

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Fall Stewardship Campaign begins on October 5. Please watch your mailboxes for a letter from our treasurer and information about the 2027 budgeting plans for our Mission and Ministry of Saint James. *Stewardship is not just about giving money, but it is a way of life rooted in faith, and a reminder to all of us to remember our baptismal call to tell the world of God's Love in Jesus Christ. Let us continue growing in generosity, deepening our faith, and advancing God's mission—for the sake of the world HE so loves.*

Wednesday meal helpers needed! If you are interested in helping set up and clean up for our community meal on Wednesday evenings, please sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-65676335-wednesday#/. This entails arriving around 5:30, setting out the food, and cleaning up afterwards. This is a fun way to engage with others at Saint James! Please contact Rebecca (education@stjamesjohnston.org) if you have any questions.

"Adult Connection Wednesdays" (with nursery care provided). On September 23, we will be discussing "understanding the teenage brain". If you have ever had a teenager or will have a teenager in your life, this talk is for you!

Dinner for all at 6:00pm. Discussion from 6:30-7:15. Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64921142-connections#/

Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Exodus 2:11-22

¹¹ One day after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and saw their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. ¹² He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ When he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting, and he said to the one who was in the wrong, "Why do you strike your fellow Hebrew?" ¹⁴ He answered, "Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "Surely the thing is known." ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses.

So Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian and sat down by a well. ¹⁶ The priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷ But some shepherds came and drove them away. Moses got up and came to their defense and watered their flock. ¹⁸ When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come back so soon today?" ¹⁹ They

said, "An Egyptian helped us against the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock." ²⁰ He said to his daughters, "Where is he? Why did you leave the man? Invite him to share a meal." ²¹ Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah in marriage. ²² She bore a son, and he named him Gershom,^[b] for he said, "I have been an alien residing in a foreign land."
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.

⁷The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**⁸Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

**¹⁰"Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."**

¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Sermon Text: Exodus 2:23-3:15

After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery and cried out. Their cry for help rose up to God from their slavery. ²⁴ God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁵ God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb,^[a]the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the

Israelites, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹² He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

¹³ But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am.”^[b] He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I am has sent me to you.’ ” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord,^[c] the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of Intercession

Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us... Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need. Grant us your salvation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Change this congregation’s heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

What's Happening

September 23-25

- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
6:00pm Dinner for All
6:30-7:15pm GROW (God Rocks on Wednesdays) PS-5th Grade
6:30-7:15pm Connections – Life Skills (nursery provided):
Understanding the Teenage Brain
7:15-8:00pm Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)
7:15-8:00pm ABIDE
7:15-8:00pm Adult Bible Study
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee
- Friday Church Offices Closed

September 26-October 2

- 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
7:00pm Connected by Faith Women's Group
- 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 Dinner for All
6:30-8:00pm ABIDE silver cord opportunity
6:30-7:15pm GROW (God Rocks on Wednesdays) PS-5th Grade
6:30-7:15pm Connections – Service for Hope Ministries & AED demo
7:15-8:00pm Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)
7:15-8:00pm Adult Bible Study
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee
- Friday Church Offices Closed

September 26-October 2:

Birthdays: Terry Frisch, Carlie Jackson, Jerad Lally, Sue Mathison, Kevin Lauridsen, Alan Dzubak, Mary Ann Muenzenmay

Anniversaries: Aaron & Laura Shaw, Tim & Deb Heldt, Sarah & Rob Kathman, Cindy & Lawrence Cooper

Connect with Us!

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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!

