

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 20, 2026, 8:30 AM/10:30 AM**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**

\*Bulletins are subject to change based on the Pastors' discretion

**Prelude** *Largo* *Antonio Vivaldi*

**Ringling of the Church Bell**

**Announcements**

**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: Let us confess our sin to God.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, Let us confess our sin to God.

P: Compassionate 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** *Voices Raised to You* *ELW #845 VS 1-4*

**Greeting and Kyrie** pp. 147-148

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.**

**Kyrie**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**The Hymn of Praise** (This is the feast) pp. 149-150

P: This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia.

**C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God,**

**Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever, Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Prayer of the Day:**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11**

L: <sup>10</sup> When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. <sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>3</sup> And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup> And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup> The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." <sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup> Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

**Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8 (read responsively)**

P: <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

**C: <sup>2</sup> Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

P: <sup>3</sup> Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

**C: <sup>4</sup> One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

P: <sup>5</sup> I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

**C: <sup>6</sup> They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

P: <sup>7</sup> They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

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

Special Music (8:30 Service)

*Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God -*  
Senior Choir

*G.F. Hankel*

**Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30**

**Lector:** <sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. <sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you,

I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**Gospel Acclamation**

"Allelulia, Lord to whom shall we go?"

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**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**All: Glory to you, O Lord/ Praise to You, O Christ!**

**The Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

P: Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup> They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

**Children's Message**

**Blessing of the Backpacks**

Sunday School Teachers: Sandy Deal, Jan Gordon, Bailey Benson, Kayla Leiran, Becky Roe, Annette Cook, Hailey Cook, Dan Low, Ann Hagensick, Kasey Iverson, Marlene Hills and Chris Elickson

**Message**

Pastor Mark Oehlert

**Confession of Faith**

*Apostle's Creed*

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**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.**

**Offering Hymn:**

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

*ELW #765*

**Offering Prayer:**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church:** P: Hear us, O God..... **C: Your mercy is great.....**

**Sharing of the Peace:** P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us greet each other and share the peace of Christ with each other, either with a wave, a fist bump, handshake, ...however you prefer using the words "Peace be with you".

**The Great Thanksgiving (sung)**

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P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift 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,..... we praise your name and join their unending hymn

**The Lord's Prayer**

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**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.**

**Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) (sung)**

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**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**Communion Distribution Hymn:**

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant  
Take My Life, That I May Be*

*ELW#659  
ELW#685*

**Prayer Following 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.**

**Benediction:**

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**Closing Hymn: (radio ministry hymn)**

*Rise Up, O Saints of God*

*ELW #669*

**Dismissal:** P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:**

*Allegro*

*Antonio Vivaldi*

**Activities this Week at St. John's****September 21, 2026, to September 27, 2026**

|               |         |                                                                                          |
|---------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun, Sept 20  | 8:30am  | Worship Services, W/Comm, Blessings backpack, *Pennies for Presents, Pastor Mark Oehlert |
|               | 9:30am  | Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir                                                            |
|               | 10:30am | Worship Services, W/Comm, Blessings backpack, *Pennies for Presents                      |
|               | 5:00pm  | Confirmation Worship in the Valley, meet in church parking lot at 5pm                    |
|               | 7:00pm  | Men's Choir                                                                              |
| Mon, Sept 21  | 5:30pm  | Board of Trustee Meeting                                                                 |
|               | 7:00pm  | Congregational Council Meeting                                                           |
| Tues, Sept 22 | 1:00pm  | Nursing Home Visit Northgate                                                             |
|               | 2:00pm  | Good Samaritan Society                                                                   |
|               | 2:45pm  | Evergreen Court                                                                          |
| Wed, Sept 16  | 8:45am  | Quilting, Fellowship Hall                                                                |
|               | 6:00pm  | Youth Bell Choir                                                                         |
|               | 7:00pm  | Senior Bell Choir                                                                        |
| Sun, Sept 27  | 8:30am  | Worship Services, Choir Dedication, Pastor Waldemar Gies                                 |
|               | 9:30am  | Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir                                                            |
|               | 10:30am | Worship Services                                                                         |
|               | 7:00pm  | Men's Choir                                                                              |

**General Funds** (undesignated)**Jan 1 – September 16, 2026,**

Actual Income      \$114,853.94

**Jan 1 – September 30, 2026,**

Budget Expenses      \$155,157.64

**Attendance**

2026 Average      95

Previous Week      91

2025 Average      103

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|                            |          |                                       |
|----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Greeters                   | 8:30 am  | Dan & Lori Treangen                   |
|                            | 10:30 am |                                       |
| Readers                    | 8:30 am  | Dan Treangen                          |
|                            | 10:30 am | Linda Groe                            |
| Ushers/Acolytes            | 8:30 am  | Russ & Mary Jo Meyer Family           |
|                            | 10:30 am |                                       |
| Communion Assistant        | 8:30 am  | Nona Sawyer, David & Wendy Sanderson, |
|                            | 10:30 am | Linda Groe                            |
| Communion Prep             | 8:30 am  | Cindy Barness, Jane Kallevang         |
|                            | 10:30 am | Altar Guild                           |
| Pastor                     |          | Mark Oehlert                          |
| Organist/Director of Music |          | James H. Bieber                       |
| Custodians                 |          | John & Sharon Roe                     |
| Secretary                  |          | Lana Dahlstrom                        |

**St. John's Lutheran Church Events**

If you are unable to join us in person, you may listen on the radio or watch online through the St. John's Waukon Facebook page. Bulletins may be found on our website <https://stjohnswaukon.net/> To find out more about our special projects here at St John's visit the website and look at the MORE drop-down tab.

Today we welcome **Pastor Mark Oehlert** to St. John's Lutheran Church! We are grateful to have him lead us in worship and pray that God richly blesses his ministry among us.

Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Mary Timmerman from Decorah. We are grateful for the support, which shares God's Word with our community through our weekly radio broadcast. If you would like to

sponsor a broadcast in honor or memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, please contact the church office at 563-568-3623. Sponsors are also invited to select a hymn for the service. We invite you to join us each Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. on KNEI 103.5 FM. Thank you for listening, and God's blessings to you!

St. John's Lutheran Church extends its sympathy to the families of Pamela Dundee and Allen Goeke, who both passed away on Sunday, September 13. We keep their families and loved ones in our prayers during this difficult time. Services for Pam were held on Saturday. Services for Allen were held on Friday. May God comfort their families and friends with His peace and the promise of eternal life.

**Sunday School** begins today at 9:30AM between services.

**Quilt tying** is held Wednesdays from 8:45AM to noon in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us!

**Church Services Committee Meeting** Sunday, Sept. 27, 9:30AM in the Blue Room. Agenda on the bulletin board.

**Confirmation** classes begin **Sept. 30 7:00PM, Fellowship Hall** Students in 7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> grade. **Worship in the Valley:** is tonight at Village Creek Bible Camp. Meet at the church parking lot at **5:00 PM** to carpool. Contact **Melissa Clarke** with questions.

**Musical Talent Needed** St. John's is seeking **individuals or groups of any age** to share their musical talents during worship services. If you sing or play an instrument and would like to participate, please contact the church office.

**Baby Care Kits** WELCA is collecting items for **Baby Care Kits**, which are assembled as a stewardship project to help families in need. **Items Needed:** Dark-colored hand towels, Bars of Ivory soap (12-pack), Flat-fold diapers, Receiving blankets. Please consider donating these items by **Oct. 1**. Thank you for helping WELCA provide care and support to babies and families in need!

**NE IA Women of ELCA Fall Field Trip** Oct. 17 Come Join us. Exploring Waterloo/Cedar Falls in Black Hawk County. RSVP TO: Chris VanDeventer, [cdvandeven@gmail.com](mailto:cdvandeven@gmail.com) or 515-320-2877. More info on WELCA board.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Handbell Choir Reunion June 26–27, 2027!** We are planning a reunion to reconnect with current and former **youth and adult handbell choir members**. If you were a member—or know someone who was, including those who have moved away—please help us update our contact list. With their permission, send email address to Jim Bieber at [bieberinsre@gmail.com](mailto:bieberinsre@gmail.com) or call/text 563-380-5355.

**Imagine More: 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering** June 28–July 2, Youth currently in grades 8–12 along with adult leaders, are invited to join. Please contact the Church Office by Sept. 30, 2026. LYO Contacts: Melissa Clarke & Bailey Benson Learn more at <https://www.elca.org/gathering> or pick up a brochure in the Narthex.

St. John's has a Prayer Chain If you would like to be added or have someone to add contact the Church Office at 563.568.3623 or email [stjohnswaukon@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnswaukon@gmail.com) Your information will be shared with the coordinator and will be kept confidential.

There is a sharing table down by the elevator entrance for produce, plants, eggs etc. Please feel free to take what you need or share items you would like to give to others.

Video security system has been upgraded. If you would like to contribute to this improvement, Checks may be made payable to St. John's, with "Security System" noted in the memo line.

#### **Volunteers for September 27, 2026:**

Ushers/Acolytes: 8:30am Russ & Mary Jo Meyer Family; 10:30am

Greeters: 8:30am Virgil & Deb Thorstenson; 10:30am

Readers: 8:30am Linda Halvorson; 10:30am Vickie Larson

**Community Events – see bulletin board for more information**

**EWALU** has many upcoming events posted on the bulletin board from Now-Nov.

**Worship In the Valley**, at Village Creek Bible Camp on September 20. Doors open at 5pm. Free will donation.

**First Presbyterian Church, Waukon**, Fall Harvest Dinner, Wed, Sept 23. 4 pm -until meals are gone. To-go only

**Fields of Faith**, Waukon October 7, 7pm Waukon High School Football Field.