



**SEASON OF CREATION: LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING
FOREST SUNDAY**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 3, 2023
9:00 AM**

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Monte Peterson, Pastor
Heather May, Youth & Family Minister
Carol Peterson, Music Director
Cari Terry, Office Manager

A Reading attributed to Meister Eckhart (1260-1328):

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God, and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature— even a caterpillar— I would never have to prepare a sermon, so full of God is every creature.



*Members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, in response to Christ's love,
Reach out in service to each other, the community, and the world.*

Welcome to Worship! All words will be displayed on the screen.

Kids, don't forget your Praise Packs!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Monte

OPENING LITANY

P: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

C: The Holy One's love is new every morning.

P: This is the day the Lord has made.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.



PRELUDE

"Hymn to Joy"

L. Beethoven, arr. A. Travis

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

C: Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

P: Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

C: Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.

P: The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.

C: Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

P: At this font, holy God, we pray:

C: Praise to you for the water of baptism and for the Word that saves us in this water.

P: Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

C: Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

P: Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen



OPENING HYMN

"This Is My Father's World"

#824, All Verses

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Monte



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Page 151, Setting Four



HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-10, 16

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ



SERMON

Pastor Monte



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 power of 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 and
 is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again 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

“O Lord Hear my Prayer”
 Sing at beginning and midway through

#751

P: God of mercy, **C: hear our prayer**

 **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be always with you. C: And also with you.
Please greet one another with the words, “Peace be with you.”

 **OFFERING**

*Pew Pads are located at the far end of each pew.
 Please fill them out and pass them, noting those seated around you.*



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Light Dawns on a Weary World” M.L. Bringle; W. Rowan
 Solo: Matt Peterson

Children are invited to gather at the back during the anthem and help bring forward the offering.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Open your hearts.

C: We open them to God and to one another.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION



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.

DISTRIBUTION

P: Come, for the feast is ready. Come to the table and receive these gifts: the gift of healing for those in pain, the gift of forgiveness for those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in doubt, and the gift of hope for those in tears.

C: May we who share these gifts also share Christ with one another and with all the earth.

You will be invited to stand or kneel at the altar.

If you wish to have the Pastor bring communion to your pew, please notify an Usher.

All are Welcome!



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Beautiful Savior, King of Creation"

#838, All Verses



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us give thanks for this meal.

C: We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you, and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for the earth. Amen.

BENEDICTION



CLOSING HYMN

"Let All Things Now Living"

#881, All Verses

 **DISMISSAL**

P: We have been born

P: We have been called

P: Christ commissions the Church:

P: Rise, rejoice in the challenge.

C: to care for the Earth.

C: to be blessing for all.

C: Bring Good news to Creation!

C: Delight in God's love!

POSTLUDE

"The Rejoicing"

George Fredrik Handel

+ THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ASSISTED DURING WORSHIP TODAY! +

CHANCEL FLOWERS are given by **Ed Devinger**
in celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary
and for the many blessings God has provided.

CHANCEL FLOWERS are given by **the Keller Family**
for Austin Keller's 22nd birthday.

ETERNAL FLAME for the month of August is given by **the Brunner Family**
in honor of Becky's brother who is terminally ill.

You can now **GIVE ONLINE**, by scanning the QR code:



Thank you for all the ways you contribute to the life and ministry of the church!

Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIRECTORY SIGN-UP

Sundays after Worship

Beginning today you can sign up for a slot to have your directory picture taken. Photo appointments will take place October 10—October 13 from 2:00—9:00 pm and October 14 from 10:00 am—4:00 pm. Sign up in person on Sundays at the directory table after Worship. You can also sign-up online Monday—Saturday at ucdir.com. Our church code is WI295, our password is photos.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS/CONFIRMATION GUIDES NEEDED

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED. Sign up at slchurch.org/parish-ed, or pick up a pink form on one of the church welcome centers. Talk to Heather if you have any questions.

SEASON OF CREATION

Did you notice beautiful photos of trees in today's service? Share your nature photography for upcoming Sundays. Whether it's a landscape or a close-up, plants, animals or skies in any season. Email to stlukes@slchurch.org, with "creation photos" in the subject line. Horizontal photos fit the screen best, but vertical ones can still be used.

RALLY DAY HAWAIIAN LUAU

Sunday, September 10th

Sign up deadline Sunday, September 3rd

On Rally Day we will take up a collection to support the people of Maui. Wear your Hawaiian clothing and come enjoy a luau themed pig roast. See the bulletin insert for information/sign up form.

FESTIVAL OF CREATIVITY

Sunday, September 17th at 3:00 pm

Submit artwork:

Sept. 11th–14th 8:00am-1:00pm (office hours) or Sept. 17th until 1:00pm

Join us as we celebrate the arts at St. Luke's with a music program and art display. Members and friends of all ages (children and teens included!) are invited to submit their arts, crafts or other handwork for display. We will kick off the fundraising for our beautiful new piano with this event. Mark your calendars and finish any projects you want to share!

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

Begins September 6th

New Worship Opportunity! Join us for scripture, prayer, and communion, in the Gathering Space of the Sanctuary. Help us spread the word!

We love children at St. Luke's, and welcome babies and young children and all their exuberance into worship! To make it easier for parents, we have "busy bags" available by the entrance, as well as "praise packs" that help encourage children's engagement in worship. We also have a cry room available in the back of the sanctuary with changing facilities and rocking chairs. We know it takes a lot of work to get to church and worship with young ones; we're glad you're here!

Let the little children come to me ...
it is to such as these that the
kingdom of God belongs.

Mark 10:14, NRSV



****SUMMER PRAISE PACKS ICONS****



Light your candle when the candles are lit at the front of the church and hold it up high. At the end of the service turn your candle off.



Take out the mini summertime Jesus and hold him tight during times of prayer. Don't forget Jesus is with you always!



Wave your pom pom to move to the music.



Look at the booklet on the clipboard to follow along with today's Gospel reading.



While listening to Pastor's Sermon, color the picture(s) and do the activity sheets on your clipboards. Can you make any connections between your sheets and the sermon?



Fill out the sheet to thank God for something that happened this week. Turn it into the offering plate.



Greet those around you with a handshake, wave, fist bump, or say hello.



Place the sticker on your shirt to remember that you are a child of God, and He loves you!