



**SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS and
CELEBRATION OF EPIPHANY
JANUARY 4, 2015**

Welcome to St. James/Santiago Apóstol Lutheran Church

We're glad you're here! Our mission is to help you grow in your relationship with God and with all of God's people. Our worship services are designed to gather us as God's people, to hear God's Word, receive Jesus in bread and wine, and join us with God's people of all times and places. We pray that you will be blessed and encouraged by worshiping here. No matter who you are, God knows you and God loves you. If you are a visitor or guest, we warmly invite you to join our faith community. If you want to know more, please speak to our pastors or a member of our Steering Committee. Below is some information you may find helpful during and after worship.

Children and their families are vital to our life and ministry at St. James/Santiago Apóstol. Children are always welcome in worship. In the cry of a baby, or the fussiness of a toddler, we hear a new voice that speaks to God, reminding us that children are a blessing and a joy. If children ever need a break from worship, we have a nursery in the front hallway by the front doors.

Holy Communion. All God's children are welcome at the table of the Lord. God loves you, and welcomes you to the Lord's Supper, whether you are a new Christian, a returning one, or someone who is exploring who and what God might mean in your life. Please don't hesitate to come forward and share in the meal with us: there is room for everyone, especially for YOU.

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. We serve it two ways, either by intinction or by individual cups. For Communion by intinction, you will receive a piece of bread or wafer, and dip the bread or wafer in a common cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white). Instead of dipping the bread, you also have the option to eat, and then drink from a common cup.

For individual cup Communion, you will receive a piece of bread to eat, and then choose a cup to drink containing wine (red) or grape juice (white). We offer the common cup as well. We also have gluten-free wafers for those with dietary restrictions. Children who do not yet commune and anyone who does not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you desire a blessing, please ask the pastor for one, or simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would like a blessing instead of bread and wine. Please feel free to use the altar rail for prayer after receiving the blessing or Holy Communion.

Offerings. We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes ministry possible. The offering at this service will support St. James/Santiago Apóstol Lutheran Church and its outreach ministries in this neighborhood of Oak Forest/Garden Oaks/North Houston. A portion also goes to our national church body for mission and ministry around the world.

Restrooms are located in the front hallway by the front doors.

Learning Hour/Fellowship Time. During the time between our worship services, you are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, juice, hospitality and fellowship. We also offer Learning Groups for adults and children, so please ask anyone how to join a class or small group at any time.

If you ever need a Pastor, both Pastor Arthur (713.725.6760) and Vicar Aura (608.469.0692) prefer that you call them directly on their cell phones. If you know of someone who is scheduled for surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know. If there is an emergency, if you would like a pastoral visit at home, or if you simply have questions about life, faith, or getting more involved, calling us directly on our cell phones is always the best way to reach us.

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS and CELEBRATION OF EPIPHANY
JANUARY 4, 2015
10:00 A.M.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) – Setting Nine
P = Presiding Minister, A = Assisting Minister, C = Congregation

GATHERING

Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

The assembly stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of peace,

C: we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C: Amen.



C:

Rise, Shine, You People!



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round-ed, with grace un - bound-ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.



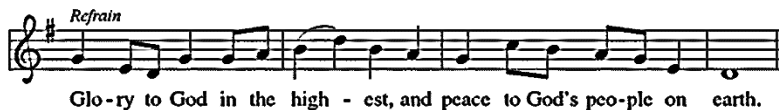
GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

C:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

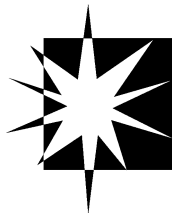
WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14

C:



Give the king your jus-¹tice, O God,
and your righteousness to¹ the king's son;
that he may rule your¹ people righteously
and the¹ poor with justice;
that the mountains may bring prosperity¹ to the people,
and the¹ hills, in righteousness.

Let him defend the needy a-¹ mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush¹ the oppressor. R
May he live as long as the sun and¹ moon endure,
from one generation¹ to another.

Let him come down like rain upon¹ the mown field,
like showers that wa-¹ ter the earth.
In his time may the¹ righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace
till the moon shall¹ be no more.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the¹ isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba¹ offer gifts. R
May all kings bow¹ down before him,
and all the nations¹ do him service.

For the king delivers the poor who cry out¹ in distress,
the oppressed, and those who¹ have no helper.

¹³He has compassion on the low-¹ ly and poor,
and preserves the lives¹ of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he re-¹ deems their lives,**
and precious is their blood¹ in his sight. R



SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1–12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.



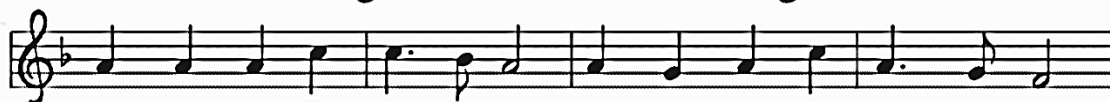
The congregation sings the Gospel Acclamation during the Gospel Procession.

GOSPEL HYMN:

ELW #289

C:

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Gospel is announced.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL HYMN:

ELW #289

C:

Angels We Have Heard on High

3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

SERMON: Pastor Arthur Murphy

C:

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



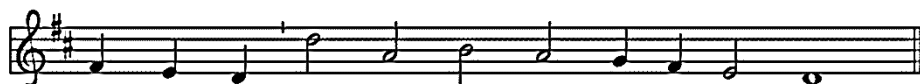
Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

CREED

To the tune of O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW 279

P: Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we have been baptized:

C: In God creator we believe the Lord of hosts proclaim
All things from God their form receive; by God's strong word they came.
By God was all created in earth and heav'n above.
God made them all, things great and small, by God's great pow'r and love.

In God's Son Jesus we believe, who came at God's own hour,
Whom Virgin Mary did conceive by Holy Spirit's pow'r
Christ suffered and was buried, was raised at God's own call
To reign on high, and to draw nigh at last as Judge of all.

In Holy Spirit we believe and in Christ's Church on earth
The Saints, united, faith receive, a gift of precious worth.
God sanctifies and keeps us by God's empow'ring love,
Forgiven, we the grave shall flee to live with God Above.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all according to their needs.

A brief silence.

A: Gracious God, we pray for the church. Make it one body and send it to proclaim the boundless riches of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Gracious God, we pray for the creation. Send rain where it is needed and sun to dry what is too drenched. Feed all living things with your abundance. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Gracious God, we pray for the nations. Make your wisdom known to rulers and authorities. Defend the needy and rescue the poor. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Gracious God, we pray for those in any need. Enfold and heal the fearful and brokenhearted, the wounded and sick. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Gracious God, we pray for this assembly. Open our hearts as we adopt budgets and shape ministries. Rouse us to holy courage and generosity. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Gracious God, we give you thanks for those who have died in faith. Unite us with them forever, and strengthen us through their witness. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of your

Light among us, Jesus Christ our Savior

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

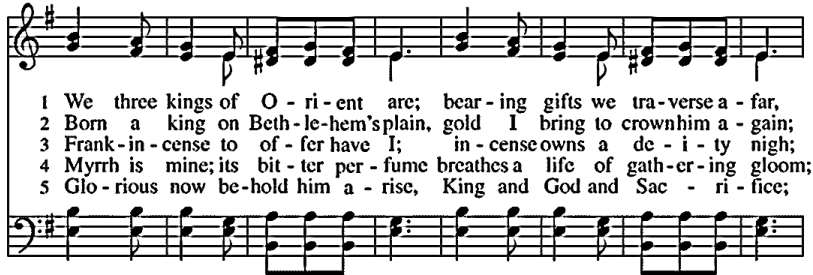
C: And also with you.

The ministers and the congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you." After the peace is shared, the congregation sits.

MEAL

OFFERTORY:

C: We Three Kings of Orient Are

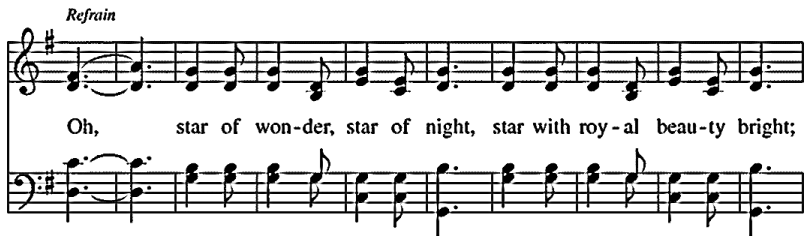


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

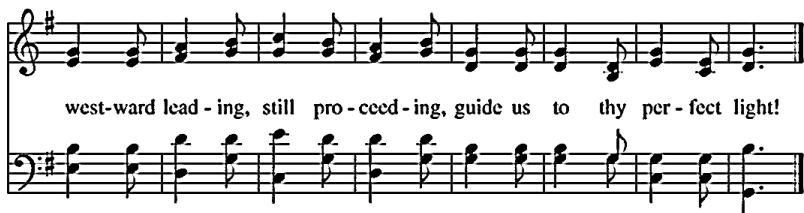


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Please stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

To the tune of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ELW 270

C:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of Hosts, by all adored!

Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh

In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:

Hail, Hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord, to you!



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

To the tune of It Came Upon the Midnight Clear ELW 282

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C:

**Our Father, Lord on heav'ns high throne, most holy be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth—in heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need; forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom, unto you in grateful love we bow;
And yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view your mighty presence now.
The glory yours; your praise be sung, by angel hosts and all.
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal. Come, behold and receive your God.



5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain
No - el, No - el, No -
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers for communion.
All God's children are welcome at the table of the Lord. We serve communion two ways, either by intinction or by individual cups. For Communion by intinction, you will receive a piece of bread or wafer, and dip the bread or wafer in a common cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white). Instead of dipping the bread, you also have the option to eat, and then drink from a common cup. For individual cup Communion, you will receive a piece of bread to eat, and then choose a cup to drink containing wine (red) or grape juice (white). We offer the common cup as well. We also have gluten-free wafers for those with dietary restrictions. Children who do not yet commune and anyone who does not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Please stand.

CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION:

ELW #207

C:

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

C: We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P: May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

ELW#538

C:

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth *Enviado soy de Dios*



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta - es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain
un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE
WELCOME, EVERYONE!

We welcome all our guests today. Please speak to the pastor if you have special concerns or wish to discuss becoming a member of this community by baptism, affirmation of baptism, or transfer of membership from another Christian congregation.

KEEP OUR FRIENDS & RELATIVES IN PRAYER

Sally Burgess
Charles Cernik
Orie Clark III
Grady Green
Pr. Fred de Oliveira
Charla Largent
John Largent
Margaret "Candy" Largent

Linda Bernice Martinez
Patricia Nash
Louise Richter
Kelly Simmons
Kimberly Tessier
Mic Tessier
Ginger Wilber

STEWARDSHIP CORNER	
ATTENDANCE AVERAGE	
FIRST SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	30
Dec. 24, 2014	45
Dec. 28, 2014	26
TOTAL To DATE	35
SECOND SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	59
Dec. 24, 2014	16
Dec. 28, 2014	22
TOTAL To DATE	32
WORSHIP TOTAL:	67
PRAYER CIRCLE	
AVERAGE TOTAL TO DATE	6
Dec. 2014	6
AVERAGE TO DATE:	6
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Total to Date	\$155,144.58
Dec. 24, 2014	\$1,606.00
Dec. 28, 2014	\$4,436.00
Total to Date	\$161,186.58
2014 Budget	
	\$149,300.00
Above Budget Target \$11,886.58	

NOTE: Our target goal for the month of December is \$16,000 to cover outstanding expenses.

Dec. Goal	\$16,000
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Total to Date	\$11,886.58
Gap to Date	\$4,113.42

ASSISTING IN MINISTRY

Presiding Minister
Vicar
Assisting Minister
Altar Care
Crucifer

Pastor Arthur Murphy
Aura M Suárez, MA
Orie Clark III
Vicki Faulkner
Elyse King

Teller
Usher
Organist
Cantor
Acolyte

Elizabeth Baber
Terry White
Sergei Savitski
Maria Grimsley
Olivia Cardenas

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN., JAN. 4

Following the worship service today, we will enjoy The King's Cake. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for coffee, conversation, and King's Cake.

SUN., JAN. 11

Adult Bible Study resumes at the 11 AM Learning Hour next Sunday.

SUN., FEB. 1

Consecration Sunday. On this Sunday we pledge our time, talents and treasures towards the ministries of St. James and the 2015 budget.

SUN., FEB. 8

11:00 A.M. – Bilingual worship service and Annual Congregational Meeting.

Please check out our new church website: www.stjames.ch



St James Church ELCA
Community Page about Gulf Coast Synod, ELCA

LIKE us on Facebook!