



**St. James Lutheran Church  
2040 Oakwood Ave NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505**

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**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer  
[glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com](mailto:glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com)

**Rally Day**  
**September 10, 2023**

**The Order of Service**

**A Preservice Payer:** God, the Source of all wisdom, as we gather today, we remember our role as learners and doers of God’s Word. We give thanks for all who support the teaching and learning that takes place through our congregation. Be with all – children, youth, and adults – who will be participating this year in our Bible studies, worship services, fellowship groups and our ISJ Academy. Bless our times of study so that we may grow in faith. Bless our time together as we gather to study the Bible, break bread together, pray for and with one another, and serve one another in love so that we may honor You. Bless our times of prayer and worship so that we may be enriched in our spirits. Amen.

**The Preservice Music, the Call to Worship, & Welcome**

**The Opening Hymn:** LSB 817 “Earth and All Stars” (verses 1, 5-7)

**Invocation**

**☞:** Remembering our baptism with thanksgiving, we begin our divine worship service in the name of the Father, and in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

**☛: Amen.**

**Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 113)

**☞:** Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord’s name!

**All: From sunrise to sunset, let the Lord’s name be praised!**

**☞:** Who could possibly compare to the Lord our God?

**All: Let us worship God who can do marvelous things!**

**Our Confession**

**☞:** Let us confess our sins to God our gracious and merciful Father.

**All: I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I sin against You in my thoughts, my words, and my deeds, by what I have chosen to do and what I have chosen not to do. I often allow the priorities of the world and my sinful**

**flesh to relegate You to the margins of my life. Honestly, I often prefer to worship and serve me as opposed to worshipping and serving You. I deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me and forgive me. By Your holy Word strengthen me, renew me, and lead me so that I may have the desire to model Christ's love and grace in my life to the glory of Your holy name. In Christ's name, I pray. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**☩**: Our heavenly Father is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Friends, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you of all your sin, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

**The Psalm of the Day:** Psalm 119:97-105

**Men:** Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

**Women:** Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.

**Men:** I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

**Women:** I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

**Men:** I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

**Women:** I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.

**ALL:** **How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**☩**: O God, You have created us as male or female and You cause us to mature physically, mentally, and spiritually from conception, through infancy, through childhood and through adolescence into adulthood. We celebrate that growth. We pray for all who teach our children, youth, and adults who are eager to study Your Word. We pray for all our congregation's classes and groups through which the Holy Spirit enables us to mature in our faith. Keep each student of Your Word in Your care. And keep us ever mindful of the promise we make each

time we baptize another in faith: That we will assist them to grow in knowledge, in spiritual practices, and in living as disciples of Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## **The Scripture Readings**

**The Old Testament Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:1-9

**A:** The Old Testament Lesson is from Deuteronomy, chapter 6.

“Now this is the commandment – the statutes and the rules – that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, <sup>2</sup> that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. <sup>3</sup> Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>4</sup> “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**A:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**The Epistle Reading:** 2 Timothy 3:10-17

**A:** The Epistle Lesson is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, chapter 3.

<sup>10</sup> You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra – which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But as for

you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**A**: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C**: **Thanks be to God!**

**A Hymn:** LSB 588, “Jesus Loves Me”

**The Gospel Reading:** Matthew 4:1-11

**P**: The Holy Gospel is from St. Matthew, chapter 4.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup> and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

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

**C**: **Thanks be to God!**

**Our Confession of Faith** (Question #7 in Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation, CPH, 2017:46)

**P:** What is the Bible?

**ALL:** The Bible gathers together the writings of God's chosen prophets and apostles over a period of more than a thousand years. Through the Holy Spirit, God Himself gave these writers the thoughts and words they recorded, such that the Bible *is* God's Word. For this reason, the Scriptures are both infallible (incapable of error) and inerrant (containing no mistakes). Holy Scripture is therefore entirely reliable and gives us everything we need to know and believe for Christian faith and life. This is most certainly true!

**The Sermon Hymn:** LSB 589 "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens"

**The Sermon**

**We Worship the Lord by Collecting our Offering.**

**A Hymn:** Thy Word is a Lamp to My Feet (Amy Grant )

**Chorus**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path

**Verse 1**

When I feel afraid  
And I think I've lost my way  
Still You're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear  
As long as You are near  
Please be near me to the end (Chorus)

**Verse 2**

I will not forget  
Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide  
And hold me to Your side  
I will love You to the end (Chorus)

Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith  
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## The General Prayer of the Day & The Lord's Prayer

### The Benediction: Ephesians 3:14-21

**℟:** For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**All: Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

**(Ephesians 3:14-21)**

### The Closing Hymn: "The Blessing" (Jobi)

#### Verse

The Lord bless you  
And keep you  
Make his face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you  
The Lord turn his  
Face toward you  
And give you peace

#### Chorus

Amen  
Amen  
Amen

#### Verse

The Lord bless you  
And keep you  
Make his face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you  
The Lord turn his

Face toward you  
And give you peace

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*All are welcome to stay for the church picnic that follows the service served by Friends in Faith.*

## **This Week at St. James**

**Today (9/10)** ..... Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM  
**Worship Service – 9:30 AM**  
Church BBQ – 11:00 AM

**Monday (9/11)** ..... **Communion Service – 6:30 PM**

**Tuesday (9/12)** ..... Circuit Winkel @ St. James – 9:00 AM

**Wednesday (9/13)** ..... Darrell Bible Study – 10:00 AM  
Pastor at Circuit Visitor Meeting (Ann Arbor) – 9:00 AM

**Thursday (9/14)** ..... Pastor at Circuit Visitor Meeting (Ann Arbor) – 9:00 AM  
Adult Bells – 6:00 PM  
Adult Choir – 7:15 PM

**Saturday (9/16)** ..... Pastors Day Off – 9:00 AM

**Sunday (9/17)** ..... Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM  
**Communion Service – 9:30 AM**  
Bible Study – 11:00 AM  
FIF Meeting – 11:00 AM

## Looking Ahead

### Serving Today (9/10)

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Officiant .....	Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector.....	Cherie Hood
Organist.....	Beth McKay
Deacon(s) .....	Dave Hood
Ushers.....	Kim & Hayden Urbanski
Video/Sound/Recording.....	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
September Altar Guild.....	Melissa Ensing / Marjie Weiss

### Serving Next Sunday (9/17)

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Lector.....	Marjie Weiss
Organist.....	Beth McKay
Deacon(s) .....	Jerry Talen / Dave Hood
Ushers.....	Walt and Karen Kryzanowski / Jim McKay
Video/Sound/Recording.....	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
September Altar Guild.....	Melissa Ensing / Marjie Weiss

## Financial Discipleship: September 3 & 4, 2023

General Fund	\$6,995.32
<i>Needed each week for budget \$5,769.00 (+\$1,226.32)</i>	
Building Fund	\$75.00
ISJ Academy	\$50.00
Tuition Assistance Program	\$100.00
FIF Block Party Bibles	\$156.32
<u>Tessaró Ministry (Nigeria Mission)</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Contributions</b>	<b>\$7,401.32</b>

## Announcements

**2<sup>nd</sup> Best Sale:** Friends in Faith is having **DROP-OFF** dates of Saturday September 30 and October 7th here at church. Simply start collecting your donations for the Second-Best Sale, load them into your vehicle and bring them to the church from 9-1 p.m. We are asking for all large items to be brought on October 7th. We cannot accept mattresses, box springs, analog (tube type TVs), nursery furniture, medical items or any items that are not usable and saleable. Members of Friends in Faith will be here to unload your car and take everything into church for you! How great is

that?! We also ask that clothing be clean and gently used. Smaller items can be brought to the church any time the church is open. Please call Pastor before you come. If items need to be brought sooner or if you have any questions, please contact Walt at (616) 970-7407 or Dale Rosema (616) 262-1390

Set-up for the Sale will begin on Sunday, October 8th. VOLUNTEERS are needed on Sunday after Church to set up tables and sort the items for the sale. Volunteers are also needed on Monday and Tuesday for sorting and pricing. They are also needed for Thursday through Saturday to assist customers and clean-up on Saturday. It's a great time to get to know each other and help support our Youth and Church functions. Work for an hour or enjoy the 9-4 day with everyone. A sign-up sheet will be at the entrance to the office. If you have any questions, please see Walt Kryzanowski or Dale Rosema (**October 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> is the sale**) (**Thursday, 9:00am-4:00pm**) (**Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm**) (**Saturday, 9:00am-12:00pm**)

**Choirs Begin Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup>**: We would like to welcome anyone High School and older to join us for the Bell Ensemble and Choir. Rehearsals start this Thursday September 14, the Bell Ensemble is at 6:00pm and then the Choir starts at 7:15pm. We can't wait to see all the returning faces along with new faces. If you have any questions, please see or call Beth McKay at 616-304-5536.

**LWML Knit/Crochet Together in Love**: Looking ahead... October 8 will be the next time we will be meeting to knit and crochet. If you want to learn or are experienced, please join us from 10:45-1:00pm. More information to come.

**NECM Meijer Simply Give Campaign**: Plainfield Meijer is launching another "Simply Give" program from now until Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> is "Double Match Days". If you would like more information the flyer will be hanging up across from the coat room.

**LWML Grand Rapids Zone & Rapid Waters Zone Fall Retreat**: *"How to be a Godly Woman in an Ungodly World* September 23, 2023, 9:00am – 3:00pm at Camp Concordia *Registration Fee: \$20.00 (includes coffee, donuts, and lunch)* To register, use the sign-up sheet located on the table by the office or text or email Grace at 616-822-3625, [grosema\\_school@yahoo.com](mailto:grosema_school@yahoo.com) or Carol at 616-822-5440, [carol\\_bifulco@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_bifulco@yahoo.com)

**Calling for Nominations of St. James' Members to Serve on St. James' Governing Board.** If you want to nominate someone to serve on St. James' Governing Board, please submit the nomination in writing to the Pastor by the end of September. Include as part of the nomination, the reason why you think that person should serve on the Board. The Board is tasked with setting policies, supporting the pastor and staff, and ensuring fiscal responsibility. At our next Voter's meeting (in late November or early December) Pastor Schaeffer will present the names of candidates who have been nominated to stand for election. Board members serve one-year terms although governing board members can be elected to one-year terms indefinitely. Board members are expected to uphold the highest standards of participation, service, supportiveness, and tithing in the congregation. Current board members are: Kim Urbanski, Carol Bifulco, Cindy McAuliffe, Jim Spears and Rachel Palmer.

**Dorcas Society News:** The Dorcas Society will open the year gathering for lunch at Walker Roadhouse (3272 Remembrance Rd NW, Walker) on Thursday, September 14 at 1 pm. All women are invited to join us as we are blessed by our friendship as sisters in Christ. Please contact Rachel Palmer (616-883-6949 or at [palmerrm@comcast.net](mailto:palmerrm@comcast.net)) to let us know you can join us and also if you need a ride.

**Lectors Sign Up Sheet:** If you would like to sign up to read as a Lector, please see the signup sheet on the table by the church office.

**Darrell's Bible Study:** Please join Darrell as he dives into the study of Philippians on Wednesdays at 10:00am.

**St. James Church Tuition Assistance Fund:** If you want to contribute to St. James Church Tuition Assistance Fund, **please make your check payable to: St James Lutheran Church** with a note that the money is for the **St. James Church Tuition Assistance Fund.**

**KidzTime:** will be starting up in a few weeks and we will need volunteers to make the program a success! We need both "teachers" who can lead simple children's lessons/activities (materials will be provided to you), and "assistants" who can be present for the safety of the children and help out as needed with the lesson and activities. If you are interested in helping out with this program, please contact Christina Shourds at (858) 922-1928 or [cashourds@gmail.com](mailto:cashourds@gmail.com). A Signup Genius link will be made available to allow you to select dates that you are able to serve.