

Saint Luke Lutheran Church

Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 26, 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.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and to celebrate two special occasions. One arrangement is placed in honor of the members of Saint Luke by Barbara Klein. The other arrangement is placed in celebration of Bob and Sara Hart's 37th wedding anniversary.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Medley, "Once Again" and "Beneath the Cross of Jesus", Matt Redmon, Frederick Maker, arr. Tom Fettke. Bud Esper, piano.

(c) 1996 Thank You Music.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Rejoice the Lord is King" (Darwalls 148th), John Darwall, arr.
Franklin Ritter. Bud Esper, organ.

(c) 2002 Lorenz.

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 "All Are Welcome", #641

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.

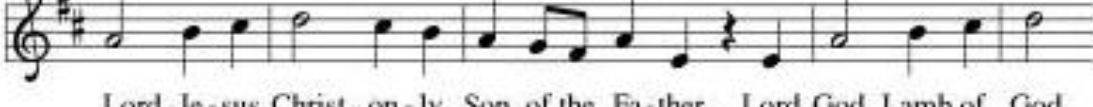
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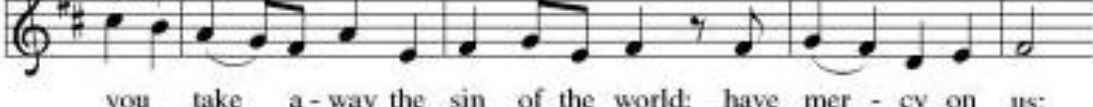
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



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



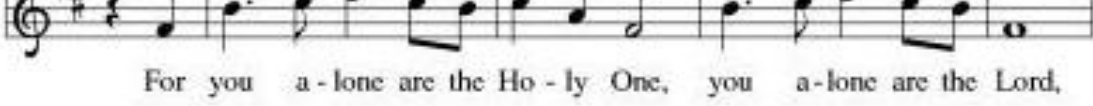
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



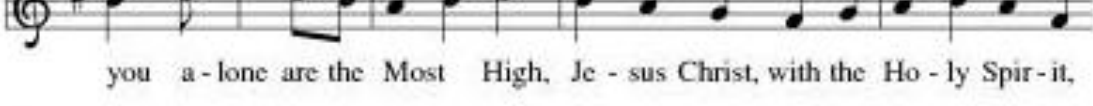
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



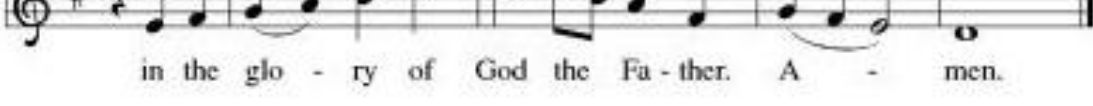
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



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 Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congregation sits

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

L ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one

like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

L ¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

C ¹³⁰ When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

L ¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

C ¹³² Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.

L ¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

C ¹³⁴ Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

L ¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

C ¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26:39

L ²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the

firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus 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 13:31-33, 44-52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P ³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore,

sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”!

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: “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”, #817

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 wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

WA God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

WA God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

WA God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. (especially Carla Kazanjian, Lorie Burns, Amy Golden, Mary Mason, the people of Texas: praying for families impacted by recent devastating floods, for those who lost homes, and for the safety of first responders). God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

WA God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

WA God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. 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 "Immortal, Invisible" (St. Denio),
(trad. Welsh), arr. Todd Kendall. Bud Esper, organ.
(c) 1990 Lorenz.

Congregation stands

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

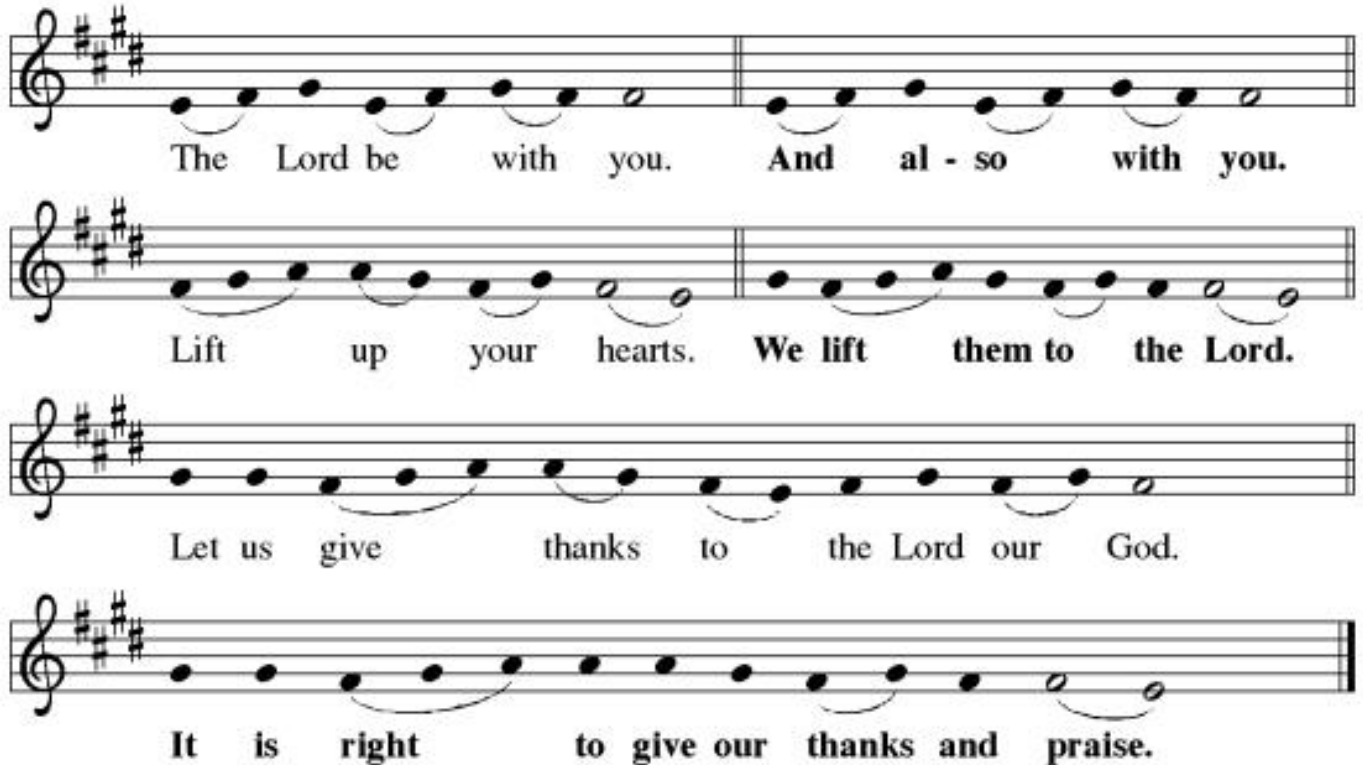
OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

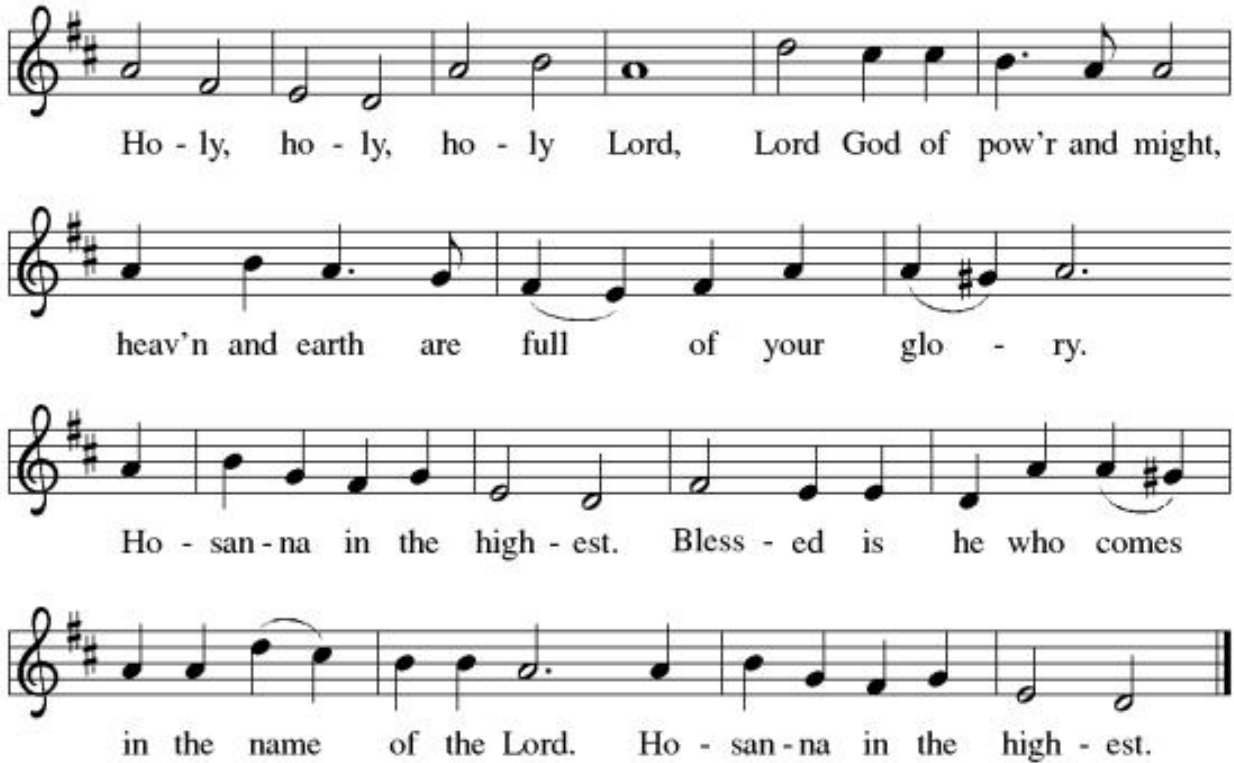
C Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,

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



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



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.

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

“In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified”, #744

“By Your Hand You Feed your People”, #469

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 “God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”, #771

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: Cindy Eaton, Sara Hart | AV Team: Gary & Karen Reynolds
Cantor: Lori Pollard | 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 Hand, Sue Heitmuller | Crucifer: Emil Gnam
Eucharistic Minister: Karen Reynolds | Greeters: Lisa Severine, Beverly Werner
Lector: Judy Pusey | Ushers: Wayne Huffman, Kenn Nelson,
Ray & Cindy Eaton | 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: August 2, 9, 16, 23

PRAYER LIST July 26, 2026

Carla Kazanjian, Lorie Burns, Amy Golden, Mary Mason, the people of Texas

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

- ❖ **The Listening Group** will gather informally on Tuesday, July 28 from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. We will take a Summer hiatus in August. ~*Thank you, 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.**
- ❖ **File of Life:** We have plenty of File of Life packets available! If you previously signed up to receive one, please pick it up from your church mailbox. If you

haven't signed up yet but would like a packet for yourself or a loved one, simply call or stop by the church office to request one.

- ❖ **Friendly Reminder: New Member Reception:** Are you looking for a church home? If you have been worshipping with us and feel called to make St. Luke your official church family, we would love to welcome you at our upcoming **New Member Reception on Sunday, August 2nd!** If you haven't had a chance to speak with the Pastor yet, please call the church office or reach out to the Pastor directly to set up a time to meet before this Thursday. We are so excited to see our church family grow—may God truly bless you as you step out on faith to take this next step!

This Week at Saint Luke ~ July, 2026

Sunday, July 26	9am	Adult Sunday School
Nineth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!
Monday, July 27	3pm	MexTrain
		<i>LMM ~ Summer Hiatus</i>
Tuesday, July 21	10:30am	Listening Group
	1pm	Bridge
Wednesday, July 28	10am	Morning Prayer
		<i>Voice & Handbell Choir ~ Summer Hiatus</i>
Thursday, July 29	10am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Friday, July 30	9am	Bible & Bagels
	10am	Line Dancing
Sunday, August 2	9am	Adult Sunday School
Nineth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!

Scripture Readings ~ August 2, 2026 ~ Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 55:1-5 | Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 | Romans 9:1-5 | Matthew 14:13-21