



Pentecost 7

July 12, 2026

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH | stjamesgp.org | 313.884.0511
170 McMillan Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Pastor Denise M. Grant | 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 the Risen Lord 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 Pastor Grant (pastor@stjamesgp.org).

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

WORSHIP & HOLY EUCHARIST

All of the materials needed for this liturgy can be found in this bulletin and in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) book 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. As host of the meal, Jesus extends a wide welcome for all to participate. Distribution information is found on page 10. If you would prefer to commune in the pew, please alert an usher prior to the start of worship.

NEXT SUNDAY Worship at St. Paul at 10:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Prelude in B Flat

J.S. Bach

GATHERING

STAND

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

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins; those things done, and those things left undone. The burden of sin is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
and have received grace in which we stand.

Therefore, your sins + are forgiven;

By the power of Jesus death and resurrection

you are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW 533

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

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

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

HYMN OF PRAISE


Refrain



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.


Refrain



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.

Refrain



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,

Drawn from the hymns in the book of Revelation, the words of this hymn of praise joins Passover and Easter with a glimpse of the kingdom now, and reign of God yet to come.

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SIT

WORD

FIRST LESSON

see page 12 of this bulletin

following the lesson
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

see page 12 of this bulletin

SECOND LESSON

see page 13 of this bulletin

following the lesson
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

STAND & SING as the procession moves to the center of the sanctuary.

Verse: *The word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart. (Deut. 30:14)*

REPEAT ALLELUIA

HOLY GOSPEL

see page 14 of this bulletin

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel (God’s Word) is a reminder that our Lord is in our midst.

after the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
heav'n de-scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

The procession returns to the chancel as the Acclamation is sung by ALL.

***chancel:** the front of the sanctuary (the entire worship space) where Word and Sacrament is celebrated. The Word is proclaimed in reading, preaching and singing.*

SIT **HOMILY**

STAND **HYMN OF THE DAY** *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast* **ELW 516**

APOSTLES CREED

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

*The Creed is a
statement of what
Christian people
believe about God.*

**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.**

*The sign of peace
is a greeting
between
believers that
invites the peace
of God to dwell
within and
between each
person. This
means that
sharing the peace
is much more than
an act of
hospitality or
hello.*

INTERCESSIONS

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

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

TABLE SETTING

In the Singing

ELW 466

REMAIN
STANDING & SING
*as the ushers bring
the gifts of bread
and wine forward
as the table is set.*



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Refrain
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931
Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926
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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.

LITURGICAL TEXTS, PSALM, PSALM REFRAIN & PRAYERS Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #5A5028290. Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-724620. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. Lenten Acclamation Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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 his kindness and love.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

PREFACE

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; who overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven we praise your name and join there unending hymn:

SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)

The Sanctus (sanctus, Latin, means holy) 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.

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.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

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 God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit 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.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

In the Eucharistic Prayer, the church gives thanks for God the Father and creator; for Jesus who saves and redeems us; and for the Holy Spirit that stirs and enlightens our faith that we might proclaim the mighty work of God in word and deed.

The word eucharist means 'thanksgiving.' When we use this term for the sacrament the emphasis is on the joy and celebration with which we thank the Risen Lord Jesus for his real presence as we receive his body and blood.

In these first words God would encourage us to believe that he is truly our Father and we are truly his children in order that we may approach him boldly and confidently in prayer, even as beloved children approach their dear father.

(Luther's Small Catechism Introduction to the Lord's Prayer)

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven...

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.
Come to the banquet.
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

- HYMN** *By Your Hand You Feed Your People* ELW 469
- HYMN** *Sent Forth By God's Blessing* ELW 547

STAND

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

SENDING PRAYER

O Lord, we thank you for your Spirit who calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies us by the means of grace. As we have received you in this meal, so send us out that we may faithfully feed others with the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

BENEDICTION

HYMN *On What Has Now Been Sown* **ELW 550**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *On What Has Now Been Sown* Healy Willan

SAINT JAMES COMMUNION PRACTICE

- Welcome** 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.
- Benefit** What is the benefit of sharing in the meal? The words “given for you” and “shed for you” show us that the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament. (Luther’s Small Catechism)
- Distribution** Come forward via the central aisle.
- Receive the host (bread/Jesus’ body) in the hand, then **dip it** into the cup with wine (Jesus’ blood). Or consume it and take an individual cup of wine (purple) or juice (golden).
- A gluten free host is offered by saying “gluten free” to the pastor.
- Return to your place via the outside aisles for private prayer.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 65: 9-14

Sung to a familiar hymn tune

You visit all the earth, O Lord,
And water it abundantly;
Your stream runs full; preparing grain,
You make provision rich and free.

You drench the furrow, smooth the fields,
Soften the ground with heavy rain;
You crown with goodness all the year
And leave rich paths across the plain.

May desert fields be filled with herds,
And hills be clothed with gladness, too;
May meadows, valleys, clothe themselves
With flocks and grain and sing to you.

A New Metrical Psalter – Christopher L. Webber
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SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear. .

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

after the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation

Worship Leaders for July 12 (10 AM)

Assisting Minister: Susan Allison
Crucifer: Emily Richardson
Communion Assistant: Emily Richardson
Lector: Susan Allison
Altar Guild: Tracey Simpson
Livestream: Sue Martin
Ushers: Hank & Tracey Simpson

July 19 — 10 AM at St. Paul

Worship Leaders for July 26 (10 AM)

Assisting Minister: Sue Stieber
Crucifer: Andrew Picek
Communion Assistant: Sammie Bessner
Lector: Nancy Kopka
Altar Guild: Gini Buncek & Karol Evard
Livestream: Lena Picek
Ushers: Dick & Susan Allison

Full July schedule available on the kiosk

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

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 fill out a flower form or send an email to the office or to pastor by Tuesday of that week.



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, July 12

Pentecost 7

10am: Holy Eucharist (**at Saint James**)
Fellowship immediately following worship

Monday, July 13

Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, July 14

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

Wednesday, July 15

Pastor Grant's Office Day
9am-1pm: Office Hours

Thursday, July 16

9am-12pm: Office Hours

Friday, July 17

Pastor's Day Off | Office Closed on Fridays

Sunday, July 19

Pentecost 8

10am: Holy Eucharist (**at St. Paul**)
Fellowship immediately following worship

Monday, July 20

Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, July 21

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

Wednesday, July 22

Pastor Grant's Office Day
9am-1pm: Office Hours

Thursday, July 23

9am-12pm: Office Hours

Friday, July 24

Pastor's Day Off
Office Closed on Fridays

Sunday, July 26

Pentecost 9

10am: Holy Eucharist (**at Saint James**)
Fellowship immediately following worship

LOOKING AHEAD:

July. 28 — 1pm Book Club at Marie Zeller's home

Aug. 2 — 10am Worship at St. Paul

Aug. 9 — 10am Worship at Saint James

Aug. 16 — 10am Worship at St. Paul

Aug. 23 — 10am Worship at Saint James

Aug. 30 — 10am Worship at St. Paul

Sept. 6 — 10am Worship at Saint James

*The Weekly Newsletter of Saint James Lutheran Church
For the Week of July 12, 2026*



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!



REHEARSALS a reminder that choir & handbells rehearsals are suspended for the summer. We will start back up again in September. Please contact **Kurt Heyer** if you are interested in singing or ringing in the fall!



MEND ON THE MOVE Thank you to all who donated to the Small Change Ministry in support of Mend on the Move! Together we raised \$382, which will help fuel their mission to employ and empower survivors of abuse throughout metro Detroit. A letter from them acknowledging our gift is on the kiosk.

CHURCH DIRECTORY It's time to update our church directory for 2026! Please take a few moments to review your current listing in the 2025 directory—even if your information hasn't changed—to make sure everything looks correct. Please email office@stjamesgp.org with any needed corrections or updates by **Sunday, July 26**. If you need a copy of the 2025 directory to review, please contact the office.



GENESIS and Rev. Dr. Ken Grant invite Saint James members to come worship with them! Genesis is located in Detroit at 7200 Mack Ave, Detroit, MI 48214 (Mack Ave at E Grand Blvd). Their worship begins at **10 AM** with fellowship afterwards.

FIRST ENGLISH Our friends at **First English Lutheran Church** are hosting a workcamp again this year from **July 13-17**. Workcamp brings hundreds of teens from church groups across the country to perform free home repairs for people in need. If you would like to donate cookies or individually wrapped candy to help feed the workcamp participants, please contact **Susan Allison**.

SUMMER SCHEDULE our Summer Schedule continues next week **Sunday, July 19** at **St. Paul** at **10 AM**. Each week there will be one worship service at 10 AM, either at Saint James or St. Paul. St. Paul is located at 375 Lothrop Rd (at Chalfonte) in Grosse Pointe Farms. We will be alternating every other week between the two churches. The full schedule can be found on the kiosk and in your Saturday eNews. Copies are available to take with you on the front pews.

All services are at 10 AM

July 19 at St. Paul

July 26 at Saint James

Aug. 2 at St. Paul

Aug. 9 at Saint James

Aug. 16 at St. Paul

The full schedule is available on the kiosk