

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



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 *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

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*)

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 The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

L ¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

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

L ³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be
put to shame who are treacherous.

C ⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

L ⁵ 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 ⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are
from everlasting.**

L ⁷ 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 ⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach
sinners in your way.**

L ⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

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 21:23-32

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: "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 ...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

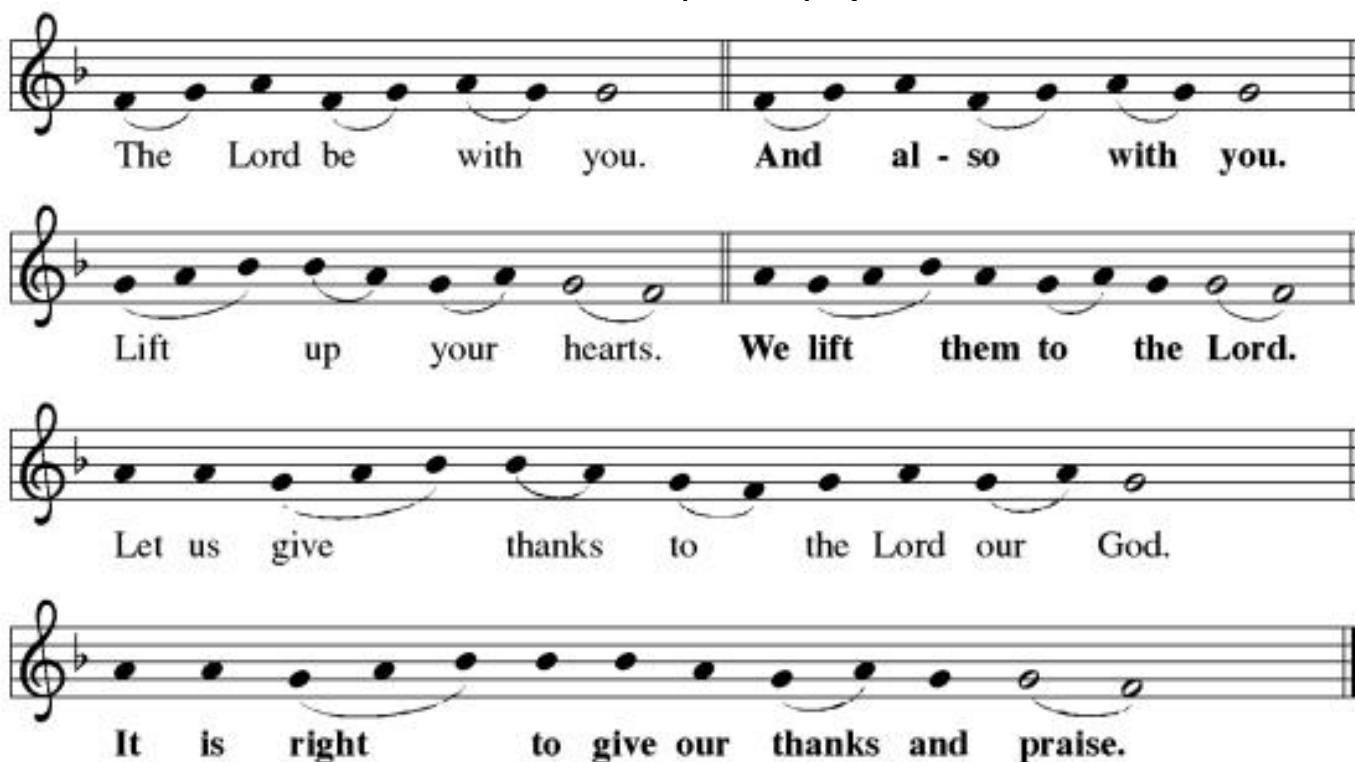
OFFERING HYMN "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful", #184

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*)



The musical notation for "The Great Thanksgiving S-144a" consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes with ties. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words spanning across bar lines. The first staff contains the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff contains "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff contains "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff contains "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The music ends with a double bar line.

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.

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

(*music on next page*)



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

“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*)

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

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!

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^{1/2}) years. The memories of what we have done together will always remain precious to us. We will continue to keep you 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, Council President

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 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 Abbandondello, 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
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- ❖ t 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

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



SAINT LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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main: 910.579.0107 | email: stlukeelca@stlukeoib.org | website: stlukeoib.org

office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm

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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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!

