

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Summer 2026: Confirmation for the Rest of Us balloting begins this weekend at St James. You can help pick the topics for our popular Wednesday night program June 3 thru August 26. Vote for your top 3... and we'll have a run-off election if necessary. Let's call it, "March Madness!" (copyright Bill Bernau 2026.)

It's TIME to register for Summer Camp. Students from Saint James will be attending Week 2 (June 21-26) at Lutheran Lakeside. Saint James will cover 50% of the cost this year. For questions and to get your campership code, contact Kristin Rodenberg at youth@stjamesjohnston.org. Also, please make sure that you indicate that you are with Saint James so that you are all housed together for the week! If you attend another Lutheran Bible camp this summer, Saint James will help cover that cost, too 😊.

Community Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Hope Ministries: Easter Meal (served Saturday, April 4)!** We will deliver over 2,000 meals to hungry and homebound people, plus we'll serve an Easter meal onsite! [Click here](#) to view all open positions and sign up. We'll need volunteers onsite to help us assemble/package meals, as well as meal delivery driver teams (very high priority position) to deliver meals around the Des Moines area. You can also sign-up for a special volunteer day on Thursday, April 2, getting prepared behind the scenes! Onsite volunteers must be 13 or older, so if you're a family with younger kids, serving as a driver team is a great option for you. Click below to learn more and sign up today! **Sign up for our Easter Meal Outreach**
- The Johnston Partnership is searching for volunteers to help with food rescue on Mondays. There is no heavy lifting required, but individuals must be comfortable loading and unloading the truck. A truck driver would be ideal as well (no special license is needed). Timing is roughly 11:30am-2:30pm. If you would like to know more, contact Pantry Manager Carissa at carissa@johnstonpartnership.org

Wednesday Night Schedule through March 25

5:45-6:30	Soup supper
6:30-7:00	Holden Evening Prayer and GROW education
7:00-8:00	Confirmation, ABIDE HS Youth, and Bible Study

NEW Mark your calendars to join this event! Saint James will be providing a meal For the orchestra after the show. If you are interested in helping, please contact Linda @ steward@stjamesjohnston.org



Prayer of the Day

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Psalm 31:9-16

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

**For my life is spent with sorrow and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.**

I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

**I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.**

For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.”

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Paul’s letter to the Philippians.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name that is above every other name,

¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Gospel: John 18:1-27

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

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden...

[The Gospel of John, Lumo Video]

...²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. 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...

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life 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

March 4-6

- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
5:45pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer, GROW (preschool-5th)
7:00PM Confirmation, ABIDE HS Youth Game Night,
and Bible Study
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group at Saint James
4:00pm Hope Agency Cheer practice

March 7-13

- 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
5:45pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer, GROW (preschool-5th)
7:00pm Confirmation, ABIDE HS Youth service project night,
and Adult Bible Study
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group at Saint James
4:00pm Hope Agency Cheer practice

Celebrations March 7-13:

Birthdays: Diane Graves, Debra Heldt, Kolby Henry, Laura Dugan, Charlotte Anderson, Christopher Anderson

Anniversaries: None

Connect with Us!

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

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.

