



## Holy Week Worship Schedule

April 2



The Passion narrative is the central focus of Holy Week. On Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), April 2, we begin Holy Week by telling the Passion story in music and word. The cantata, *Here Is Love*, by Larry Shackley, tries to capture the wonder of God's loving plan of redemption as it plays out in the events of Christ's final days on earth. God loved the world so much that he gave his most precious possession, his son, to redeem it. The overwhelming love of Christ, who willingly gave his life on our behalf, is expressed in a variety of lyrics from past and contemporary hymnody. You will likely be

familiar with many of the songs shared by the choir and accompanied by piano and chamber orchestra.

### Palm Sunday Breakfast

On Sunday, April 2, Chloe Circle members will host a Palm Sunday Breakfast between services. The breakfast is organized by the Circle, with the assistance of many volunteers and contributions from the congregation has planned a menu which includes meat or vegetable egg bakes, pastries, sausages, fresh fruit salad and beverages. A free-will offering will be received with proceeds going to various ministries at St. James. Thank you for your continued support of ministries at St. James.

### Palm Sunday Processional & Activity Stations

**Before & during 8:30 am service:** Children are invited to meet in the Narthex and join in a procession of palms at the beginning of the service. We look forward to this special tradition!

**After the service:** All are invited to visit our Holy Week Activity Stations which will include planting, praying, crafting and playing! You can drop in before or after breakfast.



### Maundy Thursday – April 6

7:00 pm Worship (also Livestreamed)

Celebration of those receiving  
First Communion

### Good Friday – April 7

7:00 pm Worship (also Livestreamed)

No worship scheduled on Saturday, April 8

### Easter Sunday/The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 9

7:00 am Festival Worship

8:30 am Festival Worship (also Livestreamed)

10:45 am Festival Worship

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](http://www.stjamesverona.org)

Fax: 608.845.6903

## From the Pastors

<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” *John 11: 25-26 NRSV*

William Shatner, aka Captain Kirk from Star Trek, became very emotional following his trip into space aboard Jeff Bezos’s Blue Origin New Shepard rocket in 2021. When Shatner arrived back on earth, he said, with tears welling up in his eyes: “You look down, there’s the blue down there and the black up there...there is Mother Earth and comfort, and there is, is there death? I don’t know, but is that death? Is that the way death is?”

To paraphrase Shatner’s famous character, Captain Kirk of the Star Ship Enterprise, space is not the final frontier – death is. Death has long fascinated philosophers and theologians (and now scientists), as well as frightened them. It remains one of the great mysteries of life. And yet, as people of God, we profess that death is not the end. Death does not have the last word. We have, as John Polkinghorne often has said, we have a destiny beyond death.

The pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer reflected upon his life and his death while in Tegel prison his 1944 and later when he was transferred to Flossenbürg concentration camp in 1945. Upon his death on April 9th, 1945, he is reported to have stated to the prison guards, “This is the end, but for me the beginning.” It is a profound statement of faith. And because of our

relationship to the one who is the resurrection and the life, we too, can make the same statement of faith.

As God’s people, we are Easter people. Easter forms the focal point of our faith, and the very reason we are called into existence as a Church. And so we invite you to worship with us this Easter and proclaim Christ’s victory over death. And in so doing, we proclaim the great mystery of our faith: “that everyone who believes in Christ, even though they die, will live.” In the little book *The Mystery of Easter*, Bonhoeffer writes:

“Easter? Our vision falls more onto the dying than onto death.

How we cope with dying is more important to us than how we conquer death.

To cope with dying does not yet mean to cope with death.

The surmounting of dying is within the reach of human possibilities,

The surmounting of death means resurrection.

Not from the art of dying but from the resurrection of Christ can a new, purifying wind blow into the present world.

If a few human beings would really believe this and would let themselves be moved by this in their earthly behavior, much would change.

To live from resurrection

– that indeed is the meaning of Easter.”

Happy Easter! – Pastor Kurt

### 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.

## Measure of Our Commitment – thru 2/28/2023



Total Receipts Actual	Total Receipts Budget	Variance	% of Budget
\$115,351**	\$115,129	\$22	0.2%

\*\*Amount includes \$23,654 from Seeds fund and \$2,300 from PPP fund.

Total Expenses Actual	Total Expenses Budget	Variance	% of Budget
\$118,644	\$121,891	\$3,247	2.7%

### Seeds, Building & PPP Fund Bank & Dedicated Accounts

The Seeds & building fund account cash balance at month end was \$153,235. \$4,541 is due FROM the general operating fund. Our Mortgage loan balance is \$1,761,595.

Bank account	\$152,232	
Investment	<u>\$ 1,003</u>	
	\$153,235	
Net Due FROM general	\$ 4,541	
Fund balances	<u>\$157,776</u>	
PPP Dedicated Account	\$11,500	<i>amount left</i>
Building Fund Dedicated Account	\$52,565	
Seeds Fund Dedicated Account	<u>\$93,711</u>	
	<u>\$157,776</u>	

## Easter Season Giving

We celebrate this blessed holiday, as it has brought hope and joy to billions of people throughout history. Make Easter offerings online during the Easter season! Throughout the year, many of you already support the congregation with your time, talent and financial contributions. But greater seasonal participation is always welcome. We encourage you to consider our electronic giving program. We accept donations made from your bank account and credit card or debit cards. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan.

An easy way to get started is to simply scan this QR code, which takes you directly to our giving page.

By the way, did you know you can participate in our services online whenever you can't attend in person? You can! Our 8:30 am weekly service as well as Holy Week Services are livestreamed on our YouTube Channel, StJamesVerona. Don't forget to subscribe to our channel so you are notified when new services are added.

Thank you again for your continued support of our church. Your spirited generosity ensures we can carry our message and our works throughout our community and beyond for years to come!



## Children, Youth & Families

### First Communion

Sunday, March 26, 9:30-10:30 am - Instruction (Luther Room)

Saturday, April 1, 10:00 am - Bread Baking & Banner Making (Dining Room)

Sunday, April 2, 9:30-10:15 am - Instruction (Sanctuary)

Thursday, April 6, 6:00 pm - Dinner & 7:00 pm - First Communion Service

If your child has not received a letter, but you would like them to participate in First Communion, please contact Holly at [hparker@stjamesverona.org](mailto:hparker@stjamesverona.org).



### CYF Highlights

In Sunday School we've been "Growing Closer to God" through Lent and learning about prayer, sin, faith, forgiveness and inclusion. In Confirmation we've been focusing on Grace, The Neighbor, The Word and The Cross.

### Coming Up in Sunday School & Confirmation

Date	Spark (3's-4th grade)	Club Connect (5th-6th grade)	Confirmation (7th-8th grade)
April 2	Palm Sunday Brunch & Activities		
April 9	Easter Sunday – No Classes		
April 16	Doubting Thomas	The Apostle	Worship
April 23	The Road to Emmaus	The Apostle	Family Time Matters: Vocation
April 30	Early Believers	The Church	Devil
May 7	God's House	The Church	Doubt
May 14	Mother's Day – Muffins with Mom		Plant Sale
May 21	Last Day Celebration & Volunteer Appreciation		Last Day – Faith Talks & Celebration

## New High School Mentorship Team Forms, Brings Back Youth Group!



Thanks to the enthusiasm and leadership of the newly formed High School Mentorship Team, youth from grades 4-9 gathered in February and March for food, faith, friends and fun! In February, they shared God's love by making Valentine's cards and putting them in pews for the congregation to enjoy. We had a great turnout again in March as the youth served the Midweek Lenten Soup Dinner and attended worship together. Both evenings concluded with a fun game and devotional.

\*The High School Mentorship Team will meet again on **Wednesday, April 1st at 5:30** in front of the fireplace to plan spring & summer events! **All 10th-12th graders are welcome to join!**

**\*4th – 9th graders - stay tuned for info on upcoming events!**

Contact Cindi Stampfli with questions: [cindistampfli@gmail.com](mailto:cindistampfli@gmail.com) or at 608-225-5613



### Vacation Bible School

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

Family Celebration on August 10 from 11:45-12:30pm.

For ages 3 through 103!

VBS is truly an experience for all generations! Adults and teens have just as much fun as the kids...if not more! Together, we will enjoy songs, stories, crafts, games and snacks that will bring us closer to God and each other! To learn more, scan the QR code or visit the Children, Youth & Family page on our website.



## Summer Camp Registration is Underway

Registration is underway for summer Bible camps! We would like to pass along the following information for those who may be interested in camp this summer. Most camps have opportunities for 1st/2nd graders on up. St. James also offers a \$100 discount per camper. Contact Holly Parker at [hparker@stjamesverona.org](mailto:hparker@stjamesverona.org) for more information or follow the link in your weekly Sunday School or Youth email.

## Super Bowl of Caring Project Collects 398 Cans of Soup for BPNN!

Thanks to the generosity of our members and the hard work of our 5th & 6th Grade Club Connect, we helped tackle hunger by donating 398 cans of soup + \$60 to help families in need! Thank you again to all who participated and to our 5th & 6th graders for leading the way!



## Chili “Fun”-Raiser Update

On Sunday, March 12, Chili returned to St. James. Instead of a chili making contest, the event was a chili eating event and fundraiser. More than 100 people attended the lunch and thanks to everyone who participated, we raised \$1637. \$818.50 will be given to Badger Prairie Needs Network and the balance provides (8) \$100 Camp Scholarships for our youth attending Church Summer Camp. Thank you to Dave & Julie Farmer who made the chili, our volunteers who provided cornbread and dessert, our youth volunteers who helped with the event, and Rob & Becky Frederick who organized this wonderful fundraiser.



**Special thanks to our sponsors:** Miller & Sons Supermarket, Dingbat (John Dingle), Home Care Plus (Julie Murphy), Avanti Italian Restaurant & Pub, Blain’s Farm & Fleet Verona, Peak Creative (Steve Knuteson), St. James Quilters, Julie & Joe Murphy, Don & Mary May, John & Sharon Gallagher, Linda Leary, Peter Narum, Barbara Thomas, Jim & Sue Zernicke, Dave & Julie Farmer, and Rob & Becky Frederick.

# Congregational Life

## Women's Retreat 2023 April 10

Women's Retreat Registration Deadline. The deadline for submitting a registration for the Women's Retreat is April 10. Registration forms are at the Welcome Center. There is also a folder there to place completed registration forms. We hope you plan to join us to experience the JOY of a weekend together.

## New Member Sunday April 30

Interested in becoming a member of St. James? We will be holding a new member dinner and information night on April 26 with new members being received on Sunday, April 30 during our 8:30 am worship service. If you are interested in joining, please fill out an information card, found in the pews and return it in the offering plate or email Pastor Kurt at [kbillings@stjamesverona.org](mailto:kbillings@stjamesverona.org).

## Thank you – Lenten Suppers a Success!

Thank you to all who provided food, served, and/or cleaned up for our Wednesday Lenten suppers, which were offered prior to our Wednesday evening services. Thank you to the Community Meal crew (who serves a dinner every month, whether Lent or not), the St. James Choir, St. James youth and families, St. James staff, and the St. James Church Council. The meals were delicious, and those who attended enjoyed the time for conversation and fellowship.

### 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 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.

## From the Parish Nurse...

April means Spring is finally here!!! We hear the birds again and are looking forward to celebrating Easter, Alleluia!!

April is also **Stress Awareness Month** according to the Community Health of Central Washington. Healthcare professionals want to increase the public awareness to the causes and treatments for the growing stress epidemic in our country.

Stress doesn't merely afflict your mind. Long term stress can lead to a wide range of illnesses-from headaches to stomach problems to depression. And that can increase the risk of serious conditions like stroke and heart disease. It's important to understand the mind/stress/health connection.

There are three types of stress: 1. Acute Stress, which is the most common. It is most often caused by reactive thinking of negative thoughts on events that have recently occurred or are upcoming. 2. Episodic Acute Stress, are those who frequently have acute stress and are individuals who see their lives often in chaos and crisis. 3. Chronic Stress, is the most serious and harmful. If it is left untreated over a long time, it can significantly damage your physical and mental health.

There are ways to help manage stress. Exercise however you choose, just to get your mind off your daily worries. Relaxation is another way to decrease stress. Journaling, praying, yoga, and breathing exercises are just a few. Have fun. Some quality time with friends and family or watching a favorite program can help. Eat well to keep your good bacteria in your gut that helps your brain feel less stressed. Sleeping well is very important. Remember to disconnect from technology at least an hour before bedtime. Relaxation techniques and routine bedtime will be an asset to reduce stress too. Always remember the importance of visiting your doctor to get a professional opinion if your stress is chronic and interfering in your daily life.

Remember, be willing to be flexible. You have the ability to choose your response to stressors, and you may have to try various options.

God's Blessings to You,

Barbara Rasmussen, RN., Parish Nurse



### Blood Pressure Checks

No checks will be held in April due to Easter. We will hold the next blood pressure check will be held on May 14 between services in the church office. All are welcome!



St. James  
Community  
Meal



### Community Meal

Wednesday, April 5 at 6:00 pm

The menu is Tuna Casserole, Cabbage Slaw, Bread, Poke Cakes, and Beverages. Scan the code to register or follow the link on the homepage of our website.



## A Sign of the Times

Five years after the completion of our renovation and expansion construction project, we finally have a new sign. This planned project was funded by designated donations to the Capital Building Campaign as well as several memorial gifts.

The new sign was produced by La Crosse Sign Group and features a programmable Daktronics digital display. The display portion will be lit and visible from 7:00 am until 11:00 pm in accordance with City Zoning regulations.

Thank you to Jill Dohnal, Dave Engelke, Jan Eymann-McConville, Kim Feller, Landis Heitz, Jon Schellpfeffer, and the St. James Staff for their input and direction during the design process.





# Saint JAMES PRESCHOOL



Verona Area  
**PreK**  
Partnership in Early Learning

## Preschool News



### *Vision Screening:*

The Verona Lions Club will be providing free vision screening at our preschool on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 - 10:00 am. If you have any children ages 18 months through 6 years old and want to get them tested, you may enter through the Preschool Entrance (down at the end of the parking lot) anytime on 4/20 between 9:00-10:00. Children are allowed to sit on their parent's lap, and nothing touches them for this test.

This vision screening is meant to identify children who are at high-risk for common eye problems. It does not replace an eye exam, and it does not check for all conditions. This service is offered free of charge by certified screeners from the Verona Lions Club and Prevent Blindness Wisconsin.



“Always be on the lookout for the presence of wonder.”  
— E.B. White



“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”  
— Franklin D. Roosevelt

# PARISH NOTES

If you have someone that you would like to add to this prayer list please email ([office@stjamesverona.org](mailto: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.



**W**e remember our members in our prayers, especially Jon, Tracy Borchert, Pam Hegg, Wanda Martinelli, Monica Pechan, and Orin & Pat Strand.

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), Hayes (great-grandson of Barbara Rasmussen), 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, Jennifer, John, Joseph, Judy, Susan Kennedy, Leo, and Debbie Loughrin.

**C**hristian Sympathy is extended to the family of Harlan Dahlk as they mourn his death.

***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.



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