



# Epiphany 4

February 1, 2026

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH | [stjamesgp.org](http://stjamesgp.org) | 313.884.0511  
170 McMillan Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
Pastor Denise M. Grant | [pastor@stjamesgp.org](mailto:pastor@stjamesgp.org)

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**Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.**

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to Saint James, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Southeast Michigan Synod. Thank you for being part of this gathered assembly as we worship God and receive the sacrament. If this is your first time worshipping with Saint James, we extend a special greeting to you and invite you to introduce yourself to your neighbor in the pew. If you have questions about Saint James or are looking for a spiritual home, please reach out to Pastor Grant ([pastor@stjamesgp.org](mailto:pastor@stjamesgp.org)).

## **TODAY'S SCRIPTURES**

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

## **WORSHIP & HOLY EUCHARIST**

All of the materials needed for this liturgy can be found in this bulletin and in the cranberry red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) book found in the pew rack. The celebration of the sacrament, **Holy Eucharist** (also called the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion), is central to our worship. As host of the meal, Jesus extends a wide welcome for all to participate. Distribution information is found on page 9. If you would prefer to commune in the pew, please alert an usher prior to the start of worship.

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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PRELUDE     *Pastorale*     Charles Wesley

STAND

## GATHERING

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*The sign of the  
cross is made in  
remembrance of  
our Baptism.*

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

In the name of the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God knows us completely and yet pours out grace and mercy upon us; let us then confess our sins.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God,

**you call us to life in community,**

**but we have served our own interests**

**at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,**

**but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,**

**that we may do justice, love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away,

and God declares that a new thing is happening within us:

Like a spring of water that never fails,

God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,

and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,

and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

HYMN

*Jesus, the Very Thought of You*

**ELW 754**

*red songbook in pew rack*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

## HYMN OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
 3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
 au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
 name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
 sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
 liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
 ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
 ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
 God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - - - men.

*As we sing, we  
 give voice to our  
 praise of God.*

*Jesus is  
 identified by  
 John and his  
 disciples as the  
 Lamb of God  
 who takes away  
 the sin of the  
 world. Through  
 his life, death  
 and resurrection  
 believers have  
 the assurance of  
 God's presence  
 and everlasting  
 life.*

*Silence is held  
 for 5 to 10  
 seconds, allow-  
 ing worshipers  
 to collect their  
 thoughts and  
 focus on the  
 presence of God.*

SIT

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORD

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THE FIRST LESSON

*see page 11 of this bulletin*

PSALM

*see page 12 of this bulletin*

SECOND LESSON

*see page 13 of this bulletin*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

STAND & SING  
as the  
procession  
moves to the  
center of the  
sanctuary.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Verse:** *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. (Matt. 5:12)*

## REPEAT ALLELUIA

The Holy Gospel  
is read in the  
midst of the  
people as a sign  
of our Lord's  
presence is in  
our midst in  
worship.

HOLY GOSPEL

*see page 13 of this bulletin*

## RETURN ACCLAMATION *Let Our Gladness Have No End*

4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
*Refrain*  
On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to  
save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

**HOMILY**

SIT

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* ELW 719

STAND

**APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried:  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

*We are baptized  
in God's Triune  
name: Father,  
Son & Holy Spirit.  
The Apostles  
Creed reminds us  
of the activity of  
each part of the  
Trinity.*

**INTERCESSIONS**

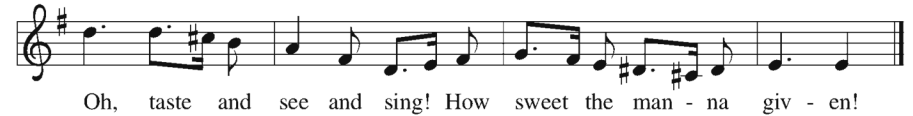
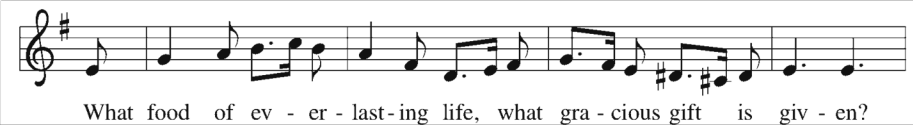
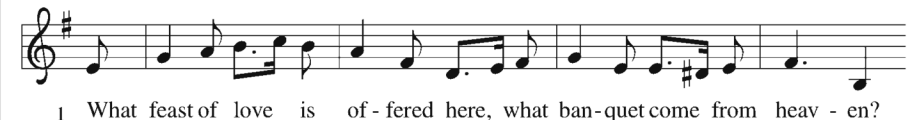
**Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.**

**PEACE**

*The Peace is  
shared among  
worshipers — in  
its sharing we ask  
for God's peace  
to dwell with one  
another.*

**TABLE SETTING*****What Feast of Love*****ELW 487:1,3**

*Remain  
STANDING and  
SING as the gifts  
are brought  
forward.*



**3 What wine of love is offered here,  
what crimson drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life,  
what precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
The Son of God is given!**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

O God we bring offerings of bread and wine, and the offerings of our lives, to dedicate ourselves and all we have to you. Since everything is useful to make your kingdom come, encourage us by a vision of your generous salvation to live for the welfare of your glorious creation. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## MEAL

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### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Great Thanksgiving is understood as an act of praise and thanksgiving. Following Jewish customs, the emerging Christian liturgies blessed God (that is, thanked God) for God's kindness and love.*

### PREFACE

### SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Sanctus (sanctus, Latin, means holy) is a series of angelic acclamations which accompanied Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3 also Psalm 118:26).*

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Holy God, you are the life and light of all.

By your word you created all things,  
through the prophets you called your people  
to be a light for the nations.

*In the Eucharistic Prayer, the church gives thanks for God's mighty works in the past, in creation and redemption through Jesus Christ, and thereby proclaims its faith in the blessings that come in the future both in this life and in eternal life yet to come.*

Blessed are you, for Jesus your Son.  
He is your light shining in our darkness  
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

*The Words of Institution are spoken*

Remembering, therefore, his baptism in the Jordan,  
his preaching and healing,  
his dying and rising,  
and his promise to come again,  
we give thanks and praise to you, O God, as we await that day  
when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life giving light.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.



*Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." John 6:35*

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,  
that refreshed with this heavenly food,  
your body and blood,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



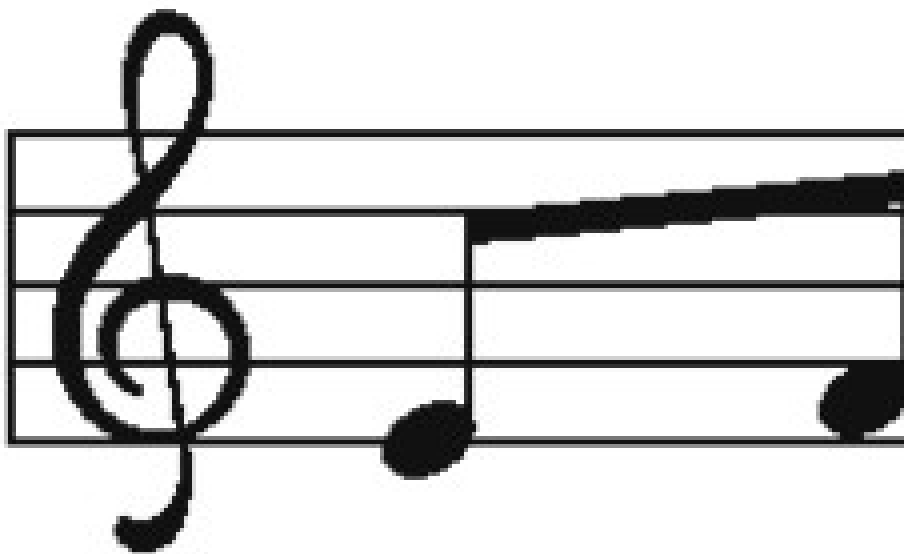
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.  
**We rejoice in the Beloved Son of God!**



LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION & DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

SIT

CHOIR      *Blessèd Are Those*      Benjamin Harlan  
HYMN      *O God of Mercy, God of Light*      ELW 714

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

STAND

SAINT JAMES COMMUNION PRACTICE	
Welcome	Saint James practices an open table for Holy Communion, which means that <u>all people are invited to participate in the sacrament</u> . Jesus is the host of the meal and extends a wide welcome. Children are welcome to participate, but may also come forward with folded arms to receive a blessing.
Benefit	What is the benefit of sharing in the meal? The words “given for you” and “shed for you” show us that the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament. (Luther’s Small Catechism)
Distribution	Come forward via the central aisle.  Receive the host (bread/Jesus’ body) in the hand, then <b>dip it</b> into the cup with wine (Jesus’ blood). Or consume it and take an individual cup of wine (purple) or juice (golden).  A gluten free host is offered by saying “gluten free” to the pastor.  Return to your place via the outside aisles for private prayer.

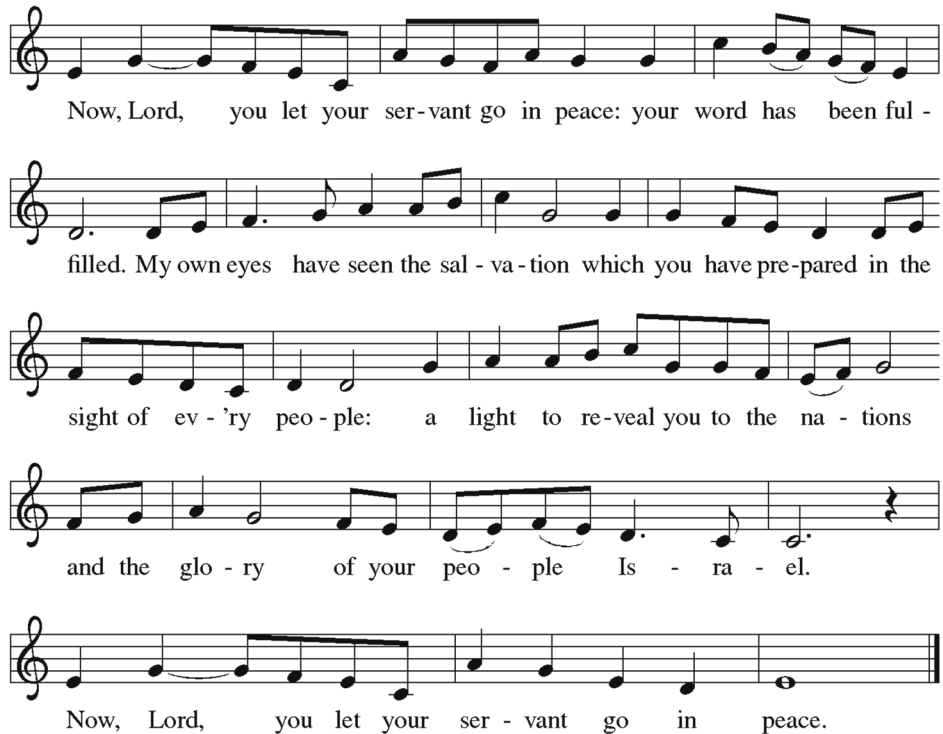
## SENDING

STANDING

### SENDING CANTICLE

*Nunc Dimittis*

*God promised the temple prophet, Simeon that he would not taste death until he had seen the Messiah. He sings this song of thanksgiving for all that God has done, and asks God to now bless him and give him peace.*



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

### SENDING PRAYER

O Lord, our Baptism is your sign which made us bold to come and feast at your table. With the power that comes with its forgiveness and fellowship, give us joy in our calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

HYMN

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

ELW 551

### DISMISSAL

Go forth in the light of Christ. Share the Good News.  
**Thanks be to God!**

*We are sent into the world to share the light of Christ.*

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Voluntary* Gordon Young

**FIRST LESSON            Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the Lord says:

    Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
    and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,  
    and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people,  
    and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?  
    In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
    and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
    Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King  
Balak of Moab devised,  
    what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
    that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the Lord  
    and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
    with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of  
rams,  
    with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
    the fruit of my body for the sin of my  
soul?”

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
    and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
    and to walk humbly with your God?

*following the lesson*

    The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 15

Carolyn Jennings



<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> In their sight the wicked are rejected,  
but they honor those who fear the LORD. **Refrain**

They have sworn upon their health  
and do not take back their word.

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain,  
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown. **Refrain**

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## **SECOND LESSON      1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

*following the lesson*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Return to page 4 for Gospel Acclamation***

## **HOLY GOSPEL      Matthew 5:1-12**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

*before the Gospel*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

*following the Gospel*

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Return to page 4 for the Gospel Acclamation***

### **Worship Leaders for February 1**

Assisting Minister: Larry Sabol  
Communion Assistant: Pam Perkowski  
Lector: Richard Ferrara  
Altar Guild: Sue Carson & Mary Mathison  
Livestream: Lena Picek  
Ushers: Dick & Susan Allison

### **Worship Leaders for February 8**

Assisting Minister: Sue Stieber  
Crucifer: Emily Richardson  
Communion Assistant: Sammie Bessner  
Lector: Joel Humphries  
Altar Guild: Emily Richardson  
Livestream: Lena Picek  
Ushers: Mary & Rich Moellering

*Full February Schedule on the Kiosk*

#### **Offering Plates**

Saint James places offering plates at each entrance to the sanctuary. For more information about offerings, including electronic giving, see the bulletin. Thank you for your faithfulness in stewardship. Every contribution helps to support Saint James' mission and the proclamation of the gospel in the world. Find us on Zelle using: [giving@stjamesgp.org](mailto:giving@stjamesgp.org)

**Remember in Prayer** – Bob Rimbo - Nancy Gurs - Laura Blake - Russ Halleen - All deployed military and their families.

*Contact Emily Moellering or Pastor to add a name to the Prayer List or to ask the Prayer Team to pray for a specific need.*



**Coffee Hour** Please join us each Sunday after service for Coffee Hour in the Welcome Area (beyond the municipal parking lot doors near the nursery.) Grab a cup of coffee or juice and a goodie and enjoy some Christian fellowship.

**Got News?** Please send items. for inclusion in the Saturday email newsletter to Alicia Taub no later than Thursday at noon of that week. All items for the Sunday bulletin must be sent to Emily Richardson at [office@stjamesgp.org](mailto:office@stjamesgp.org) no later than Tuesday.

### **FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

#### **Sunday, February 1**

*Epiphany 4*  
Choir Sings  
11am: Holy Eucharist  
Fellowship immediately following worship

#### **Monday, February 2**

Office Closed on Mondays  
4pm: Joyful Noise Children's Choir (at St. Paul)

#### **Tuesday, February 3**

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)  
9am-12pm: Office Hours

#### **Wednesday, February 4**

*Pastor Grant's Office Day*  
9am-1pm: Office Hours  
4pm: Handbells (Sanctuary)  
4:30pm: Choir (Music Room)

#### **Thursday, February 5**

9am-12pm: Office Hours

#### **Friday, February 6**

Office Closed on Fridays  
*Pastor's Day Off*

#### **Sunday, February 8**

*Epiphany 5*  
11am: Holy Eucharist  
Fellowship immediately following worship

#### **Monday, February 9**

Office Closed on Mondays  
4pm: Joyful Noise Children's Choir (at St. Paul)

#### **Tuesday, February 10**

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)  
9am-12pm: Office Hours  
6:30pm: Church Council (Upstairs Lounge)

#### **Wednesday, February 11**

*Pastor Grant's Office Day*  
9am-1pm: Office Hours  
4pm: Handbells (Sanctuary)  
4:30pm: Choir (Music Room)

#### **Thursday, February 12**

9am-12pm: Office Hours

#### **Friday, February 13**

Office Closed on Fridays  
*Pastor's Day Off*

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Feb. 18— at 7pm Ash Wednesday

## The Weekly Newsletter of Saint James Lutheran Church For the Week of February 1, 2026



**SCAM ALERT** Please be aware that phishing emails are going around from scammers pretending to be Pastor Grant and Council Members. These emails are coming from fake email addresses, and the scammers are requesting the recipient email them a copy of the church directory. **Please do not respond to these requests, and delete immediately.** To protect the personal data of all our members, the office is requesting that anyone needing an electronic copy of the directory contact the office by phone during office hours or see **Emily Richardson** and we will send you the directory to the email address we have on file for you. Please **do not** email the church directory on to anyone. Thank you for your cooperation!

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets next on **Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 PM** in the second floor lounge. All members are welcome to attend any council meeting.



**COFFEE HOUR** Volunteers are needed to supply goodies – either homemade or purchased -- for our weekly coffee hour. The sign-up sheet is found on the kiosk in the Welcome Area. Your help is much appreciated!

**SCRIPTURES** You may have noticed that the scripture text in the bulletin does not exactly match what is being read on Sunday mornings from the lectionary. This is due to Augsburg Fortress changing to an updated version of the texts in June. An updated lectionary that matches the updated texts is not available for purchase, so we continue to use our old lectionary. Thank you for your patience & understanding!



**SMALL CHANGE MINISTRY** We are continuing our Small Change Ministry for another quarter, with all proceeds going to **Mend on the Move**. Note: the Small Change Ministry can take contributions of any kind, not just change. So far, we have raised \$66 for this ministry -- thank you to all who have contributed!

**FOOD PANTRY** Saint James supports the **Iroquois Food Pantry**. Nonperishable food items are needed to support the clients who come to the food pantry. Please take time to pick-up some nonperishable food items to share when grocery shopping this week. Most needed items: powdered milk, canned soup, stews and ready-to-eat meals. Place items on the shelves in the Welcome Area.



**ASH WEDNESDAY** is **Wednesday, February 18**. Worship with Imposition of Ashes will take place at **St. Paul at 12 PM** and **Saint James at 7 PM**.

**LENT** On Wednesdays during Lent, join us at **12 PM** at Saint James for Eucharist weekly from **February 25 to March 25**. We will also hold our evening supper at **5:30 PM**, Vespers at **6:30 PM** and Bible Study at **7:15 PM**. We will alternate each week between Saint James and St. Paul for supper, Vespers, and bible study, beginning on **February 25 at Saint James**. Midday services will also be available weekly at **St. Paul on Tuesdays at 12 PM** from **February 24–March 24**.