

MARCH
2020

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Faithfully Forward	2
Food Pantry	2
Community Garden	3
Connected by Faith	3
First Communion	4
Thrivent Choice	4
HS Youth	4
Maundy Thursday	5
Holden Evening Prayer	5
Loving Hands	6
Fifth Sundays	6
Blood Drive	7
40 Days of Lent	7
Luther Park	8



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SAINT JAMES

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Holy Week Schedule



Saturday, April 4	Palm Sunday	5 PM
Sunday, April 5	Palm Sunday	9 AM
Thursday, April 9	Maundy Thursday Liturgical Meal	6 PM
Friday, April 10	Good Friday (<i>sack lunches available</i>)	Noon
	Good Friday	7 PM
Saturday, April 11	Easter Saturday Service	5 PM
Sunday, April 12	Easter Service	9 AM
	(NOTE: Change In Worship times) Easter Breakfast (<i>free-will offering provides camp scholarships</i>)	10—11 AM
	Easter Service	11 AM

Easter Breakfast

Come...Join us for
Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 12, 10—11 AM



Between services, Saint James Youth will be providing and serving a delicious egg casserole breakfast.

All free-will donations will benefit our Youth attending Lutheran camps this summer!

Faithfully Forward

Kickoff Weekend: March 21/22
Commitment Weekend: April 25/26

At St. James we are doing the hard work of building something together. This work has led to some great community-building conversations:

- What are we building together?
- Are we building a place that will help us deepen our relationships to one another, with our community and with God?
- How can we build on our strengths as a congregation?
- What talents and gifts do we have here that haven't been fully expressed?

The **Build Us Up, Lord** capital campaign will come to a successful conclusion this June. You have been extremely faithful in honoring the pledges made during that campaign. Your gifts were essential to providing the equity needed to secure financing and fund construction. Thank you again to everyone who provided vision and leadership, volunteered time and skill, and contributed so generously to see the project through to completion. Because of our shared commitment, we have a bright new space for worship, fellowship, education and mission.

Now is the time to turn our focus to repayment of our construction debt. This month, we will begin our debt reduction appeal. The theme of our new appeal is **Faithfully Forward** and it includes an aggressive but achievable goal to accelerate the payment of our debt and move us forward in our calling as a congregation. I hope you will embrace the appeal as an opportunity to consider (again, or for the first time) what we are building at St. James and how you can be involved and engaged in our shared commitment.

As with our capital campaign, we will be partnering with Mission Investment Fund on our debt reduction appeal. Please plan to join us for worship on the following dates to learn more about our appeal and our goals for the congregation:

March 21/22:	Kick Off Weekend
April 25/26:	Commitment Weekend

Thank you,
John Pietila
Appeal Chair



DONATION
of the **MONTH**
MARCH 2020
Peanut Butter

March 21 & 22
is Food Pantry
collection at
Saint James.

We invite you
to bring
peanut butter
or a financial
donation to
support our local
Food Pantry.

Community Garden

Think Spring! If you enjoy digging in the earth and watching your produce grow, consider joining the Garden Team. The Saint James Community Garden produces hundreds of pounds of produce for the Johnston Partnership each year.

We are looking for three or four new members to reinforce the Garden Team in 2020. To learn more about the Community Garden and how you can help, please join us on **Thursday, March 5th at 6:30 PM** as we make plans for the 2020 Community Garden!



Connected by Faith is Starting!

All women age 18 and older are encouraged to attend this Women's ONLY bible study. With the assistance of Jen Wilkins we will explore the book of 1 Peter. During this process we will "...consider our identity as believers and the importance of hope and humility."

Come, join us on the following TUESDAYS (9 sessions total) from 6:30-7:30 PM:

- * March 3, 10, 17, 31
- * April 14, 21, 28
- * May 5, 12

If you are unfamiliar with Jen Wilkin's work, please understand it is very individually driven and you do not need to attend each session to get something out of it.

Meetings will be held at Saint James Lutheran Church. Please feel free to invite friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc.

Please contact Kristin Rodenberg at kristin.hacker@gmail.com or 515-975-7831 to sign up and order your book. Bible Study book, \$14.00.



IN HIS
GREAT MERCY
HE HAS
GIVEN US
NEW BIRTH
INTO A
LIVING HOPE
1 PETER 1:3



First Communion Classes

First Communion classes will be on Sunday, April 5, from 10:30-11:15 AM and Wednesday, April 8, from 6-7 PM with first communion on Easter weekend. 1st and 2nd graders are invited, as well as anyone else who has an interest in learning more about the gift of the Lord's Supper. Parents are invited to attend with their students.

Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B48A4AD29A75-1stcommunion>

Please plan on attending both sessions. If you are not able to attend, but want your student to commune, please contact Ethan or Pastor.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

One good act leads to another. And the impact grows. Thanks to eligible members of Thrivent Financial, that's what we've experienced through the Thrivent Choice[®] program.

Many of you directed Choice Dollars[®] to Saint James. Through your individual recommendation, you have helped to make a difference. The outreach funding we've received from Thrivent Financial through this program is continuing our important mission.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until **March 31, 2020**, to direct any remaining Choice Dollars.

Joint Church Hangout

Youth from grades 7-12 are invited to join with our friends from St. Paul Presbyterian on March 11th from 4:30-5:30 PM for a fun fellowship night!

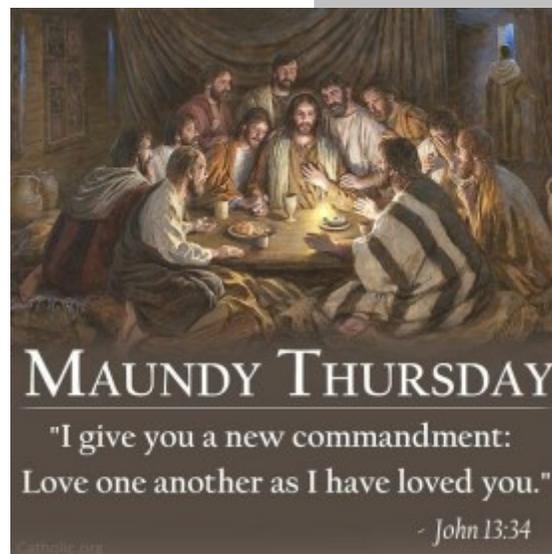
We will play games and have great conversation here at Saint James.



Maundy Thursday Liturgical Meal

Maundy Thursday of Holy Week is the day that we remember and observe Jesus' last supper with His disciples. During that meal, we see the incredible act of service that Jesus, God Himself, washed the disciples' feet. Along with his key teaching in this moment, and the giving of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, Jesus once again powerfully demonstrated the unexpected nature of life in His Kingdom, where a leader and authority was so filled with love that He was willing to truly serve.

This year Saint James will Worship with a Liturgical Meal in the Fellowship Hall on Maundy Thursday, April 9, beginning at 6 PM.



The Sermon on the Mount Wednesdays at 7 PM

March 4— Love Your Enemies

March 11 —The Lord's Prayer

March 18 —Do Not Worry

March 25 —The Golden Rule

April 1—Hearers & Doers

Come early for soup: 6pm

Holden
 Evening
 Prayer

Loving Hands



Thank you to everyone who worked this month making fleece hats and scarves and those who made prayer shawls. Many people are blessed by the work of your hands.

Join us on Thursday, March 5th at 7 PM. Michele and Allison Kane will be demonstrating how to make dish cloths and dish scrubbies for families in emergency shelters. We will also be cutting fabric, if you prefer fabric work.



All are welcome to join us for fellowship and fun! We love to see the projects you are working on. Bring them along for show and tell.

Questions? Contact
Michele Kane at
515-490-4688



5th Sunday Offerings



Every month with a fifth Sunday, the Global Missions Team collects loose bills and change for the Ivuga Parish and its 8 sub-parishes. The money is used for petrol for the 3 motorbikes the evangelists use to travel to the sub-parishes.

In 2020, those months are: March, August, November. We thank you for your support of our work globally!

Blood Drive

Johnston Community

March 28 from 8:00 - 11:00 AM
 Saint James Lutheran - Bloodmobile
 5665 Merle Hay Road



There's no more rewarding community service project than a blood drive! Each unit of blood donated can save up to three local lives – *that's just a single donor!* Community blood drives are open to the public and are generally set up on a regular basis to make sure your town can keep giving back throughout the year.

These Forty Days of Lent

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays. Sundays are seen as “little Easters”. Lent is modeled after Jesus’ forty day fast in the desert (wilderness). Lent is a time of preparation, much like Advent, but instead of preparing for the birth of the Messiah, we are preparing for new life in Christ. Historically, Lent was used for the preparation for baptism by converts. Now we see Lent as more of a time for penance – a time for reflection on our own sins and to contemplate what Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Good Friday, after Holy Week. Holy week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday and ends Easter Day. Lent is a time for us to open our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper.

Many people do this in many different ways from fasting, to confession, to medication, to reflective prayer in community or alone and many other ways. I personally really like to do a ritual called “The Examen”. The Examen is a daily way to pray and reflect on your day in the presence of God. The Examen has 5 steps and takes about 15 to 20 minutes per day. The 5 steps are: 1) Ask God for light 2) Give Thanks 3) Review the day 4) Face your shortcomings 5) Look toward the day to come.

So, during this Lenten season, I encourage you to take these forty days to reflect and pray to God and see where God is leading you.

If you would like to try The Examen, there will be prayer cards available in the fellowship hall for you to take and keep.

Many blessings on your Lenten journey!

Vicar Denise Berns

CALL
800-287-4903
 to schedule
 your appt!



**What is
 Lent?**

**What do
 we do
 during Lent?**

St. Patrick's Day

Luther Park Auxiliary
is hosting a

*Green Salads Luncheon
& Bake Sale*

*Sunday, March 15
11:30 AM to 1 PM*

Luther Park Community Center

Everyone Welcome! Bring your friends/family!

**Freewill offering for the luncheon
Bake items as marked**

This is a fundraiser for the
Luther Park Employee's
Education Fund

