministry.

January 29th will be our first Noisy offering of 2023

Daily Scripture Readings for Narrative Lectionary

Jan 1 Matthew 1:1-17	Jan 22 Matthew 5:1-20
Jan 2 Micah 5:2-5a	Jan 23 Matthew 5:21-26
Jan 3 Matthew 1:18-25	Jan 24 Matthew 5:27-32
Jan 4 Matthew 2:1-12	Jan 25 Matthew 5:33-37
Jan 5 Matthew 2:13-18	Jan 26 Matthew 5:38-42
Jan 6 Isaiah 60:1-6 (Day of Epiphany)	Jan 27 Matthew 5:43-48
Jan 8 Luke 2:25-40	Jan 28 Matthew 6:1-6
Jan 9 Matthew 3:1-12	Jan 29 Matthew 6:7-21
Jan 10 Isaiah 40:1-8	Jan 30 Matthew 6:22-24
Jan 11 Matthew 3:13-17	Jan 31 Matthew 6:25-30
Jan 12 Malachi 3:1-7	
Jan 13 Malachi 4:1-6	
Jan 14 Psalm 2:1-11	
Jan 15 Matthew 4:1-17	
Jan 16 Matthew 4:18-22	
Jan 17 Matthew 4:23-25	
Jan 18 Psalm 103:1-5	
Jan 19 Psalm 103:6-14	
Jan 20 Psalm 103:15-18	
Jan 21 Psalm 103:19-22	

Readings connect with the Scripture we are reading Sunday mornings. Bookmarks with questions for your daily devotions are available at Church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 8!

Join us each Sunday from 9-9:40 for Bible stories, games, crafts, and fun. We begin each Sunday in the chapel with opening and songs before going to classes. Sunday School is for all youth ages 2 through 6th grade. Older youth are encouraged to be helpers.

Please talk to Kathy Grant if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

St. James News

BUNCO NIGHT!

It's Ladies Night!



Join us for BUNCO on Monday, January 23 beginning at 7 PM. Bunco is easy to learn and fun to play. No experience necessary! Bring friends! You can also bring a snack to share. Join us for a night of laughter, fellowship, and fun.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

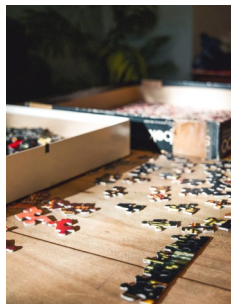
Congratulations to our Administrative Coordinator, Jill Nonnweiler! Jill is retiring effective January 31, 2023. She is looking forward to spending time with her husband, Dan, and their family. We will miss Jill around the Church but are happy for her new adventure. We will recognize and celebrate Jill's ministry with us in January. Watch for more information about that!

With Jill's announcement comes the need to fill her position. Do you know of anyone that would be a great fit for our church staff group? If you or someone you know is interested in the Church Administrative Coordinator and Financial Secretary position here at St. James, please send an email to me at jere.merrill@gmail.com OR call me at 641-420-3345.

A posting will also be made externally in hopes of gaining some interest in this role as well.

Thank you! ~Jere Merrill

PUZZLE AND BOOK EXCHANGE! SUNDAY JANUARY 22 10:30-11:30 AM



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. On the 22nd, we will set them up in the gym and you will be able to "shop" for free puzzles and books to take home. What a great way to share the things you love with others!

In addition, we will have a *soup contest* that day! Sign up in the Narthex to enter a soup in the contest.

Everyone in attendance will have a chance to vote for the favorite soup! Soup tasters will be able to try as many as you like!

Join us for this fun morning!



THE ST. JAMES BLOOD DRIVE that was postponed in December due to weather has been rescheduled for



Help save a life.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today.

JANUARY 9 from 12-5 PM.

Go to redcrossblood.org to reschedule your appointment or to sign up!

Thank you!

DO DAYS

Not much to say, except if the weather is good....we'll be there.
If school is closed, we won't meet.
Just want us to be safe.

PRAYER SHAWLS

We will be praying over shawls
Sunday the 29th, between the 2 services.

CARE TEAM

We will be mailing Valentines boxes
to our 10 college kids away from home,
on Feb. 12th.

We really need help with goodies,
money for mailing the boxes
and prayers that this ministry continues.
Call Gloria 420-2967 or Kathy 425-9676.

WELCA SERVING GROUP **CALLER NEEDED**

WELCA is in need of someone to serve
as a caller for funeral luncheons.

You are given a calling list and asked to
call these women when your serving
group is needed to serve a luncheon.

Typically, you will find ladies
to help serve the meal

or bake cakes for the luncheon.

WELCA has four serving groups
so your turn calling occurs once every
four funerals, or approximately
3 times per year.

*** Please call Sherri Fitzgerald
at 424-8847 or email me
at sherrifitzgerald1965@gmail.com
to say YES to becoming
a serving group caller.
I look forward to hearing
from you very soon!!

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEALS

JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 2023
Served in Fellowship Hall 5:30 - 6 pm

JANUARY 11

Spaghetti

French bread

JANUARY 18

Walking tacos

Nachos & cheese

JANUARY 25

Sloppy joes

Cheesy hashbrowns

FEBRUARY 1

Godfather's Pizza

FEBRUARY 8

Chicken noodle soup

Sandwiches

FEBRUARY 15

Chicken & rice casserole

Green beans

FEBRUARY 22

NO MEAL

ASH WEDNESDAY

SUGGESTED MEAL DONATION

\$5 PER PERSON

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

Wednesday Evening Activities

Resume January 11!

Join us for:

Supper beginning at 5:30

Adult Bible Study from 6-7 PM

Confirmation from 6:30-7:30

YYG (Younger Youth Group) from 6:30-7:30

Choir meets from 7-8

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE!



WE'VE GOT A NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS We need to come together as a congregation to make our church thrive. Volunteering, participating and being present are so important. It has been easy to step away from all of that over the past few years but without those things, our church will not grow and be strong. I challenge each of you to search within yourselves to see what you can do to make St James strong! Be creative and think outside your comfort zone to come up with new ways to do things. Can you volunteer for a board or committee? Please reach out to Jere Merrill (merrill.jere@gmail.com) or

send a note to the office (Stjamesofficemc@gmail.com) if you'd be willing to step up!

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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.

Opportunities to Serve and Learn!

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.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us on **WEDNESDAY EVENINGS** beginning in January for an Adult Bible Study from 6-7 PM. We will meet in the Fireside Room. All are welcome!

GRIEF GROUP

will not meet in the month of January. We will resume in February. New members are encouraged to join us for this time of conversation and care. Please contact Pastor Jeni or Pastor Sid if you have questions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We are in need of volunteers to be part of our Nominating Committee to help find leaders for our congregation for the next year. Please consider becoming 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. Thank you!

St. James Staff & Contact Information

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Administrative Coordinator
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