

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

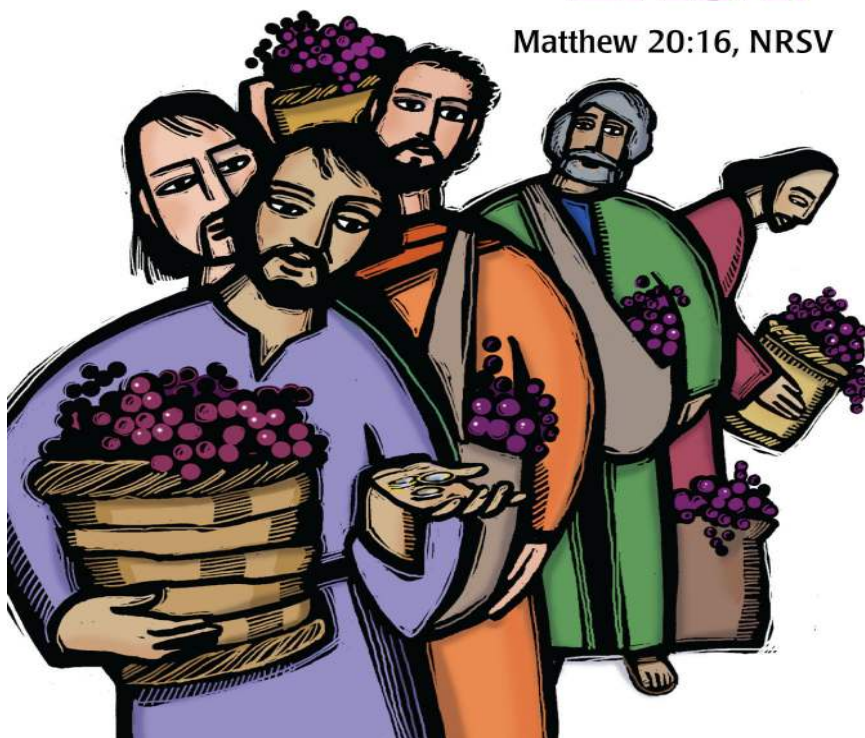
"Saved by Grace. Reaching out in Faith."

Sunday, September 20, 2026

10:15 AM

So the **last**
will be **FIRST**,
and the **first**
will be **LAST**.

Matthew 20:16, NRSV





17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

Welcome to St. Luke's. Whether you are visiting the Lima area or looking for a church home, we hope you find St. Luke's Lutheran Church to be a people who reflect the joy and peace and love we have in Christ. More than that, we hope you hear, with us, the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the forgiveness of sins.

Blue Welcome Cards help us welcome visitors, inform us of changes in your contact information, and let us know your prayer concerns. Welcome Cards may be placed in the offering plate stationed on a table for drop-off before or after service.

Holy Communion All who are baptized and believe that with the bread and wine we receive the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins and salvation are encouraged to come to the Lord's Supper. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Rest Rooms are on the main floor at the south end of the office hallway.

Ushers and other members are here to help you if you need assistance.

Please stand, if able, for parts of the service marked ✠

<i>Staff</i>	<i>Congregational Leadership</i>
Interim Hospital Visitation Pastor - Samuel Payne (Cell:419-371-9774) Organist – Sandy Miller Choir Director – Brian Reeves Office Secretary – Robin Hefner	President - Rich Moritz Vice President - James Williams Secretary - Lois Kennedy Treasurer - Alison Williams Tyler Arheit Susie Cornell Perry Luhn Marcy Reeves Jane Williams
<i>E-Mail Addresses</i> Office Secretary – secretary@stlukeslima.org	

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Will You Let me Be Your Servant”

Burkhardt

The organ chimes call us to worship.

INTRODUCTION

Matthew narrates one of Jesus’ controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God’s mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God’s mercy we are all beggars.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS †

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel as you are able.

Merciful God,
**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.
Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.
When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.
Set us again on the path of life.
Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.
Amen.**

Hear the good news!
God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
You are free to love as God loves.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

GATHERING HYMN

"Lord of Light"

#688



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



GREETING ¶

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

GLOBAL HYMN ¶

“We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord”

#690

The hymn is framed by receiving God’s blessings and grace of the new creation dwelling with us “in our earthly home.” Within that frame healing the neighbor’s pain and seasonal change linked to grief and joy that bear hidden fruit are comprehended. Though written before ecology was a common theme among us, this hymn is about the ecology of God’s grace and its importance.



- | | | | | | |
|---|---------|-------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 1 | We | raise | our hands to | you, O Lord, | like |
| 2 | What | good | and bless - ing | you be - stow | are |
| 3 | Oh, | make | our bar - ren | trees to grow, | our |
| 4 | As | sum - | mer fol - lows | spring - time's rain, | grace |
| 5 | Through | grace | your new cre - | a - tion lies | in |



emp - ty	ves -	sels.	Oh,	come to	us	and
free - ly	giv -	en.	Your	pow'r will	make	the
hands to	blos -	som,	and	let our	lives	bring
fol - lows	sor -	row,	and	grief and	joy	shall
hands held	o -	pen.	O	Giv - er	of	all



give us	life	from springs	where liv - ing	wa - ters	flow.
weak - est	strong	and bar - ren	branch - es	start to	bud.
forth such	fruit	that heals	our neigh - bor's	grief and	pain.
bear much	fruit,	though hid - den	from our	hu - man	eyes.
good - ness,	come,	dwell with	us	in our	earth - ly home.

PRAYER OF THE DAY ††

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Dawn Arheit

FIRST READING:

Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for

which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision”

Burkhardt

SECOND READING:**Philippians 1:21-30**

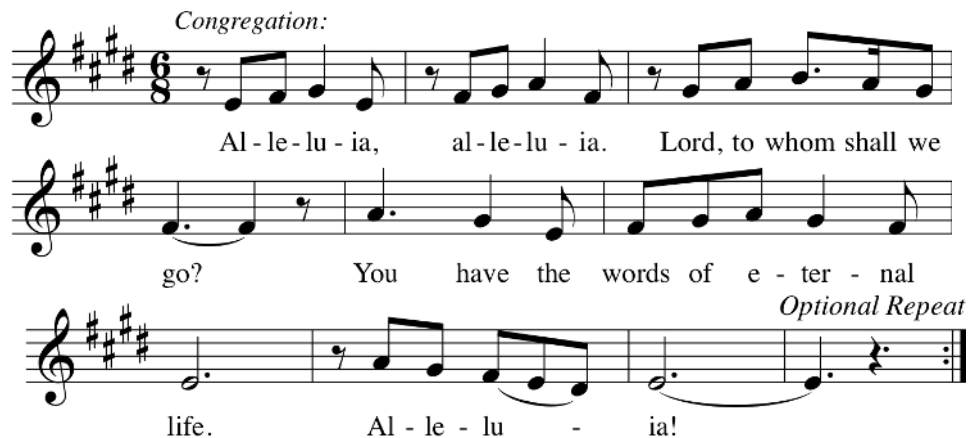
²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

HOLY GOSPEL: **Matthew 20:1-16**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out

and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius.¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of Our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Deb Monnin

HYMN OF THE DAY

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

#605



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.

APOSTLES CREED ¶

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH ¶

Response after each petition: Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

Voluntary

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

Hokanson

OFFERTORY HYMN ¶

"Doxology"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here be - low;

Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

OFFERTORY PRAYER ¶

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.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING ¶

DIALOGUE ¶

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE ¶

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ¶

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -





WORDS OF INSTITUTION ¶

LORD'S PRAYER ¶

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

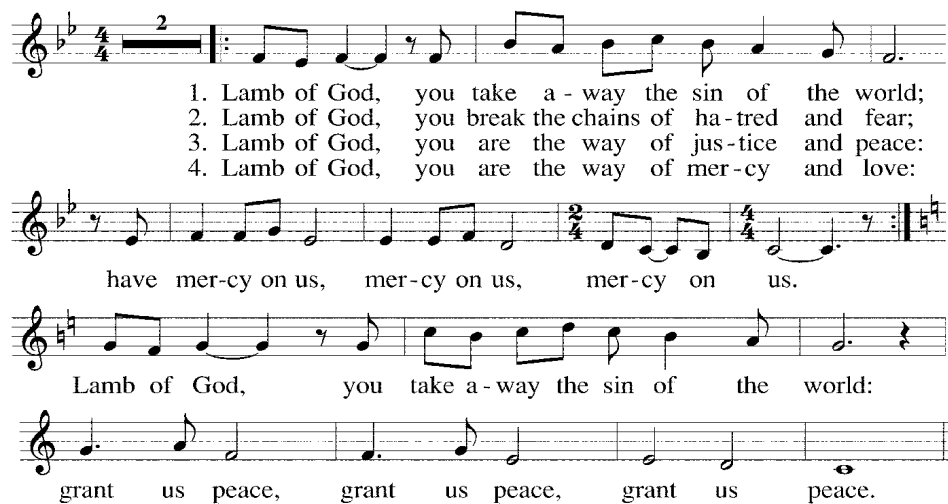
INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER ¶

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD



THE LORD'S SUPPER

This morning communion is served continuously. Come forward down the center aisle as directed by the ushers and receive the bread—the body of Christ—from the pastor.

Take a glass from the tray and move to the wine servers. (The pre-filled glasses are grape juice.) When finished, place the cup in the basket and return to your seat via the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

#765



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

"Will You Let Me Be your Servant"

#659

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING †

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER 卐

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

BENEDICTION 卐

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

SENDING HYMN 卐

"Voiced Raised to You"

#845

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the

songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—

for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

DISMISSAL 
 Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Silent prayer with chimes.

POSTLUDE *“Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light”* Walcha

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	Today, SUNDAY 9/20	NEXT SUNDAY 9/27
Worship Leader	Pastor Deb Monnin	Pastor Mark Bauer
Organist	Sandy Miller	Sandy Miller
Acolyte	Addilyn Cardenas	Delaney Cardenas
Children’s Message	Megan Mulcahy	Dawn Arheit
Lector	Dale Laukhuf	Dee Sherer
Communion Servers	Lois Kennedy, Marcia Laukhuf	Lee Moritz, Linda Mann
Ushers	Mike Gray, Dick McCarty	Dee Sherer, Tyler Arheit
Altar Guild	Marcia Laukhuf	Marcia Laukhuf



The flowers in the chancel this morning were given by
 Mary Stepleton in celebration of Claire Stepleton’s birthday
 and in memory of Terry Stepleton

“NUMBERS” from September 13, 2026”

Attendance: 52
 Giving: \$1,660.00 given to the glory of God for the work of the Gospel of
 Jesus Christ in Lima and beyond.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK		
Tues, 9/22	11:00 am	Mary/Martha
Fri, 9/25	11:00 am	Our Daily Bread
Sun, 9/27	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	Choir Christian Education Hour Liturgy of Holy Communion

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Meadows of Marion - Dorothy
Lockhaven - Barb

Pat, Ida, Madison, Judy, Norman, Natalia,
Dean, Mark, Mick, Andrew, Timothy,
Susan, Florian, Elizabeth, Glen, Becky

Scripture readings for 9/27/2026

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

WHAT'S UP AT CUP

C.U.P. donation item for September is:
Toothbrush and Toothpaste



If anyone has any special request for 2027 budget items, please have them submitted by October 12th to present at the October 13th council meeting. Thanks!

