



Saturday, December 6, 2025, 5:30 pm
Sunday, December 7, 2025, 8:30 am

ADVENT WEEK 2



*Changing lives with the love of God
to the glory of God*

Christmas Worship Schedule 2025

Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

1:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
With Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

3:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
with Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

8:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 25th – Christmas Day

11:00 am Christmas Day Worship Service
with Holy Communion

Serving in the Lord's house today:

5:30: Sam Eisen / 8:30: Sandra McIlveen / 10:00: Greg Buscarino

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: Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

setting, Mark Sedio

Opening Hymn: Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn



1. A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, For
2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, When
4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, His hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, As morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall



now he is born, Be - hold! the Child of our long - ing,
qui - et and near, Yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, So warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -
Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul And hymns of lov - ing
Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer, And love, our end - less



geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door And
kind - ness, The thun - der of his an - thems roll To
won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And
sto - ry, May God fill ev - 'ry day we share, And



lives now in - side us for ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Welcome and Invocation

Advent Wreath Lighting

Reader 1: Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of peace. May the peace given by God shine warmly in our hearts, assuring and calming us.

Reader 2: This world is sadly torn by sin and self-interest, and we yearn for mending, for peace only God can provide. The prophets of the Old Testament longed for the coming of the One who would establish peace with God for sinners.

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah foresaw:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given;

And the government shall be upon his shoulder,

And his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**”

Reader 2: The Child was God’s own Son, who came to reconcile us to God and guide us in the way of peace. This candle reminds us to receive His light and let His peace shine through us to everyone.

Wreath Lighting Song: A Candle is Burning (Tune: Away in the Manger)

A candle is burning, a candle of PEACE,

The conflict between God and man has now ceased.

For Jesus was given, providing the way,

A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:1–6

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 49.

¹Listen to me, O coastlands,

and give attention, you peoples from afar.

The LORD called me from the womb,

from the body of my mother he named my name.

²He made my mouth like a sharp sword;

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow;

in his quiver he hid me away.

³And he said to me, “You are my servant,

Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

⁴But I said, “I have labored in vain;

I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;

yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God.”

⁵And now the LORD says,
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

⁶he says:
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39–45

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

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

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer of the Day

L Holy Spirit, thank You for granting us the gift of faith,

C **for You have given us Your Word...**

L (it is impossible for God to lie!)

C **...and we do believe Your Word will be fulfilled.**

L But we experience struggles, delays, pain.

C **Help us in the midst of every difficulty**

L so that in all things we may trust You

C **and hope in Your purposes and plans for us.**

L In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, who lives and reigns with You and our Heavenly Father, one God, now

C **and forever. Amen.**

Hymn: Once He Came in Blessing



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
3 Soon will come that hour _____ When with might - y
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Sermon: Saint Mary, the Mother of God

Nicene Creed

**☐ I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Currently, the offering plate will not be passed. There is a plate in the Narthex for you to place your offering. You may give to God and the work of His Church by mailing them in, but you can also give electronically by using the QR code below.



Offering Prayer

- L** *Heavenly Father, You accepted Mary,*
- C** **A daughter who lived out her faith.**
- L** *You accepted Joseph,*
- C** **A son of gentle obedience.**
- L** *Please accept these gifts.*
- C** **They are signs of our faith. They are examples of our obedience.**
- L** *Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth, [Psalm 124:8]**
- P** and who, in the fullness of time, sent His own Son to be our Savior.

Advent is a season of preparation. Then let us prepare ourselves, making more room for God. Let us uncover and confront our sins, kneeling before God to ask His forgiveness, seeking also His renewal of our hearts.

-a time of silent confession and prayer-

- P** God Almighty,
C **have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and restore within us the life of Christ that we so desperately need.**
- P** Our heavenly Father loves you, the proof of that being the gift of His only Son for you. For His sake, God forgives you all your sins. This same Jesus is 'Emmanuel' (God with us), providing true hope, peace, joy and love. Receive Him in faith, in the name of the Father and of the T 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 indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give You thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord,
C **for the virgin Mary heard with faith the message of the angel,**
P and by the power of the Holy Spirit conceived and bore the Word made flesh.
C **From the warmth of her womb to the stillness of the grave**
P He shared our life in human form.
C **In Him new light has dawned upon the world**
P and You have become one with us
C **that we might become one with You.**
P Therefore earth unites with heaven to sing a new song, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



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: Canticle of The Turning

(This hymn is inspired by Mary's song, The Magnificat)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak-ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Prayer After Communion

- P** God most high, whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh:
- C** **we thank You that in this sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood**
- P** You visit us with His real presence
- C** **and overshadow us by Your grace.**
- P** Strengthen us to walk like Mary in the joyful path of obedience
- C** **and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness;**
- P** through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Benediction

Announcements

Closing Hymn: Savior of the Nations Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
6 For You are the Fa - ther's Son Who in flesh the
7 From the man - ger new - born light Shines in glo - ry



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
vic - t'ry won. By Your might - y pow'r make whole
through the night. Dark - ness there no more re - sides;



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
All our ills of flesh and soul.
In this light faith now a - bides.

Postlude: Savior of the Nations, Come

- Karen Keene

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

End-of-Year Giving

Please remember your church generously in your giving this month.

COUNCIL MEETING: will be held on Tuesday, December 9th, 2025, at 7pm in the Church Library. Any member of the congregation is welcome to attend as an observer.

FOOD PANTRY: A HUGE thank you to every volunteer who showed up with compassion and willing hands and to all who donated food and funds. Over 300 Thanksgiving boxes were handed out to local families. We can always use canned tuna or chicken, canned fruit, ravioli, chili, jelly, peanut butter, rice, pasta, tomato sauce, pasta, chunky soups,

more shampoo, conditioner, feminine products, toothpaste, toilet paper and paper towels. Items can be dropped off in the church Narthex for pickup. Monetary donations can be sent to: Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. Funds are used to purchase items such as milk, eggs, chicken or chopped meat. Questions, Jeanne Harmer 631-484-5203

BLUE CHRISTMAS: We invite you to a special service for those experiencing grief, loss, and loneliness during this holiday season, Saturday, Dec. 20th from 5:30-6:30 pm. The reality is, Christmastime can amplify feelings of sorrow and pain, while also adding pressure to smother those feelings and just be 'merry'. This service will be more reflective, candle-lit, in a setting where weary hearts can come as they are to God, who came to us in Jesus ("a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief"), to find solace and a sense of hope. We invite you and maybe someone you know to join us. Come as you are, leave as you are.

LAF: Dear Seniors, please sign up for the next LAF (Lunch Among Friends) luncheon to be held on December 10th. This will be a Christmas theme so wear that Christmas sweater! We will have a carol sing and lots of good cheer so sign up in the Narthex! Cost is \$10 and feel free to bring a friend or neighbor. Pastor Neil and Carol

REMINDERS

ANGEL TREE: The Angel Tree for Olsens is up. Please pick a resident's name off the tree. Put resident's name, your name, and phone number on the sheet. Please Return by December 14h and put gifts under the table.

GIVING WITH SUBSPLASH: 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 Luann at luann@stjlc.com or call 631-584-5212. If needed, you may make an appointment for help!

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 December 7

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary) followed by decorating the Church

11:30am - 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

MONDAY December 8

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

7pm-9pm MAD Ministry Meeting (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY December 9

7pm Council Meeting (Library)

7:30pm Moms Group (Upper Room)

WEDNESDAY December 10

10am-12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)

12:30pm LAF Luncheon (Parish Hall)

6:30pm – 7:30pm Getting Clear Part 2 (Library)

THURSDAY December 11

6:30pm-7:30pm Chancel Chimes Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7pm – 9:30pm Troop 301 Meeting (Parish Hall)

7:45pm-9pm Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

FRIDAY December 12

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY December 13

8am - 10am Bacon, Eggs, and Bible Men's Group (Norway Hall)

SUNDAY December 14

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary)

11:30am - 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

6:30pm – 8pm TOF Christmas Party for Middle School and High School (Parish Hall)

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 2025

5:30PM-6:30PM

**230 SECOND AVE.
ST. JAMES, NY 11780**



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**EMAIL US WITH ANY QUESTIONS
OFFICE@STJLC.COM**