ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW November 28/29 is the 5th Worship weekend of the month. Every year on the months with five Sundays, we take a special offering for our Ivuga Parish. This offering will be used for the petrol and maintenance of their motorbikes required to get from parish to parish. We also hope to purchase a third bike in the future.

NEW Poinsettia Orders: If you would like to order a poinsettia(s) in honor or memory of a loved one for Christmas Eve services, fill out the information below, and make checks payable to Saint James with "poinsettia" on memo line. Orders must be received by December 7.

- ☐ 1 plant branch 4.5" pot with 3-5 blooms **$5.50** $_____
- ☐ 1 plant branch 6.5" pot with 5-9 blooms **$11.00** $_____
- ☐ 3 plant branch 8.0" pot with 12-15 blooms **$21** $_____

_____ Preferred color (white, red, pink or other)

Poinsettia is given to the Glory of God in memory/honor (**please circle one**) of: _____by: (Your Name)

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.

Join us for Holden Evening Prayer Worship Services on Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16. Soup supper at 6:00pm; Service at 6:45pm. Please sign up to help with the meal at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-67356735-advent#/

Our Giving Tree will soon be up, and we will be collecting for three organizations we have supported in the past: Trinity Center at Luther Park, ChildServe, and Johnston Partnership. The Johnston Gives program through Johnston Partnership has been suspended because donations did not meet the demand. Instead, they have published a Holiday Giving Guide: https://www.johnstonpartnership.org/holidaygivingguide. Saint James will be collecting items for babies and children: diapers/wipes, baby food, formula, and winter gear, so keep your eyes open for sales on these items that are much needed for families in our community.

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.

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

Prayer of the Day
O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Psalm 95:1-7a
1 Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.
3 For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**
5 The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**
7a For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of God's hand.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23
In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come. The lesson begins:
15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46
The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and

gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."
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…

Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day.
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

November 21-27

• 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
		No Evening Activities due to Thanksgiving
• Thursday		**Happy Thanksgiving** – Church Offices Closed
• Friday		Church Offices Closed

Celebrations November 21-27
Birthdays: Tim Heldt
Anniversaries: None

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!