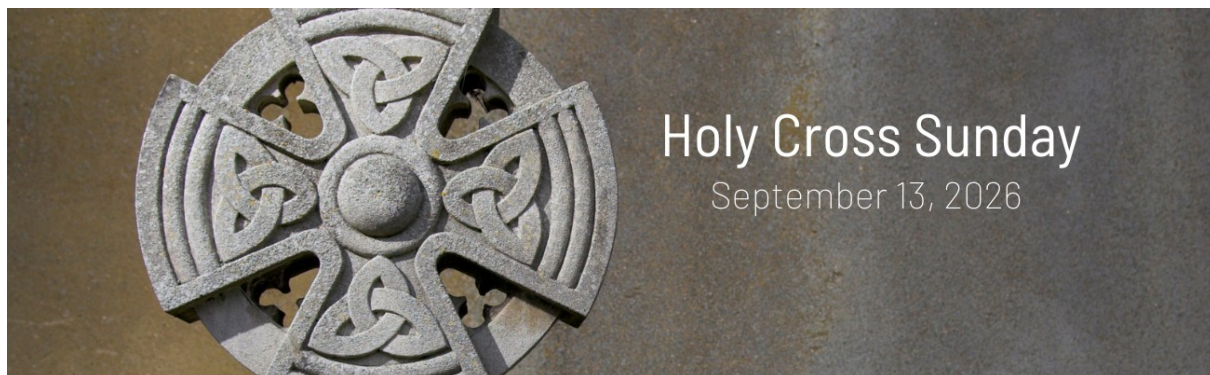




Holy Cross Sunday

September 13, 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

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

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.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

GATHERING

STAND

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

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

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

silence for reflection & personal confession

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

+

indicates that the sign of the cross may be made here to remember the gift of forgiveness that Jesus has given to us through his death and resurrection.

This is the good news:

We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness + and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* **ELW 324**

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 ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) is the red worship book in the pew rack. In the ELW,

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

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.

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.

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

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.

Drawn from John 1:29, the hymn of praise gives thanks for Jesus, who is the Lamb of God, whose sacrificial death has taken away the sins of the world.

Blessed are all who worship God, hear The Word, and share in the Holy Meal.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

WORD

see page 12 of this bulletin

PSALM

see page 12 of this bulletin

see page 13 of this bulletin

ALLELUIA

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

Verse: *May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ*
(Gal. 6:4)

4

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.

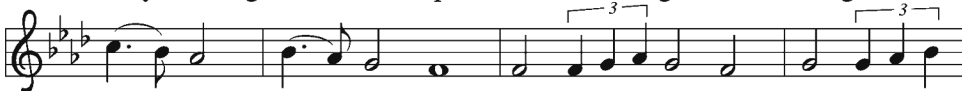
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Thy Strong Word

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



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!

HOMILY

SIT

HYMN OF THE DAY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ELW 803

STAND

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

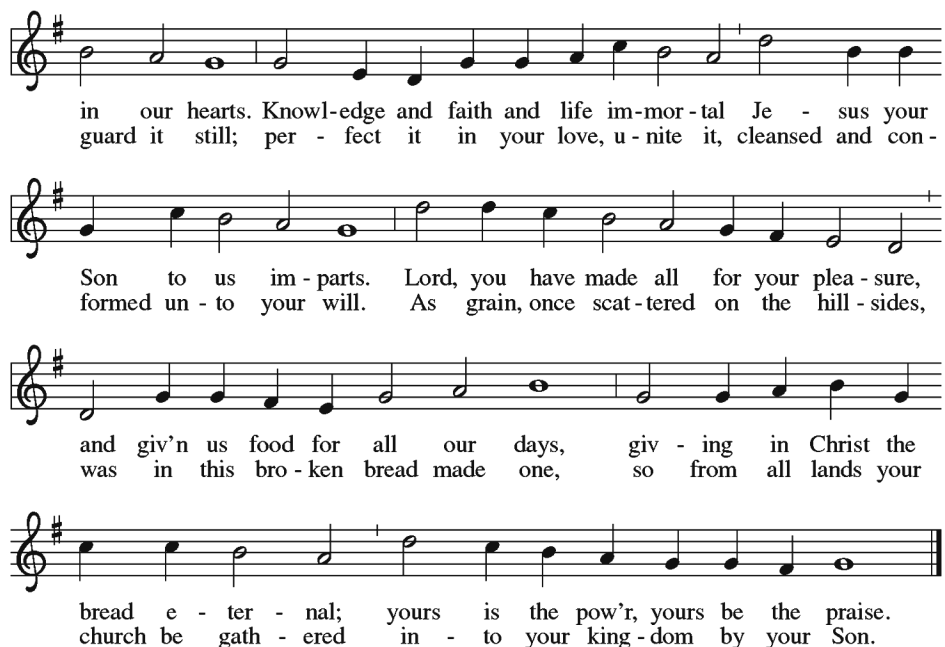
Father, We Thank You

ELW 478

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



1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -
2 Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,



in our hearts. Knowl-edge and faith and life im-mor-tal Je - sus your
guard it still; per - fect it in your love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -

Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your plea - sure,
formed un - to your will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,

and giv'n us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the
was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands your

bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise.
church be gath - ered in - to your king - dom by your Son.

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

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; para. F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.
Music: RENDEZ A DIEU, attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561
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PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord, creator of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through 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.

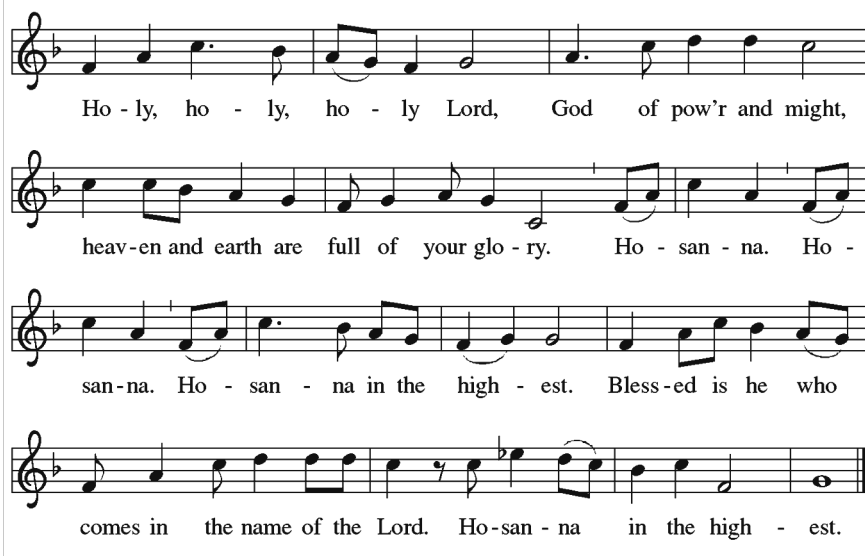
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

The Words of Institution are spoken.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and
ascension, we await his coming in glory, as we proclaim the
mystery of faith:



Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.



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.

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.

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

There in God's Garden

ELW 342

STAND

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

SENDING PRAYER

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

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

BENEDICTION

HYMN *Lift High the Cross* ELW 660

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Grand Chœur* Théodore Salomé

SIT
*for final prayer
and reflection
before going into
the world to share
the good news.*

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

Numbers 21:4b-9

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 78:1-2, 34-38



God was their rock and the Most High God their re-deem-er.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Hear my teaching, | O my people;
incline your ears to the words | of my mouth.
²**I will open my mouth | in a parable;**
I will declare the mysteries of | ancient times. Refrain
³⁴Whenever God slew them, | they would seek God,

and repent, and diligently | search for God.
³⁵**They would remember that God | was their rock,
 and the Most High God | their redeemer.**
³⁶But they flattered God | with their mouths
 and lied to God | with their tongues.
³⁷**Their heart | was not steadfast,
 and they were not faithful | to the covenant.**
³⁸Yet God, being merciful, forgave their sins and did | not destroy them;
 holding back anger many times and not giving | way to wrath. **Refrain**

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SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
 and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:13-17

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

after the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation

Worship Leaders for September 13

Assisting Minister: Sue Stieber
Crucifer: Andrew Picek
Communion Assistant: Gini Bunchek
Lector: Nancy Kopka
Altar Guild: Sue Carson
Livestream: Lena Picek
Ushers: Marcia & Mark Wilson

Worship Leaders for September 20

Assisting Minister: Susan Allison
Crucifer: Andrew Picek
Communion Assistant: Lena Picek
Lector: Andrew Picek
Altar Guild: Tracey Simpson
Livestream: Sue Martin
Ushers: Hank & Tracey Simpson

Full September 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

Remember in Prayer – Tom Kressbach - Dale Marshall - 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 13

Pentecost 16

Return to Regular Schedule

11am: Holy Eucharist

Fellowship immediately following worship

God's Work, Our Hands event following worship

Monday, September 14

Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, September 15

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)

9am-12pm: Office Hours

Wednesday, September 16

Pastor Grant's Office Day

9am-1pm: Office Hours

4pm: Handbells (Sanctuary)

4:40pm: Choir (Music Room)

6pm: Church Council (Gathering Area)

Thursday, September 17

9am-12pm: Office Hours

Friday, September 18

Pastor's Day Off | Office Closed on Fridays

Sunday, September 20

Pentecost 17

Choir Sings

11am: Holy Eucharist

Fellowship immediately following worship

Monday, September 21

Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, September 22

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)

9am-12pm: Office Hours

1pm: Book Club (at Shelly Thorp's home)

Wednesday, September 23

Pastor Grant's Office Day

9am-1pm: Office Hours

4pm: Handbells (Sanctuary)

4:40pm: Choir (Music Room)

Thursday, September 24

9am-12pm: Office Hours

10am: Prayer Shawls (Second Floor Conference Room)

Friday, September 25

Pastor's Day Off | Office Closed on Fridays

Sunday, September 27

Pentecost 18 | *Handbells Ring*

11am: Holy Eucharist | Fellowship immediately following

The Weekly Newsletter of Saint James Lutheran Church For the Week of September 13, 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!

REGULAR SCHEDULE our Regular Schedule resumes today. There will be 2 services each Sunday, 1 at each church unless there is a special combined worship scheduled.

11 AM at Saint James | 9 AM at St. Paul



GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS Our Annual God's Work, Our Hands sandwich making event is back! Today immediately after worship we will meet in the Gathering Area to make peanut butter & jelly sandwiches in support of **313 Calling**.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets next on **Wednesday, September 16 at 6 PM** in the Gathering Area. All members are welcome to attend any council meeting!



CHURCH DIRECTORY Printed copies of the newly updated church directory are available on the front pews. Please contact **Emily Richardson** (office@stjamesgp.org) from your email address on file to request a digital (PDF) copy. Current copies say "Updated July 29, 2026" on the front. Please discard any old copies you have.

BOOK CLUB Meets next on **Tuesday, September 22 at 1 PM** at Shelly Thorp's home. We will be discussing *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. All are welcome to join any month's discussion! Contact **Nancy Kopka** with questions.

PRAYER SHAWLS Calling all knitters and crocheters! Prayer Shawls will begin meeting again on **Thursday, September 24 at 10 AM** in the second floor conference room (accessible by the elevator or the stairwell near the doors to the municipal parking lot). Prayer Shawls meets monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month. Please contact **Nancy Kopka** with questions.



MUSIC REHEARSALS Resumed on September 9. Handbells will meet weekly on **Wednesdays at 4 PM** in the Sanctuary. Choir will meet weekly at **4:40 PM** in the Music Room in the basement. New ringers and singers are always welcome! Contact **Kurt Heyer** to learn more.

FOOD PANTRY Saint James supports the **Iroquois Food Pantry**. Nonperishable food items are needed to support the clients who come to the food pantry. Please take time to pick-up some nonperishable food items to share when grocery shopping this week. Most needed items: powdered milk, canned soup, stews and ready-to-eat meals. Place items on the shelves in the Welcome Area.



COFFEE HOUR Volunteers are needed to supply goodies – either homemade or purchased -- for our weekly coffee hour. The sign-up sheet is found on the kiosk in the Welcome Area. Your help is much appreciated!