VOLUME: SEPT | OCT 2026

SPOTLIGHT

ON SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

AT A GLANCE

- **9/13 Deacon Meeting**
- **9/20 Council Meeting**
- **9/27 Congregational Meeting**
- **9/27 Birthday and Anniversary Coffee Hour**
- **10/3 Church clean up at 9:00 am**
- **10/25 Reformation Service 10 am**
- **10/25 Birthday and Anniversary Coffee Hour**

September / October 2026

Many Gifts – One Lord

From the Pastor's Desk...

As another school year begins, we are reminded that the Lord continually places us in new and different circumstances, surrounded by people who need to hear and see the love of Jesus Christ. We live in a world filled with confusion, division, anxiety, and darkness. Yet into that darkness, Christ has called His Church to shine with the light of His Gospel. We have been given the privilege and responsibility of bearing witness to the great love God has shown us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Sometimes that witness happens through our words. We tell others what Christ has done for sinners: that the Son of God became man, suffered and died upon the cross, and rose again from the grave for the forgiveness of sins. There is no greater message that we can give to another person. At other times, our witness takes place through the way we live and serve our neighbors. Our patience, kindness, generosity, forgiveness, and willingness to help others can demonstrate something of the love that we have first received from Christ.

This is especially important to remember as we consider the different vocations and circumstances into which God places us. Parents, teachers, students, employees, employers, retirees, grandparents, neighbors, and friends all have different opportunities to serve. We should not imagine that only those who stand in a pulpit, teach a Bible class, or participate in an official church program are serving the Lord. God works through His people in the ordinary places of daily life.

St. Paul reminds us of this in 1 Corinthians 12. He writes, *"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same*

Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:4–5). The gifts we possess are not ultimately about us. They are gifts from God, given by the Holy Spirit for the good of others. Some may be especially gifted at teaching. Others are gifted at encouraging, organizing, serving, listening, working with children, helping those in need, or simply being a faithful and dependable friend. Whatever the gift, the source is the same Lord, and the purpose is the same: that Christ may be glorified and our neighbor served.

This also helps us understand Christian vocation. We do not serve our neighbor in order to earn God's favor. We have already received God's favor through Christ. We serve because Christ has first served us. Martin Luther expressed this beautifully when he wrote, *"A Christian lives not in himself, but in Christ and in his neighbor."* Having been set free by Christ, we are freed from constantly looking inward at ourselves and our own importance. Instead, we can look outward toward those whom God has placed around us - to each of the stations of our vocations.

What a blessing this is! Through Holy Baptism, God has claimed us as His own and given us His Holy Spirit. Through His Word, He continually teaches and strengthens us. Through the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The Christian life is therefore not about discovering how impressive we can become for God. It is about receiving what Christ has already accomplished for us and then faithfully serving the neighbors He places before us.

As summer comes to an end, then, let us look carefully at the people God has placed around us. There are opportunities to witness to Christ in our homes, our schools, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and our congregation. We may not all have the same abilities, responsibilities, or opportunities, but we all have the same Lord. We are members of the same body of Christ, and *"God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose"* (1 Corinthians 12:18).

So let us not despise the gifts God has given us, nor should we envy the gifts He has given to someone else. Instead, let us give thanks for them and use them faithfully. Let us speak the truth of Christ when opportunities arise, and let us demonstrate His love through our service to others. Above all, let us remember that the light we bear is not our own. It is the light of Christ who has already overcome the darkness.

The Lord has called us, gifted us, and placed us where we are for a purpose. May He grant us wisdom to recognize our opportunities, humility to serve without seeking recognition, courage to confess Christ with our words, and love to serve our neighbors with our actions. And may everything we do point beyond ourselves to the One from whom every good gift comes: our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for His gifts, His grace, and His calling to serve our neighbor in Christ's name.

In Christ, *Pastor Bednash*

Altar Guild

Servers for September: **Mrs. Brooke Robertson and Mrs. Millie Weese**
Servers for October: **Ms. Betty Pezzica and Mrs. Elisabeth Dzambsow**

ALTAR GUILD

Servers for September:

Brooke Robertson
Millie Weese

The long growing season continues throughout the month of September, and the green paraments will dress the chancel for all four Sundays as we observe the Fifteenth through the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Green is the color of abiding life, nourishment, rest, and it is the dominant color in nature.

"Dear Heavenly Father,
Creator of all
make me thankful for blessings great and small...
For everything good you give me...
For the love of Christ...
For the promise of heaven...
For my home... my country...my school...my friends...
For laughter and the joy of living...
For all these, O Father,
accept my love and devotion.
Mend me to Thy will this day,
O God, as I study and prepare to serve.
Keep me humble and always teachable,
through Jesus Christ, my Lord.

May the love of my heavenly Father,
the forgiveness of my Savior, Jesus,
the strength of the Holy Spirit
change me this day."

Amen

In His service,
Susan Pullen, Director
The Altar Guild

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Colossians 3:23-24

ALTAR GUILD

Servers for October:

Elisabeth Dzambosow
Betty Pezzica

The green paraments continue to dress our chancel this month as our long growing season nears completion, and we mark the Nineteenth through the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost.

On October 25 we will celebrate Reformation Sunday, and the bright, red paraments will dress altar, pulpit, and lectern. Red is the power color which reminds us of the fire of the Holy Spirit and the blood of those Christians who gave their lives for their faith. We Lutherans celebrate the fact that eternal life is ours, not by our works, but by faith alone.

To Live by the Word of God

O Lord,
we are men of flickering faith;
we do not have the courage
to put You to the test,
to take You at Your word,
to give You what is Yours,
that You may open the windows of heaven
and pour down on us
Your overflowing blessing;
we doubt that Your heart
is as great and good
as Your strong Word
would make us believe,
that the riches of Your glory in Christ Jesus
will supply our every need.

O Lord,
we are men of half faith,
of cloven faith,
half given to You,
half saved up for ourselves,
faith that would tempt You,
experiment with You,
use You
to entrench us in our ways,
to serve our ends,
to give us greater greatness
than You have given us
when You made us sons of God.

Forgive us, Lord.
Teach us , O Lord.

Let Your Spirit blow
and make our faith burn
steady and clear,
a flame upon Your altar;
let Your
spirit
make our believing whole
and wholly sane,
a monomania of trust in You,
merely suspended
from Your high sustaining Word.

Teach us to walk
as Your Son walked on the earth
through ministry to death,
through death to life and glory
at Your right hand.
Through Him we pray.

Martin H. Franzmann
Pray For Joy

In His service,
Susan Pullen, Director
The Altar Guild

"Faith keeps the person who keeps the faith."

Altar Flowers

Given in honor and memory of...



September 6: In honor of their loved ones from Sue and Paul Pullen

September 13: In loving memory of her brother, George Williar, on the anniversary of his death, from Mike and Millie Weese

September 20: In loving memory of loved ones, from Betty Pezzica

September 27: Open

October 4: Open

October 11: In honor of Jeremiah's birthday, from the Bowling Family

October 18: In loving memory of her brother George Williar, on his birthday, from Mike and Millie Weese

October 25: In loving memory of her parents, on the anniversary of their death, from Beverley Chryst

Greeters and Communion Assistants



Greeters	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild
9/6 - Betty Pezzica	Bill Taylor and Kevin Nezworski	Brooke Robertson and Millie Weese
9/13 - Betty Pezzica	Aaron Holtmeier and Steve Clough	Brooke Robertson and Millie Weese
9/20 - Betty Pezzica	Jeremiah Bowling and Mike Robertson	Brooke Robertson and Millie Weese
9/27 - Betty Pezzica	Bill Taylor and Kevin Nezworski	Brooke Robertson and Millie Weese

Greeters	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild
10/4 - Austin Wendling	Jeremiah Bowling & Noah Kaufmann	Betty Pezzica & Elisabeth Dzambasow
10/11 - Austin Wendling	Mike Robertson and Aaron Holtmeier	Betty Pezzica & Elisabeth Dzambasow
10/18 - Austin Wendling	Steve Clough and Bill Taylor	Betty Pezzica & Elisabeth Dzambasow
10/25 - Austin Wendling	Kevin Nezworski and Jeremiah Bowling	Betty Pezzica & Elisabeth Dzambasow

Birthdays and Anniversaries



May the Lord bless and keep these dear saints in life and in love together

September Birthdays: 9/6 Kevin Nezworksi, **9/9** Samantha Bowling, **9/13** Aaron Holtmeier, **9/13** Asher Frank, **9/14** Elizabeth Nezworski, **9/20** Bill Taylor

September Anniversaries: 9/1 James and Janice Scheler (64 years)

October Birthdays: 10/1 Isabelle Wynn, **10/9** Jeremiah Bowling, **10/11** Doris Peterson, **10/14** Doug Erickson, **10/16** Lois Foelber, **10/17** Betty Wiseman, **10/25** Yuriy Dzambasow

Items of Interest

News and Notes



Do you have any news and notes to share with Saint James? Email the church office to include any items of interest for next month's issue!

Save the Date : Church Clean up Day, October 3 at 9 am

Deacon Meeting to be held after church in the Fellowship Hall on 9/13th.

Council Meeting to be held after church in the Fellowship Hall on 9/20th

Congregational Meeting to be held after church on the 9/27th.

Items of Interest

News and Notes

Orphan Grain Train: This is a Christian volunteer network that provides humanitarian aid to people in need across the United States and in 71 different countries worldwide. They collect and distribute food, clothing, medical supplies, and other essential items to support communities facing hardship. The organization operates through 27 regional locations, relying on volunteers to gather donations and fund relief efforts.

If you're interested in learning more or getting involved, you can visit their official website - www.ogt.org. Scan the QR code below to access more information regarding this organization as well as their newsletter, which gives more information on what they are doing in the Baltimore area.

Compassion Place, run by the Lutheran Mission Society (LMS), operates multiple centers in Maryland and Southern Pennsylvania that provide free food, clothing, and spiritual care to those in need. They also run a Thrift Center selling affordable items and accept donations of clothing and housewares. Additionally, some Compassion Places may offer professional counseling services, focusing on topics like relationship issues, trauma, anxiety and depression.

Scan the QR code below to access more information regarding **The Compassion Place** as well as their newsletter, which gives more information on what they are doing in the Baltimore area.

Items of Interest

News and Notes

RaiseRight Fundraiser Reminder

Our RaiseRight fundraiser is ongoing! Simply click the QR code to install the app and start shopping. Every purchase helps support St. James. If you have any questions, please see Jen.

Enrollment Code

N9W729F2KNFY

TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



Experience the right way to fundraise

Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

How it works



You buy a gift card

You get the full value.



The brand gives back

No extra money comes out of your pocket.



Your organization earns

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Jen H., earns for hockey

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Raise Right Coordinator:JenNezworski (443) 255-1937

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Items of Interest

News and Notes

Altar Flower Chart: Please sign the chart when you know which week(s) you are interested in placing flowers on the altar for 2025. The cost is $40. Please also indicate on the chart why you are placing them *(whether to honor someone, something, or in memory of someone)*. The flowers may be taken by the donor after the worship service.

Deacon and Council Meeting Notes: Copies for reference will no longer be included in the monthly Spotlight article. Printed copies will be available for pickup in the Narthex monthly or by request via email for anyone who desires.

LMWL and LMS: Food offering and mite boxes due every fourth Sunday - **Due September 20th and October 25th.**

November/December Spotlight Deadline: Articles of interest may be given to Elisabeth directly or emailed to the church office at saintjamesbaltimore@gmail.com - please send details no later than Tuesday, **October 22nd.**

Please be patient as we continue to refresh the Spotlight. Please let us know if we forgot anything or if you want to see any additional items, so we may add them to next month's issue. The Spotlight will be available in print for anyone who desires, or as a digital email for those who prefer to receive it electronically.

Calendar Important Dates:

- **September 9th** Coffee hour honoring summer and September birthdays and anniversaries
- **September 13th** Deacon Meeting after Divine Service
- **September 20th** Council Meeting after Divine Service
- **September 27th** Congregational Meeting after Divine Service
- **September 27th** Special coffee hour for Summer/September birthdays and anniversaries
- **October 3rd** Church clean up day 9am
- **October 25th** **Reformation Service 10 am**
- **October 25th** Special coffee hour for October birthdays and anniversaries

Resources for Study

Growing in faith and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ

Issues Etc. - Home - Issues, Etc.

On the Line Podcast - https://www.youtube.com/@otl_podcast_/videos

Memento Men's Ministry - www.memento70.com

Lutheran Institute of Theology LIT - institute.ontheline.net *Please check with the pastor concerning your (free) one-year membership access to all LIT study resources and classes.*

	Sept. 6 (Prop. 18)	Fifteenth S. after Pentecost	Ezek. 33:7–9	Psalm 32:1–7	Rom. 13:1–10	Matt. 18:1–20
	Sept. 13 (Prop. 19)	Sixteenth S. after Pentecost	Gen. 50:15–21	Psalm 103:1–12	Rom. 14:1–12	Matt. 18:21–35
	Sept. 20 (Prop. 20)	Seventeenth S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 55:6–9	Psalm 27:1–9	Phil. 1:12–14, 19–30	Matt. 20:1–16
	Sept. 27 (Prop. 21)	Eighteenth S. after Pentecost	Ezek. 18:1–4, 25–32	Psalm 25:1–10	Phil. 2:1–4 (5–13) 14–18	Matt. 21:23–27 (28–32)
	Sept. 29	St. Michael and All Angels	Daniel 10:10–14; 12:1–3	Psalm 91	Rev. 12:7–12	Matt. 18:1–11 *or* Luke 10:17–20
	Oct. 4 (Prop. 22)	Nineteenth S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 5:1–7	Psalm 80:7–19	Phil. 3:4b–14	Matt. 21:33–46
	Oct. 11 (Prop. 23)	Twentieth S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 25:6–9	Psalm 23	Phil. 4:4–13	Matt. 22:1–14
	Oct. 18 (Prop. 24)	Twenty-first S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 45:1–7	Psalm 96:1–9 (10–13)	1 Thess. 1:1–10	Matt. 22:15–22
	or	St. Luke	Isaiah 35:5–8	Psalm 147:1–11	2 Tim. 4:5–18	Luke 10:1–9
REFORMATION	Oct. 25 *(Observed)*	Reformation Day (Oct. 31)	Rev. 14:6–7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19–28	Matt. 11:12–19 *or* John 8:31–36
	or (Prop. 25)	Twenty-second S. after Pentecost	Lev. 19:1–2, 15–18	Psalm 1	1 Thess. 2:1–13	Matt. 22:34–46

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Rev. Eric Z. Bednash
- *Pastor*

Rev. J. Thomas Foelber
- *Pastor Emeritus*

Elisabeth Dzambasow
- *Office Manager*

Worship and Study

- **Divine Service** - Every Sunday at 10 am
- **Youth -** Sunday at 9 am (September - May)
- **Adult Bible Study -** Small Group LIT studies available - ask for more info.

Social Media

www.saintjamesbaltimore.com

www.facebook.com/saintjamesbaltimore

YouTube: Saint James Baltimore

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