



**February 18, 2026
Worship Schedule**

12:00 pm
7:00 pm*

Services are with Communion.

* livestream

You are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Wednesdays During Lent
Beginning February 25:

6:15 pm Soup & Bread Meal
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service
(on March 4, the Community Meal will be served)

TUNA Casserole

Community Meal
Wednesday
Mar 4 | 6:00 pm

MENU
Tuna casserole, coleslaw, dinner rolls, trifle dessert, and beverages.
Please join us!



**PALM SUNDAY
BREAKFAST**

March 29
9:30-10:30 am
Hosted by Chloe Circle

Chloe Circle will again be providing breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 29th 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!



LOVE OUTPOURED

Lenten Devotionals are available at the kiosk and the Welcome Center. Large print copies are available, too.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

<i>Palm Sunday</i> MARCH 29 8:30* & 10:45 am	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> APRIL 2 7:00 pm*
<i>Good Friday</i> APRIL 3 7:00 pm*	<i>Easter Sunday</i> APRIL 5 7:00 & 8:30* & 10:45 am

No Service on Saturday, April 4

* livestream

**Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday
Worship & Cantata**
March 29 - 8:30 am & 10:45 am

On Passion Sunday, we will start our worship services with the Processional with Palms. The events of Holy Week will then be shared by narrators, instrumentalists, and the St. James Choir through a cantata titled *Who Is Jesus?* arranged by Joel Raney. The title is not "Who Was Jesus?" but "Who Is Jesus?" According to Joel Raney, "The question is asked in the present tense because it is Christ's interactions with our lives in the here and now that is the focus of this work." The text, written by Timothy Dudley-Smith, carries us through the entire story of Christ's life, culminating with the crucifixion story. The story is told combining original music with familiar hymns and spirituals. We invite you to join us on March 29! A breakfast will be served between services.

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.

Greetings from Pastor Sarah!

As we step into the month of February, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your new pastor. I can't express how excited I am to embark on this journey with each of you as we grow in faith, love, and community.

Allow me to introduce myself: I am Pastor Sarah Schilcher, and I have a passion for congregational ministry, building relationships with one another, and fostering a deep connection with God. My journey in faith has been profoundly shaped by the loving support of congregations just like ours, and I am eager to share that sense of belonging with you.

February is a month that shines a light on love, both in our relationships and in our faith. It reminds us of the greatest commandment: to love one another as Christ has loved us. This month, I encourage each of you to pause and reflect on how we can embody this love within our community. Let us reach out to our neighbors, support one another, and engage in acts of kindness that reflect the heart of Jesus.

I believe that as we open our hearts and minds to God's guidance, we will find new ways to connect—not just with one another, but with our broader community.

I look forward to meeting each of you and hearing your stories, dreams, and hopes for our ministry together. In the coming weeks, we will have opportunities for fellowship and discussion, where we can share our visions for how we can grow in faith together.

As we embrace this new season, let us remember the words of 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us." May we extend that love to everyone we meet, making our congregation a beacon of hope and warmth.

Thank you for welcoming me into your lives and your church. I am deeply honored to be your pastor, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for us this season and beyond.

Peace,

— Pastor Sarah

ST. JAMES STAFF

Sarah Schilcher, Pastor	920-229-5929
Karen Kaehr	Parish Administrator
Renata Henry	Office Assistant
Susan Zimmer	Administrative Assistant
Holly Parker	Dir. of Children & Family Ministries
Laura Smith	Director of Confirmation
Paulette Spoon	Adult Choir & Handbell Choir
Susan Bubolz	Youth Choir Director
Rhonda Chalone	Accompanists
Don DeBruin, Carol Murphy	
Barbara Rasmussen, R.N.	Parish Nurse/Visitation Coord.
Heather Pearl	Director of St. James Preschool
Holly Parker	St. James Preschool Staff
Zach Pearl	
Nicole Sudhoff	
Kristin Wills	

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Karen Breitnauer, President	608-209-3035
Rob Frederick, Vice President	608-280-1470
Susan Martin-Zernicke, Secretary	608-246-2025
Kim Feller, Treasurer	608-206-4562
Dennis Beres	608-845-9305
Christine Kemnitz	608-886-6363
Julie Murphy	608-345-8533
Mark Smith	608-214-2212
Mary Moldenhauer	608-279-1802



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

Welcome Pastor Sarah & Family!

Pastor Sarah Installation



Pastor Sarah Schilcher was installed as our new Lead Pastor on Saturday, January 24. Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe of the ELCA South-Central Synod of Wisconsin presided over the installation. Many congregational members braved the frigid weather to be present for the service. A reception was held immediately following the service.



Meet Pastor Sarah's Family!
Dan, Jonathan (4), Pastor Sarah,
Lydia (10), and DJ (8.75)

When Pastor Sarah's Great-Grandfather was ordained, he had a chair built for his ordination. When her father was ordained, that chair was given to him with specific instructions: "This is the Pastor's Chair. Give it to the next pastor in the family." When Pastor Sarah was ordained in 2019, it became her chair (until the next pastor in the family is ordained of course!). Pastor Sarah is very excited to have it in the Chancel at St. James, remarking that "It matches so well, it's like it was made to be here!"



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. **Bakers are needed for the weekends of March 1, 8, 15 & 22.**

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.

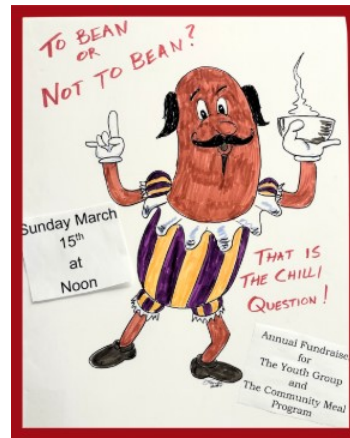
Yield: four 8 oz. loaves. Each loaf serves 60-70 people, depending upon the size of the piece given. The loaves freeze well.

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 15th 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 a ton 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 program at St. James and our Community Meal program (to help fund future dinners). 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 at the Chili Fun-Raiser?!

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 will be sign up sheets near the Welcome Center for you to sign up 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, made 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. Please contact Rob with questions at 608-280-1470 or rdrcr@chorus.net.

Congregational Life

*Jesus the I AM
as bread and as vine.*

**St. James
Women's
Retreat**

- Learn, relax, socialize, have fun
- Pam Shellberg, Presenter
- One day or overnight
- Forms at the Welcome Center
- Contact Bobbie Wang for more information

MARCH 7-8 | HOLY WISDOM MONASTERY

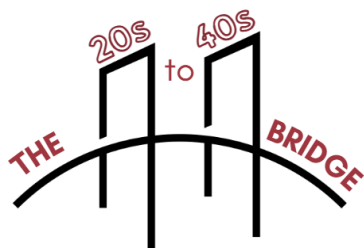
This is the last call for registrations for the 2026 Women's Retreat. Registrations must be received by February 18, 2026. For more information, contact: [Bobbie Wang](mailto:Bobbie.Wang@stjames.org), bwang799@gmail.com or 608-215-5604.

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 8. Through your generosity, we raised \$551 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.

Houses of Worship NAMI Training at St. James

In January, St. James hosted a training event for representatives from local houses of worship. Jamie Mulry, Executive Director of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) of Dane County, provided training on how to deal with scenarios that involve mental health issues, including de-escalation techniques. Over 40 people attended the training and it was encouraging to see community involvement from many local churches, regardless of denomination. Thank you to everyone that helped out with this event, especially Officer Tony Finger of the City of Verona Police Department for coordinating this event with NAMI.



The Bridge for 20s to 40s - New Series Starting February 15th

Have you ever wondered about the Nicene Creed when we say it in church? Come join The Bridge on Sundays at 9:40 in the Emmaus Room as we dive into a study series on important part of our Christian faith. We're celebrating 1,700 years of the Nicene Creed, and the ELCA has created a study guide to help lead people through it. All are welcome, and bring your friends!

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!

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets on the first Monday of each month at Paddy Mac's in Verona. Please join us!

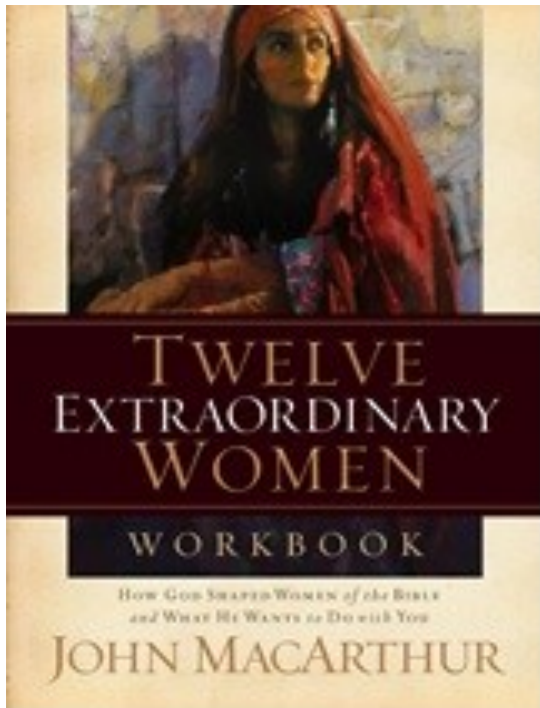
Trivia Night

Join us for Trivia every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Ten Pin Alley in Fitchburg. It's a blast and all are welcome!

Women's Bible Study

New Women's Bible Study Begins March 3 at 1:30 pm

All women of the church are invited to join us as we explore "Twelve Extraordinary Women of the Bible." We will meet the first Tuesday of every month, beginning on March 3rd, at 1:30 pm in the Luther Room. The Bible Study will be led by Barbara Rasmussen, our Parish Nurse. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or just show up.



Blood Pressure Checks

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

From the Parish Nurse...

February, 2026 is declared as "Heart Health" month in the National Health Calendars. That is appropriate as February 14 is Valentine's Day.

There are a few things that are very important to **Heart Health**.

Nutrition is a major part of Good Heart Health. It's important to stay away from processed foods and make most of your diet, "plant based." This includes all the plants, like fruits and vegetables, lentils, and beans. Then include fatty fish, such as salmon and sardines. Milk, eggs, and cottage cheese are good sources of calcium. There may be some restrictions on certain things if you have medical conditions or on particular medications.

Another part of good heart health is **Exercise**. If you work from home or sit at a desk during your work day, it's important to do some stretching and/or walk around every hour. It is good for your eyes to get away from that screen too. If you're not able to do exercising out and about, there are several excellent stretching exercises on line that you can do while in bed.

Sleep is another avenue to good heart health. It's important to keep a regular routine. Relax, cool bedroom, off the electronics for at least an hour, and only decaffeinated beverages, at least an hour before bedtime.

Praying, and keeping the **Lord** in our hearts, will also help decrease your stress.

Socialization is another way to reduce stress. We are starting a new **Women's Bible Study** called "Twelve Extraordinary Women of the Bible". We will meet in the Luther Room on March 3rd at 1:30 and continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month. All women are invited. There's a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk. There's also an opportunity to join our weekly **Trivia team** at the Ten Pin Alley each Thursday night at 6:30. Any questions on either of these, please get in touch with me.

God's Blessings,

— Barbara Rasmussen, RN. CPN.

High School Youth Events

The Well Bible Study for High School Students

All high school students are invited to join us from 9:30-10:30 am in the Agape Room. Jesus invites us to receive the living water that nourishes and renews us. In our conversations and study of God's Word, we find the spiritual care we need to grow, refresh our souls, and draw us closer to God. Whether you're familiar with the Bible or just getting started, you and your friends are welcome here. The Well is offered monthly - March 8, April 12, and May 3.



Popcorn & Paint Night

All high school youth are invited to join us for *Popcorn and Paint Night*, a special gathering of *The Well* Bible study, on February 22 from 5:00-7:30 in the Youth Lounge. We will explore the Japanese art of mending broken pottery – Kintsugi – which embraces the beauty of an object's story. Together, we will reflect on this meaningful practice and create our own Kintsugi inspired paintings to take home. To reserve your free art supplies, please email youth@stjamesverona.org by February 15. Friends are welcome!



Children's Prayground Gets an Update

The children's "Prayground" has a new addition. A child friendly table with Eucharistic elements, candles and a cross were added so that children can pretend to serve and take communion as the adults do during the service.



Souper Bowl of Caring Scores Big!



Drumroll please....

Together, members of St. James Church and Preschool donated 660 cans of soup + \$134!!! What a WIN for sharing God's love with our community.

We will deliver the donations to BPNN and help stock the soup on Sunday, February 15th. What a wonderful way to learn about the power of working together and serving others! Thank you again for your kindness and generosity and helping us TACKLE HUNGER!

~Club Connect



Friendship Party

Thanks to all who attended the love-themed celebration on Sunday, February 8th. We had a lovely time making pillows for the children's hospital, making cards, playing games, decorating (and eating) cookies and having great conversation!

First Communion

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

- **Sunday, March 1 from 9:30-10:30 am** - First Communion Class
- **Sunday, March 15 at 9:30 am** - First Communion Practice + Bread & Banner Making
- **Thursday, April 2 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 29

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 3-6, 9:00 am - 12 noon

For ages 3 and up

*Registration opens **March 1st***



2026-2027 School Year

Preschool Registration:

Registration is open for next school year for ALL families. We offer classes for kids aged 2 years 1 month (2s Class) and 3 years old (3s Class). We are also a Verona Area School District Pre-K/4K site for kids 4 years old by September 1, 2026. New this year, VASD has decided to offer Open Enrollment to Pre-K/4K families who live out of district. Current families, returning families and church members get registration priority before new families. Open registration closes on March 31st, 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 2026-2027 school year and beyond. We are looking for a teacher to fill the lead Pre-K teacher position. This position is about 26 hours a week paid salary. Please contact Heather Pearl at sjp@stjamesverona.org if you are interested in applying or want more information. If you are at all interested, even without "proper qualifications", please reach out because we are willing to be creative in how we fill this position.

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 (608-845-6922) or fill out a form which can be found at the Welcome Center at St. James.

We remember our members in our prayers, especially, Marg Jacobs, Delona Allers, Loretta Docken, Joann Zingg, Mary, Jackie, Ruth, Sue, Julie Umhoefer, Monica Pechan, Orin and Pat Strand, and Larry Yeske.



We also remember Dorothy (mother of Sue Zernicke), Larry Hamm (father of Christine Kemnitz), Dustin Olmschenk (nephew of Nancy Steinemann), Marty Pulver (brother of Renata Henry), Marsha Zahasky (sister of Mary Walker), Lori Deegan (mother of Bryan Deegan), Don Erstad (brother of Marilyn Maurer and Gail Rafferty (sister of Cheryl Vroman), and friends, Carolyn, Gina, Greta, John, Ron, and Susan.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Sienna Marie Kessenich, daughter of Ashley and Matthew Kessenich.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of Rodger Stampfli, James Schumann, Charles (Chuck) Roum and Dale Hagen as they mourn their deaths.

In Residence: Noel Manor – Dick and Helen Dignan, Candy Nerge, Lloyd Hornbacher, Carol and Jim Path, Marilyn Roum, Don Zelle, Bob Lind and Audrey Huseth.

Azura – Peggy Papenfus and Bruce Glassrud.

Charter Senior Living—Charles Widish and John Stai.

New Glarus Home: Ruth Erstad

Serving in the Military: Gavin Bazala, Wyatt Breitnauer, Bryan and Hannah Tordoff, Evan Spoon, Jake Storch, Cyrus Pechan, Jenn Parchem, Gavin Batker, Summit Wild, Reed Matz and Quinn Muderlak.

Serving in the Peace Corps: Shelby Breitnauer.

Verona, WI 53593-1492

427 South Main Street



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