



Ash Wednesday Worship Services with Imposition of Ashes

March 2 at Noon and 7:00 pm

Lenten Midweek 2022: The Fruit of the Spirit

During the Wednesdays in Lent we will be offering a simple “Table Meal” followed by a simple “Table Talk” based on the “Fruit of the Spirit” from Galatians 5:22. Various groups will be serving the meals. Pastors Kurt & Peter will be leading our discussion.

The schedule is simple:

6:00 - 6:30 Table Meal

6:30 - 7:00 Table Talk

Both will take place in the dining room. No reservations are needed. Come to one or come to all – we’d love to see you here! Topics are:

March 9 Joy

March 16 Peace

March 23 Patience

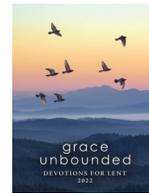
March 30 Kindness

April 6 Gentleness

Note: Ash Wednesday worship on March 2 is at 12:00 & 7:00 pm.

Please join us at the Community Meal which begins at 6:00 pm.

Lenten Devotionals



We will be using the
*Grace Unbounded:
Devotions for*

Lent, which focuses on the Gospel of Luke.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus reaches out to all kinds of people. He proclaims good news—in particular, to those experiencing poverty, oppression, or captivity.

Despite the tensions at the time between Jewish people and Samaritans, he tells a story about a Samaritan who shows what it means to be a neighbor. Jesus also responds to those who want healing, welcomes time with children, shows great regard for women, shares meals with “unsavory” characters, and seeks out people who have lost their way. No limits, no restrictions, not even death can stop his love and grace for all people.

Pick one up today at the Welcome Center.



St. James Community Meal

Irish Stew is on the menu for our March 2 meal. Please join us at 6:00 pm for this simple meal followed by Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00 pm.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP: 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 Pastor

Last week I was scanning through the usual online newspapers. I noticed I was avoiding reading anything about politics or Covid, any opinions or advice. There wasn't much left. I was looking for something inspiring, a feel-good story, something hopeful.

And then I found it, or rather it found me – a present-day Good Samaritan story about a woman, Stela Borbas, who on February 7 was driving to work along a Miami street during the busy rush hour. There was a car stopped along the side of the road, standing there was a young couple. The woman was bleeding down her bare legs. While the world seemed to be passing them by, the universe told Stela to stop and help.

Long story short: a call to 911 was placed, and minutes later a baby delivered on a yoga mat. The ambulance soon arrived and mom and child were whisked away. On that morning not only was a baby born, so was a friendship.

The young couple are immigrants who had made their way from Haiti by way of Chile. Hoping for a better life, they were planning to apply for citizenship that morning. The baby had other plans. Their official status is undocumented; they're penniless and unemployed. In other words, this young family is dependent on the kindness of friends and relatives...and a stranger named Stela.

There's a lot of hope in this story. I wonder how many people had already driven by this couple, there with their

young daughter and an older friend as well. Would anyone notice, anyone stop? Hope arrives when help is offered. To love is to help, but it may require a willingness to slow down and take the time and attention to tend to someone in need.

Truth be told, I've read and seen a lot of these stories in my life, as you have. Any gift of time and attention and help is a beacon of light, a sign of hope, an expression of love. Maybe that's the answer to the question "Why are we here?" We're here for each other.

—Pastor Peter

If you wish to read the original article, here is the link:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2022/02/17/miami-baby-roadside-restaurant-immigrant/>

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
Grace Parker	Office Assistant
Barb Roberts	Card Ministry
Holly Parker	Director of Parish Education Ministries
Bailey Green	Youth Director
Paulette Spoon	Adult Choir & Handbell Choir
Susan Bubolz	Youth Choir Director
Rhonda Chalone,	
Alex Ford & Jim Erickson	Accompanists
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
Desiree Canto	646-599-7021
Christine Kemnitz	608-886-6363
Julie Murphy	608-345-8533
John Walker	608-845-8732



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



Debt Reduction Campaign Kick-off

St. James has received a gift of \$100,000 to help reduce our debt!

The family of Gary Mani, who passed away last year, has graciously given St. James \$100,000 that will be used for debt reduction. We would to match that gift by raising another \$100,000, so that when we refinance at the end of March, we will be able to lower our monthly mortgage payments.

Please prayerfully consider giving to this special debt reduction opportunity.

Your gift of money, or stock, will greatly impact the ministry here at St. James both now, and for years to come. If you have any questions, please contact either Pastor Kurt, Pastor Peter, or Allison Heil, our Congregational Council President.

Budget Update

2022 General Budget through January

<u>Year-to-Date Receipts</u>	<u>Actual</u>	vs.	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Amount over/(under) budget</u>
Offering Envelopes	\$45,434		\$45,000	\$434
Seeds Fund Transfer	\$11,827		\$11,827	
PPP Fund Transfer	\$ 2,917		\$ 2,917	
Other Receipts	\$ 147		\$ 284	\$(137)
Total	\$60,325		\$60,028	\$297



Year-to-Date Expenses

<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
\$58,974	\$63,784	\$(4,810)

Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of St. James.

St. James Mask Policy Change begins March 1

The St. James Congregational Council, at its February 17 meeting, passed a motion to end the mask-wearing requirement at worship and other activities inside our building as of March 1 aligning with Dane County Health Department's new guidelines. Masking will remain an option, and we encourage everyone to continue best practices for health and safety of all our members. Our St. James Preschool will continue to mask, following the VASD PreK policy and we may continue to mask during 8:30 am Sunday School as our youngest members are not eligible for vaccination.

Members are reminded that our 5:00 pm Saturday and 10:45 am Sunday worship services have fewer members in attendance, making it easier to spread out if desired. Our 8:30 Sunday worship will continue to be Livestreamed on YouTube.

Children, Youth & Family



First Communion

An invitation letter is being mailed to 3rd & 4th grade families who have not yet received their First Communion. In the meantime, we invite those who wish to participate to save the following dates:

- ◆ Sunday, April 3 & Sunday, April 10 from 9:30-10:30 am - Instruction
- ◆ Saturday, April 9 at 10:00 am - Bread Baking & Banner Making
- ◆ Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 pm - First Communion Service

If your child is not in 3rd or 4th grade, but you would like them to participate in First Communion, please contact Holly at hparker@stjamesverona.org.



Vacation Bible School

Save the Date!

August 1-4, 9:00 am - 12 noon

Registration opens March 1st

Coming Up in Sunday School & Confirmation

Date	Spark (3's-4th grade)	Club Connect (5th-6th grade)	Confirmation (7th-8th grade)
March 6	Tempted Luke 4:1-13		Family Time Matters
March 13	The Prodigal Son Luke 15:1-3, 11-32		Acts
March 20	Spring Break - No Classes		
March 27	Movie Day		Paul & the Early Church
April 3	Mary Anoints Jesus John 12:1-8		Family Time Matters
April 10	Holy Week/Palm Sunday		Romans; Galations

Sunday School Highlights

Here's a glance at some of the crafts, games and Bible adventures Sunday School kids and families have been enjoying as they've been diving into lessons on The Disciples, The Beatitudes, Salt & Light and more!



Sunday School Class Schedule

8:30 (following the Children's Sermon)-9:30: Ages 3-Kindergarten

9:30-9:45: Music Time for all students

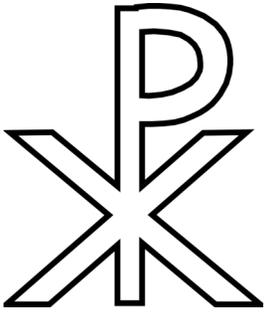
9:30-10:30: PreK-6th Grade

Confirmation Class Schedule

9:30-10:30 in the Luther Room

Women of St. James

Chrismons and Fellowship



Chrismons are Christmas decorations in the shapes of Christian symbols. Handmade Chrismons have decorated the altar trees at St James for many years. Our Chrismons are starting to show some wear so the Women of St James Board is sponsoring a day of fellowship and crafting with the "mission" of creating many new Chrismons for our altar trees. The date is April 23. We will gather around 9 am for fellowship, coffee, doughnuts, and fruit. We will have a brief presentation about Chrismons, their origin and meaning. Then we will "get to work" on making the new Chrismons. The forms will already be cut into the shapes from Styrofoam and will be ready for decorating. No "crafting" experience is required. Lots of guidance and coaching will be provided. Lunch will be served, and we plan to finish by 3 pm. A registration link will be sent out soon and is also available on the St James website. There will also be a signup by the Welcome Center. Mark your calendar for April 23 and plan to come enjoy a day of fun and fellowship and help to do something good for our Christmas decor. Because of the intricacy of the Chrismons, we suggest that participants be 14 years of age or older. Questions? Contact Bobbie Wang (coordinator): bwang799@gmail.com

Thank You



Our Souper Bowl collection for Badger Prairie Needs Network (BPNN) was a success! Thank you for your donations of 198 cans of soup (as well as other miscellaneous non-perishable items) and \$213.

Your support of our local food pantry is appreciated.

The Chloe Circle thanks you for your purchases and donations during our annual candy sale which was held on February 13. Through your generosity, we raised \$384 which will help us in our various service projects, including supporting our local food pantry and families in need in our community, sending holiday boxes to our members serving in the military, providing flowers indoors and outdoors at St. James, and responding to other needs as we are able. Thank you! And thank you to Thrivent for matching these fund-raising dollars.

Blood Drive to be held at St. James

Chloe Circle will be sponsoring a blood drive by the American Red Cross at St. James on Saturday, March 26, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Please donate, if you are able! Sign up at americanredcross.org. Give the gift of life!



Women's Retreat to be Rescheduled for 2023

After much consideration, the planning committee for the St James Women's Retreat, scheduled for April 2-3 has been postponed. We will be rescheduling for 2023. Watch for news on new dates.

From the Parish Nurse...

March begins Lent. It encompasses 40 days from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. **The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting, and giving, or charity.**

As a Parish Nurse, I can see particular health values in all three. **Prayer** focuses on our need for God's forgiveness and offers us a closeness that we need and want as individuals. **Fasting** can mean "giving" something up, but can also mean a positive for you. You can give up being as sedentary as you are. It can mean giving up something "extra". Reduce your stress, by spending less, eating less, less time on facebook. Start something positive that you haven't done before. The third thing, **Giving or Charity** is another way to respond to God's grace and to help your attitude and emotional health. Monetary donations of any kind are always welcome. But, donating your time helping others, with food drives, clothing drives, blood drives, day care, is fulfilling to the recipient as well as to you. The list goes on and on. To assist in any way to help another feel better is very healthful for your well-being.

I hope some of these examples prove beneficial to you from my nursing vantage point. I pray that by observing the three main focus points it can make His sacrifice for us even more meaningful as we prepare for Easter Sunday.

God Bless You,

Barbara Rasmussen, RN., PNC.



Blood Pressure Checks

Checks will be held on March 13 after the 8:30 service in the church office. All are welcome to come!

Martha and Sarah Circle Resume Meeting in March

Martha & Sarah Circle will meet at St. James on March 1 in the Luther Room at 1:00 pm. The Pastor led Bible study will begin at 1:30 pm.

St. James Men's Group to Meet

St. James Men's Group will meet on March 7th at 6:00pm. As in the past, we will again be meeting at IT'S TIME BAR & GRILL. All men of St. James are welcome.

The St. James Men's Group began 20 years ago to provide a venue for all men of St. James which would allow an open conversation covering current events, individual concerns, and/or opinions and above all to promote fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere. There is no formal structure and requires no individual responsibilities, timelines or commitments. Your attendance is not required and the topics of conversation are unlimited.

The group meets the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. Currently we are meeting at **IT's TIME BAR & GRILL**. However, the location may change from month to month so please check the Newsletter, Sunday bulletins or check with the church office for any possible changes. You can also contact Doug Wolf at 608-845-9891 or dwkdwolf@yahoo.com.

So, if you are looking for something to do on the first Monday of the month please join us to have a beverage, a burger and lively conversation. It is not necessary to sign up to join us.

Thank you from Ruth Jensen

A heartfelt thank you to my church family at St. James. Your many acts of kindness during the past two months are remembered with gratitude. At the head of the list are the prayers which guided the medical staff and my recovery. Dick and I felt your caring and concern through the numerous calls, cards, emails and...food gifts. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and for being there for me.

Saint JAMES PRESCHOOL



Verona Area
PreK
Partnership in Early Learning

Preschool News

2022-2023 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 18th, 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 sjp@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 Tracy Borchert, Monica Pechan, Joanne Prange, and Lorlene Pulver.

We also remember Ben (nephew of Sue Zimmer), Nancy Gerry (mother of Angie Rahn), Bruce & Pearlene Glasrud (brother and sister-in-law of Karen Wolf), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Sally & Jeremy, Sharon Schwinn (sister of Mary Moldenhauer) Julie Weigel (cousin of Barbara Rasmussen), Dave Wolf (nephew of Doug Wolf), and friends John, Judy, Lynn, Susan Kennedy, Debbie Loughrin, and Pat Stillwell.

Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Olivia Joyce Scherer, daughter of Taylor & Margaret (Premo) Scherer, on February 13, 2022.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Charles Reuter as they mourn his death, to the family of Janna Boehm as they mourn the death of her brother, Jay, and to the family of Bailey Green as they mourn the death of her father, Jerry. We pray also for the family of Alison Wineke as they mourn her death, the family of Grace Krewson, as they

mourn her death, and the family of Rhonda Chalone, as they mourn the death of her father, Fredrick Chalone.

In Residence: **Four Winds** - Zelma Danna; **Noel Manor**—Dutch & Dee Becker, Lorena Gerbitz, Dale & Audrey Hagen, James Hatch, Dick Herfel, Ellen & Lloyd Hornbacher, Harriet Instefjord, Audrey Kunstmann, Marilyn Le Moine, Chuck & Marilyn Roum, & Jim Schumann. **Oakwood West** – Lorine Kahl. **Willow Pointe** - Betty Burgenske, and Kay Hankins.

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



Verona, WI 53593-1492

427 South Main Street



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