



# St. James Journal

Our Mission Statement:

*"We Proclaim and Practice Christ's Love"*

January, 2022

[www.stjamesmc.org](http://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  
*Children's Sunday School resumes  
January 23*

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 WILL BE HELD

on third Sunday of the month in  
January. There will not be  
communion on the first Sunday.

*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!*

## Happy New Year!

*"The Light Shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not  
overcome it." -John 1:5*

There is no doubt, when we think about the last two years, that we are all ready for a new beginning! I'm sure many of us hope and pray that 2022 will be easier! We may not even hope so much that things get back to the way they used to be ("normal"), but that we can get to something that represents peace...a place where we can breathe just a little easier. I saw something the other day that said, "I want to live in PRECEDENTED times," because we all may be just a little tired of living in these unprecedented times!

Because we know that "normal" may not happen again—at least not like it used to be. Our lives have been forever altered by this global pandemic. The overwhelming loss of life, health, and livelihood is unimaginable. And the impact the last two years has had on our institutions, systems, finances, mental and physical health, along with the many other crises our country and our world have faced, makes "normal" not even recognizable.

So where do we go from here? For the next several Sundays, we will be talking about how to live as disciples in this new year. How to live as people who know the promise of Christmas and Easter. What does that mean for finding joy in both unprecedented and precedent times? What does that mean for how we treat each other in the midst of the struggles and worries we ALL face? What does that mean when we are living in such a divided world? How does our faith inform our lives, our relationships, and our hope?

Because the truth is, we DO have a promise. We have hope in the light of Christ that came into our lives at Christmas and still shines in our world today. "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it" means that God is bigger and brighter than all of the worries and struggles of this world. Our hope is anchored in that promise. And that means that we can live in the love and light of Christ. We can begin again when things go wrong. We can try again when we fail. We can LIVE each day with hope and, yes, even joy, knowing that our joy is cemented in something so much bigger than this world.

Our world needs to find joy and hope again! People are crying for it. We need to learn to live and love again. Our faith gives us a path to do that. The promise of God gives us a path to do that. May this New Year help all of us live in that joy and hope and may we know and trust in the promise of our Savior, who holds us in all times, seasons, and years!  
-Pastor Jeni

# St. James News



## OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY:

- To Jesse and Julie Bohlsen and family at the death of Jesse's mother.

## RECENTLY REMEMBERED IN

PRAYER: Brett Austin, Dolores Bowers, Margaret Christensen, Mary Peterson, Betty Slock, Carol Turner

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## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

- To all the musicians, singers, readers, and worship assistants who were part of our Visit to Bethlehem worship service, as well as all those who helped with the preparation of the event!
- To all who helped during the Advent and Christmas season with decorating, setting things up, preparing for worship, playing and singing music, reading, and so many other things.

The Annual Meeting of  
St. James Lutheran Church  
Will be held on  
Sunday, January 30 at 10:30 AM  
In the St. James Sanctuary.

You will also be able to attend the meeting virtually. Watch your e-mail for a link to the meeting. In case of weather cancellation, the meeting will be held February 6.



## ANNUAL REPORTS

If you are a BOARD President, it is time to write your year end report.

You can bring or send them to the office at any time.

## 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!

CONFIRMATION will begin on Wednesday, January 19 at 6:30 PM

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.

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

# St. James News



**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS** will be held on SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 from 9-12 for youth in 3rd grade, along with others ready for this milestone. A parent or other adult is asked to attend with children. You can sign up for First Communion by e-mailing Pastor Jeni at [pastorjeni@mchsi.com](mailto:pastorjeni@mchsi.com) or by calling or texting her at 641-583-5901. Please contact one of the pastors for more information.

First Communion Sunday will be held on Sunday, February 6.

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Let's **HOP BACK ABOARD THE ROCKY RAILWAY**—where *Jesus' power pulls us through!* Sunday School begins again for ALL youth on Sunday, January 23 at 10:30 AM. We will meet in the chapel for lots of fun, games, and learning. Bring a friend for extra punches on your train tickets!

We will sing in church on the first Sunday in February, so join us the last two weeks in January to learn a song! All are welcome!

*If you would like to lead Sunday School on a Sunday morning, please contact Kathy Grant or Pastor Jeni. Leaders teach once every 4 to 5 weeks. Thank you!*

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## **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB!**

You are invited to join the Facebook group "St. James Women's Ministry" and/or like the page "St. James WELCA" for information on when our book club will start up again and the book we will be reading next! We are hoping to move to Saturday mornings for our book club discussion times. Invite a friend to read with you and join our discussion!

Through the month of January, Pastor Jeni will post discussion questions about the book "Fierce, Free, and Full of Fire" for you to think about, journal about, and hopefully respond to on the post!

***In the meantime, send Pastor Jeni book suggestions you have for our next book to share!***

## **ST. JAMES DRAMA CLUB!**

Do you have a flair for the dramatic? Are you a seasoned theater vet? Or have you ever just wanted to try your hand at acting??

Well have we got a group for you! St. James is starting a new theater group. This group will meet periodically and put on skits in church, help with worship services, and put on some very special performances through the year!

If you are interested, join us for a gathering meeting on Sunday, January 16 at 10:30 AM in the Friendship Room. We will give you more information that day and begin to organize!

Whether you have YEARS of acting experience under your belt, or none at all, we would love for you to join! All ages are welcome. Talk to one of the pastors for more information!

# *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!

**CHOIR will begin** on Wednesday, January 19 at 7 PM. Join your voices with our choir to provide music for worship. Worship Band will also be meeting again soon. Talk to Bill Grant if you are interested in playing an instrument or singing in the band, AND/OR if you would be willing to provide music for one of our services!

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

We will be praying over Prayer Shawls on January 23rd between services.

## **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!

## **OUTREACH AND MISSION TASK FORCE!**

In 2022, we are beginning a new ministry of outreach and we would LOVE for you to be part of it! This Task Force will be a group of volunteers committed to planning events, programs, and service projects to reach out to our community and beyond with the love of Christ. Our first meeting will be held on THURSDAY, JANUARY 20 at 6:00 PM. We would love lots of mission-minded people to join us! Contact one of the pastors for more information or to sign up.

## **St. James Staff & Contact Information**

**Pastor Jeni Bohls**  
pastorjeni@mchsi.com

**Pastor Sid Bohls**  
sid.bohls@gmail.com

**Administrative Coordinator**  
**Jill Nonnweiler**  
stjamesofficemc@gmail.com

**Financial Secretary**  
**Mike Fitzgerald**  
stjamesfs@gmail.com

**Building Supervisor**  
**Jennifer Hansen**  
reddress5309@gmail.com

**Worship & Music Coordinator**  
**Bill Grant**  
honeyguitar@msn.com

**Kitchen Coordinator**  
**Sherri Fitzgerald**  
sherrifitzgerald1965@gmail.com

**Choir Director**  
**Ashley McLaughlin**

1148 4th St SE  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 423-4702  
[www.stjamesmc.org](http://www.stjamesmc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/@St James](https://www.facebook.com/@StJames)