

Announcements

NEW Financial update: After 9 months, we are \$14,000 below budget for our pledged Operating Fund offerings, and \$11,000 below budget for our Operating Fund expenses. This places us in a good position entering the 4th quarter, but we already know we will have an unbudgeted expense of \$25,000 for the north addition windows. If we can achieve our budget in offerings and keep our expenses below budget, we hope to be able to pay for the windows without using much or none of our reserve monies. We are also below budget in our Mortgage account offerings, and we have used some of our mortgage reserve monies to make our monthly payments. 8 years ago, we started with a \$2.5 million mortgage, and the balance is presently \$1,126,000. Please prayerfully consider the blessings you have received and your personal financial situation as you complete your 2026 Estimate of Giving and return it to the office by November 1, 2025.

Confirmation students will be serving shelter meals on October 15 & 29. Brownies are always a very appreciated treat alongside the meal. If you would like to provide some brownies for either meal, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-59301468-brownies>. Contact Rebecca (education@stjamesjohnston.org) with any questions. We appreciate your support of this ministry.

Food Pantry Weekend at Saint James is October 18 & 19. Please consider bringing canned goods or a financial donation to help those with food insecurities in our community.

Heaven & Hell Book Club, November 1 & 2 after Worship: The Great Divorce by CS Lewis, available on Kindle or copies available at church for purchase (\$15).

Pastor's Blog is Back... find it at: <https://www.stjamesjohnston.org/blog>

Mark Your Calendars!

- **November 1, Retiring of the Bible** – Do you have old Bibles you would like to get rid of? Bring them to Worship!
- **November 2, Confirmation Sunday**
- **November 8, Game Night, 6:00-9:00pm for ALL.** Pizza & snacks provided.
- **November 15, Christmas Crafternoon, 2:30-4:30pm.** Create Christmas cards and ornaments to take. All ages welcome!
- **November 23, Community Thanksgiving Service at St. James, 6:30pm; Soup Supper @ 5:30pm.**

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸ **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

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

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

Sermon Text: Genesis 25:21-34

Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife because she was barren, and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other; the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle, so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel, so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of Intercession

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation... We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for Saint James. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

What's Happening

October 15-17

- Wednesday 10:30 am Chair Yoga
- Wednesday Night Education
 - 6:00-7:00pm GROW (preschool-5th grade, meal served at 6)
 - 6:10pm Adult Bible Study with Isaac Rodenberg
 - 6:45pm Meal (6th-12th grade or those not serving at shelter)
 - 7:00pm 6th–12th grade SERVICE NIGHT. Silver cord hours available
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group

October 18-24

- Saturday 5:00pm Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
- Sunday 9:30am Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
- Sunday 10:30am Fellowship
- Monday 9:00am In-Person Bible Study
- Monday 10:30am Chair Yoga
- Tuesday 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group at HyVee
- Tuesday 9:00am Online Bible Study ([Connect Here](#))
- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
- Wednesday Night Education
 - 5:30pm Escape Room at Hope Ministries. Leaving St. James at 5:30
Register via Kristin's meal, youth@stjamesjohnston.org
 - 6:00pm GROW (preschool-5th grade, meal served at 6)
 - 6:10pm Adult Bible Study with Isaac Rodenberg
 - 6:45pm Meal (6th–12th grade for those not attending escape room)
 - 7:00pm Confirmation
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group

Celebrations October 18-24:

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

Anniversaries: Eric & Sirikanda Nelson, Ken & Verna White, Al & Mary Dzubak

Connect with Us!

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www.StJamesJohnston.org Here you can connect to:

- Our online service
- Our calendar
- Our Online Bible Study
- Our Electronic Giving Portal
- 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.

