

**Saint Luke Lutheran Church**  
***Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost***  
***Godspeed & Farewell for***  
***The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor, and Pam***  
**Sunday, September 27, 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.

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The altar flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of *The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor, and Pam* on his retirement. We celebrate their years of faithful service, love, and dedication to our congregation, and we pray for God's richest blessings on their next chapter.

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

~Numbers:6:24-26

"The rose on the altar today is placed in loving memory of Chester the cat."

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

**PRESERVICE MUSIC** "Songs of Worship and Praise" ("O Worship the King", "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing", "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"), arranged by Sharon Elery Rogers. St. Luke Bell Choir, Kim Hawkins director.

We are thrilled to welcome The Reverend Phil Tonnesen, Assistant To The Bishop. He will be playing a part in the Godspeed & Farewell for Pastor and Pam as we celebrate them and pray for them as they settle into retirement.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ❖ **Good morning!**
- ❖ **A special Thank You to The Reverend Phil Tonnesen, Assistant To The Bishop joining us today.**
- ❖ **Wednesday Prayer Gathering – new location Fellowship Hall. Coffee and prayer! All are welcome.**
- ❖ **LMM Food Drive – Saturday, Oct 3, 8:30-3.**
- ❖ **Annual Coat Collection – Oct 11-Nov 1 – drop off in Fellowship Hall. Children's all sizes.**
- ❖ **Fall Cleaning Day – Saturday, Oct 17, 9-Noon.**
- ❖ **Sunday, October 25 – Fall Festival (Pumpkin or Apple dessert) Sign up on community board.**
- ❖ **The Barefoot Queen Riverboat Cruise and luncheon 11:30am-1pm. Cost is \$37/pp. Sign up on community board. Deadline is October 18.**
- ❖ **Not too early! Annual Christmas Show Outing! Matinee performance of Christmas on Main. Tuesday Dec 8 for 1:30pm show and dinner at Carrabba's Ticket \$34/pp and self-pay at the restaurant. Sign up by Sunday, Nov. 29 on community board.**
- ❖ **Good info in the back of bulletin on supporting SLLC Ministries**

## **PRELUDE**

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go". Albert Peace. Arr. by Herbert Colvin. Tim Brown Organ

*Congregation stands*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all 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** Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**P** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and make 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** “Love Divine”, #631

**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** God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Congregation sits*

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

**L** <sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. <sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your

transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

**L The Word of the Lord.**

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9**

**L <sup>1</sup> To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

**C <sup>2</sup> My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

**L <sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.**

**C <sup>4</sup> Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

**L <sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

**C <sup>6</sup> Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

**L <sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

**C <sup>8</sup> You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

**L <sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.**

### **SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13**

**L <sup>1</sup> If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy**

complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

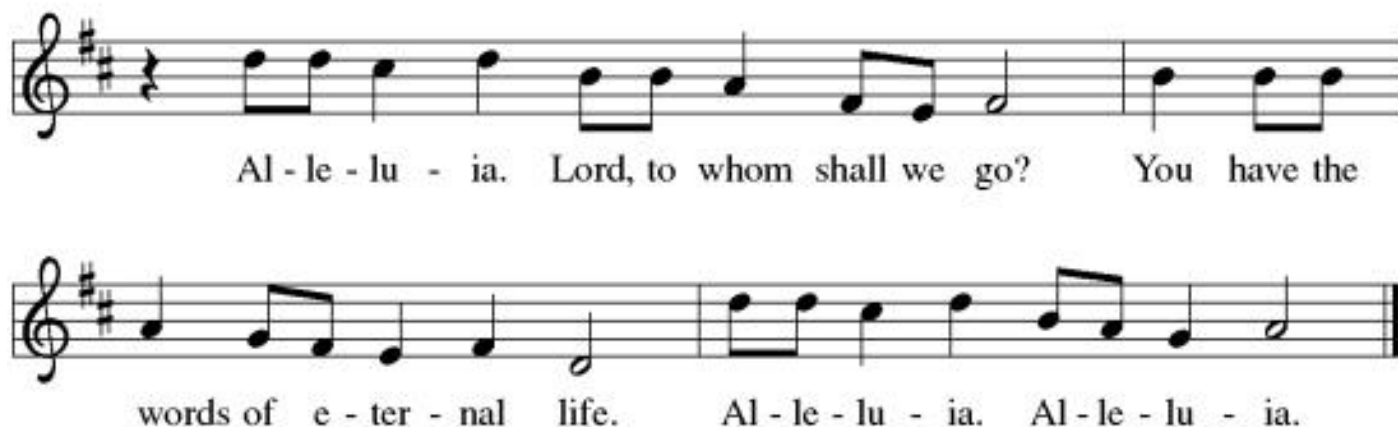
L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Congregation stands*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia” S-142a

*(music on next page)*



### **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

**P** <sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them,

**“Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”**

**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: “Here I Am, Lord”, #574**

**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 Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great.**

**WA You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great.**

**WA Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great.**

**WA Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need (*We pray especially for Sandy Abbandondello, Gary Reynolds . . .*) Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great.**

**WA Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.**

**C Your mercy is great.**

**WA Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve,**

**remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks.  
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.

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*Congregation sits*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** "Once Again" - Words and Music by Matt Redman. Arranged by Tom Fettke. St. Luke Choir. Tim Brown, piano.

*Congregation stands*

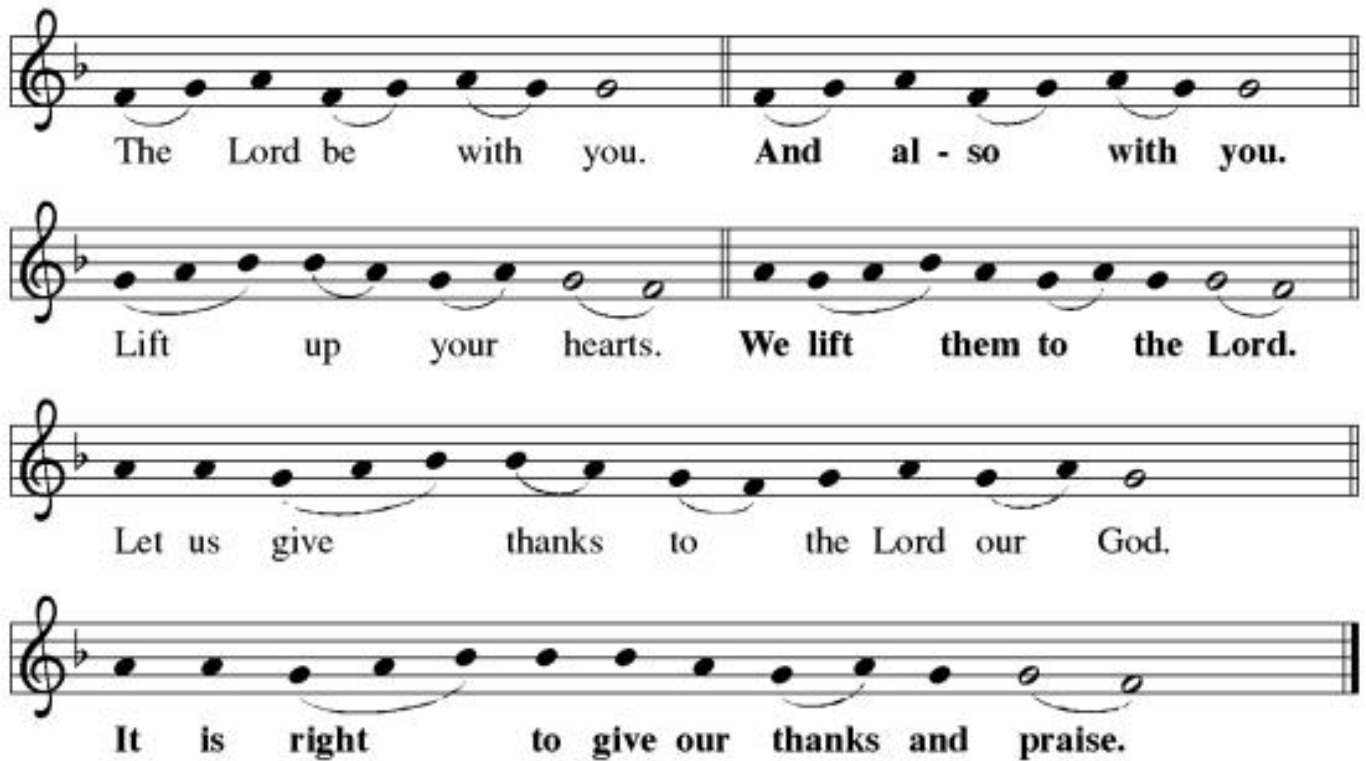
**OFFERING HYMN** "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful", #184

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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.

## 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

“Now We Join in Celebration”, #462

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”, #769

“Lord of All Hopefulness”, #D3:765

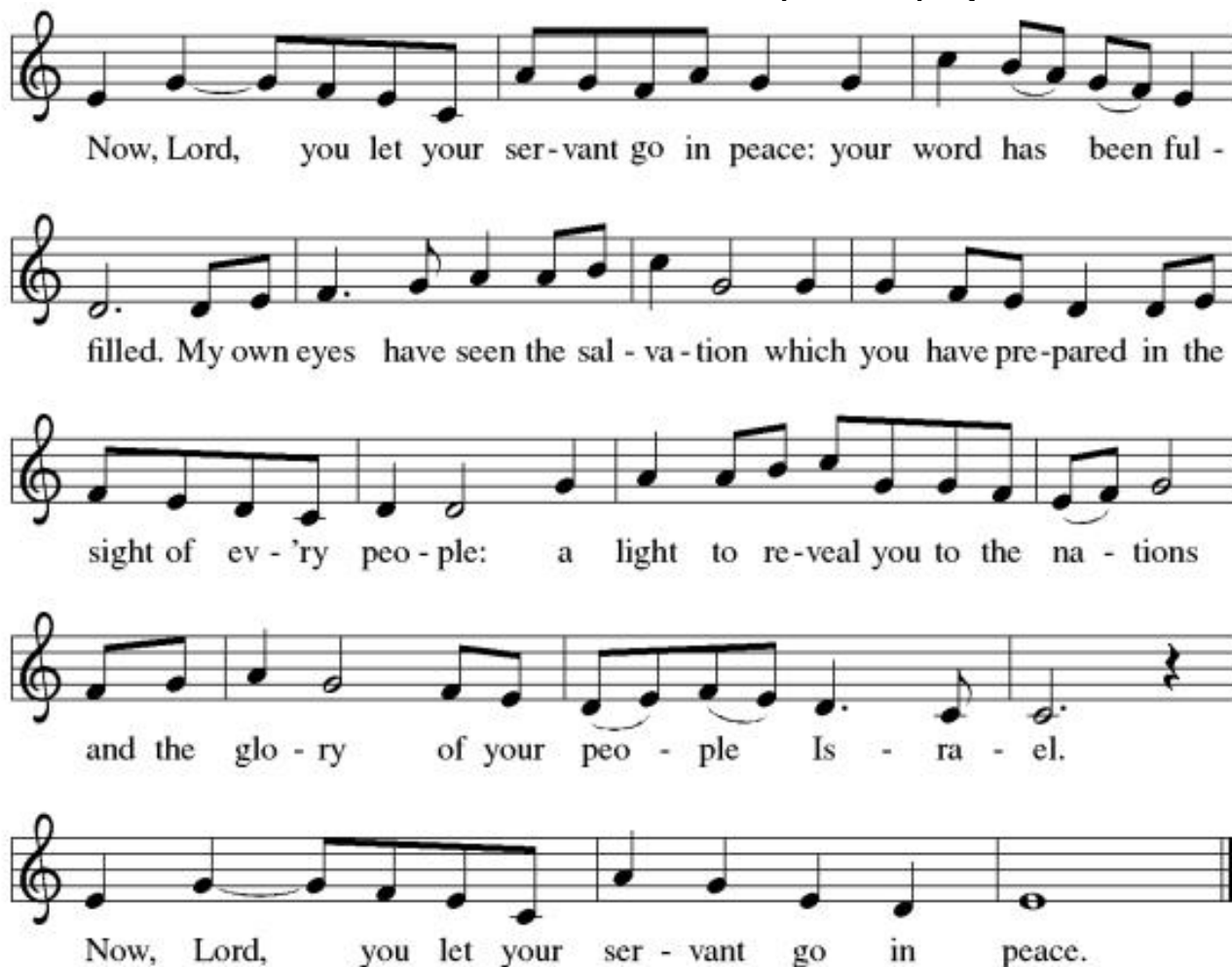
*Congregation stands*

## 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.

## 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.

*Congregation sits*

**GODSPEED AND FAREWELL**

**The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor & Pam**

*(at lectern)*

**Karen Barnhart, Council President**

**KB Pastor Eichorn, you began your ministry as Pastor of Saint Luke on March 16, 2020. You are now retiring and you and Pam are leaving our congregation, and we wish to bid you both Godspeed and Farewell.**

**C Thanks be to God!**

**Remarks from The Reverend Phil Tonnensen, Assistant To The Bishop**

**Marie Keating, Chair of the Call Committee that called Pastor Eichorn**

**MK Pastor we called you to be our pastor; to proclaim God's Word, to baptize and receive new members into the church, we received 104 new members, and to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at our celebrations of the Lord's Supper. With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and our sorrows, you and Pam have been important to our life together at Saint Luke and in our service to this community.**

**C Thanks be to God!**

*(Pastor Phil and Pastor Eichorn move to the Altar rail)*

## **The Reverend Phil Tonnesen, Assistant To The Bishop**

**PT** Pastor Eichorn, you have completed your years of active ministry and are entering into the season of retirement. You have said yes to a new rhythm of rest, reflection, and life. We want to acknowledge that this is a holy transition. Please kneel to receive our prayers:

**PT** Gracious God, you have called us in our baptism to be your servants. You have enabled us to respond to your call as a community of believers. Thank you for the partnership in the gospel that Saint Luke has enjoyed and benefited with Pastor and Pam. Strengthen them for the next chapter in their lives, and may they go from here knowing our love continues with them.

**C** Amen.

## **Pam Eichorn**

**PE** I give thanks for the life we shared together these past six and a half (6<sup>1/2</sup>) years. The memories of what we have done together will always remain precious to us. We will continue to keep you all in our prayers.

**C** Eternal God, we thank you for Pastor and Pam. and for our life together in this congregation and community. We send them forth with our blessings. Amen.

**Karen Barnhart**

*(pastor stands)*

**KB** When we end our worship, you have often said to us,  
“Go in peace. Serve the Lord.” Today we speak it to  
you.

**C** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

## **BLESSING**

**P** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless  
you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**SENDING HYMN** “Lift High the Cross”, #660

## **DISMISSAL**

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

**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: Sara Hart, Sue Dompkowski | AV Team: Ed & Marie Keating

Cantor: Alice Christiansen | 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, Sara Hart | Crucifer: Emil Gnam

Eucharistic Minister: TBD | Greeters: Wanda Green, Dianne Ward

Lector: Emil Gnam | Ushers: Ron & Karen Clark, Emil Gnam, Chris Hawkins

Communion 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](mailto:pastoreichorn@stlukeoib.org) or the Church office.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Please contact the church office to sponsor Sunday altar flowers.

Upcoming availability: October 11, 18, 25 | November 1, 8, 22, 29

**PRAYER LIST September 27, 2026**  
Sandra Abbandonello, Gary Reynolds

**LUTHERAN LIFE**

**WELCOME, THE REVEREND PHIL TONNESEN, ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP.** We are incredibly grateful for his presence, leadership, and words of wisdom as he shares in this special service with our community. Thank you, Pastor Phil, for blessing us with your ministry today and parishioners, please join us in greeting him warmly and thanking him for his ministry among us today.

**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. We look forward to saying hello!  
**SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES**

- ❖ **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. 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!
- ❖ **Wednesday Prayer Gathering – New Location:** Beginning this week, September 30th, our Wednesday prayer gathering will move to the Fellowship Hall. While the location is changing, our time remains the same at 10am. Please join us for coffee, fellowship, and a meaningful time of prayer together—everyone is welcome!
- ❖ **LMM Food Drive** – We need volunteers for the LMM Food Drive on Saturday, October 3, 2026; please sign up on the Community Board.~*Thank you, Dan Mardis.*
- ❖ 🧹 **Fall Cleaning Day:** Come help us care for our church home! Join us on **Saturday, October 17** from **9:00 AM to Noon** for our annual Fall Cleaning Day. We will be tackling indoor and outdoor projects to clean and prepare our building and grounds for the season. Please bring along your **work gloves and favorite hand tools.**
- ❖ 🍎 **Fall Festival Fellowship:** Join us on **Sunday, October 25!** The sign-up sheet is now posted on the Fellowship Board. Please sign up and bring your favorite apple or pumpkin dessert to share during our fellowship time. We can't wait to taste your seasonal favorites! Sign up by October 21.
- ❖ ⚓ **Missing Navy Yearbook** 🇺🇸 It has been noted that the Navy yearbook previously on display in the library is currently missing. It appears someone may have borrowed it to take a closer look. If you have this item, could you please return it to the library as soon as possible so others can enjoy it? Thank you for your help in preserving our community history! ~*Thank you, Ron Clark, Librarian*
- ❖ **The Barefoot Queen Riverboat:** “Laissez les bons temps rouler!” Let the good times roll! We may not be sailing the Mississippi, but a cruise on the waterway of the Grand Strand is the perfect place to enjoy beautiful views, music, cocktails, and fun! Join us on the Barefoot Queen Riverboat for a lunch cruise Thursday, October 29. Enjoy a one-and-a-half-hour cruise (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM) featuring two interior decks and three outdoor spaces, live entertainment, local narration, an included sandwich lunch, and a full cash bar for \$37 per person. Sign-up and payment

deadline is Sunday, October 18. Please contact Karen Nelson at 910-269-3095 for details and questions.

- ❖ The Social Ministry group is holding our annual **coat collection** from October 11th to November 1st. All donations will be delivered to [St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church](#) in Shallotte, where they will be distributed to those in need. Children's sizes are especially needed this year, though all other sizes are greatly appreciated. Drop off in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your continued warmth and generosity!
- ❖ 🎄 **Annual Christmas Show Outing: "Christmas on Main"** Get into the holiday spirit with our annual Christmas show outing! This year, we are traveling to the Greg Rowles Legacy Theatre in North Myrtle Beach for the spectacular matinee performance of "Christmas on Main." Join us on Tuesday, December 8, for the 1:30 PM show, followed by a delicious dinner together at Carrabba's Italian Grill. Tickets for the theatre are \$34 per person, and dinner will be self-pay at the restaurant. Because seats are limited, the hard deadline for both sign-up and payment is Sunday, November 29. Don't miss this wonderful afternoon of festive music, food, and fellowship! For more details or to secure your spot, please contact Karen Nelson at 910-269-3095.

#### This Week at Saint Luke ~ September, 2026

|                                                           |         |                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday, September 27</b>                               | 9am     | Adult Sunday School                       |
| <b>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>                  | 10am    | Worship Service with live streaming       |
| <b><i>Godspeed &amp; Farewell to Pastor &amp; Pam</i></b> | 11am    | Fellowship & Luncheon - All Are Welcome!  |
| <b>Monday, September 28</b>                               | 3pm     | MexTrain                                  |
|                                                           | 4pm     | Property                                  |
|                                                           | 5pm     | LMM Dinner & Meeting                      |
| <b>Tuesday, September 29</b>                              | 10:30am | Listening Group                           |
|                                                           | 1pm     | Bridge                                    |
| <b>Wednesday, September 30</b>                            | 10am    | Morning Prayer & Coffee ~ Fellowship Hall |
| <b><i>Celebrating Pastor's last day in office</i></b>     | 6pm     | Handbells                                 |
|                                                           | 7pm     | Voice Choir                               |
| <b>Sunday, October 4</b>                                  | 9am     | Adult Sunday School                       |
| <b>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>                  | 10am    | Worship Service with live streaming       |
| <b>Pastor David Nelson, guest pastor</b>                  | 11am    | Fellowship - All Are Welcome!             |

**Scripture Readings ~ October 4, 2026 ~ Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 5:1-7 | Psalm 80:7-15 | Philippians 3:4b-14 | Matthew 21:33-46

## A Retirement Tribute of Gratitude and Godspeed

**To Our Beloved Pastor and Pam,** as you step into the well-deserved Sabbath of retirement, the Church Council and your entire family of parishioners gather our hearts to offer our deepest love, utmost gratitude, and highest blessing. We extend our profound thanks to you both for six and a half (6½ ) wonderful years of faithful ministry, dedicated service, and spiritual leadership among us. Your time in our vineyard has been a crowning season of grace, and you have poured your lives unstintingly into the sacred calling of the gospel.

**Together,** you have shepherded this flock with the true hearts of servants—guiding us with wisdom, comforting us in our darkest hours, and modeling a steadfast devotion to the Lord. Pam's grace, kindness, and unwavering support have been a beautiful pillar of strength alongside you, leaving an indelible mark on the very fabric of our church family. You have walked with us through the changing seasons of life, feeding our souls with the Word, sustaining our homes with prayer, and making this community a true sanctuary of Christian love.

**While** we will dearly miss your daily presence and leadership, we rejoice with you as you lay down the heavy mantle of pastoral care to enjoy the fruits of your long labor. We bid you a loving farewell and Godspeed, praying that this next season of rest is filled with abundant joy, good health, and the deep peace of Christ. Your legacy is securely engraved in our hearts, your impact will endure for years to come, and your names will forever remain in our prayers.

### **Joyful Praise and Continuous Blessings on Your Path to Retirement**

*"You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness  
of joy; at your right hand  
are pleasures forevermore."*

*~Psalm 16:11*

**May** the blessings of family, friends and health and the satisfaction of a job well done fill your life with happiness. God bless your retirement, and may He crown this next chapter of your lives with His greatest joys!

