

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026, 8:30 AM/10:00 AM
St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Prelude

God, Whose Farm is all Creation

Mark Sedio

Ringling of the Church Bell

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

P: God of all mercy,

C: Compassionate God, we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW #679

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: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸ Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17 (read responsively)

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth. (*Ps. 86:11*)

P: ¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

C: ¹² I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.

P: ¹³ For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

C: ¹⁴ The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.

P: ¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

C: ¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.

P: ¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Special Music (8:30 Service)

At the River, Aaron Copland
Randy Johnsen, Baritone

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom

of the glory of the children of God.²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor,²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees?²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia, 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.

The Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

P: Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God’s judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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: (Radio Ministry)

Here I Am, Lord

ELW #574

Offering Prayer:

P: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church: P: God of grace.... **C: hear our prayer.....**

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: *As the Grains of Wheat*
In the Singing

ELW #465

ELW #466

Prayer Following Communion:

P: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction:

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *Sing To the Lord of Harvest*

ELW #694

Dismissal: P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Fanfare

Charles Ore

Activities this Week at St. John's**July 19, 2026, to July 26, 2026**

Monday – Friday, July 1 – 31, from **11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Feed the Kids at Zion United Church of Christ; We welcome **all school-age children**

Sun, July 19	8:30am	Worship Services, W/Comm, *Pennies for Presents, Pastor Mark Oehlert
	9:30am	Bible Study
	10:00am	Worship Services, W/Comm, * Pennies for Presents
Mon, July 20	5:30pm	Board of Trustee Meeting
Sat, July 25	4:00pm	LYO Fishing in the Waukon City Park, Rain Location: Fellowship Hall
Sun, July 26	8:30am	Worship Services, Pastor Charis Combs-Lay
	9:30am	Bible Study in Lounge; Second Service

General Funds (undesignated)**Jan 1 – July 14, 2026,**

Actual Income \$89,934.06

Jan 1 – July 31, 2026,

Budget Expenses \$120,678.81

Attendance

2026 Average 99

Previous Week 80

2025 Average 103

Greeters	8:30 am	Steve & Sheryl Evanson
	10:00 am	
Readers	8:30 am	Bailey Benson
	10:00 am	Karen Stamper
Ushers/Acolytes	8:30 am	Steve & Sheryl Evanson
	10:00 am	
Communion Assistant	8:30 am	Bonnie Roe, Nona Sawyer, Cindy Barness
	10:00 am	Karen Stamper
Communion Prep	8:30 am	Mary Jackson, Linda Groe
	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 warmly welcome Pastor Mark Oehlert as St. John's Lutheran Church Interim Pastor. We are grateful for his willingness to lead and serve our congregation during this time. Welcome, Pastor Oehlert! We are glad to have you with us.

Radio Broadcast Ministry Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by the 11 grandchildren of Marion Hesla in honor of their beloved Grandma, Marion Hesla. We are grateful for the support of our radio ministry and for everyone who helps share God's Word with our community each week. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in honor 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 welcome to choose 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.

Join us for **Sunday Bible Study!** with a study of men and women of the Bible. Come gather with us in the lounge at 9:30 am, between services. Visit the resource page on our website.

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.

Congratulations to Jacob and Myriah Dougherty on the birth of their daughter! St. John's Lutheran Church Wishes your family a lifetime of love, joy, good health, and countless precious memories as you begin this wonderful new chapter together.

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.

FEED THE KIDS: Summer is here and we need your help! Monetary donations may be made by cash or check payable to Feed the Kids/Zion Church these can be placed in the collection OR sent to the office. A sign-up sheet for kid-friendly desserts and workers is in the Narthex. This month - we could use fresh produce.

LYO Fishing in the Park Saturday, July 25 • 4:00–8:00 p.m. Waukon City Park Contact Becky or Chris, for sign up. In case of bad weather, we'll meet in the Fellowship Hall. Still want to sign up? Contact Becky or Chris TODAY!

Bible Display – Please bring your Bible to the church office by July 22 to be on display on July 26. Bibles will be labeled with the owner's name if needed. If your Bible has a special story, memory, or family connection, please include a brief written description to be displayed alongside it. More information in your July newsletter.

Northgate Care Center maintains a card stand for its residents. If you have any extra cards at home—birthday, thinking of you, get well, thank you, or even blank cards. Your donated cards will be added to the stand, giving residents a variety of options to choose from. Thank you for helping support this thoughtful ministry.

St. John's 2026 Graduates Upcoming college students for fall of 2026 are encouraged to contact the church office by August 1 with their name, college, and major. Scholarships are available by the Trust Fund Committee. Please contact the church office for additional information.

Outdoor Worship – Sunday, August 16 Join us for outdoor worship at **8:30 a.m.** on our church green space. Please bring a lawn chair if you prefer not to sit on the lawn or the chairs provided. A potluck brunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall. The church will provide egg bakes, coffee, juice, and milk. Please bring a breakfast dish to share. In case of rain, the service will be held in the church. **Please note:** There will be **no 10:00 a.m. worship service or Bible Study** that day. Invite your friends and neighbors—we look forward to worshipping with you!

Volunteers for July 26, 2026:

Ushers/Acolytes: 8:30am Steve & Sheryl Evanson; 10:00am

Greeters: 8:30am Joan Moody; 10:00am

Readers: 8:30am Joan Moody; 10:00am Vickie Larson

Community Events – see bulletin board for more information

Stavanger Lutheran Church/Winneshiek County Cattlemen are having a dinner on **Sunday, July 26** at Carey Park in Ossian. Serving from 11-1pm. Menu includes - Steak Sandwich or Hamburger, Seasoned Diced Potatoes, Baked Beans, Bars, Water. Cost is \$15 for the Steak Dinner meal and \$10 for the Hamburger meal. Proceeds going toward new front door of the Church.