



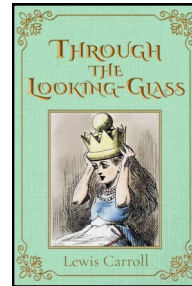
St. James Lutheran Church

"In the City for Good"

From the Pastor's Desk...

"Six impossible things before breakfast."

- *Lewis Carroll*



At St. James, we just moved from forty days of Lent to the fifty days of the Easter season. We have also moved into what was seemingly impossible: Easter.

In Lewis Carroll's 1871 story Through the Looking Glass, the Red Queen proclaimed to Alice that she often believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast. Easter, for us, is therefore not just a day, but rather experiencing the Risen Christ's presence as the impossible becomes pregnant with possibilities. We hear that life bursts from the barriers of death. As a St. James congregation, that may look like:

- **"Sharing God's inclusive love with all."**
- Our St. James Mission Statement
- **"The Church is a field hospital."**
- the late Pope Francis
- **"The Church is the Church only when it exits for others."**
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- **"The Church is not a building. The Church is a people."**
- Camp song

"The Oregonian" newspaper on Easter day ran an article concerning the decline of downtown Portland churches. At St. James, we are growing! Does that seem impossible? Uncertainty and confusion out of Washington D.C. are rattling businesses and stock markets. We respond with feeding those in need, calling on our elected officials to be true to democracy, and bringing hope to the refugee. Suddenly, the impossible becomes possible.

I don't know what others usually do before breakfast, but at St. James we believe six impossible things. And the Easter Risen Christ is leading the way!

Pastor David

May 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 May Jazz Vespers

May 18, 2025 at
4:50pm
John Moak,
trombone

“Unlikely Moses and the Nine Commandments”

There are two sessions left of Pastor David’s mid-week Bible Study that explores Moses’ life. They will take place in the **Pioneer Chapel** at **12:40pm** after **Midweek Noon Eucharist**. Please note that these are also the last two dates of Midweek Eucharist. Here are the upcoming topics of discussion:

Wed. May 7
Wed. May 14

“Jesus and the Commandments”
“Wilderness Wandering”



We Are A Sanctuary Church

Our Oregon Synod (99 ELCA churches in the state) declared itself a “Sanctuary Synod” some years ago. Following in Christ’s welcome to all, we continue to be a welcoming place of safety and hope for the refugee. At the April meeting of the St. James Council, policy language was composed for both our St. James Church and Child Development Center. The policy is posted on the bulletin board in the church office area.

Youth Confirmation

Our five confirmation students will meet with Pastor David on Mother’s Day, **May 11**, for an 11am lunch, followed by a class on The Ten Commandments and how they are intended to protect God’s good gifts. These classes continue monthly through October. On Reformation Sunday, October 26, our students will publically affirm their baptism and confirm their faith.

Helping the Unsheltered with Food Boxes

Join us on **Tuesdays, May 13 and 27 at 10am** in **Pioneer Chapel** to pack food boxes for our neighbors. If you are interested and available to take out food on Fridays, please let the front desk know.



St. James and the Portland Pride Festival

On the afternoon of **Sunday, July 20**, we will join with other Lutheran Churches in Portland to support LGBTQ+ children of God by staffing a booth in Waterfront Park. The “Sacred Space” booth will be a place of acceptance and welcoming as we provide water, a listening ear, a temporary tattoo, and Holy Communion. See Pastor David or Karin Hatch if you would like to serve with us.



Holy Baptism at St. James

Nora St. Mary will be baptized on Sunday, May 4. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Patrick St. Mary. On Mother’s Day, we will bring to the baptismal font little **Cary Bennett Pierce**, the infant son of Meaghan Wheeler and Ryan Pierce. On June 1, we will baptize **Maya Torrey Hatch**, the daughter of Karin Hatch and Erika Torrey.

Contact us at:
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Newsletter Production: Sarah Cutler
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen McDonald

April Council Highlights

Treasurer's Report: March income was \$43,109.26. Congregational giving was great and the highest in the month of March in the last 17+ years.

Pastor's Report: There was great attendance for Easter on April 20, with 166 in person and 48 for Jazz Vespers. This year marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Dave Brauer-Rieke will lead two Open Space classes on May 18 and May 25. Endowment Request by Eco Social Justice Committee: The committee requested \$2,500 to purchase supplies to provide 200 meals to go and 200 snack packages for the food pantry program at Portland Community College (PCC) for students during the summer months. Motion passed. Pastor Knapp gave updates on the formation of the two task forces who will lead the St. James 135th anniversary of ministry:

1. Look Back with Gratitude

Reception/Meal, Guest Preacher, Building Improvements, and Updated Membership Directory

2. Look Forward to Ministry Ahead

Mission Statement Review, St. James Lay Visitation Team, and Ministry Fair

Committee's Report: Charlotte Cook would like to pack the Box Car health kits on May 1 at 4pm so that they will be sent out the following few days.

Other Business: Carol Bergen has added additional information to the Know Your Rights draft for the St. James Lutheran Church Policy for being a Sanctuary Church. This includes What to Do During an ICE visit, Oregon DOJ Civil Rights Unit Sanctuary Promise Toolkit, Portland Public Schools (PPS) directive that the St. James CDC follows, Sanctuary States, and Federal Judges in the Portland Metro Area. Motion passed and posted on office bulletin board.

Boxcar Project

On **Thursday, May 1**, we prepared Personal Health Kits for those in need around the globe via Lutheran World Relief. Charlotte Cook brought items (towel, soap, toothbrush, etc.) for us to pack, and then on Friday, area Lutheran churches will packed a semi-truck that will be placed on a boxcar and shipped.



Wine Tasting at St. James

Pastor Barry Rogge will again host a special wine-tasting event on Sunday, **June 1** after worship. This is courtesy of Archery Summit Winery in Dayton.

Preparing for St. James' 135th Anniversary

We thank God for our active ministry as we gather on Sunday, **July 27**. We will experience Anniversary Worship with guest Pastor Robert Neubert, a festive meal, a new anniversary banner, some building improvements, and an updated directory.

Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate Sale

Time to restock after Easter. Fair Trade Chocolate (and Coffee!) will be available for purchase in the Pioneer Chapel on Sunday, **May 4** following the morning service. Rumor has it that both chocolate and coffee prices are expected to rise. Get your favorites at today's prices and beat those increases. While you're at it, grab your mother a gift in time for Mother's Day!

- Ann Tohlen WELCA Coffee/Chocolate Lady

ST. JAMES CELEBRATED HOLY WEEK



News from the Child Development Center

Spring Greetings from St. James CDC! All classrooms have been enjoying the beautiful spring weather with a lot of time out in the fresh air.

Children have been spotted creating beautiful artwork with sidewalk chalk in the park blocks, exercising all of those muscles at the PSU field,



and chasing bubbles in the courtyard. Preschool classrooms have also been practicing mindfulness techniques on the courtyard labyrinth. All classrooms are looking forward to the return of the Portland Farmer's Market on Wednesdays where they will purchase healthy foods to add to their meals and snacks.

- Patrick Earnest, Childcare Director



Holy Week Photos

Our thanks to Albert Alter, Ron Zellar, and Sarah Cutler for taking and editing photos for the collage on the left. Thank you for helping us reflect on the events from last month.

Pack Food Bags with Eco-Justice Committee for PCC Panther Pantry

Join the Eco Social Justice Committee on **Sunday, June 8** to pack food bags for the PCC Panther Pantry during Open Space. Students and staff from PCC will join us. The funding for this project was made available by the Endowment Committee. If you cannot make it to the packing event, but still want to help, consider donating a \$25 gift card. Gift cards are used to support student with urgent need. This emergency assistance can be used to purchase items not regularly offered in the pantry such as culturally appropriate food items, diapers, over the counter medicines, and gasoline. Contact Mandy Ellertson for questions (melletso@pcc.edu).

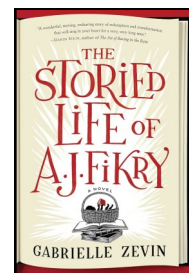


St. James Joins the 2025 CROP Hunger Walk

On April 27, the "Soles of St. James" walking team joined five other groups to walk the 2025 CROP Hunger Walk. Over \$2900 was raised by the local teams to donate to the fight against hunger. The walk spanned two bridges and ended where it began at First Christian Church. Thank you to all who participated.

St. James Book Club

This month, Book Club will be reading [The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry](#) by Gabrielle Zevin. Receiver of a Nomination for a GoodReads Choice Award, this novel follows a bookshop owner and the child that was left on his doorstep. Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, May 27 at 7:10pm** at the church to discuss it. Contact Linda Rickert for any questions.



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.

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 4pm Boxcar Project Personal Care Kits 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	2 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry Boxcar Delivery	3 10am Baptismal Conference
4 <u>Third Sunday of Easter</u> 9:30am Eucharist / Baptism 10:30am Coffee Hour/ Fair Trade Coffee Sale 11am Open Space	5 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	6 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	7 7:30am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 12pm Noon Eucharist 12:40pm Bible Study	8 7:30am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	9 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	10 9:30am Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)
11 <u>Fourth Sunday of Easter</u> 9:30am Eucharist/ Baptism 10:30am Coffee Hour 11am Confirmation Class	12 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	13 7:30am Preschool CDC 10am Food Boxing 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	14 7:30am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 12pm Noon Eucharist 12:40pm Bible Study	15 7:30am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	17 10am Eickmann Memorial Service
18 <u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:30am Coffee Hour 11am Open Space 4:50pm Jazz Vespers 6pm Artist Reception	19 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	20 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7:10pm Council	21 7:30am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	22 7:30am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	23 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	24 9:30am Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)
25 <u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:30am Coffee Hour 11am Open Space 5pm Choral Cantata Vespers	26 <u>Memorial Day</u> No CDC/Office Closed 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	27 7:30am Preschool CDC 10am Food Boxing 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7:10pm Book Club	28 7:30am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	29 7:30am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	30 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry Synod Assembly	31 Synod Assembly

St. James Ministries and Groups



Jazz Vespers at St. James: Sunday, May 18 at 4:50pm with John Moak, trombone

Portland State University writes: "Since moving to Portland in 2006, trombonist, John Moak has quickly become an integral part of the Northwest music scene. John has more than three decades of professional experience performing with symphony orchestras, ballets, Broadway musicals, big bands, Dixieland bands, various jazz groups, and in recording studios. He has performed as a member of the Louie Bellson Orchestra and Octet, the Clark Terry Quintet, and has performed with such popular acts as Aretha Franklin, The Four Tops, The Temptations, Glen Campbell and Johnny Mathis. John also has over 30 years experience teaching music to all ages and levels from beginners to professionals. He has taught trombone, trumpet, jazz improvisation, and jazz ensembles at the University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma Christian University, Portland State University, and the University of North Florida. John regularly works with several Hot Jazz and Swing groups around Portland." Come hear John and the Mike Horsfall Trio on **Sunday, May 18**. Pre-Vespers music starts at **4:50pm**.

St. James Visual Arts Group: Mirabella Artists

The Visual Arts Group has invited artists from Mirabella Senior Residence to exhibit their art in May and June. The art selected ranges from watercolor, oil painting and fiber and digital art by thirteen residents. A reception for the artists will be held on **Sunday May 18 at 6pm** in the Pioneer Chapel just after the Jazz Vespers Service.



Choral Cantata Vespers

Premiered 300 years ago in 1725, Bach's Cantata BWV 6 Bleib bei uns, denn es will Abend werden reflects the Easter season, the essence of our evening vespers tradition, and the difficulties of today. The opening text, "Abide with us, for it will soon be evening, and the day is now declining," from Luke 24, is typically assigned to the days immediately following Easter. The closing text, from Martin Luther's hymn Erhalt uns, Herr pleads for light in a time of darkness. Join us on **Sunday, May 25 at 5pm** to hear this piece.

Open Space Classes

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

May 4 **Navigating the Quick Changing Mandate from DC** - Josh Peters McBride, a VP at Portland Community College will share how PCC is approaching the mandates, executive orders, and cuts from DC.

May 11 **Mother's Day—No Open Space**

May 18 & 25 **The Creeds We Profess: Do I Believe That?** - Celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed's composition, former Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke will guide a deeper look at the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.



ELCA Signs the Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Declaration

Did you miss the news about the Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Declaration in support of refugees? The ELCA and many other denominations, along with numerous individual leaders, signed on. It begins:

Together in faith and rooted in love, we resolve to continue in the centuries-old practice of Christian communities walking alongside refugees and immigrants in their pursuit of safety and dignity. We pledge to restore and promote hospitality and welcome to those seeking refuge - regardless of where they are from, how they pray or what language they speak.



The Declaration goes on, calling us to consider what it means to follow Jesus. Sometimes when we hear stories of Jesus feeding or healing people, we miss or overlook the fact that the recipients of his help were “others” – non-Jewish residents in the country. [Matthew 8:5-13 and 15:21-28, Luke 17:11-19] The readings that accompany the celebration of Passover remind participants, over and over again, to remember that they were once foreigners and refugees. In our own time and place, refugees and immigrants are harmed by misinformation and fear-mongering while our government turns on its head our historic commitment to welcome newcomers, symbolized by the Statue of Liberty.



You can find the whole text of the Declaration at https://cwsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/B_March4-Ecumenical-Declaration.pdf, and you can sign on at <https://bit.ly/43sT5qi>

- Esther Portnoy, for the Eco-Justice Committee



In Our Prayers

We ask God's healing for Gail Koester, Donna Metz, Keith Amundson (the Pearl Rehab), Gerry Grover (hospice care), Barbara Steege (hospice care), Gavin Morisada, Peter Kim, Amy Manning, Chris Hammond, Rita Toepfer, and Ruth, mother of Gretchen Rodgers.

In Memoriam

Long time member Jim Eickmann died recently at age 94. We gather with Margaret and family for his memorial service at St. James on Saturday, May 17 at 10am.



Contemplative Prayer

For the month of May, Contemplative Prayer will be on the **second** and **fourth** Saturdays: **May 10** and **24** at **9:30 am** on **Zoom**. In June, the group will

return to first and third Saturdays, June 7 and 21 on Zoom. New members are always welcome. Please join us as you are able for prayer, both silent and spoken. For information, please contact Susan McBerry at mcberry@lclark.edu.

An Easter Prayer of Blessing

“Draw us forth, God of all creation.
Draw us toward and away from limited certainty
Into the immense world of your love.
Give us the capacity to even for a moment
Taste the richness of the feast you give us.
Give us the peace to live with uncertainty,
With questions, with doubts.
Help us to experience the resurrection anew
With open wonder and an increasing ability
To see you in the people at Easter.”

- Author Unknown

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

5/1	Richard & Barbara Wegner	5/14	Hazel Torrey Hatch
5/3	Claire Davis	5/14	Doris Nielsen
5/3	Annika Tohlen	5/15	Joel Bornzin
5/5	Quinn Howe	5/15	Jack Davis
5/7	Bruce & Candace Johnson	5/15	Anisa Nokham
5/10	Bill Herbert	5/19	Gretchen Rodgers
5/10	Jan Nelson	5/20	Darlene Wiersig
5/10	Henry Pierce	5/22	Lori McCloskey
5/12	Keith Amundson	5/23	Chelsea Kimmett
5/14	Chrisse Roccaro & Stephen Guntli	5/30	Jeffrey Rhoades
5/14	Meg Allan	5/30	Alan Rutherford
5/14	Cora Nelson	5/31	Emily Howe

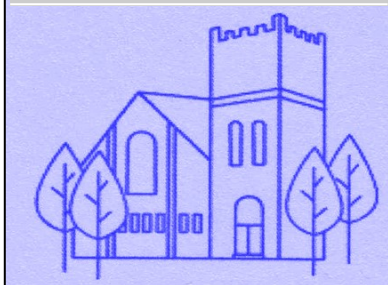
Sunday Refreshment Hosts and Altar Flower Sponsors

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
May 4:	Tohlen/Windal/St. May Families	Marsha Gulick
May 11:	Wheeler/Pierce Family	Wheeler/Pierce Family
May 18:	Ted Lulich & Erika Mills	Lulich Family
May 25:	OPEN	Carl Cottingham

*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

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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