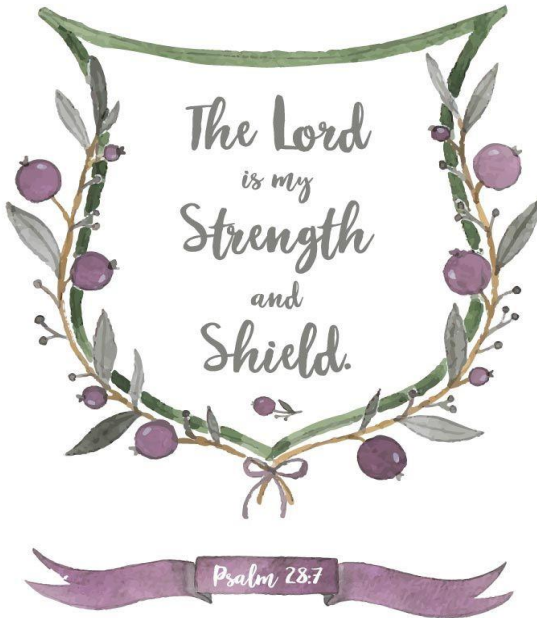


**Grow ... Go ... Gather**  
**September 27, 2020**



**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
(LCMS)**

2040 Oakwood Avenue N.E.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505



**Pastor Glenn E. Schaeffer**

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Website: [www.stjamesgr.com](http://www.stjamesgr.com)


# The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

(please turn off your wifi)

## The Preservice Music/Call to Worship/Welcome

(Please wear your mask when singing)

### The Opening Hymn: LSB 915, "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.  
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in  
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;  
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,

How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,  
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.  
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.  
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?

How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,  
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;  
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,

Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day,  
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.  
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## The Invocation

P: We begin this service in the name of the Father,  
the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

**C: Amen.**

P: In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice:

**C: In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You  
and watch.**

P: My mouth is filled with Your praise,

**C: And with Your glory all the day.**

P: O Lord, open my lips,

**C: And my mouth will declare Your praise.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**The Psalm of the Day:** Psalm 25:1-10

P: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**C: O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.**

P: Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**C: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

P: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

**C: Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

**C: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

P: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

**C: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**A Hymn of Praise: LSB 948, "All Glory Be to God Alone"**



1 All glo - ry be to God a - lone, For - ev - er - more the  
 2 We praise You, God; Your name we bless And wor - ship You in  
 3 Lord God, our King on heav - en's throne, Our Fa - ther, the Al -  
 4 You take the whole world's sin a - way; Have mer - cy on us,  
 5 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One And o - ver all are



high - est one, Who did our sin - ful race be - friend And  
 hum - ble - ness; From day to day we glo - ri - fy The  
 might - y One. O Lord, the sole - be - got - ten One, Lord  
 Lord, we pray. You take the whole world's sin a - way; O  
 Lord a - lone. O Je - sus Christ, we glo - ri - fy You



grace and peace to us ex - tend. A - mong us may His  
 ev - er - last - ing God on high. Of Your great glo - ry  
 Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's Son, True God from all e -  
 Lord, re - ceive our prayer this day. From God's right hand Your  
 and the Spir - it, Lord Most High; With Him You ev - er -



gra - cious will All hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.  
 do we sing, And to Your throne our thanks we bring.  
 ter - ni - ty, O Lamb of God, to You we flee.  
 mer - cy send, To all the world Your grace ex - tend.  
 more shall be One in the Fa - ther's maj - es - ty.

*Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553  
 Tune: Public domain*

**The Epistle Lesson: Philippians 2:1-18**

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full

accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:23-32**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon Hymn: "Lift High the Name of Jesus"**

**Verse 1**

Lift high the name of Jesus  
Of Jesus our King  
Make known the power of His grace  
The beauty of His peace  
Remember how His mercy reached  
And we cried out to Him  
He lifted us to solid ground  
To freedom from our sin

**Chorus**

***Oh sing my soul***

***And tell all He's done***

***'Til the earth and heavens are filled with His  
glory***

**Verse 2**

Lift high the name of Jesus  
Of Jesus our Lord  
His pow'r in us is greater than  
Is greater than this world  
To share the reason for our hope  
To serve with love and grace  
That all who see Him shine through us  
Might bring the Father praise **(Chorus)**

**Verse 3**

Lift high the name of Jesus  
Of Jesus our Light  
No other name on earth can save  
Can raise us a soul to life  
He opens up our eyes to see  
The harvest He has grown  
We labor in His fields of grace  
As He leads sinners home **(Chorus)**

## The Sermon – Philippians 2:1-5

### A Confession of our Christian Faith: LSB 953 “We All Believe in One True God”



1 We all be-lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,  
2 We all be-lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y's son,  
3 We all con-fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro-ceeds,



Ev - er - pres - ent help in need, Praised by all the heav'n - ly host;  
Who de - scend - ed from His throne And for us sal - va - tion won;  
Who sus - tains and com - forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.



All He made His love en-folds, All cre - a - tion He up-holds.  
By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.  
Bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er be to Thee!

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## The Offering Prayer

### A Hymn: “My Dwelling Place” - (Getty)

#### Verse 1

My dwelling place is God Most High  
My refuge and my fortress  
When plague and pestilence draw nigh  
I'm hidden in His presence  
When terrors fall and arrows fly  
His shield will be my safety  
When stones across my pathway lie  
On angels' wings I'm carried



## **Verse 2**

My dwelling place is God Most High  
A present help in danger  
I rest secure in Love's pure light  
Beneath My Master's favor  
He freed me from the fowler's snare  
Where sin and shame had bound me  
Deceived I made my refuge there  
Till fearless He came for me

## **Bridge**

Wonderful powerful my hope and my defender  
Mighty God Emmanuel my dwelling place forever

## **Verse 3**

My dwelling place is God Most High  
I'll never seek another  
For I am His and He is mine  
My heart He'll keep forever  
I know the Name on Whom I call  
He promises to answer  
With life he satisfies my soul  
And crowns me with his pleasure **(Bridge)**

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## **The Prayer of the Church**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**☩ Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and  
the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Benediction**

P: May you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. (2 Peter 3:18)

**C: Amen.**

**The Closing Hymn: LSB 918, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"**

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re-deem-er, Pil-grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious  
bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;  
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar  
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,  
Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,  
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,  
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,  
bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no  
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to  
more; Feed me till I want no more.  
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Events of the Week: September 27 – October 4, 2020

- TODAY:**     **9:30 a.m.** Worship service at St. James and on Facebook Live  
                  **11:00 a.m.** Bible study on Facebook Live
- Monday:**   **10:00 a.m.** Registration for **October 4**  
                  Worship begins (LWML Sunday)  
                  **6:30 p.m.** Monday Evening Worship Service with Holy Communion  
                  **7:30 p.m.** Deacon's Meeting at St. James
- Wednesday:** **10:00 a.m.** Bible Study with Darrell  
                  **12 Noon** Devotion w/ Pastor Schaeffer on Facebook Live
- Friday:**     **12:00 Noon** Registration closes for phone-in Worship registration.
- Saturday**   **6:00 p.m.** Registration for Worship is closed
- Sunday:**    **9:30 a.m.** Communion Worship at St. James (for registered members) and on Facebook Live  
                  **11:00 a.m.** Bible Study on Facebook Live

**Today's Deacon:** Jerry Talen

**October Altar Guild:** Sherry & Jennifer Schmidt  
**November Altar Guild** is still available

### FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP (September 20, 2020)

	<u>Offering</u>
General Fund	\$4,640.00
Roof Repair Fund	75.00
Future Building Expansion	50.00
Plate Collection	550.00
ISJ Academy	400.00
ISJ Tuition Assistance	10.00
Memorial – Mike Schmidt	100.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$5,825.00



Please put your pew kneeler down when you are finished with worship. Thank you.

**It is important to register every week.**

1. Go to [bit.ly/stjamesgr](http://bit.ly/stjamesgr)
2. Click on the worship service you wish to attend. **Worship Service – October 4, 9:30 am**
3. Click on the green “register” box.
4. Put in the **number attending**.
5. Click on the orange “register” box.

Enter **your first name** and **ALL** the **first names** of those attending with you in the “first name” box.

Enter **only one last name, e-mail address and confirm e-mail address.**

6. Click on the orange “register” box.
7. Your ticket(s) will arrive in your e-mail inbox confirming your sign-up.

Karen will return to the office on **Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

**Lutherans For Life Quote: September 27**

“As Christians, we understand better than most that life is weighted with profound suffering and buoyed by eternal hope. As such, it’s time to raise our children to appreciate what a big, beautiful struggle parenthood is and that it simply cannot happen without offering compassion, love, and grace to children still in the womb and to the mothers and fathers who view the scales more filled with suffering than hope.”

*Tawnia Hoehne, Frazee, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

## A NEW BIBLE STUDY

*“The Means of God’s Mission”* – As a result of Jesus’ perfect life of obedience, his death on the cross for our sins, and his resurrection from the dead, God forgives our sins and promises everlasting life to everyone who trusts in Jesus as their Savior! There is no greater news! But, how is faith in the one true God created and sustained in our heart? How are the treasures that Christ earned for us delivered to us? Answer: Through God’s Means of Grace!



Join Pastor Schaeffer for a study called, *“The Means of God’s Mission.”* He will lead us in a theological and missiological discussion on: the Word of God, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper.

This 6-week study will be hosted on **Zoom** so that there can be interaction between Pastor Schaeffer and the participants. The study will be held on **Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m.** If you want to participate in this study, please contact Pastor Schaeffer via email ([glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com](mailto:glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com)) so that he can send you the contact information

**A Mid-Week Boost:** Monday and Tuesday can be exhausting. As we begin “hump day” – Wednesday – we may need a mid-week boost. Pastor Schaeffer will host a 10-15 minute “boost” on **Wednesday’s at 12 noon on Facebook Live.** The “boost” consists of Bible reading, a devotional thought, prayer and song. If you are unable to join the boost live at 12 noon, you can always watch at your convenience on St. James’ Facebook page and at the St. James website.



## **Meijer “Simply Give” Campaign**

Meijer Corporation has launched another “Simply Give” program at its grocery stores to help alleviate hunger in West Michigan!

North End Community Ministry has been named as a recipient of this program from the Plainfield Meijer. Simply go to the checkout register and ask to purchase a \$10 Simply Give gift card. A bar code is scanned and the amount is added to your bill. Meijer keeps a tally of “cards” sold and will distribute one check to **NECM**.

### **This program runs through Saturday, October 24.**

Thank you for helping us to make this campaign a greater success. I am grateful for your continued faithful support on behalf of those we serve through **NECM** and keeping our food pantries well stocked!

Laura Castle  
Executive director  
North End Community Ministry

Questions? Contact Social Ministry chair, Melissa Ensing, at 447-8305.





## **Trunks of Treats** is around the corner. **YES, Trunks of Treats!**

On **Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**, from 2:30-4, St. James will be welcoming our neighborhood friends to the 2020 revised edition of this outreach. We want to assure our neighbors that St. James Lutheran Church is still open, active and here for them.

**Registration DEADLINE to reserve your parking lot spot is Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**. Please call the church office (#363-7718) OR Cindy (#363-4087) a.s.a.p. so we can continue to go forward with planning. (purchasing giveaways for children and adults, advertising, etc).

We will also need additional help around the church grounds and extra candy donations, **BUT, we need the cars first!!**

Further details will be outlined in the October Newsletter, but please mark your calendar now!!

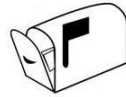
Thank YOU!



## ADDRESS CHANGE

Dale have Grace have moved.  
Their new address is:

**12073 40<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Allendale, MI 49401**



NOTE!  
ADDRESS CHANGE

This address is in your church directory already but please take note that the move is official now.

*Dear members of St. James,*

*Thank you so much for all the support I have received from you. I appreciate all the calls, prayers and visits this past year while I was recovering from cancer and my ankle replacement.*

*In Christ,  
Arlene Porter*

## Congregational Meeting



**Church Council** has scheduled the next St. James **Voters Meeting** for **Sunday, December 6**, immediately following the church service. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we were forced to cancel/postpone the meetings for March, May and September. This will be held in the Sanctuary, with spatial distancing. We are also working on having an option to participate online. We have items that need to be presented and voted on, including, but not limited to, the budget and officer election for next year. We look forward to your participation.