Dear members of St. James,

On behalf of the entire Council, I continue to pray for good health for you and your families. Who would have thought back in March when the world went into quarantine and the majority of our lives moved online that we’d still be here six months later? Yes, some aspects of life have begun to return to ‘normal’, but the reality remains that COVID-19 is still part of our everyday life.

I am so proud of the way our entire congregation has adapted to our online worship service and various ministries. Not only has it kept all of us connected, it has enabled us to extend our reach. For that, I’m thankful the pandemic forced us to adapt and I see online services and ministries remaining a permanent part of St. James.

However, just as schools understand the importance of students and teachers safely coming back together and have created a hybrid back-to-school plan, your Council understands the importance of our congregation safely meeting face-to-face. In addition to our online services, we’ve started holding in-person outdoor worship and it’s been so nice to see members in 3D again! And while Iowa is known for its beautiful fall weather, we know it won’t last forever. Therefore, the staff and worship team have worked hard to develop a plan to safely begin indoor worship in October.

We know everyone has a different level of comfort with the current pandemic. We hope with the variety of in-person and online worship options, we can continue to gather to worship and celebrate our Lord for as long as the pandemic lingers on.

In peace,
Jennifer Dugan-Burns
St. James Council President
Worship Plans...

September Plans\(^1\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 5/6</td>
<td>(Labor Day Weekend)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12/13</td>
<td>(Sunday School begins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19/20</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 26/27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturdays @ 5pm</td>
<td>Outdoor Worship (bring a chair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays @ 8am</td>
<td>Outdoor Worship (bring coffee &amp; a chair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays @ 9am</td>
<td>Online Worship (Zoom &amp; Facebook Live)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays @ 10am</td>
<td>Online Sunday School (Google Classroom)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

October Plans\(^2\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturdays @ 5pm</td>
<td>Worship in the Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays @ 8am</td>
<td>Worship in the Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays @ 9am</td>
<td>Online Worship (Zoom &amp; Facebook Live)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays @ 10am</td>
<td>Online Sunday School (Google Classroom)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Going Forward in 2020\(^3\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sundays @ 9am</td>
<td>Online Worship (Zoom &amp; Facebook Live)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays @ 10am</td>
<td>Online Sunday School (Google Classroom)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...and as much in-person worship & activities as are safely possible.

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\(^1\) Outdoor Worship depends on nice weather: not too hot, not too cold, not too much precipitation. If outdoor worship is cancelled for weather, join us on Sundays at 9am.

\(^2\) In the Sanctuary Worship depends on pandemic issues, spread, cancellations, etc.

\(^3\) We are praying for a vaccine and a return to ‘normal.’
In-Person In-the-Building Worship Guidelines
As of August 26, 2020 from the Worship Committee & Council

1. We will limit total attendance to 70 people. This enables us to maintain 6 feet of space between family groups. We will have sign ups. If more than 70 people arrive for worship, ushers will determine if they can be seated in a safe, socially distant manner. If not, they may seat people in the fellowship area.

2. We will ask those who are sick, experiencing symptoms, or recently/potentially exposed to the virus not to attend worship.

3. We will ask people to be mindful of CDC recommendations regarding those who are particularly vulnerable due to underlying conditions.

4. Ushers will hold doors as people enter and exit. Entrances and exits will be one-way traffic. The entrance includes an antiseptic door mat everyone will walk through.

5. We require that everyone (except children under 2) wear masks the entire time they are in the building, including in the sanctuary during the service.

6. Ushers will direct people to seat themselves via a single line, filling the front pews first, then filling progressively to the back. We will ask people to exit in the same manner, starting with the back pews first to minimize crossing paths and direct contact.

7. We will ask people to minimize unnecessary movement in the sanctuary before, during and after the service.

8. We will not have congregational singing for the time being. We will use vocal solos and instrumental music instead. Vocalists and wind musicians will be placed at the very back of the sanctuary or outside in the fellowship area.

9. We will use disposable bulletins and no hymnals.

10. We will ask Pastor to deliver the sermon from the very front of the sanctuary or pulpit.

11. We will strongly recommend that those assisting with worship wear masks while moving through the sanctuary, but allow them to remove masks while speaking. Readers will need to be at the front of the sanctuary or consider having readers read lessons from the fellowship area with a microphone. We will not share microphones and will sanitize microphones between uses.

12. We will celebrate communion using prefilled cups sealed with wafers. People will take communion from their pews (briefly removing their masks) and will dispose of their cups/packaging in trash receptacles when they leave the service. (Gluten-free wafers can be picked up before the service as they are today, then used with juice from the prefilled cups.)

13. We will share the peace in non-traditional ways and ask people to minimize movement through the sanctuary.

14. We will not serve coffee or have fellowship time after the service. The north end of the church will be roped off and people will be asked to use the south bathrooms.

15. We will fog spaces (sanctuary, bathrooms, entryway) between uses.

16. We will ask that anyone who tests positive for the virus after attending worship notify the church office. Names will be kept private and the staff will determine if any private notifications of other worshippers are needed.

Comments and Questions may be directed to Pastor, Council and/or the Worship Committee.
The Racial Justice Team will be hosting a discussion of the book and movie, *The Hate U Give* on Sunday, September 13th, following the 9 am service. This prize-winning book, written by Angie Thomas, is a window into what policing feels like to Black Americans, especially youth. Written for young adults, the book is an accessible read even for busy adults, and the movie is available on streaming services. Join the discussion at 10 am on the St. James’ Zoom link.

A nonfiction book, that the team wants to lift up, is *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo (2019.) In this book, Oluo guides readers through honest conversations about race and racism in all facets of American life. She envisions the book as a tool readers can “hold in their hands and turn back to, time and time again as different issues regarding race [come] up in their lives.” Seventeen chapters include the titles: *What is racism? What if I talk about race wrong? Is police brutality really about race? Why can’t I touch your hair? Why are students so angry? I just got called a racist, what do I do now?*

*The seeds that have led to the harvest of racial tensions in this country were sown four hundred years ago and are the thicket of injustice and violence in which we live and struggle today. This will not be solved by an election nor resolved in our lifetimes. Becoming educated to the issues and then resolving to be Christ’s heart, hands, and feet in this time is task to which our baptism calls us.*

Deacon Larry Christensen
International Day of Peace

VIRTUAL OBSERVANCE: Monday, September 21, 2020

The Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace invites you to an interfaith prayer service for peace to mark International Peace Day on September 21. The theme of the service is “Shaping Peace Together”, featuring artist Ted Lyddon Hatten and harpist Kristin Maahs. It will be livestreamed at 6:30 pm, on the Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace Facebook page. We continue to raise our prayers that war is not the answer and that the urgent work of peace-making is essential to the survival and well-being of humanity.

SE Iowa Synod Elects New Bishop

The Rev. Amy Current is elected Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod ELCA

The bishop-elect Amy Current is currently serving as Vice President of Admissions and Student Services at Wartburg Seminary. She graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, and received an M. Div from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA and was ordained on July 13, 1997.

Bishop-Elect Current will succeed Bishop Michael Burk, who has served as bishop since 2008 and is retiring.

Voting members of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have gathered online, August 5th and 7th, for their annual Synod Assembly. Members from ELCA congregations across the area are gathered under the theme “With a New Song.”

Thank you to Chris Miller and Mark Piel for attending this virtual assembly as Saint James delegates. Pastor Bill and Deacon Larry Christensen also attended.
Confirmation 2020-2021

W ednesdays at 7pm at https://bit.ly/3a01dRw

Students are expected to complete 10 credits (a credit is approximately 3 weeks of classes). **Bold indicates required.**

*If a student misses a live class, he/she can watch it at a later date and email Ethan for credit.*

**Class 1 – Small Catechism**
**Class 2 – Prayer**
**Class 3 – The Kingdom of Israel**
**Class 4 – The Gospel of Mark**
**Class 5 – The Trinity**
**Class 6 – Worship Notes**
**Class 7 – Worship Leader**
**Class 8 – Service Project**
**Class 9 – Mentor Mornings**

**September 9 through October 28 (2 Credits).**
**November 4, 11, 18 (1 Credit)**
**December 2, 9, 16 (1 Credit)**
**January 6 through April 7 (3 Credits).**
**April 14, 21, 28 (1 Credit)**
**8 Notes between September 9 and April 28 (1 Credit)**
**5 Services as Lector, Assisting Minister or Acolyte (1 Credit)**
**Date, Event TBD (1 Credit)**
**September through April – 8 meetings (2 Credits)**

Sunday School

We are so excited for Sunday School to begin on Sunday September 13th! We are excited to be partnering with families in providing a full home Sunday School experience. Classes are appropriate for grades Preschool-6th grade for the whole family to do together.

Every Sunday at 10 AM, materials and a video will be posted onto the Classroom. If you use the video, it will guide your family through the lesson, with crafts, music, and stories. St. James also provides bags with printed out materials to follow along with the lessons to make it easier for you. If you need a bag, just stop by the church! Sunday sermons and lessons will follow along the Sunday School schedule so that the whole family can be enriched by the characters of the Old Testament.

We look forward to providing this wonderful opportunity!
Sunday School Schedule

Classes will be posted on the Google Classroom at 10 AM on Sundays. You can join by visiting classroom.google.com, clicking the plus button in the top right corner, and entering the code 5xl4k4g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1: September 13</th>
<th>Abraham:</th>
<th>Genesis 15:5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: September 20</td>
<td>Abraham and Sarah:</td>
<td>Genesis 18:3-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3: September 27</td>
<td>Rebekah and Isaac:</td>
<td>Genesis 24:43-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4: October 4</td>
<td>Jacob and Esau:</td>
<td>Genesis 27:36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5: October 11</td>
<td>Jacob:</td>
<td>Genesis 32:28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6: October 18</td>
<td>Joseph 1:</td>
<td>Genesis 37:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7: October 25</td>
<td>Joseph 2:</td>
<td>Genesis 41:39-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8: November 1</td>
<td>Joseph 3:</td>
<td>Genesis 50:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9: November 8</td>
<td>Naomi and Ruth:</td>
<td>Ruth 1:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10: November 15</td>
<td>David:</td>
<td>1 Samuel 16:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11: November 22</td>
<td>David and Goliath:</td>
<td>1 Samuel 17:34-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12: November 29</td>
<td>Solomon:</td>
<td>1 Kings 5:3-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fall Clean Up Day

Just like the rest of us, our lawn and church property need some TLC during these trying months of Covid.

We invite you to join us on Saturday, September 19, from 8:30—Noon for our Fall Work Day! Projects include:
- Taking down support fence posts for the new trees.
- More mulch around plantings.
- Edging the sidewalk and drives.
- Clean outside/roof HVAC units and change filters.
- Landscape work around bell tower and sign.
- Pulling weeds

Questions? Contact Brad Henry at bradhenry@mchsi.com or Linda Queck at steward@stjamesjohnston.org
Faith Building Opportunities

“Rediscovering Our Identity as a Child of God.”

This class is a safe place to help us be more aware of why we think like we think, do what we do, and say what we say. We will consider the impact of what we say and do to the diverse communities around us and use assertive behavior training as a way to communicate more effectively.

It will be offered via zoom, the month of October, eight sessions, Sunday mornings at 10:00am and Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm.

Penny Schempp is a member of Saint James, has a Masters Degree in Counseling from the University of SD and was a licensed counselor for 30 years before her retirement in 2009.

Connected by Faith Women’s Bible Study

Fall means time for our next Text Study! We will again meet (in person when nice/Zoom when bad weather) this Fall on Mondays from 6:30-7:30pm, beginning September 14th and running for 8 weeks. Our study will be: Finding God Faithful by Kelly Minter. Information about the text can be found here: https://www.lifeway.com/en/product-family/finding-god-faithful

Reminder that this study is for any woman over the age of 18 years old. Please RSVP to Kristin Rodenberg at kristin.hacker@gmail.com by WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, so books can be ordered.
Here are the July year to date (YTD) amounts for the Operating fund income and expenses:

YTD Income: $7,474 under budget—primarily from $5,000 shortfall in pledged offerings and about $2,000 shortfall in Unpledged offerings.

YTD expenses: $50,962 under budget—primarily from $38,566 of expenses paid by the PPP program proceeds (see detail below) and about $4,000 in savings generated in the Property category.

Reminders:
- If you are financially able during this pandemic, a convenient way to keep your pledge current is an automatic withdrawal from your checking account. Linda Queck will be glad to assist you in the set-up process.
- The quarterly statement sent by the church on July 1, 2020, is a good way to see where you are in comparison with your pledge amount.
- Checks can be mailed to the church or dropped-off during business hours (Monday-Thursday, 9—3). An offering plate is near the front door.

Earlier this year St. James, with the direction/assistance of Charter Bank, was able to participate in the SBA’s PPP program which was designed to assist covering specific expenses during the pandemic. Since the program is now ended, the amount and the uses of the funds by St. James are detailed below.

- The original amount was $45,900.
- The funds were used for:
  - Salaries: $30,212
  - Benefits: $8,354
  - Interest expense: $7,333  Note: This expense offset occurred in Capital Fund
How to Raise Christian Children and/or Grandchildren

Like many of you, I have been praying for our children and their parents lately, as well as their teachers, aides and administrators, as they head back to school during a pandemic. God keep them safe and help them to learn.

Of all the work that God gives to human beings, perhaps nothing is more important that raising children. This is true in part because it is the foundation of everything else that we do together.

I have helped to raise 3 children, including my two sons and for the last 10 years my step-son. It was simultaneously the hardest and most rewarding work of my lifetime.

So I was wondering if at the ripe old age of 55, if I had any advice to share about the task of raising children. As a pastor, I’ve been wondering if I have any advice about raising Christian children. I do.

#1 – The most important thing a parent or grandparent can do to share their faith with a child is to let the child be instructed by your life and example. Day in and day out, if you are kind and respectful toward others, your children will likely follow your example. And if you are not, they will likely follow that example as well.

#2 – The second most important thing a parent or grandparent can do to share their faith with a child is to regularly attend worship together. A child learns what is important to his or her parents by how they spend and prioritize their time. Additionally, during worship children of all ages learn scripture, prayers, creeds and hymns.

(Dads, this is especially important for you. Young children will attend worship with their moms, but if their dads don’t attend, his example will undermine her example. Eventually boys will say, “Why do I have to go, Dad doesn’t go?” Meanwhile, girls often think of their dads as ‘the best guy I know’ and ‘he’s not going, so it must just be a mom thing.’ So dads, if you love your children and/or their mother, attend worship with them. After all you promised God that you would when they were baptized.)

(continued next page)
#3 – When your children are young, read to them. Read all kinds of things. From time to time, read from a children’s Bible. And don’t be afraid of their questions. None of us knows all the answers and all of us need people with whom we can wonder about things. Ethan has a dozen great Bibles to recommend.

#4 – When your children are older, talk to them about the news, issues and politics. Tell them why you feel the way you do about things. Listen to them when they tell you how they feel about things. Talk and listen and don’t be afraid to admit that issues and solutions are often difficult and confusing.

I was not a perfect parent. I think I succeeded in helping to raise 3 nice young adults who know that I love and respect them. I think the three of them know that I believe God loves them and this world. They have developed their own understanding of right and wrong and justice. Their understanding of these things may not be exactly like mine, but my beliefs and examples are in there somewhere.

If you’re a parent or grandparent, please know that I am praying for your important work.

Peace, Pastor

Thank You!

I want to thank all of you for the love and support you have given my family and me during this difficult time. And another thank you to everyone that helped at Gary’s funeral! You know that he loved all of you and I love you all too!! God’s peace!

Sharyn Nelson and family
Saint James Memorials

If you are wondering about how to memorialize a loved one, the Stewardship committee wants you to be aware that St. James now has a list of items which are appropriate for a memorial of a loved one and chosen to help the church achieve its ministry and mission. The list is part of a memorial process which has been reviewed and accepted by Council and provided as a service to St. James members.

The list will be updated regularly by the various ministry teams and those teams will assist in the purchase and/or installation of the items. The list also has a wide range of costs designed for the various needs of the bereaved.

A plaque will be created within the church to provide a place for recording what the memorial was, who it is in memory of, and who has provided the memorial. For example, "A communion service in memory of Sam Smith, provided by his family."

The Parish Steward, Linda Queck, is the initial contact; and she can assist in the process.

The following is the current list of items:

From the Property Team:
- Trees
- The memorial plaque

From the Worship and Music Team:
- Gloves and/or music for the Bell choir
- Comfortable chairs for the Fellowship area
- New baptismal font

From Christian Ed:
- Scholarship Fund
- Library area, furniture and books
- Rocking Chairs for nursery
- Bible covers engraved with the student's name, date and/or St. James.

We also have the following Designated Funds set up by teams and/or prior memorials which could be added to.
- Organ fund
- Hand Bells
- Ivuga Partnership Activities
- Women’s groups
- Men’s groups & Landscaping
- Community Garden