

# **Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 14, 2025**

*The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.*

**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](http://gslcva.org). Also, please fill out a Welcome card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the basket on the Welcome/resource table or hand it to an usher.

**Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church.** Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Our informal worship service features contemporary music and is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion celebrated on fourth Sundays.

**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 Sunday School** and a variety of Bible studies and spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings. All Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 a.m. See News and Announcements for class information.

**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](http://gslcva.org/giving) (look for the sponsorship form at the bottom of that page). Today's flowers are sponsored by Arlisa Ferrara to the glory of God and with thanks for all His blessings.

# SUNDAY/PRAISE

## GATHERING SONG "House of the Lord"

We worship the God who was  
We worship the God who is  
We worship the God who evermore will be  
He opened the prison doors  
He parted the raging sea  
My God He holds the victory yeah

*Chorus:*

*There's joy in the house of the Lord  
There's joy in the house of the Lord today  
And we won't be quiet  
We shout out Your praise  
There's joy in the house of the Lord  
Our God is surely in this place  
And we won't be quiet  
We shout out Your praise*

Oh oh oh  
We shout out Your praise

We sing to the God who heals  
We sing to the God who saves  
We sing to the God who always  
makes a way  
'Cause He hung up on that cross  
Then He rose up from that grave  
My God's still rolling stones away

*Chorus*

*('Cause) We were the beggars  
Now we're royalty  
We were the prisoners  
Now we're running free  
We are forgiven accepted  
Redeemed by His grace  
Let the house of the Lord sing praise*

*Chorus (Repeat)*

"House of the Lord." Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham. © 2020 Be Essential Songs; Cashagamble Jet Music; Phil Wickham Music; Simply Global Songs. CCLI #858354.

## WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

## SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

## SONG OF PRAISE "Forever Reign"

You are good You are good  
When there's nothing good in me  
You are love You are love  
On display for all to see  
You are light You are light  
When the darkness closes in  
You are hope You are hope  
You have covered all my sin

You are peace You are peace  
When my fear is crippling  
You are true You are true  
Even in my wandering  
You are joy You are joy  
You're the reason that I sing

You are life You are life  
In You death has lost its sting

*Chorus 1:*

*(Oh) I'm running to Your arms  
I'm running to Your arms  
The riches of Your love will always be  
enough  
Nothing compares to Your embrace  
Light of the world forever reign*

You are more You are more  
Than my words will ever say  
You are Lord You are Lord  
All creation will proclaim  
You are here You are here

In Your presence I'm made whole  
You are God You are God  
Of all else I'm letting go

*Chorus 1*

*Chorus 2:*

*I'm running to Your arms*

*I'm running to Your arms*

*The riches of Your love will always be  
enough*

*Nothing compares to Your embrace  
Light of the world forever reign*

My heart will sing no other Name

Jesus Jesus

(Repeat 4x)

*Chorus 1*

*Chorus 2*

*Light of the world forever reign*

"Forever Reign." Jason Ingram, Reuben Morgan. © 2009 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia; Spirit Nashville Three; So Essential Tunes; Spirit Nashville Three. CCLI #858354.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

[We confess together] **Holy Lord, we confess that we have fallen short. We turn our backs when we could embrace. We remain silent when we could speak. We speak when we could listen. We close the door when we could fling it wide open. We judge when we could seek understanding. We cling when we could give. Forgive us, O God, for being sinful, and help us to continue to grow into the people you created us to be, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Psalm 51:1-10

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**C: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

P: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**C: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

P: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

**C: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

P: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**C: Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

P: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

## READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Luke 15:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he

comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

## KIDS’ MESSAGE

“The Lost Sheep”

Pastor James

## RESPONSE SONG:

“Yes and Amen”

Father of kindness You have poured out  
grace

You brought me out of darkness

You have filled me with peace

Giver of mercy You’re my help in time  
of need

Lord I can’t help but sing

*Chorus 1: Faithful You are*

*Faithful forever You will be*

*Faithful You are*

*All Your promises are Yes and Amen*

*All Your promises are Yes and Amen*

Beautiful Savior You have brought me near

You pulled me from the ashes

You have broken ev’ry curse

Blessed Redeemer You have set this captive  
free

Lord I can’t help but sing

*Chorus 1*

*Chorus 2: Faithful You are*

*Faithful forever You will be*

*Faithful You are*

*All Your promises are Yes and Amen*

I will rest in Your promises

My confidence is Your faithfulness

I will rest in Your promises

My confidence is Your faithfulness

(Repeat)

*Chorus 2 (Repeat)*

*All Your promises are Yes and Amen*

*All Your promises are Yes and Amen*

“Yes and Amen.” Chris McClarney, Nate Moore, Tony Brown. © 2016 Bethel Worship Publishing; Mouth Of The River Music; Songs Of Simply Hymns Music; Tony Brown Music Designee; Thankyou Music. CCLI #858354.

## MESSAGE

“Whose Story”

Pastor James

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

## BLESSING OF TEACHERS

## OFFERINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Pastor Johann

*Please take this opportunity to fill out the Welcome Card and hand it to one of the ushers or place it in the basket on the Welcome/resource table as you leave.*

## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*After the pastor says "Lord, hear our prayer," we respond by singing:*

**Band:** Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, hear our cry and heal our land.  
Let kindness lead us to compassion, bring us back again.

**People:** ***Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy on us now.***

"Kyrle Eleison." Words and music by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher, and Matt Redman. © 2016 S.D.G. Publishing, Said and Done Publishing, Sixsteps Music, Sixsteps Songs, Thankyou Music, Worship Together Music, worshiptogethersongs.com (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Be Essential Songs, Fellow Ships Music, I Am A Pilgrim Songs, So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC). CCLI #858354.

## THE 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.**

## SENDING SONG

"Praise"

I'll praise in the valley  
Praise on the mountain  
I'll praise when I'm sure  
Praise when I'm doubting  
I'll praise when outnumbered  
Praise when surrounded  
'Cause praise is the water  
My enemies drown in

*Pre-Chorus:*  
*As long as I'm breathing*  
*I've got a reason to*

*Chorus 1:*  
*Praise the Lord oh my soul*  
*Praise the Lord oh my soul*

I'll praise when I feel it  
And I'll praise when I don't  
I'll praise 'cause I know  
You're still in control  
'Cause my praise is a weapon  
It's more than a sound  
My praise is the shout  
That brings Jericho down

*Pre-Chorus:*  
*As long as I'm breathing*

*I've got a reason to*

*Chorus 2:*  
*Praise the Lord oh my soul*  
*Praise the Lord oh my soul*  
*I won't be quiet*  
*My God is alive*  
*How could I keep it inside*  
*Praise the Lord oh my soul*

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign  
Praise 'cause You reign  
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the  
grave  
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful  
Praise 'cause You're true  
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater  
than You  
(Repeat)

*Chorus 3:*  
*Praise the Lord oh my soul*  
*Praise the Lord oh my soul*  
*Praise the Lord oh my soul*  
*Praise the Lord oh my soul*

I won't be quiet  
My God is alive

How could I keep it inside  
 I won't be quiet  
 My God is alive  
 How could I keep it inside

I won't be quiet  
 My God is alive  
 How could I keep it inside  
 Praise the Lord oh my soul

"Praise." Brandon Lake, Chandler Moore, Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Pat Barrett, Steven Furtick. © Brandon Lake Music; For Humans Publishing; Maverick City Publishing; Capitol CMG Genesis; Capitol CMG Paragon; Housefires Sounds; Writer's Roof Publishing; Music by Elevation Worship Publishing. CCLI #858354.

## BLESSING & SENDING

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**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' message, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, [jeff@gslcva.org](mailto:jeff@gslcva.org)

Serving Today	
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Pastor Johann
<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor James
<b>Ushers</b>	Paul Devine (lead) David Johns
<b>Greeter</b>	Sally Cors (door)
<b>Guest Welcome</b>	Brian Cors
<b>Engagement</b>	Heidi Cooper
<b>Praise Team</b>	Tara Planeta (violin) MaryAnn Perkel (cello) Scott Clement (bass) Julian Berkowitz (drums) Steve Mutter (guitar) Jackie Huffman (vocals) Matt Hardy (leader; piano)
<b>Projectionist</b>	Jeannie Johns
<b>Audio Engineer</b>	Scott Shepherd
<b>Livestream Manager</b>	Adam Sherman
<b>Closer</b>	Martin Farley
<b>Kitchen Cleanup</b>	Goodwyn Morgan

## **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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**Sarah Brazell, Preschool Director**

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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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**Michelle Tenhaeff, Children's Ministry Coordinator**

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**Julie Schorfheide, Communications Assistant**

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**Chloe Vanderhoof, Social Media Assistant**

chloe@gslcva.org

*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

**Be a part** of the SUNDAY/PRAISE community by serving in our worship gatherings as greeters, ushers, singers, instrumentalists, AV support, and others. Interested? Contact us by emailing [gslc@gslcva.org](mailto:gslc@gslcva.org) or calling 703-437-5020.



## ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK FROM GOD'S WORD

### From the Old Testament

### Exodus 32:7-14

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " <sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

<sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " <sup>14</sup> And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

### From the New Testament

### 1 Timothy 1:12-17

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.