Saint Luke Lutheran Church
Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 8, 2026
The Reverend Dr. Beth Spitzner Neubauer, Interim 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 flower gracing the altar today
is given in memory of Ginny Gardner.
She remains forever a cherished and beloved daughter in the heart of her father, Chuck Gardner.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." ~1 Corinthians 13:13

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY
Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

PRESERVICE MUSIC
"Houston" ("I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"), Kathleen Thomerson, arr. Mark Sedio, David Cherwien. Bud Esper, piano. (c) 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE
"Royal Oak" ("All Things Bright and Beautiful", 17th century English melody), arr. Martha Lynn Thompson. St. Luke Handbell Choir, Kim Hawkins, Conductor.
(c) 2007 AGEHR Publishing.
Congregation stands
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C Amen.

Silence for reflection

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Holy God,

C **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

P Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Jesus Shall Reign", #434

APOSTOLIC GREETING

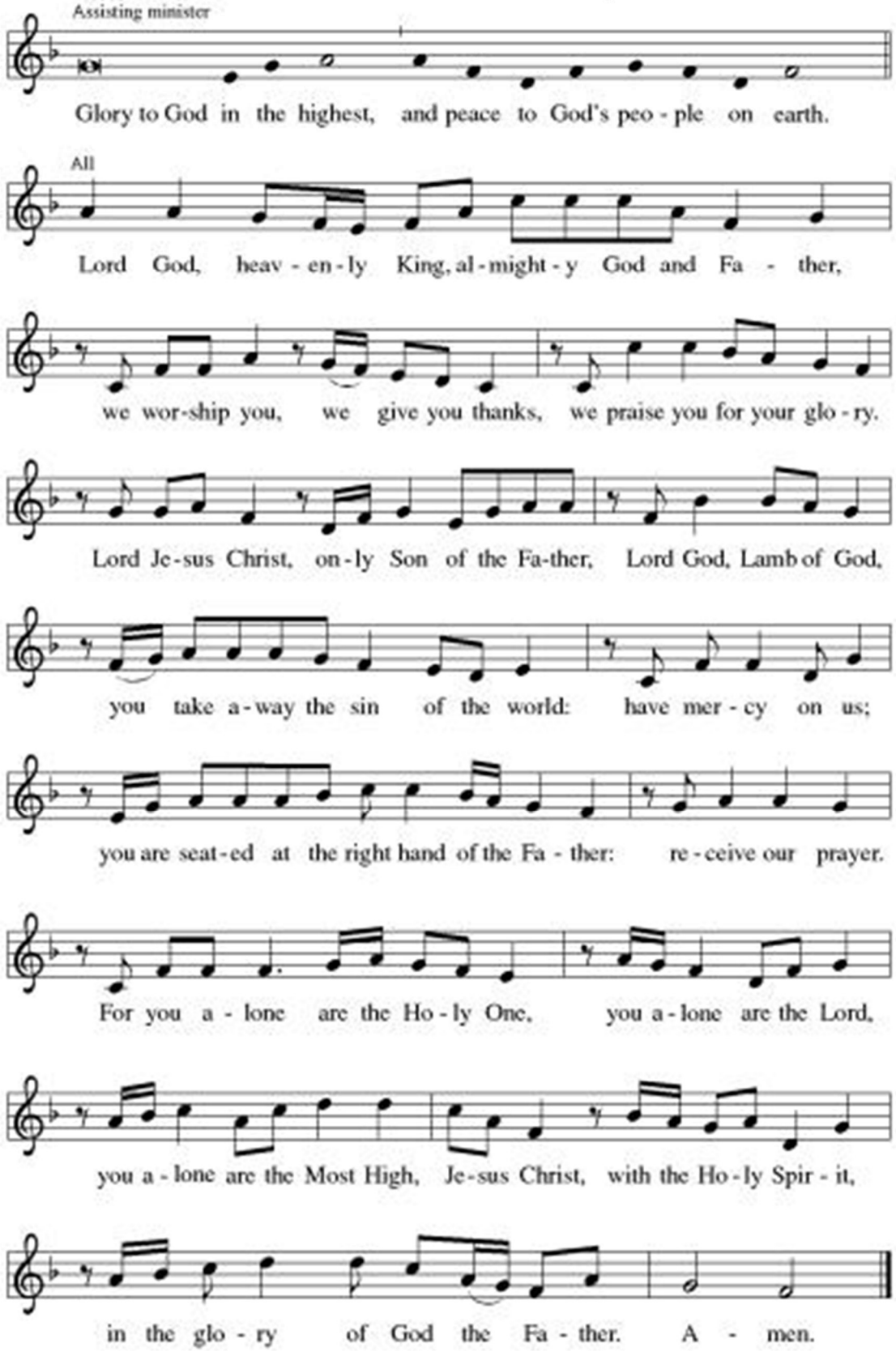
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Gloria" S-139 *(front of hymnal)*

(Music on next page)

Queue Lectern mic (Cantor will sing)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

WA Let us pray.

C O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congregation sits

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

L [18] Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light,
[19] as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. [20] Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? [21] I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. [22] Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. [23] Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. [24] But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 70

L [1] Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.

C [2] Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

L [3] Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

C [4] **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"**

L [5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

L [13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

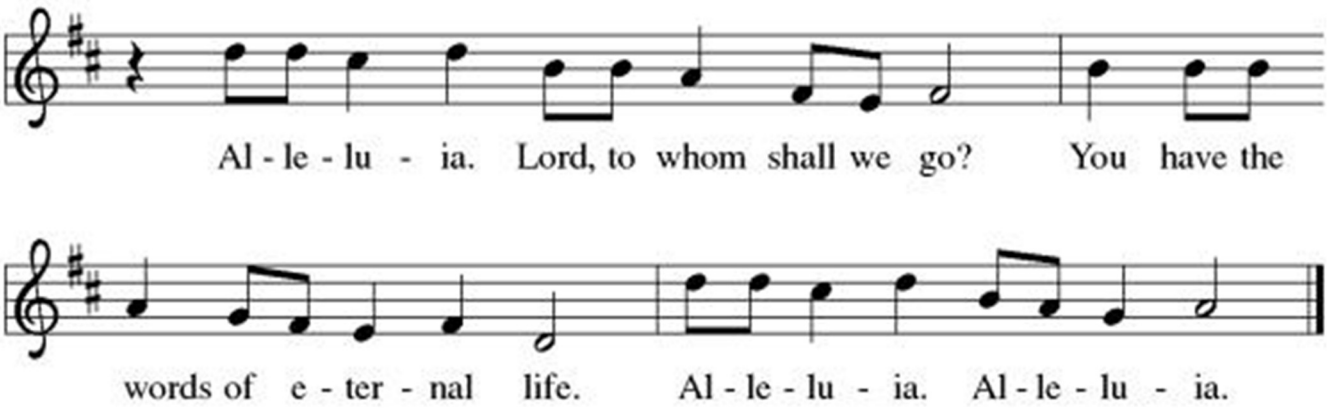
L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" S-142a

(music on next page)



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P [Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation sits
✢ SERMON ✢ Escha-What-ogy?
What Is It? And Why Does It Matter?
✢ The Reverend Dr. Beth Spitzner Neubauer, Interim Pastor
Silence for reflection

Congregation stands
HYMN OF THE DAY: "O Christ What Can It Mean for Us", #431

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
WA United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

WA You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your

kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. (*We pray especially Amanda Nash, Ellis Bolick, Chris Tople, the family of Jerry Tople.*) God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregation sits

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Be Still and Know That I Am God" (based on Psalm 46), Rebecca Rufin. St. Like Voice Choir. (c) 2020 Rebecca Rufin

Congregation stands

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

OFFERING PRAYER

WA Let us pray.

C Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING S-144a *(front of hymnal)*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

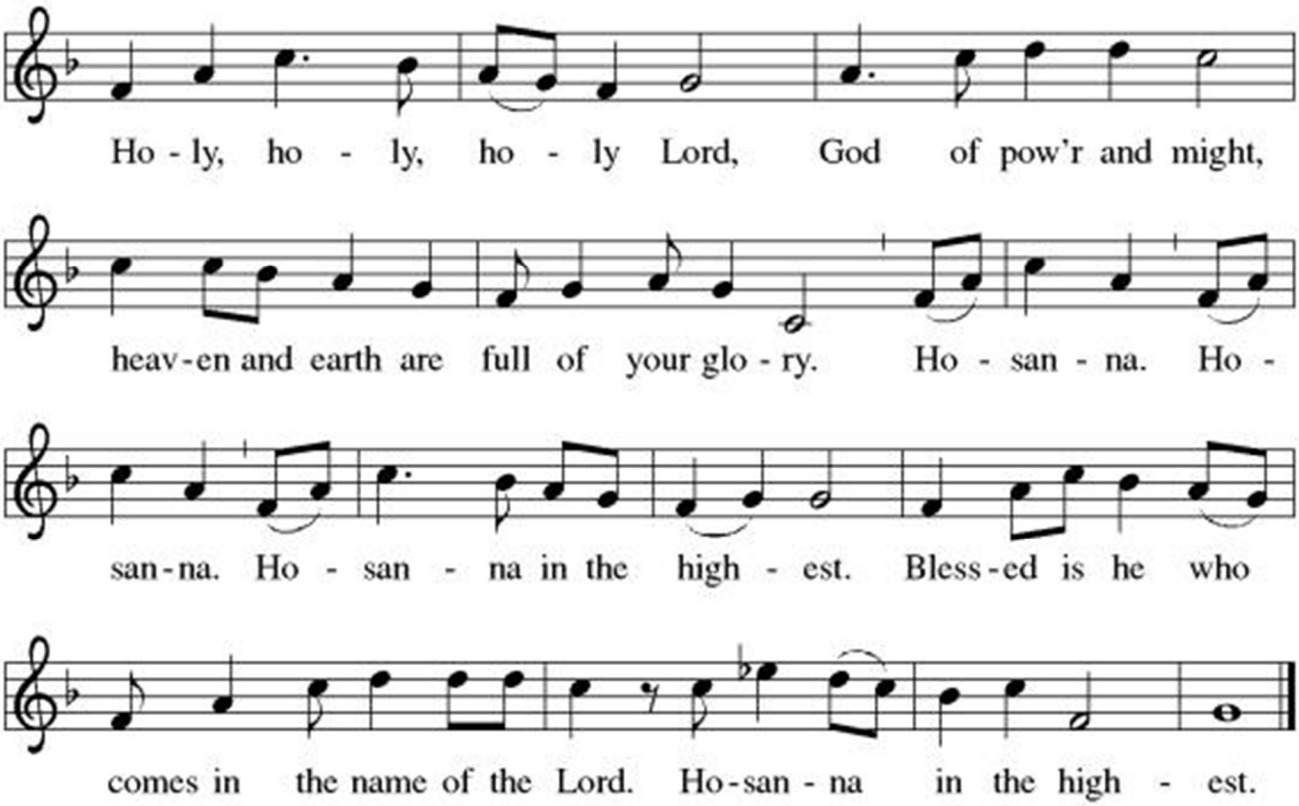
P Life up your hearts.

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 (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

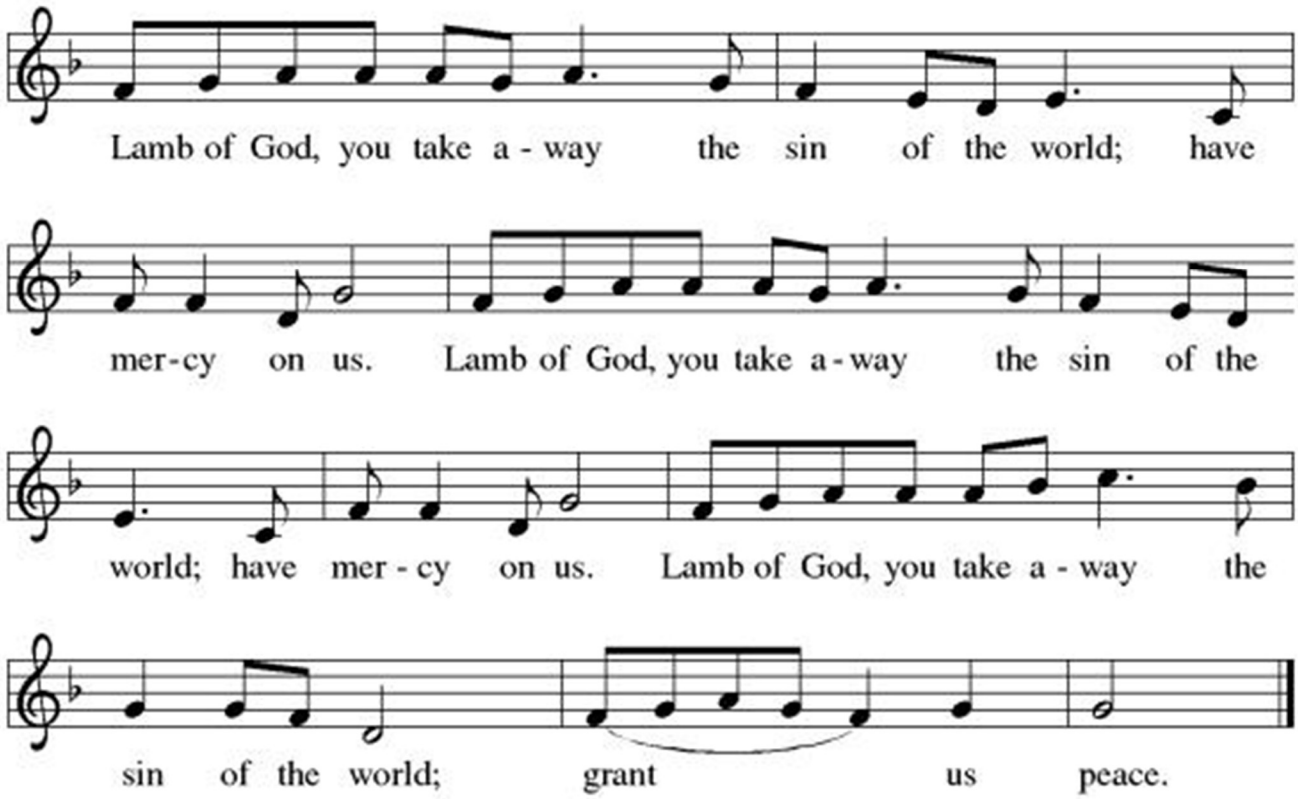
P In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

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.

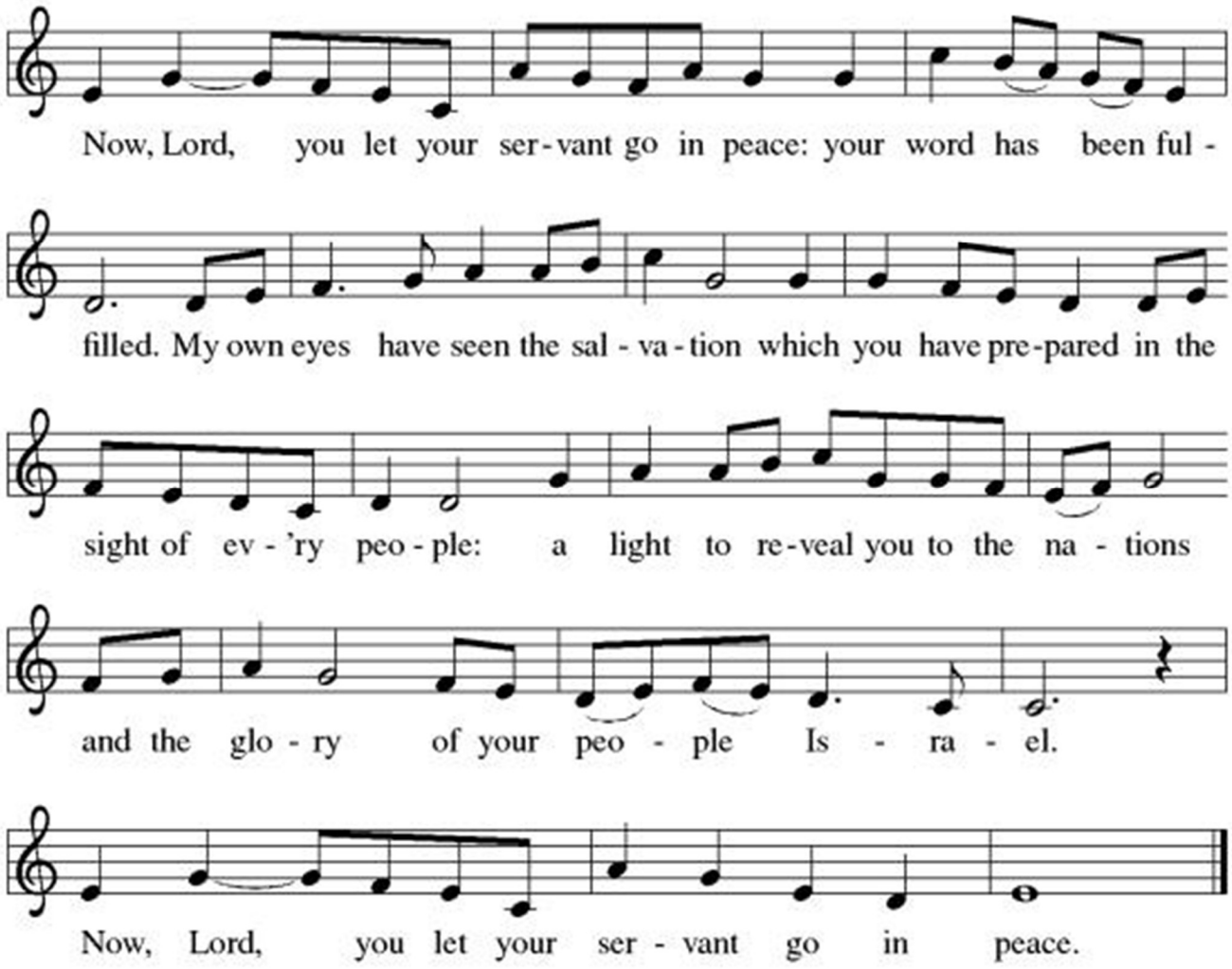
LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei) S-146 *(front of hymnal) (music on next page)*



COMMUNION HYMNS
"On Jordan's Stormy Banks", #437
"O Happy Day When We Shall Stand", #441

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)*
(music on next page)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WA Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN "To Be Your Presence", #546

DISMISSAL

WA Go in peace. Encourage one another.
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: Cindy Hathaway, Faye Arvonio | 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: Beverly Werner, Kathy Rose | Crucifer: Dan Mardis
Eucharistic Minister: Karen Barnhart | Greeters: Dianne Ward, Wanda Green
Lector: Rodney Stinson | Ushers: Wayne Huffman, Dianne Jewell, Kenn Nelson, Becky Overcash | 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: December 27

PRAYER LIST November 8, 2026

Amanda Nash, Ellis Bolick, Chris Tople, the family of Jerry Tople

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

- **New Member Interest Meeting – TODAY!** Following Worship! Those who might be considering St. Luke as a spiritual home are invited to meet with Pastor Beth after worship. Several congregational leaders also look forward to welcoming you, telling you a bit about the congregation, and answering your questions about membership. This is an exciting time to share as we call a new pastor and map plans for our future. We hope you will join with us! (If you can't stay today but would like more information about membership, please let Pastor Beth know.)
- **New Members** will be received at worship next **Sunday, November 15**.
- The **WOSL** will meet on **Monday, November 16 at 5:00 in Fellowship Hall**. Robin Ralph will speak to us about caring for someone with dementia. We'll be collecting cake mixes, frosting, or a can of Sprite for the Food Pantry. Hope to see you there!
- 🎄 **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.

- **BFA Christmas Gift Program-Fill the Sleigh Christmas gift program** - BFA Gift Program Update: we have received 15 more names of clients in need so there are now more tags on the tree in the lobby of the fellowship hall! If you spoke to me about getting a name, please take the tag with your name on it. The other tags are for anyone. Unwrapped gifts are due back by Nov 21. Thank you for caring about others! Joan Eccard.
- **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**.
- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)** ~ Wreaths Across America honors fallen veterans by placing wreaths on their graves nationwide. The American Legion Auxiliary will again participate in WAA this year. Wreaths are $17/each. Please make your check payable to SLLC “memo line WAA” and turn into the collection plate or drop off at the church office. The deadline to purchase a wreath is Sunday, November 16. *~Thank you, Glenn Christiansen.*
- **COOKIES!** We need cookies for fellowship! Please drop off these items in the Kitchen.
- **NOTES OF THANKS**

  Thank you so much for your incredible support with the blood drive last week! Together, we collected **27 units of lifesaving blood, including 8 Power Reds**. Well done!! I hope the experience was positive for everyone involved. By hosting this drive, you’ve made a real difference for patients with sickle cell disease, mothers facing complicated childbirths, cancer patients, trauma victims, and so many others in need. We truly appreciate all your efforts in making this drive a success, and look forward to doing it again next year. Thank you for continuing to support the American Red Cross and for being an essential part of our lifesaving mission. *~Gratefully, Beau Harry, Donor Recruitment.*
- **Thank you** to everyone who donated new and gently used coats! We collected 52 coats, along with several beautifully hand-knit headbands and scarves. Thank you for your incredible warmth and generosity. *~Social Ministry.*

St Luke Lutheran Church
Financial Summary

Source of Information	St. Luke Financial Summary		
	October 2026		
		Month	Year to Date
Monthly and annual from the Budget Performance Report pg. 1	**Revenues**	$ 25,228	$ 287,673
Monthly and annual from the Budget Performance Report pg. 3	**Expenditures**	$ 20,462	$ 285,443
	Surplus (Deficit)	$ 5,037	$ 2,230
Total of the monthly/annual mortgage principal (included in Expenditures above)	**Mortgage Principal**	$ 3,711	$ 36,249
Total of the monthly/annual mortgage interest (included in Expenditures above)	**Mortgage Interest**	$ 2,092	$ 21,784
	Mortgage Balance	$ 586,993	
	Average Sunday Service Participation		
Attendance taken by Ushers, averaged monthly and year to date	**Attendance**	115	126
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**	87	74
	NOTES: Donations below budget; Expenses low primarily due to Pastor retirement		

This Week at Saint Luke ~ November, 2026

Sunday, November 8	9am	Adult Sunday School
Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
WOSL Bake Sale	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!
New Member Interest Meeting	11:15am	Library – Anyone interested in joining Saint Luke, grab your refreshments and join us!
Monday, November 9	3pm	MexTrain
Tuesday, November 10	10am	Morning Prayer & Coffee – Fellowship Hall
	10:30am	Listening Group
		No Social Committee Meeting for November
	1pm	Bridge
Wednesday, November 11	6pm	Handbells
	7pm	Voice Choir
Friday, November 13	9am	Bible & Bagels
	10am	Line Dancing
Saturday, November 14	9am-Noon	The Lord's Food Pantry
Sunday, November 15	9am	Adult Sunday School
Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship with live streaming
New Member Sunday	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!

Scripture Readings ~ November 15, 2026 ~ Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 | Psalm 90:1-8[9-11]12 | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 | Matthew 25:14-30

SAINT LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm
The Reverend Dr. Beth Spitzner Neubauer, Interim Pastor

Kristen Killoran, Worship Assistant
Bud Esper, M.A., Director of Music | stlukemusic@stlukeoib.org
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