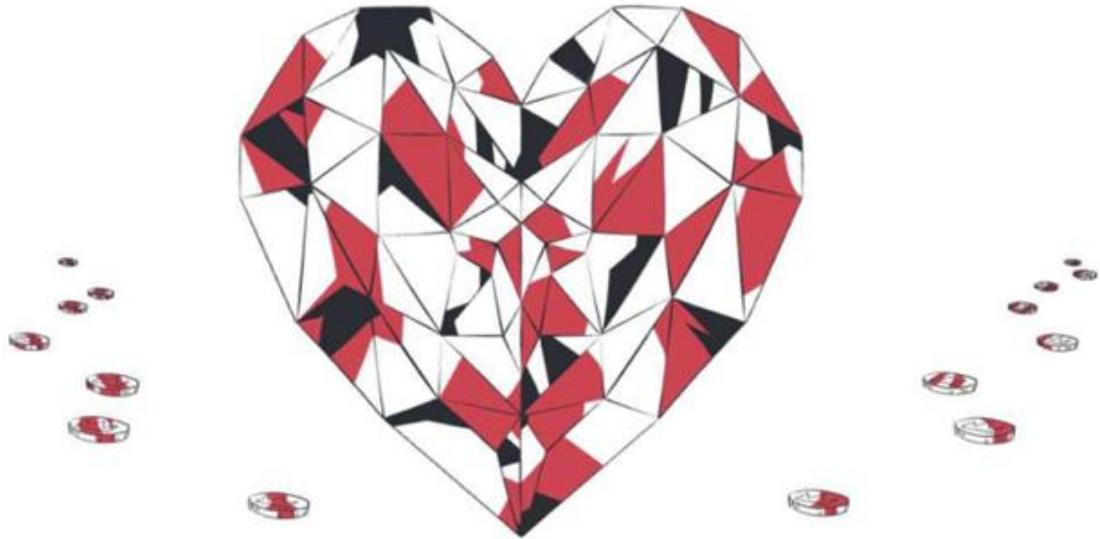


FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

GIVING

CHALLENGE



Sunday, January 18, 2026, 10 am

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
AND
BAPTISM OF LIAM CANDIA ERICKSON**



*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: Daisy Karika / 10:00: Greg Buscarino

Altar flowers have been given- In memory of Mary-Bubb Steinmann and her birthday with our Lord. From, Holly Vassallo.

Pastor: Neil Mittelstaedt

Pastor: Conner Forbes

www.stjlc.com

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

Opening Song: 10,000 Reasons

[Chorus]

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes [Chorus]

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find [Chorus]

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore [Chorus 2x]

I'll worship Your holy name
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

(Children come to the front of the Church)

† **Holy Baptism** †
Liam Candia Erickson

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 Liam according to Your boundless mercy and bless him with true faith by the Holy Spirit,*

C **that through this saving flood all sin in him which has been inherited from Adam, and which he himself has committed since, would be drowned and die.**

P *Grant that he 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, he would be declared worthy of eternal life;**

P *through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

C **Amen.**

Parental Promise

Lord's Prayer

Confession of Faith

P *Liam, do you renounce the devil?*

R **Yes, I renounce him.**

P *Do you renounce all his works?*

R **Yes, I renounce them.**

P *Do you renounce all his ways?*

R **Yes, I renounce them.**

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

R **Yes, I 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, I 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, I believe.

The Baptism

Candle and Prayer

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

Song: Great Are You Lord

Verse

You give life, You are love

You bring light to the darkness

You give hope, You restore every heart that is broken

And great are You, Lord

Chorus

It's Your breath in our lungs

So we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise

It's Your breath in our lungs

So we pour out our praise to You only

Verse

Chorus (2x)

Bridge (3x)

All the earth will shout Your praise

Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing

Great are You, Lord

Chorus (2x)

Epistle Reading

1 Timothy 6:6–10

A The Epistle is from 1 Timothy, chapter 6.

⁶Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Reading

John 4:7, 8, 27–34

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

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

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)...

²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer of the Day

L Gracious Father, happiness is something You want for Your children,
C **-often the word we use is 'blessed'-**
L but the world bombards us with its own ideas on what will make us happy,
C **theories which aren't working and can never work.**
L Open our ears to hear Your Word,
C **and a give us a spirit of understanding.**
L Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."
C **Teach us until we get that;**

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

Sermon: Giving Happily: Trading Comfort for Contentment

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

- Almighty, Generous, and Eternal God, You are the giver of every good and perfect gift.
- **All that we have comes from Your gracious hand.**
- You provide daily bread—homes, work, abilities, and resources.
- **We receive these gifts with thanksgiving and trust.**
- You also gave up riches beyond measure,
- **and humbled Yourself for our salvation.**
- Move us to give our tithes and offerings not to earn Your favor,
- **but in grateful response to Your mercy.**
- In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now
- **and forever, Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **who made heaven and earth.**

- If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

-Silence is observed for self-examination-

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

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 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;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

Distribution Song: In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe;
3. There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow'r of Christ in me.

This corner stone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Then bursting forth in glorious day, Up from the grave He rose again.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.

8

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
Till on that cross, as Je - sus died,
And as He stands in vic - to - ry,
No pow'r of Hell, no scheme of man,

When fears are stilled, when striv ings cease.
The wrath of God was sat - is - fied,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
Can ev - er pluck me from His hand;

12 G

My Com - fort er, my all in all,
For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid;
For I am His, and He is mine,
Till He re turns or calls me home,

Here in the love of Christ I stand.
Here in the death of Christ I live.
Bought with the pre cious blood of Christ.
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Benediction

Closing Song: Build Your Kingdom Here

Come set Your rule and reign
 In our hearts again
 Increase in us we pray
 Unveil why we're made
 Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
 Like wildfire in our very souls
 Holy Spirit come invade us now
 We are Your church
 We need Your pow'r in us

We seek Your kingdom first
 We hunger and we thirst
 Refuse to waste our lives
 For You're our joy and prize
 To see the captives' hearts released
 The hurt the sick the poor at peace
 We lay down our lives for heaven's cause

We are Your church
We pray revive this earth

[Chorus]

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here we pray

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church
We are the hope on earth [Chorus]



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

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

GETTING CLEAR REMINDER: There will be no “getting clear” class this Sunday, January 18th. We will resume next week on Sunday, January 25th.

JANUARY LAF LUNCHEON: Beat the Winter blahs and come for a LAF? The Date is January 21st. Please sign up in the Narthex!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: will be held on Sunday, January 18th after the 10:00 service in the Parish Hall.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026-2027 HAS BEGUN: New Families - please join us at our **Open House on Tuesday, January 27th from 12:30-2:30 pm and 5:30-7:30 pm** to meet our teachers and tour our classrooms with your little one. Registration begins at Open House and is ongoing until all spots are filled. Registration Forms may be found in the Narthex in the Preschool Basket.

LENDING COMFORTS OF SMITHTOWN: has both regular and transport wheelchairs available for those in need. 71 Blydenburgh Ave, Smithtown, NY 11787 631-265-1674 lendingcomforts@gmail.com. Lending hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 4-7 pm and Saturday 9am-12pm/

GRIEFSHARE: Our GriefShare class will begin on Wednesday January 21st 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

REMINDERS

FOOD PANTRY NEWS: The pantry has been increasingly busy servicing 210 families the month of December during our Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10-1200 hours. We thank everyone who has donated food, funds and willing hands to help hand out food and essential products. We currently are in need of cereal, baked beans, chunky soups, and jelly that can be left in the church Narthex red box. Monetary donations can be sent directly to the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. Funds are used to purchase items such as milk, eggs, chicken or chopped meat. Volunteers are needed to hand out food and stock items on pantry days from 930-1200. Congregational youth ages 16-18 are welcome on Saturdays and can earn community hours. Questions, call Jeanne Harmer 631-484-5203. ACTS 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES: are in the narthex listed alphabetically for those that use envelopes. If you give electronically, there will not be envelopes for there for you. People who give electronically may request envelopes if needed by contacting the church office.

GIVING WITH SUBSPASH: In order to ensure the most secure and seamless experience, we will be transitioning to a new giving platform. **We will be moving from Vanco to Subsplash.** This change will help us manage resources more effectively, at less cost, and make it even easier for you to support the mission of our church. Visit stjlc.com and click on the tab that says "Give" for full directions on how to make the switch! If you need assistance, please email Sandra at sandramcilveen@hotmail.com

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 January 18

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)
10am Family Worship and Baptism of Liam Candia Erickson with Sunday School (Sanctuary)
11:30am Congregational Meeting (Parish Hall)
11:30am – 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

MONDAY January 19

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

TUESDAY January 20

7:30pm Moms Giving Group (Forbes Home)
7:30pm Giving Group for All (Parish Hall)

WEDNESDAY January 21

10am – 12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)
12:30pm LAF Luncheon (Parish Hall)
2pm-4pm Cancer Support Group (Youth Room)
6:30pm – 7:30pm Chancel Chimes Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:30pm – 7:30pm Confirmation (Parish Hall)
7:45pm – 9pm Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY January 22

10am Thursday Giving Group for All (Youth Room)

FRIDAY January 23

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY January 24

8am Men's Giving Group (Norway Hall)
5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY January 25

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)
10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary)
11:30am – 1:30pm Getting Clear Class (Youth Room)
11:30am – 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)