

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Thank you to Stan McLenna for providing special music for offering today!

NEW DEADLINE approaching. Deposits are due for the National Youth Gathering on Monday, September 21. Please contact Kristin youth@stjamesjohnston.org with questions.

NEW Food Pantry Weekend is September 19/20. Their biggest needs this month are: Peanut butter, Fruit (canned in its own juice), or Cereal (whole grain option). Financial donations also appreciated allowing them to buy items in bulk at a lower price.

A new camera has been installed for recording worship; we are looking for volunteers to operate the camera during our Saturday or Sunday worship services. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Rebecca (education@stjamesjohnston.org); there will be training sessions in the near future.

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

Connected by Faith (any female over the age of 18 and out of High School) is invited to join us this Fall from 7:00-8:00pm (September 21st, 28th and October 5th). We will meet at Saint James, and our book is *Awake: A Memoir* by Jen Hatmaker. Ask your friends to join us and email/text Kristin Kristin.hacker@gmail.com to sign up.

International Day of Peace: September 21, 2026, 5:30 pm: 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.)

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 105:1-5, 16-26a read responsively

¹**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's name;**

make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.

²Sing to the Lord, sing praises, and speak of all God's marvelous works.

³**Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

⁴Search for the strength of the Lord; continually seek God's face.

⁵**Remember the marvels God has done,**

the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,

¹⁶Then God called for a famine in the land and destroyed the supply of bread.

¹⁷**The Lord sent a man before them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.**

¹⁸They bruised his feet in fetters; his neck they put in an iron collar.

¹⁹**Until his prediction came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.**

²⁰The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free,

²¹**setting him as a master over his household, as a ruler over all his possessions,**

²²to instruct his princes according to his will and to teach his elders wisdom.

²³**Israel came into Egypt, and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.**

²⁴The Lord made the people of Israel very fruitful, more numerous than their enemies,

²⁵**whose hearts God turned, so that they hated God's people,**

and dealt unjustly with the servants of God.

²⁶O Lord, you sent Moses your servant and Aaron, your chosen one.

Second Lesson: Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

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

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:13-15

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

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left [Bethlehem], an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Prayers of Intercession

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us...

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. 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 16-18

- Wednesday
 - 10:30am Chair Yoga
 - 6:00pm Dinner for All
 - 6:00pm ABIDE watching Project Hail Mary
 - 6:30-7:15pm GROW (God Rocks on Wednesdays) PS-5th Grade
 - 6:30-7:15pm Connections – Book Club:
“Project Hail Mary” by Andy Weir (nursery provided)
 - 7:15-8:00pm Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)
 - 7:15-8:00pm Adult Bible Study
- Thursday
 - 9:00am Women's Coffee
 - 5:00pm Embroiderer's Guild
- Friday
 - Church Offices Closed

September 19-25

- 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
 - 7:00pm Connected by Faith Women's Group
 - 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
 - 6:30-7:15pm GROW (God Rocks on Wednesdays) PS-5th Grade
 - 6:30-7:15pm Connections – Life Skills:
Understanding the Teenage Brain
 - 7:15-8:00pm Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)
 - 7:15-8:00pm ABIDE (High School Youth)
 - 7:15-8:00pm Adult Bible Study
- Thursday
 - 9:00am Women's Coffee
- Friday
 - Church Offices Closed

Celebrations September 19-25:

Birthdays: Luke Allison, Matt Jackson, Madelyn Anderson, Rex Thompson, Joe Vocolka, Debby Wylie, Isabella Alarcon, Gavin Warden, Mateo Alarcon, Andy Warden

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!

