



Pentecost 9

July 26, 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

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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 *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* Wilhelm Friedemann Bach

GATHERING

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

STAND

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

Amen.

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

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.

*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.*

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.**

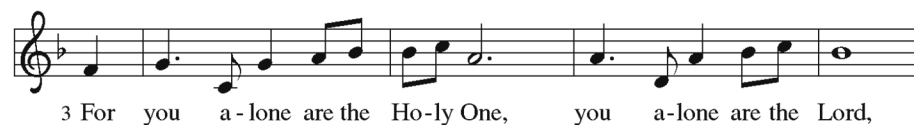
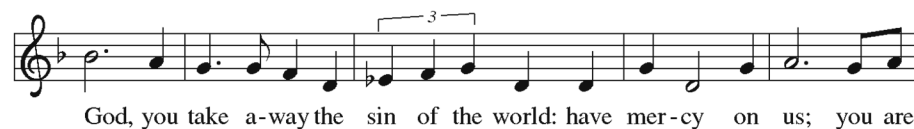
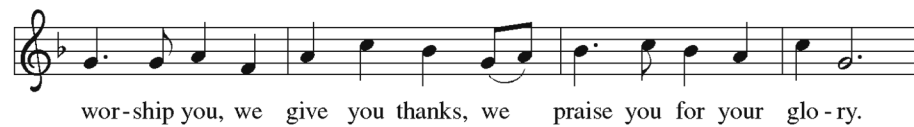
ENTRANCE HYMN *Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun* ELW 557

APOSTOLIC GREETING

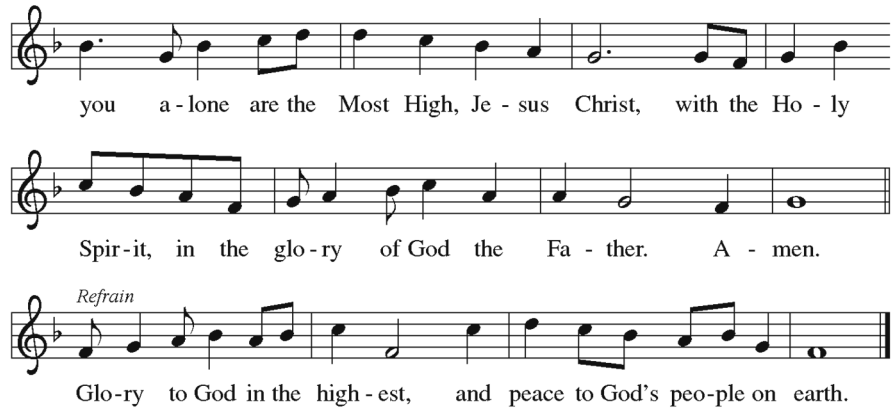
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from 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



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

Verse: *Many will come from east and west and will eat in the kingdom of heaven.*
(Matt. 8:11)

REPEAT ALLELUIA

HOLY GOSPEL

see page 14 of this bulletin

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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



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** *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* **ELW 775**

APOSTLES CREED

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

**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.**

*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.*

**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

**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**

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,



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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REMAIN

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

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.

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.



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.



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)

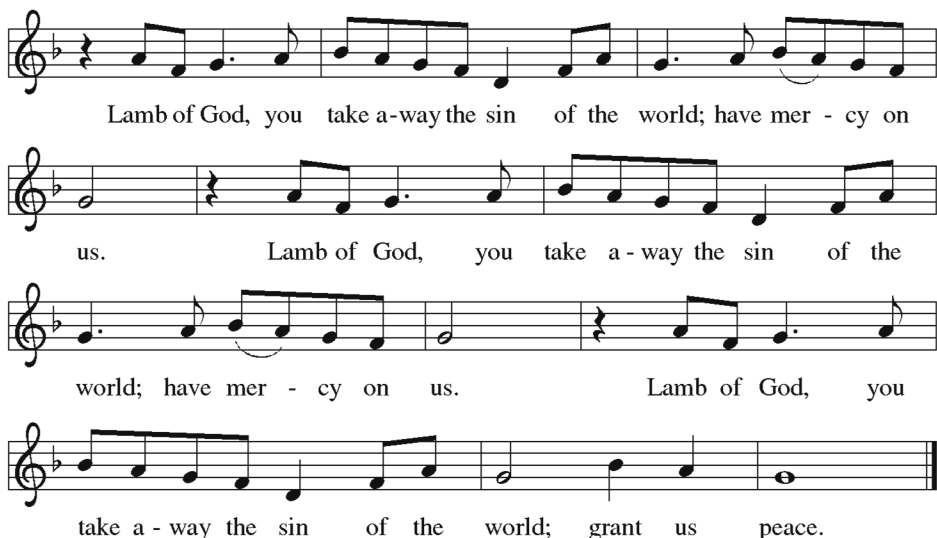
LORD'S PRAYER

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 *Be Thou My Vision*

ELW 793

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 *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* ELW 771

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Fugue in F* G.F. Händel

SAINT JAMES COMMUNION PRACTICE	
Welcome	Saint James practices an open table for Holy Communion, which means that <u>all people are invited to participate in the sacrament</u> . 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

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:129-136



Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
¹³² Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name. **Refrain**
¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
¹³⁴ Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.
¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching. **Refrain**

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SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor

powers,³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives. .

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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 26 (10 AM)

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

August 2 — 10 AM at St. Paul

Worship Leaders for August 9 (10 AM)

Assisting Minister: TBD - **Volunteer Needed!**
Crucifer: TBD - **Volunteer Needed!**
Communion Assistant: Gini Bunchek
Lector: Nancy Kopka
Altar Guild: Sue Carson & Mary Mathison
Livestream: Emily Richardson
Ushers: Mark & Marcia Wilson

Full August 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 26

Pentecost 9

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

Monday, July 27

Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, July 28

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)
9am-12pm: Office Hours
1pm: Book Club (at Marie Zeller's home)

Wednesday, July 29

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

Thursday, July 30

9am-12pm: Office Hours

Friday, July 31

Pastor's Day Off | Office Closed on Fridays

Sunday, August 2

Pentecost 10

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

Monday, August 3

Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, August 4

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

Wednesday, August 5

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

Thursday, August 6

9am-12pm: Office Hours

Friday, August 7

Pastor's Day Off
Office Closed on Fridays

Sunday, August 9

Pentecost 11

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

Aug. 12 — 6pm Council Meeting

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

Sept. 13 — Return to 11am Worship at Saint James

The Weekly Newsletter of Saint James Lutheran Church For the Week of July 26, 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!

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 **today Sunday, July 26**. If you need a copy of the 2025 directory to review, please contact the office.

BOOK CLUB meets next on **Tuesday, July 28** at **1 PM** at Marie Zeller's home. Anyone is welcome to join for any month's discussion! This month we will be discussing *When the Stones Speak* by Doran Spielman. Please contact Nancy Kopka with any questions.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet next on **Wednesday, August 12** at **6:00 PM** in the Gathering Area. All members are welcome to attend any council meeting.



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.

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.



SUMMER SCHEDULE our Summer Schedule continues next week **Sunday, Aug. 2** 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

Aug. 2 at St. Paul

Aug. 9 at Saint James

Aug. 16 at St. Paul

Aug. 23 at Saint James

Aug. 30 at St. Paul

Sept. 6 at Saint James — final summer schedule service!