

August 23, 2026

WELCOME to our Guests!

Thanks for joining us! We are gathered here to be strengthened in faith through the Word of Jesus, the Son of God, who came to forgive and save us.

If there is anything we can do to better serve you, please let us know.



ST. LUKE'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS), Pickwick, MN

Church

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Parsonage

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Lead Musicians

Connie Hagedorn (chagedorn1229@gmail.com)
Kris Swogger (krisswogger@gmail.com)

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Unexpected Truths: The Son of Man Is God!

Opening Hymn: #226 *To Your Temple I Draw Near* v. 1-7

Service of The Word

(please stand)

(found on p. 38 of our Red Hymnal)

Invocation

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Absolution

M: God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See

C (sung ♪): Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord is eternal; It stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray. / Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever./ **C (♪): Amen.** *(please be seated)*

+THE WORD OF THE DAY+

Old Testament Lesson - Exodus 34:5-9

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, *“The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”* Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. “Lord,” he said, “if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance.” (NIV)



Psalm of the Day: Psalm 34 – Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own, found on **page 80** of our red hymnal, Christian Worship. We join to sing it together.

Epistle Lesson – Romans 10:5-13

Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, *“Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”* For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* (NIV)

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

M: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.
(John 6:68)

C (♪): Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 16:13-20 *(verse 16 is sermon text)*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “*Who do people say the Son of Man is?*” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “*But what about you?*” he asked. “*Who do you say I am?*” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “*Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*” Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. / **M:** The Gospel of the Lord. / **C (♩):** **Praise be to you, O Christ!** *(please be seated)*

Hymn of the day - #536 *Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head v. 1-4*

SERMON by Nick Wieser on Matthew 16:16

Jesus IS the Christ – the Son of the Living God!

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven & earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, & was buried. He descended into hell. The 3rd day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven & is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living & the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, & the life everlasting.
Amen.**

+ Offering of Thanksgiving +

Visitors: We are very glad you are worshiping with us today. Please don’t feel obligated to give an offering.

ALL: Please greet and introduce yourself to those worshiping around you. *Please stand as offerings are brought forward.*



Prayer of the Church

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we might enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessings to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

(special prayer requests)

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn #382 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* v. 1-4

Closing Prayer

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. / **C (♫): Amen.**

Blessing

M: Brothers & sisters go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you & keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you & be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor & give (+) you peace. / **C (♫): Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Closing Hymn #537 Onward, Christian Soldiers v. 1-4

Special thanks to Nick Wieser for leading our worship this morning while Pastor and Niki are attending their son's wedding weekend.

Today's Door Offering Basket: Native Christians

Bible Study: NO Bible study today or next Sunday. Sunday morning Bible study will resume in September.

Sign-up to Bring a Brunch Item: If you are able to bring an item for next weekend's Brunch, please indicate on the sheet in back what you will bring, so the ladies know if we have enough of everything. Thank you for your help!

Fall Women's Bible Studies Enrolling: The weekly Monday 6:30PM study resumes September 14th with '*Full Accessories of God: The Spirit's Makeover for Women.*' And a NEW every other Tuesday 9:30AM at Jim & Denise Albrecht's house (26229 Little Trout Valley Rd) study of '*How to Study the Bible*' will begin September 8th. Ladies, please sign-up on the sheet in back of church if you plan to participate.

This Week at St. Luke's

Thursday: Worship Service, 6:30 PM.

Next Sunday: *Outdoor Service in the Park, 9AM with brunch afterwards.

[***NOTE:** Bring a chair and a friend! Also ***we will be taking a special DOOR Offering for WELS Christian Aid & Relief*** which helps churches, schools, & individuals that have gone through a disaster. They are currently helping in Neenah & Menasha after recent tornadoes did great damage there. ***Our Church will match whatever funds are collected next Sunday to help those in need,*** as approved by the church council.]

Happy Birthday: Bob Malenke (26th); Rick Rockwell (27th); Donna Groth (29th).

Happy Anniversary: Dave & Tracy Albrecht (26th); Jim & Pam Larson (29th).

August Church Cleaning: Amy Woodard by 8/23; TBD by 8/30.

August Ushers: Tim Albrecht, Ben Wieser, and Jeremy Church.

August Bulletin Sponsor: Mary Stampka in memory of Bob & Lois Hass' Birthdays.

Monthly Activities:

Saturday Sept 12th: Serving Root Beer Floats at Pickwick Mill Days 11am-2pm

Saturday Sept 19th: Prep/Decorate Float for Apple Fest Parade on Sunday Sept 20th.

Sunday, Sept 20th: Participate in the Apple Fest Parade in La Crescent MN at 1PM.

Looking Ahead:

Men's Retreat: Gentlemen, you are invited to Camp Croix in Danbury WI September 18-20 for the annual *Men's Retreat* (with MLC Prof. Mark Paustian presenting on Apologetics) hosted by the Twin Cities Churches of WELS. \$150/attendee. Sign up at mensretreat.org.

Mission Festival: A special 9am Mission Festival Service will be held on Sunday, September 27th with lunch afterwards. Pastor Mark Wegner of WELS 316NOW (work in SE Asia) will be our guest preacher/presenter. Make plans to join us!

WELS Military Retreat: October 8-11 at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch near Rochester, MN. For active military members & veterans, and their spouses. Learn more or register at www.lutheranmilitary.org.

Men of His Word Conference: October 24th at Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN.

Since we serve you, if you EVER have a question, concern, or suggestion, please feel free to speak with any of St. Luke's Leaders:

St. Luke's Church Council Members

Mark Wieser, President (2nd Term – 2027), markwieser85@gmail.com , 507-312-0085

Jim Albrecht, Financial Secretary (1st Term – 2027), ltcattle@acegroup.cc , 507-643-6126

Jeremy Church, Treasurer (2nd Term – 2028), jeremych87@gmail.com , 507-459-0648

Tom Mueller, Secretary (1st Term – 2029), tpmue@yahoo.com , 507-452-5539

Kurt Swogger, Properties (2nd Term – 2028), kurtswog@yahoo.com , 507-313-0013

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Elders

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In our Entryway, Please Help Yourself to:

Keurig Coffee, Cider, & Hot Chocolate as well as Church Calendars for the month, Meditations (devotional), & “Forward in Christ,” & MLC’s “In Focus” Magazines.

St. Luke’s Lutheran Church of Pickwick, MN:

- is a gathering of Christians that exists to teach and preach the Word of God in all its truth & purity here among us and to all the people of earth.
- accepts the Bible as the inspired & inerrant Word of God.
- accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a correct confession of Biblical faith.
- believes that God created the entire universe in six natural days out of nothing but his almighty Word.
- believes that humankind fell into sin and is totally corrupt, dead in trespasses and sin, and doomed to hell.
- believes that God in undeserved love sent his own Son, Jesus, who took on humanity, lived a perfect life in our place, and suffered death and damnation for us and all our sins.
- believes that God the Holy Spirit uses this Gospel message in Word and Sacraments to create faith in us thereby making Jesus’ saving work ours.
- has as its goal to worship & serve God in thanksgiving, and to serve our neighbor in love as Jesus calls us to.

If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more about the Christian Faith or in joining our congregation, Pastor offers a NO COST / NO OBLIGATION Bible class that goes over the main doctrines of the Christian faith. This class also serves as the needed Preparation to take the Lord’s Supper at St. Luke’s, if the person is so interested. Speak with Pastor for more information and specifics. This class is scheduled on a day and time that works best for those who are interested in taking it.

