

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NEW** Thank you to Sarah Trone Garriott for presiding with us again as Pastor Bill travels to visit his new grandson.

**Third Thursday Lunch on May 21 at 11:30am - 1pm with lunch served.** Planning your funeral: hymns, lessons, communion, eulogies, obituaries, pallbearers, plots, cremation, etc. Free-will donation for lunch (\$7.50 suggested). Sign up at church or email [Steward@StJamesJohnston.org](mailto:Steward@StJamesJohnston.org)

VBS details are now here!

- Join us **June 29-July 2 from 8:45-11:30** for *Operation Restoration: Mending God's World*, hosted by St. James Lutheran, St. Paul Presbyterian, and First Baptist Churches. VBS will be held at St. Paul, 6426 Merle Hay Road this year. All preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome, so invite your friends, neighbors, grandkids and more!
- **Register for VBS here:** <https://forms.gle/VuDjktcFYjuCjsKm6>
- **Sign up to volunteer here** (or contact Rebecca): <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGpRR0AML7jrocX-iXFG-ZUZregLYoWh7t8Y0wXJL3lvrPfQ/viewform>
- **Mark your calendars:** VBS work nights will be held on Tuesdays, May 19 and June 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at St. Paul. More details to come.

**Confirmation for the Rest of Us** returns this summer beginning May 6. Each Wednesday during May, we will host a leader from different faith practices (Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim) who will share with us. Stay tuned for future topics! There will be no Wednesday night Worship in April. We will begin again with this class on Wednesdays.

The schedule for the summer:

6:00	Pagliari's Pizza served
6:30-7:30	Learning

## Prayer of the Day

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 23 (read responsively)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil,  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

## Gospel: John 10:1-10

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

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

## What's Happening

### April 22-24

- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga  
6:00pm GROW (preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade education)  
7:00pm Confirmation  
7:00pm ABIDE Movie Night  
The Fantastic Four: First Steps (PG-13), 1 hr, 56 min.
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group at Saint James
- Friday Church Offices Closed

### April 25-May 1

- Saturday 5:00pm Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
- Sunday 9:30am Worship In-Person & Facebook Live  
Sunday 10:30am Fellowship
- 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](#))  
8:00pm AA meeting, all are welcome
- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga  
6:00pm GROW (preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade education)  
7:00pm Confirmation  
7:00pm ABIDE: Game Day, at Merle Hay Mall.  
Church will pay for Apps, Bring money to play the arcade games. Friends invited! Let me know if you need a ride, otherwise I will meet you there!
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group at Saint James

### Celebrations April 25-May 1:

**Birthdays:** Will Pederson, Andrea Ruddy, Jeff Derry

**Anniversaries:** Sarah & Andrew Walling, Jon & Gail Ware

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### Connect with Us!

5665 Merle Hay Road, PO Box 62, Johnston, IA 50131  
(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.***

