

MARCH 2025

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Holy Week	2
Global Missions	2
Mardi Gras	3
Education	4
Speaker	5
Easter Flowers	5
ABIDE	6
Treasurer's Report	6
Pancake Brunch	7
Something to Do for Lent	8



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SAINT JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Come, Join Us!

11:00am at Meadowview of Johnston

(behind the church) We've been invited to stay afterwards for a complimentary lunch, please RSVP to Linda Queck.

6:30pm at Saint James Johnston



Holden Evening Prayer

Don't miss out on this special Lent fellowship time with a soup supper and the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service.

March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9

- Hosts/Food arrive by 5:30pm
- Soup Supper begins at 5:45pm
- Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30pm
- GROW—classroom activities 6:20-7pm
- Confirmation, ABIDE, & Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7-8pm



Holy Week Volunteers Needed



Reader's Theater

Please sign up below to serve as a reader on Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B48A4AD29A75-55344727-readers>

Global Missions

World Water Day is on March 23

Coming soon...the Global Missions Team will be providing an exciting opportunity for us to participate in an overseas water ministry project. Stay tuned!



**WORLD
Water
DAY**

Mardi Gras at Saint James Lutheran Church

w/ St. James member Jordan Messerole



Multi-award winning songwriter Jordan Messerole is an Americana musician from Iowa's capital city. From the depths of his Iowa roots, Messerole masterfully blends the sounds of his guitar with engaging lyrics, and often a harmonica, to tell gritty American tales that are bound to evoke emotion from all of his listeners.

Sunday, March 2, 2025

10:30am to 12:30pm

Please, bring a brunch dish to share.

Christian Education

“Crafternoon” Fun

Are you a crafter? Would you like the opportunity to learn something crafty with the friendly guidance of some members and friends of Saint James? Join us on Saturday, March 29, any time between 1-4 p.m. You can:

- Bring your own project to work on
- Learn something new (we provide the materials)
- Do a little of both!

Schedule of activities will be coming soon. Would you be interested in sharing your expertise? Please contact Rebecca (education@stjamesjohnston.org) with your ideas.

Easter Bake Sale

Let the talented bakers of Saint James prepare your Easter dessert! The Easter Bake Sale is back and takes place after both the Saturday and Sunday Easter services. **100% of your freewill donation goes to camp scholarships.** Each camper receives \$200 toward the cost of camp tuition. Last year, Saint James helped a dozen kids attend a summer Bible camp! Thank you for your continued generous support of this ministry. *If you would like to provide baked goods for the bake sale, please contact Rebecca (education@stjamesjohnston.org).*

SAVE THE DATE: Rough Waves? Jesus Saves! VBS

Four "water stories" will show us that God is with us even when things get tough.

When: June 16-19 in the mornings

Where: Saint James Lutheran Church

Who: Preschool-5th Grades

Hosts: Saint James Lutheran and Saint Paul Presbyterian churches

Helpers Greatly Appreciated (Grades 6-12 through adults; any or all of the days):

- Work nights (dates TBD)
- Artists for décor
- Craft/activity leaders
- Group guides (lead children to each station)
- Preschool leaders

Please contact Rebecca (education@stjamesjohnston.org) with any questions or if you'd like to help!

Speaker on March 30

Lutheran Services of Iowa will be here on Sunday, March 30, to speak with us during Social Hour.



Easter Flowers

If you would like to order Easter flowers to decorate the altar for Easter, please let Linda steward@stjamesjohnston.org or 515-276-0134 know by Monday, March 11.

Easter Lily	(5-9 blooms)	\$13.00
Rieger Begonias	4.5"	\$8.50
Rieger Begonias	6"	\$15.00
Hyacinth	6"	\$11.00
Hydrangia	6"	\$16.00
Daffodil	6"	\$11.00
Tulip	6"	\$11.00
Mum	6.5"	\$12.00



Please include in your order the person(s) you would like the flowers to be in memory or honor of. Thank you!

March 2025

ABIDE Happenings...



February recap

Between closing for weather and illnesses, February was hit and miss for our ABIDE group.

We DID:

1. Work a little through the gospel of Luke
2. Laughed a lot
3. Went to Get Air as a fun activity together!



What's NEXT?

*Ash Wednesday Services 3/5 @ 6:30pm-ABIDE to follow

*Regular ABIDE @ 7pm: 3/12 and 3/26

*NO ABIDE ON 3/19 due to SPRING BREAK



SAVE THE DATE

- High schoolers are needed the AM of **Saturday 4/19** to package goodies for the annual Bake Sale. More information to come

Parting words for the teen (I mean all of us):

"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are" e. e. cummings

Its a pleasure to see this EVERY week...they are great kids!

youth@stjamesjohnston.org

Palm Sunday Pancake Brunch

Sunday, April 13
10:30-11:30am

(Suggested donation of \$5/person or \$20/family)

DON'T MISS Palm Sunday as we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him.



Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

Treasurer's Report

January 2025 was a great month for contributions as \$126,000 was received from members, which is \$60,000 more than what was received in January 2024. This has occurred as a number of members have paid their entire 2025 pledge in January.

This is very helpful to St. James, but the Council has to be mindful that we need to manage these funds to ensure we have monies to pay our bills later in the year. One of the ways we are doing that is to put some of these funds in an interest-bearing account until we need them in the Operations Checking Account.

Monthly expenditures were as expected for January and February, and we made an Additional Principal payment of \$10,000 toward the Mortgage.

Thank you again for your generous contributions.

Take Something Up for Lent 2025

The season of Lent begins with these words:

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

When I was younger, some people were in the habit of “giving something up for Lent,” e.g. candy or chocolate or pop or cussing. I usually volunteered to give up broccoli or asparagus.

Now I wonder if it makes more sense to “take something up for Lent.” The season is approximately 7 weeks in duration. It is both a significant amount of time and a reasonable amount of time, as opposed to a year-long resolution that usually lasts only a few days. Lent begins on March 5 and ends on April 19(ish).

If you want to “take something up for Lent,” here are a few ideas:

- Join a Bible Study (at Saint James or elsewhere)
- Join Chair Yoga (Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30am)
- Be faithful to weekly worship these 7 weekends
- Be faithful to Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6:30pm
- Try tithing (10% of your weekly income) for the work of the Church
- Keep a prayer journal
- Read your Bible daily (in Luke it would be 29 verses per day)
- Volunteer an hour a week somewhere (for example Johnston Partnership or McAuley Terrace)
- Pray for one of our homebound members by name every day

Being a Disciple of Jesus Christ is about **Listening** and **Doing**. God knows we could do more of each.

Blessings on your Lenten Journey!

Peace,
Pastor

