

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

Reformation Sunday
October 26, 2025

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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

Preservice Music

Handbell Choir, Brass Quintet, Organ

Welcome

Pastor James

Please stand

Opening Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Hymn No. 657

Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

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, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please sit

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

R: ³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No humans make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death, a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

R: ¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Alleluia

Music in hymnal, page 173

Holy Gospel

John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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

Music in hymnal, page 157

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

P: ³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Music in hymnal, page 173

Please sit

Kids' Message (8:00)

Elizabeth Huang

Baptismal Hymn (11:00) "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

Hymn No. 594

Verses 1, 5

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11:00)

Hannah Laura Gaffey

P: As this child is 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, I do renounce them.**

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

C: **Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

C: **Yes, I 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, 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.**

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P: Through Baptism God has added Hannah 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 a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His kingdom.**
P: And you, Hannah, the Lord bless you in all your ways from this time forth and even forevermore.
C: **Amen.**

Hymn of the Day "Thy Strong Word" **Hymn No. 578**
Verses 1-3: All Verse 4: Choir
Verse 6: All

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 Seal" Pastor Johann

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Apostles' Creed (8:00)

C: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He 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.

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.

Please sit

Announcements Pastor James

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

Anthem

“God Is Our Refuge and Strength”

Allen Pote

Sanctuary Choir; Hart Guonjian-Pettit, trumpet; Donny Albrecht, trumpet

God is our refuge and strength,
A present help in time of trouble.
Though the mountains shake in the heart of
the sea,
Though the waters roar and foam,
We will not fear.

Come and behold the work of the Lord,
The awesome acts of God.
He is in the midst of his people,
In all the earth.

He is the Word, we are his hands,
He will lead us.
He is the air, we are his song,
We will celebrate his presence
All the day long.

God is our refuge and strength,
A present help in time of trouble.
Though the mountains shake in the heart of
the sea,

Though the waters roar and foam,
We will not fear.

Come and behold the work of the Lord,
The awesome acts of God.
He is in the midst of his people,
In all the earth.

He is the rain, we are the stones,
He will cleanse us.
He is the air, we are his song,
We will celebrate his presence
All the day long.

God is our refuge and strength,
A present help in time of trouble.
Though the mountains shake in the heart of
the sea,
Though the waters roar and foam,
We will not fear.
We will not fear. We will not fear.
We will not fear.

Please stand

Offertory Prayer

C: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, “God of grace, ...”

The congregation responds, “receive 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: God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Hymn No. 644

Verse 1: All Verse 2: Women

Verse 3: Choir Verse 4: Men

Verse 5: All

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Symphony No. 5, Op. 107, “Reformation” Finale

Mendelssohn/arr. Garner

Organ, Brass Quintet

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 the Fellowship Hall 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

	8:00	11:00
Worship Leader	Pastor James	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor Johann	Pastor Johann
Crucifer	EJ Hoplin	*
Acolyte	Thatcher Hoplin	*
Scripture Reader	Geoff Lunt	Nancy McGarry
Prayer Leader	Chris Miller	
Cantor	Eugene Stromecki	Richard Jacobson
Ushers	Dan Pelletier (lead) Jim Smith Dean Thorsell Dick Orth	Jim Micsan (lead) Jim Ellis Goodwyn Morgan Jeff Peterson
Choir Director	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Handbell Director	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Altar Care	Kristi Nickerson	Sharon Gurtz
Projectionist	Chloe Vanderhoof	Chloe Vanderhoof
Audio Engineer	Matt Hardy	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager		Matt Hardy
Greeter	David Ellison (door) * (welcome center)	Kelly Nield (door) *(welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Deanine Thrash	Jeannie Johns
Opener	Ric Nickerson	
Closer		Martin Farley
Coffee Setup	Wenda Smith	
Kitchen Cleanup		Drew Lipman

* = unfilled as of October 22

Thanks to our instrumentalists: Hart Guonjian-Pettit, trumpet; Donny Albrecht, trumpet; Claire Bradley, French horn; Mike Matarazzo, trombone; Cameron Farnsworth, tuba

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 (Randy and Melanie Stockman); 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

Room 201; pastorjo@gslcva.org; 703-439-2754

Gary James, Assisting Pastor

Room 209; pastorgary@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Sarah Brazell, Preschool Director

Room 101; preschool@gslcva.org; 703-437-4511

Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager

Room 212; georgia@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x803

Jeff Donahue, Communications Director

Room 209; jeff@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x811

Heidi Cooper, Director of Engagement

heidi@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs

Room 215; anne@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x807

Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant

Room 210; michele@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x806

Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

Room 208; holly@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x213

Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist

matt@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Michelle Tenhaeff, Children's Ministry Coordinator

childministry@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Julie Schorfheide, Communications Assistant

julie@gslcva.org

Reid Otterbacher, Communications Assistant

commassist@gslcva.org

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