

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Thank you for your Stewardship! Saint James has accomplished much in 2026:

1. 120-125 Worship services (Saturday, Sunday, Lent, Advent, other Special services)
2. 25-30 special events (special speakers and activities, including worship leaders from other denominations and faiths, elected officials, and other organizations).
3. Educational opportunities for people from 3 to 93.
4. Charitable/service activities in the community, across the state, nation, and world, including providing space for Childserve, Johnston schools, and financial support to our affiliated Summer Camp, Hope Ministries, DMARC, the Synod, and Ivuga.
5. Maintenance of our facility to serve our members and the community, including adding a new worship camera to provide a higher quality on-line worship experience.

These things are accomplished because of your generosity. We plan to continue these numerous programs and activities, along with increasing our outreach to the community with additional events. Thank you for supporting our mission and vision!

NEW 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#/>

NEW 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.

NEW 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.

NEW Wednesday, October 14, is our second Book/Movie Club. We are discussing “*Remarkably Bright Creatures*” by Shelly Van Pelt. Sign up here to join us:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64920875-connections#/>

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

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Exodus 14:10-14

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 23

- ¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
- ² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**
- ³ You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- ⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Second Reading: Exodus 16:2-4,11-15

[Some time later,] The whole congregation of the Israelites [again] complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

The LORD spoke to Moses, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.' "

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

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

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

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

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. 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... Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters and give your courage to those leading relief efforts.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. 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 7-9

- Wednesday
 - 10:30am Chair Yoga
 - 6:00pm Dinner for All (hot dogs/brats)
 - 6:30-7:15pm GROW (God Rocks on Wednesdays) PS-5th Grade
 - 6:30-7:15pm Connections (nursery provided)
 - Let's Play Cards (Hearts)
 - 7:15-8:00pm Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)
 - 7:15-8:00pm ABIDE Bible Study
 - 7:15-8:00pm Adult Bible Study
- Thursday
 - 9:00am Women's Coffee

October 10-16

- 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
 - 7:00pm Connected by Faith Women's Group
- 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
 - 6:30-7:15pm GROW (God Rocks on Wednesdays) PS-5th Grade
 - 6:30-7:15pm Connections – Book/Movie Club
 - Remarkably Bright Creatures* book discussion
 - 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 10-16:

Birthdays: Gavin Funk, Michelle Christen, Darlene Danielson, Dee Miller, Sophie Ruddy, Calvin Hushagen, Jennifer Hushagen, Jordyn Williams

Anniversaries: Steve Henry & Oweni Morring, Sean & Ginger McAndrew

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!

