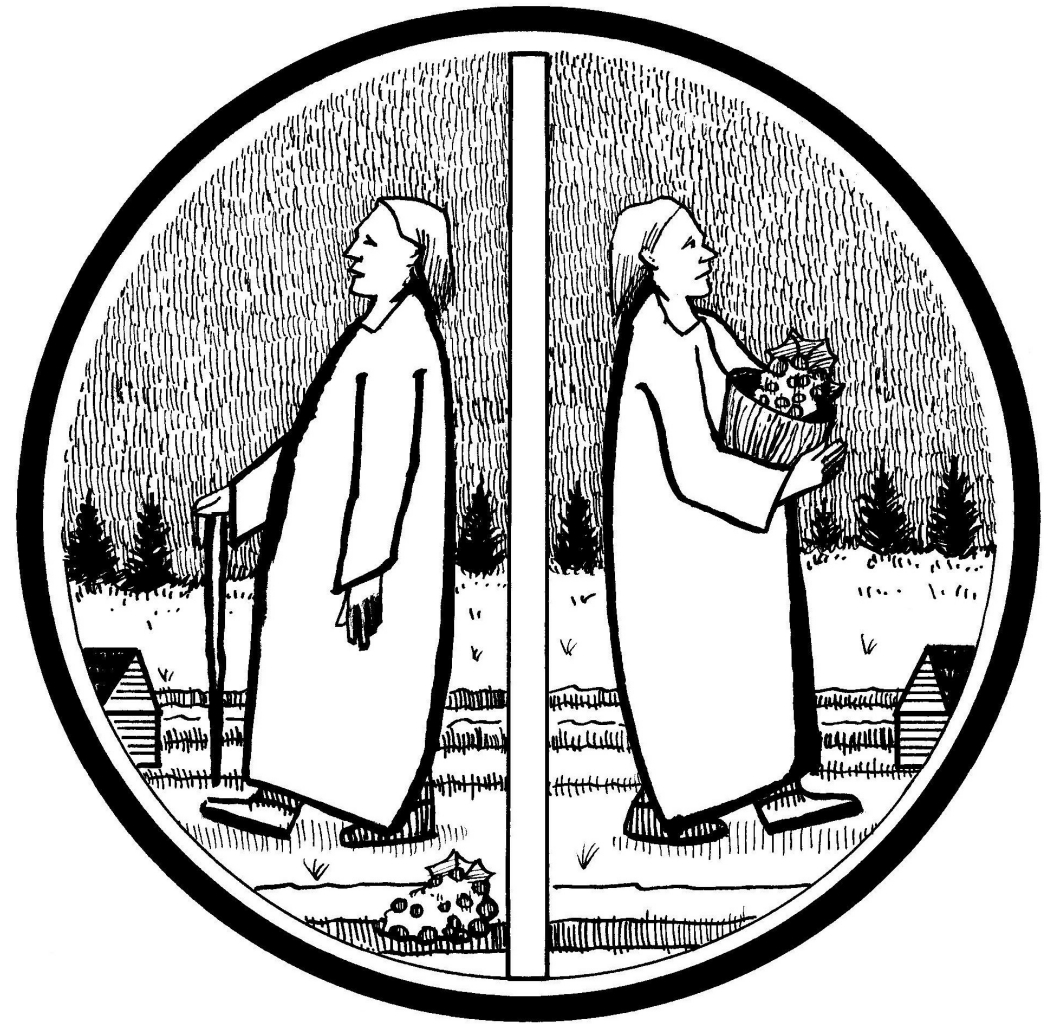




## *The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Sunday, September 27, 2026

9 a.m. Divine Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class

Rev. Jonah J. A. Schultz, Pastor

Deaconess Linda Strubbe | Principal Joy Reitsma | Music Director Bruce Engebrecht

[saalemjax.net](http://saalemjax.net) | [saalemjaxschool.net](http://saalemjaxschool.net) | 217-243-3419

Proper 21a – The Time of the Church

**Matthew 21:26 – “But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd...”** Foolish Pharisees! They fear men more than they fear God, and so they miss out on the great blessing of knowing Jesus and His love. All our sins are like this: we fear something more than we fear God. And how foolish that is! Just think of the blessings we miss out on whenever we place our fear or trust in something other than God.

A Note for guests on the Lord’s Supper

In the Divine Service, we eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and hell, and life everlasting. This meal is much more than a symbol or expression of faith. It’s the substantial Son of God giving Himself—His own body and blood—to His people. With deep thankfulness for Jesus Christ’s gifts to us here at Salem, we desire to celebrate the Holy Communion according to our heavenly Father’s Will. **Because this includes oneness in the faith we confess (doctrine), guests who desire to commune and confess Christ’s Truth with us are asked to speak with Pastor before the service.**

From Augsburg Confession – Article XVI – Civil Government

[1] Our churches teach that lawful civil regulations are good works of God. [2] They teach that it is right for Christians to hold political office, to serve as judges, to judge matters by imperial laws and other existing laws, to impose just punishments, to engage in just wars, to serve as soldiers, to make legal contracts, to hold property, to take oaths when required by the magistrates, for a man to marry a wife, or a woman to be given in marriage [Romans 13; 1 Corinthians 7:2].

[3] Our churches condemn the Anabaptists who forbid these political offices to Christians. [4] They also condemn those who do not locate evangelical perfection in the fear of God and in faith, but place it in forsaking political offices. [5] For the Gospel teaches an eternal righteousness of the heart (Romans 10:10). At the same time, it does not require the destruction of the civil state or the family. The Gospel very much requires that they be preserved as God’s ordinances and that love be practiced in such ordinances. [6] Therefore, it is necessary for Christians to be obedient to their rulers and laws. [7] The only exception is when they are commanded to sin. Then they ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

*Read more at [bookofconcord.cph.org/](http://bookofconcord.cph.org/)*

**2026 ILLINOIS VALLEY LUTHERANS FOR LIFE ANNUAL NUT SALE:** The Lutheran for Life Nut Sale started September 13<sup>th</sup> runs through October 11<sup>th</sup>. The order forms are in the Narthax. Please consider purchasing some nuts. Thank you

**DONATIONS FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN:** Clothing, (New or gently used), Medical Supplies, (bandages, walkers, wheelchairs) Food, Non-perishable, Other Supplies, (bedding, towels, washcloths, diapers) Cash Donations (made to Orphan Grain Train),are always welcome

**PIE FUNDRAISER:** Time to order those pies for the upcoming holidays. Salem Lutheran School students are selling them. Order forms are in the Narthax. Thank you

**SPECIAL THANKS OFFERING:** The special thanks offering dates have been set. It will begin on Reformation Sunday and run through the end of the year. If anyone would like to add to the funds that have been designated for the match, please contact the office. Our hope with this gift to God is to encourage members to provide an offering in addition to their regular Sunday donations. Thank you for your consideration.

**PRAYER LIST:** Members and friends in need of prayer: Roberta Mckee, Carole Holt, Bob Morris, Ron Hudec, Jack Watkins, Linda Ginder, Mary Kessinger. Linda Aring. Arliss Wenzel

Please contact the church office to be added/removed from the Prayer List

SUNDAY, September 20<sup>th</sup>

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Attendance | 204          |
| Communion  | 105          |
| Operating  | \$ 10,667.78 |
| Restricted | \$ 3,977.63  |
| Leap       | \$ 260.00    |

# NEWS AND NOTES SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>

Today's ***ALTAR FLOWERS*** is given to the glory of the Lord by Steve and Beth Schaefer in celebration of their 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 29<sup>th</sup>. May the Lord bless this couple with lots more anniversaries.

Today's ***RADIO BROADCAST*** is given to the glory of the Lord by memorials given to the Radio Broadcast in memory of Rob Maschhoff. May the Lord bless this family during this trying time.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** With Pastor Schultz at 10 am. Join us in building upon the solid rock of Christ together.

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** Starting Sunday in Bible Study we will be studying in Large Catechism provided by a wonderful donor. Please plan on attending and Thank you

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICE & CONFIRMATION:** During September, Wednesday evening service will start at 5:30 and it will be an evening prayer service and confirmation instructions. Mark your calendars and plan on attending. Thank you

**LEAP FUND:** The Finance committee reports that our Leap Fund (payment for our mortgage) needs support. Prayerfully consider. Thank you

**ALTAR FLOWER ACCOUNT:** The Finance committee has decided to create an Altar Flower Restricted Account. This account can be donated to and will be used for the Sunday's that we do not have anyone signed up for flowers. Thank you

**MICHAELMAS AT ST. JOHN'S IN BEARDSTOWN:** You are invited to join the Jacksonville Circuit for a Festival Divine Service on the day of St. Michael and All Angels. Our own Bruce Engebrecht will be playing the organ at special request. Date: September 29th (Tuesday) Location: St. John's in Beardstown, IL Meal: 5:30 p.m. Divine Service: 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to gather for food, fellowship, and the gifts of Christ in Word and Sacrament as we celebrate this feast together.

**MEN'S GOLF DAY** - Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> , Time -1:30 pm , Jacksonville Country Club, Playing 9 Hole 4-Man Scramble. A registration sheet is on the bulletin board. Any questions please contact Wade Mathis 217-690-2693. Please mark your calendars

**Order of Service: Divine Service Setting 3, LSB 184**

**Hymn of Invocation: 549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name**

**Introit**

*Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6*



The LORD lifts up the | humble;\*  
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

**Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;\***  
**for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.**

**The LORD builds up Je- | rusalem;\***  
**he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.**

**He heals the broken- | hearted\***  
**and binds | up their wounds.**

**He determines the number | of the stars;\***  
**he gives to all of | them their names.**

**Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;\***  
**his understanding is beyond | measure.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The LORD lifts up the | humble;\*  
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

**Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Old Testament Reading**

*Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? <sup>3</sup>As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

<sup>25</sup>“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>26</sup>When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has

committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. <sup>28</sup>Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

<sup>30</sup>“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

Gradual

Psalm 91:11; 103:1



**He will command his angels con- | cerning you\***  
**to guard you in | all your ways.**  
**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,\***  
**and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!**

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

<sup>1</sup>If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

<sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or questioning, <sup>15</sup>that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup>Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup>Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–27

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’” <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

**Sermon Hymn: 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**

**Offering Hymn: 848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service**

**Distribution Hymns: 629 What Is This Bread**  
**495 Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious**  
**543 What Wondrous Love Is This**

**Hymn to Depart: 815 All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine**

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