

DECEMBER
2023

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SAINT JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Advent Wednesdays

Join us on Wednesdays:
December 6, 13 and 20
as we move deeper into
our watching and waiting
for God's unfolding work
in our lives.



6pm – Soup Supper

7pm – Holden Evening Prayer

Everyone is welcome on December 20 when our Holden Evening Prayer theme will be Blue Christmas (i.e. grief during the holidays)

Christmas Eve

9:30am

5:00pm

A Prayer for Christmas Morning

7:30am

[\(1\) Facebook](#)



Coming Soon to the Big Screen at Saint James:

The Gospel of Mark (120 minutes)

- Monday, January 8 at 9am
- Wednesday, January 10 at 7pm
- Saturday, January 13 at 2:30pm

Start 2024 by hearing the whole shebang in one setting!

Free concessions.

No gum under your chairs please.

No intermission!

Education

Children's Christmas Program December 17 During Worship:

- Learn about "The Symbols of Christmas" and enjoy special music.
- There will be an EPIC gingerbread village and hot cocoa bar during fellowship time!
- Will include Holy Communion

Many hands are pitching in to make this a memorable and meaningful worship service, including our Confirmation students, who will serve as worship assistants.

You won't want to miss this festive (and informative) worship service led by our youngest members!

Middle School Youth Ministry:

On November 11, seven middle school girls gathered at St. James for a retreat. We tied fleece blankets to donate to the VA Hospital, frosted (and ate!) sugar cookies, and played games. A fun time was had by all, and we look forward to hosting more of these afternoons.

Do you have a talent you could share? The girls love learning new skills; the sky is the limit! This is a fun way to spend an afternoon and a great way to share your time and get to know a wonderful group of kids. Please contact Rebecca if you would like to be involved with this worthwhile ministry (education@stjamesjohnston.org).

We would like to provide opportunities for the middle school guys to get together, as well! If you would like to be involved in some way, please contact Rebecca. We want to provide quarterly opportunities to gather the kids for service, games, or learning a new skill in a social and safe setting. You will relish the opportunity to get to know these fantastic kids!

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Finance & Stewardship

Our 2023 Year End Balance

This year for the first time in my memory, we adopted a congregational budget that included a \$15,000 contingency draw from our reserve funds.

The good news is...

We are 11 months into the year and have only drawn \$5,000 from that fund.

The bad news is...

We have drawn from that fund and the year is not over.

If we have a strong December (year-end)...

We will not need to draw any more from our reserve fund, and...

We might be able to repay the \$5,000 we have drawn.

Your gifts and faithfulness are always important.

For our ministry in 2023 and 2024

A strong December would be very helpful!

Thank you,

Pastor

Isaac Rodenberg, Treasurer



Budget Hearing

January 14, 10:30 AM

Annual Meeting of Congregation

January 28, 10:30 AM

Chair Yoga

As we think about another New Year and those common resolutions most of us share, we would like to offer chair yoga in our beautiful fellowship space.

Chair yoga provides benefits for those who are limited in their ability to perform movements without stability and support. In general, yoga can help manage stress, symptoms of depression, and relieves anxiety. It can also boost your mood, and quality of sleep.

These beneficial effects may be especially important for those who are bound to a chair or are less able to perform other types of exercise.

We are currently looking at Mondays at 10:30am (following Bible study) or Wednesdays at 9:30am.

If you would be interested in attending a chair yoga class, please contact Linda steward@stjamesjohnston.org and let me know your preferred time.



Servant Schedule

New Servant Schedule at Saint James for 2024

For some time now our regular servant schedule has not been working very well. People don't sign up and we end up scrambling or begging at the last minute. Also, a few people end up carrying too much of the load we all should be sharing. The problem got worse after the pandemic. So we need to try something different beginning January 1, 2024:

- 26 Assisting Ministers will each serve approximately once every 3 months for Saturdays and Sundays. These 26 volunteered to be assigned.
- Greeters and Ushers will be assigned for Saturdays and Sundays randomly based the service you usually attend. They will serve approximately once or twice per year.
- Acolytes will be assigned on Sundays based on family input.

We believe every member of Saint James should help from time to time.

We know assignments don't always work. Sometimes you will be sick or out of town.

We will do our best to remind you of your service dates.

If you find that a date doesn't work for you or your family, please feel free to switch with someone else.

Thank you for your patience and generous spirits as we try something new!

The 2024 Schedule will be sent out in early December.

Confirmation Class

At the end of October the Saint James community gathered to celebrate the confirmation of 8 students! One of my greatest privileges is walking alongside the class of 9th graders as they prepare to affirm their faith and take on the responsibility and joy of being an adult in the church. This group focused on the small catechism in preparation and found creative ways to engage these tenants of our faith in their lives as teens in the 21st century. This group is a faithful bunch who are ready to carry the church forward.

Pictured: Dani Anderson, Nicholas Buch, Sawyer DoBraska, Rori Harken, Chloe Helgeson, Calvin Hushagen, Matthew Kathman, Lidia Lafferty



Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree will be up November 25—December 11!

Stop by and pick up ornaments with items to purchase that will be donated to:

- ♥ Trinity Center at Luther Park (red ornaments)
- ♥ ChildServe (green ornaments)
- ♥ Johnston Partnership (yellow ornaments)



Please bring new, unwrapped items to Saint James and put them under the tree by December 11.

Thank you for your generosity in making Christmas joyful for others! Questions? Contact: Lynette Allison l.allison@mchsi.com or Rebecca Allison education@stjamesjohnston.org

