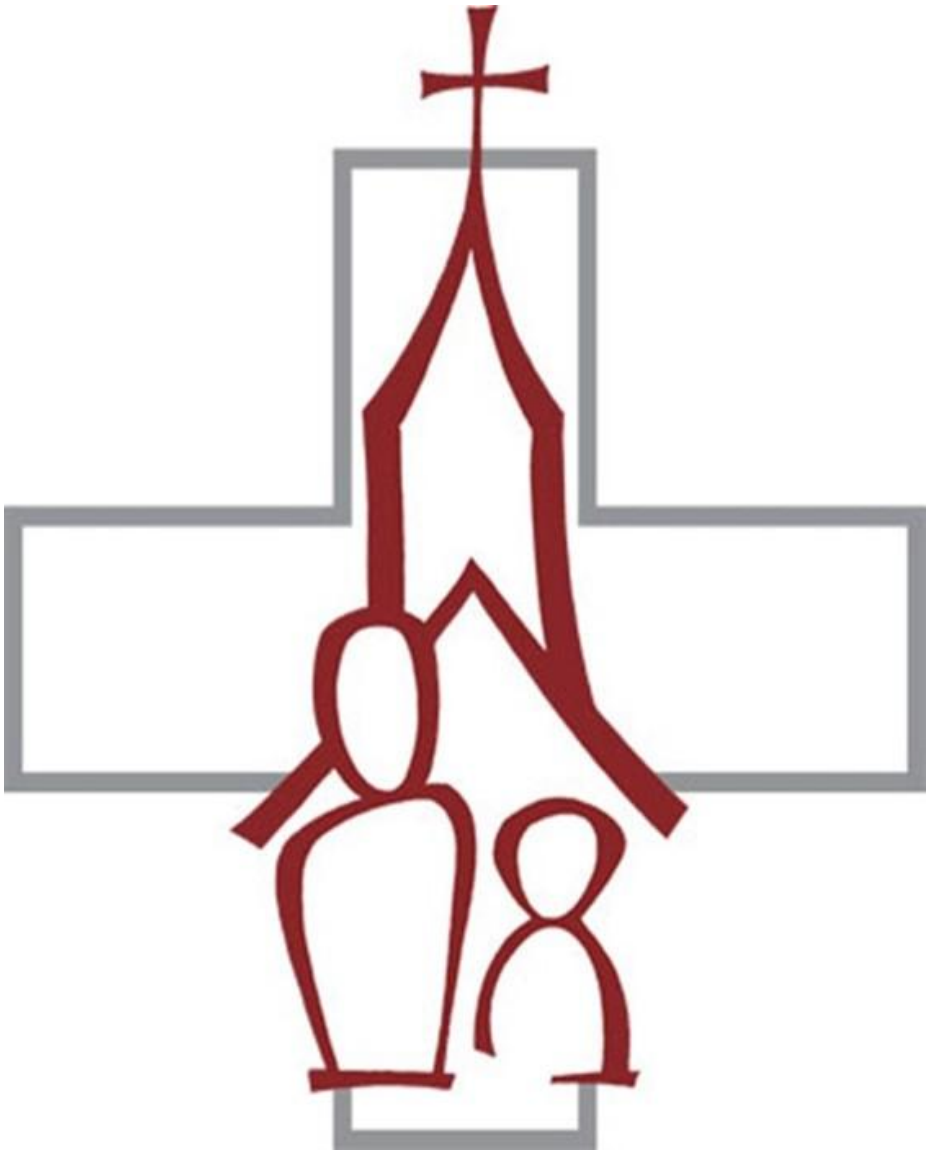




Sunday, October 18, 2026, 10 am

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Changing lives with the love of God
to the glory of God*

Welcome Guests!

We're glad you're with us today!

We hope you'll introduce yourself to the Pastor at the Church door after worship today.

Worship Schedule

Our regular worship times are:

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Sundays at 8:30 am & 10:00 am

Sunday School at 10:00 am September-June

Serving in the Lord's house today:

5:30 Deacons Jim and Laurretta Sauer / 8:30: Deacon Sandra McIlveen / 10:00: Pete Campisi

Slide Operators:

5:30: Laura Merring / 8:30: Chris Baars / 10:00: Keith Carden

Altar flowers have been given- to the glory of God

Pastor: Neil Mittelstaedt

Pastor: Conner Forbes

www.stjlc.com

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

Opening Song: How Good It Is

How good, how good, how good it is (3x)

Enter His gates with thanks, Enter His courts with praise
Bring Him a shout of joy, Sing of His endless fame
For the Lord is good and His love endures
His love endures forever
We remember this, we remember this

Oh, how good that it is to sing praise to the Lord
Oh, how great is the Name above all Names
From the rising of the morning sun to the setting of the same
Oh, how good that it is to sing praise
How good it is

How good, how good, how good it is (2x)

Rivers will clap their hands, Mountains will lift their song
Even the rocks cry out, Creation stands in awe
Of the One who was, and the One who is
And the One who reigns forever
We remember this, we remember this

Oh, how good that it is to sing praise to the Lord
Oh, how great is the Name above all Names
From the rising of the morning sun to the setting of the same
Oh, how good that it is to sing praise
How good it is

How good, how good, how good it is

Oh, how good that it is to sing praise to the Lord
Oh, how great is the Name above all Names
From the rising of the morning sun to the setting of the same
Oh, how good that it is to sing praise
How good it is

How good, how good, how good it is (2x)

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

(Children come to the front of the Church)

Children's Message

The Lord's Prayer

(Children leave for Sunday School)

Song of Praise: Rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord now and always
Sing it again we rejoice
Delight in the love He has shown us
Gratefully lift up your voice
His gentleness among us
Will join our hearts with praise
We gather in His goodness
A family of grace

(Chorus)

With each breath He's given praise the Lord
In these times we live in we will praise the Lord
Throughout every season I am sure
We have every reason to praise the Lord

Rejoice and be anxious for nothing
Praying for all that you need
Come with a song of thanksgiving
Lay your requests at His feet
His peace will fall upon us
To guard our hearts and minds
In Christ who reigns eternal
Shepherd of our lives (Chorus)

Rejoice in the Lord now and always
Tell of the good He has done
Worship the Lord to remember
All of the joy yet to come
The hope that burns within us
The dark cannot destroy
With praise that's never ending
We say again rejoice (Chorus)

We have every reason to praise the Lord

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A The Epistle is from 1 Thessalonians, chapter 1.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,
³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 7:12-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²[Jesus said] "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

¹³"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

¹⁵"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Prayer of the Day

- L** *Heavenly Father, because You provided for us a Savior,*
C **who has taken the full force of Your fury against sin in our place,**
L *we are delivered from the wrath to come.*
C **By faith alone, we receive this precious promise of salvation.**
L *Help us now to adorn our saving faith with good works,*
C **and with labor of love, and with steadfast hope,**
L *through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now*
C **and forever. Amen.**

Sermon: The Tree and It's Fruit

Apostles' Creed

- C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Some time ago we stopped passing the offering plate. There is now a box in the Narthex in which you may place your offering. Even more helpful, you may give electronically either by using the QR code below or visiting stjlc.com/give. You may also give to God and the work of His Church by mailing your offering in.



Offering Prayer

- L** While we were still sinners, O God,
- C** **you sent Your Son to die for us.**
- L** Thus you proved Your love for us, O God.
- C** **Accept these tokens of our love for You.**
- L** And lead us to lives of service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Because we have faith in God's mercy, we dare to approach Him with honesty.

-Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination-

- P** Holy and merciful God,
- C** **You alone know exactly how often we have veered from Your ways, misused Your good gifts, and contradicted Your love.**
We confess our trespasses and offenses against You.
Have mercy on us, Lord. We are sorry and ashamed.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior, forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** Hear the good news!
Jesus was given by His Father to ransom and save sinners. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. Aid us, now Lord, to enjoy Your presence, share our faith, and show your ways.**
- P** Amen.

✠ Holy Communion ✠

To Our Guests Regarding Holy Communion:

Holy Communion is a gift Christ gives to His Church.

In it, He offers His true Body and Blood in and with the bread and wine.

It is the gift of Himself!

When received in faith, Holy Communion gives forgiveness, new life & salvation.

Those who receive the Lord's Supper at St. James Lutheran Church are baptized Christians, committed in their faith in Christ, who have been instructed in and believe these truths.

(We run classes both for young people and adults – everyone welcome.)

God bless you!

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives You praise.

C **In the fullness of time You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to share our human nature,**

P to live and die as one of us,

C **to reconcile us to You, the God and Father of all.**

P He healed the sick

C **and opened the eyes of the blind.**

P He proclaimed the good news of Your kingdom to the poor and to those in need,

C **and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners.**

P He was the place on earth where people really met with You.

C **We give You thanks that He still receives struggling men and women, calling us friends,**

P for His perfect sacrifice has destroyed the barrier of sin and judgement,

C **and by raising Him to life You give us life for evermore.**

P Therefore with the angels and archangels, and with all the residents of heaven, we honor and glorify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying:

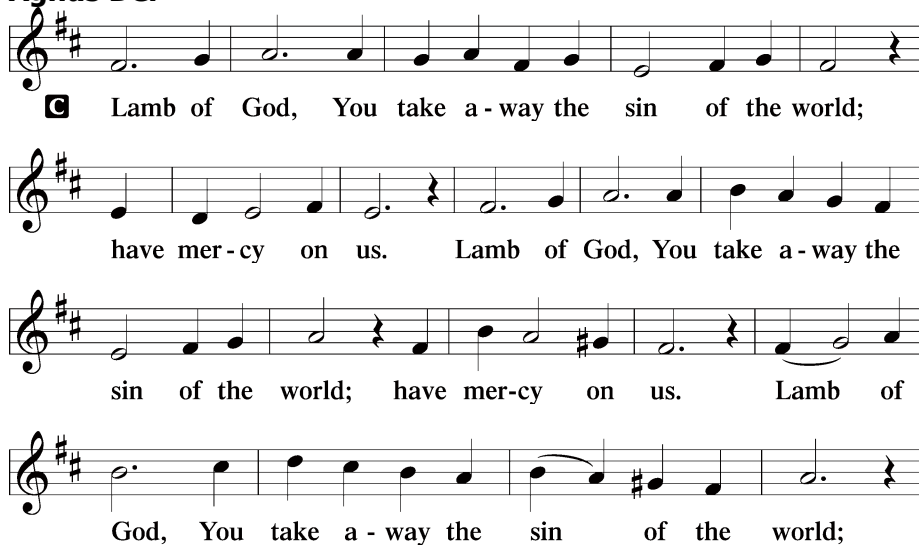
Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei



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;



Distribution

Distribution Song: 10,000 Reasons

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul
 Worship His holy name
 Sing like never before, O my soul
 I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
 It's time to sing Your song again
 Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
 Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul
 Worship His holy name
 Sing like never before, O my soul
 I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
 Your name is great and Your heart is kind
 For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
 Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul
 Worship His holy name
 Sing like never before, O my soul
 I'll worship Your holy name

And on that day when my strength is failing
 The end draws near and my time has come
 Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
 Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul
 Worship His holy name
 Sing like never before, O my soul
 I'll worship Your holy name

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul
 Worship His holy name
 Sing like never before, O my soul
 I'll worship Your holy name

I'll worship Your holy name
 Lord I'll worship Your holy name

Prayer after Communion

- L** We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed our souls through this gift of Christ's body and blood,
C **and we implore You, by this communion with Him, to give us vigor**
L -imparting to us His mind and heart-
C **and so strengthen us in faith toward You**
L and in fervent love toward one another;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
C **and forever. Amen.**

Benediction

Closing Song: Awesome Is The Lord Most High

Great are You Lord mighty in strength
You are faithful and You will ever be
We will praise You all of our days
It's for Your glory we offer ev'rything

Raise your hands all you nations
Shout to God all creation
How awesome is the Lord most high

Raise your hands all you nations
Shout to God all creation
How awesome is the Lord most high

The Lord most high

Where You send us God we will go
You're the answer we want the world to know
We will trust You when You call our name
Where You lead us we'll follow all the way

Raise your hands all you nations
Shout to God all creation
How awesome is the Lord most high

We will praise You together
For now and forever
How awesome is the Lord most high

Hallelujah, hallelujah
How awesome is the Lord most high
Hallelujah, hallelujah
How awesome is the Lord most high



Please join us downstairs after the 10 a.m. Service in the Parish Hall for the SJ Cafe.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH! (including an estate and gift planning awareness presentation): Join us for a delicious lunch on October 25th after the 10am service. Included will be an interesting, biblically grounded talk, led by Josh Douglas from St. Louis, on how to steward the gifts God has entrusted to you. Learn how to be wise and generous in ways that honor Him and bless others. As a bonus, Josh will be available for free, one-on-one estate planning consultations in the days following the presentation.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Please join us on Saturday, October 24th, from 2pm – 4pm for Trunk or Treat! Interested in how you can help? Please email luann@stjlc.com to let us know if you can decorate a trunk, donate some candy, or bring your family and friends! For more information, please visit stjlc.com/events

CRAFT FAIR: Our annual church craft fair will be held on Saturday, November 14th from 10am to 3pm. We need your help with making baked goods & soups that will be sold during this fair. If you would like to bake, please call Deb Whalen at 631-831-5874 or Durinda Dalton at 631-897-0307 & for soups call Karin Ryan at 631-862-8017. The baked goods should be packed ready to sell. Baked goods containing nuts or gluten free should be labeled. These items can be dropped off in the Parish Hall on Friday, November 13th from 5pm to 7pm.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: Current food insecurity continues to increase in the US and here in our own neighborhoods. The Smithtown Pantry's adopt a family Thanksgiving Box tradition will continue this year! If you are able to fill a box to help a family in need, the pantry will supply the turkey. See the Thanksgiving flier for details. We are waiting for the boxes to be delivered and will make them available to the congregation when they are in. The pantry can always use toiletry items, laundry detergent and dish soap. Canned items can always be used. Donations are greatly appreciated and can be left in the Narthex RED bin or dropped off during pantry hours, Tues, Thurs and Sat 10-12. Monetary donations can be sent directly to: Smithtown Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. These funds are used to purchase items such as milk, chicken and eggs. Questions, call Jeanne Harmer, "Teach me to do your will, for You are my God." Psalm 143:10

REMINDERS

ALTAR GUILD: "Come and set the most important table you ever will set - Our Lord's Table!" Please consider joining our Altar Guild family. We have many current members who would really appreciate the additional assistance. If interested, reach out to Christine Eriksen, Altar Guild Leader, at (631) 379-6052 via text or call. God Bless and thank you for your considerations.

TUESDAY NIGHT LADIES' BIBLE STUDY: is happening most Tuesday nights at the Forbes' home! Come in your comfy clothes, enjoy snacks, and chat about all things faith and motherhood. Join the group me via the QR code on the poster in the narthex for more information and updates. Scheduled dates are 9/15, 10/6, 10/13, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15.

NEW BIBLE STUDY: Pastor Neil will be leading a new Bible study titled "Be Still". We will explore the simple, transformative practice of a daily quiet time with God. It will be held on Thursdays from 10am to 11:15am on 9/17, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, and 11/5.

CALLING ALL K-5th GRADERS: St James Lutheran Church is forming a Fellowship/Cub Scout Pack. Pack 301. Games, music, songs, puppet show, prayer followed by hands on Scouting activities! Meetings will be every third Tuesday, once a month (we follow School Calendar) Location: Parish Hall Time: 6:30-7:45. Please contact Bill Irmscher Eagle1troop301@gmail.com Or Scott Eriksen dseeriksen@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFERINGS: If you do not use our electronic offering service, you may mail your church offering to the Church Office, 230 Second Ave, St. James, NY, 11780. Thank you for your continued support of our church!

TO ORDER ALTAR FLOWERS: Call Connie Marohn at 862-7123 after you have signed up for your requested date in the Altar Flower Book in the Narthex. Please use an Altar Guild envelope located in the Narthex to place your check for \$25.00 for *each* Bouquet payable to St. James Lutheran Church Flowers and the wording you wish printed in the bulletin. Place the envelope into the offering plate or mail to 230 Second Ave., NY 11780. Envelopes must be received by Monday for the subsequent weekend.

Peek at the Week

SUNDAY October 18

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship and Sunday School (Sanctuary)

12pm Worship Leader Meeting (Library)

2:30pm Wedding of Victoria D'Aquila and Steven Distefano (Sanctuary)

6:30pm – 8pm Youth Night Campfire

MONDAY October 19

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

7:30pm – 8:30pm Smithtown Stitchers (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY October 20

WEDNESDAY October 21

10am-12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)

6:30pm – 7:30pm Confirmation (Parish Hall)

6:30pm – 7:30pm Chancel Chimes Rehearsal (Balcony)

7:45pm – 9pm Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY October 22

7pm – 9pm Troop 301 Meeting (Parish Hall)

FRIDAY October 23

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY October 24

9:30am Altar Guild Meeting (Library)

2pm-4pm Trunk or Treat (Big Parking Lot)

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY October 25

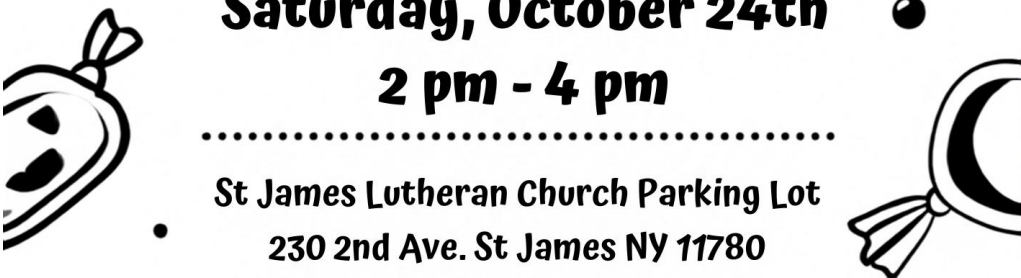
8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship and Sunday School (Sanctuary)

11:30am Congregational Lunch with a Gift Planning Presentation (Parish Hall)



Trunk or Treat



**Saturday, October 24th
2 pm - 4 pm**

.....

**St James Lutheran Church Parking Lot
230 2nd Ave. St James NY 11780**

.....

There are 3 possible ways to get involved.

- 
- 1. Come to the Event with your Kids or Grandkids**
 - 2. Decorate your Trunk!**
 - 3. Donate a bag of candy!**

This will be a safe Outdoor Event

.....



**To Enter with a "trunk" please email
Luann at luann@stjlc.com**

THANKSGIVING

2026

AT SMITHTOWN FOOD PANTRY

~ADOPT A FAMILY~

**WE PROVIDE THE BOX – WE ASK YOU TO Fill IT with
all the fixings for a complete thanksgiving dinner**

4 cans vegetables	1 box instant potatoes
2 cans cranberry sauce	2 boxes stove top stuffing
1 large can yams (or 2 small)	3 cans fruit
1 juice (64 ounce) or juice boxes	2 turkey gravy
Cake mix / brownie mix /cookie mix	muffin mix

Add "Extras"

bag of candy, hot chocolate, marshmallows, cookies, icing, applesauce
shelf-stable milk, evaporated milk, pumpkin, can pie filling, pie crust

NO FRESH FRUIT OR VEGETABLES

The box can be decorated - Put a Prayer or Note in the box

*****The Pantry will provide the turkey *****

LAST DAY TO RETURN THE BOX - NOVEMBER 19

BLESSINGS TO YOU & YOUR FAMILY

631- 265-7676 (smithtownpantry@optonline.net)
90 Edgewater Avenue, Smithtown, NY 11787

PLEASE – USE PACKING TAPE ON THE BOTTOM OF THE BOX

Last year, between Thanksgiving and New Year's 573 Holiday Meals were provided for our neighbors