

Saint Luke Lutheran Church

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 4, 2026

The Reverend David P. Nelson, Guest Pastor

Pastor's Version



SAINT LUKE WELCOMES ALL TO WORSHIP!

We are grateful for your presence in today's worship. Your participation truly makes a difference. We hope you feel encouraged, blessed, and welcomed! In preparation for worship, please silence all electronic devices when entering the sanctuary in reverence to God and respect for others.

~ Members and visitors ~
Kindly remember to sign in using the
friendship binders in your pew.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of *Beth Grunewalder*.
They are placed by her husband, John.

*"Many waters cannot quench love;
rivers cannot wash it away."
~Song of Solomon 8:7.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“This Is My Father’s World”. English Melody arr. By Diane Bish.

Congregation stands

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. Gracious 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 Hear this good news: 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 “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”, #707

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)

Queue WORSHIP ASSISTANT mic (Kristen's part)

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;



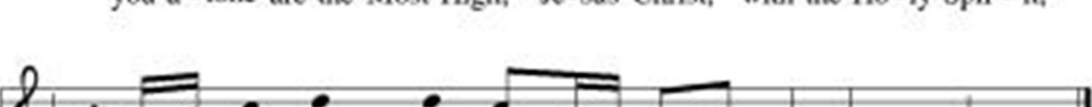
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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 Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congregation sits

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

L ¹I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15

- L ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**
- C ⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**
- L ⁹You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.**
- C ¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**
- L ¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.**
- C ¹²Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**
- L ¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.**
- C ¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**
- L ¹⁵behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

- L [Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith**

in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.
¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" S-142a



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-56

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P [Jesus said:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went

away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? ⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation sits

✠ SERMON ✠

✠ THE REVEREND DAVID P. NELSON, PASTOR ✠

Silence for reflection

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY: “The Church of Christ In Every Age”,
#729

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 Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

WA God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

WA God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

WA God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world’s conflict zones, and shelter those who live

within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

WA God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering. *We pray especially for Gary Reynolds, Karen Drakulic, Joyce Stinson, Mike Claxton, Aliana Neufeld, Ginny Hammond, Jim Woodason, Jennifer Garner, Chuck Beardall and the families of Preston Huffman and Pattie Jean Eaton. . .)* Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

WA God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

WA God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregation sits

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "A Vineyard Grows" ("*Amid the World's Bleak Wilderness*") - Based on an English folk song. Jaroslav J. Vajda, setting by K. Lee Scott. 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*)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Life up your hearts.

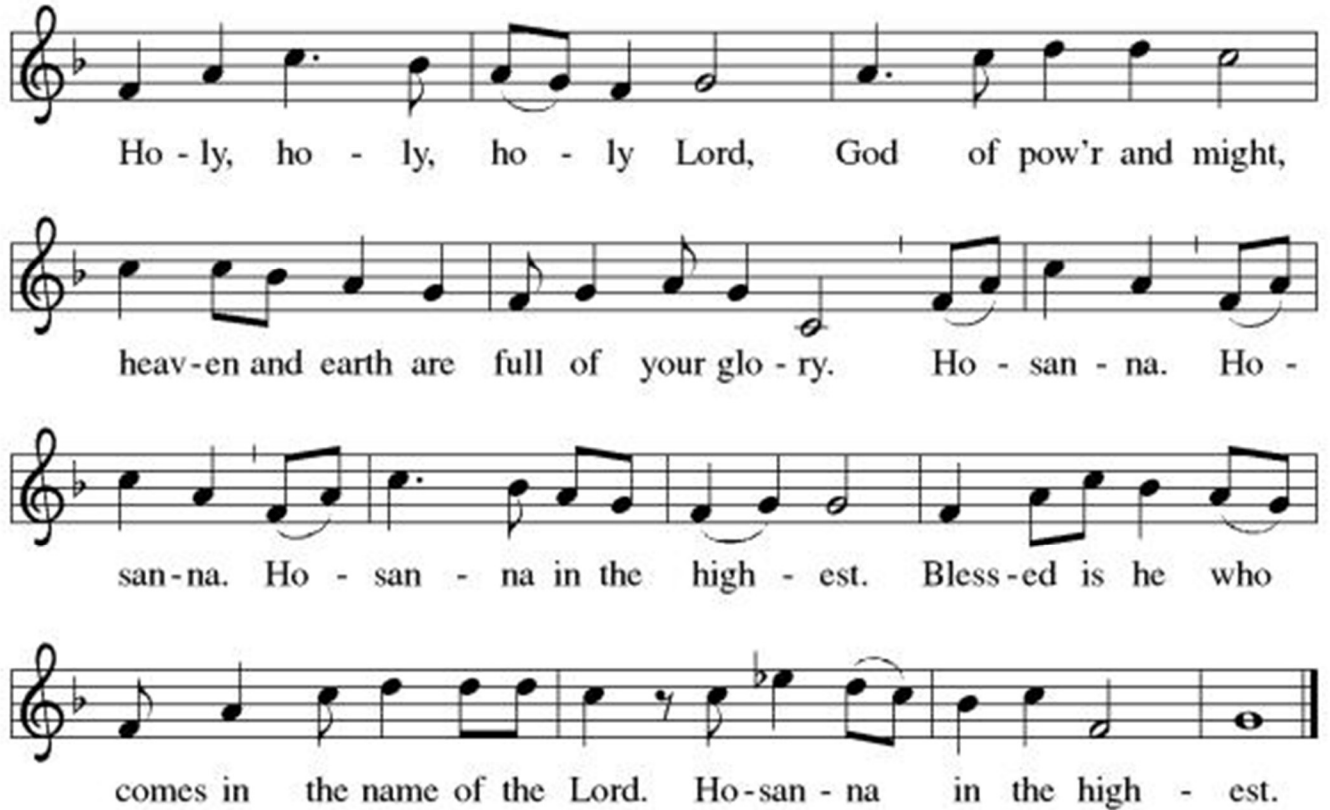
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



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.

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 today.

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

“My Song is Love Unknown”, #343

“God of Grace, God of Glory”, #705

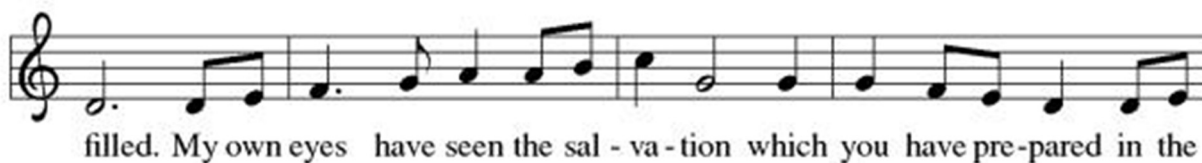
Congregation stands

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 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”,
#803

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: Lori Schneider, Dianne Ward | AV Team: Dan & Deb Mardis

Cantor: John Grunewalder | 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: Lori Schneider, Dianne Ward | Crucifer: Dan Mardis

Eucharistic Minister: Karen Barnhart | Greeters: Kenn & Jeanne Nelson

Lector: Sue Heitmuller | Ushers: Wayne Huffman, Kenn Nelson, Becky Overcash,
Beverly Werner | Worship 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 r 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 October 4, 2026

Gary Reynolds, Karen Drakulic, Joyce Stinson, Mike Claxton, Aliana Neufeld,
Jim Woodason, Ginny Hammond, Jennifer Garner, Chuck Beardall and
the families of Preston C. Huffman and Pattie Jean Eaton

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

❖ **Note of Thanks:** I received so many wonderful comments and thank yous after
presenting the Temple talk and slide presentation on my family mission in Tanzania.
This journey is truly a testimony to God's faithfulness and His work around the
world. As I continue working with the Central Diocese of Tanzania and the Sepuka
Lutheran Church, the outpouring of love and compassion we share for these children
and their education remains vital to their future. Thanks to your support, we will
soon be sending the funds to have local carpenters build desks for the schools. The

headmasters of each school have sent their deepest thanks and appreciation for remembering their students. *As we work Hand in Hand, Kathy Hand.*

- ❖ On behalf of the **Prayer Shawl ministry**, I want to express our deepest gratitude for Sandra Abbandandolo's **generous donation of beautiful yarn**. Every stitch we make is filled with prayers for healing and comfort, and your gift ensures we can continue this meaningful work. May God bless you for your thoughtful heart and support of our ministry. *~Blessings, Cindy Eaton.*
- ❖ **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!
- ❖ 🧹 **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.

- ❖ **Help Us Extend Our Reach!** 🇺🇸 We are seeking volunteers to join a rotational team responsible for uploading our Sunday livestream service to the website. Other website maintenance tasks are also available. Basic laptop navigation skills are required. To learn more or to volunteer, please contact **Lori Schneider (910) 232-7558**.
- ❖ **St. Luke Blood Drive!** Did you know that there is a critical need for blood at this time? Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. You can help by donating blood to the Red Cross. St. Luke will be hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, October 28 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. To sign up visit: **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter: **Luke to schedule an appointment**. Please tell your friends and neighbors and together we can give the gift of life.
- ❖ **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.*

This Week at Saint Luke ~ October, 2026

Sunday, October 4	9am	Adult Sunday School
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
Pastor David P. Nelson, Guest Pastor	11am	Fellowship & Luncheon - All Are Welcome!
Monday, October 5	2pm	German Club
	3pm	MexTrain
Tuesday, October 6	10:30am	Listening Group
	1pm	Bridge
Wednesday, October 7	10am	Morning Prayer & Coffee ~ Fellowship Hall
	6pm	Handbells
	7pm	Voice Choir
Friday, October 9	9am	Bible & Bagels - Fellowship Hall Narthex
	10am	<i>Line Dancing cancelled</i>
Saturday, October 10	9am-Noon	The Lord's Food Pantry
Sunday, October 11	9am	Adult Sunday School
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
Pastor David Trexler, Guest Pastor	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!

Scripture Readings ~ October 11, 2026 ~ Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9 | Psalm 23 | Philippians 4:1-9 | Matthew 22:1-14