



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy 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.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Psalm of Gratitude

Jason W. Krug

Saint James Handbells

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 *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.

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

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, 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.

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: *My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.*
(John 10:27)

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

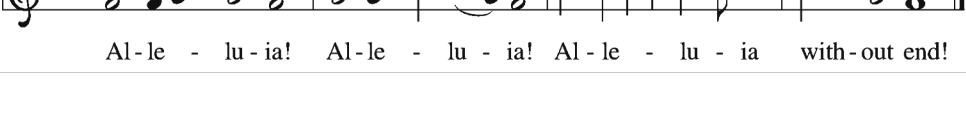
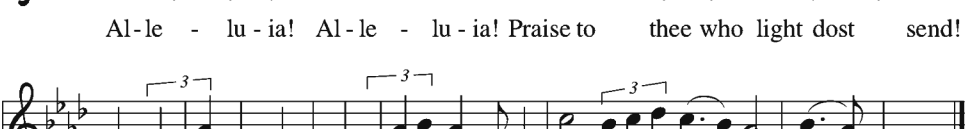
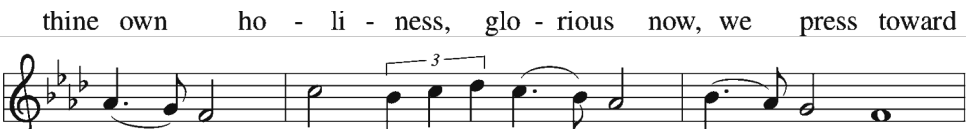
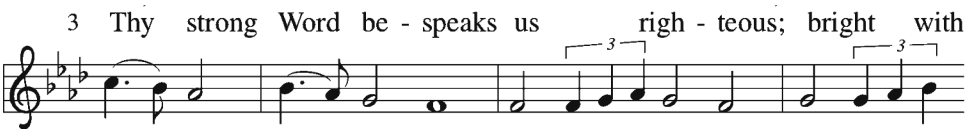
The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Thy Strong Word

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



HOMILY

SIT

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Blessed Spring ELW 447

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

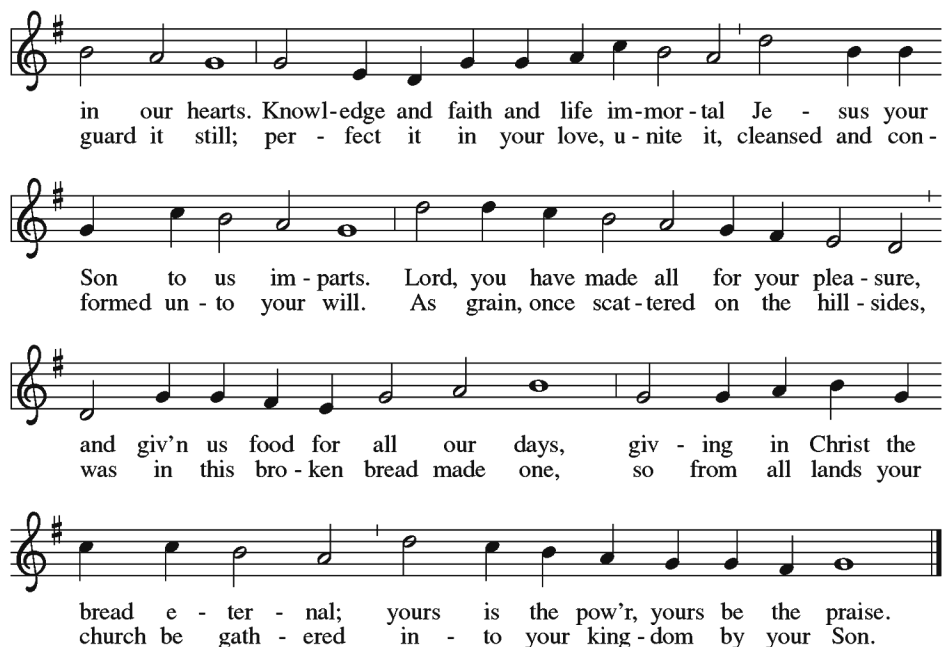
Father, We Thank You

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.

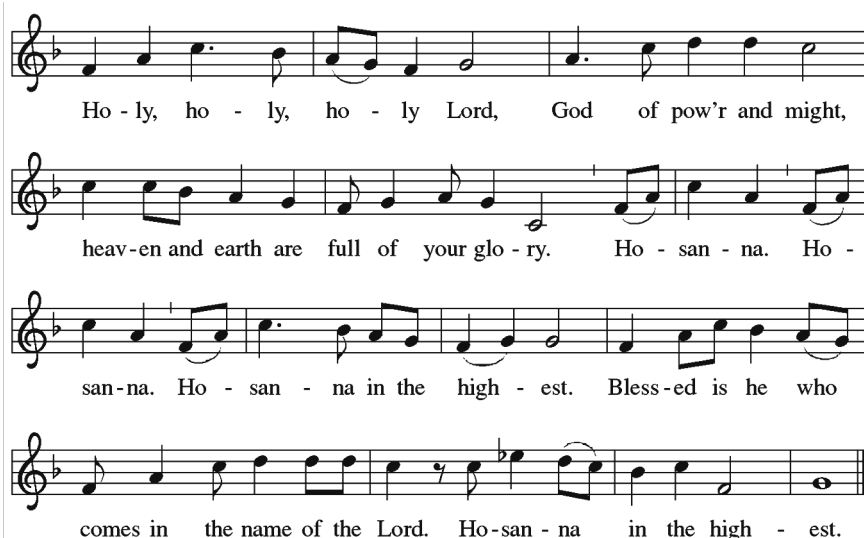
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 *O God, My Faithful God* ELW 806

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 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* ELW 517

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* Jan Bender

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

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

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

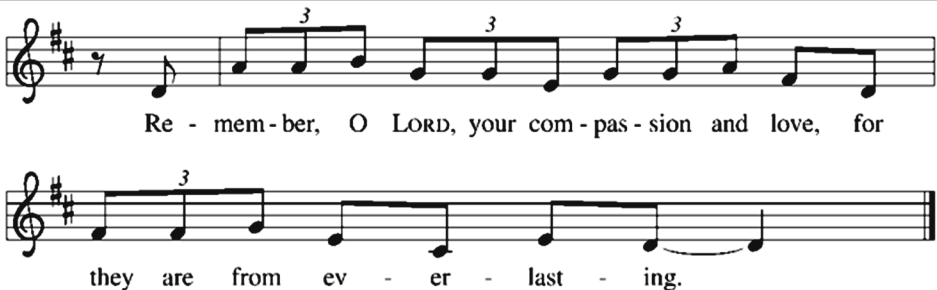
³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1–9



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Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. Refrain**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. **Refrain**

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SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

The lesson is read.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe 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 27

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 October 4

Assisting Minister: Susan Allison

Crucifer: Andrew Picek

Communion Assistant: Nancy Kopka

Lector: Arnold Brammeier

Altar Guild: Tracey Simpson

Livestream: Lena Picek

Ushers: Mary & Rich Moellering

Full October 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 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 27

Pentecost 18

Handbells Ring

1am: 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

6am: Morning Walk

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 immediately following worship

Monday, October 5

Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, October 6

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)

9am-12pm: Office Hours

Wednesday, October 7

Pastor Grant's Office Day

9am-1pm: Office Hours

4pm: Handbells (Sanctuary)

4:40pm: Choir (Music Room)

Thursday, October 8

9am-12pm: Office Hours

Friday, October 9

Pastor's Day Off

Office Closed on Fridays

Sunday, October 11

Pentecost 20

11am: Holy Eucharist

Fellowship immediately following worship

The Weekly Newsletter of Saint James Lutheran Church For the Week of September 27, 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!

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST The St. Paul/Saint James Men's Bible Breakfast meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 14 at 8 AM** at the **National Coney Island** at Mack Ave & Moross. All men are welcome to attend!



MORNING WALK Sarah Sutherland invites you to join her for a morning walk every **Wednesday** morning at **6 AM**. We'll meet outside of Saint James and enjoy fresh air and conversation to start our day! All are welcome!

WOMEN OF THE WORD Meets next on **Tuesday, October 13 at 1 PM** in the Meditation Room. All women are welcome to join any month's bible study! Contact **Nancy Kopka** with questions.



PRAYER SHAWLS Calling all knitters and crocheters! Prayer Shawls will meet next on **Thursday, October 22 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.

FALL CLEAN-UP Saint James is putting together a group of volunteers to assist members with fall yard clean-up sometime in October. If you are in need of a helping hand with your fall leaves, please contact **Pastor Grant**. If you are interested in volunteering to help, we will have more details soon.

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!

PASTOR'S VACATION Pastor Grant will be away on vacation from **Thursday, October 8 through Wednesday, October 14**. She will return to work on **Thursday, October 15**. While she is away, she will be unavailable by phone and email. If you need Pastoral care while she is away, please contact **the office** or Council President **Richard Ferrara III** and we will connect you with the Pastor on Call.