

**Grow ... Go ... Gather**  
**September 19, 2021**



*God's Gifts Equip  
Us for Ministry*

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

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



**Pastor Glenn E. Schaeffer**

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offerings to the Lord: [stjamesgr.com/give](http://stjamesgr.com/give)

**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
The Order of Service - DS 1**

(Please turn off your wifi)

**Preservice Music, Call to Worship and Welcome**

**A Lay Reader Talk**

**The Opening Hymn: "Speak O Lord" (Getty)**

**Verse 1**

Speak O Lord as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy word  
Take Your truth plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory

**Verse 2**

Teach us Lord full obedience  
Holy reverence true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity  
Cause our faith to rise  
Cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of power that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

**Verse 3**

Speak O Lord and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us

Speak O Lord till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory

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## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and  
of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Exhortation

*LSB 151*

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is  
faithful and just, will forgive our sins and  
cleans us from all unrighteousness.**

## Confession of Sins

*LSB 151*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are  
by nature sinful and unclean. We have  
sinned against You in thought, word, and  
deed, by what we have done and by what  
we have left undone. We have not loved  
You with our whole heart; we have not  
loved our neighbors as ourselves. We  
justly deserve Your present and eternal  
punishment. For the sake of Your Son,  
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive  
us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may  
delight in Your will and walk in Your ways  
to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

# Absolution

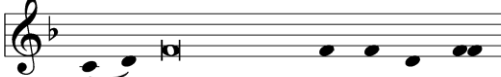
LSB 151

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

# Kyrie


LSB 152




**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.




**C** Lord, have mer - cy.




**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



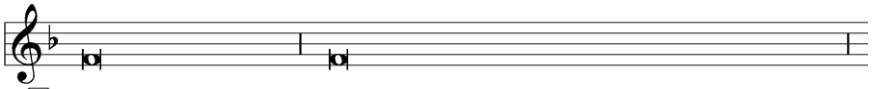
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



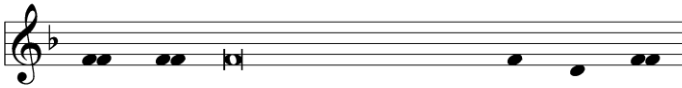
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*LSB 154*



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



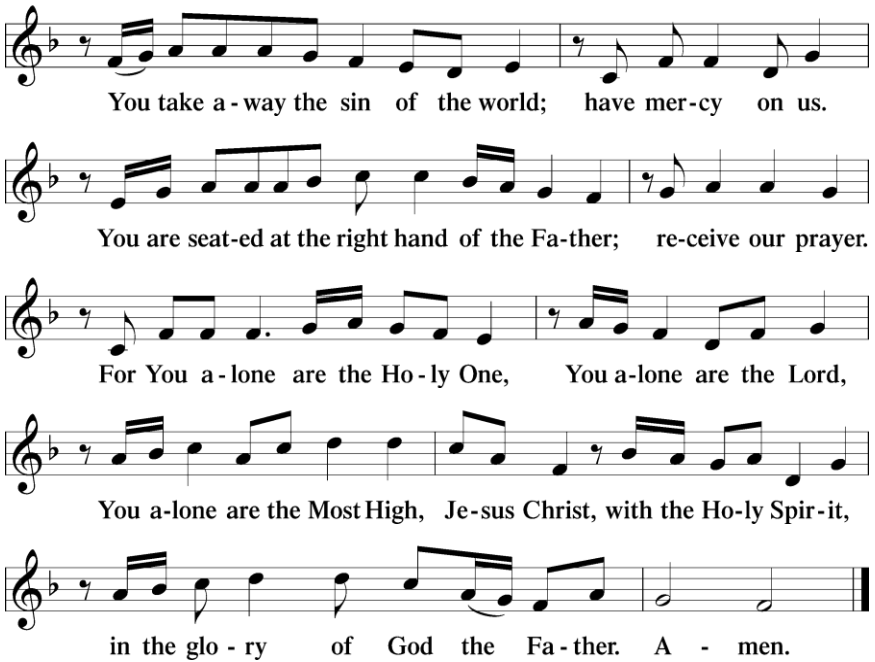
**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## The First Reading: *James 3:13—4:10*

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and

be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

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

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

**The Second Reading:***1 Corinthians 12:12–31*

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third



teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

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

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

### Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*



**C** 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.

### The Holy Gospel

*Mark 9:30–37*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

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

[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be

first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

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

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

## **The Confession of Faith: The Lord's Prayer**

P: What is the Second Petition?

**C: Thy kingdom come.**

P: What does this mean?

**C: The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.**

P: What is the Third Petition

**C: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

P: What does this mean?

**C: The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.**

P: How is God's will done?

**C: God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.**

P: How does God's kingdom come?

**C: God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.**

**The Sermon Hymn: LSB 810, "O God of God, O Light of Light" (verses 1, 3, 4)**



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and  
 3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in  
 4 Then raise to Christ a might - y song, And shout His name, His



King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo - ry bright The song of  
 hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a - bove He reigns, our  
 mer - cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



praise for - ev - er rings. To Him who sits up - on the throne,  
 King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates!  
 earth, your an - them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain!



The Lamb once slain but raised a - gain, Be all the glo - ry  
 So sang that host be - yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your  
 For - ev - er let the song as - cend! Wor - thy the Lamb, en -



He has won, All thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.  
 King a - waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.  
 throned to reign, All glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

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**The Sermon**

**The Offering (During the offering we will sing, LSB 781, "We Give Thee But Thine Own")**



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;  
 2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive  
 3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,  
 4 To com - fort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
 And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!  
 And lambs for whom the Shep-herd bled Are stray-ing from the fold.  
 To tend the lone and fa - ther-less Is an - gels' work be - low.

5 The captive to release,  
 To God the lost to bring,  
 To teach the way of life and peace,  
 It is a Christ-like thing.

6 And we believe Thy Word,  
 Though dim our faith may be:  
 Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,  
 We do it unto Thee.

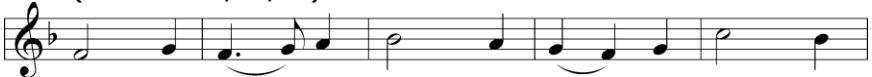
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## Prayer of the Church

### 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.**

**A Hymn:** LSB 851, "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" (Verses 1, 2, 4)



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your  
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,  
 4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your

life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your  
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;  
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.  
 And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to  
 count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful  
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of  
 and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.  
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.  
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## *Announcements and Blessing for the Online Worshippers*

### ✠ **The Service of the Sacraments** ✠

#### **Preface**

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

*LSB 161*

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary . . .  
evermore praising You and singing:

### Sanctus

*LSB 161*



**C** Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

### The Prayer of Thanksgiving

### The Words of Institution

### Pax Domini

*LSB 163*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

# Agnus Dei

LSB 163



☐ 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.

## The Distribution:

During the Distribution you are invited to sing:

LSB 631, "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"  
(Verses 1, 2, 4, 5, 7)

LSB 845, "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

## Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face



1	Here,	O	my	Lord,	I	see	Thee	face	to	face;	
2	Here	would	I	feed	up	-	on	the	bread	of	God,
4	I	have	no	help	but	Thine;	nor	do	I	need	
5	Mine	is	the	sin,	but	Thine	the	righteousness;			
7	Feast	af -	ter	feast	thus	comes	and	pass -	es	by,	



Here	would	I	touch	and	han -	dle	things	un -	seen;	
Here	drink	with	Thee	the	roy -	al	wine	of	heav'n;	
An	-	oth -	er	arm	but	Thine	to	lean	up -	on.
Mine	is	the	guilt,	but	Thine	the	cleans -	ing	blood;	
Yet,	pass -	ing,	points	to	that	glad	feast	a -	bove,	



Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,  
 Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,  
 It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;  
 Here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:  
 Giv - ing sweet fore - taste of the fes - tal joy,



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.  
 Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.  
 My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone.  
 Thy blood, Thy righ - teous - ness, O Lord my God.  
 The Lamb's great mar - riage feast of bliss and love.

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## Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There  
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His  
 3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As  
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er  
 char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and  
 we our faults con - fess, And let us love each  
 all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.  
 mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.  
 oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.  
 that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

- 5 Let us recall that in our midst  
 Dwells Christ, His only Son;  
 As members of His body joined  
 We are in Him made one.
- 6 For love excludes no race or clan  
 That names the Savior's name;  
 His family embraces all  
 Whose Father is the same.

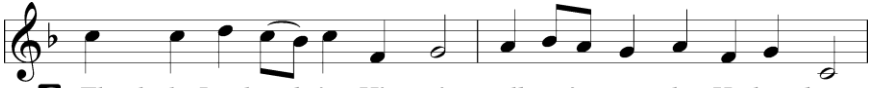
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# Thank the Lord

LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

# Post Communion Prayer

## Benediction

LSB 166

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and  
be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  
✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

# The Closing Hymn: LSB 643 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing"



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con - fess-ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,



The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.  
The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.

The Sup - per is end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed  
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,

The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
 Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,  
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
 U - nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us  
 Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing

To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.  
 Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Events of the Week: September 19-26

- TODAY:** 11:00 a.m. Bible study in-person & FB  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 Knit/Crochet   
3-5 p.m. Youth Kick-Off at church
- Monday:** 6:30 p.m. Monday Evening Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
- Tuesday:** 6:00 p.m. ISJ Board Meeting
- Wed:** Noon: Devotional Boost w/ Pastor on FB  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Darrell
- Thursday:** 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir   
7:15 p.m. Adult Choir
- Friday:** Pastor's Day off
- Sunday:** 8:00 a.m. Gizmo Devotions on FB  
9:30 a.m. WORSHIP at St. James and on Facebook Live (FBL)  
11:00 a.m. Bible Study in-person & FB

**\*\*NOTE: Next Sunday is the Voters' Meeting in-person and on Zoom.** 

#### Those who serve Today:

**Deacons:** Bryan Ensing and John Weiss

**Ushers:** Nate, Kim, Hayden and Heath Urbanski

**Lector:** Cindy McAuliffe

#### Those who serve September 26:

**Deacon:** Jerry Talen

**Ushers:** Dale & Grace Rosema, Orlin Bowman

**Lector:** Carol Bifulco

**September Altar Guild:** Melissa and Marjie

The **Altar flowers** are lovingly given in praise and glory to God for His blessings to **Evie Heldt** for her **90<sup>th</sup> birthday**, September 20<sup>th</sup>. The flowers were given by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



This is the second week in our stewardship emphasis, *"Fellow Workers on God's Team."* Our theme for this week is "Your Role on God's Team." When God calls us to follow Him and be His disciples, we become an important part of His team. As part of God's team, we participate with Him in His work to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). We are His hands, feet, and mouth through which He works. A good team member is loyal, trustworthy, hard-working, and does what the team leader directs. Through faith, we submit our will to Jesus who is the leader of our team. What a joy it is to be a team member of the most important team ever! Thanks be to God that He calls us to be part of His amazing team! Championship Sunday is October 3<sup>rd</sup>! Are you planning to be in attendance at worship? There will also be a time of celebration following the service so please, plan to stay!

**FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP:** September 12, 2021

General Fund	\$3,360.00
Property Maintenance	10.00
Plate Collections	502.00
ISJ Academy	1,000.00
	<hr/>
Total:	\$4,872.00
On-line giving	-0-
	<hr/>
Total:	\$4,872.00

**\*\*NOTE:** Karen is out of the office 9/20 – 9/23.\*\*  
The office will be open 9/24 but then closed 9/27-10/1.



The **LWML "Knit/Crochet in Love"** is **TODAY, 10:45-1:00pm**, in the classroom. Questions? See Grace Rosema.

The **LWML Banner Workshop** on **Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**, **sign-up sheet** is outside the office door. The event begins at 4:00 p.m. Pizza and pop provided. Questions? Contact Marjie Weiss.



### *LWML Fall Rally: Christ Lives in Me*

Sandra Schaeffer is the guest speaker for the LWML Grand Rapids Zone Fall Rally on **October 2**. Her presentation, "**Christ Lives in Me**", focuses attention on the key verse: **Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."**



The Rally is at St. John's Lutheran Church in Allendale from 9-12. The day will begin with a light breakfast and registration. The presentation will begin at 10 and followed by a short Zone business meeting. A registration fee of \$10.00 will be collected. Participants are invited to contribute baby bath items for an ingathering for the Grand Rapids Pregnancy Resource Center: baby towels, washcloths, soap, lotion, and socks!  
**Please, sign up by September 26<sup>th</sup>.**

The **Lutheran's for Life Diaper Drive** will continue to collect diapers **through October 10<sup>th</sup>**. All diapers and infant supplies will go to the Grand Rapids Pregnancy Resource Center. (Diaper sizes newborn, 1, 3 and 6 are needed the most.)



**VENDOR &**  
  
**FAIR**

**Crafters and Vendors** are needed for the **ISJ Academy Vendor Show** on **Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**. If interested contact Kristin Meyette ([kristinmeyette@yahoo.com](mailto:kristinmeyette@yahoo.com)) for more information and applications.

**ISJ Academy** is looking for **substitute teachers** for the **2021-22 school year**. Don't be scared! The class sizes are small, the students are well behaved, and the teachers leave easy to follow lesson plans! It is a lot of fun spending the day at ISJ. Please contact **Jason Alexander at 363-0505** for information.

**Dorcas** will be meeting on **October 14, 2021 at 1:00 pm** in the church basement. Any questions call Jennie Schmidt at 616-502-3376.

**Take a Stand for Life. There will be a Life Chain on Sunday, October 3, 2021** from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Life Chain will be on 44<sup>th</sup> Street between Breton Road and Ivanrest Ave. Life Chain affords the opportunity to peacefully assemble along 44<sup>th</sup> street for 1-1/2 hours to pray and silently witness against the sin of abortion. Shortly before 2:00 p.m. on Life Chain Sunday, signs to hold may be picked up at Crestwood School on 44<sup>th</sup> Street just east of Breton Road, at the southeast corner of 44<sup>th</sup> Street and Buchanan Ave., from Mel Cooke at Brummel's parking lot near the northwest corner of 44<sup>th</sup> Street and Clyde Park Ave, and at the northeast corner of 44<sup>th</sup> Street and Spartan Industrial Drive. Signs will be available the entire event. For additional information, call Mel Cooke (616) 676-9239 or John and Elsie Kuipers (616-534-9298) or Kim and Cindy Arnold (616) 299-0474).

## **Join Pastor Schaeffer in Studying the theme, "Teammates on God's Winning Team"**

Pastor Schaeffer continues his in-person Bible study that explores what it means to be teammates on God's Team. The themes for the coming weeks are:

- **September 19:** "Your Role on God's Team"
- **September 26:** "The Importance and Purpose of Ministry"
- **October 3:** "Working Wholeheartedly for the Lord"

The in-person Bible study takes place in the gathering room and is recorded so that it can be posted on St. James' Facebook page and St. James' website for those people who are unable to attend in person or miss a Sunday. **We hope to have 100% participation of communicant members in this study, especially since the Bible study is available 24/7!**

NOTE: On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the study will begin following the Voter's Meeting. You might want to bring a sack lunch for that Sunday!

### **Let's Talk! About How We Respond to the Challenges to our Christian Values and Beliefs!**

On **Sunday, September 26 at 4:00 p.m.** we will have our first meeting at the church to discuss how we respond to the challenges we are experiencing to our Christian values and beliefs! At this meeting we will:

1. Have Pastor Schaeffer lead us in a 30-minute discussion addressing: "*Are the events we are experiencing today foretold in the Bible as signs that the Return of Jesus is Imminent?*"
2. Discuss questions like: "*What topics or issues do we want to discuss in the future? When do*

*we want to meet? How often do we want to meet?"*

We have identified some issues and topics like:

- How political should a congregation be?
- What is critical race theory and why is it unbiblical?
- What is the "Equality Act?" What dangers lurk for Christians in this Act?
- How do we respond when mandated by our employer to think and behave in ways that are contrary to biblical truth?
- How do we counteract the moral decline that we see happening in the USA?
- How do we respond to radically charged messages being forced upon us?
- How do we engage people in constructive dialogue?

What would you like to discuss? Bring your ideas and questions!

Following the meeting, everyone is welcome to stay for a light supper – hotdogs, garden salad, and drinks.

If you plan to attend, please send an email to Pastor Schaeffer ([glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com](mailto:glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com)) so that he knows how many hotdogs he should purchase.

**HARVEST DINNER and BAKE SALE at Messiah Lutheran on October 10<sup>th</sup>.** Please RSVP to Barb Brinkman, 866-0093, if you plan to attend the annual Harvest Dinner. The dinner is Dine-In or Take-Out and **reservations** for Dine-In is a must. Questions? Please call Barb or speak with Phyllis Schultz.