

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026 8:30 AM/10:00AM

St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Prelude

Open Now the Gates of Beauty

Arr. Mark Sedio

Ring of the Church Bell

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116-117

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy 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 in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Open Now the Gates of Beauty

ELW #533

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 (*Glory to God in the Highest...*)

pp. 148-149

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive

our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day:

P: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

L: ⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalms 119:129-136 (read responsively)

P: ¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

C: ¹³⁰ When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

P: ¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

C: ¹³² Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.

P: ¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

C: ¹³⁴ Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

P: ¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

C: ¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

L: ²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else?

³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,
“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”
³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

The Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

P: Throughout Matthew’s gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near!” Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people’s lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;

⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous

⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ

Children’s Message

Message

Pastor Charis Combs Lay

Confession of Faith

Apostle Creed

page 105

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.

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".

Offering Hymn: (radio Ministry Hymn)

Be Though My Vision

ELW#793

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..

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.

Benediction:

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

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn:

In Thee of Gladness

ELW#867

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Trumpet In Dialogue

Louis Nicolas Clerambault

Activities this Week at St. John's**July 26, 2026, to August 2, 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 26	8:30am	Worship Services, Pastor Charis Combs-Lay
	9:30am	Bible Study in Lounge; Second Service
Tues, July 28	1:00pm	Nursing Home Visit Northgate
	2:00pm	Good Samaritan Society
	2:45pm	Evergreen Court
Sun, Aug 2	8:30am	Worship Services, W/Comm, *Noisy Offering, New Member Welcome
		Ceremony and Reception (coffee/donuts) Pastor Mark Oehlert
	9:30am	Bible Study
	10:00am	Worship Services, W/Comm, *Noisy Offering

General Funds (undesignated)

Jan 1 – July 23, 2026,
Actual Income \$91,108.56
Jan 1 – July 31, 2026,
Budget Expenses \$120,678.81

Attendance

2026 Average 98
Previous Week 98
2025 Average 103

Greeters	8:30 am	Joan Moody
	10:00 am	
Readers	8:30 am	Joan Moody
	10:00 am	Vickie Larson
Ushers/Acolytes	8:30 am	Steve & Sheryl Evanson
	10:00 am	
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 Charis Combs-Lay to St. John's Lutheran Church. We are grateful for Pastor Combs-Lay's willingness to lead us in worship and serve our congregation today. We are blessed to have you with us and pray God's blessings on your ministry among us. Welcome!

Radio Broadcast Ministry Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Dixie Libbey. 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 radio 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 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.

FEED THE KIDS: We are in the final week of Feed the Kids! Monetary donations may be made by cash or check payable to Feed the Kids/Zion Church. Donations may be placed in the offering or dropped off at the church office. A special thank you to our amazing St. John's volunteers! They recently wrapped up their week of hosting, serving an average of 140–150 children each day. Thank you for your time, hard work, and generosity. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!

Bible Display – Come and check out our amazing Bible display, featuring Bibles generously brought in by members of our congregation. Each one has its own story and serves as a reminder of the inspiration, history, and faith they represent. We even have a Bible of German descent, adding a unique cultural connection to the collection. Be sure to take a look and enjoy this special display!

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.

Quilting resumes on Wednesday, August 5, in the parish hall from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome to join us, whether you're an experienced quilter or just interested in helping. We hope to see you there!

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!

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.

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 August 2, 2026:

Ushers/Acolytes: 8:30am Dan & Lori Treangen, Donna Wood; 10:00am

Greeters: 8:30am Bailey Benson; 10:00am

Readers: 8:30am Nona Sawyer; 10:00am Sadie Bucheit

Communion Assistant: 8:30 am Russ & Mary Jo Meyer, Bailey Benson; 10:00 am Sadie Bucheit

Communion Prep: 8:30 am Linda Groe; 10:00 am Linda Groe

Community Events – see bulletin board for more information

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

UTV Ride & Sweet Corn Boil: Join us on Sunday, August 23 (rain date: August 30) at Highland Lutheran Church for our new Side-by-Side UTV Ride & Sweet Corn Boil. Everyone is welcome at the sweet corn boil! For \$10, enjoy brats, hot dogs, sweet corn, dessert, and beverages. Ride registration is \$10 per person. Don't have a side-by-side? Register at bchlutheran.org and indicate you'd like to ride along—we'll do our best to match you with a driver. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Neighbors in Faith Fest: Join us for an afternoon of music, fellowship, food, and faith on Saturday, September 19 at Calmar Lutheran Church (200 N. East St., Calmar). Gates open at 2:30 p.m. Enjoy live music, food

vendors, community booths, and worship on the church lawn. Bring a lawn chair and invite your family, friends, and neighbors! This family-friendly event is open to everyone, with free-will donation admission at the gate.