

FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

GIVING

CHALLENGE



Sunday, February 1, 2026, 10 am

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



*Changing lives with the love of God
to the glory of God*

Welcome Guests!

We're glad you're with us today!

We hope you'll introduce yourself to the Pastor at the Church door after worship today.

Worship Schedule

Our regular worship times are:

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Sundays at 8:30 am & 10:00 am

Sunday School at 10:00 am September-June

Serving in the Lord's house today:

5:30: Pete Campisi / 8:30: Sandra McIlveen / 10:00: Greg Buscarino

Altar flowers have been given- to the glory of God

Pastor: Neil Mittelstaedt

Pastor: Conner Forbes

www.stjlc.com

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

Opening Song: Firm Foundation

Verse 1

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now

He won't, He won't

Verse 2

I've still got joy in chaos
I've got peace that makes no sense
I won't be going under
I'm not held by my own strength
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus
He's never let me down
He's faithful in every season
So why would He fail now

Chorus - 2x

He won't, He won't
He won't fail
He won't fail

Bridge - 3x

Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You
I'm going to make it through

I'm going to make it through
'Cause I'm standing strong on You
I'm going to make it through
'Cause my house is built on You

Verse 1

Chorus - 2x

He won't

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

(Children come to the front of the Church)

Children's Message

Lord's Prayer

(Children leave for Sunday school during the Song of Praise)

Song: Here I Am to Worship

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness.
Opened my eyes let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You.

[Chorus]

So here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God,
You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, Oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth You created.
All for love's sake became poor.

[Chorus]

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
[Repeat]

[Chorus x 2]

Epistle Reading

Romans 12:1–2

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 12.

¹I 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. ²Do 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:25–33

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

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

²⁵ [Jesus Said:] Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer of the Day

L Loving Father, the world apart from You is constantly worried

C **and tries hard to conform us**

L -to squeeze us and shape us- into its way of thinking,

C **which is a scarcity mindset.**

L Give us grace to live by the different reality You have brought to us in Jesus,

C **not scarcity, but abundance.**

L Thank You for the example of the little birds

C **who rely simply on Your loving provision, singing happily.**

L May we also rest in Your care,

C **knowing that You will provide for all our needs according to Your riches in glory;**

L through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

C **and forever. Amen.**

Sermon: Trading Scarcity for Abundance

Confession of Faith (From the Catechism)

C I believe that God has made me and all creatures;
that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members,
my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.
He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home,
spouse and children, work, car, and all I have.
He richly and daily provides me with all that I need
to support this body and life.
He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.
All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy,
without any merit or worthiness in me.
For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.
This is most certainly true!

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Some time ago we stopped passing the offering plate. There is now a box in the Narthex in which you may place your offering. Even more helpful, you may give electronically either by using the QR code below or visiting stjlc.com/give. You may also give to God and the work of His Church by mailing your offering in.



Offering Prayer

L Almighty, Generous, and Eternal God, You are the giver of every good and perfect gift.
C All that we have comes from Your gracious hand.
L You provide daily bread—homes, work, abilities, and resources.
C We receive these gifts with thanksgiving and trust.
L You also gave up riches beyond measure,
C and humbled Yourself for our salvation.
L Move us to give our tithes and offerings not to earn Your favor,
C but in grateful response to Your mercy.
L In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now
C and forever, Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:
C **God, be merciful to me, a sinner.**

-Silence is observed for self-examination-

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

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.**

✠ Holy Communion ✠

To Our Guests Regarding Holy Communion:

Holy Communion is a gift Christ gives to His Church.

In it, He offers His true Body and Blood in and with the bread and wine.

It is the gift of Himself!

When received in faith, Holy Communion gives forgiveness, new life & salvation.

Those who receive the Lord's Supper at St. James Lutheran Church are baptized Christians, committed in their faith in Christ, who have been instructed in and believe these truths.

(We run classes both for young people and adults – everyone welcome.)

God bless you!

Preface

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also 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.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

Distribution Song: Here I am, and I Have Come

Here I am, and I have come
To thank You, Lord, for all You've done;
Thank You, Lord!
You paid the price at Calvary,
You shed Your blood, You set me free;
Thank You, Lord!
No greater love was ever shown,
No better life ever was laid down.

You took my sin, You took my shame,
You drank my cup, You bore my pain:
Thank You, Lord!
You broke the curse, You broke the chains,
In victory from death You rose again;
Thank You, Lord!
And not by works, but by your grace,
You clothe me now in your righteousness.

[Refrain - repeat 2x]

And I will always love Your name.

And I will always sing Your praise.

You bid me come, You make me whole,
You give me peace, You restore my soul;
Thank You, Lord!

You fill me up, and when I'm full
You give me more 'til I overflow;
Thank You, Lord!

You're making me to be like You,
To do the works of the Father, too.

[Refrain]

Benediction

Closing Song: Lift High the Name of Jesus

- 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.
- 2 (Chorus)
Oh sing my soul,
And tell all He's done,
Till the earth and heavens are filled with His glory!
- 3 Lift high the name of Jesus,
Of Jesus our Lord.
His power 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)

- 4 Lift high the name of Jesus,
Of Jesus our Light.
No other name on earth can save,
Can raise 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 2x)



Please join us downstairs after the 10 a.m. Service in the Parish Hall for the SJ Cafe.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are Invited to
ALPHA!

There are 2 different Alpha courses coming up!

Wednesday February 25th, 7pm - 9pm

Mike Wheelers Home

40 Marwood Place, Stonybrook, NY 11790

or

Wednesday March 4th, 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Parish Hall

RSVP office@stjlc.com or 631-584-5212

DEAR CONGREGATION: Our Church and Preschool are hosting two wonderful events on the SAME day - we hope you **choose one!** The first event will be to fill yourself up with the Holy Spirit (Festival of Workshops) and the second event will be to fill yourself up on pancakes (Preschool Applebee's Pancake Fundraiser). Whichever one you choose, let it be merry and spirit-filled!

Festival of Workshops at SUNY Maritime College - Saturday, March 7th from 8:30am - 3 pm. Over 30 interesting workshops will be offered - some being led by our own STJLC Pastors and Staff. Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be served. Registration is required at ad-lcms.org. See flyer and/or Carol Mittelstaedt for more information and/or to register. Cost is \$35 for the day and we will carpool from the church.

Preschool Applebee's Pancake Fundraiser - Saturday, March 7th from 8 am - 10 am! Pre-Sale Breakfast Tickets only. Please see flyer in your bulletin or pick one up in the Narthex. Come out for a full Pancake, Egg and Sausage breakfast and enjoy the fellowship of church and preschool families all under one fun roof! This fundraiser provides support for our students to visit Benner's Farm and Sweetbriar Nature Center for amazing Five Senses experiences!

MUSIC MINISTRY: We are looking to resume rehearsals for the Festival Choir to prepare special music for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Easter. If you are interested in being part of this mixed-voice, inter-generational choir (middle school age and older), please speak with Christine Kenny after worship or email her at music@stjlc.com.

TECH TEAM: Are you looking for ways to volunteer and have a particular set of skills in technology? Then we need you! We are looking for volunteers to help run slides and run livestream. If you are interested, please sign up on the sign up sheet in the back in the narthex. We are also looking for people who work in IT. Got questions? Ask Pastor Conner.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026-2027 IS UNDERWAY: If you would like to schedule a personal tour, please call the Preschool Office at 631-862-8934 or email meredithpreschool@stjlc.com. Registration is ongoing until all spots are filled. Preschool Registration Forms may be found in the Narthex in the Preschool basket.

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR NEEDED: Our beloved Pre-School Director, Meredith Johansson, will be retiring at the end of this school year. We are now seeking her replacement to join our Church staff. Position description provided upon request. Contact Pr. Neil Mittelstaedt by emailing pastorneil@stjlc.com or by calling 631-584-5212.

MITE BOXES – SMALL GIFTS BIG IMPACT: The Lutheran Women's Mission League, LWML, provides these small boxes, that are in the Narthex of our Church. These MITE boxes are available for parishioners who wish to support Mission Grants in our Country and around the world, through small voluntary offerings. Even spare change adds up and helps fund Mission work locally and globally. The January Mission Grant has allowed showers to be

made available to LERT locations that help in disaster areas. If you haven't used a MITE box before, we invite you to pick one up and be part of this meaningful ministry. If you have any questions, contact Durinda Dalton 631-897-0307

FEBRUARY LADIES' NIGHT OUT: Join us for a Galentines Ladies Night on Friday, February 6th at 7:30pm in the parish hall. We will be decorating cookies with Baked By Liv Long Island. She will teach us some cookie decorating tips and tricks! It's \$10 per person. There is a cap at 25 attendees, so sign up by 1/26!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: will be held on Sunday, February 8th after the 10:00 service in the Parish Hall.

TAX STATEMENTS: are available to be picked up in the Narthex from 2025.

LENDING COMFORTS OF SMITHTOWN: has both regular and transport wheelchairs available for those in need. 71 Blydenburgh Ave, Smithtown, NY 11787 631-265-1674 lendingcomforts@gmail.com. Lending hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 4-7 pm and Saturday 9am-12pm/

REMINDERS

GRIEFSHARE: Our GriefShare class will begin on Wednesday January 21st in the Youth Room. Time of sessions is 10AM to Noon. This 13-week program encompasses a 30 minute video seminar where you will hear insights from recovery experts. A group discussion will follow to discuss grief-related issues while you are getting to know others who understand what you are going through. Through discussion you will receive comfort and support. You will gain personal recovery tips for navigating your grief and discover the 6 signs of healing through your personal workbook. The topics that are covered include the following: Your grief journey; sadness and loneliness; fear and anxiety; anger; regrets; grief and your relationships; questions for God and many more topics will be covered in this Christian based program helping you move forward from mourning to joy. Participants pay no fees for the materials used in the GriefShare program thanks to the generous grant given To us by Saint James Funeral Home. If you are interested in GriefShare, please contact Ed Spear. 631-873-6429

FOOD PANTRY NEWS: The pantry has been increasingly busy servicing 210 families in the month of December during our Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10-1200 hours. We thank everyone who has donated food, funds and willing hands to help hand out food and essential products. We currently are in need of cereal, baked beans, chunky soups, and jelly that can be left in the church Narthex red box. Monetary donations can be sent directly to the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. Funds are

used to purchase items such as milk, eggs, chicken or chopped meat. Volunteers are needed to hand out food and stock items on pantry days from 930-1200. Congregational youth ages 16-18 are welcome on Saturdays and can earn community hours. Questions, call Jeanne Harmer 631-484-5203. ACTS 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

GIVING WITH SUBSPASH: In order to ensure the most secure and seamless experience, we will be transitioning to a new giving platform. **We will be moving from Vanco to Subsplash.** This change will help us manage resources more effectively, at less cost, and make it even easier for you to support the mission of our church. Visit stjlc.com and click on the tab that says "Give" for full directions on how to make the switch! If you need assistance, please email Sandra at sandramcilveen@hotmail.com

CHURCH OFFERINGS: If you do not use our electronic offering service, you may mail your church offering to the Church Office, 230 Second Ave, St. James, NY, 11780. Thank you for your continued support of our church!

TO ORDER ALTAR FLOWERS: Call Connie Marohn at 862-7123 after you have signed up for your requested date in the Altar Flower Book in the Narthex. Please use an Altar Guild envelope located in the Narthex to place your check for \$25.00 for *each* Bouquet payable to St. James Lutheran Church Flowers and the wording you wish printed in the bulletin. Place the envelope into the offering plate or mail to 230 Second Ave., NY 11780. Envelopes must be received by Monday for the subsequent weekend.

Peek at the Week

SUNDAY February 1

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)
10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary)
11:30am – 1:30pm Getting Clear Class (Youth Room)
11:30am – 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

MONDAY February 2

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)
6:30pm – Outreach Meeting (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY February 3

7:30pm Moms Giving Group Group (Forbes Home)
7:30pm Giving Group for All (Parish Hall)

WEDNESDAY February 4

10am – 12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)
2pm-4pm Cancer Support Group (Youth Room)
6:30pm – 7:30pm Chancel Chimes Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:30pm – 7:30pm Confirmation (Parish Hall)
7:45pm – 9pm Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY February 5

10am Thursday Giving Group for All (Youth Room)

FRIDAY February 6

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)
7pm-11pm Ladies Night Out (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY February 7

8am Men's Giving Group (Norway Hall)
5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)
All Day – Pack 228 Pinewood Derby (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY February 8

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)
10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary)
11:30am Congregational Meeting
11:30-1 Worship Leader Meeting (Library)
11:30am – 1:30pm Getting Clear Class (Youth Room)
11:30am – 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)