



Lent 2023



In honor of the 250th anniversary of the writing of “Amazing Grace,” our 2023 Lent Midweek Worship at St. James ties the words of the beloved song to our lives today as Christ’s disciples. Those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God help us each week to realize that though we once were lost in sin, we now have been found by Jesus, and though we once were blind to God’s mercy, we now can see his love at work in us through our Savior’s death and resurrection.

Ash Wednesday Worship (Feb. 22) is at Noon and 7:00 pm
Lenten Midweek Worship is from 6:30 - 7:00 pm

You are invited to attend a meal before the midweek services:

March 1: Community Meal – dinner is served at 6:00 pm.

March 8, 15, 22, & 29 – Lenten Midweek Meal beginning at 5:45

The focus of our Lenten Midweek services:

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22 • David (Psalm 51:1): We find comfort that King David confessed his sins to God and received amazing grace in God’s forgiveness and a connection to Jesus, the Savior.

Week 1, March 1 • Isaiah of Babylon (Isaiah 6:7): We see God’s amazing grace at work in the life of the prophet Isaiah, who proclaimed to God’s people the salvation that was to come through the Suffering Servant.

Week 2, March 8 • The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:32): We hear of the great love of a father who lavished amazing grace upon the Prodigal Son, a picture of our Heavenly Father’s lavish compassion toward us.

Week 3, March 15 • The Blind Man (John 9:24): We witness Jesus bringing sight to a man born blind, giving the man the added spiritual vision to see the amazing grace of God found in Jesus, who heals us all.

Week 4, March 22 • The Woman at the Well (John 4:13-14): We listen to Jesus teach a woman at the well of his amazing grace poured out for us abundantly, which satisfies our thirsting souls for all eternity..

Week 5, March 29 • Paul (1 Timothy 1:15): We marvel at the story of amazing grace in the life of Paul, who turned from persecutor of Christ to proclaimer of our Lord through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Saturday at 5:00 pm & Sunday at 8:30 & 10:45 am

8:30 am is LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Communion Served on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month.

Phone: 608.845.6922

www.stjamesverona.org

Fax: 608.845.6903

From the Pastors

The Season of Lent

Lent is a season of preparation. During the third and fourth centuries, Lent was the final 40 days of fasting and discipline before baptism at Easter. Lent is now a season for us all. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, when we receive ashes on our foreheads (echoing the seal given at baptism), and again hear the words, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

That anyone would attend such a service, and then come forward to be reminded of their mortality, is somewhat at odds with a culture that celebrates youth and denies death. But remembering who we are (and therefore whose we are) helps us let go of unhealthy attachments to things of this world, and cling to the freedom of life in Christ – Christ whose life led to the cross, and the cross to an empty tomb.

You are dust. In the second chapter of Genesis we read, “The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” We come from dust, we return to dust – we could all go by the name of “Dusty.” The breath of God gives our dusty lives life.

At weddings, a celebration of love and promise, there is at the end of the vows some form of “until death do us part.” Honest words. Every relationship could contain these words. At funerals, death is obvious, and what we celebrate there is the joy the resurrection, where new life is given, forever.

Easter is where Lent leads us to; Easter is also where our lives lead to, no matter how short or long. Lent means “springtime,” and can be season of hopeful renewal as we jettison all in our lives that keeps us from living fully and freely.

May we each repent (turn away) from any expressions of death – hatred, resentment, violence, warfare, discrimination, injustice, lust and greed – to be replaced with the fruits of the Spirit that lead to abundant life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

As I said in my sermons at two funerals this past week: there is only one promise we can count on in this life: the promise of forgiveness given in baptism – “marked with the cross of Christ forever” – a promise that lasts forever.

But because we never know what tomorrow on this earth will bring, one gift we can give to our loved ones is to “have our affairs in order”: to have an updated Will, a Durable (Medical and/or Financial) Power of Attorney (sometimes combined with a Living Will). We have “Funeral Planning Forms” here at St. James that you take and can fill out (best done in discussion with your loved ones). Pastor Kurt and I can also assist you in this process.

Death is not the end, but in Christ a door we all walk through to that life were decay and disease, sorrow and tears are no more. May your Lent be blessed season of repentance, renewal, and resting in grace.

—Pastor Peter

ST. JAMES STAFF

Kurt Billings, Pastor	Cell: 235-8122
Peter Narum, Pastor	Cell: 469-9625
Michelle Lichty	Parish Administrator
Barb Roberts	Office Assistant
Susan Zimmer	Office Assistant
Barb Roberts	Card Ministry
Holly Parker	Director of Parish Education Ministries
Paulette Spoon	Adult Choir & Handbell Choir
Susan Bubolz	Youth Choir Director
Rhonda Chalone,	Accompanists
Jim Erickson, Carol Murphy	
Barb Rasmussen, R.N.	Parish Nurse/Visitation Coord.
Heather Pearl	Director, St. James Preschool
Holly Parker, Lori Rudy,	St. James Preschool
Kristin Wills & Stacy Zimmerman	

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Allison Heil President	608-527-2353
Susan Martin-Zernicke, VP	608-246-2025
Mark Krebsbach, Treasurer	608-438-6424
Jim Ruder, Secretary	608-212-6742
Jon Baldock	608-480-4091
Dennis Beres	608-845-9305
Desiree Canto	646-599-7021
Christine Kemnitz	608-886-6363
Julie Murphy	608-345-8533



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Summer Camp Children's Sermon



On Sunday, Jan. 29, we welcomed Robyn and Ben Koehler, Directors of Pine Lake Camp, back to St. James. Ben led the Children's Time (left), and along with their children, Cedar, Summit and Whalan, spent time with our children and youth in the hours following worship.

Many of our children and youth attend one of Pine Lake's summer camp weeks. For more information, see

<https://www.crosswayscamps.org/pinelakecamp>.

2022 Annual Report

Our 2023 Annual Budget was approved at the February 5, Semi-Annual Meeting. 2022 Annual Reports are available at the Welcome Center at St. James or by [clicking here](#).

We thank you for your continued and ongoing support of St. James.

Gift Planning

Gift Planning is relevant for both today and for the future. Here are two questions for today that you might ask yourself, or a financial advisor if you use one. By taking some time to answer these questions, you may be able to grow in generosity. Thank you for your financial support for the mission and ministry of Saint James Lutheran Church!

- 1) How much can I give to charity annually and still meet my spending goals?
- 2) What is the best way for me to give to charity annually?

IRA Transfers

If you are age 72 or older, you have another opportunity. You can transfer funds directly from your IRA to St. James Lutheran Church. Such a transfer is not reportable income to you and can meet your required minimum distribution for the year. Such transfers are limited to \$100,000 per year and not deductible as a charitable donation but have the potential to reduce your tax bill because there is no reportable income. *This way of giving can be helpful even if you don't itemize.* Thank you for considering St. James in your gift planning.

Children, Youth & Families

The Souper Bowl of Caring

Now-February 12th



The St. James Club Connect Kids (5th & 6th graders) are doing a service project for the "Souper Bowl" and would like to invite you to participate! Our goal is to collect 250 cans of soup to donate to the Badger Prairie Needs Network. Please help us tackle hunger in our community by donating between now and **February 12**. You can place your cans in the boxes in the Narthex or Youth Lounge. Preschool families can simply send their donations to school with their children. We're also accepting cash or checks made out to BPNN. Thank you!

First Communion

We invite those who wish to participate in First Communion to save the following dates:

Sunday, March 26 & Sunday, April 2 from 9:30-10:30 am - Instruction

Saturday, April 1 at 10:00 am - Bread Baking & Banner Making

Maundy Thursday, April 6 - 6 pm Dinner; 7pm First Communion Service

A letter with more details will be mailed to 3rd grade families. If your child is not in 3rd grade, but you would like them to participate in First Communion, please contact Holly at hparker@stjamesverona.org.



Palm Sunday Palooza

Sunday, April 2

8:30 am Procession of Palms - Children are invited to meet in the Narthex and join in a procession of palms at the beginning of the service. **9:30 am Brunch in the Dining Room + Multi-generational fun in the Narthex!**

Sunday School Highlights

Here's a glance at some of the ways Sunday School students have been exploring The Disciples, The Beatitudes, Salt & Light and more!



Confirmation Highlights

Confirmation students have begun their Lutheran Living Unit and are learning about important topics such as Justification by Faith, Law & Gospel, Saint & Sinner and Grace. Students have also been serving St. James and the community by helping with the Community Meal, refreshing pew cards and pencils, ushering, making cards and so much more!



Coming Up in Sunday School & Confirmation

Date	Spark (3's-4th grade)	Club Connect (5th-6th grade)	Confirmation (7th-8th grade)
Feb 19	The Transfiguration	Jesus: The Savior	Cocoa & Catch Up
Feb 26	The First Sin		The Neighbor
Mar 5	Abram's Call		The Word
Mar 12	Woman at the Well		Family Time Matters
Mar 19	Spring Break - No Classes		
Mar 26	Lazarus/Movie Day	Review/Movie Day	Two Kingdoms

Youth Group Valentine's Party!

All 4th-9th graders are invited to the Youth Group Valentine's Party on Wednesday, February 15th from 6:00-7:30pm! Come down to the Youth Lounge for pizza, games and fun with friends! Hosted by the High School Mentorship Team.



JOIN US FOR A
ST. JAMES
YOUTH GROUP
(4TH - 9TH GRADERS)
**VALENTINE'S
PARTY**
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16TH
6:00 PM TO 7:30 PM
ENJOY PIZZA, GAMES, CRAFTS,
AND FUN IN THE YOUTH LOUNGE
PLEASE SCAN
THE CODE TO
RSVP

HOSTED BY THE
ST. JAMES
HIGH SCHOOL
MENTORSHIP TEAM

Women & Men of St. James

Women's Retreat 2023

At Last! The St James Women's Retreat is Back. Save the date. After three years of pandemic cancellations, the St James Women's Retreat will be held on April 22-23, 2023 at Holy Wisdom Retreat Center in Middleton. More detailed information and registration forms will be available in late February. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. All women of Saint James and guests are welcome. Need more information? Contact Bobbie Wang: bwang799@gmail.com or 608-215-5604.

Community Blood Drive Thank You.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive hosted by Chloe Circle at St. James on Saturday, January 21st was a success that began with all the appointments being filled 10 days before the event and resulted in 38 units of blood donated (32 whole blood and 6 power reds). In addition, there were 3 first time blood donors that joined others who are regular donors to this important cause in providing life-saving blood to those suffering from unexpected trauma and chronic illness every day. The need for blood is ongoing so please consider becoming a regular donor by giving a pint to save a life. The next American Red Cross Blood Drives hosted by Chloe Circle at St. James will be on Saturday, June 24th and Saturday, October 7th.



Men's Group

Just a reminder that the St. James Men's Group meets on the First Monday of each month at It's Time Grill and Pub, located at 608 W Verona Avenue. All are welcome.

Quilting Group

The Quilters meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:00 am. Interested members are invited to attend.

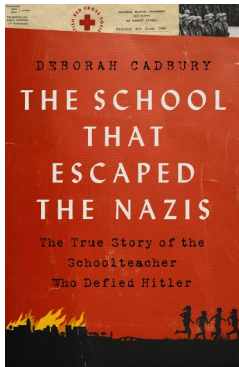


The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be gathers the first and third Wednesdays of each month at St. James. All are welcome to join!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry workshops are the first & third Wednesday of the month at St. James from 9:30-11:30. Please join us for fellowship, laughter, knitting and crocheting. There is yarn and directions at the Welcome Center and all are welcome to join in.

St. James Book Group

March 19, 2023



St. James Book Group will meet on March 19. The group will be reading The School that Escaped the Nazis, by Deborah Cadbury. The book is based on the true story of a courageous school principal who saw the dangers of Nazi Germany and took drastic steps to save those in harm's way. The book is on sale at the Welcome Center for \$20.

THANK YOU – Community Closet Update

Thank you to all who contributed to the Community Closet clothing drive during the Advent and Christmas season. St. James members generously donated 14 pairs of snowpants, 12 packages of underwear, several coats, and over \$100 in gift cards. Our community is stronger when we serve and help each other.

It may already seem a long time ago, but thank you to all those who helped decorate our church environment, indoors and outdoors, for Advent and Christmas, and to those who donated to the poinsettia garden. Everything was so beautiful! And thank you to all who donated to the Pastor's fund, which allows our blessings to continue to be shared with others.

EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

- **7.8 magnitude quake struck early February 6**
- **Thousands of lives lost and buildings destroyed**
- **Urgent needs include food, shelter and water**

YOU CAN HELP NOW!

lwr.org/quake

 LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF

Please keep the people of Turkey and Syria in your prayers. If you would like to make a donation relief efforts there, you can send to Lutheran World Relief directly, or you can send a check made out to St. James and include "LWR/Turkey" in the memo.

Note: LWR is not able to provide relief in Syria at this time.

From the Parish Nurse...

Wisconsin winters usually have decreased sunlight and lower temperatures. Hence, the “Sunshine” Vitamin, Vitamin D, and getting enough of it is brought to mind.

Insufficient levels contribute to frequent illness or infections, fatigue and tiredness, bone and back pain. Vitamin D helps maintain bone health by improving your body’s absorption of calcium. Others include depression, impaired wound healing, weight gain, anxiety and hair loss.

Simple blood work can help determine whether you have a Vitamin D deficiency. Vitamin D has recently received a lot of attention for its role in immune health. It’s also critical to bone health and many important functions throughout our bodies.

It is a fact people who live near the equator and get frequent sun exposure are less likely to have a deficiency because their skin produces enough Vitamin D. The rest of the population can get Vitamin D supplements, but should ask a doctor for dosage recommendations. Magnesium helps activate Vitamin D, so you may want to take this mineral too. The food sources that may boost your levels include: fatty fish, egg yolks, fortified cereals, fortified milk and juices, yogurt, beef liver . Going outside in winter is challenging here and using sunscreen prevents, even more, from getting the Vitamin D into our bodies.

If you’re experiencing symptoms of Vitamin D deficiency or are at increased risk of this condition, ask a healthcare professional about getting tested. It is worthwhile and can have lasting benefits for your health.

Stay warm and healthy.

God Bless You,

Barbara Rasmussen, R.N., PCN.



Blood Pressure Checks

Checks will be held on February 12 between services in the church office. All are welcome to come!



Vacation Bible School

Save the Date!

August 7-10, 9:00 am - 12 noon

Registration opens March 1st

Saint JAMES PRESCHOOL



Verona Area
Pre-K
Partnership in Early Learning

Preschool News



Practicum Students

We are excited to be hosting two students from Verona Area High School for second semester. Joanna and Casey are taking a class at the high school called “Introduction to Educational Careers”. The class is about exploring different careers in education. Both of the girls are seniors and are interested in going to school to become teachers. They come to St. James Preschool two times a week to work with our teachers and students. This is a honor for us to be asked to host the students and to inspire future educators.

2023-2024 Preschool Registration:

Registration is open for next school year for all families. We offer classes for kids ages 2 ½ and 3 years old. We are also a Verona Area School District Pre-K site for kids 4 years old. Current families, returning families and church members get registration priority before new families. Open registration closes on March 17th, at which time all spots left available will be filled on a first come first serve basis. For more information and to register you can go to our website. Our spots are filling up quickly so make sure to spread the word and/or register. Reach out to Heather at jp@stjamesverona.org or 845-6922 with any questions.



PARISH NOTES

If you have someone that you would like to add to this prayer list please email (office@stjamesverona.org) or call the church office (845-6922) or fill out a form which can be found at the Welcome Center at St. James.



We remember our members in our prayers, especially Jon, Tracy Borchert, Pam Hegg, and Monica Pechan.

We also remember Karen Bittrich (mother of Elise Taft), Kimberly Choi (daughter of Norma Bader), Dorothy (mother of Sue Zernicke), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Sharon Schwinn (sister of Mary Moldenhauer) Mary Volker, (sister of John Volker), Julie Weigel (cousin of Barbara Rasmussen), Dave Wolf (nephew of Doug Wolf), and friends Gary, Ed, Dennis, John, Joseph, Judy, Susan Kennedy, and Debbie Loughrin.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Phyllis Benson as they mourned the death of her brother in December, Ken Holmes; to the family of Paulette Spoon as they mourn the death of her brother-in-law, Peter Matter; to the family of Lorine Kahl, as they mourn her death; and to the family of Audrey Kunstman, as they mourn her death; to the family of Carla Blaisdell as they mourn the death of her father, Melvin "Dutch" Krumm; and to the family of Liz Teigen, as they mourn the death of her father, Eugene.

In Residence: **Four Winds** - Zelma Danna; **Noel Manor**—Dee Becker, Dick & Helen Dignan, Lorena Gerbitz, Dale & Audrey Hagen, James Hatch, Dick Herfel, Lloyd Hornbacher, Harriet Instefjord, Marilyn Le Moine, Jim & Carol Path, Peggy Papenfus, Chuck & Marilyn Roun, John Scharer, & Jim Schumann. **Crossroads Care Center of Sun Prairie** - Kay Hankins. **Ingleside** – Betty Burgenske.

Serving in the Military: Wyatt Breitnauer, Bryan & Hannah Tordoff, Judy Watters, and Evan Spoon.

Verona, WI 53593-1492

427 South Main Street



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MADISON WI
Permit # 4013