

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Thrivent's Meal Packing Event at Meals from the Heartland

Join us for an exciting and impactful event! This event is a fantastic opportunity to come together as a community and support the incredible work of Meals from the Heartland in fighting hunger. Register to volunteer today at: [Thrivent's Meal Packing Event at Meals from the Heartland Tickets, Saturday, November 7 • 9 AM - 11:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Meals from the Heartland loves seeing young volunteers (Adult and Youth ages 8 – 17) make a difference! To help create a safe, meaningful, and enjoyable experience for everyone, we ask that youth volunteers package alongside an adult. Each table with children must have at least one adult present to provide guidance and supervision.

NEW Nativities remind us of the real reason we celebrate Christmas. You're invited to my house (Diane Graves - 4501 98th Street, Urbandale) Sunday Dec 6 from 1:00-4:00 to see my extensive nativity collection. Adults only please.

NEW The Christmas with Wartburg concert series is titled "Dawn of Redeeming Grace", and tickets go on sale starting November 2, 2026. Lutheran Church of Hope (WDM) is a venue site on Friday, December 4, 2026, at 7:30 pm. Cost is \$28.00 (with fees) and tickets can be purchased at: <https://www.wartburg.edu/christmas>

Thank you for completing your Estimate of Giving forms so the Council and Staff can continue the 2027 Operations and Mortgage Financial planning. If you have not returned your estimate, we encourage you to do so. We will announce the results in the coming weeks!!

Future "Connections Wednesdays"

November 4 Cards: Let's Play Hearts

November 11 Book/Movie Club: Lessons in Chemistry, Bonnie Garmus

November 18 Life Skills: Why are Family Gatherings so Stressful?

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at St. Paul on Sunday, November 22, 7:00pm.
Mass Choir Rehearsal (all are welcome) 5:45-6:15 and Soup Supper starting at 6:00pm.

Friday, November 6, 6:00 pm Lakeside Lock-In at Saint James. 6th-12th graders are invited. Please invite a friend. Since Lakeside is providing the staff, we need a head count-even if you can only stay until midnight. You can register here (required): https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSex0_E1age9lvajANtYpaHdftiaaupS8BD6TVVx6rjUSumVAQ/viewform Questions? Ask Rebecca or Kristin.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory. The lesson begins:

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat,

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. The lesson begins:

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

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

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Prayers of Intercession

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation... Fill your church with mercy and humility as we proclaim the gospel in our worship and witness in the world. Renew and inspire all who preach and teach among us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect soils and waterways. Point us toward innovative ways of living in harmony and joy with creation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Unite the nations in their actions toward justice and peace. Raise up leaders who listen deeply for the needs of their communities, and surround the election process with wisdom and discernment. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring comfort and care to all who are in need, especially all who mourn this day. Sustain any who are weary, experiencing loneliness, or struggling with chronic illness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurture programs and communities that support elders and those who are homebound. Bless caregivers, nurses, chaplains, social workers, and hospice staff. Guide this congregation's ministry with seniors and their families. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With grateful hearts we remember all who have died and now rest from their labors:
Brenda Jurgens, Faye Tysdale, Janet Daniels

Fill us with songs of praise until we too are gathered at your side. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

What's Happening

October 31-November 6

- Saturday 5:00pm Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
- Sunday 9:30am Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
- 10:30am Fellowship
- Monday 9:00am Bible Study in person
- 10:30am Chair Yoga
- Tuesday 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group at HyVee
- 9:00am Online Bible Study ([Connect Here](#))
- 8:00pm AA meeting, all are welcome
- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
- 6:00pm Dinner for All
- 6:30-7:15pm GROW (God Rocks on Wednesdays) PS-5th Grade
- 6:30-7:15pm Cards – Let's Play Hearts
- 7:15-8:00pm Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)
- 7:15-8:00pm ABIDE
- 7:15-8:00pm Adult Bible Study
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee
- Friday Church Offices Closed

Celebrations November 1-6:

Birthdays: Sarah Walling, Brad Nelson, Veronica Walker, Jordan Lehman, Jack Mulligan, Braden Cooper

Anniversaries: Matt & Jamie Jackson

Connect with Us!

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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!

