

Saint Luke Lutheran Church

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 6, 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 on this Labor Day weekend, in thanksgiving for the blessings of our Father, Jesus Christ, and the gift of His rest.

PRELUDE
Prelude on "Royal Oak" by Cecily Alexander and M. Helman.
Tim Brown, Organist
Matthew 11:28

Congregation stands

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

We are thrilled to welcome Timothy Brown as our guest musician while Bud is away on sabbatical!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. Compassionate God,

C we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “Morning Has Broken”, #556

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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congregation sits

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

L ⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

L ³³Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

- C ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.
- L ³⁵ **Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.**
- C ³⁶ Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.
- L ³⁷ **Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.**
- C ³⁸ Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.
- L ³⁹ **Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.**
- C ⁴⁰ Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.

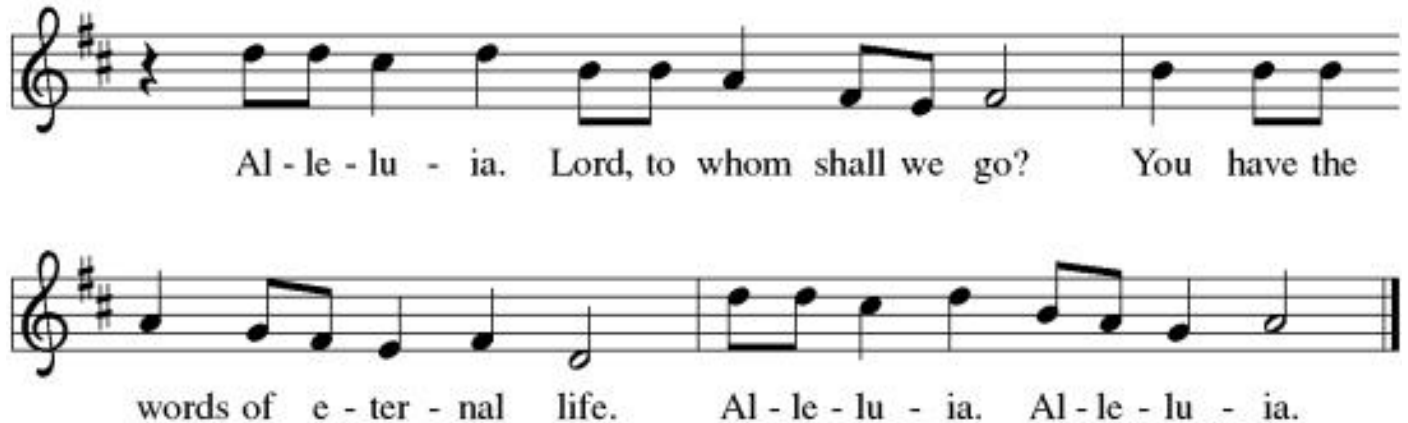
SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

- L ⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L The Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia” S-142a



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two

or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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: “Where Charity and Love Prevail”,

#359

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 Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

WA Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open

us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

WA Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great..

WA Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

WA Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. (*We pray especially for Walt Eccard, Ginny Hammond, Dave Laird, Gary Reynolds . . .*) Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great..

WA Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

WA Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

Congregation sits

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED TO KAREN ERNST

P Karen Ernst, 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. Eternal God,

C We thank you for Karen and for the time we have shared with her. As she has been a blessing to us, so now send her 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 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing". Robert Robinson. Arr. David Nevue. Tim Brown, Piano

Congregation stands

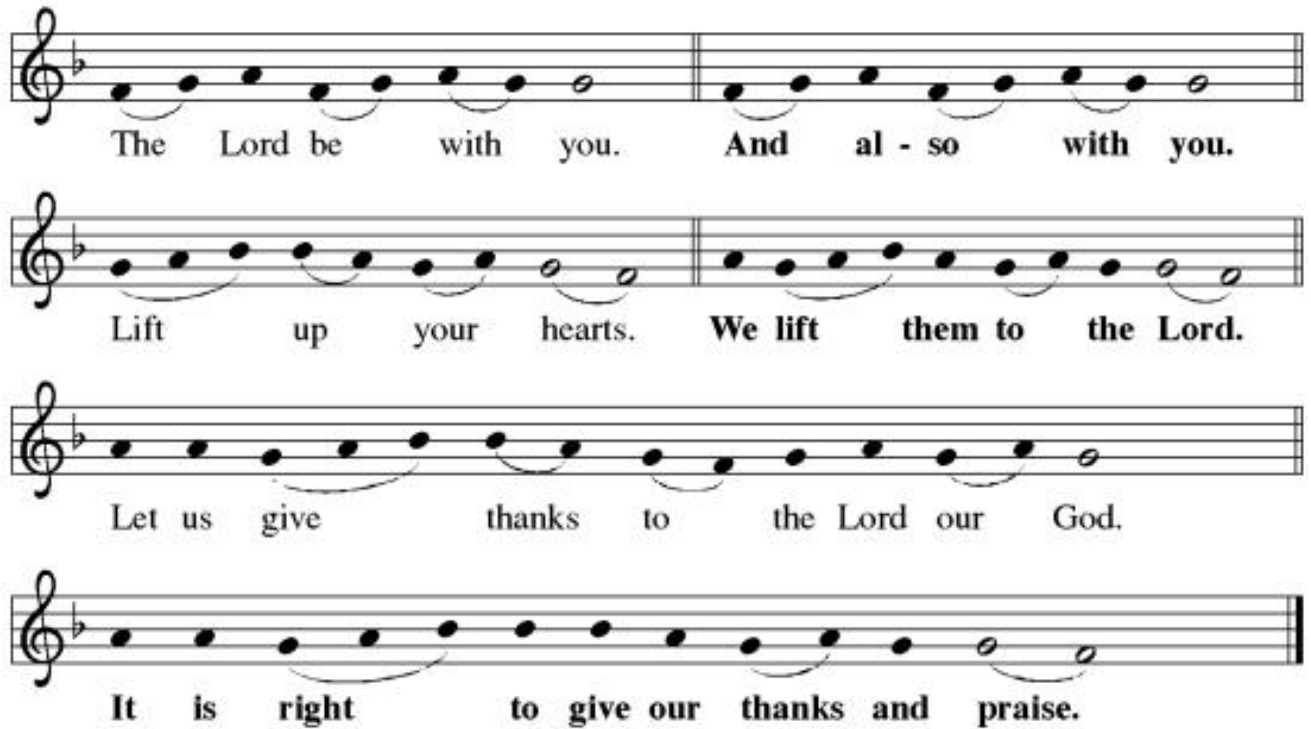
OFFERING HYMN "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful", #184

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*)
(*music on next page*)



- 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
(music on next page)



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 Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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 commune at the Altar.

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

“Although I Speak With Angel’s Tongue”, #644

“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”, #620

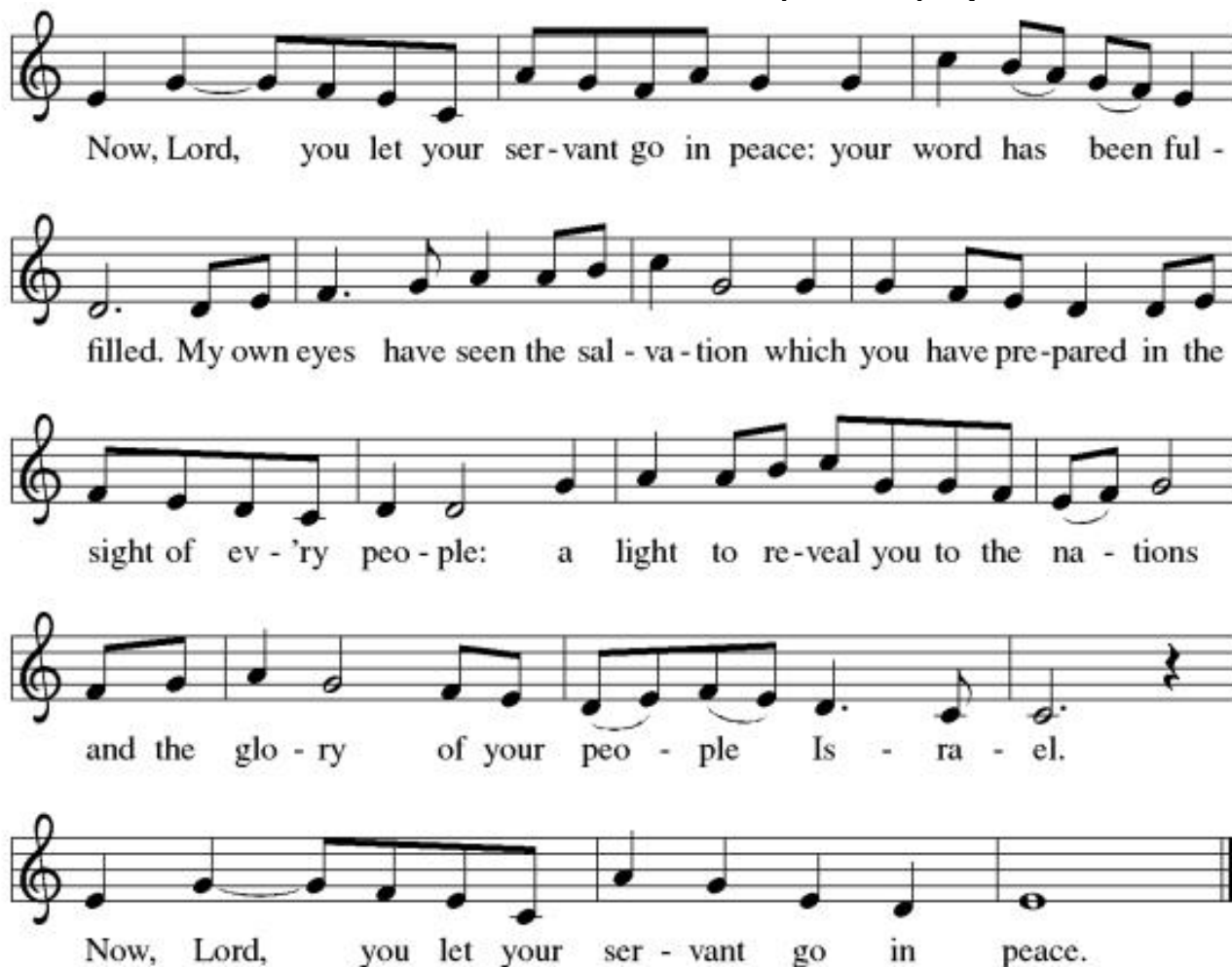
Congregation stands

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 four staves contain the main text of the canticle, and the fifth staff contains the concluding phrase. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or staves.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish
us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send
us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us
living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ.

C Amen.

P The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C Amen.

P The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN “In Christ There Is No East or West”, #650

P Prayer for Our Labor Day Gathering of Fellowship and Food.

DISMISSAL

WA Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

--Thank you for worshipping with us today--

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

Altar Guild: Sara Hart, Kathy Hand | AV Team: Ron & Karen Clark

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: Dona Quinlan, Kathy Rose | Crucifer: Sue Dompkowski

Eucharistic Minister: Karen Barnhart | Greeters: Terry & Debra Hildebrand

Lector: Kim Hawkins | Ushers: Jim Drake, Emil Gnam, Dan Mardis, Bob Regan

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 20

PRAYER LIST September 6, 2026

Walt Eccard, Ginny Hammond, Dave Laird, Gary Reynolds, the people of Nepal

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 our Annual Labor Day picnic. We look forward to saying hello!

SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES

- ❖ **Annual Labor Day picnic TODAY!** All are welcome. The team organized the buffet line to be served **table by table** to keep things moving orderly.
- ❖ **Church office closed** Monday, September 7 due to the Labor Day holiday.
- ❖ **German Club** will meet on Wednesday, September 9 at 2pm due to the Labor Day holiday.
- ❖ **Pantry Food of the Month – Soup - all types are welcome.**
- ❖ **School Supplies Needed for Children:** Thank you to all those who contributed to this very special need. ~*Thank you, Social Ministry Committee.*
- ❖ **Dominican Republic ...Egypt...Guatemala...Indonesia...Kenya...Moldova...Paraguay...Tanzania...United States...Viet Nam!** What do these 10 countries have in common? They received assistance from the Crop Hunger Walk. You can participate in several ways: you can do the 1 mile or 5k walks on Nov 1 at Mulberry Park in Shallotte at 1pm. You can donate to the Crop Hunger Walk, or you can do both. Please consider supporting the walk. Seventy five percent of the amount collected goes to the Crop Programs and twenty five percent goes back to the Lord's Food Pantry. There will be a special offering on September 20th for the crop walk. If paying by check, please make the check payable to CWS. Join the winning team! The St Luke team of 2025 should be very proud. Starting in 2025 a plaque was given to the church with the most walkers and St Luke was the winner... *Thanks, Sara Hart, St. Luke CHW representative.*
- ❖ **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. Fellowship: A luncheon will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ **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.*
- ❖ **Dialogue with God in the Garden:** Come and open your mind with an in-depth dialogue of the first twelve chapters of our Holy Bible, Genesis. Starting Sunday

September 13th, at 9:00AM, one of our newer members, Rev. David Trexler will examine these truth stories in an exciting manner, teaching us the nature of God and the reality of the human condition. Informative and Fun!

- ❖ **New Member Reception** ~ Sunday, September 13th. 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!!

- ❖ **Notes of Thanks:**

I would like to say thank you on behalf of Steve and myself. I wish I was able to thank each of you personally, the outpouring of love for us has been overwhelming. The food, gifts, visits, and phone calls, get well, thinking of you and sympathy cards (almost 200) were so supportive and greatly appreciated. Steve showed everyone that visited his stack of cards. I know he never realized how people felt about him, the kind words were very comforting to both of us. Thank you to Pastor Eichorn, to everyone who participated in service, and to the women of St. Luke for going above and beyond for his reception. Everything was exactly what Steve would have wanted, it was perfect. Honestly thank you does not seem to be enough to express the gratitude and love I have for my St. Luke family. ~*Blessings, Dianne Jewell.*

I would like to thank the congregation for their generous support for the animals of Brunswick County. All dog/cat food was given to Paws-Ability, to be distributed to one of the rescue groups they support. Towels were donated to the “Nooter Scooter”, Brunswick County’s portable spay/neuter clinic jointly operated by Paws-Ability and Fix A Friend. ~*Thank you, Jeanne Nelson.*

- ❖ **Welcoming Timothy Brown!** As Bud begins his upcoming sabbatical, we are thrilled to welcome Timothy (Tim) Brown, who will be filling in to provide our service music. Tim holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Queens University in Piano and Organ study, as well as an MBA from Wingate University. He brings over 35 years of music ministry experience from Charlotte-area churches, where he served as an organist, pianist, and choir director alongside a career in corporate finance. Tim and his wife, Rebecca, recently retired to the NC coastal region to be closer to their three sons and six grandchildren. Please join us in giving Tim a warm welcome to our congregation!

- ❖ **Godspeed to Karen Ernst:** As Karen begins this exciting new path, we surround her with our love, prayers, and deepest gratitude for her time with us. We pray that God guides her steps, fills her journey with joy, and blesses her future endeavors. May His grace be a lamp unto her feet and a light unto her path wherever she goes! **Godspeed, Karen!**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." ~Jeremiah 29:11

....A Loving Prayer for Karen...

Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of **Karen Ernst** and the time we have shared together. As she steps onto this new path, we ask for Your abundant blessings to go with her. Guide her steps, grant her wisdom, and fill her heart with peace and confidence. May she always feel Your presence and our love surrounding her. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

This Week at Saint Luke ~ September, 2026

Sunday, September 6		<i>Adult Sunday School cancelled.</i>
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost		<i>Will resume September 13.</i>
Creation in Christ Sunday	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
	11am	Fellowship & Labor Day Picnic
		All Are Welcome!
Monday, September 7		<i>Church Office Closed for Holiday</i>
	3pm	MexTrain
Tuesday, September 8	10:30am	Listening Group
	1pm	Bridge
Wednesday, September 9	10am	Morning Prayer
	2pm	German Club
	6pm	Handbells
	7pm	Voice Choir
Friday, September 11	11am	SLLC Host GSMA Community wide 9/11
		Event to include luncheon.
		<i>Bible & Bagels cancelled</i>
		<i>Line Dancing cancelled</i>
Saturday, September 12	9am-Noon	The Lord's Food Pantry
Sunday, September 13	9am	Adult Sunday School
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
New Member Reception	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!

Scripture Readings ~ September 13, 2026 ~ Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21 | Psalm 103:[1-7]8-13 | Romans 14:1-12 | Matthew 18:21-35