

Saint James Lutheran Church

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



*Parables of the reign of heaven
"Heaven is like..."*

The Rev. John Locke

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Musician: Alyssa Hall

Worship Leaders		
	July 26 9 th Sunday after Pentecost	August 2 10 th Sunday after Pentecost
Assisting Minister	Jane Boelke	Lindsey Smith
Lector	Rick Boelke	Anna Lisa Johannessen
Communion Assistant	Nancy Oliver	Dave Runkle
Ushers	Sharon VanPelt, Ed Samuelian	Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
Greeter	Sonia Nazario	Fran DeSilva
Acolyte	Aaron Thomas	Gianna Orellano
Rover	Johannes & Christopher Min	Paula Burns
Worship Nursery	Amber Habermehl & Verena Min	Sue Rink, Patsy Linkous

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

We stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *Gather Us In* ELW 532

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**
¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**
¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**
¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

We stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Setting 8)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor John

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Be Thou My Vision*

ELW 793

APOSTLES CREED

We join with the Great Communion of Saints in confessing our faith, using the words of the Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Names of those on the congregation's prayer list are listed in the back of the bulletin)

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of God be with you always.
And also with you.

We share this peace as a sign of our baptismal unity as children of God. The “exchange of peace” (also commonly called “sharing the peace” or “passing the peace”) is an act of reconciliation that serves as a transition point between the Word and Meal portions of the liturgy.

We sit.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.



Support of the ministries of St. James, as well as the wider church, is appreciated. To donate with cash or check use an envelope from the back of the pew or scan the QR code to donate digitally. Thank you for your generosity.



ANTHEM *Faith is the Victory* Adult Choir

We stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW setting 8)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional Version)*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!
Thanks be to God!

We sit.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

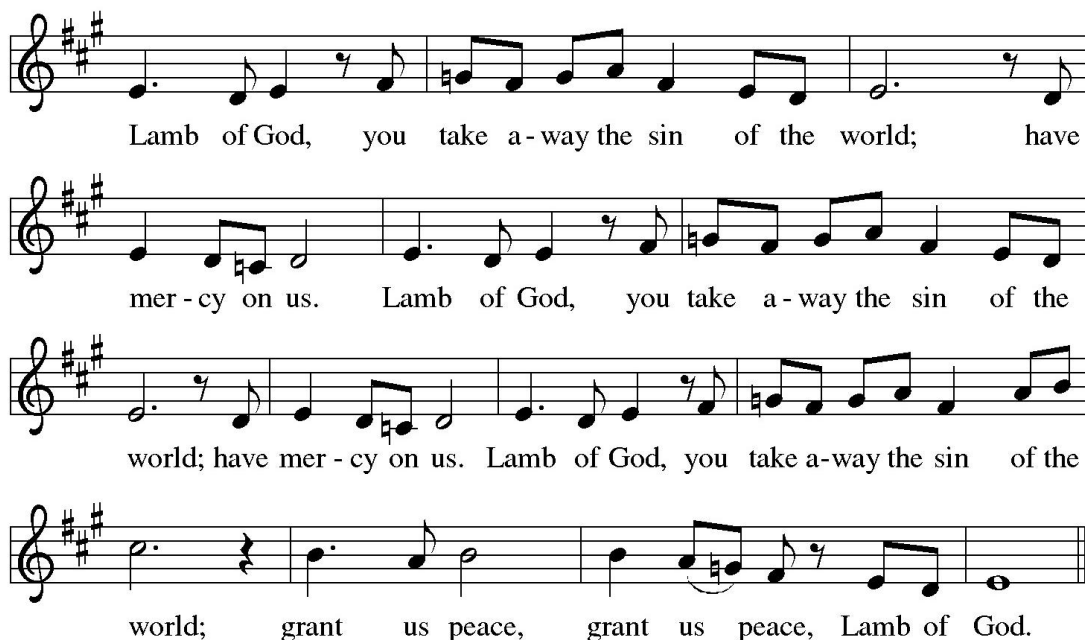
All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available for those who prefer. We will distribute bread and wine by individual cup. Children and others not communing may fold arms across their chest, and they will receive a blessing from the communion minister.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
And each person may respond **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONGS

Lamb of God (Setting 8)



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, Lamb of God.

Every Time I Feel The Spirit ACS 942



Refrain
Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,
3 . . Jor-dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

Refrain
out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
asked . . . my Lord if all was mine.
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

Instrumental

We stand.

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory* ELW 705

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

July 26, 2026

The list in the weekly bulletin is intended to be for persons in immediate crisis. Generally, those names will be moved to the newsletter after 3 weeks. The newsletter has our long-term prayer list which is updated as you tell us.

Members · Beth Sessoms · Larry Schiebe · Philip Williams · Anna Lena Andersen · Cayla Chaplin
 · Nikki Rettmann · Gary Eissinger

Friends & Family

· Diane Stultz · Peter Lundell · Gregg Nazario · Sandy Pangle · Stasha · Alan Carlson · Katie Maxwell
· Darcey Beale · Charlotte Choice and family · Sara Brown · Mindy Quinby · Morgen Jensen
· Bob Matlack · Yvonne Wheeler · Buddy Prevatte · Chuck Warren · Betty Beale · James Rose

People at Home or in Care facilities: · Charlotte Davis · Brenda Killett · Carolyn Uchtorff · Brenda Killett
 · Betty Kern

Our military members (*deployed)

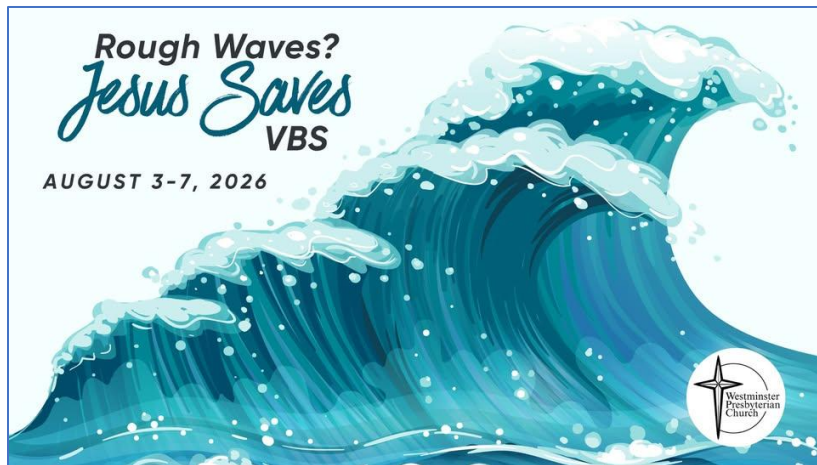
· Earl Stockham · Dan Gibson · Joshua Trogdon* · Bella Fish · Hochang Min · Alex Habermehl
· Robert James · Matthew Porter* · Derek Carlson · Howard Hogan* · Justyce Crecelius* · Zach Fuhr
· Addie Piatz*

Ministry at St. James ... July 26 – August 3, 2026

Sun. July 26	<i>Nineth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Men's class only) 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm National Youth Gathering Info Session 5:00 pm Youth Water Games & Devotions
Mon. July 27	NO Quilting
Tue. July 28	7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom No Boy Scout Meeting
Sun. Aug 2	<i>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Men's class only) 10:00 am Worship and Baptism of Jaxton Habermehl
Mon. Aug 3	NO Quilting



We are invited to Westminster Presbyterian's Vacation Bible School!



8:30 am – 12:15 pm
2505 Village Drive, Fayetteville

Register at saintjamesfay.org



Name Tags – We have name tags in the Gathering Space, and you are encouraged to wear yours. It will help us put a name with the new faces on Sunday morning. If you don't have one and would like one, leave a note on the attendance pad for Michelle in the office.



Our Monday morning Quilters will be on summer break July 27 and August 3.

There will be NO QUILTING those days.



**To celebrate our 90th anniversary, a small snippet of our history
will be featured in the bulletin each week.**

The early members of the mission church attended a meeting at the home of Pastor Fisher. They were invited to submit a name for the new church. The name James was submitted by Felix Campbell. The members present voted and named the church St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church. July 25 is the feast day of St. James the Greater. After the death of Jesus, James traveled to Galacia, an area of Spain on the seashore. Along the way he preached the gospel and baptized new believers. The scallop shell, which was plentiful on the shore, was probably used by James to pour water over the heads of the baptized. The shell became the symbol of James and of baptism.

Nursery help:

We are looking for adults to help in the nursery and with the older kids (2nd grade and up) during the sermon. The kids (rising 2nd grade and older) will remain in the sanctuary until school starts to give Jacky Hummel a chance to recharge for the start of the school year.

Contact the office if interested! saintjameslutheran@gmail.com 910-484-8052