



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

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**Office:** 616-363-7718  
**Email:** [office@stjamesgr.com](mailto:office@stjamesgr.com)  
**Website:** [www.stjamesgr.com](http://www.stjamesgr.com)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stjamesgr](http://www.facebook.com/stjamesgr)  
**Online Giving:** [www.stjamesgr.com/give](http://www.stjamesgr.com/give).

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

**The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 27, 2023**

**Service of Prayer and Preaching**

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

**Hymn:** 651 “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”

**Common**

*LSB 260*

**Prayer**

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**The Old Testament**

*Isaiah 51:1-6*

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. “Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**The Epistle Reading**

*Romans 11:33 – 12:8*

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has

known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **The Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 16:13–20*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

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

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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

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

Common

*LSB 263*

Ten Commandments

**Hymn:** 644 “The Church's One Foundation”

*sts. 1-5*

**Sermon**

**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:** 576 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

The General Prayer of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

**Hymn:** 807 “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

**Benediction**

*LSB 267*

**Hymn:** 662 “Onward, Christian Soldiers”

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

**Today (8/27)** ..... Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM  
**Worship – 9:30 AM**  
Bible Study – 11:00 AM

**Monday (8/28)** ..... **Communion Service** – 6:30 PM  
Governing Board Meeting – 7:30 PM

**Wednesday (8/30)** ..... Deacons Meeting – 5:30 PM

**Saturday (9/2)** ..... Pastors Day Off – 9:00 AM

**Sunday (9/3)** ..... Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM  
**Communion Service – 9:30 AM**  
LWML Mites Sunday  
Bible Study – 11:00 AM

## Looking Ahead

### Serving Today (8/27)

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Officiant ..... Pastor Glenn Schaeffer  
Lector ..... Marjie Weiss  
Organist ..... Beth McKay  
Deacon(s) ..... Bryan Ensing  
Ushers ..... Walt and Karen Kryzanowski  
Video/Sound/Recording ..... Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss  
August Altar Guild ..... Suellen Pfannkuch / Amanda Donigan

### Serving Next Sunday (9/3)

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Lector ..... Jim Spears  
Organist ..... Beth McKay  
Deacon(s) ..... Craig Popma / Bryan Ensing  
Ushers ..... Caleb Butler/ Dale & Grace Rosema  
Video/Sound/Recording ..... Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss  
September Altar Guild ..... Melissa Ensing / Marjie Weiss

## Financial Discipleship: August 20 & 21, 2023

General Fund	\$2,190.00
<i>Needed each week for budget</i>	<i>\$5,769.00 (-\$3,579.00)</i>
<b>TOTAL Contributions</b>	<b>\$2,190.00</b>

## Announcements

**2<sup>nd</sup> Best Sale:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> best sale is coming up. This is the time to start going through your home and donating anything you may not need anymore! The sale will be Oct 12-14. The drop off dates will be Sat Sept. 30 and Oct.7.

**Back to School Survey:** We would like **all** "Back to School" **volunteers** to contribute feedback on the event, hence the bulletin insert. Please take time to complete the survey and drop it in the box on the table outside the office, no later than Tuesday, Sept. 5th! Thank You!

**We Need Ushers:** We have a few people that are currently helping us with usher duties on Sundays and when we have midweek services, but we need a few more ushers. Please prayerfully consider serving in this way to help services to run as smooth as possible. Ashley will be placing a sign-up sheet for current and new ushers outside the church office.

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

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

**St. James Tuition Assistance Fund:** What is the St. James Tuition Assistance Fund? St. James Lutheran Church is excited to be able to offer tuition assistance to church member families enrolled in ISJ Academy. This assistance is funded by donations from St. James’ members who wish to help with the cost of tuition for our members’ children at ISJ Academy. The members support the strong Christian and academic education which ISJ Academy provides. If you would like more information, please find the forms on the table in the Narthex.

**Newsletter Time:** Thank you to all that have sent me things for the newsletter already. If you would like to have something in the newsletter and have not sent me anything please send your announcement in “word” form to the office [office@stjamesgr.com](mailto:office@stjamesgr.com) no later than Wednesday August 30<sup>th</sup>.