



St. James Lutheran Church

"In the City for Good"

From the Pastor's Desk...

"Your kingdom come; your will be done..."

Are you heaven-bound?

The American philosopher Dalles Willard authored a book in 1998 titled "The Divine Conspiracy." In it he suggests:

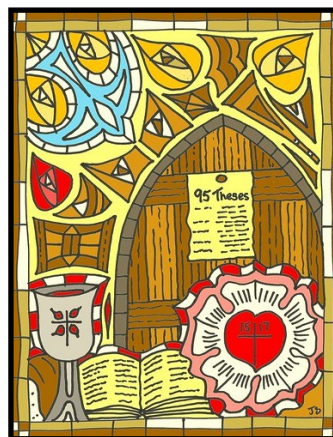
"I am thoroughly convinced that God will let anyone into heaven who, in his considered opinion, can stand it."

Can we stand it? The central message of Jesus' earthly ministry was the Kingdom of God. God is busy among us building a society at odds with what the world offers. This kingdom – this new way of living -- ushers in seeds of compassion, hope, love of our neighbor and care for God's creation. It is counter-cultural as we turn the other cheek. We pray for our enemies. We know our money is to be shared. Our lives are an act of treating all with dignity. We pray for this kingdom.

But what if we don't see value in this new-kingdom way of life? Since God's kingdom will be fully experienced in heaven, if we don't appreciate those attributes here, why would we be comfortable with them in an after-life? Thus Dalles Willard's implied question: will we be able to stand heaven?

This month at St. James five young people will confirm their faith in this new kingdom (October 26). We will offer our volunteer time when 20 committees/groups are represented at our Ministry Fair (October 12). We will begin a four-week emphasis on recognizing our giftedness in Christ (October 12 – November 9). All of it is kingdom-work and a taste of heaven that demands both joy and challenge. Unless, of course...we can't stand it.

- Pastor David



October 2025 Newsletter

Worship & Learning

In-person:

Sunday Eucharist at
9:30am, followed by
coffee & Open Space

Online: Live video
available Sunday
mornings

[www. bit.ly/2MzdcxX](http://www.bit.ly/2MzdcxX)

St. James October Jazz Vespers

October 19, 2025 at
4:50pm

John Nastos on
woodwinds

St. James is In The City For Good

Join us for all the events of our St. James Autumn Stewardship Emphasis. It was 135 years ago that we were planted in the center of the city. Now we employ our gifts, talents and resources faithfully for the common good. Thus our theme verse from Isaiah is “You will be called the City of Righteousness, the Faithful City.” Here is how we will recognize and share our gifts:

Sunday, October 12— Ministry Fair after worship. Over 20 of our ministries will be represented. Where will you volunteer?

Sunday, October 19— Allowing our giftedness to sing. Music Director John Cox will share “Twelve Songs that Changed the World.”

Sunday, October 26— Reformation and Confirmation Sunday. Our young people will share their faith as we continue to reform and grow.

Sunday, November 2— Our All Saints celebration highlights the gifts of those who came before us. Luther Seminary President Robin Steinke is our guest from Minnesota.

Sunday, November 9— We bless our “Estimate of Giving” cards at the altar. That afternoon our musicians share their gifts with a Bach Cantata Vespers Service.

Confirmation Day— Reformation Sunday

On **Sunday, October 26**, five of our young people will complete their ten-month learning journey and affirm their baptism by confirming their faith. They have spent time monthly exploring the Bible, the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, the sacraments and taking field trips to learn of others’ pattern of spirituality. On their special day we will hear faith statements in their own words. It will be a Reformation Day to remember. Congratulations to Emmett Deitrick, Eric McCargar and Meg, Blake and Mira Allan.

Food Box Ministry

We are actively helping our Park Block Community get ready for the winter season with new warm socks and ponchos, along with food & hygiene packs. Interested in volunteering for a supplies pick up at Costco or working with a team in setting up Distribution Boxes? Contact Mali, St. James Church Admin, for more information. We also invite you to join us on **Tuesdays, October 14th and 28th**, at **10am** in **Pioneer Chapel** for our bi-weekly food box packing.



Contact us at:
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September Council Highlights

Treasurer's Report: Year to date income is 66.00% of the annual budget. The month to date balance is at -\$9,085.48, but the year to date balance is still good at \$3,465.61.

Pastor's Report: 45 people attended the "I am the Vine; you are the Branches" adult class in conjunction with First Congregational Church. The St. James Autumn Stewardship Emphasis is "In the City for Good". Dates and weekly themes were shared. Mali Jensen has been hired as the new administrative assistant following the departure of Sarah Cutler.

President's Report: There was continued discussion of the proposal to install five recessed fixtures to replace the existing three exposed bulb lighting that is above the walkway in the back of the nave. The motion passed with a 4-3 vote. A Search Committee will be formed to determine the two permanent positions for Organist and Choir Director or one person for Music Director, and to look for potential applicants.

Committee Reports: Endowment Committee proposal approved.

In St. James News

Your Vision Task Force

At our July 135th anniversary event, the St. James Council called upon five members to review our St. James Mission Statement and provide suggestions for our future ministry. This group, led by Cathie Coffman, has been meeting at least once a month and hopes to present these suggestions at our January 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting. Our thanks to members Andrew Lyle, Leigh Nelson, Martin Mills and David Rutlen.

Worship Area Updates

Our thanks to Don and Doris Nielsen and Larry Larsen who have been working with the St. James Council to enhance sanctuary lighting and restore lighting fixtures with a sense of our 135 year architectural history in mind. Work on these lighting changes will begin October 6th.

Luther Seminary President at St. James

On Sunday, November 2, seminary president Dr. Robin Steinke will step into our St. James pulpit as we commemorate All Saints Sunday. Dr. Steinke has served as the leader of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN since 2014. St. James member David Rutlen presently serves on the Luther Seminary Board. After worship at 11:00 am she will take your questions at an Open Space titled "Where Have All The Churches Gone."

Endowment Ministry

Our St. James Endowment team continues to distribute funds to enhance the lives of those outside our doors. In September we honored a request to help fund a feeding program for school children in the Hillsboro area. Our thanks to Esther Portnoy for sharing this need.

New Members— Sunday, November 23

St. James will again welcome new members into our church family. On Sunday, November 23 we will introduce them during worship and get to know them better at the reception that follows. If you also would like to make St. James your church home, please speak with Pastor David.

News from the Child Development Center



We've had a wonderful start to the school year at the Child Development Center. We currently have 90 children enrolled in the program, with several more enrolling as we move through the fall. This year, classrooms are utilizing updated curriculum from Teaching Strategies. The curriculum is a research-based program that helps children meet each milestone in their development through intentional teaching experiences. Teachers introduce activities that promote social-emotional, cognitive, physical, and language growth. We also partner with families to provide resources and activities to support learning at home. We're looking forward to another year filled with love and learning at the CDC.

- Patrick Earnest, Childcare Director



Your Daily Devotional

St. James joins Lutheran Churches around the country in a shared daily devotional booklet. Copies of "Christ in Our Home" are available four times a year at St. James with the most recent issue spanning October – December. You will find them on the coffee hour tables for you to take home.

Visiting Those In Their Homes

Did you know that thirteen St. James members are being visited monthly by our trained Visitation Team? In addition to Pastor David's visits, the team members bring the church community to those who are home-bound or who would benefit from a church connection. Our thanks to our visitation team members Sue Hammond (coordinator), Scott Ellertson, Jane Pahlmeyer, Sue McBerry, Marsha Gulick and Mary Ellen Isensee.



Fair Trade Coffee/Chocolate Sunday

Time is Running Out – Run In on Oct. 5

When I was up in Washington last week, my son said he is now paying more than \$19 a pound for his favorite coffee. Have you tried the True Fair Trade - Equal Exchange coffee WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) sell on a once monthly basis? We'll be in Pioneer Chapel again on Sunday, October 5, following service, continuing to sell the current inventory at the earlier price. Coffee runs from \$12.50 - \$16 per pound depending up-on the grind, size of bag, and regular or decaf.

You'll have the satisfaction of a fine cup of coffee, and knowing you are supporting Fair Trade farmers as they care for their families. It's a good thing. Fair Trade Chocolate bars are still only \$4 per bar.

Hope to see you there. (Sorry – cash or check only. It keeps the cost down.)

New Jazz Vespers 2025-26 Season Schedule

The new 2025-2026 roster of guest artists for the Jazz Vespers series is out!

Here is the upcoming line-up:

- Oct 19 - John Nastos, woodwinds**
- Nov 16 - Israel Annoh, percussion; Kevin Dietz, bass;
Mike Horsfall, vibes**
- Dec 21 - Marilyn Keller, vocalist**
- Jan 18 - John Stowell, guitar**
- Feb 15 - Renato Caranto, tenor sax**
- Mar 15 - Cheryl Alex, flute & alto flute**
- Apr 19 - Mary-Sue Tobin, woodwinds**
- May 17 - Jack Radsloff, guitar**
- Jun 21 - Haley Horsfall, voice & percussion**
- Jul 19 - Dmitri Matheny, flugelhorn**
- Aug 16 - John Moak, trombone**



We are excited to present the Jazz Vespers series again. The marriage of spoken word and jazz improvisation is artfully combined by Pastor David. As a reminder, the services are held every 3rd Sunday at 4:50pm.

The iconic artwork for this Jazz Vespers season was again created by Joel Nickel. His colorful style is the perfect representation of the many emotions depicted by the jazz musicians that have performed in the church over the last decade. To learn more about our artist, Joel Nickel, visit his website at joelnickelart.com.

Knappton Cove Heritage Center Visit with Friedrich Schuler

Twenty St. James members embarked on a day trip to the privately owned museum— Ellis Island of the Columbia River, just on the other side of the Columbia river from Astoria, Oregon. Our thanks to Friedrich Schuler for sharing the rich history of immigration with us.

We then enjoyed a meal at a local restaurant.



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.

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	2 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7pm Choir Rehearsal	3 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	4 9:30am Contemplative Prayer (Zoom) 12:30pm Lutheran Community Services Event
5 <u>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:45am Vision (downstairs) 10:50am Visitation (Pastor's office) 11am Music Support (library) 11:45am Open Space (Pioneer Chapel)	6 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	7 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	8 7:30am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	9 7:30am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7pm Choir Rehearsal	10 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	11 9:00am Set Up Ministry Fair
12 <u>Ministry Fair Sunday</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:30am Ministry Fair 11am Confirmation Class Stewardship Emphasis	13 <u>Indigenous People's Day</u> CDC/Office Closed 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 6:30pm Fireside Carolers Rehearsal	14 7:30am Preschool CDC 10am Food Boxing 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	15 7:30am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	16 7:30am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7pm Choir Rehearsal	17 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	18 9:30am Contemplative Prayer (Zoom) 11am Metz Memorial
19 <u>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:30am Coffee Hour 11am Open Space 4:50pm Jazz Vespers	20 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	21 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7pm Council	22 7:30am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	23 7:30am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7pm Choir Rehearsal	24 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	25
26 <u>Reformation & Confirmation Sunday</u> 9:30am Eucharist 10:30am Reception	27 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	28 7:30am Preschool CDC 10am Food Boxing 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7pm Book Club	29 7:30am Preschool CDC 8:30am Centering Prayer 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	30 7:30am Preschool CDC 8am ESL Class 11:30am Feeding the Hungry 7pm Choir Rehearsal	31 <u>Halloween</u> 7:30am Preschool CDC 11:30am Feeding the Hungry	

St. James Ministries and Groups



Jazz Vespers at St. James:

Sunday, October 19 at 4:50pm with John Nastos on woodwinds

In 2004, Nastos graduated from high school and moved to New York City on a scholarship to study jazz at the acclaimed Manhattan School of Music.

At MSM, John studied saxophone and composition and in 2007, John completed the four-year degree program in just three years.

Since returning to Portland, John has performed with the who's who of the Portland scene, including the Mel Brown Septet, the Oregon Symphony, the Portland Opera, the Third Angle New Music Ensemble, 45th Parallel, along with many others. He has recorded with the Chuck Israels Orchestra,

Intervision, Drew Shoals, Obo Addy, Ezra Weiss, Damian Erskine, Chance Hayden, Ben Darwish's Commotion, Tony Glausi, Jessie Marquez, and others. He has toured extensively with Grammy-winning vocalist Dianne Schuur, in addition to Grammy-winning artist Esperanza Spalding.

Alongside of performing, John develops tools for musicians, has authored two books in his ongoing series "The Mechanism": An Improvisation Overview and Pentatonic Patterns, and is on faculty at Portland State University and Mount Hood Community College, maintaining a busy performing, recording, and teaching schedule around the Portland area.

"I Am the Vine; You Are the Branches"

Forty-five members of 1st Congregational/St. James churches have participated in this four-Sunday journey at 11:45am. Our final gathering will be Sunday, October 5th. Let's stay connected to Christ the Vine.



October Open Space Classes

October 5, 11:45am: **"The Soil and Environment: The Gift of Diversity"** with First Congregational Church

October 12, 10:45am: **Ministry Fair**—20 committees and groups will be represented in the Pioneer Chapel

October 19, 11:00am: **"Twelve Songs That Changed the World", with John Cox**

October 26, 10:45am: **Confirmation Reception**

November 2, 11:00am: **"Where Have All the Churches Gone?", with President Steinke**



Eco Social Justice

Many leaders in faith communities link climate change with equity. The newly elected Pope - Leo XIV - encourages the Catholic Church to understand the relationship by building bridges between ecological and social justice matters. The Pope's leadership on making connections between climate change and social issues aligns with the work of the Lutheran Church and St. James Eco Social Justice Committee. Our committee invites you all to engage with us and attempt to address how climate change impacts social issues.

The Pope's message is being directed to all, but he is zeroing in on the youth. Addressing university rectors directly, Pope Leo XIV said, "To you, university rectors, I want to offer encouragement in the mission you have embraced: to be builders of bridges of integration... working for ecological, social, and environmental justice". (Vatican News May 20, 2025). The Pope approaches these issues with great expectations.

Let us join the Pope and other faith communities and work toward understanding these issues with hope and resiliency.

- Mandy Ellertson

Contemplative Prayer at St. James

Twice Monthly Gatherings Saturday, 9:30-11a on Zoom, the first and third Saturday of each month!

These gatherings are devoted to nurturing contemplative practice and a deeper life. **Reach out to Susan McBerry (mcberry@lclark.edu)** for Zoom registration and more information. No experience necessary. All are welcome.

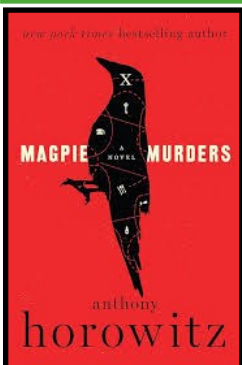


Some who join these gatherings are experienced in contemplative prayer and meditation, but many are very new to it all. All you need is a desire to surrender. Thomas Merton put it this way:

"In prayer, we discover what we already have... Everything has been given to us in Christ. All we need is to experience what we already possess. The trouble is we aren't taking the time to do so. If we really want prayer, we'll have to give it time. We must slow down to a human tempo and we'll begin to have time to listen. And as soon as we listen to what's going on, things will begin to take shape by themselves."

There is an unmistakable feeling of goodwill in our virtual gatherings—participants genuinely wish each other only the very best.

It's also important to note that caring for one's own soul is not a selfish practice; rather, it is inherently selfless. Join us.



St. James Book Club

Book Club meets now at **7:00pm Tuesday, October 28** in the church library. Reminder, Parking Passes are available to display on your dashboard if you'd like to park in Safeway's underground lot next door. This month, we'll be talking about **The Magpie Murders** by Anthony Horowitz, a 2016 British mystery novel and the first in his 'Susan Ryeland' series. If it sounds familiar, it showed up as a 6-part series on PBS' Masterpiece. If you have questions, ask Linda Rickert.



In Our Prayers

We ask God's healing for Scott Swope, Lynda Strand, Penny Curtiss, Carol Bergen, Steve Portnoy (McMinnville), Gail Koester, Keith Amundson, Valarie Brown, Gavin Morisada, Peter Kim, Amy Manning, Chris Hammond, Joel Davis, Rita Toepfer, and the Colasurdo family. Congratulations to David Rutlen at the birth of a grandchild.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

10/2	Laura Bueford	10/19	Kenneth Turner
10/12	David Ghetti	10/23	George McCargar
10/12	Meaghan Wheeler	10/24	Jules & Carol Auger
10/14	Jill Adams	10/24	Erik Thorin
10/17	Kay Betton	10/26	Julie Hatch
10/18	David Howe	10/28	Mark & Alison Dillon
10/18	Larry & Linda Larsen	10/30	Colin Martin

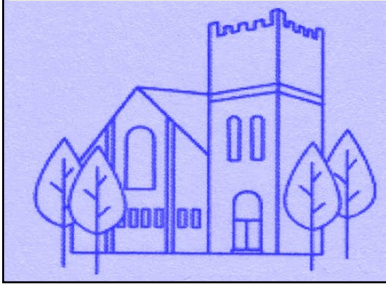
Sunday Refreshment Hosts and Altar Flower Sponsors

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 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	COFFEE
October 5:	Cathie Coffman	Mandy Ellertson
October 12:		Council (coffee only)
October 19:	Larry & Linda Larsen	Larry & Linda Larsen
October 26:	Pastor David	Eco Social Justice Group

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



1315 SW Park Ave
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www.stjamespdx.org
Office Hours: 7:30am-2pm
Tel: 503.227.2439

STAFF

Full Time:

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

Part Time:

Karin Hatch, Parish Administrator
Sharon Kurtz, Bookkeeper
John Cox, Interim Choir Director
Paul Flyger, Interim Organist
Mike Horsfall, Director of Jazz Ministry
Mali Jensen, Administrative Assistant

ST. JAMES COUNCIL

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

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