

# Saint James Lutheran Church

September 13, 2026

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday



## The Rev. John Locke

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Musician: Alyssa Hall

| Worship Leaders     |                                       |                                                         |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
|                     | September 13<br>GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS | September 20<br>17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost |
| Assisting Minister  | Scott Marosek                         | Ruth Ann Crecelius                                      |
| Lector              | Glenn Stockwell                       | Beverly Beale                                           |
| Communion Assistant | Delores Schiebe                       | Dave Runkle                                             |
| Ushers              | Sharon VanPelt, Edward Samuelian      | Tonie Neal / James Peterson                             |
| Greeter             | Gayle & John Frinak                   | Patsy Linkous                                           |
| Acolyte             | Victoria Orellano                     | Aaron Thomas                                            |
| Rover               | Verena & Christopher Min              | Edward Samuelian                                        |
| Worship Nursery     | Sue Rink, Jennifer Linkous            | Erika Stockwell, Tonie Neal                             |

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## GATHERING

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

### PRELUDE

### WORDS OF WELCOME

*We stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *using Psalm 103*

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

**P:** Blessed be the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within us, bless God's holy name - the holy Trinity, + one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **AMEN**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



*Music of "Christ Our Peace" begins ...*

*we sing once at the beginning of confession then repeat after each petition.*

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

**P:** Gracious God, you have given us countless benefits, yet we often forget your goodness and turn our hearts toward what we do not have. We fail to give thanks and fail to recognize your presence in our daily lives. Forgive our forgetfulness and renew within us grateful hearts.

***We sing “Christ Our Peace”.***

**P:** Merciful God, you call us to seek justice for those who are oppressed, yet we sometimes remain silent when others suffer. Forgive us when we fail to love our neighbors as you have commanded. Open our eyes to those who are hurting and give us courage to seek justice and peace.

***We sing “Christ Our Peace”.***

**P:** Compassionate God, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, yet we are often quick to anger, judgment, and resentment. We hold tightly to the wrongs others have done to us and struggle to extend the mercy that you freely give. Make our hearts more compassionate, patient, and forgiving.

***We sing “Christ Our Peace”.***

**P:** Faithful God, you do not deal with us according to our sins, but remove our transgressions as far as the east is from the west. Yet we sometimes carry guilt and shame as though your mercy were not enough. Help us trust your promise of forgiveness and live as people made new by your grace.

***We sing “Christ Our Peace”, with “Amen.”.***

**P:** Hear the good news of forgiveness!

God is compassionate and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. In Jesus Christ, God forgives us, restores us, and calls us to walk in newness of life.

***C: Thanks be to God. Amen.***

## **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.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

*All Creatures Worship God Most High*

ELW 835 (v 1, 4, 6)

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

# WORD

## CHILDREN'S TIME

*We will not have children's time, nor "children's church" this morning due to God's Work. Our Hands. activities and the abbreviated worship service. Jacky has prepared take-home packets for 3rd - 5th children. The regular schedule will resume next week:*

*Children (PreK-5th grade) are invited and encouraged to participate in the Children's Worship Time in the lower level. They will return prior to Holy Communion.*

*• Pre-K -2nd grade will be in the nursery for a supervised play time.*

*• Children 3rd -5th grade will participate in a more structured learning time led by Jacky Hummel.*

*(Adult volunteers are needed in both areas. If you can help, please talk with Jacky, Pastor, or call the church office.)*

## FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup> Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup> 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

## PSALM Psalm 103:1-13

*We will not be reading Psalm today, since it was used as the basis of our Confessional.*

<sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

<sup>2</sup> **Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

<sup>4</sup> **who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> **O Lord, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup> You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> **Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup> you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.

<sup>10</sup> **You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

<sup>12</sup> **As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

## **SECOND READING      Romans 14:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup> Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup> Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup> For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup> For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup> So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

*We stand*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Spoken, not sung*)

*P: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?*

*C: You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!*

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

**Matthew 18:21-35**

<sup>21</sup> Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

Pastor John

*We stand.*

**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:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

## 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.

### 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

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

**Thanks be to God!**

*Note: Offering will be received as we come forward for communion.*

*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*

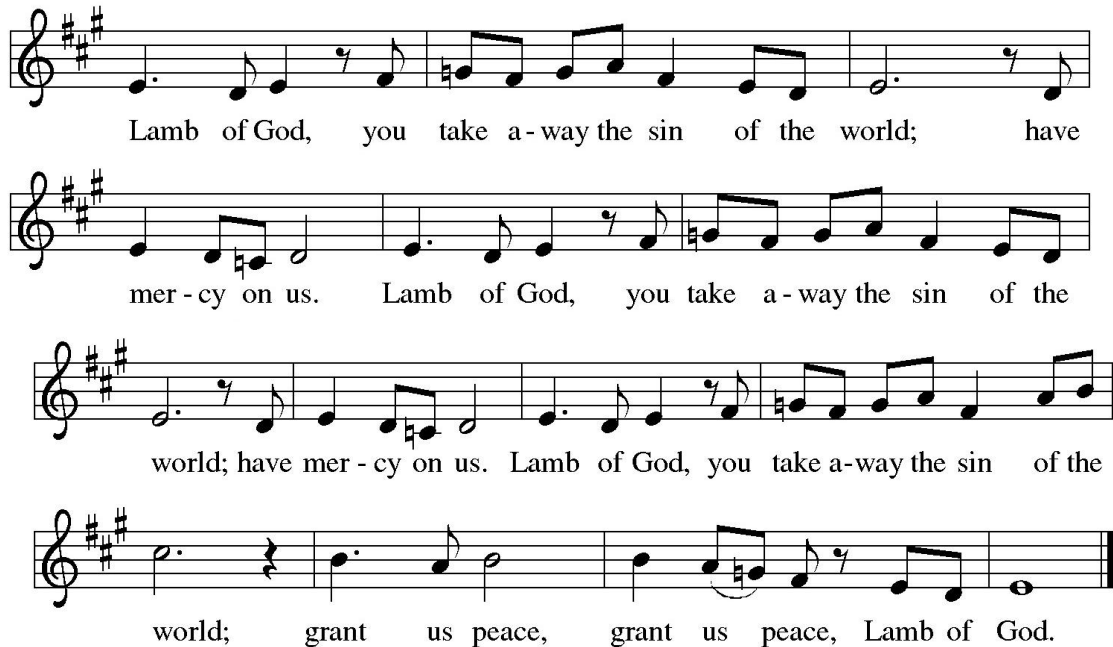
The body of Christ, given for you.

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.

*Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil  
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

ELW 721  
ELW 678



*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**

Sustaining God,  
with this bread and cup,  
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.  
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a world in need.

Bless our hands, our feet, our hearts on this *God's Work. Our Hands.* Sunday.  
May hearts become more joyful, burdens made lighter, and spirits be filled with hope.  
We offer our energy, our compassion, and our determination to our neighbors  
in your name.

### **SENDING**

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

### **BLESSING**

The God of love  
draw you into full accord and one mind,  
in the body of Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

The God of hope  
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances  
through the interceding of the Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The God of grace  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy to serve your neighbor.  
Be led forth in peace, in fellowship and service.  
You are encouraged to join others in  
the *God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday* projects and worship events  
in the fellowship at the conclusion of the sending hymn.

SENDING HYMN    *God's Work, Our Hands*    ACS 1000



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
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POSTLUDE

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

September 13, 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  
· Gary Eissinger

### Friends & Family

· Diane Stultz · Peter Lundell · Gregg Nazario · Sandy Pangle · Stasha · Alan Carlson · Katie Maxwell  
· Charlotte Choice and family · Sara Brown · Mindy Quinby · Morgen Jensen · Buddy Prevatte · James Rose  
· Ethan Thompkins · Simone Ryan · Sharon Decatur · Beverly Frazier · Mike Crecelius

**People at Home or in Care facilities:** · Charlotte Davis · Brenda Killett · Carolyn Uchtorff · 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\* · Zach Fuhr · Addie Piatz\*  
· Douglas Gearing\*



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

Continuing improvements to the church building were made in 1950. The nave was redecorated and a children's worship room (also called the "cry room") was installed over the narthex. This room was soundproof with a plate glass window overlooking the chancel and equipped with a public address system. Also in this year, the basement of the building was renovated to make Sunday School rooms.



*The Earlier Church Chancel  
taken on 15th Anniversary, 1951*

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**Congregation Council:** No meeting in September. Info about the October meeting will be sent soon.

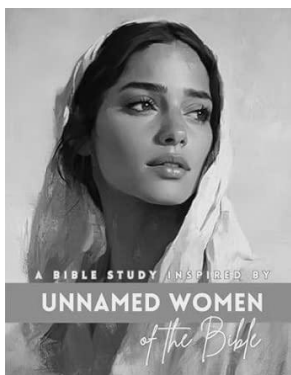
## Ministry at St. James ... September 13 - 20, 2026

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun. Sept 13</b> | <b>GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY</b><br><b><i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></b><br>9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation<br>10:00 am Worship<br>10:45 am <i>God's Work. Our Hands.</i> Ministry<br>(Sandwich lunch provided.)<br>10:45 am Youth (6th-12th) will meet as part of GWOH                              |
| <b>Mon. Sept 14</b> | 9:00 am Quilting Ministry (Annex)<br>10:00 am Finance Ministry Team (Office Meeting room)<br>6:00 pm Cub Scouts Den Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Tue. Sept 15</b> | 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747<br>7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Wed. Sept 16</b> | 6:30 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Sat. Sept 19</b> | 7:30 am Honeycutt Park Clean up (352 Devers Street)<br>8:30 am Property Work Day (on our campus)                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Sun. Sept 20</b> | <b><i>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></b><br>9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation for men and women<br>10:00 am Worship<br><i>Baptism of Teddy &amp; Teddy Rosenfeld and Jacob Smalley. Receiving membership for Tassie Collins, Patrick Rosenfeld, Kennedy &amp; Robert Bradley.</i><br>11:30 am Choir Practice |

**Children's Church"** for grades 2-5 starts September 20<sup>th</sup> in the lower classroom. They will go down after Children's Time and before Scripture Readings. This week they will pick up packets to complete at home. Parents are encouraged to volunteer and depart to hear the gospel and sermon if they wish.



### **Bible Study- Mondays @ 10:45 – 11:45** (Office meeting room)



Do you know the names of those women who were important in the Bible, women who were never named? In the Old Testament there were women who lived in times when God used many women, but they were never named. Lot's wife, Noah's daughters-in-law, Eve's daughters, Potiphar's wife etc. I am sure there were many more who lived in that time. The New Testament is as full of women who followed Jesus or who were a part of his life and ministry. The Samaritan woman at the well, the adulteress, Peter's mother-in-law and many others.

We will be using a study guide called **Unnamed Women of the Bible**. It is a 6-week study of just a few of these women. There are at least 78 unknown women, and I have a list which we could look at.

If you would like to join this bible study on Mondays, starting September 21, for about an hour please email Diana Vittoe at [vittoediana@gmail.com](mailto:vittoediana@gmail.com).

You don't want to miss the exciting study with Anna Lisa Sunday morning starting September 20<sup>th</sup>!



## *Sunday School Series*

# *Ruth*

Join us starting September 20<sup>th</sup> as we study about the remarkable Ruth. Famous for her loyalty, kindness and faithfulness.

|                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| Courage in uncertain times                                                        | God's providence and faithfulness                                                 | Identity, purpose, and redemption                                                   | Friendship, loyalty, and hope                                                       |

 SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM

 ROOM 127

 LIGHT SNACKS & FELLOWSHIP

*"All because someone was willing to say yes...  
for such a time as this."*



## God's Work. Our Hands Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

"God's Work. Our Hands." is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) annual day of service, designed to celebrate the church's mission and engage members in acts of service within their communities.



We will offer a sandwich lunch after worship and participate in various activities!



- "Operation Christmas Child" filling of shoe boxes

You are encouraged to bring items to church by September 13<sup>th</sup> for God's Work. Our Hands Sunday.

However, we will still accept donations for the rest of the month. They have many suggested items for the children which you can view on the table in the Gathering Space during the month of September!



- Greeting Cards made by younger children (up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
To go in "Operation Christmas Child" boxes



- Youth - 6-12th grade: Our first meeting of the school year. And we'll do it like Jesus!!! Around a table with a meal, building community, and serving and feeding others.

We'll make Celebration of Gratitude Bags for a few local first responder units! (Cookies, handmade cards, and prayer notes).



- Indoor and Outdoor Property projects

***Bishop Emeritus Leonard Bolick will be our guest preacher October 4<sup>th</sup>!***



*As part of our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration we have invited former Bishop Leonard Bolick to preach at Saint James.*

*We will have a luncheon after worship that day. BBQ and Fried Chicken with green beans, mac and cheese & sweet potato souffle. (We will have chicken nuggets for small children.). Cost per person is \$10 (Families with 3 or more, total cost \$30). There will be an assortment of desserts and beverages.*

***Reservations are required*** and limited to the first 90 responders. We need the names of those coming along with ages for children under 12.

*The reservation deadline is Sunday, September 27.  
Sign up and pay on our website: [saintjamesfay.org](http://saintjamesfay.org)!*

