

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Leesburg, Florida

MINISTRY CATALOG

2025-26



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

Dear St. James Family:

It is my delight to present you with this Catalog of Ministry for 2025-26! We have seen a lot of growth over the last few years, and our list of opportunities here highlights what a vibrant parish we have become.

If you are new to St. James, I hope this bird's eye list will present you with some open doors of involvement where you can become connected to the life of our church. If you have been here for some time, you may be encouraged at the new ministries that have emerged and are shaping our congregation in exciting ways.

Our goal at St. James, as reflected in our Mission Statement, is to "grow more Christlike, expressing the love of Jesus Christ in our worship, our outreach, and our commitment to discipleship." This Catalog lays out our ministries according to those categories of Worship, Discipleship, and Outreach.

Along with this Catalog, we also have a Ministry Sign Up Sheet, where you can express your interest in becoming further involved. As you read through this list, ask the Lord to show you what you can do over the next year to serve him and his people. Let's see what he does with our faithfulness!

Thank you for being a part of this community of faith.

In Christ,

Tom+



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WORSHIP.....	PAGE 1
DISCIPLESHIP.....	PAGE 14
OUTREACH.....	PAGE 38

WORSHIP



ACOLYTES

Many of our youth serve as Acolytes during the 10:15 worship services and provide effective assistance to our clergy and worship leaders. It is always a pleasure to observe the determination of our acolytes to do their absolute best in performing their tasks.

Training and guidance is provided by Deacon Art Hollows.

Acolytes serve once a month or as needed.





ALTAR GUILD

The St. James Altar Guild is an organization of women who are dedicated to preparing the altar and sanctuary for each worship service. Each of four teams also has an important role in preparation for weddings, funerals and other special services. Altar Guild members are unsung heroes in assuring that the worshipful experience can be fully appreciated by those who attend services at St. James.

Training provided by team members.

Each Team serves once a month. Serves special services as needed.





GREETERS

Our greeters provide the hospitality component of our Invite Welcome Connect ministry. They arrive early and are stationed at the welcome table in the narthex. With a smile on their face, they greet our guests, provide our “Red Bag” and offer the Welcome card to be filled out by the guest. They escort the guests to a seat in the sanctuary and introduce them to the members around them. We have greeters at both services.

Training is provided by the Welcome Team Leader.

Greeters serve about once a month via a signup sheet.





LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) assists in the central act of the Christian liturgy, assisting the feeding of the faithful with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. This ministry is understood as a sacred trust. In order to be faithful in this work, the LEM must be prepared through prayer and training so that their efforts honor God and Christ's sacrificial love.

The Lay Eucharistic Minister must be licensed by the Diocese by request of the Rector. Guidelines for Training include History of Eucharistic Ministry, Altar Guild Guidelines, Personal Preparation, Practice of Ministry in Church, Homes, Hospitals, etc.

Scheduling is done by the church office.





LECTORS

Our Lectors are lay persons trained in reading scripture who are appointed by the Rector to read lessons and/or lead the prayers of the people. Lectors are encouraged to prepare prior to the service to understand the scripture for the day and be prepared for difficult pronunciations.

A license is not required. Training is provided by the Rector as needed.

Scheduling is done by the church office.





ST. JAMES CHOIR

Our choir is an essential and vibrant part of our regular worship. If you like to worship through song, please join us! We are a wonderful group of loving Christians who bring our gift of music to our worship every Sunday. Whether you are a novice or virtuoso we have a place for you here at St. James.

The choir sings at the 10:15 Sunday service from September-May. There are other opportunities for vocalists to present solos, or participate in ensembles, for worship. This is especially true during the summer months.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:00.





MORE MUSIC

BELL CHOIR.

A handbell choir, ensemble, or team performs music on a set of handheld bells tuned to the chromatic scale. An entire handbell choir is itself a single instrument, with a musician responsible for only one or a very few select notes that, when played together with the other musicians, becomes rich melodies and harmonies.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 6:00.





MORE MUSIC

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

St. James has a wealth of instrumental talent within the parish. These musicians are encouraged to use their gifts in worship, both as soloists and in ensemble. Both student and adult instrumentalists are welcome and encouraged to contact us about possibilities to be included in our music ministry.



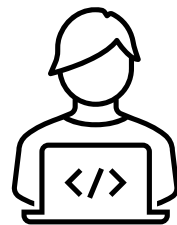


TECH SUPPORT

The tech support team is responsible for delivery of the livestream broadcast of the 10:15 services and other special services as determined by the Rector. The broadcasts are seen on YouTube, in the parish hall, and portions are seen in the sanctuary during the services. The broadcast is also available on the Church Facebook page.

Requires computer skills. (Windows, Outlook, MS Word and MS Power Point knowledge a plus)
Training is provided by the team.

The team leaders serve each Sunday. Assistants serve on a rotating basis.





USHERS

Our ushers are responsible for:

- Making people feel welcome at church
- Assisting with people management during services
- Assisting with seating
- Collecting offering
- Maintaining a safe environment
- Identifying those who may need communion brought to them in the pew
- Welcoming everyone who comes in the door and assisting with their needs during the service
- Keeping a count of attendees for recordkeeping.

No training required. Learn on the job.

Ushers currently serve once every three weeks at the 8:00 service, once every seven weeks at the 10:15 service.



DISCIPLESHIP



ALPHA COURSE

The **Alpha course** is an evangelistic course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of videos, talks, discussions and small group activities. It is described as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life" . A simple meal starts the evening.

The course runs for 11 weeks and includes one Saturday retreat. It runs from 6:00 to 8:00 each evening. Each session stands alone so missing a session is not a problem.

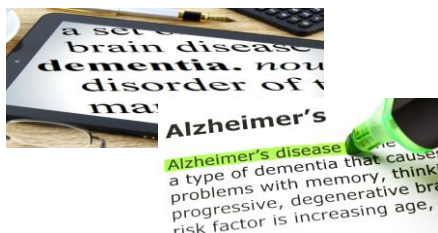




ALZHEIMERS-DEMENTIA CARE GIVERS

The Group welcomes all who have a loved one or are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. We meet to discuss the ways and means of expressing compassion and how to care for our loved ones in the midst of a difficult challenge. As a care giver, what is the best response to the many repetitive questions that are asked by your loved one? And what can be done when other unusual behaviors arise? Also, we look at some online resources that deal with these and other situations while caring for someone with dementia or Alzheimer's disease. All discussions are kept in strict confidentiality. Please note that our meetings are for caregivers only (and not the one with A/D) to allow the freedom to share as needed.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, at 10:30 in the Parish Hall.

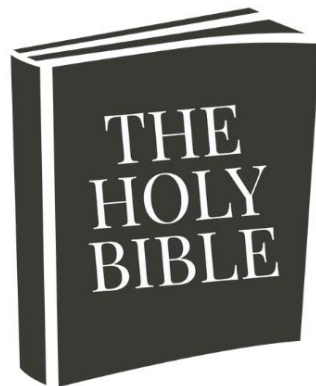




BIBLE STUDY

Bible study at St. James involves reading and examining the Bible to better understand its message and meaning. It involves carefully studying passages, analyzing context, interpreting meaning, and applying truths to our lives. Members supply their own Bibles and the various translations around the table often lead to discussion. A chapter or a section of a chapter is studied with participants encouraged to question or comment.

We meet weekly on Thursday, at 6:30 PM,
September through May.





BREAKFAST AND COFFEE HOUR

St. James provides coffee and other beverages and basic snacks for Sunday School and coffee hour after each service. However, it is much appreciated when members bring something extra to share each Sunday morning. Hot breakfast dishes are especially welcome...Homemade cookies...whatever you would like to share.

A signup sheet is on the bulletin board next to the parish hall kitchen. You can sign up there or call the parish office and ask to be assigned.





BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The butterfly garden is a pride and joy of St James. It is a peaceful place to find comfort in God's gifts of flowers and butterflies all throughout the year. St James has a wonderful butterfly release in the spring to honor our loved ones both past and present. Our children's choir sings joyful songs for this lovely day. It's also such a joy to watch the children release their butterflies and watch them fly away.

Once a month the call goes out from the church office asking for volunteers to help maintain the garden.

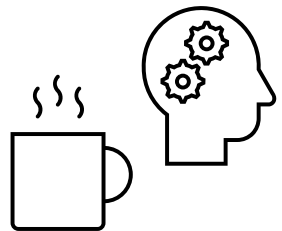




COFFEE & PHILOSOPHY

Coffee and Philosophy is an informal weekly discussion group that covers a myriad of subjects in the areas of philosophy, theology, and Scripture. The format is open ended with no pre-set agenda. Everyone is welcome to attend and address whatever topic they would like. Discussion is respectful of divergent opinions.

Meets every Wednesday at 12:00 noon, at the Coffee Snob at 1101 W North Blvd, Leesburg (the Ollie's shopping center). Just show up!





DANCE MINISTRY

Let them praise His name with dancing... Psalm 149:3...The dance ministry has a two-fold mission: to praise God through dance and to provide opportunities for Christian fellowship.

St. James hosts English Country Dances throughout the year. You do not need to have a partner and they are accessible to people of all ages and experience levels. We also have a Messianic dance group! This is a way to express thanksgiving, joy, and praise to God through dance. It is rooted in the traditions of ancient Israel and inspired by King David's worship. Lastly, ballroom dance classes and workshops are being organized to not only dance, but also to focus on relationship enhancement.





DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Daughters of the King (DOK) is an order of women of all ages dedicated to prayer, service and evangelism. Each day the Daughters pray for those on the St. James prayer list and others in need of prayer. The Daughters at St. James, known as the Martha and Mary Chapter meet monthly for Bible Study and discussions, and to exchange ideas for enhancing the worship life of the Church.

A three-month preparation period of discernment is required. During this time prospective members participate in a period of concentrated study, training, prayer and service.



DOK



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

The mission of Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is to empower women to do Christ's ministry in the world. A blend of women from diverse lifestyles, circumstances, experience, and preferences is found at St. James. Our journey embraces a vision for ALL St. James women to become a vibrant blend coming together to use their gifts to support and strengthen one another while sharing the love of Christ. Members are encouraged to join one of three chapters that meet monthly on third Tuesdays to enjoy fellowship as they study a topic the group has chosen as its annual emphasis, to pray for member concerns and celebrations, and to grow spiritually. A general meeting for all women is also held monthly (on first Tuesdays). All women of St. James are welcome to apply their experience and faith in fellowship and service through ECW.





EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

Supposed you had planned to go to a big family party, and at the last minute you became ill and were not able to attend. Imagine how disappointed you would feel! Someone at the party suggests that they take you a piece of cake from the family celebration, hoping that this would be a way to make you a part of the celebration, even though you couldn't be there physically with the rest of the family. Imagine how wonderful you would feel about being included in a special way.

This is exactly the purpose of the Eucharistic Visitor Ministry. We at St. James do indeed have a big "family celebration" every Sunday, and when someone is unable to be with us physically we feel the loss. We try to make them feel included by taking a part of our feast from Sunday morning directly to them.

Eucharistic Visitors are trained and licensed through guidance of the Diocese.



FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship Committee creates opportunities for members to join in small group activities which are designed to promote fellowship and community. During their first year, the Fellowship Committee organized Simple Supper for Six, which will become an annual event based on popular demand.

We are looking for committee members who enjoy planning small group activities that support and enhance fellowship among our St. James parishioners. The committee meets as needed. At the minimum, they meet in the fall to plan activities for the coming year. If you would like to be part of this planning committee, please join us when the call goes out.





MOVING FORWARD

GRIEF SUPPORT GATHERING

Our Grief Support Group gives you the opportunity to share with others who know firsthand what you are experiencing - Reduce feelings of isolation - Confront emotions - Learn new coping skills - Explore your grief and begin to heal - Provide you with much needed support during your grief - Learn that you are not alone.

Our group meets in an informal and closed environment. We focus mainly on sharing, fellowship, and Hearts Healing Hearts. Topics for discussion are determined by the needs and recommendations of those attending. We welcome and value everyone's input, but sharing is optional.

Our gatherings are open to anyone. We meet in the **St. James Episcopal Church Chapel** located behind the church. Meet and Greet starts at 3:00 on the Veranda In front of the Parish Hall.



INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

As Christians, we all realize the power of prayer. An Intercessory Prayer Group has been established at St. James to promote this process. The purpose of this group, which is open to all members of St. James, is to have a venue for the immediate implementation of an intercessory prayer request. The way it works is quite simple: when a Prayer Request is received by St. James, notification is sent via email to everyone in this group. Members of the Intercessory Prayer Group then pray for that person and their need.

The only requirements of this group are:

1. Be willing to pray for people in need.
2. Have a viable email address so that you can receive the information.





Our Liaisons are part of the Connect Team within our Invite Welcome Connect newcomer's ministry. They initially communicate with our first time guests via a hand-written note provided by the church. Through this note, and possible further communication efforts, they welcome them to St. James and make them aware of current things going on that they might be interested in.

Requires no training.

Requires very little time and effort (but serves a great purpose).



MEN'S MINISTRY

The St. James Men's Ministry continues to sponsor social events for men and boys of the Church and their guests, including an annual Steak Out Dinner and a Fish Fry, while striving to expand its opportunity to assist the Parish in a variety of ministries and activities, as needed. We also have a monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast, which includes prayer, breakfast and viewing a selected set of topics.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast is held at 8:00 on the third Wednesday of the month.





PARISH LIBRARY

Have you considered your Parish Library as an avenue for extending your faith and discovering more about theology and new or classic books on the subjects of religion and Christian living? The librarian could use your help in choosing new books, reading and reviewing books and DVDs in our collection, giving book talks during Sunday school sessions, or even reading to our youth groups from their collection. Perhaps you might like to simply "man" the library on a Thursday morning (9 a.m. to Noon) when the librarian is missing or help the librarian prepare books for shelving. If you haven't visited your parish library, it is a pleasant haven in Room 6 of the Sunday school complex, open to all parish members for either meditation, counseling or finding a great book to read. If you would like to lend a hand...





PASTORAL CARE

We are a standing committee of St. James tasked with strategic planning for all things related to pastoral care. This includes our Stephen Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, and the Intercessory Prayer Group. They also maintain and deliver a series of booklets designed to help people with the grieving process. This series, “Journeying Through Grief”, is a set of four short books sent to people at four crucial times during the first year after a loss.

Meets annually in the Fall to develop plans for the coming year. If you would like to be part of this planning effort, please join us when the call goes out.





SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

We are a standing committee of St. James tasked with the spiritual development of the parish. Our tasks currently are involved with small faith formation groups, Christian education, and promoting and implementing stewardship within the parish.

We meet as needed with a Fall planning meeting for the coming year. If you would like to be part of this planning effort, please join us when the call goes out.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

St. James is a Stephen Ministry church. Lay people are equipped to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. We all experience challenges in life - - times when we could benefit from care and support. Stephen Ministers can provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty.

Stephen Ministry training occurs annually. It requires approximately 50 hours of training.



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. The Episcopal Church sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time and talents and volunteering for ministry and mission. Hence, stewardship is a year-round effort.

Stewardship within St. James is an extension of our spiritual development committee. As plans are made each year for our stewardship efforts, volunteers are needed to carry out each year's plan. If you would like to be involved, please sign up or contact us.



UKULELE MINISTRY

Our ukulele ministry has become very popular. Participants meet for rehearsals on a regular schedule. Beginners' classes are offered to get you ready to join the main group. Our ukulele musicians perform during services and for special events within St. James and in the Leesburg community. We have ukuleles available for you to try us out prior to your decision to purchase one. Come have a blast making music with us.

Beginners meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Advanced meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Each year St. James hosts a vibrant VBS for pre-k through 5th graders. Crafts, drama, games, and songs reinforce the Daily Bible Point that is carefully integrated into each activity. Dinner is also served! All adult and teen helpers are welcome. Sign up now or wait for the call for volunteers each Spring.



OUTREACH



FOOD DROP

Once a month, St. James hosts a Leesburg Food Bank Van for church members and Leesburg residents to drive by and drop off non-perishable food items and/or financial gifts. Financial gifts are tax deductible. For more information on the Leesburg Food Bank, go to their website.

<http://leesburgfoodbank.org/>

Volunteers are always welcome to assist at the drop off site on Lee Street in front of Jody's Gift Shop.

The drop off is on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 9:00-12:00 noon.





INVITE WELCOME CONNECT

We are our St. James standing committee for our newcomers' ministry. Strategic plans are developed and maintained for all three components. Each year we will invite all members of St. James to participate in reviewing our plans and offering new ideas through a brainstorming session. We especially welcome our newest members who have recent experience with our IWC efforts to come and provide their perspective. Sign up now or respond to the invitation each Fall.

Meets at a TBA date each year in September or October.





JAMAICA MEDICAL MISSION



The Jamaica Medical Mission is an annual humanitarian mission to Port Maria, Jamaica, which has been in existence for 30 years.

We are a group of volunteers who travel to provide health care, free of charge, to the impoverished in Port Maria and the surrounding communities. We strive to achieve and maintain a strong Christian relationship with our host church, St. Mary's Anglican Church, as we fellowship and serve in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We accept both professional health care and non-health care volunteers. Volunteers pay their own way. All donated funds are restricted for mission purposes only.

Calls will go out each year for volunteers and donations at an appropriate time to be ready for the next mission trip. See the St. James website for more info.



JODY'S GIFT SHOP

Jody's Gift Shop is a fundraising effort of the ECW in support of their outreach program. It is not a thrift shop. We sell items donated to us that make great gifts for that special someone. Gifts available are often seasonal specific, so when shopping for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and other special dates, think of Jody's when shopping.

Volunteers are needed to keep the doors open.

The shop is open Wednesday through Friday from 10:00 AM till 2:00 PM, and Sundays from 9:00 AM till 12:00 noon.

Contact us for more information and to schedule your volunteer time.

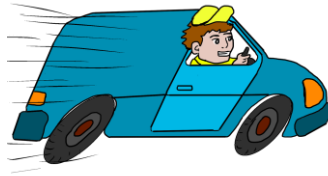




OPERATION HOMEBOUND

Operation Home Bound provides hot meals to those who are homebound, five days a week, year-round, including all holidays. Meals are prepared at the Operation Home Bound Center at North Lake Presbyterian Church in Lady Lake. A team of dedicated members of St. James delivers the meals to Church members and other shut-ins in the Leesburg area.

Volunteers are asked to deliver at least once a month. Scheduling is done through the St. James office for our drivers.





OUTREACH

Outreach is a standing committee of St. James focused on developing volunteer opportunities for members of St. James to provide their time and talent throughout the Leesburg area as a complement to the efforts of our EWC.

We meet as needed plus a Fall planning meeting for the coming year. If you would like to be part of this planning effort, please join us when the call goes out.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 19:19