

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Stewardship Update! Through the 3rd Quarter, our 2026 budget provided for \$301,124 in Operating contributions and expenses. Our Operating contributions have been \$305,113, and our Operating expenses are \$286,825 through 9/30/26. We have several planned one-time expenses in the fourth quarter, including completing the window replacement project in the north portion of the building and making contributions to organizations we have supported in the past.

As we plan for 2027, we desire to give our Staff salary increases and we know the cost of the Benefits we provide are increasing. We also expect increases in Utilities, Insurance, and Office expenses, as well as in Education, Youth, and Hospitality programs. Our Operating budget for 2026 is \$401,499, so a 5% to 10% increase in Operating Expenses in 2027 could increase our Operating Budget to between \$420,000 and \$440,000.

Our 2026 Mortgage obligations are \$10,276 per month, or \$123,276 for the year. Through 9 months we have paid each monthly obligation and have reserve funds to assure we can make those payments in the future. Our present mortgage balance is \$1,066,835.

As we plan for 2027, our mortgage payment obligations remain the same as this pledge is in addition to your pledge for ministry. Please consider this information in your deliberations before completing your Estimate of Giving.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR ELECTION DAY: Join us in prayer for voters, election workers, candidates, and officeholders on the day before Election Day. The vigil will be held 7:00am–7:00pm at Saint James. Sign up for one or more 15-minute prayer times; prayer resources will be provided. At 7:00pm, Pastor Bill Bernau will lead a brief lesson, prayer, and hymn. Everyone is welcome.

Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B48A4AD29A75-66454419-election#/>

T-Shirts Needed: On October 28, we will host a speaker from Joppa to learn about their ministry. Afterward, we will be making bags out of old t-shirts for their organization. Please drop off any old (adult sized) t-shirts in the bin located in the fellowship space. Please contact Rebecca (education@stjamesjohnston.org) with any questions.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at St. Paul on Sunday, November 22, 7:00pm.
Mass Choir Rehearsal (all are welcome) 5:45-6:15 and Soup Supper starting at 6:00pm.

Friday, November 6, 6:00 pm Lakeside Lock-In at Saint James. 6th-12th graders are invited. Please invite a friend. Since Lakeside is providing the staff, we need a head count-even if you can only stay until midnight. You can register here (required): https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSex0_E1age9lvajANtYpaHdftiaaupS8BD6TVVx6rjUSumVAQ/viewform Questions? Ask Rebecca or Kristin.

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness. The lesson begins...

¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you and level the mountains;

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron;

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, *The lesson begins...*

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

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

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

Prayers of Intercession

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world...

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry.

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

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all.

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

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering.

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

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you.

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

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

What's Happening

October 17-23

- 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 (Pulled Pork)
6:30-7:15pm GROW (God Rocks on Wednesdays) PS-5th Grade
6:30-7:15pm Connections – Life Skills
Simple Ways to Strengthen Your Relationships
7:15-8:00pm Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)
7:15-8:00pm ABIDE
7:15-8:00pm Adult Bible Study
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee

Celebrations October 17-23:

Birthdays: Anna Allison, Mary Dzubak, Blake Ruddy, Jennifer Dugan Burns, Deb Bargman, Rob Kathman, Owen Lehman

Anniversaries: Ken White & Verna McNeal White

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!

