

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Building up God's people through His word for His world

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

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. Our summer schedule ends today. See News & Announcements for the "regular" schedule, which resumes next week.

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/giving (look for the sponsorship form at the bottom of that page).

Prelude "Lauda Amina, Laudes Domini" Hal H. Hopson
Welcome Pastor James

Please stand

Opening Hymn "O Day of Rest and Gladness" **Hymn No. 906**

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 152-53**

Hymn of Praise "This Is the Feast" **Music in hymnal, page 155**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day **Music in hymnal, page 156**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please sit

First Reading

Proverbs 25:6-7a

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature.
Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life.
Today's reading is about humility.*

L: ⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
 or stand in the place of the great,
 ^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
 than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy
life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

L: ¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by
doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are
in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as
though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let
the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and
adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you
have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with
confidence,

 "The Lord is my helper;
 I will not be afraid.
 What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the
outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to
God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to
share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Alleluia

Music in hymnal, page 156

Holy Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

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

Music in hymnal, page 157

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

P: ¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Music in hymnal, page 157

Please sit

Hymn of the Day

“Spread the Reign of God the Lord”

Hymn No. 830

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

“The Best Seat”

Pastor James

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Nicene Creed

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
 Through Him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
 by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary
 and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
 Amen.

Please sit

Announcements

Pastor James

Offering

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

Anthem

"Oh, How I Love Jesus"

arr. Larry Sue

Sarah and Lori Damers, handbells; Anne Lee, piano

Please stand

Offertory Prayer

C: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good, and the harvest is
 plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, 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, "Hear us, O God, ..."

The congregation responds, "Your mercy is great."

Please see the News and Announcements sheet for a listing of intercessions.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface and Proper Preface

Music in hymnal, page 160

Sanctus [Holy, Holy, Holy]

Music in hymnal, page 161

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini [The peace of the Lord]

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Agnus Dei [Lamb of God]

Music in hymnal, page 163

Please sit

Distribution

We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, according to His Word: "This is My Body . . . this is My blood" (Matthew 26:26-27), and that in this sacrament our Lord gives us forgiveness of our sins, unity with God, and strength for a life of service.

We invite all baptized Christians who have made their First Communion, examined themselves, discern the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us at His Table.

Distribution procedure: Please come forward by the center aisle or as instructed by the usher. Fill the rail, beginning at the end near the wall. Kneel. Cup your hands to receive the bread. Then, take an individual cup from the tray as it is passed. **Cups in the innermost circle of the communion tray contain juice** for those who do not wish to drink wine. **For those who need gluten-free wafers:** Bring with you one of the brightly colored pieces of paper from the pews and hand it to the communion assistant who is distributing the wafers. That person will bring a gluten-free wafer to you.

Return to your seat via the aisle next to the windows. Place your empty communion cup in the bowl near the end of the rail. If you are unable to walk to the communion rail, please speak to an usher, and we will bring the sacrament to you.

Distribution Hymns **"The Lamb"**
 "When Peace, like a River"

Hymn No. 547
Hymn No. 763

Please stand

Prayer after Communion

P: Nurturing God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: **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

"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

Hymn No. 853

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Processional in D"

David Johnson

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 in following the service.

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Copyright 2006 Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri. LSB License #10005343. "Oh, How I Love Jesus,"

arr. Larry Sue. © 2024 Larry Sue

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 James
Crucifer	*
Acolyte	*
Scripture Reader	Walt Peter
Prayer Leader	Georgia Thorstenson
Cantor	Sarah Damers
Communion Assistants	Pastor James (host) Gary Budzier (host) Elizabeth Huang (tray) John Purtilo (tray)
Ushers	Ron Voigt (lead) Ric Nickerson Jeff Peterson Goodwyn Morgan
Organist	Anne Lee
Altar Guild	Joey Tempel
Projectionist	Reid Otterbacher
Audio Engineer	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager	Matt Hardy
Greeter	Deanine Thrash (door) Nancy McGarry (welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Brian Cors
Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Opener	Jim Smith
Closer	Allen Millman
Coffee Setup	Wenda Smith
Kitchen Cleanup	Mia Millman

* = unfilled as of August 27

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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Gary James, Assisting Pastor

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Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager

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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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Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant

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Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

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Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist

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Reid Otterbacher, Communications Assistant

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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