

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Happy Semiquincentennial America!

Sunday, July 5, 2026
The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor
Pastor's Version



SAINT LUKE WELCOMES ALL TO WORSHIP!

We are grateful for your presence in today's worship. Your participation truly makes a difference. We hope you feel encouraged, blessed, and welcomed!

In preparation for worship, please silence all electronic devices when entering the sanctuary in reverence to God and respect for others.

~ Members and visitors ~

Kindly remember to sign in using the friendship binders in your pew.

Happy Semiquincentennial, America!

Celebrating 250 years of faith, freedom, and God's enduring grace! May God continue to be the lamp unto our nation's feet and the light unto our path!

Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof. ~Leviticus 25:10

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.
~Psalm 33:12*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Andante and Allegro for Strings, W.A. Mozart, arr. Merle Isaac. (c) Alfred Music

"Sinfonia" from *Trio in A Minor*, G. F. Telemann, arr. Robert Brown. (c) 1965 Carl Fischer.

Patriotic Medley, "My Country 'Tis of Thee", "America the Beautiful", "Mine Eye Have Seen the Glory".
Public Domain

We are thrilled to have the talented North Strand Ensemble string group sharing their music with us during today's worship. Please join us in giving them a warm church family welcome!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Good morning!** A very warm welcome to our members, our first-time visitors, and everyone joining our church family online today. We are so glad you've tuned in to worship with us.
- ❖ **Happy Semiquincentennial 250 years AMERICA!**
- ❖ **Annual July 4th picnic TODAY!** All are welcome. The team organized the buffet line to be served **table by table** to keep things moving orderly.
- ❖ Welcome the **North Strand Ensemble**. Seven (7) talented string players that will lift our spirits and fill our beautiful sanctuary with glorious sound!
 - **INVITE** them to stay for **luncheon!**
- ❖ **Listening Group** July dates are listed in back of bulletin.
- ❖ **File of Life:** in church mailbox. Want one? Stop by or call the church office to request one.
- ❖ **Prayer Pocket::** Prayer Shawl ministry has created a small prayer pocket to keep with you any time you may need to feel God's warmth in your hand..

PRELUDE

"Be Thou My Vision" (Irish folk melodie), arr. David Allen.
(c) 1986 Word Music

Congregation stands

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

C Amen.

P Let us bring every burden to God. God of all mercy,

C we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of † Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “When Moring Guilds the Skies”, #853

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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 also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Gloria" S-148 (front of hymnal)

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WA Let us pray.

C You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congregation sits

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

L ⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

L ⁸The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C ⁹Lord, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.

L ¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O Lord, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

- C ¹¹They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,
L ¹²**that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**
C ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.
L ¹⁴**The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.**

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

- L ¹⁵**I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!**
L **The word of the Lord.**
C **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" S-151a (Music on next page)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P [Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” ²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,

and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation sits

+ SERMON +

+THE REVEREND DR. CHRISTIAN EICHORN, PASTOR+

Silence for reflection

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY: “How Small Our Span of Life”, #636

THE APOSTLE’S CREED S-105 (*Front of hymnal, page #105*)

WA Let us confess the faith of the church.

C 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

P Trusting in God’s steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

WA God our unity, your church flourishes in different languages, cultures, and movements. Grant us wisdom to discern when our yokes are too heavy, that

we may live and serve in the freedom of your rest.
God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

WA God our life-giver, we grieve the pains placed upon our common home through war and neglect. What you have lovingly crafted, guide us to lovingly tend. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

WA God our freedom, you are no tyrant but bring peace. As this nation marks its declaration of independence, teach us our part in announcing peace for future generations. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

WA God our comfort, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, or who are in any need (especially Patrick McCarthy, Victoria Foy, Beverly Dague, Steve Kirby, the people of Venezuela). God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

WA God our guide, we do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do. Free us from the cycles of violence that bind us, that all know your liberation. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

WA God our home, you model freedom through the love shared across communities of trust and goodwill. As we remember those now gone to eternal rest, we thank you for the gifts of life together. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregation sits

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "God So Loved the World", John Stainer. Public Domain

Congregation stands

OFFERING HYMN "Create In Me a Clean Heart", #186

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING S-152

(Music on next page)

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.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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: S-153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n 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.

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

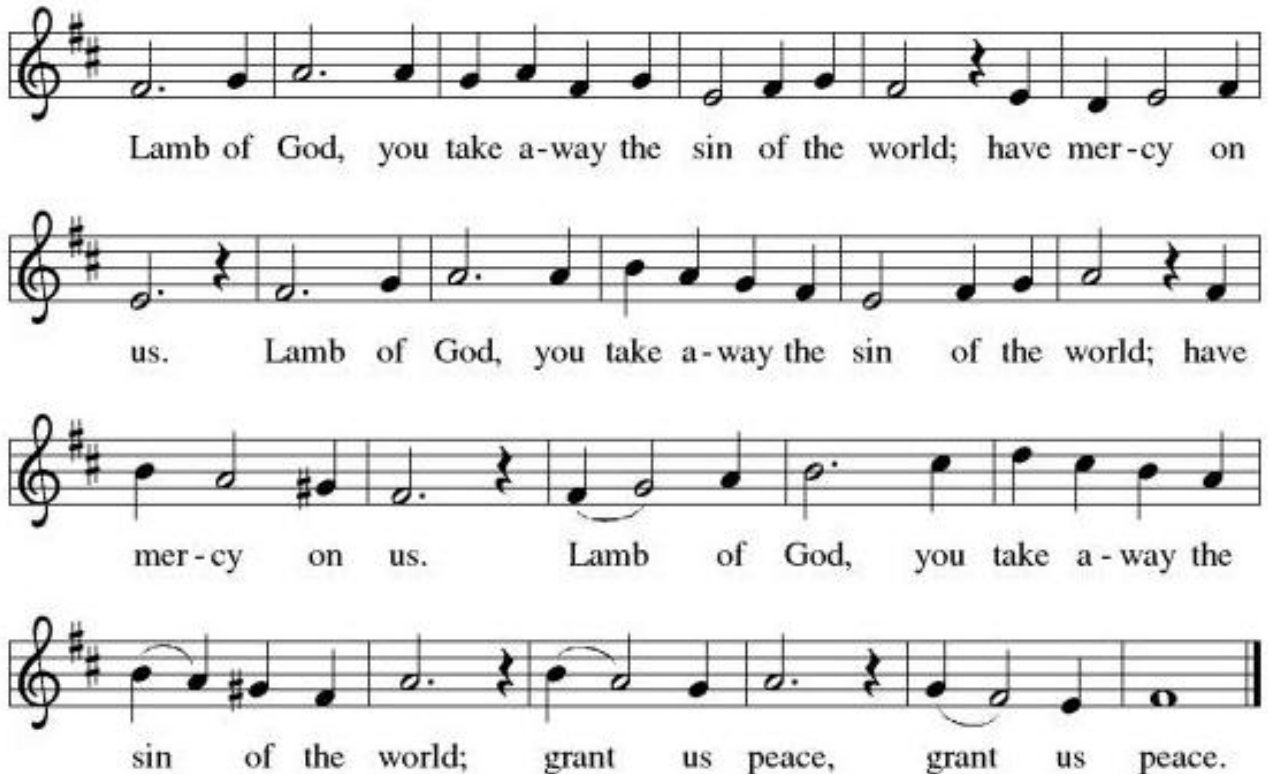
P Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation sits

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Altar, is open to all baptized Christians who receive Communion in their home church. All others are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. We will hold communion in the aisle today.

LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei) S-154 (Front of hymnal)



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”, #619

“O God Our Help in Ages Past”, #632

Congregation stands

TABLE BLESSING

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

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raised”, #204



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 and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN “We Are Marching”, #866

P Prayer for Our 4th of July Gathering of Fellowship and Food

DISMISSAL

WA Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Excerpt, "Brandenburg Concerto No. 3",
Moderato, J. S. Bach. Public Domain.

--Thank you for worshipping with us today--

The following members assisted with today's worship service with live streaming:

Altar Guild: Faye Arvoio, Joyce Charity | AV Team: Ed & Marie Keating

Cantor: Rod Peterson | Music: Bud Esper, Director of Church Music; Kim Hawkins,
Conductor, St. Luke Handbell Choir; St. Luke Voice Choir and St. Luke Handbell Choir

Communion Assistants: Kathy Rose, Marie Keating | Crucifer: Beverly Werner

Eucharistic Minister: Marie Keating | Lector: Rod Peterson

Ushers: John & Anna Borchert, Karen Reynolds, Richard Wood

Worship Assistant: Pam Eichorn

NEW MEMBERS

Are you looking for a new church family? We'd love to help you connect with others in the church and grow in our Faith Community together. If you are thinking about joining St. Luke, please contact Pastor Eichorn at 610.393.7622 or pastoreichorn@stlukeoib.org or the Church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please contact the church office to sponsor Sunday altar flowers.

Upcoming availability: July 12, 19 (1vase)

PRAYER LIST July 5, 2026

Patrick McCarthy, Victoria Foy, Beverly Dague, Steve Kirby, the people of Venezuela

LUTHERAN LIFE

WELCOME VISITORS ~ We are delighted you chose to worship with us at St. Luke today. You are family here! Please join us in the Fellowship Hall right after worship for our annual July 4th picnic. We cannot wait to fellowship with you!

To All: As we share this meal together, we want to ensure a relaxed and smooth experience for everyone. Kindly note that we will be visiting the buffet line **table by table**. Thank you for helping us keep things moving beautifully!

A Joyful Noise: Welcoming the North Strand Ensemble! 🎵 ✨

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome the **North Strand Ensemble** to St. Luke today. We are anticipating a magnificent group of seven talented string players who will lift our spirits and fill our beautiful sanctuary with glorious sound. They will be filling the choir loft, creating a truly heavenly canopy of music above us and enriching our worship by playing the **offertory, postlude**, and providing rich, sweeping string accompaniments for our **hymns and liturgy**. It promises to be a deeply moving and celebratory service. Let's worship with open hearts and prepare to make a joyful noise together! 🎸 ❤️

SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES

- ❖ **Annual 4th of July Picnic!** Join us after worship for food, fun, and fellowship with your church family and meet new friends who worshipped with us today! All are welcome!
- ❖ The **Listening Group** will gather informally on four Tuesdays in July (**July 7, 14, 21, and 28**) from **10:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.** We do not have a specific topic or program; instead, our focus is simply staying in contact throughout the summer. We will share scripture, pray, and get to know one another on a deeper, more personal level. Both regular attendees and new participants are warmly welcome—just show up! If you have any questions, please call *Katherine Moore at 336-687-1008*.
- ❖ **Worship & Music Committee:** As many of you know, our church organ is showing its age after many faithful years of service. It has developed internal performance issues that will soon require extensive maintenance, including a disabled amplifier section and a main computer board that needs replacement. To ensure our music continues to thrive, we established the Beth Grunewalder Memorial Organ Fund late last year to fund a replacement. Memorials for Doris Peterson will also go toward this organ fund. Bud has been actively consulting with several organ manufacturers, and we expect to present a formal recommendation to the church council within the next few months. Contributions to this fund are warmly welcomed as we work toward this goal. *~Thank you, Rusty Grunewalder.*
- ❖ **File of Life:** If you signed up to receive the File of Life, please pick them up from your church mailbox. If you haven't signed up and would like one for yourself or a loved one, call or stop by the church office to request one.

This Week at Saint Luke ~ July, 2026

Sunday, July 5	9am	Adult Sunday School
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
Happy Semicentennial America!	11am	Fellowship & Happy 4 th Picnic - All Are Welcome!
Monday, July 6	2pm	German Club
	3pm	MexTrain
Tuesday, July 7	10:30am	Listening Group
	1pm	Bridge
Wednesday, July 8	10am	Morning Prayer
		<i>Voice & Handbell Choir ~ Summer Hiatus</i>
Thursday, July 9	2pm-4pm	CMM Meeting - Library
Friday, July 10	9am	Bible & Bagels
	10am	Line Dancing
Saturday, July 11	9am	The Lord's Food Pantry
Sunday, July 12	9am	Adult Sunday School
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!

Scripture Readings ~ July 12, 2026 ~ 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34 | Romans 8:1-11 | Psalm 119:105-112 | Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23