

JOSHUA



POSSESSING THE PROMISES

Sunday, August 2, 2026, 10 am

THE TENTH 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: Jim and Laretta Sauer / 10:00: Greg Buscarino

Slide Operators:

5:30 Laura Merring / 8:30: Tom Carratini / 10:00: Jay Softye

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: It Really Is Amazing Grace

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
 That saved a wretch like me
 I once was lost, but now I'm found
 Was blind, but now I see
- 2 Singing hallelujah, there's no chains on me
 Thank you, Jesus, You have set me free
 You welcomed me in, called me by name
 Was dead in my sin, now I'm dancing on that
 grave
 Hallelujah, it really is amazing grace
- 3 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
 And grace my fears relieved
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed
- 4 Singing hallelujah, there's no chains on me
 Thank you, Jesus, You have set me free
 You welcomed me in, called me by name
 Was dead in my sin, now I'm dancing on that grave
 Hallelujah, it really is amazing grace
- 5 I'll testify of what He did
 He gave me life, I'm born again
 My heart is free, my soul is saved
 It really is amazing grace
- 6 I'll testify of what He did
 He gave me life, I'm born again
 My heart is free, my soul is saved
 It really is amazing grace
- 7 It really is, it really is
 It really is amazing grace
 It really is, it really is
 Sing hallelujah
- 8 Hallelujah, there's no chains on
 me
 Thank you, Jesus, You have set
 me free
 You welcomed me in, called me
 by name
 Was dead in my sin, now I'm
 dancing on that grave
 Hallelujah, it really is amazing
 grace
- 9 It really is, it really is
 It really is amazing grace
 It really is, it really is
 It really is amazing grace!

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Song of Praise: You Are My King

- 1 I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again
- 2 Amazing love how can it be
That You my King would die for me
Amazing love I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You
- 3 I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again
- 4 Amazing love how can it be
That You my King would die for me
Amazing love I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You
- 5 You are my King
You are my King
Jesus You are my King
You are my King
- 6 Amazing love how can it be
That You my King would die for me
Amazing love I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
- 7 Amazing love how can it be
That You my King would die for me
Amazing love I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
- 8 In all I do I honor You

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 2:1–16, 22–24

A The Old Testament Reading is from Joshua, chapter 2.

¹And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. ²And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." ³Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." ⁴But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. ⁵And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." ⁶But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. ⁷So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

⁸Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof ⁹and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ¹¹And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. ¹²Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign ¹³that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." ¹⁴And the men said to her, "Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

¹⁵Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. ¹⁶And she said to them, "Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way."

²²They departed and went into the hills and remained there three days until the pursuers returned, and the pursuers searched all along the way and found nothing. ²³Then the two men returned. They came down from the hills and passed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they told him all that had happened to them. ²⁴And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has given all the land into our hands. And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 9:9–13

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁹As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁰And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Prayer of the Day

L Heavenly Father, throughout time You have shown us Your power and authority over creation.

C **You split the Red Sea, caused the Sun to stand still, gave victory in battles, and much more.**

L When Your Son Jesus Christ became incarnate, He performed many miracles for people.

C **He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, walked on water, calmed storms, and much more.**

L Best of all, Jesus died and rose from the dead. He is now alive and reigning from the Throne.

C **We pray that like Rahab, we would hear and understand these stories and by faith would follow and serve You.**

L We pray this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now

C **and forever, Amen.**

(Children are dismissed for Children's Church)

Sermon: Rahab: An Unlikely Servant

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 Eternal God, if it were not enough that You provide us with every spiritual blessing,
C **You provide us with worldly wealth, as well.**
L We offer these things back to You.
C **Take, too, our lives. Mold them to Your will.**
L Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen**

Confession and Absolution

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *[John 1:8,9]*

-silence is kept for reflection and self-examination-

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God the Father.
C **Almighty God, Father of great goodness,
with my whole heart I confess my neglect and forgetfulness of Your
commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against You;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins 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 *Blessed are You, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth.*

*We give You thanks and praise that You formed us in Your own image:
male and female You created us.*

C **When we turned away from You in sin, You did not cease to care for us,**

P *but opened a path of salvation for all people, a future Savior whom You would send.*

C **To Your servants Abraham and Sarah You gave the promise that all nations
would be blessed.**

P *Through Moses You led Your people from bondage into freedom;*

C **and under Joshua You gave victory, leading them to possess a beautiful land.**

P *Through the prophets You renewed Your ancient promise of salvation*

C **and in the fullness of time You fulfilled Your word, sending Your Son, Jesus
Christ, our Lord,**

P *who triumphed over our sins by His cross,*

C **and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.**

P *You now empower Your Church to take news of this blessing to all nations.*

*Therefore with all the holy people who have served You in every age,
we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of Your name.*

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

Distribution Song: Jesus Does

Who tells the Sun to rise every morning?
Colors the sky with the shades of His glory?
Wakes us with mercy and love? Jesus does

Who holds the orphan, comforts the widow?
Cries for injustice, feels every sorrow?
Carries the pain of His children? Jesus does

So we sing praise to the Father who gave us the Son
Praise to the Spirit who's livin' in us
When I was a sinner, He saved me from who I was
'Cause that's what Jesus does

Who understands the heart of a sinner?
Showers His grace over all our mistakes?
Washes us clean with His blood? Jesus does, I believe that He does

Who sings a song of sweet forgiveness?
Who stole the keys to hell and the grave?
Who has the power to save? Jesus does

So we sing praise to the Father who gave us the Son
Praise to the Spirit who's livin' in us
When I was a sinner, He saved me from who I was
'Cause that's what Jesus does

Oh, what a friend, oh, what a Savior
He's always been good, He's always been faithful
He came to my rescue when I needed Him most
He saved my soul

So we sing praise to the Father who gave us the Son
Praise to the Spirit who's livin' in us
When I was a sinner, He saved me from who I was

So we sing praise to the Father who gave us the Son
Praise to the Spirit who's livin' in us
When I was a sinner, He saved me from who I was
That's what Jesus does

Prayer after Communion

- L** Lord Jesus Christ, may Your Holy Spirit fill us,
- C** **even as we are filled with the rich foods offered at Your table.**
- L** Empower us.
- C** **Unite us.**
- L** And lead us all the way. For You are the Lord forevermore.
- C** **Amen.**

Benediction

Closing Song: Graves Into Gardens

- 1 I searched the world. but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
Are never enough
- 2 Then You came along and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied
Here in Your love
- 3 Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing
- 4 Nothing is better than You
- 5 I'm not afraid to show You my weakness
My failures and flaws Lord, You've seen 'em all
And You still call me friend
- 6 'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley
There's not a place Your mercy and grace
Won't find me again
- 7 Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing
- 8 Nothing is better than You
- 9 Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing
- 10 Nothing is better than You
- 11 You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can

- 12 You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can
- 13 You turn graves into garden
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can
You're the only one who can
- 14 You turn graves into garden
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can
- 15 You turn graves into garden
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can
- 16 You're the only one who can
You're the only one who can



Please join us outside after the 10am service for lemonade on the lawn!

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH CAROLINA HURRICAN RELIEF TRIP 2026 IS ON! A team from our church will be driving down to Newland, NC to help repair two small homes damaged in the storm of 2024. There would also be tree cutting work. The team is leaving after worship on August 16th and returning August 22nd. Please keep them and the families they are ministering to in your prayers – good work and no accidents! Also, if you'd like to help with the cost of the van, gas, food, tools and supplies you can give at stjlc.com/give and select the "North Carolina Hurricane Relief Trip 2026" fund.

CALLING ALL SOFTBALL FANS AND PLAYERS! St. James has again been challenged to a softball game. This time, we will take on Grace Lutheran in Mastic Beach. This game will be played at Medford Athletic Complex on August 22 around 10:00am. Don't play? That's ok! Come on out and join us for a dual church BBQ at the same location! Sign up is in the Narthex for both playing and the BBQ. I hope you'll join us for this Saturday of Fellowship!

BLOOD DRIVE: There is currently a critical need for donors. We will be hosting a Blood Drive in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, August 11th from 1:30pm to 7:30pm. Please visit stjlc.com/events for more information and to book your appointment.

YOUNG FAMILY/PRESCHOOL BBQ: Please join us on Thursday, August 27th at Schubert's Beach from 5pm-8pm for our young family and preschool BBQ! RSVP at stjlc.com/events. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring either a salad or dessert to share along with drinks for your family.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE SWEETEST MINISTRY IN TOWN? Then consider becoming a Preschool HUGGER this September and October! What is a HUGGER? A hugger is an extra set of hands in the classroom during the first few weeks (mornings only) of preschool. Huggers come alongside the teachers and help settle our newest little 2 and 3 year old friends who might be missing their mommies and daddies. The program is flexible - you pick a morning(s) that works best for you! If you are interested in joining our program, contact Director Christie Geary at preschooldirector@stjlc.com. It's a great day at Pre-K!

REMINDERS

SUMMER BAND: Do you play an instrument? Do you miss jamming out? Do you still jam out and want more ways to play, especially serving God? We have an opportunity for you! Starting June 28th, contemporary songs will continue to be sung at our 10am service, and this means we need new musicians to be part of our "Summer Band"! Our goal is to rotate musicians so they do not have to serve every week if they don't want to. Rehearsals

will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm. If you sing or play an instrument, please contact Pastor Conner or Christine Kenny to sign up.

VBS TEEN SERVICE PROJECT: Our 6th & 7th grade teens will be doing a service project during VBS. They will be making toiletry bags to be given to the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry & other organizations. We are looking for your help to provide them with the items needed to fill these bags. The items will be collected until Sunday, August 2nd & can be left in the laundry basket labeled VBS Toiletry Donations in the narthex. Items needed are...bar soap, washcloth, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, brush, comb, socks, band aids and packs of tissues. Any questions, please contact our VBS Director, Karin Ryan at 631-862-8017. Thank you for helping the teens!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: During the month of June, 172 families were provided with food and essential products. Thank you for all your generous donations and the hard work of our volunteers! As the need in our community continues, in the months of July and August we would like to collect juice boxes, snack bars and suntan lotion along with toiletries such as feminine products, laundry detergent, diapers. Donations can be left in the Narthex red bin OR dropped off during pantry hours-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am - 12pm. Monetary donations can be sent to Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. Your donation helps to provide hope for those in need and is greatly appreciated. Questions, call Jeanne Harmer 631-585-5631. "Lord help us to be your hands and feet in our community reflecting the love and compassion of Jesus Christ."

MOMS PLAYGROUND MEET-UP: Preschool is out for the summer! Join other moms and kids to enjoy the STJLC playground and community time on Thursdays in July from 10am to noon. Kids of ages welcome.

VBS SNACKS DONATIONS NEEDED: We provide our campers with a daily snack and are looking for items to be brought to prepare these snacks. A list of these items is in the narthex. If you would like to contribute, please check out the list. Any questions, please contact Eve Miceli, snack leader at 631-862-1362.

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 August 2

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary)

11:45am – 1pm Bible Study on Revelation and the Eschaton (Parish Hall)

MONDAY August 3

9am-12:15pm VBS

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

TUESDAY August 4

9am-12:15pm VBS

7:30pm Moms Group (Forbes Home)

WEDNESDAY August 5

9am-12:15pm VBS

6:30pm – 7:30pm Summer Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7pm-9pm Getting Clear Class (Mittelstaedt Backyard)

THURSDAY August 6

9am-12:15pm VBS

FRIDAY August 7

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

9am-12:15pm VBS

SATURDAY August 8

9am-1pm Farmers Market (Big Parking Lot)

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY August 9

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary)

11:45am – 1pm Bible Study on Revelation and the Eschaton (Parish Hall)