

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026, 8:30 AM/10:30 AM
St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Prelude (8:30 am service only) *I am Jesus Little Lamb – Charles Ore* *Assisted by Gavin Berges*

Ring 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.

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

You Servants of God

ELW #825

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: Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

L: ¹Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

Psalms: 96:1-9 (read responsively)

P: ¹Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

L: ²Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

P: ³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

L: ⁴For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

P: ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

L: ⁶Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

P: ⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

L: ⁸Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.

P: ⁹Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Anthem (8:30 Service)

The Heavens Are Telling
Senior Choir

Mark Patterson

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded

forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?”

page 151

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 22:15-22

P: After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God’s people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Children’s Message
Message

Pastor Mark Oehlert

(10:30 Service) **Baptism of Blaire Zidlicky** *(see insert)*

(8:30am Service) **Confession of Faith**

Apostle’s Creed

page 127

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: *(radio ministry hymn)*

Take My Life That I May Be

ELW #685 VS 1-4

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)*

pg. 152

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 page 112

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) page 154

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:	<i>Accept, O Lord the Gifts We Offer</i>	<i>ELW#691</i>
	<i>Jesus Calls US</i>	<i>ELW#696</i>

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: *God of Grace* *ELW #705*

Dismissal: P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *(8:30 am service only)* *Fanfare* *Charles Ore*

Activities this Week at St. John’s		October 18, 2026, to October 25, 2026
Sun, Oct 18	8:30am	Worship Services, W/Comm, *Pennies for Presents, Pastor Mark Oehlert
	9:30am	Bible Study, Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir
	10:30am	Worship Services, W/Comm, Baptism, *Pennies for Presents
	7:00pm	Ecumenical Choir
	8:00pm	Men’s Choir
Mon, Oct 19	5:30pm	Trustee Mtg
	7:00pm	Church Council Mtg
Wed, Oct 21	8:45am	Quilt Tying, Downstairs
	6:00pm	Youth Bell Choir

	7:00pm	Senior Bell Choir, Confirmation
Sun, Oct 25	8:30/10:30am	Worship Services, W/Comm, Pastor Mark Oehlert (10:30 Confirmation service)
	9:30am	Sr Vocal Choir (No Sunday School or Bible Study)
	7:00pm	Ecumenical Choir
	8:00pm	Men's Choir

General Funds (undesignated)

Jan 1 – October 14, 2026,

Actual Income \$128,346.84

Jan 1 – October 31, 2026,

Budget Expenses \$172,397.47

Attendance

2026 Average 97

Previous Week 105

2025 Average 103

Greeters	8:30 am	Sherry Knudtson
	10:30 am	
Readers	8:30 am	Linda DeBuhr
	10:30 am	Karen Stamper
Ushers	8:30 am	Mark & Stacy Stock, Dan Low
	10:30 am	Lyle & Brenda Kurth
Acolytes	8:30 am	Kashton
	10:30 am	Henry
Communion Assistant	8:30 am	Sherry Knudtson, Nona Sawyer, Sarah
	Sweeney	
	10:30 am	Karen Stamper
Communion Prep	8:30 am	Vickie Larson, Bonnie Roe
	10:30 am	Evonne Kistler, Jill Kistler
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 are thankful for the opportunity to welcome him into our church community.

Today's radio broadcast on KNEI 103.5 FM is sponsored by church funds from generous donations from listeners like you. We are grateful for your support. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in honor or memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other occasion, please contact the church office at 563-568-3623.

Today at the 10:30 service, we celebrate the baptism of Blaire Zidlicky, Parents Carter & Jaydon. We rejoice with the family on this special day and give thanks for God's blessings in her life.

Bible Study today at 9:30AM We'll be meeting in the lounge as we explore the Mothers and Daughters of the Bible. Come gather with us in the lounge

Giving statements were emailed on October 13 and reflect your contributions to St. John's from Jan-Sept. If you did not receive your statement by email, a printed copy may be available. Some statements were printed for those whose email addresses we may not have on file. Printed statements are available for

pickup in the Narthex. If you did not receive one, contact the office. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of St. John's!

Quilt tying is held Wednesdays from 8:45AM-noon in the downstairs rooms. Everyone is welcome to join us! Confirmation will meet at 7:00pm on Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.

On Sat, Nov 7, our quilts and personal care kits will be shipped to Minneapolis. We need volunteers to help from 7:30-10:30 AM with this project, if you can only do an hour that is great too. This will be at Olson Explosives, Decorah. Please contact the church office to sign up by Oct 29. High school students: This is a great opportunity to earn Orange Cord hours!

The **Adopt a Church Project** program is designed to help with special projects around our church, see the newsletter for more details. Take a look at the available tasks on the board in the Narthex.

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.

Sunday School October Schedule:

- **Sun, Oct 18:** Regular Sunday School at 9:30 AM ● **Sun, Oct 25:** No Sunday School
- **Wed, Oct 28:** ☺ Wednesday Evening Halloween Party at 5:15 PM (time change)— Enjoy a light meal, fun, a Halloween party, and Bible study!

 **Confirmation Sunday** Join us for a special **service** during our **10:30 am worship services** on Oct 25. We look forward to celebrating and supporting our confirmands as they take this important step in their faith journey.

50th Anniversary Handbell Choir Reunion June 26–27, 2027! We are planning a reunion to reconnect with **youth and adult handbell choir members**. If you were a member—or know someone who was,—please help us update our contact list. Send email address to Jim Bieber at bieberinsre@gmail.com or call/text 563-380-5355.

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 Your information will be shared with the coordinator and will be kept confidential.

There is a sharing table down by the elevator entrance.

Volunteers for October 25, 2026:

Ushers: 8:30am Mark & Stacy Stock, Dan Low; 10:30am Lyle & Brenda Kurth

Acolytes: 8:30am Joseph; 10:30am

Greeters: 8:30am Ann (Rademaker) & Smokey Asfahl; 10:30am

Readers: 8:30am Dave Sanderson; 10:30am Linda Groe

Communion Assistant: 8:30am Greg & Ann Hagensick, Ann Rademaker/Asfahl; 10:30am Karen Stamper,
Randy & Lori

Hesse, Jill Kistler

Communion Prep: 8:30am Altar Guild; 10:30am Altar Guild

Community Events – see bulletin board for more information

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

Big Canoe Lutheran Church Meatball Dinner Sun, Oct 18 11am-3pm.

St. Pat's Parent Group annual soup supper, Wed, Oct 21 St. Pat's Church Hall, Waukon. Free will donation.

Carry outs available starting at 4 with dine in 4:30-6:30pm. Our online auction will end Thurs, Oct 23.

SEW Powerful Sew Day at Robey Memorial Library Oct 24, noon-3pm.

Glenwood Lutheran Church Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner with silent auction, Sun, Oct 25 noon-3pm

Decorah Performing Arts Boosters Holiday Craft and Bake Sale Sat, Oct 31, 9 am to 3 pm at Decorah High School.

American Legion Post #503 Swiss Steak Supper Nov 3, 4:30-7pm, Silver Springs Golf Course, carry out or dine in.

Burr Oak Lutheran church Meatball Supper Wed Nov 4, 4-6:30pm, Drive Up only, advanced ticket sales appreciated.

St. Briget Catholic Church Postville, will be having annual Fall Ham Ball dinner on Nov 8 10:30-1:00pm. This year it will be drive thru/carry out only.

Allamakee County 4-H Pancake Breakfast Sun. Nov. 8 8am-12:30pm at the Allamakee County Fairgrounds Pavilion. Free will donation; serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, milk/juice.