

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Building up God's people through His word for His world

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 10, 2025

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

We especially welcome our guests who are worshipping here today. What a privilege to greet you! If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to participate in the life and ministry of Good Shepherd. For information about our congregation, visit gslcva.org. Also, please fill out a Welcome card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the offering plate.

Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church. During the summer, Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at the 9:30 a.m. "traditional" services in the sanctuary. Our summer schedule runs through September 1.

To all worshippers: The presence of children in worship is a gift to the Body of Christ and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Please welcome our young ones and give their parents a smile of encouragement or a helping hand, if needed.

To the parents of young ones, here are a few suggestions for worshipping with your children: Relax! God put the wiggles and giggles in kids; don't feel that you have to suppress them in His house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front, where it is easier to see and hear what's going on. Quietly explain the parts of the worship service and actions of the pastor, ushers, communion assistants, etc. Sing the hymns and songs, pray, and voice the responses aloud. Children learn worshipful behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the worship service with your child or stand up and walk around the back of the sanctuary, feel free to do so, but please come back! And finally, if you so choose, . . .

You are welcome to use our nursery, as well as our parents' room next to the nursery, if your young ones need a break from the service. The Parents' Room is also a comfortable place where mothers may nurse their babies. The worship service is livestreamed to a monitor in the Parents' Room.

We offer Bible studies for adults on Sunday mornings during the summer. See News and Announcements for class information. Sunday School classes for children and youth resume in the fall.

Flowers and plants in our worship areas are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the church, uplift service participants, and remind us of God's good creation. You can find information about being a flower sponsor on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and at gslcva.org (enter "flowers" in the search area on the homepage). Today's flowers are sponsored by Ron and Marilyn Voigt in honor of their 57th wedding anniversary, and Rob and Linda Fekete in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary.

Prelude "Lord, Take My Heart, It Beats For Thee" Siegfried Karl-Elbert
Welcome Pastor James

Please stand

Opening Hymn "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" **Hymn No. 901**
Verses 1-3, 5

Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection on God's word and for self-examination. You may kneel or remain standing.

P: Merciful God,

C: **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: **Amen.**

Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Kyrie [Lord, have mercy] **Music in hymnal, pages 168-69**

Hymn of Praise "Glory to God in the Highest" **Music in hymnal, page 170**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day **Music in hymnal, page 172**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please sit

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

L: ¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O LORD God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

L: ¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Alleluia

Music in hymnal, page 173

Holy Gospel

Luke 12:32-40

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Music in hymnal, page 173

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

P: [Jesus said:] ³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Music in hymnal, page 173

Please sit

Baptismal Hymn

"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

Hymn No. 594

Verses 1, 5

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Landen Carter Plourd-Terlecki

Atlas Reagan Terlecki

Maximilian Ponce Terlecki

P: As these children are received into the Christian Church, let us make confession of the faith into which we baptize.

P: Do you renounce the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C: **Yes, we do renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

C: Yes, we believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?
C: Yes, we believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. 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.
P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
C: Yes, we 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.

+ + +

P: Through Baptism God has added Landen, Atlas, and Maximilian, to His own people to declare the wonderful deeds of our Savior, who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His kingdom.
P: And you, Landen, Atlas, and Maximilian the Lord bless you in all your ways from this time forth and even forevermore.
C: Amen.

Hymn of the Day "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" **Hymn No. 733**

If you think your child might be unable to sit through the entire service, this would be an appropriate time to take him/her to the nursery.

Message "Can You Handle the Good News?" Pastor Johann

Musical Reflection

Announcements Pastor James

Please fill out a Welcome card and place it in the offering plate.

Anthem "Lion of Judah" arr. Tom Fettke
Richard Jacobson, tenor/baritone

Messiah would come, the earth would	Glorious Conqueror, suffering Son.
rejoice,	Lion of Judah with nails in His hands,
The people start to sing.	The mighty Redeemer was meek as a lamb.
For they would behold as scripture foretold	No elegant robes, no glorious throne,
A mighty King of kings.	No armies at His side.
But He came as a child, not like they had	Could this be the One,
planned, not like they planned	A carpenter's son, a man condemned to die?
Lion of Judah, Lamb of God.	But a Lion roared deep inside this Lamb,

Inside this Lamb.

Lion of Judah, Lamb of God.
Glorious Conqueror, suffering Son.
Lion of Judah with nails in His hands,
The mighty Redeemer was meek as a lamb.
Messiah would come, the earth would
rejoice,
The people start to sing.
For they would behold as scripture foretold

A mighty King of kings.
But He came as a child, not like they had
planned, , not like they planned
Lion of Judah, Lamb of God.
Glorious Conqueror, suffering Son.
Lion of Judah with nails in His hands,
The mighty Redeemer was meek as a lamb.
Meek as a lamb.

Please stand

Offertory Prayer

C: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good, and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

*At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, "God of grace, ..."
The congregation responds, "hear our prayer."
Please see the News and Announcements sheet for a listing of intercessions.*

Lord's Prayer

**C: 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.**

Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.
C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

"Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service"

Hymn No. 848

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“As with Gladness, Men of Old”

Walter L. Pelz

As your schedule permits, please be seated during the postlude for a time of prayer and reflection.

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Please join us for coffee and conversation following the service.

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We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' messages, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

Serving Today

Worship Leader	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor Johann
Crucifer	*
Acolyte	*
Scripture Reader	Geoff Lunt
Prayer Leader	Nancy McGarry
Cantor	Richard Jacobson
Ushers	Martin Farley (lead) Dean Thorsell John Purtilo Jamie Ellor
Organist	Anne Lee
Altar Guild	Cynthia Lion
Projectionist	Jeannie Johns
Livestream Manager	Matt Hardy
Audio Engineer	Adam Sherman
Greeters	Karen Kidwell (door) Don Kidwell (welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Donna Harper
Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Opener	Jim Smith
Closer	Martin Farley
Coffee Setup	Wenda Smith
Kitchen Cleanup	Drew Lipman

* = unfilled as of August 6

Board of Servant Leaders

Rob Fekete, chair
Tony Esse, vice-chair
John Purtilo, secretary

Larry Austin
Drew Lipman
Jennifer Pelletier
Bernie Schoch

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James

The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper

The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

Through this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Bill and Lisa Schuler); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Frankner), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

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Jeff Donahue, Communications Director

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Heidi Cooper, Director of Engagement

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Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs

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Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod