

JULY 2021

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# SAINT JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH



## JOIN US FOR SUMMER FUN & FELLOWSHIP

July 7  
5:30-7:30pm

**Food** will be available for purchase via food truck by our newest neighbors, "Flame the Taqueria". A small taqueria that focuses on tacos and Mexican Street eats.

**Music** will be provided by Chad Elliot, who has shared his gifts with us before.

There will also be fun activities for the kids!

Don't miss out!



# Fall Planning Underway

**Mark your calendars for Fall schedule:**

## **Saturdays**

5pm Worship

## **Sundays**

- 9am Worship with fellowship immediately following
- 10:15—11am Sunday School
- 11am Minor Prophets

## **Wednesdays (beginning 9/8/21)**

- 6:15pm Bell Choir
- 6:45—8pm, Confirmation with meal provided
  - Grades 6, 7, 8 with Pastor
  - Grade 9 with Vicar (will not begin until 9/15/21)
- 7-8pm Choir

# Mary Women's Group

**The Mary Bible Study Group will be taking a break in June, meeting again July 15 and August 19 starting at 9am.** This will give everyone time to read the book entitled "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion." It was written by Jonathon Haidt, a social psychologist. If you don't read the book, but are interested in the subject and taking part in the discussions, which will be led by Penny Schempp, you can access many video presentations on YouTube where Jonathon Haidt speaks about the subject.

# Christian Education

## Fall Sunday School—Help Needed!

The Christian Education Team is looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School in the fall. Ideally, we would have at least four adults per classroom so that there are two teachers per class each week, and you teach two weekends per month. This means we need 16 volunteers.



Classroom breakdown is Preschool/Pre-K, K/1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grades. All materials are provided well in advance, and there will be a teacher orientation in the fall. If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact Rebecca ([education@stjamesjohnston.org](mailto:education@stjamesjohnston.org)).

## Summer Family Fun:

This summer, St. James will be hosting “Family Fun” nights the first Wednesdays of July, August, and September from 5:30-7:30. There will be a food truck and live music. This is a fun opportunity for the kids of St. James to get together and socialize. There are lots of fun things planned for people of all ages, so come join the fun!

Thank you to the Christian Education Team! The past year has provided many challenges in keeping the students of St. James engaged remotely, and the team came up with many ideas. Adventures in Advent, the virtual Christmas “program”, and Lent kits are just a few. The team consists of: Wendy Aanonson, Liz Anderson, Lilian Buch (last year’s council liaison), Amy DoBraska, Jennifer Dugan-Burns (current council liaison), and Kristin Rodenberg.

# Epiphany about Love

I like the word EPIPHANY. It means an illuminating discovery or realization. I had an epiphany about LOVE this week based upon two experiences.

The first experience occurred at a funeral for a family friend. The woman who passed away was 80 years old, had three children, and eight grandchildren.

Each of the grandchildren wrote a short eulogy for their grandmother. The common theme from each of them was how they felt loved every day of their life because of their relationship with their grandmother. Each related different stories that displayed that love.

I pondered that feeling, TO FEEL LOVED EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE BECAUSE OF THE ACTIONS AND BEHAVIORS OF ANOTHER PERSON. Think about the comfort and security you would have with always knowing you are LOVED by another human being!!

My second experience was my friend and his spouse adopting a dog from the Animal Rescue League. They related the story of the dog being found alone and scared on the streets of Des Moines. The ARL rescued, cared for, and looked for a forever home for the dog.

Imagine what that dog was thinking? The dog may not have been loved for days, weeks, months, and maybe her entire life. Then, through the grace of my friends, this dog now lives in a comfortable home, has a bed to sleep on, nutritious food, and most importantly, is loved by people.

My friend's generosity made me think about children in foster homes and homeless people, and their feeling of being unloved. Most of us have never experienced the misery that comes from being loved by no one.

If you believe in Christ, you know you are always loved by him, but sometimes that concept is hard to believe when no human being loves you. Christ knew the fragile nature of humans and that many people would experience a lack of love.

So, he gave us two commandments:

- A. Love God
- B. Love your neighbor as yourself, to make sure your neighbor feels loved.

So, my EPIPHANY about love is twofold:

1. Make sure my family and friends always feel loved like my friend made her grandchildren feel, and my friends have made their newly adopted dog feel.
2. Keep my eyes and ears open to notice people and animals who look like they are unloved and resolve to make sure they do.

Jerry Wyle

# Social Impact

**Habitat for Humanity:** A team of St. James volunteers has emerged and will be scheduled for a work day (likely a Friday) sometime in September for the Thrivent Faith Build House in Des Moines. Our crew currently numbers 8, and there's room for 4 or 5 more workers (aged 16 and older). Erik Allison is the team leader, and you may contact him (515-418-3720; [erik.allison@gmail.com](mailto:erik.allison@gmail.com)) or Mark Piel (319-883-2435; [mfp2620@yahoo.com](mailto:mfp2620@yahoo.com)) for more information. The work date and additional details will be provided when plans are a bit more certain in August or early September.



**“God’s work. Our hands.”** is the ELCA’s annual church-wide day(s) of service for congregations in Synods across the country. Our Impact Team is exploring the possibility of St. James’ participation this year. The weekend of September 10-11 is a possible date for an intergenerational event to kick off our 2021-22 program year. It’s been a few years since St. James has been able to plan and participate in a “God’s work...” activity, but it would be great to serve our community and come together once again as part of this program of service along with many other congregations across our Synod. If you are interested in joining the conversation to explore this opportunity, please contact Mark Piel or the church office.



**Backpack Buddies:** Johnston Partnership is holding their Back To School event on Tuesday, August 10. Last year they gave away supplies to 325 students. There was greater need, but they ran out of supplies. We will be collecting backpacks and school supplies through **Sunday, August 1**. You can drop them off in the entryway or send in a cash donation. Look for a supply list in the 5 Things email or at church. Thank you for your continued generosity!



# Music Opportunities!

## Resurrection for Choirs and Musical Ensembles this Fall!

It can be difficult to remember the pre-pandemic world, what we did, and how our lives were arranged. In the middle of Lent in 2020 - as we were preparing for Holy Week and Easter - it was as if, like the residents of Pompeii, we were buried by a volcano midst our regular lives. Yet, as we see all around us, people are eager to bring new energy and renewed commitment to those things we have held dear and perhaps even took for granted.

Rehearsals for the Handbell and Adult Choirs will resume on Wednesday, September 8:

- Handbells will rehearse from 6:15 to 7pm in the north, rear of the sanctuary.
- Adult choir will rehearse from 7 to 8pm in the south, rear of the sanctuary.

Minor Prophets – 6<sup>th</sup> grade through High School – will rehearse on Sunday mornings from 11 to 11:30am in the sanctuary following class time. Their first rehearsal will be Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

More information will be forthcoming, but, for now, mark these dates and times on your calendars and start to prepare for heart-felt celebrations and praise!



# High School Youth Ministry

We are back! Over the next couple of years, one of Vicar's main roles is to work intentionally with the high school youth. This will take various forms as we prepare for the coming school year, but we need your help!

If you have an incoming 9-12th grader, please take a couple of minutes to have them fill out this [survey](#). Results will help give us an idea of some of the things you would be most interested in doing and learning over the next year!

Also, follow us on Instagram @youth.st.james Vicar posts regular devotional content, shares cool things the broader church is doing, and some other fun stuff!

Please remember the following high school youth and chaperones in prayer as they travel to Outlaw Ranch in Custer, South Dakota on a mission trip!

Pastor Bill  
 Vicar Tori  
 Jaycie A.  
 Natalie A.  
 Morgan D.  
 Melanie D.  
 Elise H.  
 Mackenzie L.

The goal is for each camper to have fun, grow in leadership, develop and nurture friendships, and to strengthen their faith.



# Lutheran Lakeside Camp

In June, we had the opportunity to send 2 little lakers and 3 confirmation youth to Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Some of the week's highlights included searching for the polar bear in the polar plunge, archery, paddle boarding/kayaking, campfire worship, the great food, and meeting new friends! As part of the confirmation camp, Pastor and Vicar spent quality time with the students. Some of the places they saw God during the week included community, animals, sleep, the beautiful lake, the Christ hike, rainstorms, and their wonderful counselors. We are so grateful for the week with these incredible youth!

