

Epiphany 5

February 8, 2026



SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH | stjamesgp.org | 313.884.0511
170 McMillan Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Pastor Denise M. Grant | pastor@stjamesgp.org

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).

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

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

PRELUDE *God, Whose Almighty Word*

Jeffrey Blersch

STAND

GATHERING

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

CONFESSTION & 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

that we may do justice, love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God.

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

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

ELW 527

red songbook in pew rack

APOSTOLIC GREETING

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 All glory be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, creation's
3 To you alone, O God, we cry, the Holy One we
give - en! Let angels 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

SIT

WORD

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: *Jesus says, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life. (John. 8:12)*

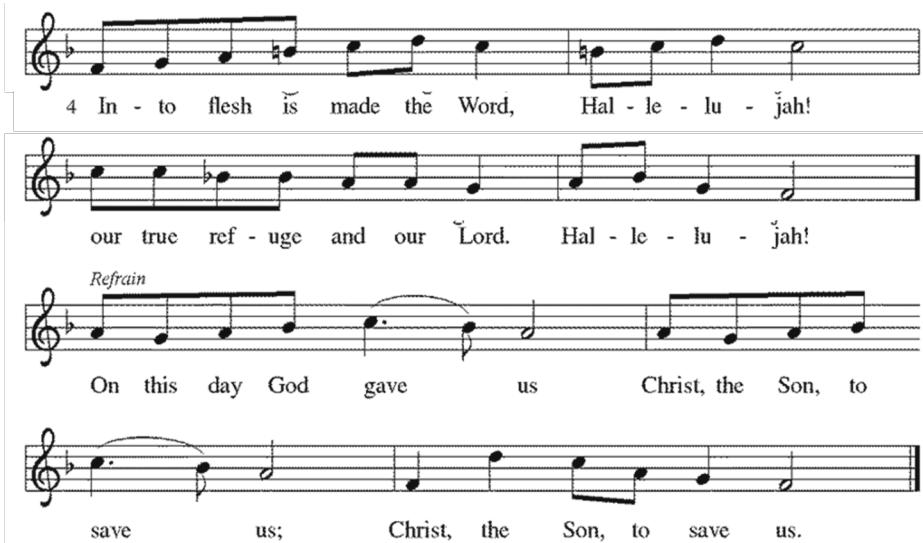
*The Holy Gospel
is read in the
midst of the
people as a sign
of our Lord's
presence is in
our midst in
worship.*

REPEAT ALLELUIA

HOLY GOSPEL

see page 14 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 *God, Whose Almighty Word* ELW 673

STAND

APOSTLES CREED

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

*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.*

**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.**

INTERCESSIONS

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

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

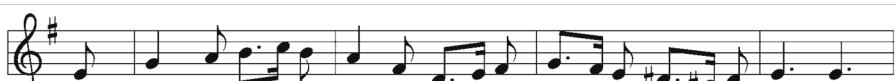
PEACE

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

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



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!

**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

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.

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 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.

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).

EUCARISTIC 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.

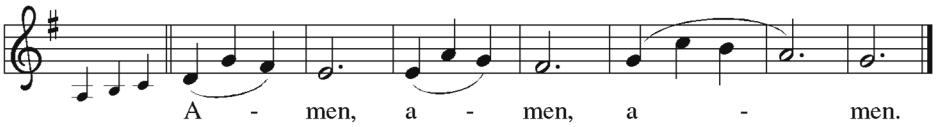
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.



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.

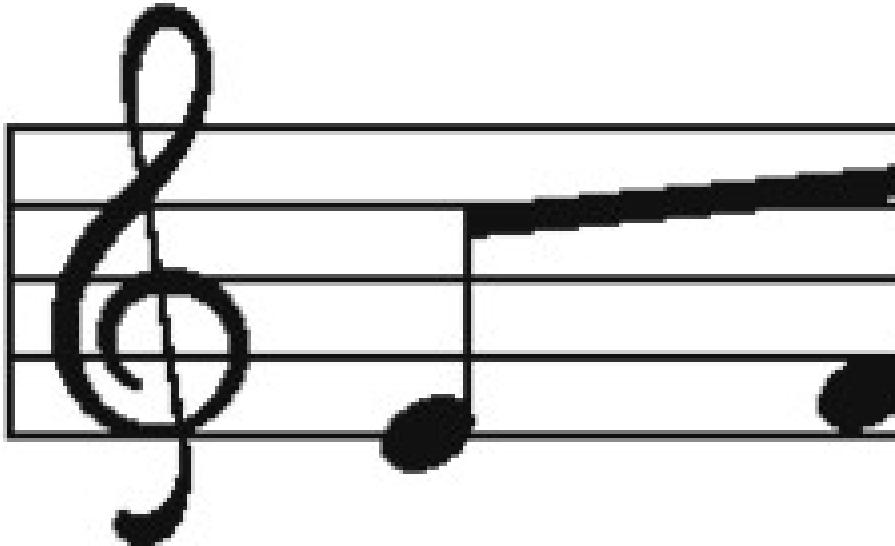


THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

HYMN *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky*

ELW 553

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 dip it 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 ful-filled. 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

Thy Strong Word

ELW 511:1-4

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 *God, Whose Almighty Word* Kevin Hildebrand

EPIPHANY 5 LESSONS

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.
following the lesson

¹Shout out; do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.
⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
^{9a}Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say,
“Here I am.”

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112:1-9



Light shines in the dark - ness for the up - right.



¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who ¹ fear the LORD
and have great delight in ¹ God's commandments!

² Their descendants will be mighty ¹ in the land;
the generation of the upright ¹ will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches will be ¹ in their house,
and their righteousness will ¹ last forever.

⁴ Light shines in the darkness ¹ for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full ¹ of compassion. *Refrain*

⁵ It is good for them to be gener- ¹ ous in lending
and to manage their af- ¹ fairs with justice.

⁶ For they will nev- ¹ er be shaken;

the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
⁹ They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor. **Refrain**

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SECOND LESSON **1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Return to page 4 for Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL**Matthew 5:13-20**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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 8

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

Worship Leaders for February 15

Assisting Minister: Richard Ferrara
Communion Assistant: Gini Bunchek
Lector: Barb Radtke
Altar Guild: Karol Evard & Gini Bunchek
Livestream: Sue Martin
Ushers: Arnold Brammeier & Dalton Black

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

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 no later than Tuesday.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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
1pm: Women of the Word (Meditation Room)
6:30pm: Church Council (Undercroft)

Wednesday, February 11

Pastor Grant's Office Day
8am: Men's Bible Breakfast (National Coney Island)
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

Sunday, February 15

Transfiguration
Handbells Ring
11am: Holy Eucharist
Fellowship immediately following worship

Monday, February 16

President's Day
Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, February 17

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

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday
Pastor Grant's Office Day
9am-1pm: Office Hours
12pm: Imposition of Ashes (at St. Paul)
4pm: Handbells (Sanctuary)
4:30pm: Choir (Music Room)
7pm: Imposition of Ashes (**at Saint James**)

LOOKING AHEAD: Feb. 25—Lent Schedule Begins

The Weekly Newsletter of Saint James Lutheran Church
For the Week of February 8, 2026



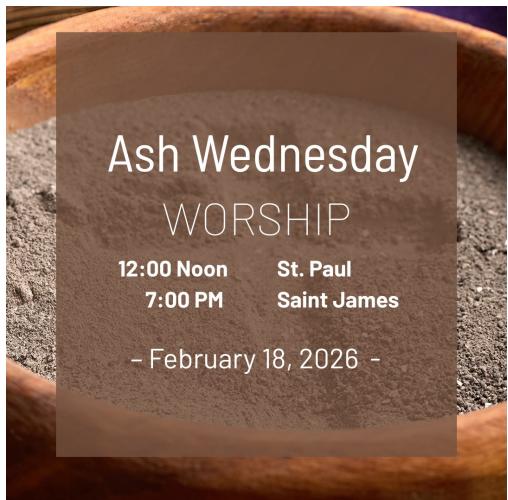
CHURCH COUNCIL meets next on **Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 PM** in the undercroft. All members are welcome to attend any council meeting.

 **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

WORSHIP

12:00 Noon St. Paul
7:00 PM Saint James

- February 18, 2026 -

LENT On Wednesdays during Lent, join us at **12 PM** at Saint James for Eucharist weekly from **February 25 to March 25**. Midday services will also be available weekly at **St. Paul** on **Tuesdays** at **12 PM** from **February 24– March 24**.

On Wednesday evenings we will host 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**. Feel free to attend any or all of Wednesday evening's events — there is no expectation to attend all 3. See the eNews for more details on bible study, or contact the office.

ALTAR FLOWERS Next **Sunday, Feb. 15** is the last Sunday to provide altar flowers for until after Easter. If you are interested in providing flowers for next Sunday, please sign up on the kiosk, fill out a yellow flower form and contact the office no later than **Tuesday, Feb. 10**.