

St. James Episcopal Church

204 N. Lee Street

Leesburg, FL 34748

Phone (352) 787-1981

DECEMBER 2025

MESSENGER

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

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. JAMES

*ECW LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 2nd at 11:00 a.m. with musical entertainment

by Nancy Moran



*LEESBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE

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



*"LIGHT HAS COME" MUSIC PROGRAM

Sunday, December 14th at 4:00 p.m. St. James Adult Choir, St. James Youth

Singers: Jubilate & Cantate accompanied by a 14 piece Orchestra

*CHRISTMAS EVE ~ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

5:00 p.m.



9:00 p.m. Eucharist with music by the Adult Choir

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

*CHRISTMAS DAY ~ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH



A STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU



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 23rd. We'd like to thank all of you who made your financial commitment to St. James for 2026. If you would still like to make a pledge, you can send in your card, or contact the church at 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 18th, 2025 at 11:30 am in the Parish Hall**. We will review key events from 2025, confirm our budget, elect four new vestry members, and look forward to what God has in store for us in 2026. 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: Terri Galyon, Linda Grizzard, Dan Robuck, and Dick Singeltary.

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;

**No spouse serving concurrently
on the Vestry.**



OUR NEW CHURCH SOFTWARE

Welcome to Realm! This is our new church membership platform where you can update your personal information, view your giving and pledge records, and get connected with activity groups for fellowship and learning. Some of you have received invitation emails from Realm. Those are legit! You can use the link in the email to set up your login. If you haven't received an email invite yet, you can go online and request access. Just follow the steps below:

- **Go to www.onrealm.org/stjamesleesburg and click “Sign Up”. - Enter your email address, name, and preferred phone number, then click “continue” to submit your request.**

Once your access has been approved, you will get an email notification to set up your password and login. Follow the link and have fun exploring! A brief note on names: Please make sure your first and last name is entered as your full, legal name. Your nickname or short name can be entered in the “Preferred Name” field once your account is activated. This will help us avoid confusion down the road. Thank you! *Bethany Trees*



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP



The Alzheimers-Dementia Care Givers Group welcomes all who have a loved one or are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month to discuss the ways and means of expressing compassion and how to care for our loved ones in the midst of a difficult challenge.

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 next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 10:30 in the Parish Hall.**

We hope to see you then, Jeff Livesay

Advent Sunday School



Coming Home for Christmas

In preparation for the coming of Immanuel, God with us, we will begin a four-part Advent series focusing on the promises of God as reflected in the book of Isaiah. **Deacon Art, Deacon Sebastiana, Dorry Curran, and Bob Tindall** will each host a session. **We will meet in the Parish Hall between the services at 9 am on November 30, December 7, 14, and 21.**

We also offer a wonderful daily devotional series, which will be emailed to everyone.

We pray that this short study in Isaiah strengthens your faith in the ultimate Christmas gift, Jesus Christ, who is our shelter in the storm, our warmth in the waiting, and our welcome in the wandering. Please join us!



LEESBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH



St. James will be participating in this year's Christmas Parade. If you would like to join in on the festivities, please contact the church office at 352-787-1981.



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING



The Daughters of the King meet on the **2nd Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.** Our next meeting, scheduled on **Wednesday, December 10th.**

If you are interested in joining the Daughters of the King, please contact: **Catherine Holt.**

All are welcome!

ST. JAMES MEN'S MINISTRY

The Men's Ministry holds a prayer breakfast on the **3rd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.** Their next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 17th.**

If you are interested in joining the Men's Ministry, please contact: **Ted Kermode**

All are welcome!

CONNECT" ORIENTATION SERIES

In order to have people learn more about St. James, a series of Power Point presentations is provided several times a year. These sessions are designed to explain various aspects of St. James to people who are new to the congregation. However, they are open to everyone, and every session to date has included both "new" and "old" members. The sessions stand independently -- you do not need to come to all of them. Pick and choose the ones that interest you.

Each session lasts about 30 minutes. The presentations take place in the Parish Hall, starting at 9:15 a.m.

December 28th: History of St. James

Come and learn about the fascinating history of our church, from its beginnings in 1885 until the present day.

January 4th: Why We Do What We Do

Many people are unfamiliar with a liturgical church. "What is all this getting up & down?" "Why are there different colors on different Sundays?" "What do all those bells mean?" This presentation will take you step-by-step through a typical service at St. James.

January 11th: The Stained Glass Windows

When you first enter St. James you will be surrounded by beautiful stained glass windows. This presentation will provide an overview of what these windows represent.



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 19th to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

In Thanksgiving For: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____



ECW PAGE

A WORD ABOUT ECW FUNDRAISING \$\$\$\$\$\$

Last year, through the hard work of ECW and the generosity of the St. James' parishioners, St. James was able to help support our community by donating to over 20 local charities. Throughout the year we will be highlighting some of these charities to keep you informed of our community outreach ministries and the important work we do. If you are not familiar with these worthy organizations, please look them up!

Children's Advocacy Center - \$2000 ~ Hope 2 Restoration - \$1000~ New Vision - \$500

We thank you for your support. *Barnelia Woodward*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

*ECW Board Meeting takes place 10:00 a.m. in the St. Nicholas House.

*ECW General Meeting and Christmas Cover Dish Luncheon takes place at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

THERE ARE NO CHAPTER MEETINGS THIS MONTH!

Current And Future Opportunities To Support ECW's Fundraising

The Jody's Gift Shop Has The Below Items For Purchase:

*New St. James' Stain Glass Christmas Ornament
(Pre-purchase only)

*Holiday Chances, \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

*Plant Sale is on December 7th, See Chris Meade
to order, 352-406-1472.

*"Souper Bowl" takeout soup for the Big
Game is on February 8th!!

*Tablescapes, "Love Is In The Air"
is on February 14th.

NOVEMBER FOOD DROP



Our November Food Drop took place on a sunny and calm day, with volunteers, Terri and Van Galyon, Barbara Logan, Dick Singletary along with Bob & Rita Clements meeting caring and generous givers of food and monetary contributions from St. James to the Leesburg Food Bank. With 555 families signed up for either Thanksgiving or Christmas at the Food Bank.

TOTAL amount collected ~ **740** of food from St. James ECW ~ **\$1265.00**

TOTAL year to date ~ **47,928** pounds of food. ~ **\$57,702.00**

We will meet again for the FOOD DROP on **Wednesday, December 15th**, from **9:00-12:00**. To help fill the Christmas Baskets -Cans of cranberries (whole and jellied), cans of green beans, icing, turkey gravy, boxes of dressing mix, cake mixes, and monies that will go for turkeys (If designated). There is a great need for boxes of cereal. Blessings to you all.

Rita Clements

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <div> 6:00 Beginner Ukulele 7:00 Advanced Ukulele </div>	2 <div> 9:00 ECW Board Meeting 11:00 ECW LUNCHEON (Parish Hall) </div>	3 <div> 10:30 Caregiver Support Group (Parish Hall) 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Coffee Snob) 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 4:30 Jubilate 5:45 Bell Choir 6:45 Adult Choir </div>	4 <div> 8:30-12 Library Open 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 6:30 Bible Study-The Book of Revelation (Parish Hall) </div>	5 <div> 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open </div>	6 <div> 6:00 LEESBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE  </div>
7 <div> The 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I) 9-12 Jody's Gift Shop Open 10:15 Eucharist (RITE II) 11:30 Cantate 3:00 Dulcimer Class 6:00 Young Adult Bible Study (St. Nicholas House) </div>	8 <div> 3:00 Stephen Ministry 6:00 Beginner Ukulele </div>	9	10 <div> 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Coffee Snob) 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 2:00 Daughters of the King (Parish Hall) 4:30 Jubilate 5:45 Bell Choir 6:45 Adult Choir </div>	11 <div> 8:30-12 Library Open 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 6:30 Bible Study-The Book of Revelation (Chapel) </div>	12 <div> 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open </div>	13
14 <div> The 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I) 9-12 Jody's Gift Shop Open 10:15 Eucharist (RITE II) 4:00 "Light Has Come" St. James Christmas Program ~Adult, Jubilate, & Cantate plus a 14-piece Orchestra  </div>	15 <div> 6:00 Beginner Ukulele 7:00 Advanced Ukulele </div>	16 <div> No Chapter Meetings This Month </div>	17 <div> 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 - 12:00 Food Drop 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Coffee Snob) 4:30 Jubilate 5:00 Finance Meeting 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 Adult Choir </div>	18 <div> 8:00 Butterfly Garden Weeding 8:30-12 Library Open 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 6:30 Vestry Meeting (St. Nicholas House) 6:30 Bible Study-The Book of Revelation (Parish Hall) </div>	19 <div> 10-2 Jody's Gift Shop Open </div>	20
21 <div> The 4th Sunday of Advent 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I) 9:00 Inquirers Class 9-12 Jody's Gift Shop Open 10:15 Eucharist (RITE II) 11:30 Cantate 7:00 Messianic Dance (Parish Hall) </div>	22 <div> 6:00 Beginner Ukulele </div>	23	24 <div> CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 With Eucharist  9:00 EUCHARIST W/ Adult Choir </div>	25 <div> CHRISTMAS 10:00 EUCHARIST  </div>	26 <div> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED </div>	27
28 <div> The 1st Sunday after Christmas 8:00 Eucharist (RITE I) 9-12 Jody's Gift Shop Open 10:15 Eucharist (RITE II) 11:30 Cantate 3:00 Dulcimer Class </div>	29 <div> 6:00 Beginner Ukulele </div>	30	31 <div>  12:00 Coffee & Philosophy (Coffee Snob) </div>	<div>  </div>		



KEEP FLIPPING THOSE TOPS



This is one of the times of year we are grateful and count our many blessings. As you enjoy celebrating with family and friends, pulling flip tops, Ronald McDonald House is also grateful, and thanks you for pulling the tabs. These tabs make it possible for families of critically ill children that need hospitalization to have comfortable lodging and meals, gratis. Many blessings and a happy New Year.

The monetary donations you send will support the “Home away from Home” for these families.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Florida

To make a gift by mail, send your check made out to RMHC of Central Florida to

P.O. Box 547537 Orlando, FL 32854-7537. To make a gift by phone call 407-206-0957.

P.S. Your donation is tax deductible.

Many Blessings to all for the coming year. *Meg Bremer*



LIBRARY CORNER



ADVENT, THE NEXT SEASON TO CELEBRATE DURING THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH YEAR.

“ADVENT always starts on the 4th Sunday before Christmas. This year, that will be Nov. 30th (St. Andrew’s Day). This marks the start of the liturgical year, and is the preparation for Christmas. Advent ends on Christmas Eve:

Advent 1st Sunday -Nov. 30, followed by celebrating a week of HOPE for the arrival of the Messiah. Lighting of the 1st candle in our Advent wreath **Advent 2nd Sunday -Dec. 7**, followed by a week to celebrate PEACE, which Christ brings into the world. Lighting of the 2nd candle in our Advent wreath **Advent 3rd Sunday - Dec. 14**, followed by a week to celebrate JOY in the coming birth of Jesus. Lighting of the 3rd candle in our Advent Wreath **Advent 4th Sunday - Dec. 21**, followed by a week to celebrate LOVE, God’s selfless love for all humanity, encouraging us to love those in our own lives. Lighting of the 4th candle in our Advent Wreath.”

During the whole season we pray, worship and give to those in need. This is a wonderful Christian Season, a time of remarkable beauty and fellowship. In anticipation, Wishing you all a Merry and Hallowed Christmas.

Margaret Braham, The Parish Librarian

P.S. Please visit your Library



A Taste of St. James

As we prepare for our upcoming mission to Port Maria next February, we would like to thank all of you for your generosity in contributing to our Taste of St. James fundraiser. Together we raised over **\$4,500.00** for our ongoing Jamaica Medical Mission.

Well done, good and faithful servants! *Rev’d Thomas Trees*

St. James Music Ministry Presents



"Light Has Come"

Sunday, December 14th at 4:00 p.m.

~Featuring~

- St. James Adult Choir
- St. James Youth Singers:
Jubilate & Cantate
- 14-piece Orchestra

St. James Episcopal Church, 204 Lee St.

**This is not a ticketed event. Join us as we celebrate through song!*



ST. JAMES PRAYER LIST



SHORT TERM

Cynthia Kennedy	November 5th	Beverly Borke	November 17th
Becky Mitchell	November 5th	George Borke	November 17th
Jim Mitchell	November 5th	Denise Meier	November 17th
Cricket Morrison	November 10th	Craig Pierson	November 18th
Fred Heald	November 14th	George Sullivan	November 18th
Beverly Borke	November 17th	Dot Vedder	December 1st
Kurt Cessna	November 17th		

3 MONTHS

Donna Shanosk	September 2nd	Dorri Brooke	October 14th
Kathy Shanosk	September 2nd	Beverly Bounds	October 14th
Nancy Ann Rische	September 2nd	Tim Thomson	October 15th
Dee Kermode	September 3rd	Patricia Bailey	October 15th
Luke Cain	September 4th	Art Hollows	October 23rd
Isabel & Gabriella	September 4th	Jared Mymudes	October 23rd
Doug Springmann	September 10th	Georgina Fauta	October 23rd
Richard Herbert	September 19th	Carlos Alvarado	October 23rd
Earl Peck	September 29th	Jose Mestre	October 23rd
Angel Deacon	September 29th	Hank Fisher	October 23rd
Amy McCombs	October 6th	Bob Clements	October 14th
Danny Thompson	October 13th	Frank Peter	October 14th
Julitta Velton	October 14th	Donna Shanosk	October 15th
Ann Kupferberg	October 14th	Kathy Shanosk	October 15th

LONG TERM

Baby Autumn, Michael Baker, Patricia Bailey, Nathan Battle, Marion Belson, Peggy Berutich, Nina Bonney, Todd Boyd & Family, Joe Branham, Margaret Branham, Susan Burden, Mabel Burns Scott Butler, Judy Cable, Cregg Carreins Jr., Beverly Caswell, Leroy McClurg, Jasmine Cleeton, Birdy Connelly, Kristin Conner, Corinne, Lisa Craig, Beth Crossley, Beverly Cox, Kurt Cessna, Paul Dallaire, Janet Davis, Randy Denk, Berni Dodeci, Jimmy Draime, David Dudley, Daniel Durst, Barbara & Don Fodor, Gaillardet, Art Hollows, Kami Hecker, Brook James, James Kevin, Kaley, Cynthia Kennedy, David Knowles, Sally Lawrence, Katie Leware, Elizabeth Linberger, Margaret Peggy Link, Linda Long, David Lossing, Jase Martin, Bill Mann, Becky Mitchell, Jim Mitchell, Brandon Morrison, Caroline Morrison, Belinda Morton-Rusk, Jared Mymudes, Curt Oestreich, Gail Ostrander,, Amber Prescott, Cindy Raczkowski, Diana Reis, Jack & Judy Rigby, Paul Rizzo, Bubba Robinson, Holly Rouse, Robert Sanchez, Steve Scharber, Donna Sharnosk, Jameson Small, Fredrick Stevens, Peggy Steeves, Ann Seagraves, Pat Thomas, Shelly Thomas, Danny Thompson, Dot Vedder, Julitta Velton, Kevin Watkins & Rob Yeager, Sue Roeglin, Jan West.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd Bonnie Kern

Justin Meyer

3rd Gail Robinson

Terri Brock

4th Andrew Braun

5th Claire Meade

6th George Bolton

Maddison Young

7th Margaret Branham

9th Dee Saylor

10th Robin Cauthen

George Kramer

Bruce Saylor

11th Jim Mitchell

14th Byron Oldham

16th James Pearson



17th Lyle Haddenham

18th Denise Carpenter

19th Ferrell Durham III

21st Bill Cauthen

Jason Gray

22nd Dennis Koski

24th Dee Kermode

Ted Kermode

26th Meredith Kirste

Caden Smalley

27th Ben Trees

29th Tina Meyer

Betty Stephens

Lila Van Beek

30th Bonnie Binneveld

30th James Kaley

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

4th Dennis & Peggy Koski

13th Terry & Nancy Mitchell

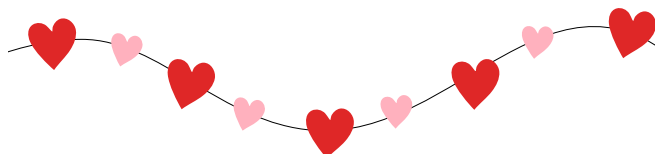
18th Ferrell & Carol Young

Jeff & Stephannie Engel

21st Ted & Judy Bedell

27th Jim & Becky Mitchell

31st Charles & Winnie Tucker



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Services:

8:00 a.m. (Rite 1) & 10:15 a.m. (Rite II)

Healing & Anointing Service:

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

Church Office Phone: (352) 787-1981 / Email: office@stjames-leesburg.org

Please visit our website at: www.stjames-leesburg.org

CLERGY & STAFF

Rev'd Thomas Trees,	Rector
Cell & Email - (352)-643-118 / frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org	

Rev'd Art Hollows,	Deacon
Rev'd Sebastiana Springmann	Deacon
Victoria Mymudes	Parish Secretary
John Wilson	Parish Organist/Choir Director
Elizabeth Williams	Youth Ministry & Choir Director
Wylie Hill	Sexton

VESTRY

(Senior Warden) Terri Galyon, (Junior Warden) Bert Sofield,
(Treasurer) Tom Grizzard

Members: Nigel Bailey, Bill Binneveld, Claire Meade, Rita Clements,
Tony Cobb, Susan Cyrus, Linda Grizzard, Stuart Mowatt,
Dan Robuck, Dick Singeltary

Our Mission

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.