

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Saint James is again working with the Johnston Summer Food Service Program, a federally funded USDA program sponsored by JCSD. The program provides “free summer meals for kids 18 and under”. The truck will be at Saint James every Monday–Friday at 12:00-12:30 p.m. from June 3 to August 7 (except June 29-July 3).

NEW Mark your calendars for the Johnston Green Days Ecumenical Worship Service at Terra Park on **Sunday, June 14, 2026!** Fellowship & Music provided by Asphalt & Stained Glass will be at 9:00 a.m. followed by Worship at 9:30 a.m.. This event is **hosted by: Saint James Lutheran, St. Paul Presbyterian, Johnston River of Life, First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines**

We are in the process of updating our church directory. A hard copy is available at church for you to review and make any changes. If you’ve sent your changes via email, you do not need to review the printed copy. Thank you!

The week of May 11-15 is a time when DMARC needs extra volunteers to sort food. If you are interested in volunteering, you can talk to Jerry or Debby Wylie or go to <https://dmarcunited.org/volunteer/> and sign up. It’s a great way for you, your family, your co-workers, or other organization to perform some volunteer/service hours. Shifts are 2-3 hours and are light physical labor in a relaxed environment. The DMARC Warehouse is at 1st and Army Post Road on the south side of Des Moines.

Third Thursday Lunch on May 21 at 11:30am - 1pm with lunch served. Planning your funeral: hymns, lessons, communion, eulogies, obituaries, pallbearers, plots, cremation, etc. Free-will donation for lunch (\$7.50 suggested). Sign up at church or email Steward@StJamesJohnston.org

VBS details are now here!

- Join us **June 29-July 2 from 8:45-11:30** for *Operation Restoration: Mending God’s World*, hosted by St. James Lutheran, St. Paul Presbyterian, and First Baptist Churches. VBS will be held at St. Paul, 6426 Merle Hay Road this year. All preschool-5th grade students are welcome, so invite your friends, neighbors, grandkids and more!
- **Register for VBS here:** <https://forms.gle/VuDjktcFYjuCjsKm6>
- **Sign up to volunteer here** (or contact Rebecca): <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGpRR0AML7jrocx-iXFG-ZUZregLYoWh7t8Y0wXJL3lvrPfQ/viewform>
- **Mark your calendars:** VBS work nights will be held on Tuesdays, May 19 and June 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at St. Paul. More details to come.

Confirmation for the Rest of Us returns this summer beginning May 6. Each Wednesday during May, we will host a leader from different faith practices (Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, and Sikh) who will share with us. Stay tuned for future topics!

The schedule for the summer:

6:00	Pagliai’s Pizza served
6:30-7:30	Learning

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’ ²⁹ “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 14:15-21

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem, let us pray for the needs of all creation. God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ’s righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

What's Happening

May 6–8

- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
6:00pm Community meal; Pagliai's pizza (freewill donations)
6:30pm Confirmation for the Rest of Us.
7:30pm ABIDE: LAST DAY OF REGULAR PROGRAMING.
Meet at Saint James (after Confirmation for the Rest of Us) and walk to Van Dee's for ice cream. Church will buy. 8th graders are invited!
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group at Saint James
- Friday Church Offices Closed

May 9–15

- 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 ([Connect Here](#))
8:00pm AA meeting, all are welcome
- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
6:00pm Community meal; Pagliai's pizza (freewill donations)
6:30pm Confirmation for the Rest of Us.
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group at Saint James

Celebrations May 9–15:

Birthdays: Shelley Merritt, Mitchell Nesheim, Rod Phipps, Carol Warmbier, Ethan Wells, Verna McNeal-White, Dick Aldrich, Jordyn Mehre, Al Koch, Wayne Mehre

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!

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

First time visitor? Email Pastor for a Welcome gift.

