

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NEW** Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraisers this winter. The youth have raised over \$2,000 towards their trip to the National Youth Gathering.

**NEW** On Sunday, we welcome new members Jerad & Kate Lally and their children Isaac and Oliver. Oliver will also be baptized during our Sunday Worship service.

**NEW** Everyone's favorite Lenten tradition is almost upon us: Soup suppers followed by Holden Evening Prayer begin next Wednesday, February 25, and continue each Wednesday through March 25. Soup's on at 5:45 and Holden Evening Prayer begins at 6:30. Sign up to help provide food for the meals here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-62077336-2026#/>

**NEW** Looking to add a Lenten practice? Join one of our Bible Studies: Mondays at 9:00, Tuesdays on Zoom at 9:00, and Wednesday evenings following Holden Evening Prayer.

**NEW** This weekend we are installing our 2026 Congregation Council:

Person	Term	Team Liaison
Alane Dunn, President	2025-2028	Leadership
Brooke Ruddy, Vice President	2026-2027	Personnel & Education
Jerry Wylie, Treasurer	2024-2027	Stewardship & Social Impact
John Brown, Secretary	2025-2028	Global Missions
Tim Heldt	2026-2029	Finance & Stewardship
Amanda Henry	2025-2028	Youth
Jennifer Hushagen	2026-2029	Hospitality
John Pietila	2026-2029	Property
Pastor Bill Bernau		Worship & Music

**Join us on February 22, 10:45-11:30 at the tables by the memorial garden.** Dr. Sarah Myers, Executive Director of Healing to Hope, will join us by Zoom. Healing to Hope is a US-based 501(c)(3). It promotes emotional and psychological healing of Palestinian children and caregivers. Healing to Hope supports the work of their partner, Anar, a Palestinian nonprofit based in Bethlehem. In addition to continuing our Global Missions focus on Ivuga in 2026, we are focusing on learning more about Healing to Hope.

## Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel: John 11

Before the reading...

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

*A long passage from The Gospel of John movie.*

After the reading...

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

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs... God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone.

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

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression.

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

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated.

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

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word.

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

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you.

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

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

## What's Happening

### **February 18-20**

• Wednesday	10:30am	Chair Yoga
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Worship</b>
• Thursday	9:00am	Women's Coffee Group at Saint James
	4:00pm	Hope Agency Cheer practice

### **February 21-27**

• Saturday	5:00pm	Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
• Sunday	9:30am	Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
Sunday	10:30am	Fellowship
• Monday	9:00am	Bible Study
	10:30am	Chair Yoga
• Tuesday	7:00am	Men's Breakfast Group at HyVee
	9:00am	Online Bible Study ( <a href="#">Connect Here</a> )
• Wednesday	10:30am	Chair Yoga
	5:45-6:30pm	Soup Supper
	6:30-7:00pm	HEP/Grow
	7:00-8:00pm	Confirmation, Adult Bible Study
	7:00-8:00pm	ABIDE "guys night with Pastor"
• Thursday	9:00am	Women's Coffee Group at Saint James
	4:00pm	Hope Agency Cheer practice

### Celebrations February 21-27:

**Birthdays:** Kaitlyn Hushagen, Jarret Ruddy, Jan Longcor, Allison Ruddy, Brandi Wright, Sharyn Nelson, Cathy Koch, Tommy Yates

**Anniversaries:** None

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### **Connect with Us!**

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**[www.StJamesJohnston.org](http://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](mailto:Pastor@StJamesJohnston.org)

**First time visitor? Email Pastor for a Welcome gift.**