



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

We Grow, We Go, We Gather

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Office: 616-363-7718
Email: office@stjamesgr.com
Website: www.stjamesgr.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjamesgr
Online Giving: www.stjamesgr.com/give.

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com

**The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord
February 4, 2024**

Divine Service, Setting One (p. 151)

The Preservice Music, the Call to Worship, and Welcome

Hymn of Invocation: 394 “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

Invocation

Exhortation *LSB 151*

Confession of Sins *LSB 151*

Absolution *LSB 151*

Kyrie *LSB 152*

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 154*

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:21–28

[A]: The First Reading is 1 Samuel 1:21–28.

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and dwell there forever.” Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the Lord establish his word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord.” And he worshiped the Lord there.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading:

Hebrews 2:14–18

A: The Second Reading is Hebrews 2:14–18

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A Song: “Light of the World” (Led by the Worship team)

Verse 1 (Worship team)

Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight.

Verse 2 (All)

Light of the World from the beginning
The tragedies of time were no match for Your love.
From great heights of glory, You saw my story
God You entered in and became one of us

Chorus (All)

Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him
Bow down before Him

Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Verse 3 (Worship team)

Light of the world crown in a manger
Born for the cross to suffer to save
High King of Heaven death is the poorer
We are the richer by the price that He paid (*Chorus*)

Verse 4 (All)

Light of the World soon will be coming
With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory
And there He shall reign forevermore ... forevermore (*Chorus*)

CCLI Song # 7163734
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Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

The Holy Gospel Reading:

Luke 2:22–32

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

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

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Hymn of the Day: 519 “In His Temple Now Behold Him”

The Sermon (During the sermon, children who are ages 3 through grade 2 are invited to participate in KIDZ Time. Children can make their way to the back of the sanctuary where the KIDZ Time teacher is waiting. The children will return to the service following the sermon.)

The Offering (Please sign the burgundy Friendship booklet and pass it to other people sitting in your pew. When completed, pass it back to the center aisle and be sure to greet the people next to you! Those sitting by the center aisle: please tear off the completed sheet and place it on the pew. Thank you!)

Hymn: 855 “For All the Faithful Women”

sts. 1, 8, 3-4

Prayer of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 530 “No Temple Now, No Gift of Price” (will be sung to the tune of 698)

1 No temple now, no gift of price,

No priestly round of sacrifice,

Retain their ancient pow'rs.

As shadows fade before the sun

The day of sacrifice is done,

The day of grace is ours.

2 The dying Lord our ransom paid,

One final full self-off'ring made,

Complete in ev'ry part.

His finished sacrifice for sins

The covenant of grace begins,

The law within the heart.

3 In faith and confidence draw near,

Within the holiest appear,

With all who praise and pray;

Who share one family, one feast,

One great imperishable Priest,

One new and living way.

4 For Christ is ours! With purpose true
The pilgrim path of faith pursue,
The road that Jesus trod;
Until by His prevailing grace
We stand at last before His face,
Our Savior and our God.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926
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Announcements & Dismissal for Online Worshippers

Preface

LSB 160

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, sharing Your eternal splendor, was presented on this day in Your temple in the substance of our human flesh and revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel and the light of all peoples. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

LSB 163

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: "In the Blood of the Lamb (Tribe and Tongue -- Sung by the Worship team)

Verse 1

Lord, we come to You confessing
Every dark iniquity
We can't love as You have called us
We are sinful and unclean

Verse 2

For the sake of Christ our Savior
Have mercy as we pray
Forgive, renew, and lead us
To rejoice in all Your ways

Chorus

*Hallelujah Hallelujah
There's forgiveness in the blood of the lamb
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
There is freedom in the blood of the lamb*

Verse 3

Lord, without Your perfect sacrifice
We would still be dead in sin
But because You paid the price for us
We are born again

Chorus

Hallelujah Hallelujah
There's forgiveness in the blood of the lamb
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
There is freedom in the blood of the lamb

Bridge

Increase in us Your wisdom
Redeem us by Your grace
Fill us with Your Spirit
Til we see You face to face

Increase in us Your wisdom
Redeem us by Your grace
Fill us with Your Spirit
Til we see You face to face

Chorus

Hallelujah Hallelujah
There's forgiveness in the blood of the lamb
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
There is freedom in the blood of the lamb

Hallelujah Hallelujah
There's forgiveness in the blood of the lamb
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
There is freedom in the blood of the lamb

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Choral anthem "O Song of Peace"

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

Post-Communion Collect

Benediction

Closing Hymn: "Lift High the Name of Jesus" (Getty)

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*)

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This Week at St. James

Today (2/4) Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM
Communion Service (Mites Sunday) - **9:30 AM**
Bible Study – 11:00 AM

Monday (2/5) **Communion Service - 6:30 PM**

Wednesday (2/7) Darrell Bible Study – 10:00 AM

Thursday (2/8) Adult Bells – 6:00 PM
Adult Choir – 7:15 PM

Saturday (2/10) Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study – 8:30 AM
 Sunday (2/11)..... Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM
Worship Service - 9:30 AM
 Bible Study – 11:00 AM
 Friends In Faith – 11:00 AM
 LWML Meeting – 6:00 PM

Looking Ahead

Serving Today (2/4)

Officiant Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
 Lector Marjie Weiss
 Organist Beth McKay
 Deacon(s) Craig Popma / Bryan Ensing
 Ushers Dale and Grace Rosema
 Video/Sound/Recording Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
 February Altar GuildCindy McAuliffe

Serving Next Sunday (2/11)

Lector Carol Bifulco
 Organist Beth McKay
 Deacon(s) Dave Hood
 Ushers Open
 Video/Sound/Recording Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
 KidzTime Cindy McAuliffe / Mary Ward
 February Altar GuildCindy McAuliffe

Financial Discipleship: January 28 & 29, 2024

General Fund	\$2,471.00
<i>Needed each week for budget \$5,769.00 (-\$3,298.00)</i>	
TOTAL Contributions	\$2,471.00

Announcements

“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else...” 1 Thessalonians 3:12



You are invited to let your love overflow! For Valentine’s Day St. James’ LWML will be assembling trays of cookies to show St. James love to first responders, care staff at congregate settings, neighbourhood school staffs, and other care givers in our community. Everyone can help share the love of our

Lord by getting involved!

You can use your hands to embrace our neighbours by doing one of the following... Bake some cookies with love! *Assemble* trays of delicious cookies at the February 11th LWML meeting! *Carry* the love into the community by delivering a tray! Wrap individual baked goods with plastic wrap or small snack bags. Deliver your goodies to church on or before Sunday, February 11th. If you would like to write cards of encouragement for the organizations that receive the treats, or if you would like to help deliver trays, speak to Sandra before February 11.

Dorcas Society February Gathering All women of St James are invited to gather on Thursday, February 15 at 12:30 at Russ’ on Alpine Ave. Following lunch together, we will be reviewing and discussing an article on “Why churches need their senior members and what senior members want from their church.” This article appeared in the Lutheran Church Extension publication. This will initiate a discussion on the ministry with our senior members at St. James. We will also be writing greetings to several of our sisters in Christ who are no longer able to worship with us and join in our gatherings. Please contact Rachel Palmer (616-883-6949 or at palmerrm@comcast.net to make your reservation. Please do this by February 13. Please come, share your ideas, and enjoy this time together.

What’s happening on Sunday, March 17th??? We are going to have a special meal (with some Rwandan cuisine) served following the service; Pastor Schaeffer will share with us what he will be doing in Rwanda when he travels there in April; and we will have an opportunity to financially support Pastor Schaeffer’s trip. Reserve the date on your calendar and watch future bulletins and the March newsletter for more details.

Lenten Dinner Sign-ups: If your group would like to sign up to host a Lenten dinner, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the lobby.

The Altar Guild Needs You: We are looking for individuals or families who would be willing to volunteer their time to Altar Guild. If you are interested there is a binder in the Altar Guild room that will have all the information that you will need. Deb or Kelsey will be available to walk through the process with you. If you are interested in serving

the church in this way please let the office, Deb, or Kelsey Butler know as soon as possible.

Lector and Usher Sign-ups: If you would still like to serve as a lector and or an usher, please see the sign-up sheets in the lobby on the table next to the office. We still have several spots open.

Friends In Faith: Please, remember our ongoing gifts of food for the Creston Neighborhood food pantry. The table is set up in the coat room! Thank you.

Mark your calendar for the 16th Annual ISJ Golf Outing Fundraiser! Dreaming of warmer days? This year's ISJ Golf Outing Fundraiser will take place on June 1st at Arrowhead Golf Course in Lowell. It's time to assemble your team and get signed up! This will be an 18-hole shotgun start scramble format like in years past. Early bird registration for a foursome runs through April 12th and costs \$375. After April 12th the cost for a foursome cost is \$400. If you are not able to golf but interested in supporting the event you can do so through the same link/QR code. Proceeds from this event support the school by providing additional resources, technology devices, and supplies for the classroom. If you have questions, please reach out to the school office at isjoffice@mychristianschool.com or a school board member from the congregation.

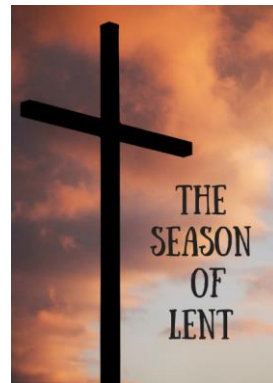


Tax season is upon us once again! And, there is FREE federal, state, and city tax return preparation and electronic filing for qualifying taxpayers through the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. Check out the qualifications criteria now: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers>. Make a reservation as soon as possible- *time slots fill up fast* - and there are a few locations to pick from in the Grand Rapids area. The extension is #211.

Christian Summer Children's Camp: Camp Concordia 30 minutes north of Grand Rapids, Michigan, allows your children and grandchildren to experience a Lutheran Camp experience with trained cabin Leaders, lifeguards, and program leaders. Weekly experiences include meals, swimming, archery, canoeing, campfire devotions, cookouts, Bible adventures and more all wrapped around a Christ-centered message. Get more information at www.campconcordia.org

Lent: Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday (February 14) and ends with midday prayer on Holy Saturday.

The resurrection of Jesus is our great salvation. To prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection (Easter), the Church sets aside a period of preparation. In AD 325, the Council of Nicaea recorded the first reference to the specific number of days for Lent: forty. This forty-day preparation was first prescribed for baptismal candidates and became known as Lent (from the Old English word for “spring.”) During this period, the candidates were examined in preparation for Baptism and the Easter (or Paschal) Vigil. Later, these forty days were associated with Jesus’ forty days in the desert prior to His temptation (Matthew 4:1-11) and with the forty years the children of Israel spent in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34) and became a period of preparation for every Christian. Ash Wednesday begins the observance of Lent. The placing of ashes on the forehead is a sign of penitence and a reminder of human mortality. The Sundays during this season are not “of Lent” but “in Lent.” Thus, the Sundays retain an Easter tone and may be less solemn than the midweek services that congregations typically offer. The observances of Lent are concrete reminders of the greater solemnity of this season, yet Lutherans emphasize the Gospel of Christ as central even to this penitential season.



You're Invited to Participate in St. James' Leadership Retreat

GATHER
GROW | GO

On the weekend of April 12-13th you are invited to participate in St. James' leadership retreat. The retreat will begin on Friday evening (7 p.m.-9 p.m.) and will continue on Saturday (9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.). The retreat will be held at the Warner Building (downtown Grand Rapids).

We will spend the time in prayer and studying God's Word. We will identify the opportunities and challenges we are facing as a congregation and begin to develop a plan to address these opportunities and challenges.

*If you plan to attend the retreat, please let Pastor Schaeffer know by **April 2***

ISJ Academy Open House February 8th at 6:30 p.m.



Do you know someone who has a child or children? Encourage them to attend the ISJ Academy open house. They will be able to meet the staff, take a tour, and learn more about our school.

ISJ Academy provides affordable Christian education for preschool through 8th grade. ISJ Academy is committed to providing an

atmosphere and curriculum which allows students to learn about Jesus and grow in their Christian faith.

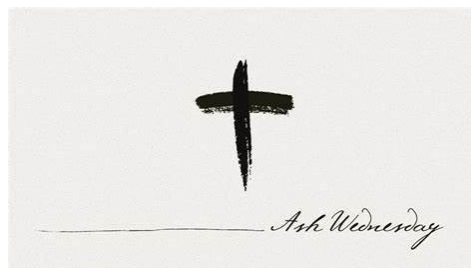
More information about the school is available on the ISJ Academy Facebook page and the website: <https://www.mychristianschool/>.

Midweek Lenten Services

Midweek Lenten services will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Each service will be a time for additional reflection on our Savior and for spiritual renewal as the Holy Spirit ministers to us in His Word.

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) will be the first midweek service with other services being held on February 21 and 28 and March 6, 13, 20.

A pancake supper will be held on Ash Wednesday prior to the service beginning at 5:30 p.m. We are hopeful that midweek soup suppers will be served prior to each service, but this is not yet confirmed. Watch the Sunday bulletin for updates.



A Statement on Holy Communion

We rejoice in the celebration of the LORD'S Supper as the Lord Jesus comes to us in a very personal manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) It is out of love and care for every individual who comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to refrain from attending the Lord's Supper.

Members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations (and sister confessional Lutheran Church bodies), who:

- Repent of their sin;
- Believe in Jesus as their Savior;
- Trust that they are receiving, not only bread and wine but also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of their sins; and
- Intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as forgiven sinners resisting the devil, saying no to sinful desires, and walking in the newness of life;

are invited to partake of this Holy Meal with us. We request that ALL guests who desire to commune, kindly speak to the Pastor before the service.

If you prefer to come forward for a blessing at the time of Holy Communion, please do so. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest so that the Pastor knows you want to receive a blessing.

NOTE: We provide gluten-free communion host and non-alcoholic grape juice. Just let the Pastor and/or the assistants know when you come for Holy Communion.