



ASH
WEDNESDAY
You are dust, and to dust you shall return.

March 5, 2025
Worship Schedule

12:00 pm
7:00 pm*

* livestream

Wednesday Evenings During Lent

Devotional and Soup & Bread

Begin March 12

6-7 pm Drop-in Meal

7 pm Devotional

Mid-Week Lenten Theme:

What does it mean to say that we are right, or "at one," with God? This Lent, join us for soup supper and devotions as we explore together who Jesus is and what his birth, life, death, and resurrection teach us about the relationship between God and people. We'll be exploring these questions together as a community of faith around tables of fellowship. I'm excited to share some of what I've learned this winter at seminary with each of you!

— Heather Ver Meer (member of St. James and seminary student at Luther Seminary)



**PALM SUNDAY
BREAKFAST**

April 13th

9:30-10:30 am

Hosted by Chloe Circle

Chloe Circle will again be providing breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 13th from 9:30 to 10:30 (following the first service). Vegetable and meat egg bake options, pastries, sausages and beverages will be available. No reservations needed. If you are able to assist with serving or cleaning up that day, please contact Sue Zernicke at slzernic@wisc.edu. We would also appreciate donations of muffins, coffeecakes or kringsles, as well as orange juice and milk. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the narthex, with directions on when/where to bring the donations. A free-will offering will be used to support Chloe service projects both at church and in the community. Please join us for this annual fellowship opportunity - and some good food!



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Life Renewed devotionals are available at the kiosk at the church entrance and the Welcome Center. Large print copies are available, if needed.

**Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday
Worship & Cantata**

April 13 - 8:30 am & 10:45 am

On Passion Sunday, we will start our worship services with the Processional with Palms. The Passion worship service follows Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the events of his betrayal, crucifixion and death. The Passion story will be shared by narrators reading the Gospel of John, instrumentalists, and the St. James Choir, through the cantata, *Lenten Canticles*, arranged by John Leavitt. Canticles are songs based on scriptural texts. The canticles chosen by John Leavitt will likely be familiar to you as hymns that you have sung or heard during past Lenten seasons.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
APRIL 13 8:30* & 10:45 am	APRIL 17 7:00 pm*
<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
APRIL 18 7:00 pm*	APRIL 20 7:00 & 8:30* & 10:45 am

* livestream

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

LIVESTREAM: Sunday at 8:30 am on our Website or YouTube Channel.

From the Interim Pastor

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. The word “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “lencten” which means “spring.” This season marks the time in the Northern Hemisphere when days are lengthening. That also means it’s a season of transition or change. We enter a “spring-time of our souls” or an invitation to awaken to the springtime of God’s renewing grace. Lent prepares us for Easter and its celebration of new life and hope.

St. James is in its own season of transition, and how important it is to connect that transition to God’s promises of new life and hope. There are two specific items of the transition that I want to address.

The initial one is that the Call Committee has received its first set of pastoral candidates to consider. This is an exciting step, and the committee will now move forward with initial interviews, and see if they feel the Spirit’s nudge to have a second interview with any of these candidates.

As exciting as this development is, please know that the end of the pastoral transition is still unknown. The Call Committee may decide not to do second interviews with any of these pastors, and instead ask for additional names to continue the search. So yes it’s an exciting development, but still a time to practice patience, one of the fruits that the Spirit promises to grow within us.

The other item related to transition is the news that Pastor Peter had an accident on February 6th when he slipped on the ice at his home and broke his kneecap. He has now had a surgery to put his kneecap back together, and he has begun a period of six weeks in a brace, to be followed by physical therapy.

Pastor Peter’s current status is that he’s on a short-term leave. It’s not clear how long Pastor Peter will need before he can return to work, which means he’s in a time of transition from a broken kneecap to recuperation and restoration. If all goes well, he may be back for worship on March 29-30th.

Being on leave means that Pastor Peter is not doing pastoral duties. It’s important that his focus be on his own healing. When you are looking for pastoral support, please contact me. You are welcome to call me on my cell phone, which is 360-969-4220. The congregation council has increased my hours in order to cover this time of transition. I will consistently be present to preside at worship and do my share of the preaching.

Thank you for keeping Pastor Peter in your prayers, and the whole staff who will be doing extra duties during this time. Staff members Barbara Rasmussen, Karen Kaehr and Heather Pearl have all been recuperating from their own health issues. But all have received good medical care, and we will move forward, joining you in the confidence of God’s promises of new life and hope.

— Pastor Jerry Buss

ST. JAMES STAFF

Peter Narum, Pastor	608-469-9625
Jerry Buss, Transitional Pastor	608-845-6922 ext. 227
Karen Kaehr	Parish Administrator
Renata Henry	Office Assistant
Susan Zimmer	Administrative Assistant
Barb Roberts	Card Ministry
Holly Parker	Director of Children & Family Ministries
Laura Smith	Director of Confirmation
Paulette Spoon	Adult Choir & Handbell Choir
Susan Bubolz	Youth Choir Director
Rhonda Chalone, Don DeBruin,	Accompanists
Jim Erickson, Carol Murphy	
Barb Rasmussen, R.N.	Parish Nurse/Visitation Coord.
Heather Pearl	Director, St. James Preschool
Holly Parker, Kari Poppen	St. James Preschool
Nicole Sudhoff, Kristin Wills & Stacy Zimmerman	

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Karen Breitnauer, President	608-209-3035
Rob Frederick, Vice President	608-280-1470
Christine Kemnitz, Secretary	608-886-6363
Kim Feller, Treasurer	608-206-4562
Dennis Beres	608-845-9305
Julie Murphy	608-345-8533
Mark Smith	608-214-2212
Rebecca Woolums	847-894-8344
Susan Martin-Zernicke	608-246-2025



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God's work. Our hands.

Congregational Life



BAKERS NEEDED!

During the Sundays in Lent, we are in need of bakers to make bread for Communion. Please contact the church office to volunteer.

LUTHER SEMINARY'S COMMUNION BREAD RECIPE

Sift dry ingredients (important!) **together three times:**

2 c whole wheat flour
1 c white flour
1 & 1/4 tsp baking powder
1 & 1/4 tsp salt

Stir in 4 tsp oil. Set aside.

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

3/4 cup + 2 Tbsp very hot water (minimum of 180 degrees F)
3 Tbsp honey
3 Tbsp molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. Do not knead.

Divide into four balls and flatten each into a 1/4 inch thick disk.



With a knife, score the top of each loaf into eight pie-shaped sections, so that the sections can be more easily broken off while serving. Alternatively, you could score a cross onto the loaf.

Lay the loaves on a baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and brush the tops of the loaves with oil. Bake an additional 5-8 minutes. Let cool.

Yield: four 8 oz. loaves. Each loaf serves 60-70 people, depending upon the size of the piece given. The loaves freeze well.

CHILI FUN-RAISER

Let's Raise Some Fun and Eat Some Chili!

That's right, it's time for the annual St. James Chili Fun-Raiser! Please join us on Sunday, March 9th at noon. The cost is \$5 per person, or \$20 for a family of four or more. You will enjoy a bowl of homemade chili, cornbread, dessert, and a beverage. We will also have lots of raffle prizes for you to win. Tickets will be 6 for \$5 or 30 for \$20. Tickets will be available the day of the event. All money raised from the event will be a split donation between the youth of St. James for their needs and to our Community Meal program to help fund future dinners. So please come on out and enjoy a day of good food, fabulous prizes, great conversation, and fun! See you there!

Wanna Help With the Fun!

Do you want to support the Chili Fun-Raiser by doing more than just attending the event? There are several ways you can help make the day a success. There are sign up sheets near the Welcome Center to bring a dessert, volunteer, or donate to the event. Volunteering would include helping set up the day-of, sell tickets, take money for the luncheon, serve, and clean up. Do you own a business or work for a business that would donate goods or gift cards? Maybe you are artistic and would like to donate some of your work. Or if you just want to put together a gift basket or some other goods. We just ask that all items donated be new or like new. We will then contact everyone who signs up to work out all the details ahead of the event. Finally, if you cannot make it to this fun filled day, you can still donate money to the event, just write Chili Fun-Raiser in the memo line of your check and make the check out to St. James Lutheran Church. Please consider donating your time or talent to this event that has grown to be a big part of our St. James community. Questions? Contact Rob Frederick, rdckr@chorus.net, 608-280-1470.



Community
Meal

TUESDAY
Mar 4 at 6:00 pm

Join us for dinner as we celebrate Mardi Gras!

Menu: jambalaya (seasoned rice, chicken, shrimp, smoked sausage, onion, celery, and bell pepper), succotash (corn and bean dish), corn bread, dessert, and beverages.

Congregational Life

BROTHERS OF ST. JAMES

What's going on in your life?"

March 24 | 6:30-8:00 pm

My brothers, lets talk! I know those are words no man wants to hear someone say, so helpfully I haven't lost your attention yet. That being said, day by day we face issues, whether good or bad, that only another man may be able to understand and relate to. So let's get together and talk, "What's going on in your life?" What are some things you may be facing and would like some support? Or maybe, you just don't want to talk but would like to be around other men to offer you support. Whatever the case may be, let's get together and talk about it; Monday, March 24th from 6:30 pm - 8pm at St. James. I will have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex closer to the event. I hope to see you there.

— Rob Frederick, rdcrkr@chorus.net, 608-280-1470



CALL COMMITTEE NEWS!

We have received three pastoral candidates and are setting up interviews! Please continue your prayers.



Join us for Trivia every Thursday
at 6:30 pm at Ten Pin Alley.

Blessing Bowls &

God's Love Shines Bright

Visit the table in the Narthex.

As we enter a time to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross during Lent, the congregation of Saint James is invited to take part in the spiritual practice of being mindfully aware of God's love in our lives. Spiritual practices are intentional practices that help us quiet the noise of our lives and focus on God.

There is a table in the Narthex with two ways to help us exercise mindful awareness: a blessing bowl and a coloring sheet called God's Love Shines Bright. You are welcome to take one blessing bowl home for your household and/or some coloring sheets. Each day, try to look for at least one thing that was a blessing in your life, something you want to thank God for, or perhaps a moment where you saw God's love at work. For each thing you name, place a stone in the jar, color and/or label a ray of sunshine, and watch as they fill up with the abundance of God's goodness and love!

Men's Group

The Men's group meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at Paddy Mac's in Verona.

Quilting Group

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 am. All are welcome to join!

Congregational Life

ST. JAMES WOMEN'S RETREAT

The St James Women's Retreat was held at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton on February 22-23. Twenty two women participated in the Retreat focusing on the topic of "Navigating Change with the Help of God's Grace." The weekend was filled with study, sharing stories, worship, yoga, crafts, games and fellowship. A group of 15 attended the Sunday Assembly at Holy Wisdom on Sunday morning. In addition we enjoyed delicious food and the peace of the Holy Wisdom setting. Many thanks to our presenter, Sara Kneuve. Thanks also to the Retreat Planning Committee: Paulette Spoon, Karen Lee-Wahl, Mary Mattison, Sue Zernicke, Shelley Bazala and Kari Fitzgerald. Lastly to Rhonda Chalone for leading a yoga session.

The Retreat is a special blessing to all who attend, sharing friendship, fellowship and support for one another. Thanks to all who attended.

— Bobbie Wang, Retreat Coordinator

THANK YOU FROM CHLOE CIRCLE!

The Chloe Circle thanks you for your purchases and donations during our annual candy sale which was held on February 9. Through your generosity, we raised \$469 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.



Financial Update

The 2025 General Operating Budget was approved at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting held on February 2nd for a total amount of \$738,000 for 2025. This is a 2% overall increase from the 2024 budget. As a reminder, 2024 finished exceptionally strong with annual receipts exceeding expenses by just over \$8,000, which allowed for a \$8,000 cash transfer to increase the Seeds/Building Fund to start the 2025 year with a \$87,000 balance. Thank you for your faithful stewardship as we move to 2025 and capture the ministries here at St. James in the form of the Narrative Budget that was included in the Annual Report.

January results show actual receipts higher than expenses for a net result (receipts minus expenses) of \$4,351, which is a good start to the year even though the budget called for a slightly higher net result of \$5,548 leaving us behind budget by about (\$1,200) at the end of January. However, looking ahead to the end of February, offerings are ahead of budget for the month so the YTD results should remain on track with the budget on a net basis as of the end of February.

— Kim Feller, Treasurer

Madison Area Jail Ministry

A silly, but meaningful parody of a Tennessee Ernie Ford song - "Ninety-Eight Coats."

*You gave ninety-eight coats and whatta ya get?
A mighty good feeling ya won't soon forget!
Not just coats and hats to keep one warm,
But boots, scarves, gloves to weather the storm.
God's spirit shows. Well, a-bless your souls!*

In addition to providing clothing to help residents return to the outside, the ministry aids residents and their families by providing support for a successful return to normal life. If you are interested in helping financially to support their efforts, checks may be sent to:

Madison Area Jail Ministry
P.O. Box 8885
Madison, WI 53708

To learn more, visit: madisonjailministry.com

Thank you for your past and future support!

— John Gallagher

From the Parish Nurse...

March, 2025. The end of Winter and approaching Spring. Both of these seasons promote many of the same things to keep healthy.

February is declared as "**Heart Health**" Month and is especially noted as Women's Heart Health Month. The directives include: **Good nutrition, Exercise, and Good sleep.**

Eating well anytime includes: Plant based foods, fatty fish, milk, and eggs. Stay away from processed foods as much as possible. Check the amount of sodium on packaging. Ideally, we should not exceed 1500 mg. per day and absolutely not more than 2300mg. That may be much lower if one has medical problems.

Exercise includes: Stretching, Walking, Almost any of kind of movement is considered exercise. If you are unable to be up and about, there are several exercises that can be done in bed. When we exercise we give off endorphins which alleviate pain, lower stress, improve mood and enhance your sense of well-being. It also relieves anxiety, loneliness, depression and sometimes opportunities to meet other people.

Good Sleep helps fight stress and anxiety. It's important to have a regular routine, cool bedroom, relax, off electronics, and decaffeinated beverages, at least an hour before bedtime.

If you or someone you know has struggles with depression, anxiety, and other incapacitating or debilitating issues that are not alleviated by the above, or physician, and/or medication, **Please don't hesitate to call or text the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 or chat at 988lifelin.org.**

"Then I lay down and slept in peace and woke up safely, for the Lord was watching over me". Psalm 3:5

God's Blessings to you,

— Barbara Rasmussen, RN. CPN.



Blood Pressure Checks

Blood pressure checks will be held on March 9 and April 13 in the church office between services.

Children, Youth & Families

Sunday School & Confirmation

Date	Spark (3's-4th grade)	Club Connect (5th-6th grade)	Confirmation (7th-8th grade)
Mar 2	The Transfiguration	The Apostle	Bondage of the Will
Mar 9	Tempted	The Apostle	Two Kingdoms
Mar 16	God's Promises to Abraham	The Church	Vocation
Mar 23	Spring Break - No Classes		
Mar 30	The Prodigal Son	The Church	Spring Break - No Class
Apr 6	Mary Anoints Jesus + First Communion Class	The Church	Worship
Apr 13	Palm Sunday Palooza + First Communion Class		Palm Sunday Brunch + Catch Up
Apr 20	Easter Sunday - No Classes		

High School Youth Events

**FEB
23**

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY

We will be studying Genesis 1 and 2 as we delve deeper into the Bible and explore why there are multiple creation stories and who wrote them.

**MAR
30**

MAKING FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS AT THE BEACON

We will be cooking food at Saint James and delivering it to The Beacon for 200 people who are homeless. We will need lots of help, so please consider attending this event. It will be lots of fun and it is for a great cause!

**APR
13**

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY

We will be studying the role of suffering in the Bible and look at the healing art of Kintsugi.

**MAY
03**

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP DAY OF FISHING

Spend a day that focuses on fishing, fellowship, and faith as we go out for a day of fishing with Saint James member Rob Fredrick. The location will be local but is TBD. Stay tuned!

**JUN
21**

TEAM-BUILDING DAY TRIP TO LAKE GENEVA

We will travel to Lake Geneva Ziplines & Adventures for some team-building activities. This will include some ground activities as well as use of the low ropes course. There are spaces reserved for up to 10 participants. We need a minimum of 4 participants for this trip to happen.

Please feel free to invite your friends to any and all of these events!



Paws and Pages

The Saint James High School Youth Group enjoyed an outing to help care for part of God's creation at the Dane County Humane Society. We had a wonderful time walking around the kennel area and reading, talking, and giving treats to many different dog friends. This helped them practice socializing with people as they wait to find their fur-ever homes. Some highlights for everyone included the new puppy arrivals who were eager to say hello, a dog named Bo Gunther who would happily sit in a lap as he listened to stories, visiting the cats and kittens, and the opportunity to make new friends (both animal and human)!

Souper Bowl of Caring Scores Big!



Drumroll please....Thanks to your kindness and generosity Club Connect reached and far surpassed their goal of 500 cans. Together, members of St. James Church and Preschool donated 600 cans of soup + \$109!!! What a WIN for sharing God's love with our community.

Our Youth Group delivered the donations and even got a tour of BPNN to learn more about all the amazing things people in our community are doing for others! Thank you again for helping us TACKLE HUNGER!



“Love Thy Neighbor” Friendship Celebration

Thanks to all who attended the love-themed celebration on Sunday, February 9th. We had a lovely time making pillows for the children’s hospital, making cards, having great conversation and decorating (and eating) cookies!

First Communion

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

- **Sundays, April 6 & 13 from 9:30-10:30 am** - Instruction
- **Saturday, April 12 at 9:30 am** - Bread Baking & Banner Making
- **Thursday, April 17th at 7:00 pm** - 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, March 13

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!



Vacation Bible School

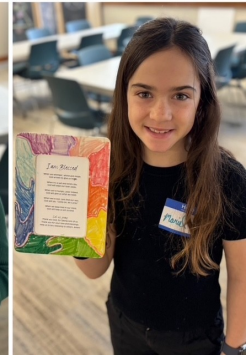
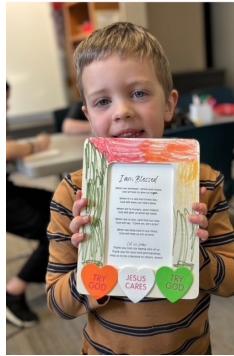
Save the Date!

August 4-7, 9:00 am - 12 noon

Registration opens March 1st

Sunday School Highlights

Here's a glance at some of the ways Sunday School students have been exploring Jesus' Baptism, Wedding at Cana, Jesus Goes to Nazareth, The Beatitudes and more:





2025-2026 School Year

Preschool Registration:

Registration is open for next school year for ALL families. We offer classes for kids ages 2 years 1 month (2s Class) and 3 years old (3s Class). We are also a Verona Area School District Pre-K site for kids 4 years old by September 1, 2025. Current families, returning families and church members get registration priority before new families. Open registration closes on March 28th, 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.

Preschool Job Opening:

St. James Preschool is looking to hire a new teacher for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond. We are looking for a teacher to fill the lead Pre-K teacher position. This position is about 22 hours a week paid salary. A teaching license that qualifies for that position is required (Heather can assist with what qualifications are needed). Please contact Heather Pearl at sjp@stjamesverona.org if you are at all interested in applying or want more information.

Preschool Happenings:

Here is a peek at all of playing/learning that has been happening:



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, Chuck Roum, Peter Narum, Loretta Docken, Anna, Charlene, Ed, Helen Granquist, Audrey Huseh, Marilyn, Monica Pechan, Judy and Andrew, Jay Wilson, Orin and Pat Strand, Anne Forseth and Larry Yeske.



We also remember Bruce and Pearlene (brother and sister-in-law of Karen Wolf), Dorothy (mother of Sue Zernicke), Larry Hamm (father of Christine Kemnitz), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Marty Pulver (brother of Renata Henry), Mary Volker, (sister of John Volker), Dave Wolf (nephew of Doug Wolf), Archer Yob (great-nephew of Renata Henry), Marsha Zahasky (sister of Mary Walker), Lori Deegan (mother of Bryan Deegan) and Gail Rafferty (sister of Cheryl Vroman), and friends, Castor, Dierdre, SandySam, Ina, Carolyn, Camille, Dennis, Joe, and Susan Kennedy.

Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Wyatt Michael Irving, son of Sharon and Lance Irving.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of Ed Kindschi and Rachel Stampfli, Mary Moldenhauer as they mourn the death of her sister Sharon Schwinn, Bonnie Hayden as they mourn the death of her mother, Rick Fetherston as they mourn the death of his brother Dan, Debby Horsfall as they mourn the death of her father John Becker, Jim

Zernicke as they mourn the death of his brother Jerry, Heidi Luehring as they mourn the death of her brother Tom, Dan Higgins as they mourn the death of his mother Nona.

In Residence: Four Winds – Candy Nerge. **Noel Manor** – Dick and Helen Dignan, Dale Hagen, Lloyd Hornbacher, Carol and Jim Path, Peggy Papenfus, Chuck and Marilyn Roum, John Scharer, Jim Schumann, and Charles and Gloria Widish.

Serving in the Military: Gavin Bazala, Wyatt Breitnauer, Bryan and Hannah Tordoff, Evan Spoon, Jake Storch, Cyrus Pechan, Jenn Parchem, Kelsey Sweet and for Shelby Breitnauer serving in the Peace Corps.

Verona, WI 53593-1492

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