

# ST. JAMES WEEKLY E-NEWS

*"Putting Christ first in all that we do."*

Join us for worship every Sunday at 8:45 am

100 W. Capitol Drive, Appleton

[www.umcsj.org](http://www.umcsj.org)

*The week of March 11-17, 2026*

**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:**

**9 A.M. – 2 P.M., MONDAY – WEDNESDAY**

## Announcements

**Help for the Homeless**, see page 2. Also at the Connection Center. **This collection ends on this Sunday.**

The next **Sunday School** will be on March 15th.

**We are in need of treats** for fellowship time. Contact Mary if you can help. These can be store bought or homemade. There is a sign-up sheet at the Connection Center.

We are in need of an usher for **Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm on April 2nd** and also 2 communion servers.



Thanks to the Heggs for hosting **hospitality** this past Sunday and others who contributed the delicious treats. Your contributions to this vital ministry in the life of St. James are appreciated by all.

Thank you to Tom Graf, and those who helped, for replacing the baseboard in the game room

Thank you to Bill & Christopher Kraemer for the tedious work of replacing the **air-compressor for the furnace**. Thank you to Dave & Deb Ebben for loaning their trailer for the transport of the compressor.

A very sincere thank you to all the un-named, who share of their time and talents week after week for the ministries of St. James.

## **Laity Team for this Sunday**

Usher . . . . .	Wayne De Grand
Reader . . . . .	Carol Carlson
Counters. . . . .	Deb Ebben & Jack Larson
Music. . . . .	Praise Team
Tech Team . . . . .	Bill Kraemer & Deb Ebben

## **Pastor Rok's Schedule**

**Pastor Rok** wants everyone to know that he is doing phone calls and home visits. So don't be surprised if you get a call from a Washington phone number. (You may want to put his number, **202-227-0313** in or near your phone.) For email contact, his address is: **cakanrok@gmail.com**. He is available anytime.

**Here are Pastor Rok's office hours...**

Tuesday at St. James  
Wednesday at Emmanuel  
Thursday & Friday by appointment.

Pastor Rok would like you to know that in the afternoons, he may be out of the office visiting people.

## **Henderson Settlement**

Are you interested in learning more about Henderson Settlement?

What about information on how to join the mission team?

Would you like to support Henderson Settlement and the mission team?

Would you like to meet the mission team members and join in fellowship?

What exactly does the mission team do?

**You are invited to "the Gathering" for fellowship and information:**

**March 28, at 6:00 p.m.**

(LouAnn will be making chili for us)

Tom and LouAnn Graf's house

2404 W. Seneca Dr. Appleton, WI

920-740-2330 [fivesuisse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fivesuisse@sbcglobal.net)

All are welcome, even if you will not be joining the mission team, but just want to support and fellowship with each other.

Our mission trip is planned for October 11 – 17, 2026.

For questions, see also Gary Linstad or Rich Stewart.

# PRAYER and Praise

*Prayer is not about asking; it's about listening.... It is just opening your eyes to see what was there all along.*  
Chagdud Tulku Rinpocheetan teacher)

## Joys, Prayers & Concerns...

- For all the prayers of your heart, shared with God on your personal journey each day and may we give thanks for all answered prayers.
- Blessings for all that God provides. May we always remember that each day is a gift and we should use it for good.
- Mary F. asked for prayers for a friend who lost her home in a fire.
- Chris B. asked for prayers for Rick who is having hip surgery this week.
- Mary T. asked for prayers for those who are serving in the military. Her nephew is serving in Afghanistan.
- Continued prayers for Joan C.
- Prayers for our country that our leaders make decisions based on sound reasoning.
- Kay C. asked for prayers for those who were traveling home from Emmaus training this past weekend.

### Ongoing intercessory prayer...

- Joys for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week.
- Continued prayers for our church family, and prayers for our shut-ins, some temporarily, others permanently.
- Prayers that we patiently listen to each other and always choose kindness and compassion over hatred and fear.
- Prayers for those who are needlessly suffering due to food insecurity, especially the children.
- Prayers for citizens being treated and deported unjustly. Continued prayers for Minnesota and all communities experiencing unnecessary injustice at the hands of our government.
- Prayers for those suffering loss due to weather extremes. If you would like to help, you can make a donation through St. James. Put "UMCOR" in your memo line.
- Prayers for our immigrants, and others who are oppressed.

Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.  
"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

*Romans 12:12*

## Help for the Homeless HYGIENE DRIVE

February 22 – **March 15, 2026**

**A collection box is near the nursery.**

## Helping Local Crisis Programs

'Help for the Homeless' Hygiene Drive Kicks off Feb. 22! 100+ Local Crisis Agencies to Benefit from Hygiene & Cleaning Product Donations Appleton, Green Bay, Wausau/Stevens Point, Sheboygan, Eau Claire WI: The Family Radio Networks' 32nd annual Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive, Feb. 22 – March 15, will be collecting personal hygiene and cleaning products for 137 Wisconsin crisis agencies in 22 Wisconsin communities. Last year 256 area businesses, churches, and schools participated, hosting collection boxes in-house and donating more than \$723,000 worth of supplies to their local crisis programs.

### Urgent needs

Purchase new, unused hygiene and cleaning supplies and drop them off at St. James. **Boxes are near the church entrance, by the nursery.**

Here is a list of the most urgent needs, **more are on the list at the Connection Center:**

- Soaps: laundry, dish, soft, shower gel, 2-in-1 shampoo
- Trash bags (shelters especially need these for bedrooms)
- Diapers (sizes 3-6 and Pull-Ups)
- Deodorant (unscented)
- Wet wipes
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Disposable razors
- Tampons and maxi pads

### Are you interested in becoming a member of the St. James family?

If this is something you have been contemplating, Pastor Rok would love to have a conversation with you.

You may reach Pastor Rok at:

[cakanrok@gmail.com](mailto:cakanrok@gmail.com) or 202-227-0313.

Or contact the church office at 920-734-5371.

### Did You Know?

You can submit your prayer requests at any time by using this link, [prayer request](#).

*This link goes directly to Pastor Rok*



## Easter Altar Flowers

Easter Sunday is April 5th. We are looking for altar flower donations of Lilies and Tulips for the Easter morning worship service.

As always, please let the office know if you plan to donate and who you are honoring or memorializing. As in the past we find it more economical to purchase at a place of your choosing. Please have flower donations to the church between March 29-April 1, but no later than Wednesday, April 1st during a time when the church is open. (M-T-W, 9am-2pm) We will have Maundy Thursday worship on April 2nd at 7pm which gives you another opportunity. They may be left in the library. Flowers may be taken with you after the Easter Service.

Looking to the future, we are seeking more people willing to help with displaying **altar flowers** at Easter and Christmas time. Perhaps you would like to assist with changing the paraments (altar cloths) throughout the year. If this is a gift you would like to share, please talk with Deb Kraemer for more information.

Please fill out the form below and give to the church office by March 29th so that I have time to prepare the bulletin insert.

**Flowers will be given:** (Please print clearly) Emailing this information is preferred. [Office@umcsj.org](mailto:Office@umcsj.org)

**In honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

or **In memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donated by:** \_\_\_\_\_

your name goes on this line ↑



### If God Had Voicemail

Have you ever wondered what would happen if God used voicemail to handle all our prayers? Just for fun, let's imagine it for a moment.

...I had just finished gossiping and wanted to confess, so I got ready to pray—or rather, to “call.” Immediately, a voice answered:

“You’ve reached the throne room of Heaven, the Prayer Department. All of our representatives are currently assisting other callers. Your call is important to us, and we want to help you. Please stay on the line, and your request will be answered in the order it was received.”

Soft music plays. Then another message comes on:

“Listen carefully to the following options and press the appropriate number.




- Press 1 for prayer for a loved one.
- Press 2 for prayer for your church.
- Press 3 to give thanks.
- Press 4 to confess sins.
- Press 5 for salvation.
- Press 6 for physical needs.
- To repeat this menu, press 9.”

Since I had a sin to confess, I pressed 4. Another voice responded cheerfully: “We’re so glad to help you with your confession of sins. Please select from the following options:

- If you cursed, press 1.
- If you yelled at your spouse or another family member, press 2.
- If you gossiped, press 3...”
- The list went on and on.

About then I decided to hang up and keep on gossiping. But then I remembered what the Bible says about God and how he attends to our needs. He doesn’t route our prayers through a heavenly call center or put us on hold. We don’t get busy signals, menus or automated voices. Instead, our Father listens instantly, personally, and lovingly. Instead of a voice mail system, he says, **“Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.”** (Isaiah 65:24, KJV) How blessed we are.

# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Communion Sunday</b> 8:10 am Praise Practice 8:45 am Worship 9:45 am Fellowship 11am-2pm Iglesia Bethel 	<b>2</b> 4-11pm Gamer club	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Praise team practice	<b>4</b> 10am to noon Vets & Friends Brunch 2pm Bible Study 6-9pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>5 Office Closed</b> 9am Ladies Breakfast Galvan's Restaurant	<b>6 Office Closed</b> 8-10am V&Fs Breakfast 6-8pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>7</b> Turn your clocks ahead one hour before bed.
<b>8 3rd Sunday of Lent</b> 8:10 am Praise Practice 8:45 am Worship 9:45 am Fellowship 11am-2pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>9</b> 4-11pm Gamer club COTS delivery 6:30pm Zoom with the District Superintendent	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Praise team practice	<b>11</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast Black Bear 10am to noon Vets & Friends Brunch 2pm Bible Study 6-9pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>12 Office Closed</b>	<b>13 Office Closed</b> 8-10am V&Fs Breakfast 6-8pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>14</b> 9am Removing appliances to prepare kitchen for floor work Church Audit
<b>15 4th Sunday of Lent</b> 8:10 am Praise Practice 8:45 am Worship <b>Sunday School</b> 9:45 am Fellowship 11am-2pm Iglesia Bethel 6pm-9pm Bethel Youth Gathering	<b>16</b> 5:30pm Ladies Nite Out – Asian Garden	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Praise team practice 	<b>18</b> Vets & Friends Brunch off-site 2pm Bible Study 6:30-9pm Embroiderer's Guild 6-9pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>19 Office Closed</b>	<b>20 Office Closed</b> 6-8pm Iglesia Bethel 	<b>21</b>
<b>Kitchen unavailable because of kitchen floor replacement project.</b>						
<b>22 5th Sunday of Lent</b> 8:10 am Praise Practice 8:45 am Worship 9:45 am Fellowship 11am-2pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>23</b> 4-11pm Gamer club	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Praise team practice	<b>25</b> 10am to noon Vets & Friends Brunch 2pm Bible Study 6-9pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>26 Office Closed</b>	<b>27 Office Closed</b> 8-10am V&Fs Breakfast 6-8pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>28</b> 6am-noon Iglesia Bethel
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> 8:10 am Praise Practice 8:45 am Worship <b>Welcoming New Members</b> 9:45 am Fellowship 11am-2pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>23</b> 4-11pm Gamer club	<b>31</b> 3:00pm Accountable Board meeting 6:30pm Praise team practice	<b>1 April</b> 10am to noon Vets & Friends Brunch 2pm Bible Study 6-9pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>2 Maundy Thursday</b> 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship at St. James	<b>3 Good Friday</b> 8-10am V&Fs Breakfast 6-8pm Iglesia Bethel	<b>Noon</b> Ecumenical Good Friday worship at <b>First English Lutheran 326 E. North St.</b>

**Non Perishable Food Collections** are now given to Emmanuel's Neighborhood Pantry. The collection container can be found in the back of the sanctuary.

No pressure, give as the spirit moves you.

Website: [UMCSJ.ORG](http://UMCSJ.ORG)  
Email: [office@umcsj.org](mailto:office@umcsj.org)  
Like us on [Facebook](#)

**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:**  
9 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY

#### Did You Know?

If you have an old pair of **eye glasses** that are no longer useful to you, you may donate them to the Lion's Club. Place them in the square bucket that is on the shelf next to the Connection Center table. If you need help finding it, ask Deb Kraemer.



#### **Used Medical Equipment Needed**

The Lions Clubs of the Fox Valley have joined together to open a place that will loan out medical equipment. We need to gather gently used and clean medical equipment listed below.

- Wheelchairs
- Rollators
- Gait Belts
- Walkers
- Ice Machines
- Grabbers
- Canes
- Travel Chairs
- Crutches
- Toilet Risers/Commodes
- Bed Rails
- Knee Scooters
- Transfer Benches
- Shoe Horns
- Incontinence Supplies

#### **Take to:**

**312 W. Northland Avenue, Appleton**

**We are now a collection site for plastic grocery bags etc. The collection box is in the coat room. Details can be found at the Connection Center.**

Our **1st Quarter** mission offering will go to **UMCOR**  
**United Methodist Committee on Relief**  
(Jan. Feb. March.)  
**March 15th is UMCOR Sunday!**

The Thompson Center is now the **Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center**  
Here is a hyper-link (*you just need to click on it*) which is filled with all kinds of activities for those over 50 years of age.

**They have moved to 3000 E. College Ave.**  
[Senior Activity Center](#)

#### **Cans for COTS**

(Community Outreach Transitional Shelter)

Did you know that St. James collects aluminum beverage cans? If you find that you don't know what to do with yours, you may bring them in and we will recycle them. There is a collection container near the furnace room. All proceeds will go into the **COTS** mission.

Thanks to Chris & Rick Bahr for cashing in our cans and always looking for the best value. To date we have collected **\$259.75** since we began cashing in cans.

New participants are welcome to join this ministry at any time. Each person makes a component of the meal (such as dessert) at home, and then someone delivers the completed meal. For more information, contact Kay Christenson at [christenson4@live.com](mailto:christenson4@live.com).

#### **What Is Phone Pals**

Are you looking for volunteer work to fill the winter days? Are you in need of companionship? Phone Pals is a confidential telephone outreach program for homebound adults, people with disabilities who live alone, and people who lack a social support system.

Calls are from trained and vetted volunteers. You and your volunteer agree on a time and how often to call. There is no charge.

If you would like to volunteer to be someone's Phone Pal, or sign up to receive calls from a Phone Pal, call Volunteer Fox Cities at 920-832-9360. All volunteers are vetted.