

# St. James Lutheran Church

*God calls us to follow Christ, make disciples,  
and live the Gospel.*



**Worship Plan**  
**16th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 17, 2023**

**Welcome to St. James!**

Regular text – Pastor or leader    **Bold text – Congregation**  
**ELW xxx = Hymn in Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal**  
**ELW p. xx = Liturgy in the front of the red book**

Use the ribbons in the red book to mark hymns and liturgy pages.

**ACS #XXX = Hymn in Blue All Creation Sings Hymnal**

**PRELUDE**     *All Creatures of Our God and King*    arr. by Gregg Sewell

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God,  
the one who forms us,  
✚ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility,  
confessing our sin.

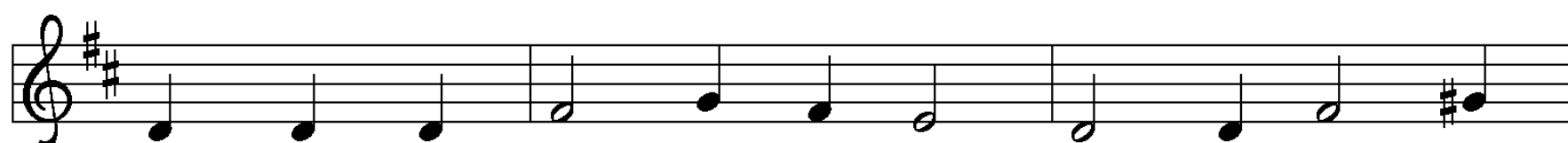
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.**  
**We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.**  
**We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.**  
**For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.**  
**For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.**  
**For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**  
**Lead us back to you  
and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
 God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
 God's compassion is beyond compare.  
 In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
 In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace* (ELW 716)

**Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace**



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all  
 2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,  
 3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less  
 4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er  
 5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I  
 Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -  
 act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I  
 strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim  
 Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.  
 sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.  
 do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.  
 be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.  
 be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt.  
 Music: BEATUS VIR, *Šamotulský Kancionál*, 1561  
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**APOSTOLIC 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.**

**KYRIE** (ELW p. 120-121)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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.**

*(Be seated)*

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON / Commissioning & Blessing of Children and Youth Ministry Volunteers**

*A reading from Ephesians.* I pray that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. *(Eph. 3:16-19)*

Siblings in Christ, . . .

*(Please stand as you are able)*

I now ask you, the people of St. James: Will you today renew your commitment to our youngest siblings in Christ, our children and youth who look to you for guidance, support, and examples of righteous living?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

People of St. James: Will you claim these people as those called by God to help carry out our congregation's ministry to children, youth, and families? Will you support them and enthusiastically celebrate the work they do?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you pray for these leaders and the young people they serve, celebrating our children and youth as the ones Jesus blessed and welcomed?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Let us pray. Gracious God, for Jesus' sake, empower these ministers to care for the young ones in our family of faith. Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently. Stir up in these servants the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, who has given you the gifts and the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**Amen.**

On behalf of St. James Lutheran Church, we now commission you for ministry, grateful for your gifts and your willingness to serve.

*(please be seated)*

**FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

A reading from Genesis.

<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 the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13** *(sung responsibly)*

[<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 chil- | dren of Israel.]

**<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup>you will not al- | ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- | ger 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 a- | bove 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 transgres- | sions 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**

A reading from Romans.

<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 servants 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 in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>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 of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****(ELW p. 102)**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

**GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church 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, his 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.****SERMON****Pastor Amy Gillespie****HYMN OF THE DAY** *Where Charity and Love Prevail***(ELW 359)**

## **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**

*Prayers \*\*Each week throughout the year we will pray for several St. James households by name. After each portion of the prayers:*

**A Merciful God. C Receive our prayer.**

*The congregation is welcome to pray for persons by their first names when invited to do so. You are encouraged to pray some of the names of those who are listed on the prayer list.*

*The prayers conclude:*

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE** *(Please share signs of peace with one another)*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(Be seated)*

**OFFERTORY** *We Thank Our Heavenly Father* arr. by Patricia Hurlbutt

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .  
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 LORD

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is more complex than the first hymn, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are written below each staff. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, . . . Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

## 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;**



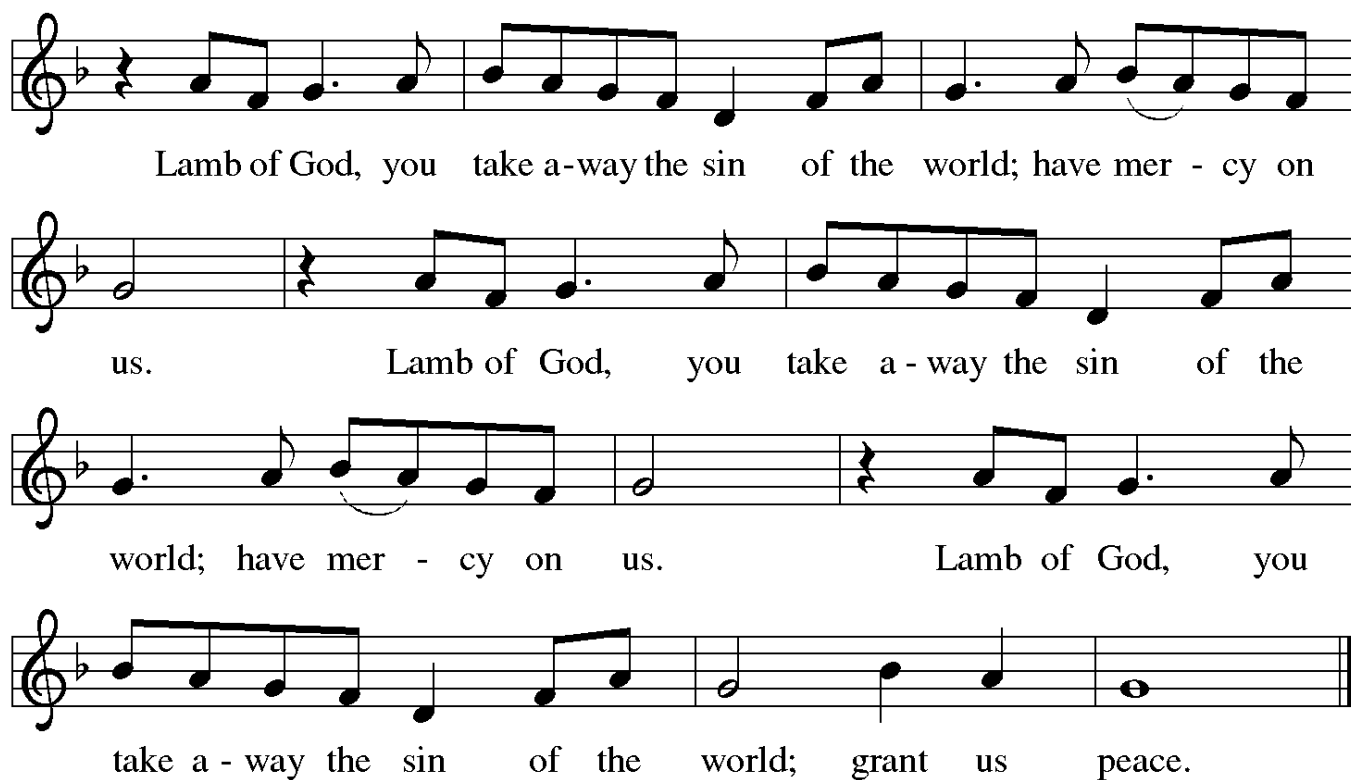
**and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus invites you to this table.  
Come, eat and live.

*(Be seated)*

## **LAMB OF GOD**



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.

## **COMMUNION**

**(ELW p. 134)**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*Our Lord Jesus welcomes you to this meal of the baptized. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink. Those who are not able to consume wine are able to commune fully by receiving only the wafer. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children may come and receive a blessing and/or communion. We commune on all four sides of the altar. Come forward in two lines up the main aisle, take a glass from the usher and kneel around the altar. The wafer will be placed in your hand, then the server will fill your glass. Return to your seat by the side aisles.*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **WORDS AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated for the Installation)*

## **Installation of Office Coordinator, Joan Krikau**

### **Presentation**

After prayerful deliberation, we of St. James Lutheran Church, have appointed Joan Krikau to serve in the position of Office Coordinator.

### **Address and Questions**

Our Lord Jesus, ....

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously gives you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**Amen.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

People of God, will you receive Joan into this ministry as one sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Joan Krikau, I now declare you installed as Office Coordinator.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be a faithful servant of Christ.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your church, so you have called Joan Krikau to this ministry. Grant her joy and a spirit of bold trust, that her work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

People of God, I present to you Joan Krikau, your Office Coordinator.

Let us welcome her in the name of Christ.

## BLESSING

The God of glory,  
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

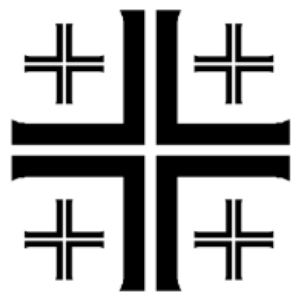
**SENDING SONG**      *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*      **(ELW 618)**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace to follow Christ, make disciples and live the gospel.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**      *Give Thanks Unto God*      **arr. By Michael Ryan**



**St. James Lutheran Church**  
**Lake Forest, Illinois**

**Prayer List** We remember in our prayers:  
**We remember in our prayers:**

Sandy Abby	Dave Marsden (friend - Alane Wanda)
Carol Amrhein (friend - the Wandas)	Kristin Marsden (friend - Alane Wanda)
Eleanor Arneson (aunt - Nancy Clemens)	Roy Meyer (friend - the Bohacs)
Nancy Bensinger (friend - Marge Triplett)	Sue Milligan (friend – Melissa/Detlef Koska)
Linda Berner	Joy Mishkin (friend - Alane Wanda)
Warren Bjork (great uncle - Tom Bohac)	Molly Morris (friend - the Davoux family)
Anna Braun (friend - Richard/Brigitte Kaeske)	Anita and Roger Norem (friends - the Triplett family)
Emily Collins (friend - the Wanda family)	Ryan Olliges (relative - Gina Husemoller)
Phyllis Dettmann (aunt - Nancy Clemens)	Carolyn Omietec (friend - the MacAyeal family)
Margie Elkins (friend - MaryBeth Buschmann)	Peter O'Rourke (friend - Sue Thomas/Bob Hughes)
Kerstin (friend - Sue Thomas/Bob Hughes)	Deb Russell (aunt - Emily Bohac)
Kristi Gerken (niece - MaryBeth Buschmann)	Jean Schmidt (grandmother - Kelly Duncombe)
Kathryn Gilbertson	Jennifer Schlueter (cousin - Nancy Clemens)
Alexis Gladstone (friend - Sue Thomas/Bob Hughes)	Susan Shipman (sister-in-law - Alane Wanda)
Jeremy Gugel (nephew - Liz Behring)	Mary Ann Sopko (aunt - Mark Wanda)
John Gugel (brother-in-law - Liz Behring)	Debbie Stonich (friend - MaryBeth Buschmann)
Jenerfer Harrison-Okarski (cousin - Donna Jarvi)	Zelmira Tomaska (mother - Paula Doyle)
Daniel Heiman	Paula Van Singel
Mike Jarvi	Chary and Sieg Voss
Sandy Jaeger (sister - Chary Voss)	Nancy Wanda (mother - Mark Wanda)
Peter Jorgensen (son - Madeleine Jorgensen)	John Webster
Barbara Kollacks (relative – Linda/Wolf Kollacks)	Matt Wetherbee (brother - Tiffany Alexander)
Craig Larsen (friend - the Moore family)	
Michael Lorensen (father - Choosri Goebel)	

**Your Worship Leaders**  
**September 17, 2023**  
**Worship at 10:00 am**

Pastor Amy Gillespie  
 Assisting Minister Bud Lowell  
 Reader Mark Wanda

Musicians – Voices of St. James

**Executive Church Council**

Ron Koepke, President  
 Shelly Holmstrom, Vice President  
 Mark Wanda, Treasurer  
 Laurie Whisler, Secretary

**Staff**

Amy Gillespie, Pastor  
 Joan Krikau, Office Coordinator  
 Pete Clemens, Facilities Manager  
 Rae-Myra Hilliard, Director of Music  
 Ryan Ringnalda, Brass Ensemble Director  
 Doug Dusthimer, Youth Ministry Coordinator  
 Wendy Unrath, Organist  
 Wendy Weigers, Children’s Music Director  
 Melinda Voelcker & Greg MacAyeal, Damascus  
 Road Directors

**CALENDAR – SEPTEMBER 2023**

<p><b>Sunday, September 17, 2023</b>  <b>Worship at 10:00 am</b></p>	<p>Sunday School Volunteer Commission</p> <p>Installation of Office Coordinator</p> <p>Start of Sunday School Program</p> <p>8:45 – 9:25 Parent Orientation</p> <p>8:45 – 9:25 Class begins</p> <p>9:25 – 9:50 Children’s Choir</p>
<p><b>Sunday, September 24, 2023</b>  <b>Worship at 10:00 am</b></p>	<p>CONFIRMATION SUNDAY</p> <p>8:45 Sunday School</p> <p>9:25 Children’s Choir</p>