A dynamic splash of water in shades of blue and white, with many bubbles and droplets, filling the background of the page.

Lent 3

March 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

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

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

HOLY EUCHARIST

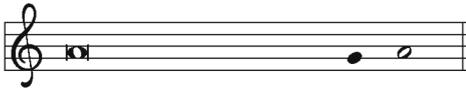
The celebration of the sacrament, **Holy Eucharist** (also called the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion), is central to our worship. Saint James practices an open table for Holy Communion, which means that all people are invited to participate in the sacrament. Jesus is the host of the meal and extends a wide welcome. Children are welcome to participate, but may also come forward with folded arms to receive a blessing. Distribution information is found on page 10.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts* ELW 658

APOSTOLIC GREETING

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



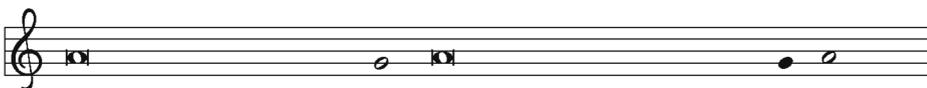
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Notice the use of the word 'us.' This indicates that the Kyrie is not only a personal plea for God's mercy, but also a corporate (common to everyone.)

Together we pray for God's mercy and peace to be upon us and all people: our community, the Church, and the world.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

The Prayer of the Day also known as The Collect begins with a silence of 5 to 10 seconds is kept to quietly collect ourselves to speak and listen to God in prayer.

SIT

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST LESSON

see page 12 of this bulletin

PSALM

see page 13 of this bulletin

SECOND LESSON

see page 14 of this bulletin

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci -
ful, slow to an-ger, and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

The musical notation is in G major, 4/4 time. The first line contains the lyrics 'Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci -' with a triplet of eighth notes over 'gra-cious'. The second line contains 'ful, slow to an-ger, and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

STAND and SING

Text: Joel 2:13
Music: Anne Krentz Organ
Music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
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The Proper Verse, which is a single line of scripture that highlights the theme of the day's scriptures, is sung by the choir or cantor.

Verse : *Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give me this living water that I may never thirst again. (John 4:42, 15)*

REPEAT ACCLAMATION

HOLY GOSPEL

see page 14 of this bulletin

RETURN ACCLAMATION Christ, the Life of All the Living ELW 339:1

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.

The musical notation is in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below each staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

HOMILY

SIT

HYMN OF THE DAY *As the Deer Runs to the River*

ELW 331

STAND

APOSTLES CREED

*We are baptized
in God's Triune
name: Father, Son
and Holy Spirit.
Each part of The
Apostles Creed
tells about one
part of the Trinity,
reminding us what
God has done and
will do.*

**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.**

INTERCESSIONS

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

THE PEACE

In the season of Lent, our focus turns to reconciliation with God: confessing our sins, repenting of them, and having our relationship with God made right. Having been reconciled to God (by Jesus) we are therefore able to be reconciled to one another, that is, we can forgive one another. When we share the peace of the Lord with another person, we are asking for forgiveness and in turn forgiving them.

TABLE SETTING *Seed That in Earth Is Dying* ELW 330:1, 3

- 1 **Seed that in earth is dying
grows into ears of grain.
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel
turn into golden wine.
God, through this mystery grant us
faith in our deepest darkness,
life in our night and death.**

- 3 **Seed that in earth is dying
rises to bear much fruit.
Christ, as we meet at your table,
give us the bread of life.
Lord, we do thank and adore you!
Unceasing praise of the ages
rises from night and death.**

REMAIN
STANDING
& SING

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929
English text © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER

Merciful Lord, you invite us to keep the season of Lent so that we remember the humble ministry of Your Son. Give us the devotion to live more sparingly and then share what is saved that our neighbor may rejoice to see Your unselfish love through us, through Jesus Christ our LORD. **Amen.**



TITHES & OFFERINGS

Instead of 'passing the plate,' Saint James receives offerings in a) offering plates near each sanctuary entrance, b) via online giving at stjamesgp.org, and c) via Zelle app (QR code). Your gifts support the ministry of the church.

MEAL

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 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

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might live with and serve all your creatures.

When disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, keeping your covenant with us, and teaching us through your prophets the hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin.

To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

The Words of Institution are prayed.

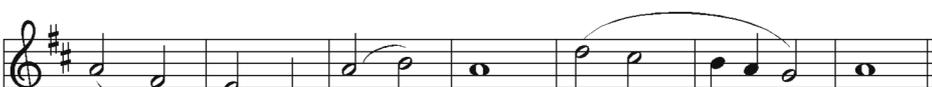
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.



Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

We pray with the words that Jesus first taught to his disciples when they asked him how to pray. Mt 6:9-13

The bread is broken and distributed for all. We share in the body and blood of Jesus, whose real presence is with us in this sacred meal.

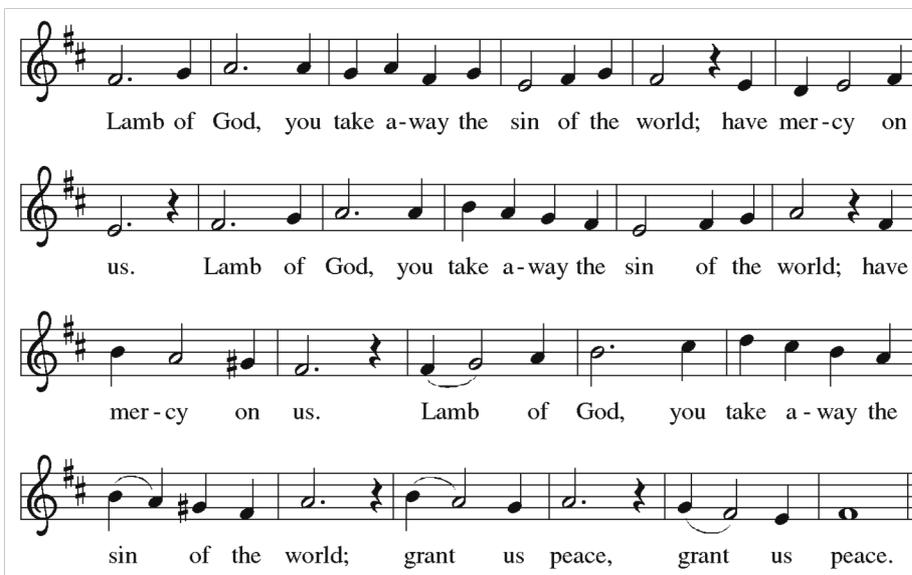
THE BREADING OF THE BREAD

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world;
our peace and reconciliation.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

LAMB OF GOD

*The Lamb of God
is drawn from the
Gospel of John;
John 1:29*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

SIT

SAINT JAMES COMMUNION PRACTICE

Distribution

Come forward via the central aisle.

Communion Distribution is offered by **intinction**.

Receive the host (bread/Jesus' body) in the hand, hold it and 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.

If you prefer to receive the sacrament in the pew, please let an usher know before worship that this is your preference.

Return to your place via the outside aisles for private prayer.

DISTRIBUTION & DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

HYMN *Rock of Ages* ELW 623

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

*After all have
communed
STAND as
indicated by the
Presider.*

SENDING

SENDING PRAYER

Merciful God, renew in us the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, and fast from self-indulgence, that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Let us endeavor
to put the
traditional
Lenten disciplines,
prayer, fasting,
and works of
love, into practice
that our words
and deeds would
reveal our Savior
to the world.*

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* ELW 611

DISMISSAL

Saved by faith and formed to serve in the name of Christ,
go forth into the world to serve with gladness.
Be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good;
do not repay evil with evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted;
honor all people; love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*May this season
be a time of
spiritual renewal,
that creates a
greater sense of
God's presence
with each person
and with this
community.*

POSTLUDE *Rock of Ages* Lee Hastings Bristol Jr.

FIRST LESSON Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

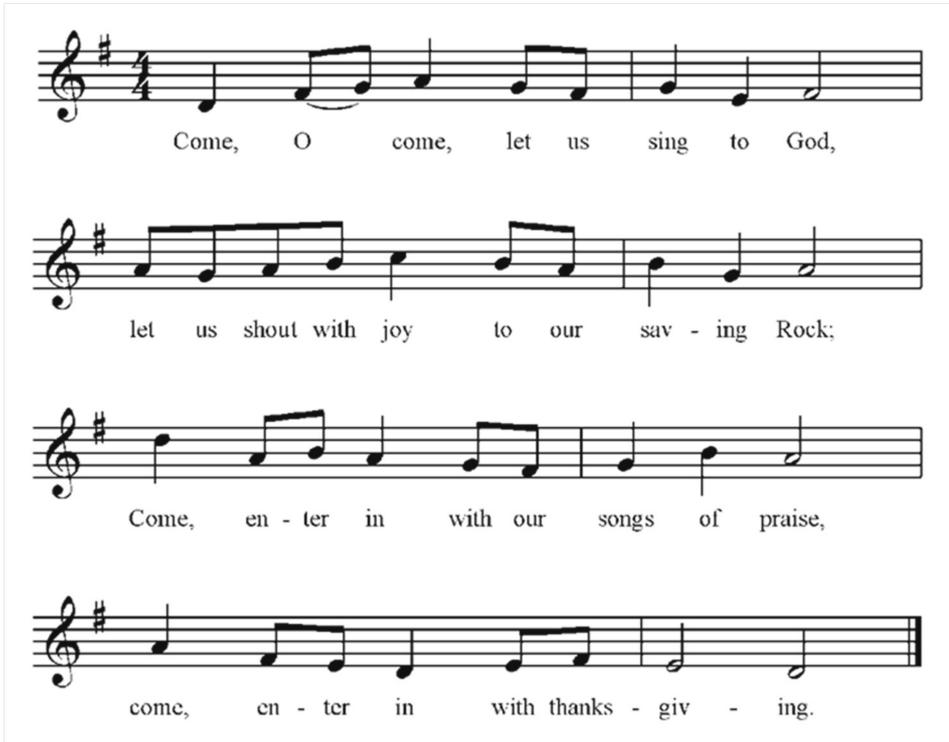
following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95

Marty Haugen



Come, O come, let us sing to God,
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;
Come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

You are a great and a wondrous God, cupping in your hands all the depths of earth
You made the hills and the mountains high, you made the seas and the dry land. **Refrain**

Come, let us worship and, bowing low, kneel before the Lord who as made us all.
You are the God whom we call our own, We are the flock that you shepherd. **Refrain**

O that today you would hear God's voice, "Harden not your hearts as in days of old.
There in the desert you tested me, Doubting although I had saved you. **Refrain**

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SECOND LESSON Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Return to page 5 for Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL John 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read.

following the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Return to page 5 for the Return Acclamation

Worship Leaders for March 8

Assisting Minister: Richard Ferrara
Communion Assistant: Gini Bunchek
Lector: Nancy Kopka
Altar Guild: Emily Richardson
Livestream: Lena Picek
Ushers: Henry & Holly Bryan

Worship Leaders for March 11 (6:30 PM)

Candle Bearer: Rich Moellering
Lector: Nancy Kopka
Ushers: Susan & Dick Allison

Worship Leaders for March 15

Assisting Minister: Susan Allison
Communion Assistant: Lena Picek
Lector: Andrew Picek
Altar Guild: Tracey Simpson
Livestream: Lisa Shrader
Ushers: Hank & Tracey Simpson

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, March 8

Lent 3
Daylight Savings Time Begins
11am: Holy Eucharist
Fellowship immediately following worship

Monday, March 9

Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, March 10

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)
9am-12pm: Office Hours
12pm: Noon Eucharist (at St. Paul)
1pm: Women of the Word (Meditation Room)

Wednesday, March 11

8am: Men's Bible Breakfast (National Coney Island)
9am-1pm: Office Hours | *Pastor Grant's Office Day*
12pm: Noon Eucharist
4pm: Handbells (Sanctuary)
4:30pm: Choir (Music Room)
5:30pm: Lenten Supper (Gathering Area)
6:30pm: Vespers Service | 7:15pm: Bible Study (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 12

9am-12pm: Office Hours

Friday, March 13

Office Closed on Fridays | *Pastor's Day Off*

Sunday, March 15

Lent 4
11am: Holy Eucharist
Fellowship immediately following worship
6pm: Luther League Dinner & Ice Cream (Gilbert's Lodge)

Monday, March 16

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

Tuesday, March 17

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)
9am-12pm: Office Hours
12pm: Noon Eucharist (at St. Paul)

Wednesday, March 18

9am-1pm: Office Hours | *Pastor Grant's Office Day*
12pm: Noon Eucharist
4pm: Handbells (Sanctuary)
4:30pm: Choir (Music Room)
5:30pm: Lenten Supper (St. Paul)
6:30pm: Vespers Service | 7:15pm: Bible Study (St. Paul)

March 25th Supper, Vespers & Bible Study will be at Saint James

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



WOMEN OF THE WORD meets next on **Tuesday, March 10th** at Saint James at **1 PM** in the Meditation Room. All women are welcome to attend this monthly bible study.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST The St. Paul Men's Bible Study meets the second Wednesday of each month at **8 AM** at the National Coney Island on Mack Avenue near Moross. This month's meeting takes place on **Wednesday, March 11**. All men are welcome!

LUTHER LEAGUE The St. Paul youth group will be meeting next on **Sunday, March 15** for Dinner at **Gilbert's Lodge** and ice cream at **Wally's Frozen Custard** in St. Clair Shores. All Saint James youth and their friends are welcome to join! Please RSVP to Suzanne Powell by Saturday, March 14. Each youth attending will need a signed transportation and medical waiver. Parents are encouraged to attend if/when more drivers are attended. Please contact Suzanne with any questions, the office can provide her contact information.

CHURCH COUNCIL The next church council meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 24** at **6:30 PM** in the upstairs lounge. All members are welcome to attend any council meeting.

LENT On Wednesdays during Lent, join us at **12 PM** at Saint James for Eucharist weekly until **March 25**. Midday services will also be available weekly at **St. Paul** on **Tuesdays** at **12 PM** until **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. **March 11th** will be held at **Saint James**. Feel free to attend any or all of Wednesday evening's events — there is no expectation to attend all 3. Please sign up for the suppers on the kiosk.



BOOK CLUB meets next on **Tuesday, March 24** at **1 PM** at Jeanette Knutson's home (see your directory or contact the office for the address). We will be reading *James* by Percival Everett. All are welcome to join for any month's discussion! April's selection is *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell.



PALM SUNDAY is **March 29th, 2026!** Journey through Holy Week with us beginning with **11 AM** worship that Sunday. **Maundy Thursday** worship will be **7 PM** on **April 2** at **St. Paul**. **Good Friday** will be held at **7 PM** on **April 3** at **Saint James**. Our first Easter celebration is the **Easter Vigil** on **April 4** at **7 PM** at **St. Paul**. We will celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday, **April 5** at **11 AM**.

SPECIAL EASTER GIFTS Please consider contributing towards special music and flowers for Easter. Please fill out the Special Easter Gifts form and return the form and your check to the church office. Gifts received by **March 29th** will be acknowledged in the Easter bulletin.