

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Connected by Faith (any female over the age of 18 and out of High School) is invited to join us this Fall on three Monday nights from 7:00-8:00pm (September 21st, 28th and October 5th). We will meet at Saint James, and our book is *Awake: A Memoir* by Jen Hatmaker. Ask your friends to join us and email/text Kristin Kristin.hacker@gmail.com to sign up.

NEW When the Holy Land Becomes Holey. Tom Rendon is a writer and presenter who will share about his recent trip this summer to the West Bank and what he learned through conversations with Palestinians and Israelis. **Thursday, Sept. 3, 6:30 at the Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community**, 3306 University Ave. in Des Moines or on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 6:45 at the Des Moines Public Library-Central Branch, 1000 Grand Ave. in Des Moines. For more information contact Mark Piel.

NEW Sewing Machines Available. We have 2 sewing machines available at the church that are no longer being used. If you are interested in one, please let Linda know at steward@stjamesjohnston.org

Upcoming Events:

- **Let's Play Hearts** (The Card Game) — Beginners and Old Pros Welcome, Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64920625-connections#/>
- **Book/Movie Club** — I've Read that Book/I've Seen that Movie/Let's talk about it! Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64920875-connections#/>
- September 21, 2026, 5:30 pm: **International Day of Peace** at The Peace Garden at Cowles Commons (313 Walnut St. Des Moines). "Invest in Peace for Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday". The keynote speaker will be Rev. John Tyson, Pastor at Plymouth UCC. Music will be provided by Des Moines Singing Resistance. The service will express a vision of peace and a position against war shared by all faith traditions. We will renew our commitment to be instruments of God's peace. This year it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies, and that the urgent work of peace-making is essential to the survival and well-being of humanity. Rain location will be Capital Hill Lutheran Church (511 Des Moines St.)

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

- ³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.
³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**
³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.
³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**
³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.
³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**
³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.
⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us. Paul writes...

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

Prayers of Intercession

Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us...

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways.

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

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor.

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

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us.

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

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

What's Happening

September 2-4

- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
6:00-8:00pm Neighborhood picnic & family fun!
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee
- Friday Church Offices Closed

September 5-11

- 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 Connections – Let's learn the game of hearts!
(Daycare provided)
7:15-8:00pm Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)
7:15-8:00pm ABIDE (High School Youth), Adult Bible Study
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee
- Friday Church Offices Closed

Celebrations September 5-11:

Birthdays: Sydney Mehre, Bev Phipps

Anniversaries: Jim & Tasha Mulligan

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!

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

First time visitor? Email Pastor for a Welcome gift.

