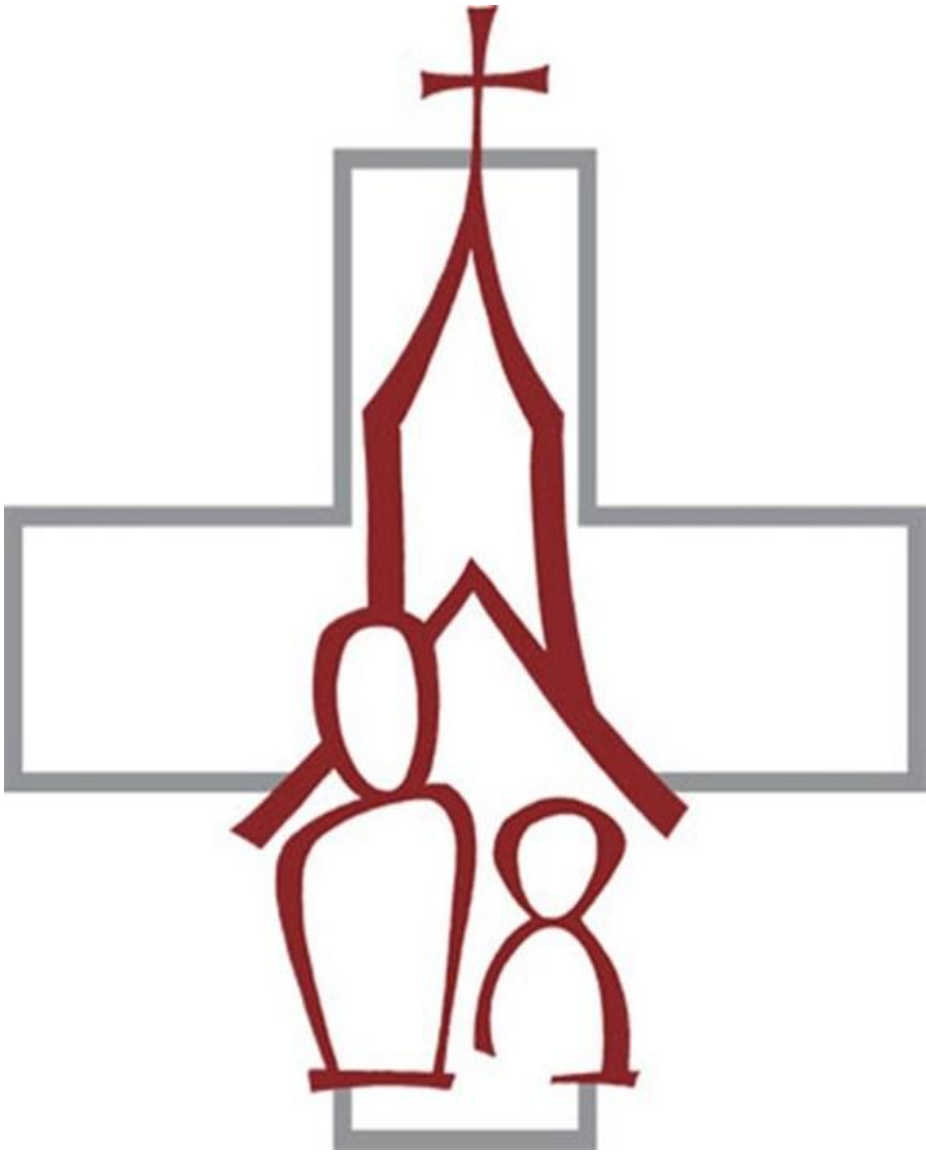




Sunday, October 4, 2026, 10 am

THE NINETEENTH 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 Sam Eisen / 8:30: Carol Chirco / 10:00: Sharon Haase

Slide Operators:

5:30: Laura Merring / 8:30: Tom Carattini / 10:00: Deb 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: Grace Alone

I was an orphan lost at the fall
Running away when I'd hear you call
But Father you worked your will
I had no righteousness of my own
I had no right to draw near your throne
But Father you loved me still

And in love before you laid the world's foundation
You predestined to adopt me as your own
You have raised me up so high above my station
I'm a child of God by grace and grace alone

You left your home to seek out the lost
You knew the great and terrible cost
But Jesus your face was set
I worked my fingers down to the bone
But nothing I did could ever atone
But Jesus you paid my debt

By Your blood I have redemption and salvation
Lord you died that I might reap what you have sown
And you rose that I might be a new creation
I am born again by grace and grace alone

I was in darkness all of my life
I never knew the day from the night
But Spirit you made me see
I swore I knew the way on my own
Head full of rocks a heart made of stone
But Spirit you moved in me

And at your touch my sleeping spirit was awakened
On my darkened heart the light of Christ has shone
Called into a kingdom that cannot be shaken
Heaven's citizen by grace and grace alone

So I'll stand in faith by grace and grace alone
I will run the race by grace and grace alone
I will slay my sin by grace and grace alone
I will reach the end by grace and grace alone

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: All To Us

Precious cornerstone sure foundation
You are faithful to the end
We are waiting on You Jesus
We believe You're all to us
(REPEAT)

When this passing world is over
We will see You face to face
And forever we will worship
Jesus You are all to us
Jesus You are all to us

(CHORUS)

Let the glory of Your name
Be the passion of the Church
Let the righteousness of God
Be a holy flame that burns
Let the saving love of Christ
Be the measure of our lives
We believe You're all to us

Only Son of God sent from heaven
Hope and mercy at the cross
You are ev'rything
You're the promise
Jesus You are all to us

Chorus 2x

You're all to us
You're all to us
You're all to us
You are
(REPEAT)

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:21–31

A The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 18.

²¹“But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²²None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. ²³Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? ²⁴But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:28–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For 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 when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Prayer of the Day

- L** Heavenly Father, You have given us Your ways: Your commandments and statutes.
C **They teach us how to live our lives.**
L But Father, none of us have kept these commandments, we have sinned.
C **Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus,**
L and teach us true repentance
C **so that we may live as Jesus did.**
L In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now
C **and forever, Amen.**

Sermon: Repentance is Righteousness

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:

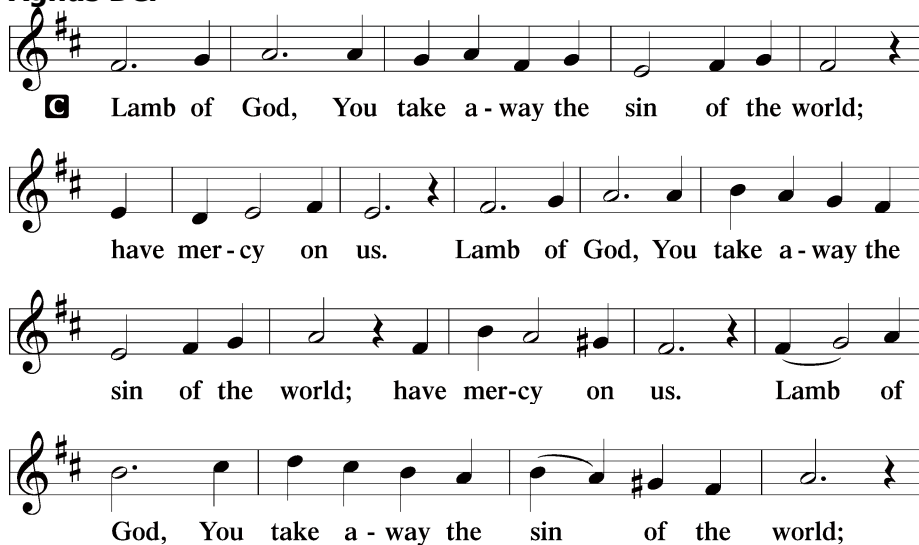
Sanctus



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: Holy Forever

A thousand generations falling down in worship
 To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
 And all who've gone before us and all who will believe
 Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Your name is the highest, Your name is the greatest
 Your name stands above them all
 All thrones and dominions, All powers and positions
 Your name stands above them all

And the angels cry Holy
 All creation cries Holy
 You are lifted high Holy, Holy forever

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed
 Sing the song forever to the Lamb
 If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name
 Sing the song forever to the Lamb
 We'll sing the song forever and amen

And the angels cry Holy
 All creation cries Holy
 You are lifted high Holy, Holy forever
 Hear Your people sing Holy
 To the King of Kings Holy
 You will always be Holy, Holy forever

(repeat 2x)

Your name is the highest
 Your name is the greatest
 Your name stands above them all
 All thrones and dominions
 All powers and positions
 Your name stands above them all,
 Jesus

And the angels cry Holy
 All creation cries Holy
 You are lifted high Holy, Holy forever
 Hear Your people sing Holy
 To the King of Kings Holy
 You will always be Holy, Holy forever

You will always be Holy
 Holy forever

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: Victory In Jesus

I heard an old, old story
How a Savior came from glory
How He gave His life on Calvary
To save a wretch like me
I heard about His groaning
And His precious blood's atoning
Then I repented of my sins
And won the victory

(refrain)

O victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever
He sought me and bought me
with His redeeming blood
He loved me ere I knew Him
and all my love is due Him
He plunged me to victory
beneath the cleansing flood

I heard about His healing
Of His cleansing power revealing
how He made the lame to walk again
And caused the blind to see
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus
Come and heal my broken spirit"
and somehow Jesus came and brought
To me the victory (refrain)

I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory
And I heard about the streets of gold
Beyond the crystal sea
About the angels singing
And the old redemption story
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
the song of victory (refrain)

He plunged me to victory
beneath the cleansing flood



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

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

LADIES NIGHT: October 9th is Ladies Night, and this month we are helping our homeless neighbors by creating care bags to keep in our cars so we are prepared to love our neighbors! Donate \$10 for buying supplies, or sign up to bring something to contribute to the bags! Join us as we enjoy time together, enjoy festive fall snacks, and put together 200 bags for our church to give away.

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

SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACTOR NEEDED: Church is currently looking for a snow removal contractor for the 2026/2027 season. If you or someone you know is a contractor, please contact
Ed Spear at 631-873-6429

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 4

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship and Sunday School (Sanctuary)

MONDAY October 5

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

6:30pm Outreach Meeting (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY October 6

7:30pm Moms Group (Forbes Home)

WEDNESDAY October 7

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 8

10am – 11:15am “Be Still” Bible study (Youth Room)

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

FRIDAY October 9

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

7:30pm – 11pm Ladies’ Night Out (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY October 10

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY October 11

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship and Sunday School (Sanctuary)

7pm Young Adult Dinner (Forbes Home)



St. James Moms Group invites you to...

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Join us to make care bags for our homeless neighbors!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH
AT 7:30PM IN THE PARISH HALL

Donate \$10 towards supplies, or choose a ticket that represents bringing something to contribute to the bags!



RSVP Here:





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