

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026 8:30 AM/10:30AM
St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Prelude

Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

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: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. 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

Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven

ELW #864

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: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

L: ¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 (read responsively)

P: ⁸ I will listen to what the Lord God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

C: ⁹ Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

P: ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

C: ¹¹ Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

P: ¹² The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

C: ¹³ Righteousness shall go before the Lord and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

L: ¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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 18:21-35

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

P: When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ

Children’s Message

Message

Pastor Mark Swanson

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)

For The Fruits of All Creation

ELW #679

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.

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

C: Amen.

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

C: Amen.

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

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing* *ELW #544*

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

Postlude: *Lauda Anima* *Arr. Rachel Treisted Porter*

Activities this Week at St. John’s		September 13, 2026, to September 21, 2026
Sun, Sept 13	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
Wed, Sept 16	8:45am	Quilting, Fellowship Hall
	6:00pm	Youth Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Senior Bell Choir & Confirmation Mtg

Sun, Sept 20	8:30am Worship Services, W/Comm, Blessings backpack, *Pennies for Presents, Pastor Mark Oehlert	Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir 10:30am
	9:30am	
	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

General Funds (undesignated)

Jan 1 – September 9, 2026,
Actual Income \$113,505.44
Jan 1 – September 30, 2026,
Budget Expenses \$155,157.64

Attendance

2026 Average	95
Previous Week	91
2025 Average	103

Greeters	8:30 am	Ken & Rose Beardmore
	10:30 am	
Readers	8:30 am	Ann & Heath Hagensick
	10:30 am	Lori Hesse
Ushers/Acolytes	8:30 am	Russ & Mary Jo Meyer Family
	10:30 am	
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 Swanson from Decorah 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 Chris Engstrom and the Rausch Family in memory of Irv Fosaaen's birthday and in memory of our grandparents. 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.

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

Sunday School 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!

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 October 1. Thank you for helping WELCA provide care and support to babies and families in need!

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.

October Newsletter Deadline Articles and information for the October Newsletter are due to the church office by September 15. Please email submissions to stjohnswaukon@gmail.com.

Imagine More: 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering June 28–July 2, Minneapolis, MN Youth currently in grades 8–12 during this school year, along with adult leaders, are invited to join 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 Agri Star processing plant in Postville. Please see the flyer and letter posted in the Narthex for information about the relief effort. An updated letter outlining the local efforts is also available from the Synod office.

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 20, 2026:

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

Greeters: 8:30am Dan & Lori Treangen; 10:30am

Readers: 8:30am Dan Treangen; 10:30am Linda Groe

Communion Assistant: 8:30am Nona Sawyer, David & Wendy Sanderson, 10:30 am Linda Groe

Communion Prep: 8:30 am Cindy Barness, Jane Kallevang, 10:30 am Altar Guild

Community Events – see bulletin board for more information

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

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.

Stavanger Lutheran Fall Dinner Sun, Sept 20, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM, St. Theresa of Calcutta, DeSales Gym. Take-outs Welcome!

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.