



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

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

Jubilate Deo
Saint James Choir

Dale Wood

STAND

GATHERING

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.**

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 *As Saints of Old* ELW 695

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, 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 13 of this bulletin

SECOND LESSON

see page 13 of this bulletin

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

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

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Verse: *Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son.*

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.

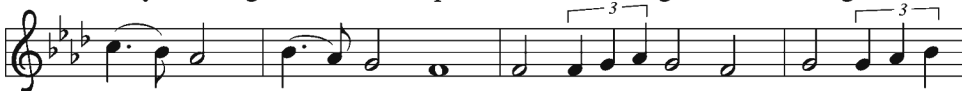
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us ELW 358

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

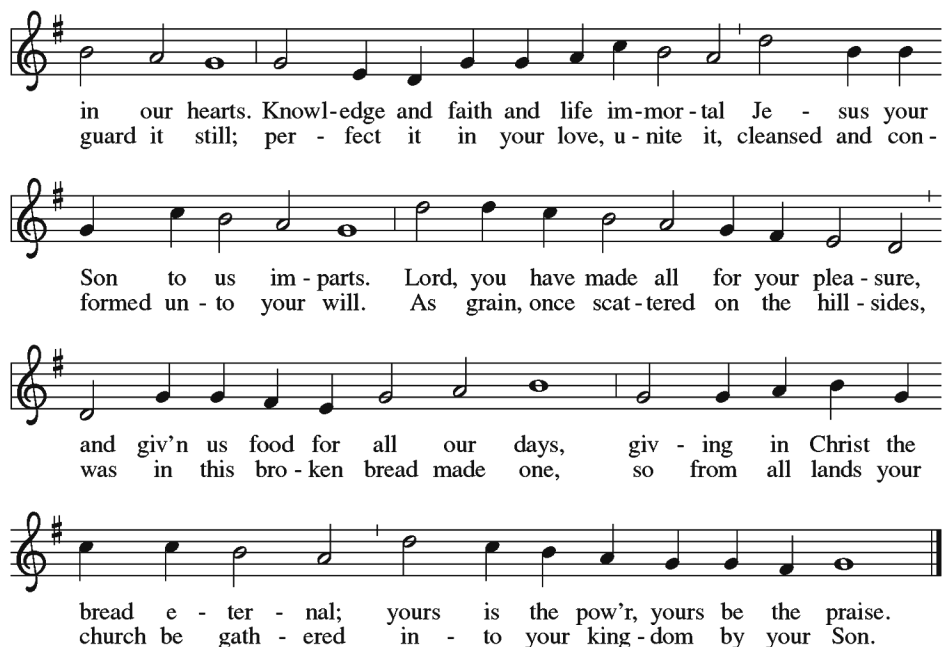
Father, We Thank You

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.

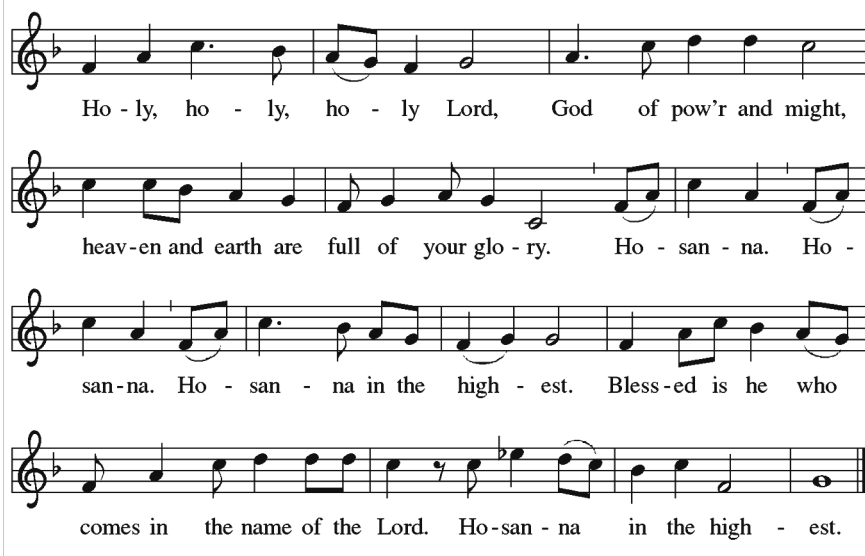
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

CHOIR

Bread Was Broken, Words Were Spoken

*The congregation
joins on the refrain*

Refrain
By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your
wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your
peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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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 *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* ELW 669

DISMISSAL

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

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

POSTLUDE *Praeludium in A* J.G. Walther

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**Jonah 3:10—4:11**

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1–8



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- I will exalt you, my ¹ God and king,
and bless your name forev- ¹ er and ever.
- ² Every day ¹ will I bless you
and praise your name forev- ¹ er and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD and greatly ¹ to be praised!
There is no end ¹ to your greatness.
- ⁴ One generation shall praise your works ¹ to another
and shall de- ¹ clare your power. *Refrain*
- ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor ¹ of your majesty
and all your ¹ marvelous works.
- ⁶ They shall tell of the might of your ¹ wondrous acts,
and I will re- ¹ count your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of ¹ your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully ¹ of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love. *Refrain*

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SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

after the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord.

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 and Tracey Simpson

Worship Leaders for September 27

Assisting Minister: Joel Humphries
Crucifer: Joel Humphries
Communion Assistant: Emily Richardson
Lector: Julie Humphries
Altar Guild: Emily Richardson
Livestream: Lena Picek
Ushers: Dick Allison & Ruth Richardson

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 - All deployed military and their families.

Contact Emily Moelling 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 20

Pentecost 17

Choir Sings

1am: Holy Eucharist

Fellowship immediately following worship

Council Meeting 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)

Friday, September 25

Pastor's Day Off | Office Closed on Fridays

Sunday, September 27

Pentecost 18

Handbells Ring

11am: Holy Eucharist

Fellowship immediately following worship

Monday, September 28

Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, September 29

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)

9am-12pm: Office Hours

10am: Richard School Evacuation Drill (Undercroft)

Wednesday, September 30

Pastor Grant's Office Day

9am-1pm: Office Hours

4pm: Handbells (Sanctuary)

4:40pm: Choir (Music Room)

Thursday, October 1

9am-12pm: Office Hours

Friday, October 2

Pastor's Day Off | Office Closed on Fridays

Sunday, October 4

Pentecost 19 | *Choir Sings*

11am: Holy Eucharist | Fellowship following worship

The Weekly Newsletter of Saint James Lutheran Church For the Week of September 20, 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 COUNCIL meets immediately after worship today 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 Husseini. 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!

FRONT PORCH UPDATE Over the last 8 months our front entrance has gone under a refreshing and update. At the end of last year, new porch railings were installed. This spring new landscaping replaced the existing trees and bushes. Next the wonderful entrance doors and surrounding woodwork was stripped and refinished, and finally the entrance steps and porch surface has been replaced and tuck-pointed. This has been an ongoing project and will conclude with the repainting of the existing railings at the lower-level approach next spring. Thank you to all who supported this undertaking and take care of our house of worship.