

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026 8:30 AM/10:30AM
St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Prelude

Every Time I Feel the Spirit Arr. Susan T. Nelson – Senior Bell Choir

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: 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

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW #836

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: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Choir Dedication Litany (8:30 Service Only)

L: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands.....

Choir: He himself has made us, and we are His: We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

L: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise.

Choir: Give thanks to him and call upon His name.

L: For the Lord is good; his steadfast mercy is everlasting.

Choir: And His faithfulness endures from age to age.

L: Brothers and sisters in Christ, in moments of greatest joy and sorrow, our souls sing our joy, and our souls sing our sorrow. This morning, we dedicate our vocal choirs and bell choirs to lead us in our songs of praise to our God.

Congregation: God give us faith always to sing "Alleluia!"

L: As these choirs lift their voices in worship, may Your Word and Spirit help us believe.

Congregation: God give us faith to always sing "Alleluia!"

L: Let these choir members join their voices with the voice of your whole church everywhere, singing the songs of those who sang before them, and singing the new song of our time, bearing witness to your truth that never changes.

Choir: God give us faith to always sing "Alleluia!"

Pastor: Tune these bell choir members into your instruments, O Lord, so that in every action of their day, we may see and hear in them, and unending hymn of praise.

Choir: God give us faith to always sing "Alleluia!"

Pastor: Will the congregation please affirm the ministry of music offered by these dedicated choir and bell choir members?

Congregation: We affirm your ministry of music in the life of this congregation. We pray that through your work and the leading of the Holy Spirit, our lives may become rooted into the mind of Christ. May your witness through music, be an inspiration to all who worship in this community, and a humble sacrifice to our Risen Lord Jesus. Amen.

Senior Choir Director: *James Bieber*

Judith Engle • Don Fruechte • Linda Halvorson • Sarah Hagen • Randy Johnsen • Vickie Larson • Jon Payne • Kris Rausch • Chris Stuckman • Sarah Sweeney • Dawn Teslow

Senior Bells Director: *James Bieber Assistant:* *Sarah Sweeney*

Sara Berges • Sue Blagsvedt • Linda Groe • Sarah Hagen • Lisa Hagen • Randy Johnsen • Vickie Larson • Carrie Niehaus • Jon Payne • Kris Rausch • Chris Stuckman • Sarah Sweeney • Sue Torkelson • Eva Urmanski

Youth Bells Director: *James Bieber Assistant:* *Sarah Sweeney*

Henley Benson • Emma Berges • Jocelyn Berges • Gavin Berges • Alaina Emerson • Ada Iverson • Lena Rausch • Theo Rausch • Thomas Wilkes

Anthem (8:30 Service Only)

Alleluia, Sing Praise to God

Adapt and Arr: Becki Slagle Mayo

Senior Choir and Piano

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

L: ¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. ²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways

that are unfair? ³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Psalms 25:1-9 (read responsively)

P: ¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

C: ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

P: ³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C: ⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

P: ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

C: ⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

P: ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

C: ⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

P: ⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

L: ¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 21:23-32

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

P: After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’

²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in

the vineyard today.’²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.”³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ

Children’s Message

During 8:30 Service the Sunday School will be presenting on their Special Day of Service “Putting Our Faith into Action”

Message

Pastor Waldemar Gies

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

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We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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)

O Master, Let Me Walk With You

ELW #818

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

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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:

Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW #876

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

Postlude:

Let The Whole Creation Cry

Arr. Robert Hobby

Activities this Week at St. John's**September 27, 2026, to October 4, 2026**

Sun, Sept 27	8:30am	Worship Services, Choir Dedication, Pastor Waldemar Gies
	9:30am	Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir
	10:30am	Worship Services
	7:00pm	Men's Choir
Wed, Sept 30	8:45am	Quilting, Fellowship Hall
	6:00pm	Youth Bell Choir
	7:00pm	Senior Bell Choir, Confirmation BEGINS
Thurs, Oct 1	8 am-3pm	WIC (Women's Infants Children)
Sun, Oct 4	8:30am	Worship Services, W/Comm, *Noisy Offering, Pastor Mark Oehlert
	9:30am	Coffee/Treats, Bible Study, Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir
	10:30am	Worship Services, W/Comm, Baptism, *Noisy Offering, Pastor Mark Oehlert
	7:00pm	Men's Choir

General Funds (undesignated)

Jan 1 – September 23, 2026,
 Actual Income \$117,946.44
 Jan 1 – September 30, 2026,
 Budget Expenses \$155,157.64

Attendance

2026 Average 96
 Previous Week 127
 2025 Average 103

Greeters	8:30 am	Virgil & Deb Thorstenson
	10:30 am	
Readers	8:30 am	Linda Halvorson
	10:30 am	Vickie Larson
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 Waldemar Gies 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 Dixie Libbey from Lansing. We are grateful for the support, which shares God's Word 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!

Quilt tying is held Wednesdays from 8:45AM-noon in the downstairs rooms. Everyone is welcome to join us!

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

On Saturday, November 7, our quilts and personal care kits will be shipped to Minneapolis. We need volunteers to help unload quilts from vehicles, load them into the semi, and complete forms. Please contact the church office to sign up. High school students: This is a great opportunity to earn Orange Cord hours! Thank you for helping with this important ministry!

Church Services Committee Meeting Sunday, Sept. 27, 9:30AM in the Lounge. Agenda on the bulletin board. Confirmation classes begin Sept. 30 7:00PM, Fellowship Hall Students in 7th–9th grade. Contact Melissa Clarke with questions.

LYO will meet at 5:30pm the Wellness Center on Oct 7 prior to Fields of Faith for pizza and fellowship.

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 4, 11 & 18: Regular Sunday School at 9:30 AM ● Sun, Oct 25: No Sunday School
- Wed, Oct 28: 🍁 Wednesday Evening Halloween Party at 5:30 PM — Enjoy a light meal, fun, a Halloween party, and Bible study!

Bible Study begins Oct 4 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.

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.

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

Imagine More: 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering June 28–July 2, Youth currently in grades 8–12 along with adult leaders, are invited to join. 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.

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 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 October 4, 2026:

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

Acolytes: Confirmation

Greeters: 8:30am Dave & Wendy Sanderson; 10:30am

Readers: 8:30am Karen Grimstad; 10:30am Jill Kistler

Communion Assistant: 8:30am Matt & Dawn Teslow, Rhonda Barr; 10:30am Jill Kistler

Communion Prep: 8:30am Sue Blagsvedt, Bonnie Roe; 10:30am Linda Groe

Community Events – see bulletin board for more information

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

Highland Lutheran Church Annual Fall Bazaar Sun, Sept 27 11am-1pm meal.

Fields of Faith, Waukon October 7, 7pm Waukon High School Football Field.

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

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