

Sunday, September 14, 2025, 10 am

FOURTEENTH 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: 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

Opening Song: How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

(Children come to the front of the Church)

Children's Message

Lord's Prayer

(Children leave for Sunday School)

Hymn 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

Chorus:

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

Chorus

'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

Chorus 2X

That's what Jesus does

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.**

Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:43–47

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

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

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.

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

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.**

Sermon: We Are Family (Not Enemies)

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

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

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 -

P Holy and merciful God,

C **we confess our sinfulness and our offenses against You.**

You alone know how often we have wandered from Your good ways, wasted Your excellent gifts, and forgotten Your amazing love.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are sorry and ashamed for all we have done against You.

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

P Hear the good news! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." [John 3:16]

Jesus was given by His Father to 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 al-so 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:

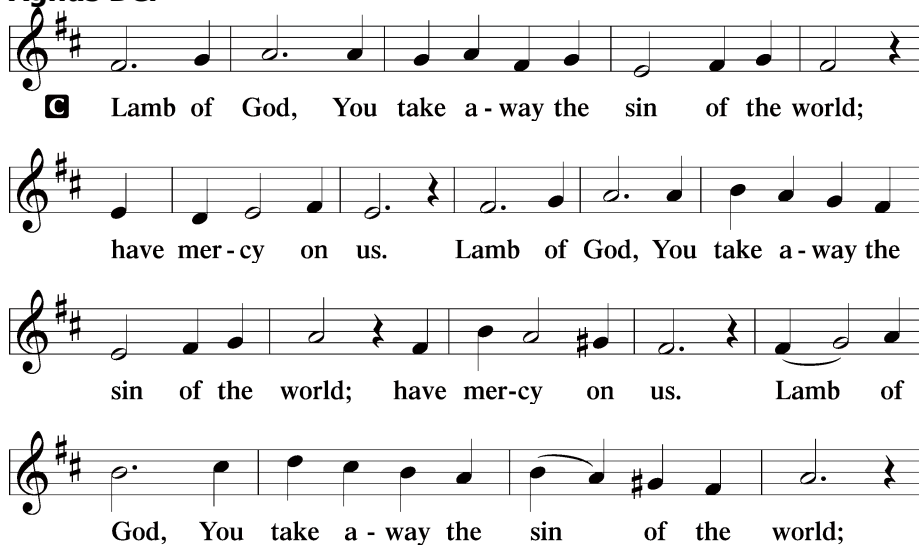
Sanctus



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



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;



Distribution

Distribution Hymn: The Table

I will feast at the table of the Lord

I will feast at the table of the Lord

I won't hunger anymore at His table. (repeat)

Come all you weary; come and find
His yoke is easy; His burden light
He is able; He will restore
At the table of the Lord

There is peace at the table of the Lord

There is peace at the table of the Lord

I won't worry anymore at His table

There is healing at the table of the Lord

There is healing at the table of the Lord

I won't suffer anymore at His table

Come all you weary; come and find
His yoke is easy; His burden light
He is able; He will restore
At the table of the Lord

I know He has a place for me

Oh, what joy will fill my heart

With the saints around the mercy seat of God

Come all you weary; come and find
His yoke is easy; his burden light
He is able; He will restore
At the table of the Lord
At the table of the Lord

I'm invited to the table of the Lord

I'm invited to the table of the Lord

He says, "Come just as you are" to His table

Prayer after Communion

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You 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 and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

Closing Song: By Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

Chorus:

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land (Chorus)

Bridge:

They'll know us by our love
Our love, our love, our love (Repeat)

We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we will guard each man's dignity and save each one's pride

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love

Yes, they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love (repeat 3x)

Bridge

Interlude

Chorus



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

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 BIBLE 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)