

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026, 8:30 AM/10:00 AM
St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Prelude

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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW #632 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: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

L: ⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40 (read responsively)

P: ³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

C: ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.

P: ³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

C: ³⁶ Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.

P: ³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

C: ³⁸ Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.

P: ³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

C: ⁴⁰ Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.

Special Music (8:30 Service) *Ode to Joy* – Ludwig von Beethoven Performed by: Isla Johnsen, Piano

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Children’s Message

Message

Pastor Mark Oehlert

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:

Christ Be Our Light

ELW #715 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:

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW#461

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW#471

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)*

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

ELW #543

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

Postlude:

Activities this Week at St. John’s		August 30, 2026, to September 13, 2026
Sun, Sept 6	8:30am	Worship Services, W/Comm, *Noisy Offering Pastor Mark Oehlert
	9:30 am	cake/ice cream Fellowship Hall
	10:00am	Worship Service W/Comm, *Noisy Offering
Mon, Sept 7		Labor Day Church Office Closed for the Holiday
Tues, Sept 7	9:15am	Sarah Circle, Lounge
	7:00pm	Dorcas Circle Virtual
Wed, Sept 2	8:45am	Quilting, Fellowship Hall
	6:00pm	Youth Bell Choir

Sun, Sept 13	7:00pm	Senior Bell Choir & Confirmation Mtg
	8:30am	Worship Services, Team Spirit Sunday, Pastor Mark Swanson
	9:30am	Sunday School Family Project Day, Sr Vocal Choir
	10:30am *Time Change	Worship Services, Team Spirit Sunday
	7:00pm	Men's Choir

General Funds (undesignated)

Jan 1 – September 2, 2026,

Actual Income \$111,724.94

Jan 1 – September 30, 2026,

Budget Expenses \$155,157.64

Attendance

2026 Average 95

Previous Week 100

2025 Average 103

Greeters	8:30 am	Meyer Family
	10:00 am	
Readers	8:30 am	Diana Johnson
	10:00 am	Melissa Clarke
Ushers/Acolytes	8:30 am	Russ & Mary Jo Meyer Family
	10:00 am	
Communion Assistant	8:30 am	Dennis & Linda DeBuhr, Joan Moody
	10:00 am	Melissa Clarke
Communion Prep	8:30 am	Jeff & Diana Johnson
	10:00 am	Linda Groe
Secretary		Lana Dahlstrom
Custodians		John & Sharon Roe
Organist/Director of Music		James H. Bieber
Pastor		Mark Oehlert

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. **Congratulations to Pastor Oehlert on 25 years of pastoral ordination!** We are thankful to celebrate this special milestone with him.

Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by gifts **from the Ella Mae Dvorak Estate**. We are grateful for the support of this ministry, which shares God's Word and the message of faith 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 has a **Prayer Chain** If you would like to be added or have someone to add to our prayer chain 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.

Join us between worship services for **cake and ice cream** as we celebrate **Pastor Mark Oehlert** and his **25 years of pastoral ordination!** Please join us in celebrating this special milestone

Quilting on Wednesdays, in the Fellowship hall from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Join us for **St. John's Rieck's Chicken Dinner – Friday, Sept. 11**, from 4:00–7:00 p.m. Dine-in and carry-out meals. **Volunteers Needed for bars!** Sign up on the volunteer sheet in the Narthex. Flyers are also available to

help promote the event. Thank you all for your help on this event.

Team Spirit Sunday, Sept.13. Show your team spirit Sunday during services! Wear a jersey or shirt or wear your favorite team's colors. Come dressed to show your team pride and join in the fun!

Sunday School is open to ages 3 years through 8th grade. Invite a friend to join us! Sunday, Sept. 13 – 9:30 a.m. Registration & Family Service Project; Sunday, Sept. 20 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Blessing of the Backpacks during worship 9:30 a.m. – First Day of Sunday School. We look forward to a wonderful year of growing in faith, learning God's Word, and building friendships! We could use a few more teachers. Interested in volunteering or learning more? Contact Mary Jo Meyer at 563-568-1796. Thank you!

Confirmation Registration & Informational Meeting Sept. 16 at 7:00 PM, Fellowship Hall Students in 7th–9th grade and their parents attend our Confirmation Registration and Informational Meeting. We'll share important information about the Confirmation program, answer questions, and complete registration.

Confirmation classes begin Sept. 30. We will also be attending **Worship In the Valley**, at Village Creek Bible Camp on September 20. We will be meeting in the church parking lot at 5pm and car pool. Contact Melissa Clarke for more information.

Imagine More: 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering June 28–July 2, 2027 Minneapolis, MN Youth currently in grades 8–12 during this school year, along with adult leaders, are invited to join others from across the country for worship, service, learning, and fellowship. Interested in attending? 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.

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 or 515-320-2877. More info on WELCA board.

Postville Fire Relief Effort The **Northeastern Iowa Synod** is partnering with local congregations to assist those affected by the fire at the AgriStar processing plant fire in Postville. See the **flyer and letter in the Narthex**.

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 13, 2026: Second Service Time Change Pastor Mark Swanson - **Team Spirit Sunday!**

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

Greeters: 8:30am Ken & Rose Beardmore; 10:30am

Readers: 8:30am Ann & Heath Hagensick; 10:30am Lori Hesse

Community Events – see bulletin board for more information

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

Faith Lutheran Church of Blackhammer Meatball Supper Wed, Sept. 9 5-7pm.

Healthy Steps for Older Adults Sept 10, 9-3, Waukon Wellness Center

Troop 64 Boy Scout **Omelet Breakfast** Sunday Sept 13, Allamakee County Fairgrounds Pavilion

Old West Paint Creek Lutheran **Norwegian Meatball Supper**, Sept 16 serving begins at 4pm, Drive Thru only

Sugar Creek 60th Celebration, Sept 18-20 <https://www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/60th-anniversary-celebration/>

Neighbors in Faith Fest: music, fellowship, food, and faith on Sat., September 19 at Calmar Lutheran Church.

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.