

Saint Luke Lutheran Church

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 19, 2026

The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor



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.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Constance Kocot. They are placed by her sister, Wanda Green.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

"Spirit, Open My Heart" (Irish melody), arr. Anne Krentz Organ.

"Kelvingrove" ("Will You Come and Follow Me") (Scottish trad.), text hymnbook 798), arr. Kyle Haugen. Bud Esper, piano.

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Lauda Anima", text hymnbook 865, John Goss, arr. Hal Hopson. Bud Esper, organ.

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Congregation stands

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin to God. Compassionate God,

C **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

P Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast", #516

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)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WA Let us pray.

C **Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Congregation sits

FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

L ¹ Lord, you have searched me out; O Lord, you have known me.

C ² **You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

L ³ You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

C ⁴ **Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

L ⁵ You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

C ⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

L ⁷ Where can I go then from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

C ⁸ **If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

L ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

C ¹⁰ **even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.**

L ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,"

C ¹² **darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.**

L ²³ Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my restless thoughts.

C ²⁴ **Look well whether there be any wickedness in me and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia” S-151a

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 13:24-30, 36-43

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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: “Jesus Still Lead On”, #624

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 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.

Congregation sits

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED TO RICH & LINDA GALLOSE

P Rich & Linda Gallose, as you leave our congregation, we wish to bid you farewell.

P A reading from Exodus: The Lord said, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. ~Exodus 23:20

P In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his church. When you came to this congregation we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

P We encourage you to continue to receive and share God's gifts in your new location, united with us in the body of Christ and the mission we share.

P Let us pray.

**C Eternal God, we thank you for Rich & Linda and for the time we have shared with them. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Congregation sits

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Be Thou My Vision" (Slane) (Irish trad.), Robert Lau. Bud Esper, organ. (c) 2013 Lorenz.

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

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

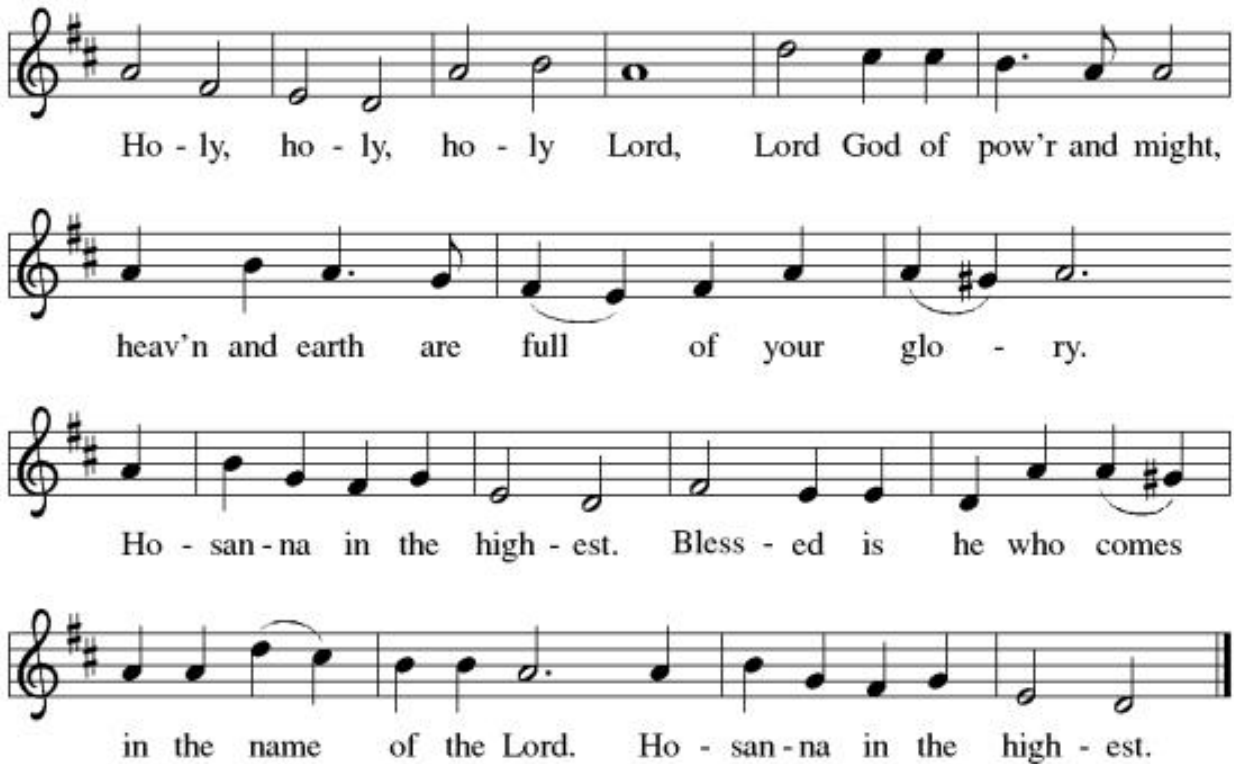
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

S-153



P 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 ...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.

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

COMMUNION HYMNS

“O Savior, Precious Savior”, #820

“Blessed Assurance”, #638

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

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 “You Servants of God”, #825

DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

--Thank you for worshiping with us today--

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

Altar Guild: Karen Barnhart, Sara Hart | AV Team: Terry & Debbie Hildebrand
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: Beverly Werner, Rod Meadows | Crucifer: Jim Drake
Eucharistic Minister: Sue Heitmuller | Greeters: Dan & Deb Mardis
Lector: Emil Gnam | Ushers: Ron & Karen Clark, Emil Gnam, Chris Hawkins
Worship Assistant: Kristen Killoran

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: August 2, 9, 16, 23

PRAYER LIST July 19, 2026

Patrick McCarty, Victoria Foy, Eva Scott

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 light refreshment. We cannot wait to fellowship with you!

SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES

- ❖ **As Most of you know**, it is time for me to retire from full time ministry. My last Sunday at St Luke will be September 27 and my last day September 30. It has been an honor to be your Pastor. You do a lot of good for this community, and for one another; you are a blessing! Pam and I want to thank you for your support and kindness over the past six and a half years. May God continue to strengthen you in serving others and in keeping the faith!
- ❖ The **Listening Group** will gather informally on Tuesdays in July (**July 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.*

- ❖ **Pantry Food of the Month – Rice.**
- ❖ **ST Luke Logo Shirts for sale:** Today is the last day to order shirts. We have men's and women's golf shirts, T shirts and sweatshirts in the Fellowship Hall after the service. All shirts will have the St. Luke logo embroidered on them. Samples of the fabrics and many colors available will be on display. Sizes from XS to 3XL are available. ~*Emil Gnam.*
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **New Member Reception ~ Sunday, August 2nd.** If you have been worshipping with us and feel called to make St. Luke your official church home, we would love to welcome you! If you have not yet spoken with the Pastor, please call the church office or the Pastor to set up a time to meet. We are excited to see our church family grow and may God bless you as you step out on faith to take this next step!!
- ❖ **To My Church Friends ~** Many thanks to all those who helped me in any way after my recent fall. It was wonderful to feel your caring spirit. *In Christian Love, Donna Cutsforth.*

This Week at Saint Luke ~ July, 2026

Sunday, July 19	9am	Adult Sunday School
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!
Monday, July 20	3pm	MexTrain
		<i>WOSL ~ Summer Hiatus</i>
Tuesday, July 21	10:30am	Listening Group
	1pm	Bridge
Wednesday, July 22	10am	Morning Prayer
		<i>Voice & Handbell Choir ~ Summer Hiatus</i>
Thursday, July 23	10am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Friday, July 24	9am	Bible & Bagels
	10am	Line Dancing
Sunday, July 26	9am	Adult Sunday School
Nineth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!

Scripture Readings ~ July 26, 2026 ~ Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12 | Psalm 119:129-136 | Romans 8:26-39 | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52