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# SAINT JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH



## Communications

The Staff tries hard to make sure you stay informed about the events, activities, opportunities, and life of our Saint James family and friends.

We hope you take an active role by reading our communications and sharing with us your prayer requests, and other information that needs to be shared with your church community.

Our communication tools are: (other suggestions? let us know!)

- **Website** [www.stjamesjohnston.org](http://www.stjamesjohnston.org): Includes our Mission, Staff, Council, Worship Assistant sign ups, the church calendar, etc. If you are looking to join a team and not sure who leads it, contact the church office at 515-276-0134.
- **Weekly emails** are reminders of opportunities and activities of our congregation. Need to update your email address, contact Linda at [steward@stjamesjohnston.org](mailto:steward@stjamesjohnston.org)
- **Monthly newsletter** sent via email and hard copies at church.
- **Facebook** [www.facebook.com/SJLCjohnston](https://www.facebook.com/SJLCjohnston) You can watch online Worship services, and see updates from staff members.

### We encourage you to consider these requests over the summer:

- Someone you don't know? Introduce yourself and don't be worried that they have been a member for a long time and you've never met! In summer months many families are looking for a home congregation. Invite your new neighbors to visit, and if you are a visitor, we hope you are experiencing the hospitality that is central to our St. James mission.
- Try something new – even if it is for an hour. Look at the diverse list of our ministry opportunities and participate in something you've not done before.
- Mark your calendars to attend Pastor's "return from sabbatical celebration" on Sunday, September 11. More details to follow.

Thank you to all members who make Saint James a warm, welcoming congregation.

# Christian Education

## Summer Fun

Mark your calendars: on July 20 and August 17 from 6:00-8:00 p.m., bring the whole family to St. James for treats, lawn games, and all-around outdoor fun! Please bring your lawn chairs or blankets. More details to come this summer.

## Education Garden Happenings

In June, members of the garden team will be at the garden during some set times; come join us to see the progress in the garden, help water and weed, and do some garden-themed activities! We welcome people of all ages and abilities as we learn together to care for God's creation.

- **Sundays** (10:15-11:00): 6/5 and 6/19
- **Wednesdays** (6:00-8:00): 6/15 and 6/29

**Thank you** to those who helped plant the gardens on Sunday, May 22; many hands made the work go quickly! Here are some highlights:



# Christian Education (cont.)

## Middle School Sunday School Service Project

"Youth and You Serving the Community"

Thank you so much for your support in the fundraiser organized by our Middle School Youth that supported Ronald McDonald House (RMH). RMH serves people of Iowa who need a place to stay while they or their loved ones are receive medical care in Des Moines.

Our middle school students researched, selected, and brainstormed ways to support RMH. The congregation stepped up with \$400 worth of gift cards that will go directly to families staying at RMH. In addition, we turned in thousands of pop tabs. You'll notice some small blue houses that are still in our church, feel free to drop them off here and we'll get them to RMH.

Finally, 3 young men chose to donate their time and cleaning skills on Sunday, April 24th. They vacuumed the entire house, sanitized all of the toys in the playroom, cleaned the microwave and sanitized many high-touch areas.

Thank you to all the Middle School Youth for the part they played in serving our community, and especially to Matthew, Sawyer, and George for volunteering their time on a Sunday afternoon.



# Synod Assembly

Deacon Larry, Colin Richard and Vicar Tori attended the 2022 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly on May 20-21st in Coralville. The Richard's served as the St. James voting delegates. Vicar also served on the voting authentication committee and Cantor for evening worship. Voting business included:

- A 5% minimum compensation increase
- Nomination to synod council
- Resolution to reaffirm synod commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, working toward racial justice
- Resolution to encourage ELCA support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

We also heard reports for synod council, Bishop Current, and Church wide. Highlights from these reports:

- Excitement from the assembly on Bishop Current's commitment to finding innovative ways to meet desperate needs of the church in response to the current leadership crisis.
- Commitment to continued ministry with our partner organizations.
- A BALANCED BUDGET! Thanks be to God for the hardworking and stewardship of church resources.
- Over 53% of the synods income went right back to ministry partners in our synod, around the country and the world.

We experienced multiple opportunities to worship and practice sharing the Good News with one another. Through listening to stories of the Bishop, our Church-wide representative, and a local Des Moines pastor who launched a new congregation this year, we were able to soak in the work of the Spirit in their stories. Often we were prompted to respond to what we heard. Following, we would practice sharing pieces of our own faith stories. This brought back many memories from our (Colin and Tori) confirmation days. But the importance of practicing sharing the work God has done in our lives should not end at confirmation! That was just the very beginning after all!

There were two educational opportunities offered. One was a synod wide initiative on Growing Young/Growing Younger. This is to connect congregations to tool with people ages 15-29, which is currently the least engaged demographic in the church. The second was through Braver Angels, to promote critical listening when engaging in tough conversations.

As we worshipped and learned together, we found many different things to hold in prayer:

- The 35 congregations who are in transition. We pray they trust in the Lord, guiding of the Holy Spirit.
- LSI and other ministry partners as they work to meet the needs of our communities.
- Church leaders pastors, deacons, interns, youth and family leaders, councils, worship assistants, Sunday school teachers, parish stewards, maintenance staff, and all the volunteers needed to make community happen. Give them energy and strength to continue their ministry.
- All the exciting work God Is doing in our synod!
- New leaders in the church. That they will hear, answer, and trust God's call in their life. That new paths to ministry be cultivated to remove unnecessary barriers for people faithfully pursuing God's call.

## Assembly 2023

The business portion will be held online the evenings of May 15 and 16. Saturday, May 20, all people in the SEIAS are invited to a synod wide worship event here in the Des Moines Metro!