

Saint Luke Lutheran Church

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 30, 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
in memory of Tommy Vitaglino
on his birthday with love
from his mother, Lisa Severine.

*He gathers the lambs in his arms and
carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young."*
~Isaiah 40:11

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

PRELUDE

"The Way of the Cross Leads Home", Charles Gabroelle, arr. Paul Davis. 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 Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, and 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.

C Amen.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “Will You Come and Follow Me”, #798

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-139

(front of hymnal)

(music on next page)

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, 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 O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congregation sits

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

L ¹⁵ O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

L ¹Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and ¹ have not faltered.

C ²Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

L ³For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

C ⁴I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

L ⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

C ⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar, ⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

L ⁸Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

L ⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends

on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" S-142a

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

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P ²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to

Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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: “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”,
#667

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 With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

WA For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

WA For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

WA For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

WA For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit (*especially Walt Eccard, Jason Magalnick, Sr., Catherine O., Linda K., Faye Kilmon, and the family of Steve Jewell.*) Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

WA For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

WA For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregation sits

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "I. Praeludium" from "Darwall's Fantasy" (Darwall's 148th, John Darwall), ("Rejoice, the Lord Is King"), arr. John Dixon. Bud Esper, organ. (c) 2019 John Dixon

Congregation stands

OFFERING HYMN "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful", #184

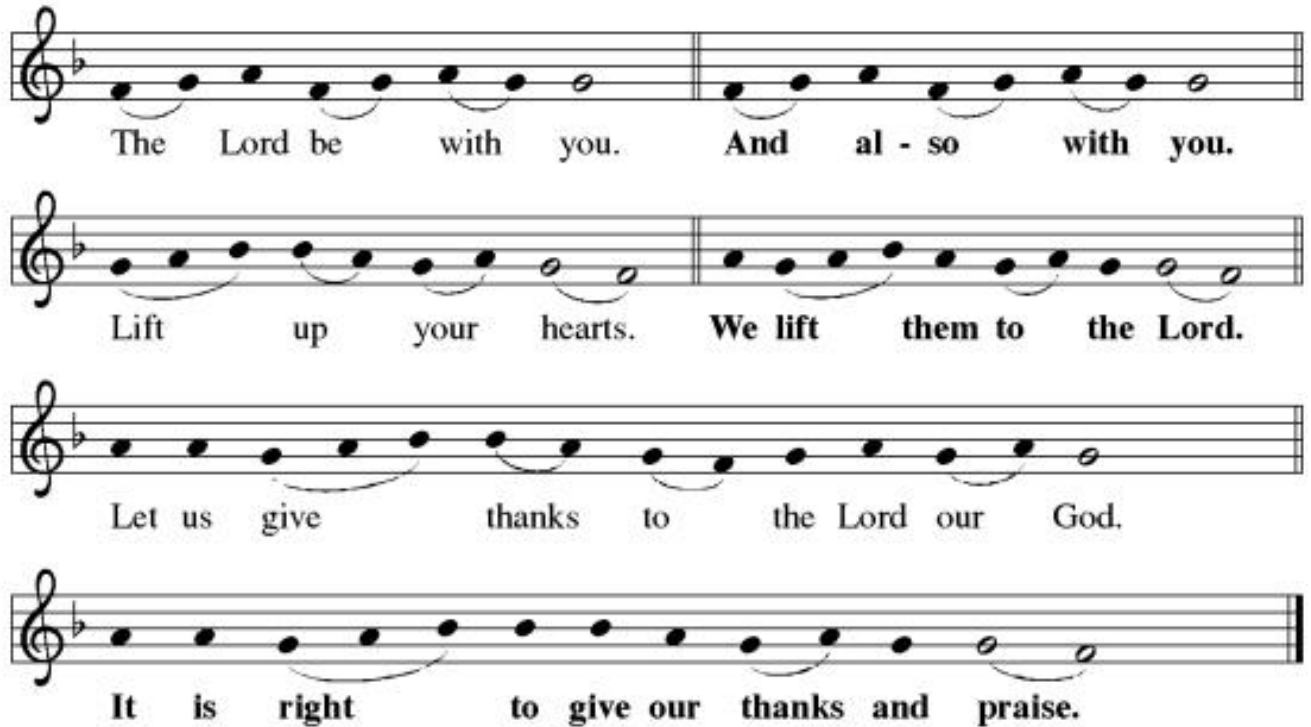
OFFERING PRAYER

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-144a (*front of hymnal*)



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-144b



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-146 (*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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“I Love to Tell The Story”, #661

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”, #659

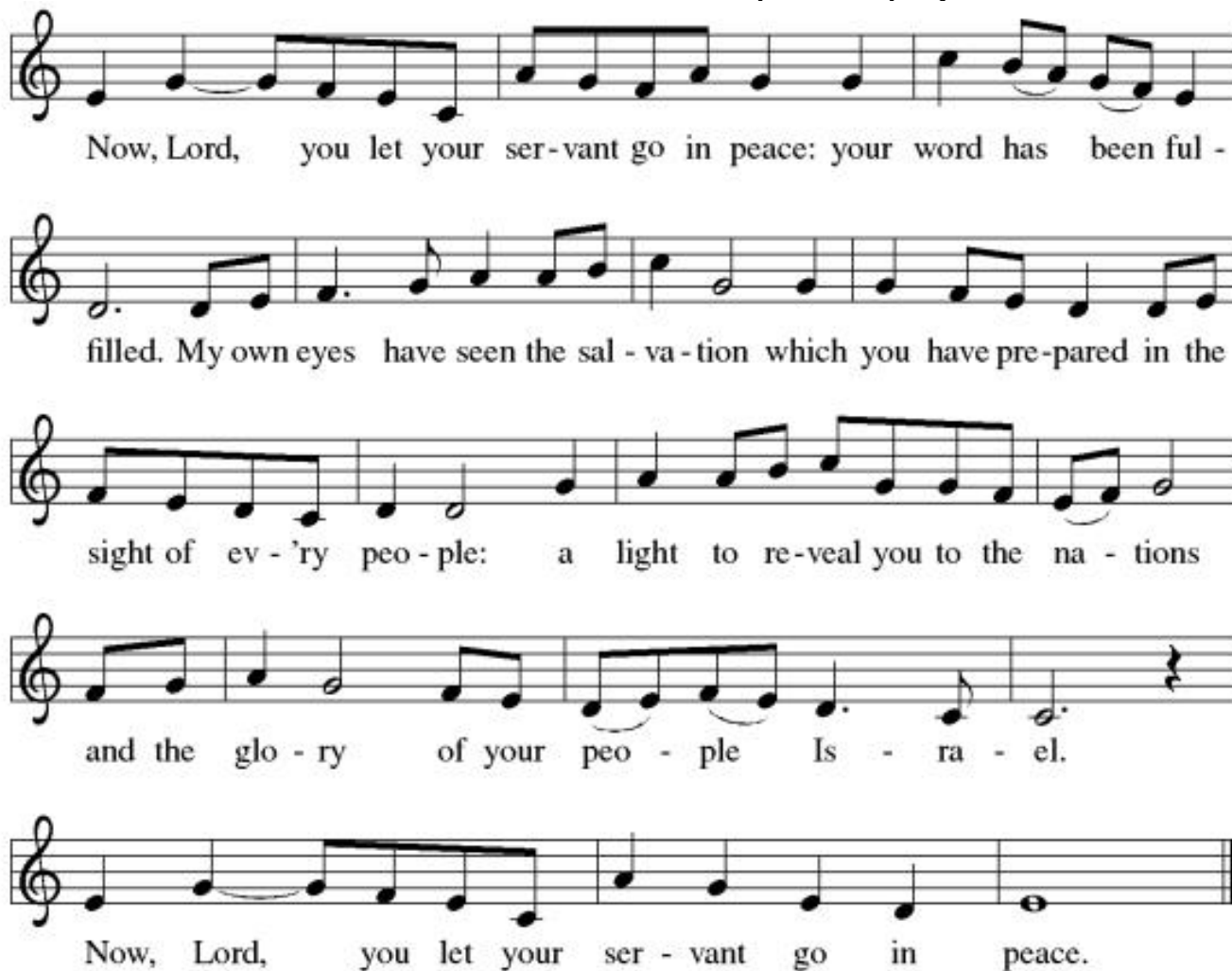
Congregation stands

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 S-113 (*front of hymnal*)



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef. The first staff contains the first line of the canticle. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line. The fourth staff contains the fourth line. The fifth staff contains the fifth line. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The canticle ends with a double bar line on the fifth staff.

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 “Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen”, #548

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: Joyce Charity, Sara Hart | AV Team: Terry & Debbie Hildebrand
Cantor: Gordon Heitmuller | 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: Marie Keating, Rod Meadows | Crucifer: Emil Gnam
Eucharistic Minister: TBD | Greeters: Kate Landon | Lector: Karen Nelson
Ushers: Wayne Huffman, Kenn Nelson, Becky Overcash, Beverly Werner
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: September 6, 20, 27

PRAYER LIST August 30, 2026

Walt Eccard, Jason Magalnick, Sr., Catherine O., Linda K., Faye Kilmon,
and the family of Steve Jewell

LUTHERAN LIFE

WELCOME VISITORS ~ We are delighted you chose to worship with us at St. Luke today. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall right after worship for light refreshments to welcome and celebrate you. We look forward to saying hello!

SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES

- ❖ **Pantry Food of the Month – Pasta - all types are welcome.**
- ❖ **School Supplies Needed for Children:** As a new school year approaches, we are again collecting school supplies for children at Union Elementary School. Collection bins will be in the church entrance throughout the month of August for your donations. Items requested: Ticonderoga pencils; Crayola markers and colored pencils; ink pens; Pink Pearl erasers; black Expo dry-erase markers and erasers; highlighters; two-pocket folders; Post-It Notes; white cardstock; Clorox wipes; tissues; clear tape for tape dispensers; packing tape; and scissors. There are two bins located in the Narthex for collectibles. We will run this collection throughout August, with the final day to drop off items being Sunday, August 30. ~*Thank you, Social Ministry Committee.*
- ❖ **Labor Day Picnic:** The signup sheet for the picnic is on the Fellowship board. Please sign up today. ~*Thank you, Deb Mardis.*
- ❖ **A Day That Changed Us Forever: September 11 Remembrance Service**
Every so often, something happens that shifts our reality completely. Life as we knew it one day is simply no longer the world we live in the next. Our world was one way on September 10, 2001, and then profoundly different on September 12. The tragic events of September 11 changed our lives, our nation, and our communities forever. Please join us this September 11 for a special service of remembrance. Together, we will honor the lives lost, pray for healing, and reflect on the day that changed so many people's lives forever.
 - When: September 11 at 11:00 AM
 - Where: Saint Luke Lutheran Church (5869 Ocean Highway West, Ocean Isle Beach)
 - Fellowship: A luncheon will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.

❖ Fifth Sunday Offering for needed desks at the mission schools in Sepuka, Tanzania.



This Week at Saint Luke ~ August, 2026

Sunday, August 30	9am	Adult Sunday School
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!
Monday, August 31	3pm	MexTrain
Tuesday, September 1		<i>Listening Group ~ Resumes September 8</i>
	1pm	Bridge
Wednesday, September 2	10am	Morning Prayer
	6pm	Handbells
	7pm	Voice Choir
Sunday, September 6	9am	Adult Sunday School
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!

Scripture Readings ~ September 6, 2026 ~ Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11 | Psalm 119:33-40 | Romans 13:8-14 | Matthew 18:15-20