

Saint Luke Lutheran Church

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 20, 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 in honor of *Wife Appreciation Day*. We offer them with deep gratitude to thank all wives for their love, devotion, and everything they do. In celebrating the wives in our community, we also honor the Church—the collective Bride of God—called to love and serve Him beautifully.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy... and to present her to himself as a radiant church." ~Ephesians 5:25-27

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Lead On O King Eternal / The Lord is my Light". H. Smart / F. Alletsin. Arr. Anna L. Page. 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 God of Grace and God of Glory", #705

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*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WA **Let us pray.**

C Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congregation sits

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

L ¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

C ² **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

L ³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

C ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

L ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

C ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

L ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

C ⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia” S-142a (front of hymnal)

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation sits

+ SERMON +THE REVEREND DR. CHRISTIAN EICHORN, PASTOR+

Silence for reflection

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Canticle of the Turning”, #723

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 ...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 "Walk Worthy", music by Joseph M. Martin, words by J. Paul Williams, 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*)

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn: S-144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is more complex than the previous hymn, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

P ...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P ...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*)

COMMUNION HYMNS

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee", #759

"Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus", #802

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*)

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 Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN “How Great Thou Art”, #856

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: Karen Barnhart, Cindy Eaton | AV Team: Rodney & Leigh Ann Stinson
Cantor: Joan Eccard | 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, Rod Meadows | Crucifer: Jim Drake
Eucharistic Minister: Sue Heitmuller | Greeters: Sue Heitmuller, Joy Smith
Lector: Rodney Stinson | Ushers: Ray & Cindy Eaton, Jim Meyer, Wayne Huffman
Communion Assistant: Kristen Killoran

NEW MEMBERS

Are you looking for a new church family? We'd love to help you connect with others in the church and grow in our Faith Community together. If you are thinking about joining St. Luke, please contact Pastor Eichorn at 610.393.7622 or pastoreichorn@stlukeoib.org or the Church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please contact the church office to sponsor Sunday altar flowers.
Upcoming availability: October 11, 18, 25 | November 1, 8, 22, 29

PRAYER LIST September 20, 2026

Guillermo Gonzalez, Steve Kirby, Donna Cutsforth, Autumn Setola,
Janice & Carlo DiGioia, Marcia Shaw, Mike Applegate,
and the families of Pastor Charles Froelich and Milton Bailey

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. We look forward to saying hello!

SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES

❖ **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.*

- ❖ 📺 **9/11 Service Online:** If you missed our **9/11 Remembrance Service**, the full recording is now **available online**. You can watch the service anytime on our website or streaming channel
- ❖ **Note of Thanks:** The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank all who donated school supplies this year for students at Union Elementary School. Your support and generosity are always amazing, and the students and staff are extremely grateful for your donations.
- ❖ **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!
- ❖ **LMM Food Drive** – We need volunteers for the LMM Food Drive on Saturday, October 3, 2026; please sign up on the Community Board to work in 2-hour increments. *~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**.
- ❖ **WOSL Dinner and Meeting:** Calling all ladies! Mark your calendars for Monday, September 21, at 5:00 PM for our next WOSL meeting and dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy a wonderful night of great food, sweet fellowship, and uplifting conversation—we can't wait to see you there! *~Joyce Charity.*
- ❖ 🍏 **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*



SAINT LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor | cell/text: 610.393.7622 | email: pastoreichorn@stlukeoib.org

Kristen Killoran, Pam Eichorn, Worship Assistant

Bud Esper, M.A., Director of Music | stlukemusic@stlukeoib.org

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St Luke Lutheran Church Financial Summary

Source of Information	St. Luke Financial Summary		
	August 2026		
		Month	Year to Date
Monthly and annual from the Budget Performance Report pg. 1	Revenues	\$ 28,302	\$ 235,082
Monthly and annual from the Budget Performance Report pg. 3	Expenditures	\$ 27,174	\$ 225,064
	Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,128	\$ 10,018
Total of the monthly/annual mortgage principal (included in Expenditures above)	Mortgage Principal	\$ 3,615	\$ 28,910
Total of the monthly/annual mortgage interest (included in Expenditures above)	Mortgage Interest	\$ 2,188	\$ 17,517
	Mortgage Balance	\$ 594,332	
	Average Sunday Service Participation		
Attendance taken by Ushers, averaged monthly and year to date	Attendance	131	127
From YouTube, average monthly and year to date. Note: these are devices connected to YouTube, total people would be more dependent on household.	YouTube Views	69	69
	Steve Jewell Memorial	Attendance 140	You Tube 115

This Week at Saint Luke ~ September, 2026

Sunday, September 20	9am	Adult Sunday School
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
	11am	Fellowship All Are Welcome!
Monday, September 21	3pm	MexTrain
	5pm	WOSL Dinner & Meeting
Tuesday, September 22	10:30am	Listening Group
	1pm	Bridge
Wednesday, September 23	10am	Morning Prayer
	6pm	Handbells
	7pm	Voice Choir
Thursday, September 24	10am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	2pm	CMM Meeting - Library
Friday, September 25	9am	Bible & Bagels
	10am	Line Dancing
Sunday, September 26	9am	Adult Sunday School
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!

Scripture Readings ~ September 26, 2026 ~ Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 | Psalm 25:1-9 | Philippians 2:1-13 | Matthew 21:23-32