

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 21, 2025

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH | stjamesgp.org | 313.884.0511
170 McMillan Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Pastor Cherlyne Beck | pastor@stjamesgp.org

WELCOME

Welcome to Saint James, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Southeast Michigan Synod. Thank you for being part of this gathered assembly as we worship God, and receive the sacrament. If this is your first time worshipping with Saint James, we extend a special greeting to you and invite you to introduce yourself to your neighbor in the pew. If you have questions about Saint James or are looking for a spiritual home, please reach out to the Pastor (pastor@stjamesgp.org).

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

WORSHIP & HOLY EUCHARIST

All of the materials needed for this liturgy can be found in this bulletin and in the cranberry red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) found in the pew rack.

The celebration of the sacrament, **Holy Eucharist** (also called the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion), is central to our worship. Saint James practices an open table for Holy Communion, which means that all people are invited to participate in the sacrament. Jesus is the host of the meal and extends a wide welcome. Children are welcome to participate, but may also come forward with folded arms to receive a blessing.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Prelude in e minor

Frederic Chopin

GATHERING

STAND

The sign of the cross is made in remembrance of Holy Baptism.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Bathed with the waters of baptism and clothed with the assurance of God's grace, let us come before God to confess our sins.

silence for reflection and confession

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) is the red worship book in the pew rack. In the ELW, find hymns not printed in the bulletin and harmony to those printed.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Let Streams of Justice Flow

ELW 717

APOSTOLIC GREETING

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

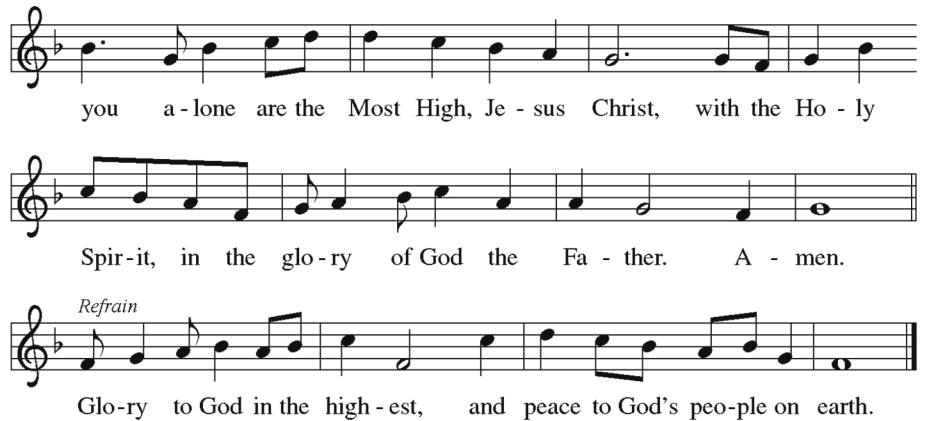


Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

*The Hymn of
Praise is sung in
unison.*



A silence of 5 to 10 seconds is kept; we prepare to speak and listen to God in prayer.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

SIT

WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

see page 11 of this bulletin

PSALM

see page 12 of this bulletin

SECOND LESSON

see page 13 of this bulletin

STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Verse: *Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; strive side by side for the faith of the gospel. (Phil. 1:27)*

REPEAT ALLELUIA

HOLY GOSPEL

see page 14 of this bulletin

The Holy Gospel is read in the midst of the people, reminding us that God (The Word Incarnate) is among us.

RETURN ACCLAMATION

Thy Strong Word

ELW 511:3

ALL SING
*as the procession
returns to the
chancel.*

3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with
thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

SIT

STAND

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 655

APOSTLES CREED

*In the Creed, we
profess our faith in
our triune (Trinity)
God, who is Father,
Son and Holy Spirit,
and we remember
that the covenant
God made with us
in the sacrament
can never be taken
away. God has
assured us of
eternal life, and the
presence of the
Holy Spirit through-
out our earthly life.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

INTERCESSIONS & BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

*A sign of peace
is shared
throughout
the assembly.*

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.



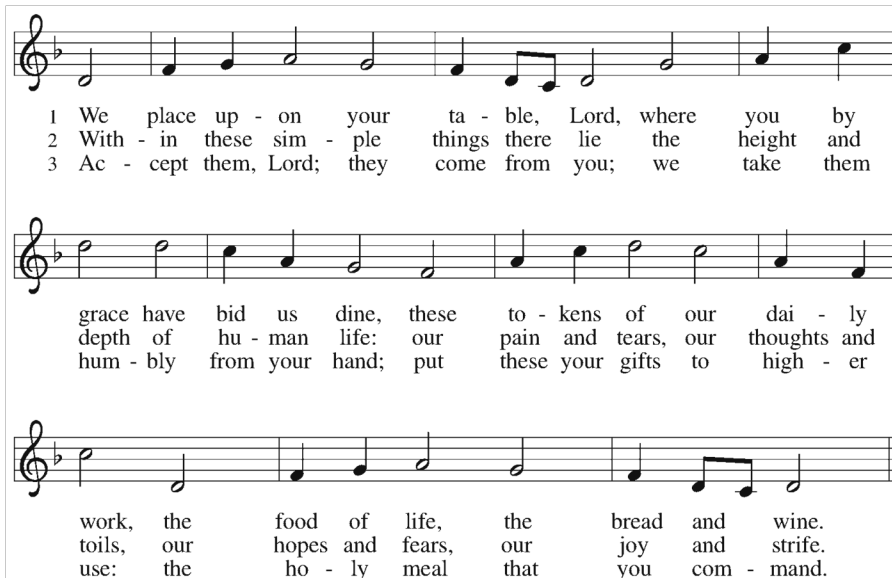
TITHES & OFFERINGS

Instead of 'passing the plate,' Saint James receives offerings in a) offering plates near each sanctuary entrance, b) via online giving at stjamesgp.org, and c) via Zelle app (QR code below). Your gifts support the ministry of the church.

TABLE SETTING

We Place Upon Your Table Lord

ELW 467



1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, where you by
2 With - in these sim - ple things there lie the height and
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them

grace have bid us dine, these to - kens of our dai - ly
depth of hu - man life: our pain and tears, our thoughts and
hum - bly from your hand; put these your gifts to high - er

work, the food of life, the bread and wine.
toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
use: the ho - ly meal that you com - mand.

REMAIN
STANDING
& SING

*The ushers
bring the gifts
of bread and wine
to the altar.*

Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt.
Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

PRAYER

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SAINT JAMES COMMUNION PRACTICE

Distribution

Come forward via the central aisle.

Communion Distribution is offered by **intinction**.

Receive the host (bread/Jesus' body) in the hand, hold it an then **dip it** into the cup with wine (Jesus' blood). Or consume it and take an individual cup of wine (purple) or juice (golden). *Dip don't sip.*

A gluten free host is offered by saying "gluten free" to the pastor.

If mobility keeps you from coming forward to receive, you may receive the sacrament in the pew. Please let an usher know, before worship, that this is your preference.

Return to your place via the outside aisles for private prayer.

MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving is understood as an act of praise and thanksgiving. Following Jewish customs, the emerging Christian liturgies blessed God (that is, thanked God) for God's kindness and love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

PREFACE

SANCTUS

The Sanctus is a series of angelic acclamations which accompanied Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3 also Psalm 118:26).

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff has a double bar line at the end. The second staff has a double bar line at the end. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty, and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have
eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your
holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

The Words of Institution

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his life-giving passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord,
and ask you to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



In the Eucharistic Prayer, the church gives thanks for God's mighty works, from creation to redemption through Jesus, and at the same time proclaims the future reign of God that will last forever.

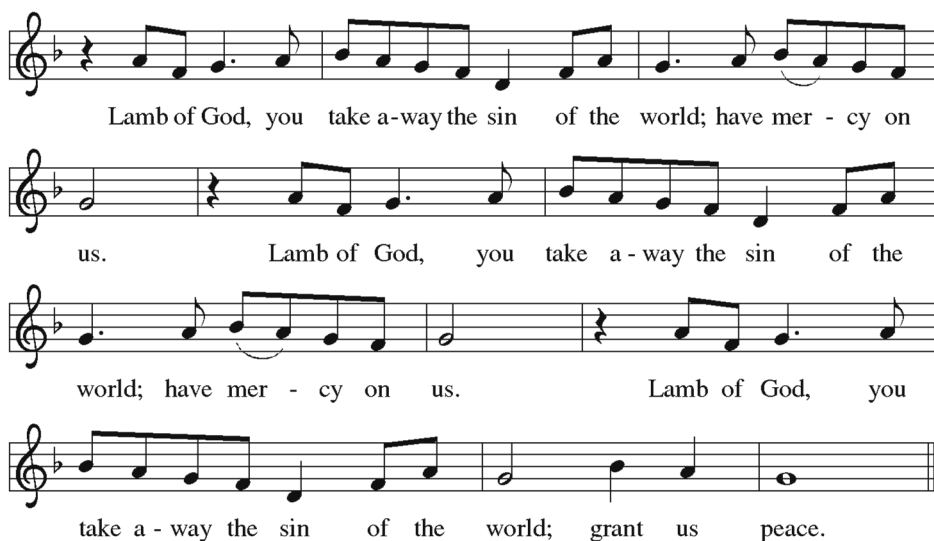
Within the gathered assembly, at Jesus' invitation, we feast on his body and blood. Lutherans utilize the term 'real presence' to talk about our Lord being truly present with us as we celebrate this holy meal.

LORD'S PRAYER

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

This is the feast of the Lamb of God
who frees us from our sins, and unites us as one people.
Let us rejoice and be glad!

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

SIT

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBTUION MUSIC

HYMN *Take My Life, That I May Be* ELW 685

STAND

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

SENDING PRAYER

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with your own body and blood at this holy table. Send us now to welcome others, and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

HYMN *All Depends on Our Possessing* **ELW 589:1-2, 5**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Rondeau* Jean-Joseph Mouret

*Having been
strengthened in body,
mind, and spirit by
Jesus' body and blood,
we are sent into the
world to proclaim the
nearness of the
presence of the Lord
and The Kingdom of
God.*

SIT

PENTECOST 15 LESSONS

September 21, 2025

FIRST LESSON **Amos 8:4-7**

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

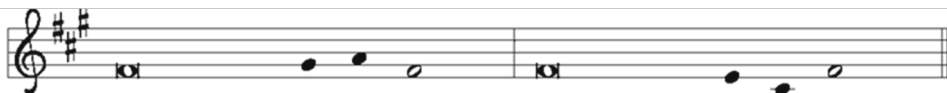
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 113



Psalm 113:7

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Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants ¹ of the LORD;
praise the name ¹ of the LORD.

²**Let the name of the ¹ LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- ¹ evermore.**

³From the rising of the sun to its ¹ going down
let the name of the ¹ LORD be praised.

⁴**The LORD is high a- ¹ bove all nations,
God's glory a- ¹ bove the heavens. Refrain**

⁵Who is like the ¹ LORD our God,
who sits en- ¹ throned on high,

⁶**but stoops ¹ to behold
the heavens ¹ and the earth?**

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out ¹ of the dust
and lifts up the poor ¹ from the ashes,

⁸**enthroning them ¹ with the rulers,
with the rulers ¹ of the people.**

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a ¹ childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. ¹ Hallelujah! **Refrain**

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SECOND LESSON 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Return to page 4 for the Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his

master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

following the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation

The Weekly Newsletter of Saint James Lutheran Church ***For the Week of September 21, 2025***



SAINT JAMES would like to remind all to please ensure that your phones and other electronic devices are silenced, switched to vibrate or turned off before worship begins. Thank you for your cooperation!

LUTHER LEAGUE YOUTH GROUP at St. Paul for grades 5-12 will meet once a month (usually on a Sunday) with a focus on group activities around the Metro Detroit area. The schedule with details and locations is on the kiosk. The first meeting is **Sunday, September 21** from **2-4 PM** at **St. Paul**! All Saint James youth are welcome to attend.



BOOK CLUB will meet next on **Tuesday, September 23** at **1 PM** at **Saint James** in the Gathering Area. We will be discussing *With Malice Towards None* by Stephen B. Coates. All are welcome to join for any month's discussion.

PICNIC we will be hosting our annual Saint James picnic on **Tuesday, September 23** from **5:30-7:30 PM** in the Gathering Area. Please sign up on the kiosk to let us know you are coming! Buns, meats, condiments and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish or dessert to share.

HEBREWS BIBLE STUDY presented by **Rev. Dr. Ken Grant** begins **Wednesday, September 24** at **Genesis** or online. Join us as we begin our examination of the letter to the Hebrews, one of the most enigmatic, challenging, and oft quoted letters in the New Testament. Bible Study starts at **12:15pm**, and will be offered both in person and on the Genesis YouTube channel. For those who gather in person, we will also have a light lunch following Bible Study - all are welcome, no experience necessary!

PRAYER SHAWLS will meet on **Thursday, September 25** at **10 AM** in the Conference Room on the second floor. All knitters and crocheters are welcome!



JAZZ SERVICE We will worship together for a Jazz Service at **St. Paul** on **Sunday, October 12** at **10 AM**. This will be a combined service with St. Paul — there will be no worship at Saint James on October 12.

PROPERTY UPDATE Last week was all about outside projects: tuckpointing, waterproofing, sealing, gutter alignment, and step repair. Most of these repairs revolved round the area of the entrance door between the Church and the Gathering Area. These are all little things you don't readily see, but are very important for our safety and building integrity. Enjoy the change of season. Thank you, Bill Korte.

MISSIONS Our Annual God's Work, Our Hands sandwich making event is back! Next **Sunday, September 28** immediately after worship we will meet in the Gathering Area to make peanut butter & jelly sandwiches in support of 313 Calling.

In October, we will be collecting new and gently used & laundered blankets for Motor City Mitten Mission.

In November and early December, we will again be collecting money to fund food baskets in partnership with Genesis. We will also adopt at least one child for an Angel Tree.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS We are in need of more individuals to serve as Ushers, Crucifers, Assisting Ministers and to run the livestream on Sunday mornings. Adults and youth are welcome to help with these important worship ministries. Please contact **Ruth Richardson** if you are interested in serving in any of these roles, or have any questions about serving as a Worship Assistant. A simplified version of the livestream has been developed for anyone who isn't comfortable taking on the full livestream duties — contact **Susan Allison** if you are interested in seeing if this ministry is for you.

FINANCIALS We are looking for a few people to help with financial tasks at Saint James, including counting and depositing offerings, recording contributions, sending out annual giving statements, etc. If you are good with numbers and would like to know more details, please contact **Susan Allison**.

ALTAR FLOWERS Sign up now for altar flowers. The sign-up sheet is found on the kiosk in the Welcome Area. If you'd like to remember or honor someone for the altar flowers, please send an email to the office or fill out the yellow flower form by **Tuesday** of that week.

Worship Leaders for September 21

Assisting Minister: Larry Sabol
Communion Assistant: Pam Perkowski
Lector: Rose Picek
Altar Guild: Tracey Simpson
Livestream: Sue Martin
Ushers: Hank & Tracey Simpson

Worship Leaders for September 28

Assisting Minister: Susan Allison
Crucifer: Emily Richardson
Communion Assistant: Gini Bunchek
Lector: Jim Lingscheit
Altar Guild: Emily Richardson
Livestream: Lisa Shrader
Ushers: Dick Allison & Dalton Black

Offering Plates

Saint James places offering plates at each entrance to the sanctuary. For more information about offerings, including electronic giving, see the bulletin. Thank you for your faithfulness in stewardship. Every contribution helps to support Saint James' mission and the proclamation of the gospel in the world. Find us on Zelle using: giving@stjamesgp.org

Remember in Prayer – Laura Blake - Tom Kressbach - Russ Halleen - All deployed military and their families.

Contact Emily Moellering or Pastor to add a name to the Prayer List or to ask the Prayer Team to pray for a specific need.



Coffee Hour Please join us each Sunday after service for Coffee Hour in the Welcome Area (beyond the municipal parking lot doors near the nursery.) Grab a cup of coffee or juice and a goodie and enjoy some Christian fellowship.

Got News? Please send items for inclusion in the Saturday email newsletter to Alicia Taub no later than Thursday at noon of that week. All items for the Sunday bulletin must be sent to Emily Richardson at office@stjamesgp.org no later than Tuesday.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, September 21

Pentecost 15

11am: Holy Eucharist
Fellowship immediately following worship
2pm: Luther League Youth Group (at St. Paul)

Monday, September 22

Office Closed on Mondays
4pm: Joyful Noise Children's Choir (at St. Paul)

Tuesday, September 23

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)
9am-12pm: Office Hours
1pm: Book Club (at Jeanette Knutson's home)
5:30-7:30pm: Picnic (in Gathering Area)

Wednesday, September 24

Pastor Grant's Office Day
9am-1pm: Office Hours
4pm: Handbells Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
4:30pm: Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Thursday, September 25

9am-12pm: Office Hours
10am: Prayer Shawls

Friday, September 26

Office Closed on Fridays

Saturday, September 27

9am: Licensed Lay Minister Program (Gathering Area)

Sunday, September 28

Pentecost 16

Handbells Ring
11am: Holy Eucharist
Fellowship immediately following worship
Sandwich making immediately following worship

Monday, September 29

Office Closed on Mondays
4pm: Joyful Noise Children's Choir (at St. Paul)

Tuesday, September 30

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)
9am-12pm: Office Hours

Wednesday, October 1

Pastor Grant's Office Day
9am-1pm: Office Hours
4pm: Handbells Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
4:30pm: Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Thursday, October 2

9am-12pm: Office Hours