

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026, 8:30 AM

St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Prelude

"Azmon"

Arr. Bert Carlson

Ring of the Church Bell

Announcements

Welcome and Introduction

P: Since the seventh century, today has symbolized the day of the creation of the world in the Byzantine tradition and has been the opening feast of its liturgical year (known as the Feast of the Indiction), in a parallel with the feast of Rosh Hashanah marking the Jewish New Year. Creation in Christ celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things. We hear today of the triune God who creates all things: sun and moon, shining stars, sea monsters, creeping things and flying birds—and, yes, even human beings. God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our hope, our heart, our home. **All: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

P: Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

C: we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. Amen.

P: All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you: God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of + Jesus Christ, and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure. Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord **ALL: Amen**

Gathering Hymn Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing (Hymn is listed)

ELW #886

1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;

the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day P: Let us pray.

All: O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Litany of Praise for Creation

P: Glory to you, O God: you speak a word of power, and so you create the world. We praise you, O God:

C: We praise you, O God.

P: For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life, for the earth ordered from chaos, and for light and dark, we bless you, O God: **C: We bless you, O God.**

P: For the cosmos beyond our earth, for the sky above our heads, and for the cycle of evening and morning, we exalt you, O God: **C: We exalt you, O God.**

P: For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers, for the land with its mountains and plains, and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits, we magnify you, O God: **C: We magnify you, O God.**

P: For the sun to rule the day, for the moon to brighten the night, and for the shining stars, we extol you, O God: **C: We extol you, O God.**

P: For the fish in the sea, for the birds of the air, and for the monsters in the deep, we glorify you, O God:

C: We glorify you, O God.

P: For wild animals and creatures of all kinds, for cattle and all livestock, and for everything that creeps on the earth, we adore you, O God: **C: We adore you, O God.**

P: For humankind made in your image, for setting us on your good earth, and for providing us food to eat, we worship you, O God: **C: We worship you, O God.**

P: Bless us, your creatures. Accept our praise, and make us worthy of your marvelous creation. We praise you, O God: **C: We praise you, O God.**

P: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen. **C: Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 2:4-25

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, ⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, ¹² and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” ¹⁹ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every

bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." ²⁴ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Psalm: 148:1-14 (read responsively)

P: ¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

C: ² **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

P: ³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

C: ⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!**

P: ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

C: ⁶ **He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

P: ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

C: ⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

P: ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

C: ¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

P: ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

C: ¹² **Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

P: ¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

C: ¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!**

Second Reading: Acts 17:22a, 24-28

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

The Gospel: John 1:1-5

P: The holy gospel according to John. **All: Glory to you, O Lord**

P: ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Message

Pastor Mark Oehlert

Scholarships will be awarded to children of parishioners who are enrolled in an institution of higher learning. The amount of each award is determined by the Trust Fund Committee and is made possible through the generosity of donors who support the Trust Fund Scholarship Program. We are grateful for the opportunity to encourage and support our students as they continue their educational journeys.

Trudy Baxter, Northeast Iowa Com College, Nursing
 Olivia Dougherty, Grand Canyon University, Youth Ministry
 Danielle Ellinghuysen, Kansas State Univ, PHD
 Hailey Houg, Palmer College of Chiropractic
 Lynsey Houg, University of Northern Iowa
 Jacob Jones, University of Northern Iowa, Secondary Education

John Marti, Des Moines Area Com College, Automotive Technology
 Brent Roe, Cornell College, Sports Journalism
 McKinley Rotsvold, Hawkeye Com College, Teaching
 Brandon Teslow, Hawkeye Com College, Site Surveying

Prayers of the Church: C: Your mercy is great.....

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)

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

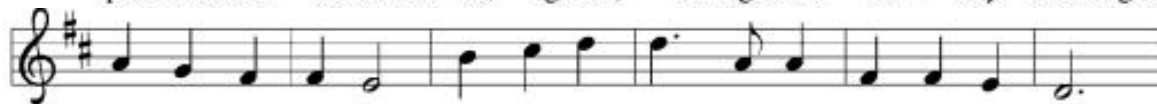
ELW #733



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Offering Prayer: P: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us

into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **All: Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving *(spoken)*

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.**

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy *(sung)*

page 153

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of Pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory. **C: The earth is full of your glory.**

P: O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

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.

Invitation to Communion; Distribution Hymns: You Are The Way ELW#758, My Faith Looks Up To Thee #759

You Are the Way



You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.



My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Post-Communion Blessing

....Amen

Prayer After Communion:

P: Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending:

P: Creator God bless you and keep you. Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy. Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW #434

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron - g to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

"Duke Street"

Arr. Anne Krentz

Activities this Week at St. John's**August 16, 2026, to August 23, 2026**

Sun, Aug 16	8:30am Outdoor Worship Services, W/Comm, *Pennies for Presents, Scholarships handed out Pastor Mark Oehlert	
	9:30am	Brunch in Fellowship Hall
Mon, Aug 17	5:00pm	Board of Trustee Meeting
	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Wed, Aug 19	8:45am	Quilting, Fellowship Hall
Sun, Aug 23	8:30am	Worship Services, Pastor Charis Combs-Lay
	9:30am	Bible Study in Lounge
	10:00am	Worship Service

General Funds (undesignated)**Jan 1 – August 11, 2026,**

Actual Income \$101,003.24

Jan 1 – August 31, 2026,

Budget Expenses \$137,918.64

Greeters	8:30 am
	10:00 am
Readers	8:30 am
	10:00 am
Ushers/Acolytes	8:30 am
	10:00 am
Communion Assistant	8:30 am
	10:00 am
Communion Prep	8:30 am
	10:00 am

Secretary

Custodians

Organist/Director of Music

Pastor

Attendance

2026 Average 96

Previous Week 61

2025 Average 103

Bill & Linda Halverson
No service
Sue Blagsvedt
No service
Dan & Lori Treangen, Donna Wood
No services
Bill & Sue Blagsvedt
No Service
Linda Groe, Kasey Iverson
No Service
Lana Dahlstrom
John & Sharon Roe
James H. Bieber
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 are pleased to welcome **Pastor Mark Oehlert** of Peosta, to St. John's Lutheran Church. We are grateful for his willingness to lead us in worship today and pray that God richly blesses his ministry among us.

Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by **Joan Moody** in memory of her husband, **Richard**, and daughter, **MaryAnn**. We are grateful for Joan's 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.

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. There will be no Bible Study on August 16.

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.

Bible Display –If you brought a Bible for the display, it is in the church office.

Quilting on Wednesdays, in the Fellowship hall from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome to join us, if you can tie your shoes, you can tie a quilt. We hope to see you there!

Join us for **St. John's Rieck's Chicken Dinner – Friday, September 11**, from 4:00–7:00 p.m. Dine-in and carry-out meals are available for \$15.00. The dinner includes: 3-piece chicken dinner, seasoned potato wedges, baked beans, roll, bar. Coffee, milk, and bottled water will be available for those dining in. Please see the **2026 Supper Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet** in the narthex for a list of volunteer opportunities, duties, bars. Please grab a flyer to help promote the event. Thank you for helping make this event a success!

Sunday School Is Almost Here! Sunday School is open to children ages **3 years through 8th grade**. Invite a friend to join us! **Sunday, September 13 – 9:30 a.m.** Registration & Family Service Project. **Sunday, September 20 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.** – Blessing of the Backpacks during worship services, **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. We look forward to seeing you this September!

Confirmation Registration & Informational Meeting September 16 at 7:00 PM, Fellowship Hall Students in **7th–9th grade and their parents** are invited to attend our Confirmation Registration and Informational Meeting. We'll share important information about the Confirmation program, answer questions, and complete registration. **Confirmation classes begin September 30.** We look forward to beginning this meaningful journey of faith together! We will also be attending **Worship In the Valley**, at Village Creek Bible Camp on September 20. Free will donation. We will be meeting in the church parking lot at 5pm and car pool. Contact Melissa Clarke for more information.

Imagine More: 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering We are excited to announce the **2027 ELCA Youth Gathering**, happening **June 28–July 2, 2027, in Minneapolis, Minnesota**, with the theme **“Imagine More.”** This gathering brings together thousands of youth, young adults, and adult leaders from across the country for worship, service, learning, and fellowship. **Who Can Attend:** Youth currently in **grades 8–12** (during the 2026–2027 school year), along with adult leaders. **St. John's Youth Information:** Please contact the **Church Office by September 30, 2026**, if you are interested in attending. Come join us as we answer God's call together and experience a week of faith, friendship, and service! **LYO Contacts:** Melissa Clarke and Bailey Benson. For more information, visit our webpage or <https://www.elca.org/gathering> or grab a brochure from the Narthex.

Postville Fire Relief Effort Following the recent fires at the AgriStar processing plant in Postville, the Northeastern Iowa Synod is partnering with local congregations to provide assistance to those affected. Items may be dropped off here and will be taken over to Postville. Please refer the flyer and letter in the Narthex for more information. There is also a Thank you to the Women's Group from the Postville Food Pantry hanging on the bulletin board.

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.

Check Out the VCR Table! The Library is giving away items from its collection. **Please take what you need!** Any remaining items will be donated.

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 23, 2026: Pastor Charis Combs-Lay

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

Greeters: 8:30am Randy & Lori Hesse; 10:00am

Readers: 8:30am Dan Treangen; 10:00am

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: Sunday, August 23 (rain date: August 30) at Highland Lutheran Church for Side-by-Side

UTV Ride & Sweet Corn Boil. Everyone is welcome at the sweet corn boil! For \$10. Ride registration is \$10 per person. Register at bchlutheran.org Pre-registration is encouraged.

Neighbors in Faith Fest: music, fellowship, food, and faith on Saturday, September 19 at Calmar Lutheran Church. Gates open at 2:30 p.m. This family-friendly event is open to everyone, with free-will donation admission at the gate.

Worship In the Valley, at Village Creek Bible Camp on September 20. Doors open at 5pm. Free will donation to benefit the Bible Camp Scholarship Fund. Acts include; Dustin & Emily Wirth, Caleb & John. We hope to see you there!