

Announcements

NEW Don't miss our **Community Thanksgiving Service Sunday**, 11/23, at 6:30pm! Mass Choir will rehearse from 5:00-5:45 and soup supper for all, 5:30-6:30.

NEW **Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Debra Heldt in honor of Tim Heldt's 70th birthday** (11/24) We are thankful for him being born on Thanksgiving Day 1955.

NEW **Come!** Join us for Holden Evening Prayer Worship Services on Wednesdays. December 3, 10, and the Children's Christmas Program on December 17 at 6:30pm. Soup supper prior to the services at 5:15pm.

NEW Get into the holiday spirit by attending the annual Christmas with Wartburg performance on Friday, December 5, in West Des Moines. Find out more information and order your tickets here: <https://www.wartburg.edu/christmas/>

NEW **Our Giving Tree is up through December 7.** Stop by and pick up ornaments with items to purchase that will be donated to: **ChildServe, Johnston Partnership, and Trinity Center at Luther Park.** Thank you for your generosity in making Christmas joyful for others! Contact Lynette Allison @ lejallison@gmail.com or Rebecca Allison @ education@stjamesjohnston.org if you have questions about these projects.

NEW **SAVE THE DATE:** Youth Fundraiser: January 10, 2026; TRIVIA NIGHT! (6-8pm) Grab your team and join us for a roaring good time. More details to come in late December.

Advent Global Ministries Gift Project During the upcoming Advent season that begins on Nov. 30, members and friends will be invited to support an ELCA water project with a special one-time extra financial gift. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 that will fund a spring well for a poor rural community in Africa. Such a well would provide a cleaner, healthier, and more readily accessible water source for hundreds of families. One suggestion from our Global Ministries team for supporting this effort is for each of us to make a gift equivalent to our average monthly water bill. See attached for a fuller summary. More details will follow later this month.

Bishop Drumm Retirement Center "Pie for a Pint" Blood Drive on Wednesday, November 26, 12:30-3:30pm. Sister Bea Community Room, 5921 Winwood Drive, Johnston. Sign up:



Prayer of the Day

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ² Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **"Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."**

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is

before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Prayers of Intercession

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need... We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick. Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

What's Happening

November 19-21

- Wednesday 10:30 am Chair Yoga
- Wednesday Night Education
 - 6:00-7:00pm GROW (preschool-5th grade, meal served at 6)
 - 6:10pm Adult Bible Study
 - 6:45pm Meal (6th-12th grade)
 - 7:00pm Confirmation (6th-8th grade)
 - 7:00pm ABIDE (9th-12th grade) in Youth Room: GOT TRUST?
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group

November 22-27

- Saturday 5:00pm Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
- Sunday 9:30am Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
- Sunday 10:30am Fellowship
- Monday 9:00am In-Person Bible Study
- Monday 10:30am Chair Yoga
- Tuesday 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group at HyVee
- Tuesday 9:00am Online Bible Study ([Connect Here](#))
- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
- NO Wednesday Night Education
- Thursday *Happy Thanksgiving!* Church Offices Closed

Celebrations November 22-27:

Birthdays: Tim Heldt

Anniversaries: None

Connect with Us!

5665 Merle Hay Road, PO Box 62, Johnston, IA 50131
(515) 276-0134 – Steward@StJamesJohnston.org

www.StJamesJohnston.org Here you can connect to:

- Our online service and our online giving portal
- Our calendar
- Our Online Bible Study
- Our staff and much more!

Text Pastor Bill at 515.669.7631 or Email Pastor Bill at Pastor@StJamesJohnston.org

First time visitor? Email Pastor for a Welcome gift.

