



St. James Lutheran Church *"In the City for Good"*

From Pastor David's Desk...

Want to start a church?

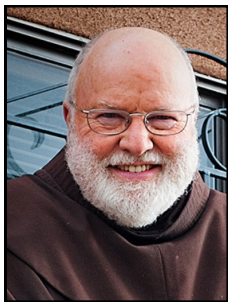
Let's gather a bunch of unlikely people:

- Maybe a person with unclean lips (Isaiah)
- A former persecutor of followers of Jesus (St. Paul)
- A business woman in a male-dominated world (Lydia)
- Three fishermen who can't catch a thing. (Disciples).



God seems to pick the most unlikely people to be The Church. Gratefully, we are among them.

This year we mark the **135 anniversary of ministry** as a St. James Congregation. In 1890, an unlikely group of people wanted to worship in English (not German, Swedish or Norwegian). Membership was divided by those who could contribute ten cents per-month and those who could only give five cents. Within nine years, St. James received notice of a "Sheriff's Sale" due to unpaid local taxes. The Council voted to not pay.



Theologian Richard Rohr suggests that "the revolutionary idea of the Bible is that God is manifest in the ordinary, in the actual, in the daily incarnations of life." That manifestation is what this Epiphany season in February is about. As we hear stories of Jesus' tangible earthly acts of ministry, we are invited to not be spiritual beings but human beings. God is active in the ordinary, the unlikely. God reveals God's self in water, word, meal and the face of the poor. Power and glory come not from Washington D.C., but from, as Jesus said "the one who welcomes even a small child in my name."

Let's celebrate being an unlikely bunch. Oh, and maybe we should pay those back-taxes!

Pastor David

February 2025 Newsletter

Worship & Learning

In-person:

Sunday Eucharist at
9:30am

Sunday School at
11:00am

Online: Live video
available Sunday
mornings

www.bit.ly/2MzdcxX

St. James February Jazz Vespers

February 16th, 2025
at 4:50pm

Dan Balmer, guitar



Wednesday Noon Eucharist Begins

We gather again midweek to celebrate the Eucharist. This 30-minute service in Pioneer Chapel begins on **Wednesday, February 19** and continues through May. Pastor David will lead and Colin will be at the piano. In March, Pastor David will guide us in a Bible Study on the themes of the book of Exodus titled “**Unlikely Moses and the Nine Commandments.**” It will take place immediately following the Wednesday service. Invite a friend to join you.

Helping the Unsheltered with Food Boxes

Our food ministry continues each weekday at 11:30am. Join us on **Tuesdays, February 4 and 18 at 10am in Pioneer Chapel** to pack food boxes for our neighbors. Stay tuned for an Open Space on the Food Ministry on **February 23!**



Welcome To Our Pulpit

On Sunday, February 2, **Pastor Martha Maier** will preach and preside at St. James. Martha is a Lutheran pastor and daughter of the late St. James member Gene Maier. She has served parishes in Corvallis and Vancouver. The following Sunday, February 9, our former bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke will lead us in worship and involve our five Confirmation students. Welcome!

St. James’ 2024 Ministry By the Numbers & Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 26, ninety-one of us gathered for worship in-person and most stayed for our Annual St. James Congregational Meeting. In a span of 24 minutes, our Council President Sue Hammond skillfully enabled us to thank God for our 2024 ministry, pass a \$543,183 ministry spending plan for 2025, and elect leaders. Here’s a quick look at some ministry numbers:

- St. James is a congregation of **220 members**, welcoming **24 new members** in 2024
- Celebrated **8 baptisms**
- United **2 couples** in marriage
- Held **9 funerals** (4 member and 5 non-member)
- Ended the year with an **offering surplus**
- Increased our **average in-person** worship attendance from **73 to 79**
- Grew our average **online worship** attendance to **126 views** per service.
- Distributed over **4,000** servings of food to the houseless
- Helped to **train two chaplains** with Emanuel Hospital
- Our Endowment Ministry gave over **\$61,000** to help beyond our doors



Our thanks to those who were elected to these positions:

- **St. James Council** (decision-making body): Eric Deitrick, Charlie Tohlen, Carol Bergen, Charlotte Cook, Bill Herbert
- **St. James Endowment Committee:** Cathie Coffman, David Scott
- **Nominating Committee:** Jules Auger, Sue Hammond, Linda Riddle

<p>Contact us at: St. James Lutheran Church 1315 SW Park Ave Portland, OR 97201</p>	<p>Office Hours: 7:30am-2pm 503-227-2439 office@stjamespd.org Newsletter Production: Sarah Cutler Newsletter Editor: Kathleen McDonald</p>
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January Council Highlights

Treasurer's Report: December was great for congregational giving at \$67,089.88, which brought the general fund balance to a surplus of \$3,494.58. December income was \$71,059.28; year to date income is 101.57% of the annual budget.

Pastor's Report: Youth confirmation classes began on January 12 with 5 students. PDX Housing Solidarity giving is now over \$20,000. The deadline for this fundraiser ends on January 31. Wednesday Noon Eucharist begins February 19 with a Bible Study to follow starting March 12.

President's Report: St. James Housing Board met with Cambridge staff on January 13 to discuss updates on the St. James Apartments. Many problems and concerns were about security.

Committee Reports: The Endowment Committee will be able to distribute \$61,000 in 2025; \$54,000 was distributed in 2024.

Other Business: The final proposed budget for 2025 was presented before the annual meeting. Under Expenses, there was a new line added called "TRANSFERS-Reserve Funds" which contains \$22,000 due to the surplus at the end of 2024. Most of the surplus was distributed between designated funds including capital funds, honorariums, and choral scholars. The Oregon Synod Assembly will be held in Portland this year and St. James will send Pastor Knapp and Sue Hammond as our delegates.

Youth Confirmation at St. James

On January 12, five St. James Jr. High students began their ten-month Confirmation journey. We blessed them at the altar, gifted them with a Bible, a Small Catechism and The Lutheran Handbook, and promised to pray for them each day. They are **Emmett Deitrick, Hannah McCargar, Meg Allan, Blake Allan and Mira Allan**. This



month, they gather on **Sunday, February 9** to lead us in a worship litany and explore the Genesis creation story under the theme "Faith and Science – Babylon and the Garden of Eden." Former Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke will provide leadership. Then on March 9, Pastor Barry Rogge will provide a field trip to a local woodworker who crafts crosses. The theme is "What's the Big Deal About the Cross?" Classes will continue each month through October.

In addition to your daily prayers, you can support these young people by volunteering to provide a lunch for them (8 total) at 11:30 am on the second Sunday of each month. Will you sign up? Our thanks to Linda Larsen for providing a delicious lunch in January.



Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate Sale

St. James WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) continues to offer Coffee and Chocolate benefitting Fair Trade – particularly women farmers and small farm Fair Trade operations. WELCA has never sought to make a large profit; our mission is to buy true Fair Trade products supporting true Fair Trade farmers. WELCA also provides Fair Trade coffee for both congregational coffee hours and the St. James weekly staff. Your donations at our monthly sale coffee hour are always appreciated! The new 2025 price list has been posted on the hallway bulletin board outside the Pioneer Chapel. See you on **February 2!**

- Ann Tohlen WELCA Coffee/Chocolate Lady



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:30am Contemplative Prayer (Zoom) Thank you ; PDX Housing Giving Complete
2 <u>Presentation of Our Lord Sunday</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:30am Coffee Hour 11am Open Space	3 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	4 8am Preschool CDC 10am Food Boxing 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	5 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	6 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	7 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	8
9 <u>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:30am Coffee Hour 11am Open Space 11:30am Confirmation Class	10 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	11 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	12 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	13 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	14 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	15 9:30am Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)
16 <u>Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:30am Coffee Hour 11am Open Space 4:50pm Jazz Vespers 6pm Artist Reception	17 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	18 8am Preschool CDC 10am Food Boxing 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7pm Council	19 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 12pm Noon Eucharist	20 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	21 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	22
23 <u>Seventh Sunday after Epiphany</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:30am Coffee Hour 11am Open Space	24 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	25 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7:10pm Book Club	26 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 12pm Noon Eucharist	27 8am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	28 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	

St. James Ministries and Groups

Jazz Vespers at St. James: Sunday, February 16 at 4:50pm with Dan Balmer, guitar - Portland Jazz Festival Event!

Kicking off the **2025 Portland Jazz Festival** is our guest, Dan Balmer on guitar. From chart-topping success with the Tom Grant Band in the '90s to world tours with two-time Grammy Award winner Diane Schuur and contemporary jam-bands, Dan Balmer brings fire and heart every time he plays the guitar. His playing spans nearly one hundred CDs including twelve as a leader from which his original works have appeared internationally in television, film



and radio. An in-demand educator, Dan maintains a busy schedule of private lessons, group clinics and master classes throughout the US and abroad. Come hear him and the Mike Horsfall Trio on **Sunday, February 16**. Pre-Vespers music starts at **4:50pm**. There will be **no artist reception to follow**. The next will take place on March 16 for Hilde Morin's work. Joel Nickel's artwork will remain for viewing in the Pioneer Chapel through February.

Open Space Classes

Join us for our upcoming Adult Classes on Sundays at **11am!**

- February 2:** **Personal Insight into Painting** - St. James Guest Artist Joel Nickel
- February 9:** **God Loves a Cheerful Giver** - Guests from PDX Housing Solidarity Charlie Collier and Allison Brinkhurst will present potential BIPOC candidates to receive our gift.
- February 16:** **Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbor's Car: A Light Hearted Look at Automobile Obsession** - Scott Ellertson Presenting
- February 23:** **Volunteering for the Food Ministry** - Sarah Cutler and Corinne Gross share stories, talk behind-the-scenes, and call for volunteers for our St. James food ministry.
- March 2:** **Preparing for Death and New Life** - Pastor David Knapp and Music Director Colin Stave talk planning end-of-life wishes and funeral requests.
- March 9:** **Chan Chan - Capital of the Chimu: The largest city in South America 1400** - Friedrich Scuhler presenting



E-GIVING AT ST. JAMES

Open the camera on your smartphone and direct it to the image to the left. It will take you to the e-giving page: stjamespdx.org/e-giving. You can also access the page from any internet enabled device (desktop/laptop computer, tablet, phone, etc.). **You can also give using the Vanco Mobile app.** If you have issues accessing your account contact Karin at karinh@stjamespdx.org.



Last of Klamath River Dams Destroyed, Restoring Endangered Salmon's Ecosystem

"Why The Dams had to be Destroyed," National Geographic, Jan. 20, 2025, with words by Milli Myers.

On November 17, 2022, The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission unanimously approved the removal of four Klamath River dams, which restored the health of the river and brought about the return of the endangered salmon, the lifeblood of many indigenous people in their twenty-year battle to save the salmon. The turning point in the native river people's quest was in 2002 when "disease brought on by drought, warm waters, and low river flows left 34,000 dead adult salmon decaying on the banks of the Klamath." The smell was overwhelming. The Klamath Justice Coalition and the Indigenous Peoples Power Project worked for over a generation to provide the leadership and direct intervention at shareholder meetings with companies that owned the dams. They brought banners and chanted "Undam the Klamath, Bring the Salmon Home!" Throughout 2024, the last of the dams were blasted and dismantled. Once again, the Klamath reclaimed its power, and the salmon began to return to the river of their birth, as they have done for thousands of years.

Congratulations to the Karuk Tribe and all peoples of the river who have worked tirelessly for so long "to bring the salmon home."

- Submitted by Doris Nielsen, the Eco-Justice Committee



Contemplative Prayer

We will continue to meet on Zoom on first and third Saturday mornings at **9:30am**. This month, we will meet on Saturdays, **February 1 and 15**. Consider joining our group for time of intentional silence and meditation. We welcome new members any time. For information or to receive the meeting link, contact Susan McBerry at sumacberry@gmail.com.

New Member Sunday

St. James continues to grow in membership and will again welcome new members on **Sunday, March 16** during worship. Six people from three households have already asked to make St. James their spiritual home on that date. If you would also like to join this ministry, please speak with Pastor David.



News from the St. James Child Development Center (CDC)

We've enjoyed a wonderful January at the Child Development Center. While the weather has been sunny and dry, the cooler temperatures means more gross motor play inside. Did you know that toddler, preschool and kindergarten classrooms participate in weekly yoga and creative movement classes? Our phenomenal yoga teacher, Martha, has been teaching children about their bodies and making healthy choices for more than ten years. The children learn



yoga poses through story-based yoga routines that keep them excited and engaged. In yoga and creative movement class, there is always dancing and exercising all of those muscles. Teacher Martha also incorporates mindfulness practices, helping children to become more self aware and develop emotional regulation skills.

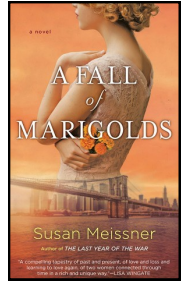


In Our Prayers

We ask God’s healing for Jim Eickmann, Lynn Strand, Sharon Kurtz, Gavin Morisada, Peter Kim, Amy Manning, Barbara Roady, Gail Koester, Donna Metz, Rita Toepfer, Keith Amundson, Scott Ellertson, Chris Hammond, and Victoria.

St. James Book Club

This month, Book Club will be reading **A Fall of Marigolds** by **Susan Meissner**. The author’s tagline for this book is “a beautiful scarf, passed down through the generations, connects two women who learn that the weight of the world is made bearable by the love we give away.” Book Club will meet on Tuesday, **February 25** at **7:10pm** at the church. Contact Linda Rickert for any questions.



February Birthdays and Anniversaries

2/5	Friedrich Schuler	2/18	Martin Mills
2/6	Kathleen McDonald	2/21	Gabriel Kirkeberg-Proo
2/12	Nancy & Michael Feldman	2/22	Andrew Lyle
2/13	Quinn Mott	2/24	Ginamarie Pezzi
2/16	Jim & Margaret Eickmann	2/26	Marsha Gulick

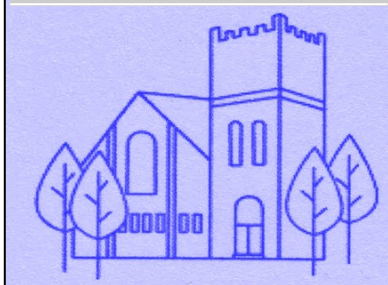
Sunday Refreshment Hosts and Altar Flower Sponsors

COFFEE HOUR: Will you sponsor a Sunday coffee hour? Coffee hours help to build community and connections in our congregation. We always appreciate contributions. It’s an easy and a fun way to get to know members.

FLOWERS: If you would like to contribute flowers to Sunday Worship, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the hallway. Another option for those short on time would be to provide flowers or cash to Judith Smith, who is happy to arrange a bouquet on your behalf!

	COFFEE	FLOWERS
February 2:	OPEN	OPEN
February 9:	OPEN	OPEN
February 16:	OPEN	Bob & Gerry Grover
February 23:	Eco-Social Justice Committee	OPEN

St. James shares God's inclusive and eternal love with everyone



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STAFF

Full Time:

David Knapp, Pastor
Patrick Earnest, Director, Child Dev. Center

Part Time:

Karin Hatch, Parish Administrator (remote)
Sharon Kurtz, Bookkeeper
Colin Stave, Director of Music Ministry
Mike Horsfall, Director of Jazz Ministry
Sarah Cutler, Administrative Assistant

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sue Hammond, President
David Scott, Vice President
Leigh Nelson, Secretary
Esther Portnoy, Treasurer

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