

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Wednesday Weekly Schedule:**

- 6:00-6:25—Community Meal for all (including students, parents, congregation, visitors, etc.)
- 6:30-7:00—Worship in Sanctuary and GROW (preschool-5<sup>th</sup>) education in classrooms
- 7:00-8:00—Confirmation, High School (ABIDE), and Adult Bible Study

**Fun Alert!** We received an invitation to the Middle School Lock-In at Resurrection Church in Ankeny on February 6-7; here is more information:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzOtfL0XiLuzFABQuxOf9Ky\\_UOXHL-DUckVZ2OMMCZvi2Cpw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzOtfL0XiLuzFABQuxOf9Ky_UOXHL-DUckVZ2OMMCZvi2Cpw/viewform)

**Valentine's Pasta Dinner, February 14, after Worship at Saint James.** This is a fundraiser for the 2027 National Youth Gathering. Enjoy pasta with marinara sauce and meatballs, salad, an assortment of breads, and assortment of desserts. Water and lemonade bar provided, or BYOB. \$50 per person. Please sign up here so that we can plan for food: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-61828128-valentines#/>

**State Senator Matt Blake** will be with us during Fellowship Time on Sunday, February 15, for a legislative update. Representative Eddie Andrews has been invited for another date.

#### **Ecumenical Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday & Good Friday 2026**

Johnston's most ecumenical churches (St James, St Paul & First Baptist) are joining forces as an act of Christian Unity for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday & Good Friday this year. Join us! Invite your friends and neighbors!

- **Ash Wednesday** – February 18 at 7pm  
At Saint James Lutheran Church with Rev. Dr. Paul Scaringi preaching
- **Maundy Thursday** – April 2 at 7pm  
At First Baptist Church with Rev. Bill O'Connel preaching
- **Good Friday** – April 3 at 7pm  
At St Paul's Presbyterian Church with Rev Bill Bernau preaching

#### **Lutheran Day on the Hill, February 26, 2026, 9:00AM - 3:00PM!**

**Location:** Capitol Hill Lutheran Church, 511 Des Moines Street

Join us at the Capitol for our annual day of advocacy, where we come together to raise our voices, share our stories, and advocate for issues that matter to our community. This is a powerful opportunity to connect with fellow advocates, meet with lawmakers, and make a meaningful impact. This is a free event, sponsored by LSI and the three Iowa Synods of the ELCA. If you have a LSI shirt from previous years, we encourage you to wear it. If not, we will have a limited number available for first time attendees while supplies last. Register by **Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>:**

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/aytp9g4>



## **Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **First Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!  
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

**Psalm 15** (spoken responsively)

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right  
and speak the truth from their heart;**

who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends

**nor heap shame upon their neighbors;**

in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the Lord;

**who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

**Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

**Gospel: John 4:1-42 — from the LUMO video**

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

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

**Prayers of Intercession**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home...

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## What's Happening

### January 28-30

- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga  
6:00-6:25pm Community Meal for all (including students, parents, congregation, visitors, etc.)  
6:30-7:00pm Worship service for people of all ages in Sanctuary  
7:00-8:00pm Confirmation, High School ABIDE, Adult Bible Study
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group at Saint James  
4:00pm Hope Agency Cheer practice

### January 31-February 6

- 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](#))
- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga  
6:00-6:25pm Community Meal for all (including students, parents, congregation, visitors, etc.)  
6:30-7:00pm GROW (preschool-5<sup>th</sup>) education in classrooms  
6:30-7:00pm Worship service for people of all ages in Sanctuary  
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4:00pm Hope Agency Cheer practice

### Celebrations January 31-February 6:

**Birthdays:** Jack Baumgarten, Molly Dugan

**Anniversaries:** Pat Martin & Brad Mock

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### Connect with Us!

5665 Merle Hay Road, PO Box 62, Johnston, IA 50131  
(515) 276-0134 – [Steward@StJamesJohnston.org](mailto:Steward@StJamesJohnston.org)

**[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.***

