



St. James Lutheran Church

"In the City for Good"

From Pastor David's Desk...

"All the world is a stage; it's also a casino."

- Morgan Housel



Casinos are places of choice. Should I bet? How much? What are the odds? In some ways, we live in a casino since we are constantly making decisions.

Our forty-day journey of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5, and it is a time to reflect on God's choice of loving us, and how we daily choose to respond. At St. James, the biblical character Moses will accompany Jesus to guide us. Moses chose to murder an Egyptian soldier (Exodus 2). Moses chose to trust God's promise to rescue the enslaved Hebrews (Exodus 14). Moses chose to be guided by the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). So each week we will be guided by these themes:

- Lenten Sermons -- "Moses & Jesus: From Sinai to Golgatha"
- Pastor David's Wednesday Bible Study -- "Unlikely Moses and the Nine Commandments"
- Lutheran World Relief's 80th Anniversary of caring. How will we respond?

With the rapid and often chaotic choices coming out of Washington D.C. that have many of us living in fear and uncertainty, let's get grounded. The stories of Moses and Jesus will direct us beyond the glitz and false facades of life's casinos to make wise choices.

Pastor David

March 2025 Newsletter

Worship & Learning

In-person:

Sunday Eucharist at
9:30am

Sunday School at
11:00am

Midweek Eucharist,
Wednesdays at noon
in the Pioneer Chapel

Online: Live video
available Sunday
mornings

www.bit.ly/2MzdcxX

St. James March

Jazz Vespers

March 16th, 2025 at
4:50pm

John Stowell, guitar

In the News

Our very own Kathleen McDonald has made the news with her dairy in the current issue of the Columbia River Reader. The article covers the Little Island Creamery she and her brother co-operate, and lovingly deems them and her cows "cheese wizards". Congratulations!



Births and Wedding Bells

We celebrate two births and two wedding announcements here at St. James. Congratulations to **Meagan Wheeler** and **Ryan Pierce** at the birth February 16 of son **Cary Bennett Pierce**, as well as to **Ted Lulich** at the birth of his first grandchild **Dahlia Anna Lulich**. Best wishes to **Irina** and **Nima** who will be united in marriage here in early May, and to **Sarah Nelson** and **Thomas Morisada** who have set a wedding date for January.



Sending Love to Our Trans Brothers and Sisters

In light of the recent executive order, here is a message from our Oregon Synod **Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar**:

“As followers of Jesus, we affirm every person’s inherent dignity and worth. We recognize that each individual is fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God (Psalm 139:14; Genesis 1:27). This truth is reflected in the vast diversity of human experience and expression, including the ways people understand and live out their gender. The truth is that the transgender and non-binary experience is not ‘new.’

I am deeply concerned by the recent executive order, which rejects the concept of gender identity in favor of a simplified view of humans as either male or female. This view does not account for the complexities of human identity...

In the social statement, “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action,” the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commits to “advocate for and support laws, policies, and practices that respect diverse bodies rather than discriminating against, objectifying, or devaluing them”. No one should experience violence or discrimination because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. The Oregon Synod stands in solidarity with all people, especially those who are marginalized or misunderstood, and we seek to create spaces where everyone can feel seen, heard, and loved.”

“Unlikely Moses and the Nine Commandments”

This spring, Pastor David will lead a mid-week study on Moses. Join him each **Wednesday** from March 12 – May 21 immediately after our 30 minute **Noon Eucharist Service** in Pioneer Chapel.

Who was Moses? Is there archeological evidence that he lived? How many people crossed the Red Sea? Do non-biblical writings mention him? How many commandments did God give Moses? Are those commandment relevant today? Pastor David will draw course material from the scholarship of Richard Nysse (Luther Seminary), Carol Meyers (Duke University), Bart Ehrman (UNC at Chapel Hill), and William Dever (U Arizona- Tucson). Read the book of Exodus. Here’s a look at some of our first class topics:

Wed. March 12

Wed. March 19

Wed. March 26

Wed. April 2

Wed. April 9

“Why Moses Matters”

“Moses: Murderer or Mentor”

“Moses: What Archeologists Found”

“The Exodus: Crossing the Red Sea”

“Moses and Bonhoeffer”

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Newsletter Production: Sarah Cutler
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February Council Highlights

Presentation: Mandy and Scott Ellertson gave an update by the Eco Social Justice Committee of the selected family to receive the church's donation. PDX Housing Solidarity presented potential candidates and the committee selected Teresa Gaddy to receive the donation. Once Teresa has an escrow account secure, St. James will write a check to the escrow account.

Treasurer's Report: Congregational giving for January was great at approximately \$47,300. Expenses were not as high, leaving a surplus for the month of \$13,242.

Election of Officials: Three of the four 2024 officers were eligible for re-election. Newly elected officers are as followed: Sue Hammond as **President**, Charlotte Cook as **Vice President**, Esther Portnoy as **Treasurer**, and Leigh Nelson as **Secretary**.

Pastor's Report: There will be seven new members and one adult baptism in March. Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner will be on March 4. Ash Wednesday Noon service will be on March 5. Pastor Knapp starts his 11-week Bible Study on March 12 following the Wednesday Noon Eucharist service. A bequest to St. James will be received in the amount of \$20,000.

President's Report: The elections at the annual meeting are as follows. For **Council:** Eric Deitrick (reelected). Charlie Tohlen (reelected), Carol Bergen, Charlotte Cook, and Bill Herbert. For **Endowment Committee:** Cathie Coffman (reelected) and David Scott (reelected).

Other Business: Charlotte Cook requested that St. James continue the Box Car health and school kits. Carol Bergen called for a St. James policy concerning ICE agents.

Lenten Season Preaching Theme -- From Sinai to Golgatha

The liturgical season of Lent (March 5 – April 20) at St. James will bring together the central story of the Hebrew Scriptures along with the paramount story of the New Testament. Each week the sermon theme will point to the Exodus story of freedom from Egyptian slavery and also Jesus' journey to bring us freedom through the cross and Easter resurrection. On the 1st Sunday of Lent (March 9) Pastor David will share the service with his good friend Bishop Dave Nagler of the Pacifica Lutheran Synod (San Diego).

St. James Hosted the Portland Jazz Festival

On February 16, St. James had the wonderful opportunity to host the first event of the Portland Jazz Festival. Over eighty joined us as Mike Horsfall and special guest Dan Balmer played classics like "Blue Moon" and "It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)." Photo by Ron Zellar.



Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate Sale Coming March 2

March to another drummer! Results from 2023 note our supplier, Equal Exchange, used 718 Tons! of organic & fairly traded cacao, sugar and vanilla and worked with 18,000+ small scale farmers organized into 15 co-ops in 7 countries to produce the chocolate you love. The average partnership between Equal Exchange and their farmer co-ops is 14 years – it's a commitment. Over 2.4 million dollars was paid to those farmer co-ops in 2023, with more that 50% paid up-front before the harvest. Thanks for supporting true fair trade. Hope to see you in the Pioneer Chapel on March 2! - **Ann Tohlen WELCA Coffee/Chocolate Lady**

MINISTRY EVENTS AT ST. JAMES

Giving Beyond Our Deaths

This month St. James will receive a bequest from the estate of **David and Anna Hoffman**. Longtime St. James members, David died in 2008 and Anna died in November at age 90. While attending St. James, they made plans to give a portion of their estate to the ongoing ministry of St. James. We are grateful. Many of us have already placed St. James in our wills and you are encouraged to do the same. Thank you to David and Anna for their gift.



An Open Space class about end-of-life plans will be offered on **Sunday, March 2 at 11am** by Colin Stave (organist), David Scott (lawyer), and Pastor David.

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

We uphold our long-standing tradition of gathering on the evening before Ash Wednesday. A dinner of pancakes will be prepared on Shrove Tuesday, **March 4 at 5:30pm** in Pioneer Chapel. For centuries, Christians have used the oils, eggs and fat in their home in this meal before the penitential season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Come and sing your last “Alleluia” until Easter!



Ash Wednesday Noon Worship

We gather for the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion on **Wednesday, March 5 at noon** in the sanctuary. Our forty-day journey begins with confession and centering ourselves as we journey with Jesus to the cross and ultimately to Easter joy. Invite a friend to begin the journey with you.

Youth Confirmation Journey

Five young people from St. James continue their journey in learning about our Christian Faith. After two months of emphasis on the 1st Article of the Apostles’ Creed (God as creator who seeks a relationship with us), in March we begin our focus on the 2nd Article of the Creed (Jesus as the redeemer). On **Sunday, March 9**, Pastor Barry Rogge will provide a field trip to the home of Howard and Pasty Nolte. In the woodworking shop, our students will see the construction of crosses and hear Howard’s story of how the meaning of the cross has shaped his life. Thank you for continuing to pray for our students **Emmett** Deitrick, **Hannah** McCargar, **Meg** Allan, **Blake** Allan, and **Mira** Allan.



New Member Sunday

We will again welcome new members into our St. James family. On Sunday, **March 16**, seven people will make St. James their spiritual home. They will be introduced in worship and a reception will follow. Welcome!

St. James Endowment Group Meets

St. James has been blessed to have an active Endowment Fund ministry. A portion of the fund is given away each year; mostly to those ministries and helping agencies beyond our doors. The first meeting of the Committee is year will be on Sunday, **March 16 at 11:15am**. Requests will be considered and then later confirmed by the St. James Council. St. James members can find request forms on our website (stjamespdx.org) or in the church office. Questions? Call Chairperson Cathie Coffman.

News from the Childcare Development Center

The Child Development Center currently has 90 children enrolled, with six new children starting in March. The center was able to hire additional staff due to increased funding from Preschool for All, allowing us to accommodate the new children. During the last week of February, we hosted a Scholastic Book Fair in



the Pioneer Chapel to help the children discover a love for reading and work as a fundraiser. This summer, we are set to welcome back more than 15 school age children for our exciting recreation based program that operates upstairs in our kindergarten classroom.

- Patrick Earnest, Childcare Director



Cards for the Congregation

The Card Ministry is mighty, but mighty small. We could use your help! If you like to write notes and send birthday/anniversary cards to congregational members, we take turns sending cards once a month. Talented member Jane Pahlmeyer and one of her friends hand make the cards for Card Ministry, and stamps are provided by the church. Ann Tohlen coordinates Card Ministry, and can be reached either at anntohlen@yahoo.com or leave a message at 503 236-0200.

St. James Authors Publish New Books

Congregation members and authors **Brenda Clough** and **Lori McCloskey** have all recently published new books, as did frequent visitor **Rochelle Jefferson**. Rochelle's newest novel is set in Portland and England.

Lori's new book is called Wet Weather Mysteries, with all new mysteries outside of her usual Max the Cat Detective series. Brenda's upcoming sci-fi novel His Selachian Majesty Requests set in 1979 will be available the first week of April.



Helping the Unsheltered with Food Boxes

Our food ministry continues each weekday at 11:30am. Join us on **Tuesdays, March 4 and 18 at 10am in Pioneer Chapel** to pack food boxes for our neighbors.



Your Gift to Emanuel Medical Center Chapel

In 2023, St. James gifted Emanuel Medical Center \$17,500 to support their \$1 million project of creating an interfaith space in the hospital for individuals from all faiths. That chapel has now been completed and will be dedicated on Wednesday, April 9. Pastor David and some St. James leaders will attend. Our name, St. James Lutheran Church, has been placed on their donor wall. Our thanks to Spiritual Care Director Jill Rowland for inviting us to partner with her and others to make this possible.



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.

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:30am Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)
2 Transfiguration Sunday 9:30am Eucharist - Council Installation 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 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	5 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 12pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist	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 First Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Time 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 12pm Noon Eucharist 12:40pm Bible Study	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 Second Sunday of Lent 9:30am Eucharist 11am New Members Reception 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 7:10pm Council	19 8am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 12pm Noon Eucharist 12:40pm Bible Study	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 Third Sunday of Lent 9:30am Eucharist/ Baptism 10:30am Coffee Hour	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 12:40pm Bible Study	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	29
30 Fourth Sunday of Lent 9:30am Eucharist 10:30am Coffee Hour	31 8am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry					

St. James Ministries and Groups

Jazz Vespers at St. James: Sunday, March 16 at 4:50pm with John Stowell, guitar

John Stowell is a local jazz guitarist and in-demand clinician for music students. He is known for his pragmatic, intuitive teaching style that involves his students and helps them find their own voices in the music. His music has stretched across the world and music industry. In 1983, John joined flutist Paul Horn, bassist David Friesen and Paul's son Robin Horn for a historic tour of the Soviet Union. This was the first time in forty years that an American jazz group had been invited to play public performances in Russia. With bassist David Friesen, John was featured in the soundtracks of two Academy Award Nominated short films, and John maintains a robust live performance schedule touring in the Pacific Northwest, the United States, and Europe. Come hear him and the Mike Horsfall Trio on **Sunday, March 16**. Pre-Vespers music starts at **4:50pm**.



St. James Visual Arts Group: Hilde Morin

The Visual Arts Group once again presents an exhibit of wonderful fiber art by local artist Hilde Morin in March and April. “Walls in Stitch” is part of Hilde’s architectural portfolio, showcasing a series of works inspired by her personal memories of Venezuela, as well as her travels to Argentina, Cuba and France. Through these pieces she seeks to capture the architectural essences, structural forms, textures and visual narratives that define each of these places. The exhibit offers an exploration of memory, place and design, blending cultural influences and personal experiences. Don’t miss her reception on **March 16** at **6pm** after **Jazz Vespers** when she answers all your questions about these pieces.



Open Space Classes

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

March 2: **Preparing for Death and New Life** - Attorney David Scott, Music Director Colin Stave, and Pastor David 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

March 16: **New Member Reception—Welcome!**

March 23: **Spring Break—No Class**

March 30: **Spring Break—No Class**



Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill Benefits and Current Freeze

I recently interviewed a family member who works for the Environmental Protection Agency as an engineer. They said the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL), signed into law in 2021, was the most influential piece of legislation in their lifetime. I was delighted to hear positive news and learn about the many programs that this bill supported in our country. The bill distributed billions of dollars to "projects that are providing cleaner air, cleaner water and cleaner land than ever before" and aims to rebuild and modernize our nation's crumbling infrastructure with an emphasis on providing green jobs.

In Oregon, the BIL awarded grant allocations for water, transportation, and broadband projects. One Oregon project includes restoration of habitats in Southeastern Oregon, such as the Sage Brush Project, which benefits hunters and anglers, as well as increasing the population of regional wildlife. BIL is also responsible for \$8 million towards the recent upgrades at Portland Airport and the Redmond airport.



Unfortunately, much of the funds for continuing the work of the BIL have been frozen. According to a February 13, 2025 OPB article, "a nearly \$200 million federal grant aimed at boosting climate action throughout Oregon is currently frozen — for now. It's causing uncertainty throughout state agencies that worked together to help win the competitive award and say they are unsure if and when the federal funds would become accessible. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality said Thursday at least six federal grants awarded to the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost current climate action programs are currently frozen."

It remains undetermined if and when the funds approved to support the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill will be unfrozen and put back into restoring our habitats, fixing our roads, and addressing many of the issues associated with Climate Change.

- Submitted by Mandy Ellertson, the Eco-Justice Committee



Contemplative Prayer

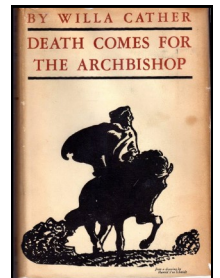
We will continue to meet on Zoom on first and third Saturday mornings at **9:30am**. This month, we will meet on Saturdays, **March 1** and **15**.

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.

St. James Book Club

This month, Book Club will be reading Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather. According to GoodReads, this novel first published in 1927 is "an epic--almost mythic--story of a single human life lived simply in the silence of the southwestern desert." Book Club will meet on Tuesday, **March 25** at **7:10pm** at the church. Contact Linda Rickert for any questions.



Holy Baptism

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for new member **Dyana Carcamo Buendia** on Sunday, **March 23** during morning worship. Dyana is a Fulbright Scholar from Honduras who is engaged in study at Portland State University. Her area of study is Special Education and she hopes to start a program in her home country in a few years. She is already a member of our St. James Art Group.



In Our Prayers

We ask God's healing for Jim Eickmann, Lynn Strand, Gavin Morisada, Peter Kim, Amy Manning, Gail Koester, Donna Metz, Rita Toepfer, Keith Amundson, Chris Hammond, Claire Davis, and Victoria.

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

3/1	Lori Metz	3/11	Matt Duskin
3/3	Melody Driscoll	3/11	Emma Scott
3/3	Neil Jorgenson	3/14	Max Kirkeberg
3/3	Hunter Nelson	3/16	Joel Davis
3/6	Caitlin Stave	3/20	Lydia Holden
3/7	Cathie Coffman	3/20	David Knapp
3/7	Brooke Mott	3/22	Charles Ellertson
3/7	Lucas Nelson	3/28	Shelley Immel
3/8	Darwin Isensee	3/29	Sue Hammond
3/8	Shirley Roggen	3/30	Becky Bolt
3/10	Eric Deitrick	3/30	Robert Bolt

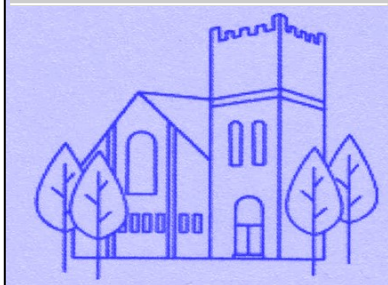
Sunday Refreshment Hosts and Altar Flower Sponsors

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
March 2:	The Ellertsons	Walter Matera
March 9:	Bolts, Carl, Sue	No Flowers—Lent
March 16:	The Scotts	No Flowers—Lent
March 23:	David Rutlen & Jane Lloyd	No Flowers—Lent
March 30:	OPEN	No Flowers—Lent

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
Sharon Kurtz, Bookkeeper
Colin Stave, Director of Music Ministry
Mike Horsfall, Director of Jazz Ministry
Sarah Cutler, Administrative Assistant

ST. JAMES COUNCIL

(Installation on March 2)

Sue Hammond, President
Charlotte Cook, Vice President
Leigh Nelson, Secretary
Esther Portnoy, Treasurer
Charlie Tohlen
Susan Gallagher
Eric Deitrick
Gretchen Rodgers
Carol Bergen
Bill Herbert

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