

St. James seeks to be a community that grows more Christlike, expressing the love of Jesus Christ in our worship, our outreach, and our commitment to discipleship.

# ST. JAMES MESSENGER

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices  
in God my Savior" (Luke 1:47)*

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS @ ST. JAMES

### ECW Luncheon

Tuesday, December 3rd @ 11:00 a.m.  
(music by the Lahey family)



### Grief Support Group Christmas Dinner

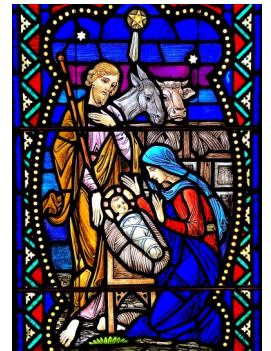
Friday, December 6th @ 4:30 pm in the Parish Hall

### Leesburg Christmas Parade (St. James Float w/Ukulele Ministry)

Saturday, December 7th @ 6:00 p.m., Main Street

### Youth Program: "Room for Christmas"

Wednesday, December 11th  
@ 6:30 p.m. in the Church



### Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 22nd @ 4:00 p.m.  
in the Church

### DECEMBER 24TH

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service with Youth Choir

9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service with Adult Choir

(Pre-Service Music at 4:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.)

### DECEMBER 25TH

10:00 AM Christmas Day Service



# DECEMBER 2024



The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. James' Episcopal Church in Leesburg, Florida. It is mailed on the last week of each month and highlights parish news for the upcoming month. **Deadline for submissions is the third Wednesday of each month.** Submissions should be sent to: Victoria Mymudes <office@stjames-leesburg.org>

**Church Mailing Address**  
**St. James Episcopal Church**  
**204 N. Lee Street**  
**Leesburg, FL 34748**



SUNDAY SERVICES **8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.**

HEALING SERVICE: **Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel**

FR. TREES' CELL & EMAIL: **(352)-643-118 EMAIL: frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org**

OFFICE PHONE: **(352) 787-1981 FAX: (352)787-1021**

OFFICE EMAIL: **office@stjames-leesburg.org**

Please visit our website at: [www.stjames-leesburg.org](http://www.stjames-leesburg.org)



Sunday services are livestreamed at 10:15 AM:  
 Go to YouTube and type  
 "Leesburg Stjames" or visit our Facebook Page.

**CLERGY AND STAFF**

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Rector</b>                            | <b>Rev'd Thomas Trees</b> |
| <b>Deacon</b>                            | <b>Rev'd Art Hollows</b>  |
| <b>Parish &amp; Finance Secretary</b>    | <b>Victoria Mymudes</b>   |
| <b>Parish Organist/Choir Director</b>    | <b>John Wilson</b>        |
| <b>Youth Ministry and Choir Director</b> | <b>Elizabeth Williams</b> |
| <b>Sexton</b>                            | <b>Wylie Hill</b>         |

**VESTRY MEMBERS**

(Senior Warden) Terri Galyon, (Junior Warden) Drew Logan, (Treasurer) Linda Weekley  
 Bill Binneveld, Rita Clements, Linda Grizzard, David Knowles, Mackie McCabe, Stuart  
 Mowatt, Marvin Naylor, Dan Robuck, Dick Singeltary .



**St. James Prayer List**

Call the Church Office (352)787-1981 with additions/deletions



**SHORT TERM**  
**(3 Weeks)**

Patricia Bailey  
 Marsha Burdick  
 Cregg Carreins Jr.  
 Jim Christian  
 Jasmine Cleeton  
 Birdie Connelley  
 David Dudley  
 Charles Hay  
 Brook James  
 Ben Johnson  
 Jameson Small  
 Shelly Thomas

**LONG TERM**  
**(3 Months)**

Baby Autumn  
 Michael Baker  
 Larry Coolboth  
 Kristin Conner  
 Berni Dodeci  
 Keneta Gaillardet  
 Kermode Family  
 Linda Long  
 Jeff Millett  
 Holly Rouse  
 Robert Sanchez  
 Curt Oestreich

**LONG TERM**

Nathan Battle  
 Bill Boyer  
 Joe Branham  
 Marsha Burdick  
 Mabel Burns  
 Judy Cable  
 Beth Crossley  
 Paul Dallaire  
 Dottie Elliott  
 Fr. Charles Hay  
 Katie Leware  
 Linda Long  
 Bill Mann

Becky Mitchel  
 Jim Mitchell  
 Belinda Morton-  
 Rusk  
 Brandon Morrison  
 Jared Mymudes  
 Bubba Robinson  
 Cindy Raczkowski  
 Charlie Schaefer  
 Donna Sharnosk  
 Helen Williams  
 Dot Vedder  
 Rob Yeager  
 Julitta Velton

***"The Life and the Light  
 of the World"***

On Thursdays at 6:30 pm, we are having a special **Advent and Nativity study**. Beginning with the beautiful opening words of the Gospel according to John, and progressing through Matthew and Luke, we will explore the announcements of the birth, and the birth event itself.

We will also look back at the prophetic promises of the coming of our Lord, particularly from **Isaiah and Micah**. As we read the familiar words, we will discuss the differences in description and emphasis of each account.

***GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP***

Sharon is asking if there are any dietary restrictions for anyone that plans on attending our **Grief Support Christmas Dinner on December 6<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall at St. James**. Don't forget to let me know if you can attend. Remember we are meeting at 4:30 pm and planning on eating around 5:00. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Call, text (352-636-8969) or email me if you have any questions. Hugs and God's Blessings,  
 Susan



**ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING**

Please join us on **Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall** for a fun evening of dancing and fellowship. The **tickets are \$10.00** per person. Water will be provided, but everyone is encouraged to bring a refreshment. For more information, please contact the church office: **352-787-1981**.



## LIBRARY CORNER



The church season that many of us, especially children, enjoy most is about to begin. Already, we are practicing Christmas carols and plays. ADVENT begins on December 1st and continues through four Sundays (24 days) to Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve, which ushers in Christmastide, a joyous time which continues for 12 days (Jan. 5th) followed by Epiphany, Jan. 6th.

Because young people enjoy Christmas so much the parish library books telling treasured stories of the season will be on display on the book truck in the parish hall. Take the opportunity to read again the tales of Santa, St. Nick, Good King Wenceslas, reindeer, the Star and town of Bethlehem, the 3 Wise Men and the baby Jesus. Adults are definitely invited to read these book, too, and we hope you also read them to your children and grandchildren (or have them read to you).

### **YOUTH PROGRAM: "ROOM FOR CHRISTMAS"**

This year, the youth of St. James are partnering with the Pregnancy and Family Care Center of First Baptist Lsbg. We would love your help in collecting items from their "wish list" that will support local women and young children in need. You can bring items with you to the Youth Christmas program on **Wednesday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the church** (there is a special part for gifts during the program.) Or, please bring them on a Sunday morning, or during the week to the church office prior to the program. We are grateful for your support. The kids are very excited to help others in a necessary, tangible way.

- Gift Cards to Walmart (for car seats)
- Unscented Baby Wipes
- Baby Lotion
- Pullups For Boys and Girls 3T/4T/5T
- Hygiene Items for Mom: Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Hairbrush, Deodorant
- Hygiene Items for Baby:
  - Baby Wash
  - Baby Shampoo
  - Baby Toothbrush and Baby Toothpaste
  - Diaper Cream

### **INQUIRER'S CLASS SUNDAYS, @ 9:00 A.M.**

If you are interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, or would like to learn more about Anglican history and theology, we invite you to join Deacon Art Hollows and Sebastiana Springmann at 9 a.m.

### **MAX LUCADO STUDY: "GOD CAME NEAR"**

This series is a way for us to stay connected and keep developing our spiritual formation. Please bring your own dinner and we will eat together. We will watch each video in series and then discuss it in small groups. Our final sessions are 12/10 and 12/17.



## **LEESBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE**

St. James will have a float in the Leesburg Christmas Parade on **December 7th, 2024**. The Ukulele Ministry will be providing music to our float. We invite you to join by participating with the Ukelele group, handing out candy or St. James information or just walking alongside the float. Parade Route will begin at 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Main Street. It will go down Main Steet and end at Canal Street. Participants should then be directed to turn right onto Canal St. and back up Magnolia St to staging area. We'll also need help decorating the float on **December 6th**. If you are interested in joining in the fun, please contact:

**Wylie Hill at (352) 267-0377 or text John Burr at (352) 573-5483**

### **A STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU**



*<sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Ephesians 4:10)*

We had a wonderful Stewardship Sunday and Ministry Fair on November 24th. We'd like to thank all of you who made your financial commitment to St. James for 2025. If you would still like to make a pledge, you can send in your card, or contact the church at [office@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:office@stjames-leesburg.org), or 352-787-1981.

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND VESTRY ELECTION**

Please mark your calendars for the **138th Annual Parish Meeting** which will take place on **Sunday, January 19th, 2025 at 11:30 am** in the Parish Hall. We will review key events from 2024, confirm our budget, elect four new vestry members, and look forward to what God has in store for us in 2025. We are in the process of taking Vestry nominations. If you would like to be nominated, or have someone to nominate, please contact our Vestry Nominating Committee, or Fr. Tom. Members of our Nominating Committee are: David Knowles, Drew Logan, Mackie McCabe, and Linda Weekley.

Qualifications for vestry nomination are:

- 1) Communicant in Good Standing at St. James;
- 2) No less than 18 years old;
- 3) Faithful in religious attendance;
- 4) Financial supporter of record to the general parish budget;
- 5) No spouse serving concurrently on the vestry.

## ECW UPDATE

Thanks to each of you our great collection of Pull Tabs keeps growing! Many thanks, keep going! There is interest in repeating our adventure of last March. The group prepared dinner for the guests staying at Arnold Palmer House (all 35). The calendar for 2025 has been posted, February is open for us to choose the date we would like, remember it's 4-7 pm. Let's meet December 18, at 9:00 in the Parish Hall, if available, if not on the veranda.

Happy Christmas to All

### **December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024**

ECW Board Meeting -10am  
ECW General Meeting/Christmas Luncheon- 11am

### **January 7<sup>th</sup> 2025**

ECW Board Meeting - 9.00 am  
ECW General Meeting- 10.00 am  
Hostess: St. Anne's  
Program: Forward Paths--Denise Burry: Helping young adults that have aged out of foster care

### **January 21<sup>st</sup> 2025**

Chapter Meetings

### **Christmas Luncheon, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Hosted by the ECW Board and the Hospitality Committee, will be a Festive occasion, featuring musical entertainment from the Lahey Family. This talented group will present a program of traditional Christmas Carols accompanied by:

Lara, on the piano, Noah on the cello, and Sofia, on the violin. The vocal element will be provided by Clara, Sara, and Sean.

Energetic audience participation will be encouraged.

RMD

### **Ronald McDonald, Arnold Palmer House, Orlando**

We hope that all our faithful "tab pullers" have survived the two back-to-back storms without too much stress and damage. Arnold Palmer House is grateful for each tab you pulled as you saw on YouTube in October. Our message is "Keep Pulling" and many thanks!

### **Thank You:**

Our Second Vice -President Co -Chairs Karen Sofield and Dee Saylor would like to **thank all of the Members who dedicated their time working at our Annual Holiday Bazaar.** The combined efforts of the Booth Chairs, the cooks, bakers, and cashiers, coupled with the **Men's group and our industrious sexton, Wiley Hall, is greatly appreciated.**

Special thanks to our parishioners who attended, for supporting ECW's Outreach Program.

Thanks to each of you, our great collection of Pull Tabs keeps growing! There is interest in repeating our "March adventure". Our group prepared dinner for guests staying at the Arnold Palmer House --(all 35). The calendar for 2025 has been posted, and February is open for us to choose a date we would like (Remember it's 4 -7 pm). Let's meet on **December 18 at 9.00 in the Parish Hall** if it's available ,if not, on the veranda

Happy Christmas to All!

## ST. JAMES POLO & T-SHIRTS

### **Men's Polo Shirts Sizes**

Sm, Med, Large, XL \$25 each  
2XL, 3 XL, 4XL, 5XL \$30 each.

### **Women's Polo Shirts Sizes**

Sm, Med, Large, XL \$25 (short sleeve)  
\$30 (¾ sleeve )  
2XL, XL, 4XL \$30 (short or ¾ sleeve)

### **Children's Polo Shirts Sizes**

Sm, Med, Large, XL \$25 each



### **Screen Printed Tee Shirts**

**Adult :** S, M, L, XL \$15  
2XL, 3 XL, 4XL \$20  
**Children's:** S, M, L, XL \$15

### **MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**

The men of St. James are invited to join us on the third Wednesday of every month at 8:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We are going through the video series, "The Search for the Historical Jesus". Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 18th.**

### **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

Congratulations to Sue Greenwood, who was installed as our newest Daughter on Sunday, November 3rd! The Daughters' next meeting is on Wednesday, December 11th, at 2:00 p.m. We are going through a study on the Epistle to the Hebrews.



## **LESSONS & CAROLS**



Everyone is invited to our **Christmas Lessons and Carols on Sunday, 12/22 at 4pm.** Come worship with us as we prepare for the birth of Christ through scriptures and songs. Our youth will be reading the lessons and singing. Our St. James Choir will be presenting some new choral arrangements and the congregation will join in on some familiar hymns.

We are also welcoming some guest musicians. Please join us for a wonderful afternoon as we take a break from this busy time of year to reflect on the truest reasons for the season. Hope to see you there!

God bless, John Wilson



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                  |      |                    |      |
|------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Bonnie Kern      | 2nd  | Lyle Haddenham     | 17th |
| Gail Robinson    | 3rd  | Denise Carpenter   | 18th |
| Terri Brock      | 3rd  | Beau Hartman       | 19th |
| Andrew Braun     | 4th  | Ferrell Durham III | 19th |
| Louise Brooks    | 5th  | Bill Cauthen       | 21st |
| Marie Young      | 6th  | Jason Gray         | 21st |
| Margaret Branham | 7th  | Dennis Koski       | 22nd |
| Dee Saylor       | 9th  | Ted Kermode        | 24th |
| Robin Cauthen    | 10th | Meredith Kirste    | 26th |
| George Kramer    | 10th | Caden Smalley      | 26th |
| Bruce Saylor     | 10th | Benjamin Trees     | 27th |
| Jim Mitchell     | 11th | Betty Stephens     | 29th |
| Dale Jandzinski  | 13th | Lila Van Beek      | 29th |
| Mary Burnett     | 13th | Bonnie Binneveld   | 30th |
| Byron Oldham     | 14th | James Kaley        | 30th |
| James Pearson    | 16th |                    |      |

# ANNIVERSARIES

|                         |      |                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| Dennis & Peggy Koski    | 4th  | Ted & Judy Bedell       | 21st |
| Terry & Nancy Mitchell  | 13th | Jim & Becky Mitchell    | 27th |
| Ferrell & Carol Young   | 18th | Charles & Winnie Tucker | 31st |
| Jeff & Stephannie Engel | 18th |                         |      |

## FOOD DROP UPDATE

Let us come before God's presence with Thanksgiving. Psalm 95:2

There's a lot of THANKS IN THANKSGIVING as our St. James parishioners demonstrated with the November Food Drop. Our volunteers, Tanina and Dick Singeltary, Jan Tindall, Terri and Van Galyon and Rita Clements met 24 cars and drivers while our ECW women had also contributed :

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>COLLECTED:</b>     | <b>1183 POUNDS OF FOOD</b>   |
|                       | <b>\$360.00</b>              |
| <b>TOTAL TO DATE:</b> | <b>48,371 pounds of food</b> |
|                       | <b>\$56,827</b>              |

We look forward to the holidays and the **CELEBRATION OF CHRIST. GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL.** Join us for the **December FOOD DROP on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:00.**

## JODY'S GIFT SHOP

The ECW is pleased to announce the seventh stained glass window ornament of the series. The window we have chosen is the Ascension Window, located behind the choir stalls. This is printed on glass and can be used as a Christmas ornament or as a window sunlight catcher. We are taking Pre-orders beginning now for delivery in approximately 5 weeks. Each ornament is about 4" and comes in a gift box ready for giving. The price for each ornament is **\$25.00. WE ALSO HAVE THE EARLIER 6 ORNAMENTS RELEASED THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GIFT SHOP.**

To order, please get the form from the gift shop or church office. Turn in this form with cash or a check made out to the: **St. James ECW** with the memo line indicating **Gift Shop**. Place it in an envelope addressed to Jody's Gift Shop and bring it to the gift shop or put it in the church office. The gift shop has been fortunate **IN RECEIVING** a variety of donations. Please visit as our contributions provide revenue for the ECW missions, local and world wide.

## *Christmas Flowers*



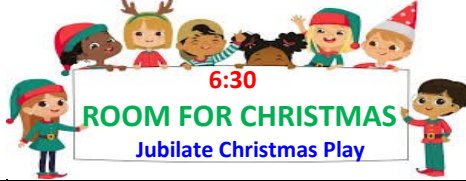




Poinsettias may be given in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving. A donation of \$15 per plant will help cover the cost. All names and money must be turned in, either to the church office or placed in the collection plate, by **December 19** to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| <b>1 1ST ADVENT</b><br>8:00 Eucharist<br>9:00 Sunday School<br>10:15 Eucharist                              | <b>2</b> 7:00 Advanced Ukulele Class Practice<br> | <b>3</b> <b>11:00 ECW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON</b><br>6:00 English Country Dancing (Parish Hall)<br>                       | <b>6</b> 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open<br>12:00 Coffee & Philosophy<br>4:00 Jubilate<br>6:00 Bell Choir<br>6:45 Adult Choir   | <b>5</b> <b>LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12</b><br>10:00 Healing Service<br>10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open<br>6:30 Bible Study                            | <b>6</b> 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open<br>4:30 Grief Support Christmas Dinner | <b>7 6:00</b><br><b>CHRISTMAS PARADE</b><br>Downtown Leesburg |
| <b>8 2ND ADVENT</b><br>8:00 Eucharist<br>9:00 Sunday School<br>10:15 Eucharist                              | <b>9</b> 7:00 Beginner Ukulele Class Practice  | <b>10</b><br>6:00 Max Lucado Study: "God Came Near"  | <b>11</b> 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open<br>12:00 Coffee & Philosophy<br>2:00 Daughter's of the King<br>6:30 <b>ROOM FOR CHRISTMAS</b><br>Jubilate Christmas Play<br> | <b>12</b> <b>LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12</b><br>10:00 Healing Service<br>10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open<br>6:30 Bible Study                           | <b>13</b> 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open                                       | <b>14</b>   |
| <b>15 3RD ADVENT</b><br>8:00 Eucharist<br>9:00 Sunday School<br>10:15 Eucharist                             | <b>16</b><br>3:00 Stephen Ministry<br>7:00 Advanced Ukulele Class Practice   | <b>17</b><br>6:00 Max Lucado Study: "God Came Near"  | <b>18</b><br>8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast<br>9:00 Monthly Food Drop<br>12:00 Coffee & Philosophy<br>5:00 Finance Mtg<br>6:00 Bell Choir<br>6:45 Adult Choir   | <b>19</b> <b>LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12</b><br>10:00 Healing & Anointing Service<br>10-2 Jody's Gift Shop<br>6:00 Vestry Mtg<br>6:30 Bible Study | <b>20</b> 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open                                       | <b>21</b><br>Choir Rehearsal                                  |
| <b>22 4TH ADVENT</b><br>8:00 Eucharist<br>10:15 Eucharist<br>4:00 Lessons & Carols<br>5:00 Jubilate Camp-In | <b>23</b> 7:00 Beginner Ukulele Class Practice   | <b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b><br>5:00 Christmas Eve Family Service<br>9:00 Christmas Eve (Livestream) Service<br> | <b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b><br>10:00 CHRISTMAS SERVICE<br>  | <b>26</b> 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service<br>       | <b>27</b> 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop CLOSED                                     | <b>28</b>   |
| <b>29</b><br>8:00 Eucharist<br>10:15 Eucharist  | <b>30</b> 7:00 Advanced Ukulele Class Practice   | <b>31</b><br>Happy New Year!<br>   |   |  |  |   |

