

Saturday, September 13, 2025, 5:30 pm

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CONFIRMATION**



*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: Greg Buscarino / 8:30: Sandra McIlveen / 10:00: Owen Schmideler

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: Fanfare and Processional

Douglas Wagner

Opening Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies;
(refrain:)
Christ, our Lord to you we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.
- 2 For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light;
(refrain:)
- 4 For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild;
(refrain:)
- 5 For yourself, best gift divine
To the words so freely giv'n;
Agent of God's grand design,
Peace on earth and joy in heav'n;;
(refrain:)

Welcome and Invocation

Confession and Absolution

- P** Because we have faith in God's mercy, we dare to approach Him with confidence.

- Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination-

© we confess our sinfulness and our offenses against You.

Forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

☞ Amen. Aid us, now Lord, to enjoy Your presence, share our faith, and show your ways.

Hymn of Praise: This is the Feast



4



Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

A The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 13.

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia



Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:43–47

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



⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’
⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Prayer of the Day

L *Lord Jesus Christ, You have taught us to love our enemies,*

C **Yet we have failed because of our sin.**

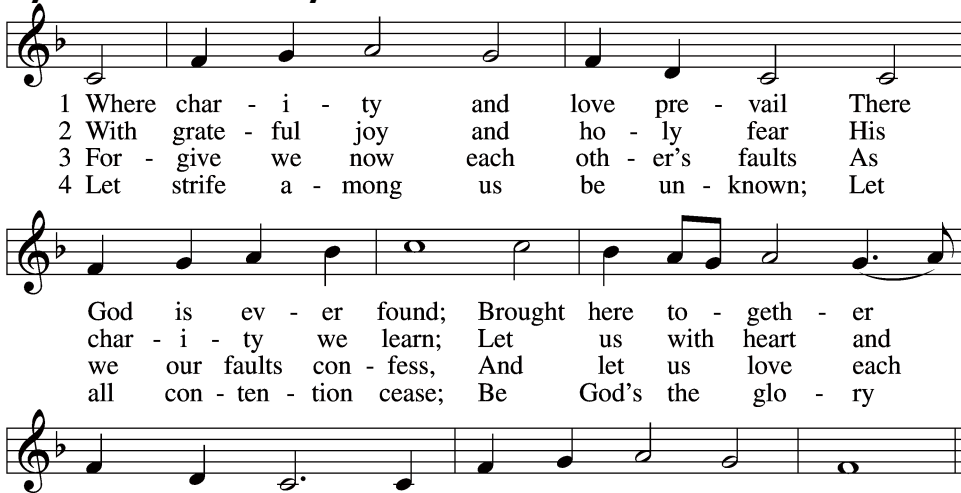
L *Teach us, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, to love like You do.*

C **Help us start by teaching us to love our families.**

L *In Your name Jesus we pray, as You reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now*

C **and forever, Amen.**

Hymn: Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let

God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
we our faults con - fess, And let us love each
all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry

by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.

6 For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

Sermon: We Are Family (Not Enemies)

Rite of Confirmation

The Pastor Addresses the Catechumens

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

- P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- R** *Yes, I do.*
- P** 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?
- R** *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?
- R** *Yes, I 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.*
- P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- R** *Yes, 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.*
- P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing. The pastor places his hands on the head of each catechumen and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:

Confirmation Blessing

P [Name], the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

R *Amen.*

A text of Holy Scripture is read as a remembrance of confirmation. After all the catechumens have received the blessing, we pray for them.

Stand

P Let us pray.
Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Peace ✠ be with you.

C **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 have generously blessed us in Christ,
- C** **and made us rich in gifts, spiritual and material.**
- L** We offer them back to You, O Father.
- C** **We trust you with everything.**
- 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!

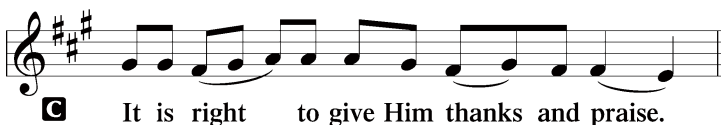
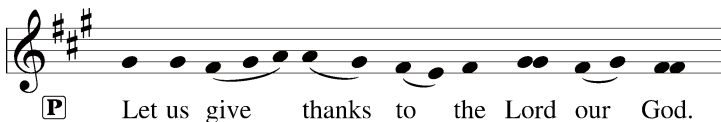
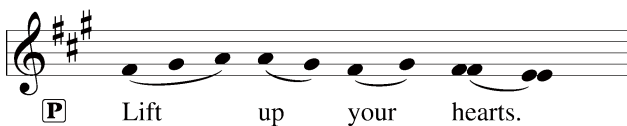
Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.



- 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



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.

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei



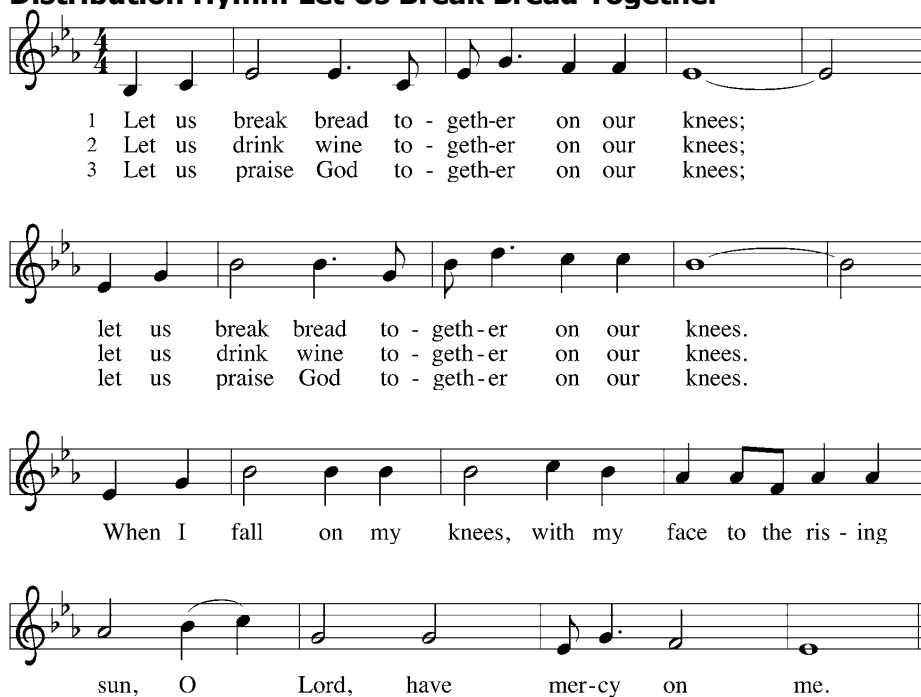
Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

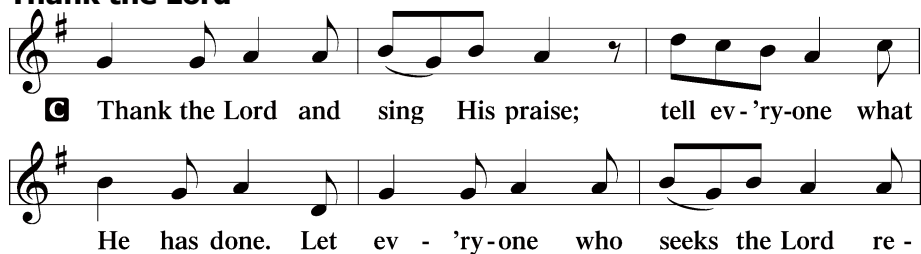
Distribution

Distribution Hymn: Let Us Break Bread Together

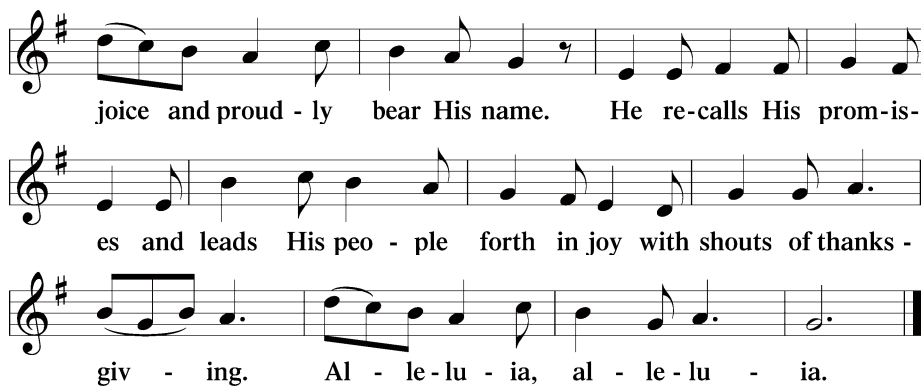


1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;
let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Thank the Lord



Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joy and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Benediction



- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



A A - men.

Announcements

Closing Hymn: May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill



- 1 May we Thy pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill And do on
2 So may we join Thy name to bless, Thy grace a -
3 Spir - it of life, of love and peace, U - nite our



earth our Fa - ther's will As an - gels do a - bove;
dore, Thy pow'r con - fess, From sin and strife to flee.
hearts, our joy in - crease, Thy gra-cious help sup - ply.



Still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, With all Thy
One is our call - ing, one our name, The end of
To each of us the bless - ing give In Chris - tian



chil-dren and o - bey The law of Chris - tian love.
all our hopes the same, A crown of life with Thee.
fel - low - ship to live, In joy - ful hope to die.

Postlude: Rondo Giocoso

Douglas Wagner

Congratulations Confirmation Students of 2025!



**Serena Chirco
Kayla Kuerner
Dylan Prego
Logan Trent
Madison Caglioti
Madeline Dunn
Oliviagrace Ruf
Daniel Buscarino
Rachel Schumacher
Abigail Kaufmann
Charlotte Yoniak**

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

WITNESS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE: Our own Carol Mittelstaedt is receiving a prestigious award; the Witness in the Public Square Award given by the LCMS Atlantic District. Carol will be honored at a luncheon at Terrace on the Park, 52-11 111th Street in Queens on Thursday, September 25th. The luncheon also raises funds for the missions and ministries of the LCMS Atlantic District. We would like to invite you to help us celebrate her by attending the luncheon or making a donation of any size so that we can buy some seats or a table for others to attend. We will let Carol know of any gifts given in her honor. Tickets are \$250.00 a person or \$2,250.00 a table but any gift is appreciated. If you would like to attend, please email Luann at Luann@stjlc.com and if you would like to make a financial gift toward the cost of a seat or a table please donate at stjlc.com/giving and select the "Witness in the Public Square" fund. You can also mail a check to Saint James Lutheran Church, 230 Second Ave. St. James, NY 11780. Please be sure to write "Witness in the public square" in the check memo.

HELP NEEDED: A number of tasks around Church could use the assistance of congregation members to complete some of these tasks...

Paint white doors, traditional, St. James red. Doors are at the entrance to the parish hall. Paint youth room , we recently replaced the floor and several other updates, but the room could use a repainting.

Behind the office in the shed village we have two storage sheds that need to be painted.

Church will supply the required supplies and paint to complete the tasks.

If you're willing to help out, please contact Ed Spear 631-873-6429

BUY A BIBILE FOR A PRESCHOOLER: \$10 buys a Children's Bible! Would you like to help us fund this amazing project to kick start a young one's spiritual journey? And how awesome for you to encourage our incoming parents to read the Bible to their children. You can buy 1, 2 or 10! It's up to you how many you want to bless! To give, just pay at stjlc.com/give and select the "Bibles-Preschool Fund" or you can place the form and cash/check directly in the offering plate in the narthex or send a check in an envelope and mail a check to us at: St. James Lutheran Church, 230 Second Ave. St. James, NY 11780. Thank you for blessing God's Littlest Children! ~ STJLC Young Family Ministry

FAMILY DINNER: We are starting a new dinner club for Sunday school families! Our first Family Dinner is on Friday, September 19th at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Cost is \$5 per person with a \$20 family cap. Bring your kids and join us for food & fellowship! RSVP via stjlc.com/events

PINTS & PARABLES: is our Dad's group that starts right after Family Dinner! 7:30 pm in Pastor Neil's backyard. Join the Pastors for a beer, fire, and conversation.

LUNCH AMONG FRIENDS (L.A.F.): is a new monthly luncheon for church members and their friends who would like to get together to enjoy food, fellowship and fun with Pastor Neil and Carol. The cost is \$10 per person. The first Lunch Among Friends (L.A.F.) is September 24th at 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall. RSVP via stjlc.com/events or by emailing office@stjlc.com

TEENS OF FAITH: events will also be starting again in September! The combined middle and high school kick off event is Laser Tag on September 14th. RSVP to Pastor Conner. Middle school T.O.F. Youth Night is September 21st at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. High school T.O.F. Youth Night is September 28th at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. There will be games, snacks, and Bible time at both events! Pastor Conner is excited to see you there!

REMINDERS

MUSIC MINISTRY: Music is an essential part of worship at St. James Lutheran Church, and there are many opportunities for musicians and singers of all ages to participate. Rehearsals will be resuming soon:

Worship Band - Wednesday 9/3, 7:45pm-9pm

Chancel Chimes - Wednesday 9/10, 6:30pm-7:30 pm

King's Kids Choir (grades 3-8) - Sunday 9/21, 11:30am-12:15pm

SMITHTOWN FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: The pantry has continued to be very busy during the month of July into August. In July, the pantry serviced 189 families! Thank you to all who have generously donated time, food and hygiene products! At this time, there is a need for hygiene products, soups, ravioli, granola bars, cereal and spam. Donations may be left in the Narthex RED bin. Monetary donations can be sent directly to the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. The pantry will continue to be open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays from 10-1200. They will close on Saturday, August 30th. For the month of August, the pantry will be open Wednesday evenings 6-9 pm. Volunteers are needed to stock and hand out food. For more information, call Jeanne Harmer, 631-484-5203 or Liz Wagner, 631-862-7508. "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

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 September 14

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary) Church Picnic to follow at Norway Hall

3pm TOF Laser Tag

MONDAY September 15

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

7:30pm – 9:30pm Smithtown Stitchers (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY September 16

7pm – 9pm Chosen Group (Parish Hall)

7:30pm Moms Group (Upper Room)

WEDNESDAY September 17

10am-12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)

2pm – 4pm Cancer Support Group (Youth Room)

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

6:30pm-7:30pm Confirmation Class (Youth Room)

6:30pm – 7:30pm Getting Clear Class for Confirmation Parents (Library)

6:30pm Outreach Meeting (Parish Hall)

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

THURSDAY September 18

10am-12pm Chosen Group (Youth Room)

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

FRIDAY September 19

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

4pm Stewart Wedding (Sanctuary)

6pm Family Dinner (Parish Hall)

7:30pm Pints & Parables (Pastor Neil's House)

SATURDAY September 20

5:30 Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY September 21

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary)

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