



Sunday, September 20, 2026, 10 am

**THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AND BAPTISM OF PETROGLIA FAMILY**



*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: Deacons Jim and Laurretta Sauer / 10:00: Sharon Haase

Slide Operators:

5:30: Laura Merring / 8:30: Julie Rodriguez / 10:00: Joe Poma

Altar flowers have been given- to our wonderful daughter Melissa Spear for her wedding on Saturday September 19, 2026. We love you and Jonathan so very much. Love, Mom, Dad and Grandma Valerie.

Pastor: Neil Mittelstaedt

Pastor: Conner Forbes

www.stjlc.com

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

Opening Song: Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

(repeat 2x)

You give and take away
You give and take away
I'll worship You and say
Lord blessed be Your name

(repeat 2x)
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

(Children come to the front of the Church)

✠ Holy Baptism ✠

Harper Violet Petroglia, Sophia Ivy Petroglia, and Cameron Joseph Petroglia

The Reason for Holy Baptism

Baptismal Prayer

- P** *Let us pray:*
- P** *Almighty and eternal God: We give You thanks, for in the beginning Your Spirit moved over the waters and You created heaven and earth.*
- C** ***By the gift of water You nourish and sustain us and all living things.***
- P** *By the waters of the flood You condemned the wicked world*
- C** ***and saved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all.***
- P** *You led Your people Israel through the water of the Red Sea, out of slavery, into the freedom of the promised land,*
- C** ***foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism.***
- P** *In the waters of the Jordan, Your Son was baptized and anointed with the Spirit,*
- C** ***and now, through Him, You have given Baptism also to us.***
- P** *You have sanctified plain water, administered together with Your command and promise,*
- C** ***to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.***
- P** *We pray that You would behold Harper, Sophia and Cameron according to Your boundless mercy and bless them with true faith by the Holy Spirit,*
- C** ***that through this saving flood all sin in them which has been inherited from Adam, and which they have committed since, would be drowned and die.***
- P** *Grant that they be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope,*
- C** ***so that, with all believers in Your promise, they would be declared worthy of eternal life;***
- P** *through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*
- C** ***Amen.***

Parental Promise

The Lord's Prayer

Confession of Faith

P *Harper, Sophia and Cameron, do you renounce the devil?*

R ***Yes, we renounce him.***

P *Do you renounce all his works?*

R ***Yes, we renounce them.***

P *Do you renounce all his ways?*

R ***Yes, we renounce them.***

P *Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?*

R ***Yes, we believe.***

P *Do you believe 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?*

R ***Yes, we believe.***

P *Do you 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?*

R ***Yes, we believe.***

The Baptism

Candle and Prayer

(Children leave for Sunday School)

Song of Praise: 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

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 55.

⁶"Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1–16

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Prayer of the Day

- L** Heavenly Father, You have called each of us into Your vineyard.
- C** **We thank You that You have graciously given all of us what we don't deserve: Your forgiveness and Your presence.**
- L** And now Lord God, we pray that You would teach us Your ways, so that like the Christians before us,
- C** **we may stand before Your throne confident of Your grace. mercy, and compassion.**
- 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: Offensive Generosity

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** *Heavenly Father, You have gathered Your people together*
- C** **from different families... from separate backgrounds,**
- L** *to be one family-*
- C** **with You our Father... with Christ our brother.**
- L** *Receive and bless the gifts here offered,*
- C** **even as You receive and bless Your family.**
- L** *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



C 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

C 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;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution

Distribution Song: 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)

(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)

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

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

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: 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

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

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



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

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

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.

KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE: Calling all boys ages 2-10 and their dads! Please join us for a Knights of the Round Table party on Saturday, October 3rd from 2pm-4pm in the Parish Hall. RSVP at stjlc.com/events.

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

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: The month of August, 185 families received food and essential products from the Smithtown Pantry (724 individuals). In addition, hope is shared through our giving to those in need and showing them, they are not forgotten. As the need increases and to those who can give, we continue to collect toiletry items, laundry detergent, 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, Sat from 10-12. Monetary donations can be sent directly to: Smithtown Emergency 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

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.

OUTREACH: A huge thank you to everyone who helped provide school supplies to make school kits for Orphan Grain Train. Outreach Ministry put together 110 kits- the most ever! A special thank you to: Jeri Monthie for sewing/making over 100 adorable tote bags to contain the supplies, to Thrivent for a \$250 Action card that provided some of the supplies and to Janet Brienza for getting the Action Card! Special hugs to Jimmy Sauer our best "kit packer" who is indispensable to completing our many projects. These kits will go on the OGT truck coming to us in May. 110 children will be blessed with joy receiving these kits so that they can attend school. They will know of God's love through our caring! Praise and thanks be to God!

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 September 20

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship/Sunday School and Baptism for the Petroglia Family (Sanctuary)

6:30pm-8pm Youth Night Welcome Back Party (Parish Hall)

MONDAY September 21

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

7:30pm Smithtown Stitchers (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY September 22

WEDNESDAY September 23

10am-12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)

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

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

THURSDAY September 24

Witness in the Public Square

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

FRIDAY September 25

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY September 26

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

9:30am – Altar Guild Meeting

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY September 27

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship and Sunday School (Sanctuary)