

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

The week of April 1-7, 2026

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

9 A.M. – 2 P.M., MONDAY – WEDNESDAY

Announcements

First quarter **giving statements** are available in your church mailboxes.

Maundy Thursday worship is at 7pm on April 2nd at St. James.

The **Good Friday Ecumenical Service** is at noon on April 3rd at First English Lutheran, 326 E. North St.

Free **Daily Bread** devotionals have been restocked at the Connection Center for **March, April, and May.**



Thanks to Tom & Mary Schemm for hosting hospitality, and to all those who brought treats.

Thank you to Tom Graf who not only lead the installation of the baseboards in the game room and kitchen, but also donated all the materials.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to altar flowers for Easter.

Laity Team for this Thursday

Usher Jeannine Schinke
Reader Kay Christenson
Music. Praise Team
Tech Team Bill Kraemer & LuAnn Van Handel
Communion Prep. Deb Ebben
Communion Server. Deb Ebben & Chris Bahr

Laity Team for this Sunday

Usher Wayne DeGrand
Reader Gary Linstad
Counters. Rich Stewart & Chris Bahr
Music. Praise Team
Tech Team Bill Kraemer & Diane Linstad
Communion Prep. Deb Ebben
Communion Server. Bonnie B. & Jeannine S.

Birthdays

4/6 Chad Olson

Anniversaries

4/ 5 Jim & Sherry King (40)

The Bible, Jesus & Jewish-Christian Relations Two days with Amy-Jill Levine

Tuesday, April 21: Pastors' & Teachers' Workshop

Understanding Jesus and Paul
Through Jewish Practice and Belief.
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Tuesday, April 21: Parables as Jewish Stories

Amy-Jill Levine, Jesus' Parables as Jewish Stories. Evening talk with time for questions.
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Wednesday, April 22: Entering the Passion Q & A

Conversation and Q & A
with Amy-Jill Levine on her book,
"Entering the Passion".
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

*All events at:

First United Methodist Church in Oshkosh
For more Information about the Event

◆ 920-235-8430 Office

◆ adminfumc@firstumcoshkosh.org

Zoom with the District Superintendent

North East DS Park Hunter offers *an open Zoom devotion and Q&A time for laity in the district. The next one is **April 7 at 6:30pm.***

The Zoom link is...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5027449756>



When we pray, God hears more than we say,
answers more than we ask,
gives more than we imagine,
in His own time and in His own way. Amen.

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.
- Joys for the new season of spring.
- Continued prayers for Rick B., who is recovering from hip surgery.
- Continued prayers for Joan C.
- Prayers for our country and our leaders to do what is right for the majority of our citizens.

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.
- Prayers for those who are silently praying for healing.
- Continued prayers for our country with the uncertainty that is happening.
- Prayers for all who serve or have served in the civil service areas and for our soldiers.

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

Romans 12:12

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

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.

Fools for Christ

English essayist and poet Charles Lamb (1775-1834) once joked, "Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools than ever."

April Fools' Day may also be connected to the lightheartedness that comes with warmer weather, as well as to medieval Christian festivals that involved pranks, disguises and a temporarily inverted social order.

Yet, in Scripture, such reversal characterizes the kingdom of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, St. Paul writes that the gospel seems foolish to people who don't know Christ, that God uses the "foolishness of our proclamation" to offer salvation to all and that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Jesus "foolishly" inverted the social order, saying the last will be first and the first, last.

So if on April 1 — and every day — we live as "fools for Christ," we're precisely what he calls us to be!

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 or **202-227-0313**.
Or contact the church office at 920-734-5371.



APRIL



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h2 style="text-align: center;">HOLY WEEK</h2>			1 10am to noon Vets & Friends Brunch 2pm Bible Study 6-9pm Iglesia Bethel  <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2 Maundy Thursday 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship at St. James	3 Good Friday-Noon Ecumenical Good Friday worship 8-10am V&Fs Breakfast 6-8pm Iglesia Bethel	4 First English Lutheran 326 E. North St.
5 Easter Sunday 8:10 am Praise Practice 8:45 am Worship 9:45 am Fellowship 11am-2pm Iglesia Bethel 6pm-9pm Bethel Youth Gathering	6 4-11pm Gamer club	7 6:30pm Praise team practice 6:30pm Zoom with the District Superintendent	8 8:30am Men's Breakfast Black Bear 10am to noon Vets & Friends Brunch 6-9pm Iglesia Bethel	9 Office Closed	10 Office Closed 8-10am V&Fs Breakfast 6-8pm Iglesia Bethel	11 3-8pm Iglesia Bethel 1-year anniversary celebration 
12 2nd Sunday of Easter 8:10 am Praise Practice 8:45 am Worship 9:45 am Fellowship 11am-2pm Iglesia Bethel	13 4-11pm Gamer club	14 6:30pm Praise team practice	15 10am to noon Vets & Friends Brunch 6:30-9pm Embroiderer's Guild 6-9pm Iglesia Bethel	16 Office Closed	17 Office Closed 8-10am V&Fs Breakfast 6-8pm Iglesia Bethel	18
19 3rd Sunday of Easter 8:10 am Praise Practice 8:45 am Worship 9:45 am Fellowship 11am-2pm Iglesia Bethel	20 4-11pm Gamer club 5:30pm Ladies Nite Out - El Agave	21 6:30pm Praise team practice	22  10am to noon Vets & Friends Brunch 6-9pm Iglesia Bethel	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed 8-10am V&Fs Breakfast 6-8pm Iglesia Bethel	25 6am-noon Iglesia Bethel
26 4th Sunday of Easter 8:10 am Praise Practice 8:45 am Worship 9:45 am Fellowship 11am-2pm Iglesia Bethel	27 4-11pm Gamer club	28 3:00pm Accountable Board meeting 6:30pm Praise team practice	29 10am to noon Vets & Friends Brunch COTS delivery 6-9pm Iglesia Bethel	30 Office Closed	1 Office Closed 8-10am V&Fs Breakfast 6-8pm Iglesia Bethel	2



Congratulations! In 2025, St James United Methodist Church received **\$194** through the Thrivent Choice® program from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 — and that’s worth celebrating! ☐

Your work strengthens communities, and we’re grateful for the impact you make every day.

Good news ahead:

We’re excited to share that enhancements to the Thrivent Choice program are coming soon — including broader member eligibility, full-year flexibility, and a new year-end expiration date. Stay tuned — more details will be shared in the months ahead.

Want to learn more about Thrivent Choice or Thrivent’s other generosity programs?

Contact **Chris Bahr**, your local Thrivent liaison for St. James, at chrisbahrumc@gmail.com or go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

If you have Thrivent Choice dollars you would like to contribute to any of the St. James ministries, here is how we are listed on the Thrivent site.

**St James United Methodist Church
100 W Capitol Dr, Appleton, WI 54911
(note, there is no period after the St)**

We’re grateful to partner with you through Thrivent Choice and look forward to supporting your continued impact.



Detroit Service Trip June 21-27

Suamico UMC is coordinating a second mission trip to Detroit this summer, **June 21-27**.

Last year's intergenerational trip brought together 24 people from eight churches to serve alongside local folks in neighborhoods and ministries in Detroit.

For many participants, it was a life-changing experience. See the video here... (<https://youtu.be/SHjYjeAktYQ>)

Cost of the trip is \$650 per person, including transportation, lodging, and most meals. **A \$100 deposit is due April 1**. Learn more here... (<https://www.suamicoumc.org/detroit-service>)

Contact Judy Schneck (Campbell0724@gmail.com) for more details.

Our **2nd Quarter** mission offering will go to **Henderson Settlement** (April, May, June)

Website: UMCSJ.ORG
Email: 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.

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.

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 **\$293.25** 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.

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.