

Sunday, November 29, 2026, 10 am

First Week in Advent

Saint James Lutheran Church

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

Christmas Worship Schedule 2026

Thursday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

2:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
With Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
with Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

8:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 25th – Christmas Day

11:00 am Christmas Day Worship Service
with Holy Communion

Serving in the Lord's house today:
5:30: Sharon Haase / 8:30: Carol Chirco / 10:00: Christine Eriksen
Altar Guild: Eileen Wagner and Catherine Brownworth
Slide Operators: 5:30 Laura Merring / 8:30: Tom Carratini / 10am: Dylan Prego

Altar flowers have been given- for Papa Johner. In memory of his birthday. From his grandsons Jake and Luke.
Altar flowers have been given- In memory of Phillip Montrose. From, Bill and Carol Demarest.

Pastor: Neil Mittelstaedt
Pastor: Conner Forbes
www.stjlc.com
631- 584-5212
Ministers: All the people of St. James

Opening Song: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

(Refrain)
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, strong Branch of Jesse free
Your own from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave (refrain)

O come, O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. (refrain 2x)

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Advent Wreath Lighting
Reader 1: Today, we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of hope. Hope is about the future, and God has promised a wonderful future to us.
Reader 2: Currently, however, our world is darkened by a lot of evil and fear, but we hold on to hope, anchored in the Messiah, Jesus. His prophesied birth in Bethlehem was a hope that upheld the hearts of the waiting Old Testament saints.
Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah had written "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Emmanuel." (Which means 'God with us').
Reader 2: Despite the difficulties and tragedies we may face, our own future couldn't be brighter because of the virgin's Son. As this candle is lit, may our hearts ignite with hope in Him.

Wreath Lighting Song: A Candle is Burning (Tune: Away in a Manger)

1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heaven's dark sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

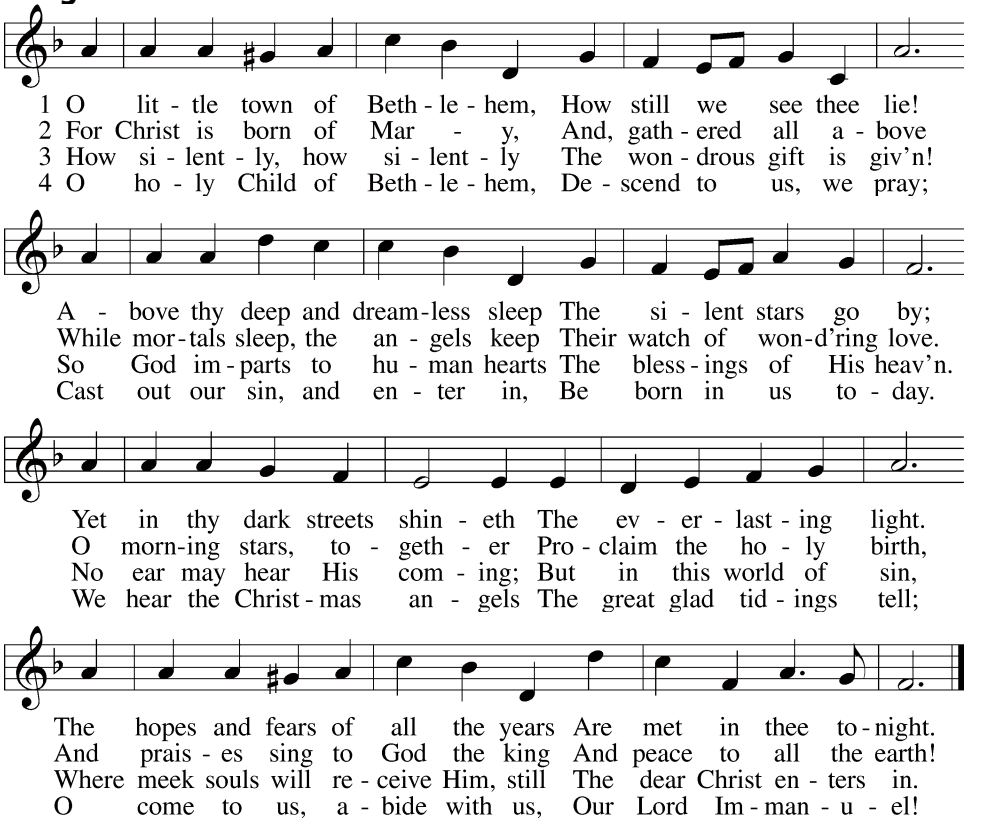
(Children come to the front of the Church)

Children's Message

Lord's Prayer

(Children leave for Sunday school during the Song of Praise)

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem



Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:3–7

A The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter 1.

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he
has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from
the dead, 4to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for
you, 5who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be
revealed in the last time. 6In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you
have been grieved by various trials, 7so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more
precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise
and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Prayer of the Day

L *Holy God, we thank You for the hope we have in the Savior.*

C As we set out on this year's Advent journey, renew us with eager anticipation,

L *for Jesus' first coming has assured a wonderful future for His people when He comes the second time.*

C Help us fix our hearts on Him each day.

L *Through this season, lead us deeper into Jesus,*

C and empower us to share the hope we have with others;

L *through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now*

C and forever. Amen.

Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 1:76-80

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Zechariah said to his baby son, John (the Baptist):]

76 "You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
77to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
78because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
79to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

80And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.
℃ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon: Sunrise

Nicene Creed

℃ **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. 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

P *Father, the presence of Your Son brings with Him gifts so precious...*
C **Hope, Peace, Joy, Love...**
P *...that our humble offerings pale in comparison.*
C **Accept our gifts, we pray**
P *and empower us by Your Holy Spirit*
C **to bring Your gifts to the world.**
P *Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.*
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth,** *[Psalm 124:8]*
P and who, because we needed Him, sent His own Son to be our Savior.

Advent is a season of preparation. Then let us get ready, making much more room for God. Let us uncover and confront our stubborn sins, seeking God's forgiveness, and also His renovation of our hearts.

-a time of silent confession and prayer-

P God Almighty,
C **have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and restore within us the light of Christ that we so desperately need.**
P Our heavenly Father loves you, the proof of that being the gift of Jesus, His only Son. Because of Him, God grants full pardon and remission of all your sins.
This same Jesus is 'Emmanuel' (God with us), providing true hope, peace, joy and love.
By faith, receive Him, in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **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

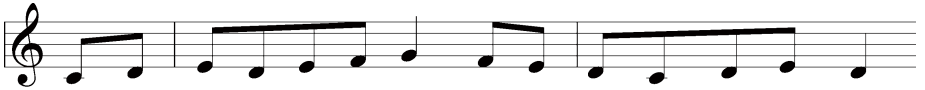
P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

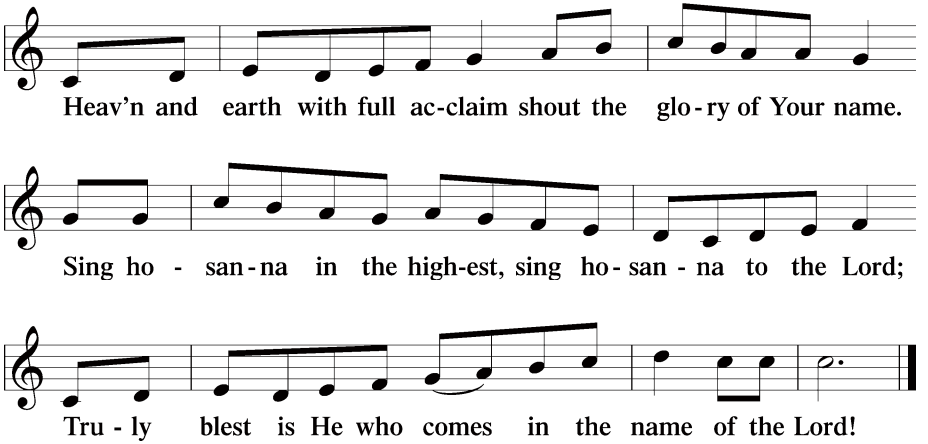
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give You thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
C **because in the fulness of time You sent Your beloved Son to take on human flesh, born of Mary,**
P to redeem us from sin, death, and the evil one,
C **and to make us heirs of an unfading inheritance, kept in heaven for us;**
P that when He shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world,
C **we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold His appearing.**
P Therefore the church on earth joins with the host of heaven, evermore praising You and saying:

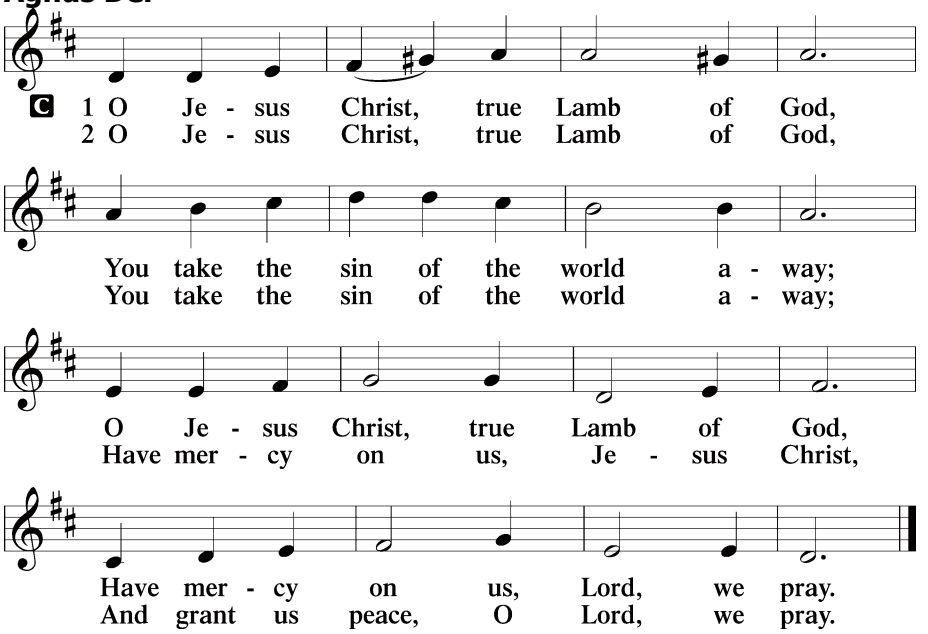
Sanctus





The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei



Distribution

Distribution Song: God With Us
Oh, You've come to bring peace, to be Love
To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life, to be Light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel, God with us

CHORUS:
Our Deliverer, You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything, our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us

Oh, You've come to be Hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin, to bear shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us (CHORUS)

You are here
You are holy
We are standing in Your glory
(REPEAT)
(CHORUS)

Oh God with us
You are God with us

Prayer After Communion

P *We thank You, O God, that in this holy sacrament*
C **You have given us Your Son.**
P *Help us who have consumed Christ's body and received His blood*,
C **to be His faithful disciples,**
P *so that our love may be Your love*
C **reaching out into the life of the world;**
P *through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
C **Amen.**

Benediction

Closing Song: Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night

Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame

The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus Yours is the victory

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Jesus Christ my living hope
God, You are my living hope



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

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember your church in your end of year giving.

OUTDOOR FAMILY CHRISTMAS: Join us for a fun filled way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas! Saturday, December 12th from 4pm -6pm in the Saint James Lutheran Church parking lot. Bring the whole family for an evening of Christmas fun featuring a Live Nativity, Christmas Tree Lighting, Petting Zoo, Bouncy House, Bonfire, and Marshmallows!

LADIES' NIGHT: Join us for an evening of fellowship and wrapping gifts! We will be meeting December 4th at 7:30pm in the parish hall. Bring some gifts to wrap, tape, scissors, wrapping paper for yourself, and one roll to share! We will have cozy festive snacks and enjoy time together as we check something off the Christmas preparation list.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING: On Sunday, November 29th, shortly after the 10am service, each family will be given supplies to make their own family Advent Wreath. We suggest that you bring a pair or two of outdoor shears to cut the brush for the wreath. Join us in the Parish Hall.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: As we prepare for our Lord's birth, the congregation is invited to help decorate the Sanctuary and Parish Hall, for Christmas, on **Sunday, December 6th**, **after the 10:00 a.m. Service**. Please join us to help with the Wreaths, Christmas trees, Garlands, etc. We would truly appreciate your participation and help. Thank you.

FOOD PANTRY: Thank you to every volunteer who with compassion, willing hands and generous hearts donated time, food and funds. We were blessed to serve multiple families within our community in need. "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good for his love endures forever." Psalm 136. We will be collecting new hats and gloves for the pantry for Christmas. They can be left in the Narthex RED bin along with donations of nonperishable food and hygiene products. Monetary donations can be sent directly to the Smithtown Emergency

Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. These funds are used to purchase items such as milk, chicken and eggs.

REMINDERS

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.

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 November 29
8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)
10am Family Worship and Sunday School (Sanctuary)
Advent wreath making immediately following the 10am Service

MONDAY November 30
1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

TUESDAY December 1
7:30pm Moms Group (Forbes Home)

WEDNESDAY December 2
10am – 12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)
6:30pm – 7:30pm Confirmation (Parish Hall)
7:45pm – 9pm Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY December 3
7pm-9pm Troop 301 Meeting (Parish Hall)

FRIDAY December 4
8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)
7:30pm – 11pm Ladies' Night Out (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY December 5
5:30pm Worship and reception of new members (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY December 6
8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)
10am Family Worship and Sunday School (Sanctuary)
Immediately following the 10am service, Baptism of Makayla Rae Tabor
Immediately following the 10am service, decorating the church.


OUTDOOR FAMILY CHRISTMAS!
bouncy house
big tree lighting
live Nativity
petting zoo
bonfire and marshmallows
Enjoy a big tree lighting, petting zoo, live Nativity, bonfire and marshmallows, bouncy house, and candle lit "Silent Night"!
Saturday, December 12, 4:00 - 6:00 pm
St. James Lutheran Church Parking Lot
(Corner of Woodlawn and First Ave)

St. James Moms Group invites you to...

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Join us for an evening of gift wrapping!
Prep for Christmas and enjoy time with friends!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
AT 7:30PM IN THE PARISH HALL

Bring some presents to wrap, tape, scissors, and wrapping paper for yourself & one roll to share!

We will have cozy festive snacks and enjoy time togetrher!

RSVP Here: