

JOSHUA



POSSESSING THE PROMISES

Sunday, September 6, 2026, 10 am

THE FIFTEENTH 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 Daisy Karika / 8:30: Carol Chirco / 10:00: Sharon Haase

Slide Operators:

5:30: Laura Merring / 8:30: Chris Baars / 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: Firm Foundation

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad

That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now

He won't, He won't

I've still got joy in chaos
I've got peace that makes no sense
I won't be going under
I'm not held by my own strength

'Cause I've built my life on Jesus
He's never let me down
He's faithful in every season
So why would He fail now

He won't, He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail

He won't, He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail

Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You
I'm going to make it through

Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You
I'm going to make it through

Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You
I'm going to make it through

I'm going to make it through
'Cause I'm standing strong on You
I'm going to make it through
'Cause my house is built on You

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad

That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now

He won't, He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail

He won't, He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail

He won't

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Song of Praise: Build My Life

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
You're worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, oh we live for You

Holy, there is no one like You
There is none besides You
Open up my eyes in wonder

Show me who You are and fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love
To those around me

Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
You're worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, oh we live for You

Holy, there is no one like You
There is none besides You
Open up my eyes in wonder

Show me who You are and fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love
To those around me

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 21:43-45, 24:1-2, 11-15

A The Old Testament Reading is from Joshua, chapter 21.

Thus the Lord gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. ⁴⁴And the Lord gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the Lord had given all their enemies into their hands. ⁴⁵Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass...

¹Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, "You went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand. ¹²And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. ¹³I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant..."

"Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

John 12:20-26

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Prayer of the Day

- L** *Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and choosing us before you made the world.*
C **You are our true Father,**
L *our creator,*
C **our redeemer,**
L *our sustainer through every trial,*
C **and the end of all things, including our lives.**
L *You alone are worthy of all our worship, all our praise, and all our trust.*
C **We give to You the place in our hearts that You truly deserve,**
L *and renounce all other gods, every idol.*
C **Thank You for including us as Your people;**
L *through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now*
C **and forever. Amen.**

(Children are dismissed for Children's Church)

Sermon: You've Got to Choose

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 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.

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!

The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

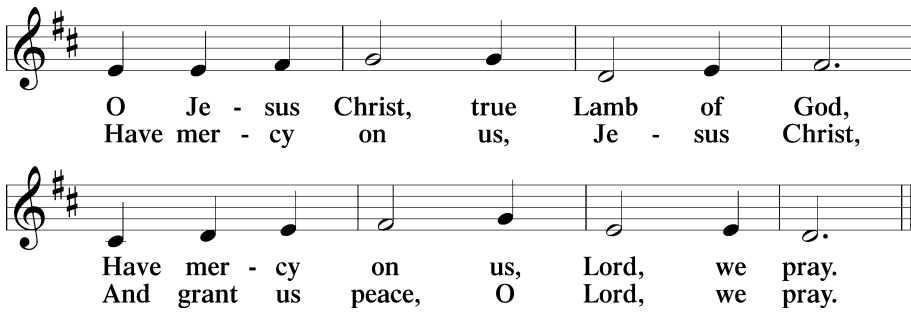
Agnus Dei



C 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;



Distribution

Distribution Song: Graves Into Gardens

I searched the world. but it couldn't fill me
 Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough
 Then You came along and put me back together
 And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

(Chorus)

Oh, there's nothing better than You
 There's nothing better than You
 Lord, there's nothing
 Nothing is better than You

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
 '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

Chorus 2x

(repeat 2x)

You turn mourning to dancing
 You give beauty for ashes
 You turn shame into glory
 You're the only one who can

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

Chorus 2x

(repeat 2x)

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
You're the only one who can

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: Awesome is the Lord Most High

Great are You Lord mighty in strength
You are faithful and You will ever be
We will praise You all of our days
It's for Your glory we offer ev'rything

Raise your hands all you nations
Shout to God all creation
How awesome is the Lord most high

Where You send us God we will go
You're the answer we want the world to know
We will trust You when You call our name
Where You lead us we'll follow all the way

Raise your hands all you nations
Shout to God all creation
How awesome is the Lord most high

We will praise You together
For now and forever
How awesome is the Lord most high

Hallelujah, hallelujah
How awesome is the Lord most high
Hallelujah, hallelujah
How awesome is the Lord most high

Raise your hands all you nations
Shout to God all creation
How awesome is the Lord most high

The Lord most high

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, 9/24, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/29.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES AND CHURCH PICNIC: Sunday school will resume on September 13th at the 10am service. Immediately following service there will be a picnic at Norway Hall. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be available. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and your lawn chairs. There will be a bouncy house and the chance to dunk both Pastors in the dunk tank!

LAF: Join us for an apple fest! Our next Lunch Among Friends will be held on Wednesday, September 16th at 12:30pm in the Parish Hall. RSVP via the sign up sheet in the Narthex. If you are unable to sign up on the sheet, please email office@stjlc.com to let us know you will be attending. Cost is \$10 per person.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT: Please Join us for ladies' night out on Friday, September 11th, at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall to make floral tea light holders. Bring a friend and \$5 for supplies. RSVP at stjlc.com/events.

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.

REMINDERS

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

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 September 6

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary)

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

MONDAY September 7

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

TUESDAY September 8

6:30pm – 9pm Outreach Meeting (Parish Hall)

7:30pm Moms Group (Forbes Home)

WEDNESDAY September 9

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

THURSDAY September 10

7pm Sunday School Teacher Meeting (Youth Room)

7pm Troop 301 Meeting (Parish Hall)

FRIDAY September 11

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

7:30pm Ladies' Night Out (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY September 12

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

Wedding of Meghan O'Connor and Steven Sadowsky

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY September 13

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship and First day of Sunday School (Sanctuary)

Picnic immediately the 10am service (Norway Hall)



Sunday school will resume

**on September 13th at the 10am service.
Immediately following service there will
be a picnic at Norway Hall.**

★
**Hamburgers, hot dogs and
drinks will be available.**

★
**Please bring a side dish or dessert
to share and your lawn chairs.**

★
**There will be a bouncy house
and the chance to dunk both
Pastors in the dunk tank!**



YOU'RE INVITED!

Knights of the Round Table

**A fun event for boys ages 2-10 and
their dads!**

DATE Saturday, October 3rd

TIME 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

PLACE Saint James Lutheran
Church Parish Hall

**Each boy must be
accompanied by a male adult**

Costume will be provided

\$10 per boy

QR Code to Register

