



Summer Worship Schedule

BEGINS MAY 23 & 24
Saturday - 5:00 pm
Sunday - 9:00 am

Our summer worship schedule begins on Memorial Day weekend. Services during the summer months will be on Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 9:00 am.



BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

St. James will be holding a Baccalaureate service for high school graduates on Sunday, May 31st during the 9:00 am service. There will be a reception with cake to follow the service. Please join us as we celebrate their many accomplishments and wish them well with their next steps following graduation!



- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Emilie Breitnauer | Elizabeth Smith |
| Rylie Heilman | Parker Wang |
| Lucas Pearl | Braelin Weiss |
| Nadie Rahn | Natalie Zier |

**PULLED
Pork and
Chicken**

Community Meal

Wednesday

June 3 | 6:00 pm

MENU

Pulled pork and chicken sandwiches, baked beans, cole slaw, assorted desserts, and beverages.

Please join us!



ST. JAMES LOCK-IN!

Twenty-nine kids, ages 4-17, had a blast at the "Shine Your Light" Lock-In on April 18-19. Games, meals, Bible studies, service projects, fellowship, connection and belonging were enjoyed by all! Thank you to Pastor Sarah for lighting the way, to those who donated and volunteered for their sparkling service, and to the kids for their radiant joy and enthusiasm. *"You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven."* Matthew 5:14-16.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Saturday at 5:00 pm & Sunday at 9:00 am

LIVESTREAM: Sunday at 9:00 am on our Website or YouTube Channel.

From Pastor Sarah

Greetings from Pastor Sarah!

There is something about the month of May that feels like a deep breath. After months of cold and gray, the earth begins to soften. Trees bud and flowers push their way up through the soil. The world around us quietly proclaims what our faith has always promised: new life is possible.

And yet, even as creation awakens, we know that the world we inhabit is not always so peaceful.

We are living in a time when it can feel like everything is pulling us apart—divisions in our country, fear in our communities, uncertainty about the future. It is easy to feel overwhelmed, discouraged, or even tempted to withdraw. But this is precisely the kind of moment when our faith speaks most clearly.

In the resurrection of Jesus, we are reminded that God does not wait for the world to become calm or orderly before bringing new life. God meets us right in the midst of chaos, grief, and uncertainty—and still, somehow, brings hope.

At St. James, we name our calling simply: Receive. Grow. Give. In a season like this, those words are not just a mission statement—they are a way of life:

We *receive* the grace of God that meets us exactly where we are.

We *grow* together in faith, even when questions are hard and the path is unclear.

And we *give*—of our love, our presence, our compassion—into a world that so desperately needs it.

This month, one of the ways we will live into that calling is through something simple, but deeply meaningful: cottage meetings.

Throughout May, I'll be gathering with small groups of you—no more than 10-12 people at a time—in homes and at church. These will be informal, welcoming spaces where we can sit together, share stories, and begin to truly know one another.

These gatherings aren't about agendas or decisions. They are about relationship.

I want to hear from you:

- What has shaped your faith?
- What do you love about St. James?
- What are your hopes and dreams for this community?
- What concerns or questions are on your heart?

(continued on the next page)

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.

From Pastor Sarah, continued

In a world that often feels loud and divided, these conversations are a quiet but powerful act of faith. They are a way of saying that we will listen to one another, we will show up for one another, and we will be the body of Christ together. Because the truth is, the Church is not just a place we come—it is a people we become, together.

I truly believe that God is already at work here at St. James: in your stories, in your faith, in your care for one another, and in the ways you show up, again and again, to be the light of Christ in this community.

May is a season of growth—not just in the world around us, but within us.

So as we move through this month, I invite you to notice where new life is stirring: maybe in a conversation, or in a relationship. Maybe it is in a renewed sense of purpose, or even in a quiet moment of hope.

God is not finished with us yet.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside you in this season, and I look forward to sitting with many of you in the weeks ahead!

May the peace of Christ be with you in all that you face. And may the Spirit continue to guide us as we live, together, into who God is calling us to be.

Peace,

Pastor Sarah

St. James Women's Retreat



The 2026 St James Women's Retreat was held March 7-8 at Holy Wisdom Monastery. Thirty women attended – including St. James members and friends and family. Our leader, Pam Shellberg, Director of Spiritual Nourishment at Holy Wisdom, led us through a day of studying “I AM” statements from the Gospel of John. We also learned about the differences between the Gospel of John and the other three Gospels.

We talked about the symbols of bread and the vine and had the opportunity to taste some heirloom bread recipes and to hear the family stories related to them. We created an art project with naturally dried weeds and seed pods and a few feathers from the Holy Wisdom prairie. There was also time for walks on the prairie and socializing.

After enjoying yet another wonderful meal at dinnertime, the group finished Saturday with an inspirational evening vespers service that involved readings and hymns. A rousing game of “Bible Pictionary” finished off the day!

On Sunday, the group had breakfast together and attended the Holy Wisdom Sunday Assembly worship service. Many thanks to the Retreat planning committee: Shelley Bazala, Candy Feldt, Kari Fitzgerald, Karen Lee-Wahl, Mary Mattison and Paulette Spoon. Stay tuned for a “save the date” for next year's event.

Bobbie Wang, Retreat Coordinator

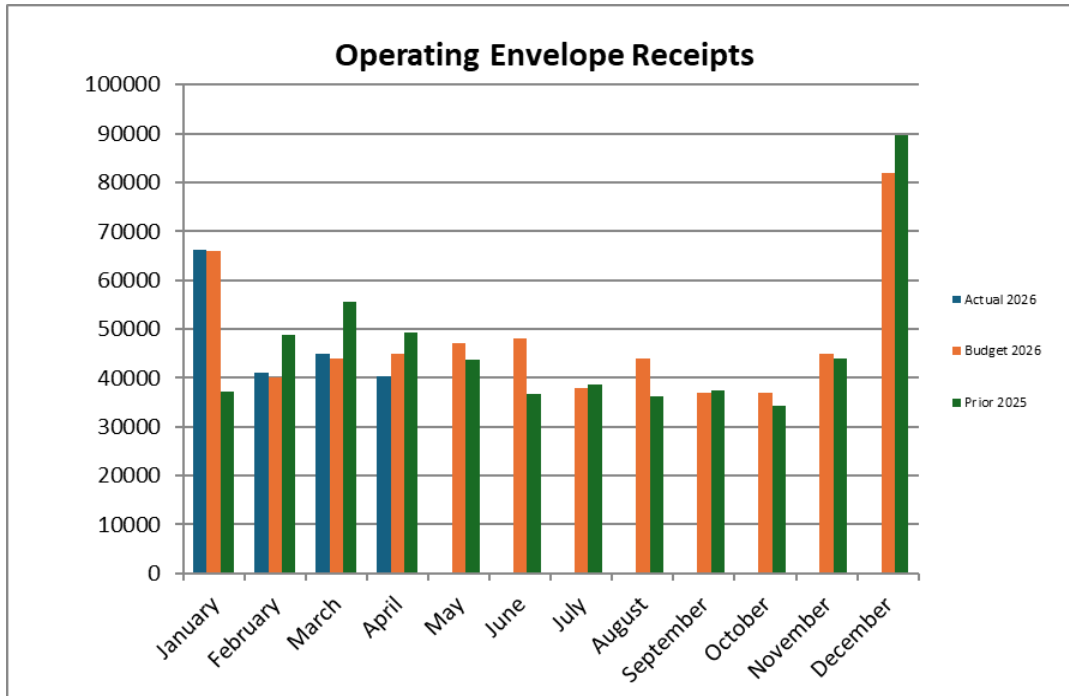
Financials

Measure of Our Commitment thru April 30, 2026

For the first four months of 2026, we are running slightly behind with giving but spending is favorable to the expense budget resulting in a positive net position as of 4/30/2026. This is a good start to the year and **THANK YOU** for your continued contributions to the General and Seeds/Building Funds. With summer approaching, the church is still here! Feel free to use the online giving options that are part of the weekly E-News as another choice for the summer months.

YTD Operating Envelopes Receipts are **BEHIND** budget by (\$2,649) or -1.4% but are running slightly ahead of the the prior year by \$1,318 or +0.7%. With YTD expense spending in line with budget, the net result of receipts less expenses is at \$21,680 YTD, which is **FAVORABLE** to budget by \$2,803.

<u>YTD Operating Envelopes</u>		<u>Variance</u>	
<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
\$192,351	\$195,000	(\$2,649)	-1.4%
<u>Actual</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
\$192,351	\$191,033	\$1,318	+0.7%



The Seeds & Building Fund balance at 4/30/2026 is \$54,711, and the current mortgage balance is \$1,400,165. The Seeds/Building budget is set up to fund the monthly mortgage payment of \$9,304 per month and any excess contributions greater than the mortgage payment remain in the Building Fund to use when needed to cover a shortfall on the mortgage payment. We have a prime opportunity to initiate a mortgage reduction campaign in 2026 to make an additional principal payment on the mortgage before the interest rate is reset in June 2027 to a rate that will likely be higher than the current 3.875% rate. Please prayerfully consider your commitment to reducing the mortgage during the campaign.

<u>YTD Seeds/Building Fund Contributions</u>		<u>Variance</u>	
<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
\$36,798	\$37,216	(\$418)	-1.1%

With Gratitude to All at St. James,

— Kim Feller, Treasurer

Congregational Life

Community
Blood Drive
St. James

AMERICAN RED CROSS
**BLOOD
DRIVE**



Saturday
May 30
8 am - Noon

Community Blood Drive

The next American Red Cross Community Blood Drive will be here at St. James on Saturday, May 30th. It's Trauma Awareness Month, a time to support trauma patients and others with serious medical conditions. Red blood cells are the most-needed blood component for trauma patients, helping replace blood volume lost to hemorrhaging. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, May 30th from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm and schedule an appointment to donate blood by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org). **Childcare in a St. James Preschool classroom is provided by Chloe Circle volunteers for families with young children.** Rapid Pass is another timesaver to complete some of the screening questions in advance. Visit [RedCrossBlood.org/Rapid Pass](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) for more information. Chloe Circle is hosting this event with volunteers, childcare, and refreshments. Special Note: Please enter through the Preschool doors to the north of the usual entrance to the church. The Blood Drive will be held in the Activities Room located inside the Preschool entrance. We look forward to a successful blood drive and appreciate your participation!



Use the QR
to make an
appointment.



CHILI FUN-RAISER

You Came, You Ate, We Ruffled and We Broke Records...

It was a record day for the 2026 St. James Chili Fun-Raiser. The weather did not stop anyone from coming out, enjoying a good meal, having fun conversation and hopefully winning a prize. This year we broke records for everything. 130 people attended, with a chance to win over 100 raffle prizes and the most blessed part, we raised around \$2600 from the event, that will be split between the Youth of St. James and the Community Meal.

On behalf of the committee and myself. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your support of this event, from the donation of prizes, to food for the day of the event, to coming out and enjoying the day. All of you truly made it a special record breaking day. God bless you all. – Rob Frederick



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!

THANK YOU!

Thanks for the Music!

Thank you to our youth and adult singers and ringers, worship accompanists, and other instrumentalists for their time and music during the Lenten season and Easter season (which continues through May 17!). And thank you to the many congregational singers who joined in on the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter morning! Musicians of all ages enrich our worship. We are grateful!

Lenten Supper Thank You!

Thank you to the people who supported our Wednesday suppers during Lent. A special shout out to the adult choir, St. James youth and their families, the Community Meal crew, Mary Circle, and St. James staff for their donations of food and assistance. Your efforts were appreciated!

Palm Sunday Breakfast Thank You!

The Chloe Circle of St. James would like to express our appreciation to the congregation for the generous donations of pastries, milk and juice for the Palm Sunday Breakfast. Over 175 members and friends of the congregation were served after the cantata service and the funds raised will be used to support various church and community events. This breakfast is successful only because of the support of St. James' members. We truly appreciate your participation in this annual event!

Wednesday
June 3 | 7:00 pm
at St. James

An All-Female
Swing Band in Concert



ladiesmustswing.com

Enjoy dinner at 6:00 and then the concert, or just come at 7:00 pm for the music. Bring a friend. You won't be disappointed!

CONCERT ON JUNE 3

Ladies Must Swing is an award-winning, all-female jazz band based in Madison. This Big Band features saxophones, trumpets, trombones, piano, bass, drums, guitar, and vocals. Ladies Must Swing will perform in the St. James sanctuary on Wednesday, June 3, at 7:00 pm, following the Community Meal.

From the Parish Nurse...

This month holds many celebrations, flowers blooming, the promise of new growth and a reminder of our risen Christ.

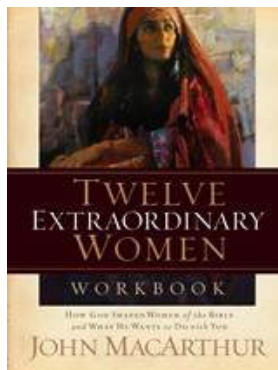
We will continue to have **Blood Pressures** taken the second Sunday of each month after the 9:00 service in the church office when the summer church service times change.

We also continue to play a fun, brain testing, laughter producing, socializing game of **Trivia** every Thursday night at 6:30, at Ten Pin Alley. We call our team, "Still Climbing the Hill Gang"! Please consider joining this fun time. We can always use some more brain power or fun socialization. Let me know your desire so I can reserve your space with the team.

We have begun a new **Bible Study** for only women. It's called, "**Twelve Extraordinary Women**". We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 in the Luther Room. You're invited to join us even if you aren't able to make it each month.

Enjoy your Spring, God's Blessings,

Barbara Rasmussen, RN.PCN



Women's Bible Study

All women of the church are invited to join us as we explore "Twelve Extraordinary Women of the Bible." We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 1:30 pm in the Luther Room. The Bible Study is led by Barbara Rasmussen, our Parish Nurse.



Blood Pressure Checks

Blood pressure checks will be held on June 14, July 12, and August 9 at 10:00 am in the church office.



St. James Drive-in Dinner

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 10TH
5:30 - 7:00 pm**

BURGERS
BRATS
HOT DOGS

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a picnic with family and friends! Or simply stay in your car and have dinner brought to you by one of our friendly Carhops!

ANNUAL YOUTH FUNDRAISER
Free-will donations support youth programs at St. James!



Use the QR code to donate to the Drive-In Dinner.

Thank You!

Drive-in Dinner

Wednesday, June 10th from 5:30-7:00pm

It's time for the Drive-in Dinner! It will be held on Wednesday, June 10th from 5:30-7:00 pm. The dinner - hamburgers, brats, hotdogs, chips and more - is served by youth. You can sit in your car or bring a blanket and/or chairs and sit outside. Free-will donations will be accepted. The proceeds from this event go towards funding youth programming such as Youth Group events, camp scholarships, holiday parties and more. We can't wait to see you there!



Summer Camp Savings Program

Summer Bible camps are transformational experiences that offer a safe environment for campers to build independence, learn new skills, make new friends and grow in their faith. St. James supports children, youth and families by offering a \$100 discount on any 2026 summer Bible camp program. Contact Holly Parker at hparker@stjamesverona.org by June



Youth Raffle Update!

We are excited to announce that through your generosity and the leadership of the St. James youth, we were able to raise **\$1,001** to donate to Save the Children through the raffle fundraiser! Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this past Youth Sunday such a wonderful experience. It's so incredible to see the beautiful things God can do through communities when they join together with open hearts.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

REGISTER
NOW

stjamesverona.org

Ages 3 and Up



AUGUST 3-6, 2026 | 9:00 AM - NOON

Vacation Bible School

August 3-6, 9:00 am - 12 noon

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! Camper registration is full, but we may open up more spots if we have enough volunteers. Areas we need help include:

- Crew leaders or assistants
- Bible Adventures station
- Craft station
- Games station
- Video station
- Snack station
- Decorating & set-up
- Take-down & clean-up
- Family Celebration - set up, serve, clean-up and help with activities
- Snack & supply donations - requests will be emailed & posted in June & July.

VBS Workshops! Wednesdays July 8, 15, 22 and 29. A chance for all youth (5th grade and up) and adults to help make props and get ready for VBS! Stay tuned for times.

Contact Holly at hparker@stjamesverona.org to volunteer or register!

Sunday School Highlights



Kiddos enjoyed meeting therapy dogs Koda and Rinny, reading Bible stories to them and learning about different ways Jesus is there for all of us.



Jesus helps us believe what we can't see and spread peace!



Learning about the story of Creation and planting seeds for the Giving Garden.



Learning how we can pray for and help others all over the world through the Healing of the Nations youth-led service and Save the Children Raffle Fundraiser.

First Communion



Congratulations to the following students who received their First Communion on Thursday, April 2nd! Front: Hank Donaldson, Macey Nyenhuis, Violet Kemnitz, Gunnar Graber, Auura Olson, Lydia Schilcher, Rowan Bhatoya, DJ Schilcher. Back: Aaron Nelson, Ayda Sampson, Ellie Barczak, Taylor Klingbeil, Pastor Sarah, Frankie Sutfin, Isla Carlson, Sadie Osten, Charlie Rogers.



First Communion Bread and Banner making - What a fun and engaging way to prepare for their special sacrament. Many thanks to the parents who were able to help!

Saint JAMES PRESCHOOL



Verona Area
PreK
Partnership in Early Learning



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/4K teacher position. This position is about 22 hours a week paid as a salary position. A teaching license that qualifies for that position is required, however there are ways to work towards this if you have a bachelor's degree. We truly believe it takes a special person to work with preschoolers, and we are looking for that perfect fit (no matter what your degree says). Please contact Heather Pearl at sjp@stjamesverona.org if you are at all interested in applying, want more information, or want to talk through how it could work for you.

Teacher Appreciation:

The first full week of May was Teacher Appreciation Week. St. James Preschool is extremely lucky to have Zach Pearl, Holly Parker, Kristin Wills, and Nicole Sudhoff as dedicated and amazing teachers. Each day they are dedicated to their job, each other, the kids, and families.

Preschool Happenings:

The kids are very busy playing, learning, and spending time outside. We are starting to wind down our school year. It is fun to celebrate the kids and how much they have grown this school year. We would like to thank Paulette Spoon, Sue Zernicke, Dan Schilcher, and Rebecca Woolums for volunteering in the preschool this school year.



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, Sue Zimmer, Loretta Docken, Sue, Rob Frederick, Ron Huseh, Bob Ramsey, 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: Callan Kissinger, son of Jared and Bailey Kissinger and Kit Peterson, daughter of Kyle and Sarah Peterson.

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of Dick Dignan, Marilyn Maurer as they mourn the death of her brother Don Erstad, Janette Jensen and Lloyd Hornbacher as they mourn their deaths.

In Residence: Noel Manor — Helen Dignan, Candy Nerge, Carol and Jim Path, Marilyn Roun, Don Zelle, Bob Lind and Audrey Huseh.

Azura — Peggy Papenfus and Bruce Glassrud.

Charter Senior Living—Charles Widish.

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, Quinn Muderlak, Maximos and Xavier

Serving in the Peace Corps: Shelby Breitnauer.



Verona, WI 53593-1492

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