



ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2437 Niagara Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

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Sixteenth Sunday - Pentecost
September 13, 2026

OUR MISSION:

We are called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus through worship, witness, and ministry to our members and community.

Welcome to St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are visiting and you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your church home, but above all, we invite you to come and worship with us at any time. We worship every Sunday at 9:15 am. If you would like to speak directly to Pastor Randy, please call his cell (716) 225-3591.

Prelude

Choir: “Find Us Faithful”

Installation of Education Leaders

Presentation of Education Leaders

P: Just as our Lord Jesus devoted much of his ministry to teaching his followers, we, too, are called to make disciples through Word and Sacrament, teaching all that our Lord has commanded.

P: The following brothers and sisters in the faith have been asked to serve in a special capacity for the good of the entire faith community through the ministry of Christian Education. I ask them to come forward as their names are read.

P: The Lord God has gifted his church with faithful disciples and servants of the Word. We thank you for your willingness to serve among us in the ministry of education, that the mighty acts of God may be proclaimed in this place and to the ends of the earth. St. Peter writes, “As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters the oracles of God; whoever renders service as one who renders it by the strength that God supplies, in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Statement of Intent

P: Will you accept this position of leadership and responsibility within St. James Lutheran Church, in submission to the Word of God?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Will you provide instruction with diligence and patience, in accordance with the Scriptures and the teaching of the Lutheran church?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Will you strive to be an example of the Christian faith and life by your daily witness, and by your faithful participation in worship through Word and Sacrament?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Will you support your students, pray for them, and guide them in their learning and development?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Will you, as the people of God, pray for these leaders, assist them in the ministry of Christian Education as you are able, and support them in their serving to the glory of God?

C: We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Commissioning of Leaders

P: May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things graciously give you the strength and spirit to carry them out. You are hereby installed as teachers and education leaders in this congregation.

P: Let us pray: Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have called these people to serve in the ministry of education, to assist parents in living out the baptismal promises they have made to their children, helping them to teach your Word and be a model of the Christian faith. Bless them and their work by pouring out your Holy Spirit upon them. Give them wisdom, patience, and the heart of a servant, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Thank you

*Co-Superintendents: Samantha North and Jennifer DeVantier
Teachers: Andrea Haseley, MaryAnn Kowalski, Janeen Schmidt,
Judy DeVantier, Kelli Kaminska, and Marjorie Milleville for being the
teachers and helpers of St. James Church*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sin to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Time for silent reflection)

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Most merciful God, you have given your Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your word, so that by your grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. The Almighty and merciful God grant unto you that are penitent pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of his Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

Hymn #231 “Rise, O Children of Salvation”

1 Rise, O children of salvation All who cleave to Christ the head!
Wake, awake, O mighty nation, Lest the foe on Zion tread;
He draws nigh and would defy All the hosts of God Most High.

2 Saints and martyrs long before us
Firmly on this ground have stood;
See their banner waving o’er us,
Conqu’rors through the Savior’s blood.

Ground we hold, whereon of old, Fought the faithful and the bold.

3 Fighting, we shall be victorious By the blood of Christ our Lord;
On our foreheads, bright and glorious,
Shines the witness of his Word;
Spear and shield on battlefield, His great name; we cannot yield.

4 When his servants stand before him, Each receiving his reward;
When his saints in light adore Him, Giving glory to the Lord;
"Victory!" our song shall be, Like the thunder of the sea.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And with your spirit.

Kyrie Eleison (“Lord have mercy...”)

♪ Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

♪ Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis (Glory be to God on high...) ”

P: Glory be to God on High and on earth peace, good will to all.

♪ Lord, we praise your name on high, worship you and glorify.
To the Lamb of God we cry and join the angel’s song.

Refrain:

***Gloria! Let the music flow. Gloria! To the earth below.
Gloria! Feel our hearts aglow with the joyful angel’s song.***

**You have borne the sins of all. Mercy, Lord, and hear our call.
Everyone, both great and small, come join the angel's song.
(Refrain)**

**You, alone, the Holy One, You, alone, God's only Son,
In your name we've just begun to join the angel's song.
(Refrain)**

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷"Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Psalm 103:1-12

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

³He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

⁴**He redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;**

⁵He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

⁷He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel.

⁸**The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.**

⁹He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰**He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us.**

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass

judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Gospel Acclamation

♪Hallelu! Halleluia! Give praise to the Lord for the blessings of heaven in God's holy Word. For the words of forgiveness, the words that endure, Hallelu! Hallelujah! Give praise to the Lord. ♪Glory be to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came up and said to {Jesus}, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So

the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

♪Praise be to you, O Christ

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 dead, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Where Charity and Love Prevail

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F Dm C F C F B $\flat$ C F C 7 F B $\flat$ C

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, There God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst Dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; Let all con - ten-tions cease.

F Gm 7 C Dm C F B $\flat$ C Dm B $\flat$ 6 F C F

Brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, By love we thus are bound.
 Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love God in re - turn.
 As mem-bers of each bod - y joined, In him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; Be his our on - ly peace.

5 For love excludes no race or clan
 That names the Savior's name;
 His family embraces all
 Whose Father is the same.

6 We now forgive each other's faults
 As we our own confess,
 That we may love each other well
 In Christian gentleness.

© Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, b. 1916, alt.
 Tune: attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842

TWENTY-FOURTH
 CM

Children's Message

Sermon – Pastor Andrew “Forgiveness is the best kind of Revenge”

Hymn #200 – “Lord of All Hopefulness”

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Announcements

Offering: *As a guest or visitor, we acknowledge your presence as the only offering expected today.*

Offertory: ♪ Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart

♪Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. And now let the weak say, “I am strong”, Let the poor say, “I am rich” because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks.

Offertory Prayer:

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for all that we have: ourselves, our time and our treasures, all that first belonged to you and has been gifted to us, your children. Accept our offerings as a sign of our devotion to you, and make us truly grateful for the many gifts we have received. In Jesus' holy name we pray. **C: Amen**

Prayers of the Church

P: "Lord, in your mercy," **C: "Hear our prayer."**

P: Lord, be merciful to us all, and when we reach our final hour, grant us a blessed departure from this world, and on the last day, a resurrection into your glory. **C: Amen**

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Benedicamus & Benediction

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And with your spirit.**

P: Bless the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Hymn #53 – “Go My Children”

1. “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own,
In my love’s baptismal river,
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”
2. “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”
3. “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord...**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Next Week’s Readings:

Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 27:1-9; Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Let Us Remember in Our Prayers (*St. James Member)

*John Milleville	*Mike DeVantier	Sabine Miskey
*Mark Voelker	*Norma DeVantier	Dan Osgood
*Roger Siegmann	Denise Joy	William Love
*Bill Salisbury	Ronaldo Posa	Bo O'Brien
*Deliah Licht	Barb Haseley (St.	Kathy Wittmeyer
*Dennis Schmidt	Peters)	Ruth C.
*John Miskey	Greg Milleville	Gianna Bianco

Also Remember in Our Prayers

The family of Linda Arnold (Jean Schmidt's sister) who went to be with the Lord.

Those in nursing homes and shut-ins

*Elly Milleville	*Jean Schmidt
*Julianne (Judy) Brown	*Jim Heuer
*Ruth Haseley	James Heath

Organizations and Community

Stephen Ministry

"Young Life"

Our area public and parochial schools

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Wilson)

All Emergency Services personnel

*Scott Milleville

Michael Jon DeVantier

David Nedell

The members of our armed forces

The men and women serving at the N.F. Air Base

Matthew Reddy (Niagara Falls)

Justin DeVantier (Niagara Falls)

Edmond Moloney (Hawaii)

Eric Graca (Illinois)

Michael Coulter (South Korea)

Joshua Drasgow (Washington State)

Keith Coleman (Okinawa)

Nicholas Horvath (Middle East)