

NOVEMBER
2023

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Christian Education	2
Finance	2
Youth	3
Holden Evening Prayer	4
Poinsettia Orders	4
Family Reading	5
Stewardship Thanks!	6
Vicar Tori	7
Thank You from LSI	8



5665 Merle Hay Road

P.O. Box 62

Johnston, IA 50131

steward@stjamesjohnston.org

www.stjamesjohnston.org

515.276.0134

SAINT JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Thanksgiving Community Service

Come, join the local churches of Johnston for a Thanksgiving Community Service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 19.

The following is the schedule for the evening:

- **5:30** Community Choir Practice led by Jennifer Shide, Director of Music and Creative Arts at St. Paul. All are invited to join the choir for this event.
- **6:15** Soup & Bread Meal open to all (not just choir members!)
- **7:00** Community Thanksgiving Service.

Please Join Us!



Christian Education

Mark Your Calendars:

November:

- 11th 6th-8th Grade Girls' Retreat (*service projects, snacks, games*) 3:00-5:00 pm
 12th Ivuga Sunday during worship and social time
 22nd NO WEDNESDAY EDUCATION: *Thanksgiving Break!*

December:

- 17th Children's Christmas Program during worship
 27th NO WEDNESDAY EDUCATION: *Christmas Break!*

Garden Update:

As of October 24, St. James donated over 525 pounds of produce from the garden to Johnston Partnership. Special thanks to the many hands who helped in the garden during the season!

Finance Update

The Operating Fund is the beneficiary of our annual stewardship campaign and used to cover day-to-day expenses associated with operating our Congregation's ministry, including funding for community and churchwide benevolence, church staff, church office, utilities, general building and property maintenance and taxes, and support for activities and programming.

Financial Update as of 9/30/23.

Category	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
Income	\$282,710	\$287,800
Expenses	\$291,612	\$308,114

As you notice, expenses do exceed income. At our Annual meeting, our approved budget included using the surplus from 2022 of \$11,400 and, if necessary, using \$15,347 from the Reserve fund to meet our expenses for this year. Our goal is to reduce the amount needed from the reserve fund.

Youth

National Youth Gathering

Registration remains open for all who are interested in attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

We will be leaving on Sunday, July 14 by 2pm, sight seeing in Memphis on July 15th and after lunch finish the drive to New Orleans. We will return on Sunday, July 21, in the evening. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Vicar Tori at: vicar@stjamesjohnston.org

November Youth Series

- You spoke and we listened! During the past month of table talks, we listened to both the feedback of the congregation but also that of the youth. Many topics of interest surfaced and we are going to cover many of them in the coming months.
- In November, 9-12th grade youth will be exploring mental health. We are going to dive into things like anxiety, depression, coping in hard times, grief, and suffering. If you have a young person in your life, have them join us Wednesdays at 7pm. All are welcome!



*Gather with
Des Moines
area ELCA
Youth for
dinner and a
DMARC
hunger
simulation.*

*Free-will
offering
collected with
proceeds
going to
DMARC.*

*RSVP by
texting Tori at
515-669-6017*

Wednesdays at 7:00pm
Meal provided at 6:00pm

December 6
December 13
December 20

Holden Evening Prayer

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettia Orders Due 11/30! If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one for Christmas Eve services, email Linda steward@stjamesjohnston.org or fill out a form on the table in the Fellowship Hall. They are available in red, white and pink, and costs are as follows:



- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| • 4.5" Pot (3-5 blooms) | \$6.00 |
| • 6.5" Pot (5-9 blooms) | \$11.50 |
| • 8" Pot (12-15 blooms) | \$21.52 |
| • Hanging Garden (25-30 blooms) | \$41.50 |

Please make checks payable to Saint James with "poinsettias" on memo line). Contact Linda, 276-0134, with questions.

November Bible Family Reading

Explore these Bible stories of God's amazing power and Jesus' amazing generosity and goodness!

David and Goliath: 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-50

Jesus Heals Ten: Luke 17:11-19

Jesus Feeds 5,000: John 6:1-14

Lazarus is Alive: John 11:1-45



Ask:

- Which amazing story would you want to witness in person? How come?
- Sometimes the big, amazing things Jesus did started out as small, simple things. What little thing happened in each of these stories? What huge thing happened next?
- Has someone in your family witnessed a miraculous healing, either in themselves or someone they know? Talk about it!

Do:

- Draw a picture of an amazing thing God has done in your life. Give everyone a chance to talk about their picture and give thanks to God. Were others a part of this amazing story? Write them a letter of encouragement and thanks as you remember this amazing thing.

Pray: (see printed prayer in sidebar)

Say this prayer together, including the names of people your family knows who you've seen God heal, feed, or help.

*Dear God,
thank you for
working in the
most amazing
ways, even in
the least likely
situations.*

*Thank you for
showing your
amazing and
powerful love
to all people,
even the ones
we least
expect. [Name
the amazing
work God is
doing in the
lives of people
you know.]*

Amen.

Stewardship Thank You!

We want to thank everyone who attended our recent Table Talks and shared feedback on the future and ministries of Saint James. We also want to thank everyone who has returned their 2024 estimates of giving as the Council, worship teams and staff begin planning activities and projects for the upcoming year.

Our hope is that everyone will give careful consideration to your contribution to our ministry. As with every member our gifts and talents are unique, so are our contributions and financial support. We have seasons of our life that involve different time commitments and different talents. As we think about our Stewardship, caring for ourselves, our time and talents, or wealth & abundance, it is important to think about our congregation and its ministry and how we plan to make that a part of our journey for the coming year.

Our mission statement (below) is an important reminder of the work we do together as a community of faith!

We are called to faithfully serve Christ, our congregation, and our community through:

- **Worship** by gathering joyfully so that all are strengthened for daily life;
- **Education** by nurturing all in their relationship with Jesus Christ and the world God loves;
- **Ministry** by empowering our members to grow in generosity and wisdom as stewards of God's blessings;
- **Stewardship** by inspiring our members to grow in generosity and wisdom as stewards of God's blessings;
- **Hospitality** by embodying a culture where all know they are welcome at Saint James.



If you have not yet returned your estimate of giving, we encourage you to do so! It is an important piece of our budget process and planning.

You can return your estimate of giving in the envelopes sent to your homes, fill out a form at church or you can email Linda at steward@stamesjohnston.org with your estimate.

Vicar Tori

What is Clinical Pastoral Education?

In mid-October, I (Vicar) have turned another corner in my seminary journey. One of the requirements of seminary is that every student participates in Clinical Pastoral Education or CPE. It is an opportunity for students to gain experience outside of the congregational context with populations they may not encounter in their daily ministry. I have been accepted into the program at Unity Point Methodist/Blank Children's Hospital.

October through February, I will be taking classes with students from all faith traditions well as working in my assigned area of the hospital. I will be interacting with patients and medical staff to attend to the spiritual needs of families. In addition to those roles, I will also be completing overnight shifts responding to all needs as the chaplain on duty.

I am both excited and anxious. CPE is one of the pivotal growing experiences on the road to becoming a pastor in the ELCA. It is an opportunity to hone pastoral care skills, working under stressful/emotionally intensive situations, and to learn more about yourself as a helper.

During the coming months I ask that you remember the patients, their families, the cohort of students, the teaching chaplains, and myself in your prayers. Specifically pray for endurance and peace. For a clear discernment of the needs of myself and others. And for an open heart to be ready for all God will be doing.

Peace,
Vicar

Social Impact Thank You



Mark –

Thank you again for the donations to LSI. I wanted to share some of the impact from one of our therapist.

"I was so glad to share some bus tokens today to help my client have confidence to take the bus. A year ago, they were only staying at home and this was worsening their mental health symptoms. The family doesn't have financial means to spend to try new things, but as we are able to reduce barriers and increase confidence, his mental health treatment and skill building was enhanced. Bus access is so important."

Isaac, at the front desk, was also thrilled to receive tokens to help occasional clients at the desk who get "stranded" at LSI. Please express our gratitude to all that participated.

With gratitude,

Nancy Strutzenberg, Director for Philanthropy Refugee & Immigrant Services

Our friends at St. James -

Thank you so much for your very generous support of those we serve. Your gifts of pillows, towels, bus tokens and other household supplies will help new arrivals feel welcome here in Iowa. We value you as partners in this important work.

*With gratitude,
Nancy Strutzenberg*