

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 25, Annual Meeting of the Voting Members* of the Congregation will begin at 9:45 A.M. on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at Saint James.

All voting members are encouraged to attend. (Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year. Article C8.02.c – Constitution)

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-5th) 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 Feb. 6-7; here is more information:

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. More details coming soon.

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 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.

Registration is open through **Wednesday, February 19th.**

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



Prayer of the Day

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

John 3

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

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.” 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... Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth’s resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. 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 21-23

• 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 th) education in classrooms
	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 24-30

• Saturday	5:00pm	Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
• Sunday	9:30am	Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
• Sunday	10:30am	Fellowship & Annual Meeting
• 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 th) education in classrooms
	6:30-7:00pm	Worship service for people of all ages in Sanctuary
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Celebrations January 24-30:

Birthdays: Steve Henry, Harper Olsen, Norah Walling, Erin Novak, Charlotte Rohlf, Judy Swift

Anniversaries: None

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!

Text Pastor Bill at 515.669.7631 or Email Pastor Bill at Pastor@StJamesJohnston.org

First time visitor? Email Pastor for a Welcome gift.