

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 28th, 2025



Divine Service 9am

St. James Lutheran Church
1213 US Hwy 22
Phillipsburg, NJ

908.454.2864

www.strawchurch.org

strawchurch@gmail.com



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Welcome to St. James!

Founded in 1750, the year 2025 marks our 275th anniversary of being God's church. We're so glad you're here! We pray you feel warmly welcomed as we gather to celebrate God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ. He who is the same, yesterday, today, and forever!

If you are visiting today: Thank you for joining us today! If you have any questions, please ask! Pastor Levi and the members of our church-community would be glad to help you out. Please sign the guest book or complete a hospitality card located in the pew racks.

Following along in the bulletin: *indicates the congregation stands. In our liturgical worship, **bold words** are spoken by the congregation. LBW refers to content found in the green hymnbook *Lutheran Book of Worship*. WOV refers to content found in the blue hymnbook *With One Voice*.

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Musician

The Rev. Levi Q. Powers
Dan Gulick
Dave Miller

I. GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Th sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Almighty and most Holy God,

we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, through our own fault, our own most grievous fault. We acknowledge our lack of faithfulness in holy service, our lack of discipline and obedience, and our lack of love. And so, we pray to you, O God, have mercy upon us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: WOV 741 – Thy Holy Wings**

***GREETING**

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

And also with you.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE: ELW 410 - All Glory Be to God on High**

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

A reading from Amos.

- ^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,
⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,
⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146

The Psalm is read responsively.

- ¹ Hallelujah!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
³ Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.
⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day¹ their thoughts perish.**
⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸ The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ The LORD shall reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

A reading from 1 Timothy.

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 172 – Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

{sung before and after gospel lesson}



GOSPEL READING: Luke 16:19-31

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house ²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’”

³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: WOV 765 - Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love**

***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 into hell.
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**

Each petition ends: "...God of grace, **receive our prayer.**"

Prayers conclude: "Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior." **Amen.**

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.
The assembly is seated.*

III. THE LORD'S SUPPER

OFFERTORY



*Scan the QR Code to give electronically.
An offering plate is in the back of the
sanctuary if you wish to give check or
cash. You are welcome to give to the
ministry of St. James Lutheran Church
freely and spontaneously. There is no
guilt or shame. If you do give, give with
a cheerful heart.*

***OFFERING VERSE: TFF 216 – Give Me a Clean Heart**

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee. Lord, fix my

heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not wor -

thy of all these bless - ings. Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low thee.

1 I'm not ask - ing for the rich - es of the land.
2 Some-times I am up and some - times I am down.

I'm not ask - ing for the proud to know my name.
Some-times I am al - most lev - el to the ground.

Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that I may fol - low thee.
Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that I may fol - low thee.

Give me a clean heart, a clean heart and I will fol - low thee.
Give me a clean heart, a clean heart and I will fol - low thee.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Together with the bread and the cup we receive the body and the blood of Christ. We invite all baptized Christians to this sacrament. Children and adults who do not yet receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward with arms folded for a blessing. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know. We commune in tables of 10-15 people. The pastor will give you the bread, an assistant will give you a cup.

Then two will come to pour into your cup-the first with grape juice, the second with wine. Whoever partakes receives orally the body and blood of Jesus Christ.



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...**Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:** ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***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

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

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, grant us peace.

***POST COMMUNION SONG: ELW 206 – Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise**



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



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

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

IV. SENDING

***BLESSING**

Blessing concludes: **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG: LBW 346 - When Peace, Like a River**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social Ministry: Pullover Hoodie collection will begin September 14 thru October 12 for Phillipsburg School District middle and HS students. Adult sizes S-XXL.

Pastor Levi will be on vacation 9/29-10/5. Please contact Jon Slaton at 908-319-3992 for any pastoral care needs during this time and he will get you in contact with the pastor on call.

Worship Helpers: Joanne Willauer will be coordinating the monthly schedule. Please contact her at 610-393-6317 or jdwillauer@rcn.com with your upcoming availability!

- **Sunday, 9/28 after church:** Coffee Fellowship. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside Frey Hall for coffee and refreshments for upcoming weeks.
- **Wednesday 10/1:** Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm
- **Thursday 10/2:** NO Reading the Bible with Pastor Levi – Resumes 10/9

UPCOMING

- **Saturday, 10/4:** Church Breakfast 7am-10am
- **Sunday, 10/5:** Live Nativity Planning Meeting after church
- **Tuesday, 10/9:** Social Ministry Meeting at Panera 9:30am. All are welcome!
- **Sunday, 10/12:** Rally Day!

Let us remember in prayer: The Family & Friends of Judy Imhof, The Family & Friends of Pam Sheehan, The Family & Friends of Lou Cicale, The Family & Friends of Audra, Debbie, Carol, Ryan, Kevin, Beth, Stephanie, Max, Keith, Sara, Bob, Patrick, John, Gary, Sharon and those unable to attend church service; Janet, Janice, Greg, Helen, Alayne and Elsie