

JOSHUA



POSSESSING THE PROMISES

Saturday, August 22, 2026, 5:30 pm

Sunday, August 23, 2026, 8:30 am

THE THIRTEENTH 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 Christine Eriksen / 8:30: Carol Chirco / 10:00: Sandra McIlveen

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

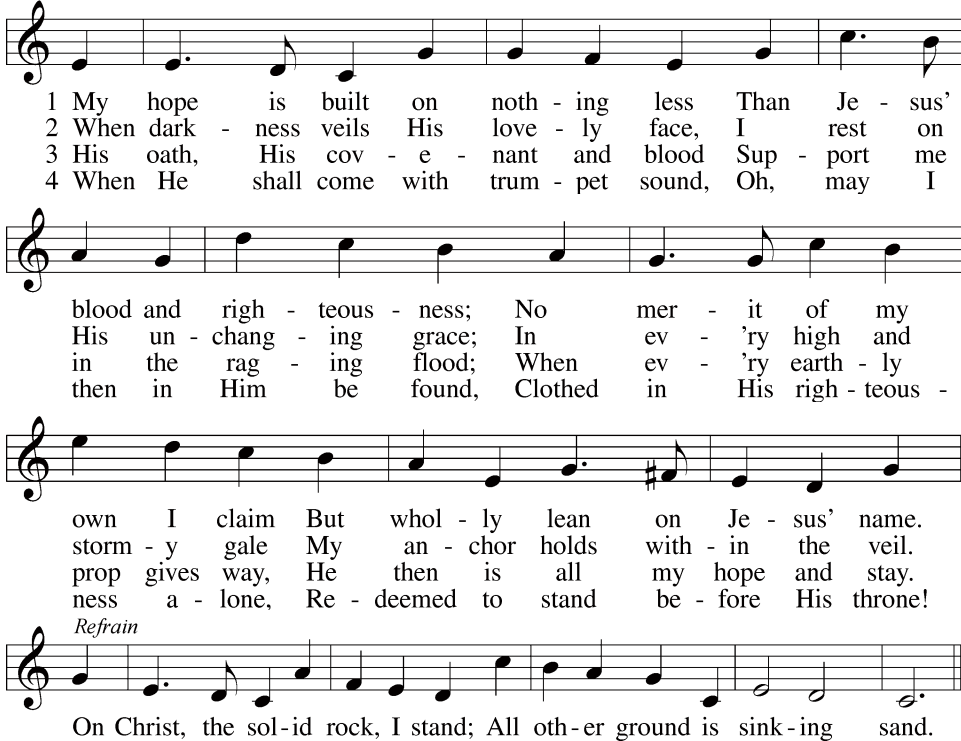
www.stjlc.com

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

Prelude

Opening Hymn: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I

blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -

own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Welcome and Invocation

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.

**☩ 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.**

☩ 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 an 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.

☩ Amen

Hymn of Praise: Now the Feast and Celebration - See Insert

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 7:2–10, 16–26

A The Old Testament Reading is from Joshua, chapter 7.

²Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." And the men went up and spied out Ai. ³And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few." ⁴So about 3,000 men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai, ⁵and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

⁶Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads. ⁷And Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord GOD, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan! ⁸O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies! ⁹For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?"

¹⁰The LORD said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face?

¹⁶So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel near tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was taken. ¹⁷And he brought near the clans of Judah, and the clan of the Zerahites was taken. And he brought near the clan of the Zerahites man by man, and Zabdi was taken.

¹⁸And he brought near his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. ¹⁹Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." ²⁰And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: ²¹when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

²²So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath. ²³And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel. And they laid them down before the LORD. ²⁴And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. ²⁵And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. ²⁶And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia



Holy Gospel Reading

John 7:53—8:11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventh and eighth chapters.

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

⁵³They went each to his own house, ¹but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" ⁶This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."]]

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer of the Day

L Heavenly Father, we come before You today as sinners,

C **like all the people in the bible, we have sinned against You in various ways.**

L Yet we plead in the name of Jesus to have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

C **Please, for the sake of Christ's cross, do not condemn us like You did with Achan.**

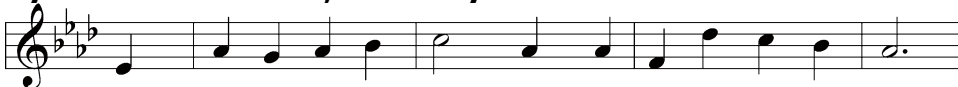
L As You forgave the sins of the woman caught in adultery, so too forgive us,

C **and teach us to sin no more.**

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.**

Hymn: Come Unto Me, Ye Weary



- 1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
- 2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
- 3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."
- 4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
O cheer-ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par-don, grace, and peace,
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Sermon: Hidden Idolatry

Apostles' Creed

**☒ 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**

✠ 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;

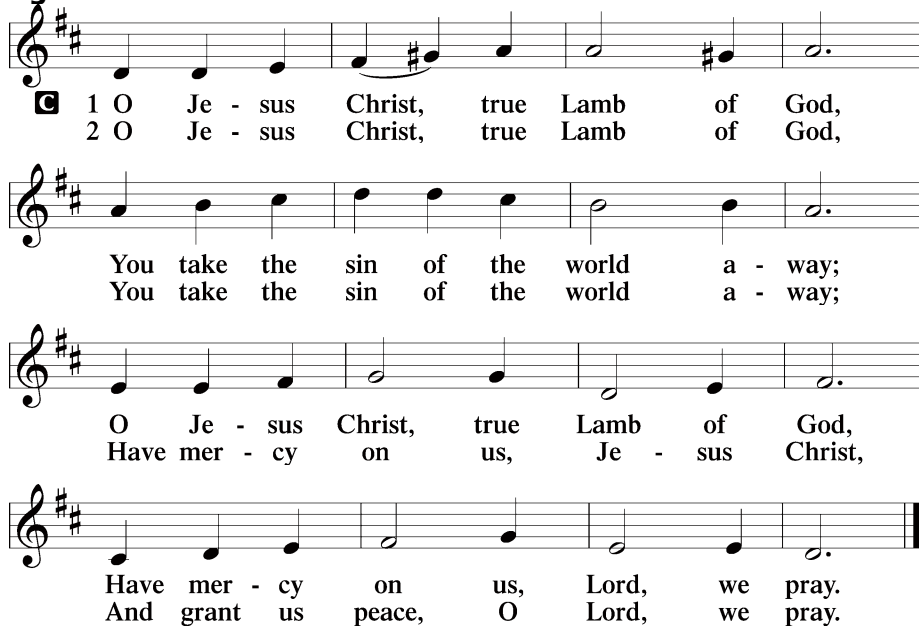


Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

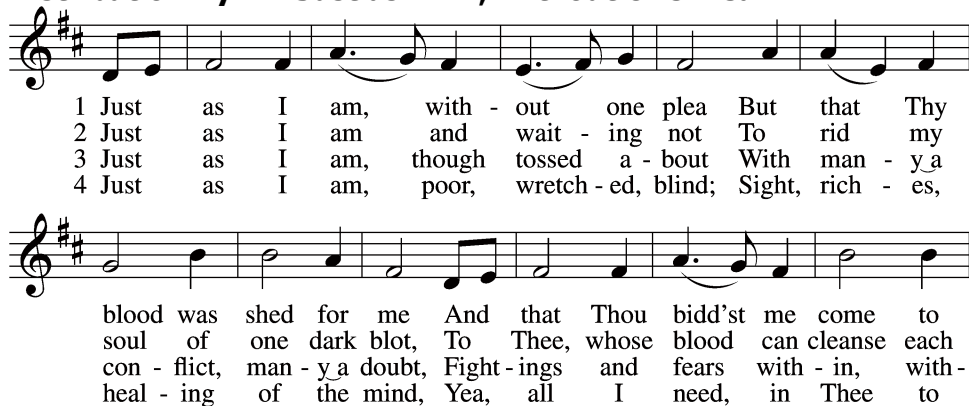
Agnus Dei



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 Hymn: Just as I Am, Without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,
blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 Because Thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Nunc Dimittis



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in lead the be - gin - ning, Is



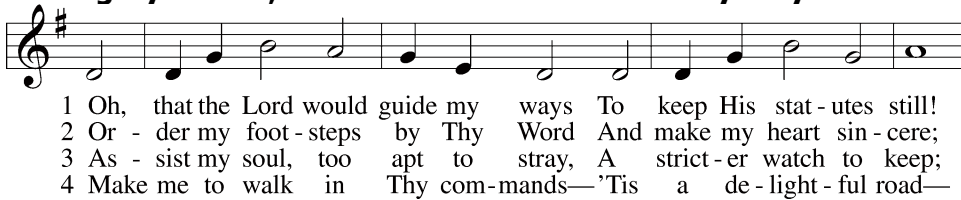
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



Benediction

Announcements

Closing Hymn: Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



- 2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Postlude

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUNG FAMILY/PRESCHOOL BBQ: Please join us on Thursday, August 27th at Veteran's Memorial Park in St. James, 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. Last day to register is 8/26/26.

HELP WANTED – PAID POSITION – CHURCH CLEANING CREW: Part time, flexible schedule, cleaning church and preschool, includes set up and general cleaning. Must be at least 16 years old, NYS working papers required. For more information contact Ed Spear. 631-873-6429

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

GRIEFSHARE: Our GriefShare class will begin on Wednesday September 16th in the Youth Room. Time of sessions is 10AM to Noon. This 13-week program encompasses a 30 minute video seminar where you will hear insights from recovery experts. A group discussion will follow to discuss grief-related issues while you are getting to know others who understand what you are going through. Through discussion you will receive comfort and support. You will gain personal recovery tips for navigating your grief and discover the 6 signs of healing through your personal workbook. The topics that are covered include the following: Your grief journey; sadness and loneliness; fear and anxiety; anger; regrets; grief and your relationships; questions for God and many more topics will be covered in this Christian based program helping you move forward from mourning to joy. Participants pay no fees for the materials used in the GriefShare program thanks to the generous grant given to us by Saint James Funeral Home. If you are interested in GriefShare, please contact Ed Spear. 631-873-6429

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: Thank you to our teens who put together toiletry bags for the pantry during VBS! The month of July, 161 families received food and essential products. Our church will host the month of Sept at the pantry. We will need 1-2 volunteers on Tues, Thurs, Sat from 9:30-12:30 to help out. Sign up is in the Narthex. As the need in

the community continues, we continue to collect toiletry items, laundry detergent, dish soap. Donations can be left in the Narthex red bin or dropped off during pantry hours. Monetary donations can be sent to Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. Your donations are 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."

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 23

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary)

After 10 am service: Baptism of Rylee Maura Huber

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

MONDAY August 24

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

7pm – 9pm MAD Ministry/Caregivers Meeting (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY August 25

9am – 4pm Preschool staff training day and classroom setup

7:30pm Moms Group (Forbes Home)

WEDNESDAY August 26

9am – 4pm Preschool staff training day and classroom setup

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

THURSDAY August 27

9am – 4pm Preschool staff training day and classroom setup

10am – 11:30am Bible study on Revelation and the Eschaton (Youth Room)

5pm Young Family/Preschool BBQ (Veterans Memorial Park St. James)

FRIDAY August 28

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY August 29

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

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY August 30

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship and Baptism of Lilah Ann Rieder (Sanctuary)

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