

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026 8:30 AM/10:30AM
St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Prelude

Brightest and Best

Arr. Wayne L. Wold

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

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

ELW #553

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: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

L: ¹ O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Psalm 23 (read responsively)

P: ¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

L: ² The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

P: ³ You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

L: ⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

P: ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

L: ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

L: ¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation

“Allelulia, 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 21:1-14

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

P: Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ

Children's Message

Message

Pastor Waldemar Gies

(10:30 Service) Baptism of Sylvie Dougherty (see insert)

(8:30 am Service) 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)*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart**ELW#873 VS1-4*

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.**

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:*Sent Forth by God's Blessing**ELW #547*

Dismissal: P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:*Toccata in C**Wayne L. Wold*Activities this Week at St. John'sOctober 11, 2026, to October 18, 2026

Sun, Oct 11	8:30am	Worship Services, Pastor Waldemar Gies
	9:30am	Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir, Bible Study
	10:30am	Worship Services, Baptism
	7:00pm	Ecumenical Choir
	8:00pm	Men's Choir
Tues, Oct 13	9:15am	Sarah Circle, Lounge Hostess Gloria Payne
	1:30pm	WELCA Mtg, Lounge
	1:00pm	Nursing Home Visit Northgate
	2:00pm	Good Samaritan Society
	2:45pm	Evergreen Court
Wed, Oct 14	7:00pm	Dorcas Circle, Virtual
	8:45am	Quilt Tying, Downstairs
	6:00pm	Youth Bell Choir
Sun, Oct 18	7:00pm	Senior Bell Choir, Confirmation
	8:30am	Worship Services, W/Comm, *Pennies for Presents, Pastor Mark Oehlert
	9:30am	Bible Study, Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir
	10:30am	Worship Services, W/Comm, Baptism, *Pennies for Presents
	7:00pm	Ecumenical Choir
	8:00pm	Men's Choir

General Funds (undesignated)
 Jan 1 – October 7, 2026,
 Actual Income \$126,306.34
 Jan 1 – October 31, 2026,
 Budget Expenses \$172,397.47

Attendance
 2026 Average 97
 Previous Week 115
 2025 Average 103

Greeters	8:30 am	Tom & Bev Leiran
	10:30 am	
Readers	8:30 am	Dawn Teslow
	10:30 am	Wendy Bucheit
Ushers	8:30 am	Mark & Stacy Stock, Dan Low
	10:30 am	Lyle & Brenda Kurth
Acolytes	8:30 am	Joseph
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 are thankful for the opportunity to welcome him into our church community.

Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by church funds from generous donations from listeners like you. We are grateful for your support. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in honor or memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other 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!

Please keep the family of Mary Jackson in your prayers. Her husband, Dean, passed away on Wednesday, October 7. We ask that you remember Mary and the entire Jackson family during this difficult time and pray that God will surround them with His comfort and peace.

Today at the 10:30 service, we celebrate the baptism of Sylvie Dougherty. We rejoice with Sylvie and her family on this special day and give thanks for God's blessings in her life.

We celebrate with our members, Ann Rademaker and Smokey Asfahl, as they exchange wedding vows this coming weekend. We wish them a lifetime of love, joy, and God's blessings as they begin this chapter together.

October newsletters were emailed out, printed copies may be picked up in the Narthex.

Bible Study today 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

Quilt tying is held Wednesdays from 8:45AM-noon in the downstairs rooms. Everyone is welcome to join us! Confirmation will meet at 7:00pm on Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.

On Saturday, November 7, our quilts and personal care kits will be shipped to Minneapolis. We need volunteers to help with this project. This will be at Olson Explosives, Decorah. Please contact the church office to sign up. High school students: This is a great opportunity to earn Orange Cord hours!

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 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!

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.

👤 Confirmation Sunday Join us for a special service during our 10:30 am worship services on Oct 25. We look forward to celebrating and supporting our confirmands as they take this important step in their faith journey.

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

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. Please feel free to take what you need or share items you would like to give to others.

Volunteers for October 18, 2026:

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

Acolytes: 8:30am Kashton 10:30am Henry

Greeters: 8:30am Sherry Knudtson; 10:30am

Readers: 8:30am Linda DeBuhr; 10:30am Karen Stamper

Communion Assistant: 8:30 am Sherry Knudtson, Nona Sawyer, Sarah Sweeney; 10:30 am Karen Stamper

Communion Prep: 8:30 am Vickie Larson, Bonnie Roe; 10:30 am Evonne Kistler, Jill Kistler

Community Events – see bulletin board for more information

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

The Zion UCC Women's Fall Gathering Sun, Oct 11 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Join our women's fellowship for a journey at our live doll show presentation! Loretta Schafer will share her doll collection. Please bring your childhood doll or a special doll to show and share. Light refreshments will be served. All ages welcome!

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

St. Pat's Parent Group annual soup supper, Wed, Oct 21 St. Pat's Church Hall, Waukon. Serving homemade chili, chicken noodle, cheeseburger, or chicken enchilada soup, hotdogs, desserts, and milk, all for a free will donation. Carry outs available starting at 4 with dine in 4:30-6:30pm. Our online auction will end Thurs, Oct 23.

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