

Outdoor Service at Thomas Stewart Park

August 16, 2026



Service of the Word

9am

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

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Welcome to St. James!

Founded in 1750, the year 2025 celebrated 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!

To the parents of our younger children please:

Sit towards the front so the little ones can see and hear all that is going on and quietly explain parts of the service and what pastor, ushers, etc. are doing. Don't sweat the small stuff-God gave your littles the wiggle, noise and energy they have and we don't want to suppress that in God's house! Children are always welcome here! If you feel as if you need to step out of the service with your child, feel free but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

To the members of our church please:

Welcome children and their parents-their presence is a sign our congregation is growing and a gift to us all.

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Musician

The Rev. Levi Q. Powers
Dan Gulick
Dave Miller

I. GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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 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.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority alone, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: ACS 950 – Oh When the Saints Go Marching In**



1 Oh, when the saints go march - ing in, oh, when the
 2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the
 3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the
 4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they
 5 And on that hal - le - lu - jah day, and on that



saints go march - ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that
 Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that
 new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that
 gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that
 hal - le - lu - jah day, O Lord, I want to be in that



num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.
 num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.
 num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.
 num - ber when they gath - er round the throne.
 num - ber on that hal - le - lu - jah day.

*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: Glory to God (to the tune of Ode to Joy)

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.
Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy,
that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

II. WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

A reading from Romans.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,

Thanks be to God.

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²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 451 - We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus**



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir-it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;
as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

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, **hear our prayer.**"

Prayers conclude: **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.

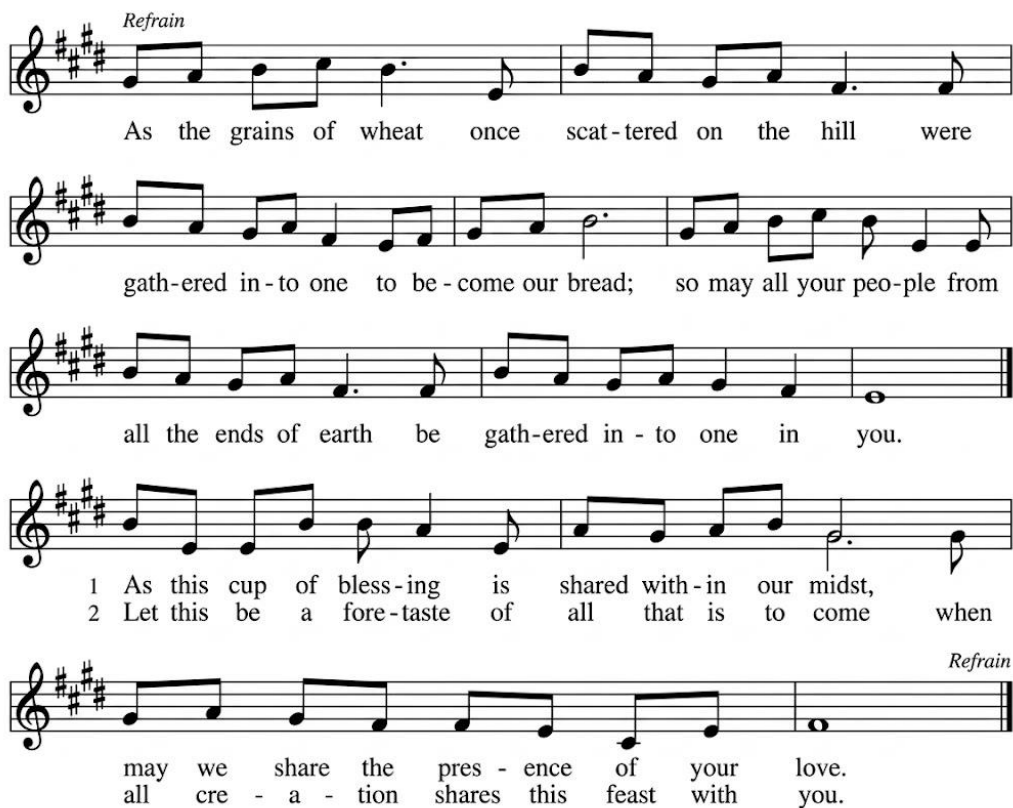
The Offertory



*You are welcome to give to the ministry of
St. James Lutheran Church freely &
spontaneously. There is no guilt or shame,
if you do give, give with a cheerful heart.
Scan the QR code to give electronically,
there is also an offering bin for cash and
checks.*

***OFFERING VERSE: ELW 465 – As the Grains of Wheat**

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
 gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
 all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

***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.

III. SENDING

***BLESSING**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

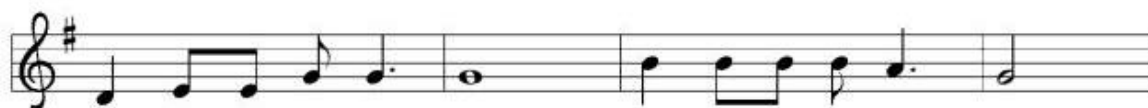
***SENDING SONG: ELW 677 - This Little Light of Mine**



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Please join us after service for food and fellowship! Thank you to everyone who helped us have a great outdoor service!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sunday, 8/16: NO** Worship Class today, enjoy the picnic!
- **Coffee Fellowship** after church every Sunday for those who want to sit and chat. This Sunday please join us at the park for refreshments!
- **Wednesday, August 19:** Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm
- **Thursday, August 20:** 2 Timothy Bible Study 10am at the church

UPCOMING

- **Sunday, September 20:** Rally Day – Help us kick off the Sunday school year with a celebration after church. The theme is Martin Luther who nailed 95 Theses. We will take a collection of hardware for the Habitat for Humanity ReStore at this time. All hardware must be free of damage: Door knob sets – standard and keyed; Cabinets knobs and handles; Nuts, bolts, nails and screws of all types; & Hinges
- **Tuesday, September 8:** Social Ministry meeting 10am at the church.

8 Volunteers needed (10 would be even better!) for Firth Youth Center Back to School Packing Backpacks Tuesday, August 18 from 1pm-3pm. Let Pastor Levi know if interested.

Social Ministry Donation Collections for August: Back to School Breakfast Boost
Focus items: Instant coffee, Tea, Instant oatmeal, Granola/protein bars
Today is the last day for school supply collection.

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

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP HELPERS(8/16)

Usher/Greeter: Bob Agans

Lector: Cassie Zellner

Altar Guild: Barbara & Jim Sikra

Tellers: Carol & Lois Steible

NEXT SUNDAY'S WORSHIP HELPERS(8/23)

Usher/Greeter: Doris Lauer

Lector: Jamie McRoberts

Altar Guild: Steve Stocker

Tellers: Carol & Lois Steible

Let us remember in prayer: The Family & Friends of Oscar Benavides Aguilar, Keith, Patrick, John, Sara, Gary and those unable to attend church service; Mae, Janet, Janice, Alayne and Elsie.

If interested in joining us for another Sunday service, membership or connecting with the Pastor please fill out the below form and leave with Pastor Levi today!



We're so glad you joined us today!

St. James Lutheran Church
Phillipsburg, NJ · Since 1750

Let's stay in touch!

Today's Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address(es): _____

I am/we are interested in (please circle all that apply)

Baptism

Sunday School

Church Membership

Bible Study

Service Opportunities

Fellowship Events

Pastoral Need

Other: _____