

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**August has 5 Sundays and every month with a fifth Sunday, the Global Missions Team collects offerings for the Ivuga Parish and its 8 sub-parishes.** You can donate at: [www.stjamesjohnston.org](http://www.stjamesjohnston.org) or put your offerings in the basket. If you use Simply Giving, email Linda with a one-time withdrawal request. Thank you for your support!

### **Upcoming Events:**

- **Wednesday, September 2, 6:00pm: Fall Kick-Off Picnic.** Grilled hot dogs & brats, live music, bounce house, lawn games and more. Don't miss the fun! Sign up here if you plan to attend: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64948502-fall#/> You are welcome to bring a side or dessert.
- **September 21, 2026, 5:30 pm: International Day of Peace** at The Peace Garden at Cowles Commons (313 Walnut St. Des Moines). "Invest in Peace for Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday". The keynote speaker will be Rev. John Tyson, Pastor at Plymouth UCC. Music will be provided by Des Moines Singing Resistance. The service will express a vision of peace and a position against war shared by all faith traditions. We will renew our commitment to be instruments of God's peace. This year it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies, and that the urgent work of peace-making is essential to the survival and well-being of humanity. Rain location will be Capital Hill Lutheran Church (511 Des Moines St.)

### **Connections Wednesdays, beginning in September. All are welcome!**

- **Let's Play Hearts** (The Card Game) — Beginners and Old Pros Welcome, Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64920625-connections#/>
- **Book/Movie Club** — I've Read that Book/I've Seen that Movie/Let's talk about it! Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64920875-connections#/>

## Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you." The lesson begins...*

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. <sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup> I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. <sup>20</sup> And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. <sup>21</sup> I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people. The lesson begins...*

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

## **Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28**

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

<sup>21</sup> From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup> "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation...

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## What's Happening

### August 26-28

- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga  
6:00pm Community meal (freewill donations)  
6:30pm *Conversations with Our Christian Neighbors:*  
Debbie Griffin, Pastor of Downtown Disciples  
(FYI, Debbie is wife of Pastor Bill)
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee
- Friday Church Offices Closed

### August 29-September 4

- 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
- 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  
6:00-8:00pm Neighborhood Picnic and Family Fun  
(brats & hot dogs, live music, bounce house)
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee
- Friday Church Offices Closed

### Celebrations August 29-September 4:

**Birthdays:** Chris Burgess, Rodney Olesen, Lynn Walker, Barbara Piel

**Anniversaries:** Karen & Tony Chambers

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### Connect with Us!

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(515) 276-0134 – [Steward@StJamesJohnston.org](mailto:Steward@StJamesJohnston.org)

**[www.StJamesJohnston.org](http://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](mailto:Pastor@StJamesJohnston.org)

***First time visitor? Email Pastor for a Welcome gift.***

