

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

Midweek Service: Blest Communion
March 11, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.

St. Paul writes regarding the Lord's Supper: "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" (1 Corinthians 10:14–22). These words remind us that in the salutary gift of the Lord's Supper we participate in a "blest Communion" (LSB 617:3): first and foremost, communion and fellowship with Christ, but also a fellowship with those who commune at table with us. Finally, in this Holy Meal, we have fellowship with the "whole company of heaven," as recipients of this holy gift enjoy the comfort of being surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1), including those they love who have departed in the faith.

Prelude

Please stand

Hymn "The Fruit of Love Once Blooming" *see insert*

Opening Sentences

P: Let my prayer be counted as incense before You,
C: **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**
P: In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord took bread and wine,
C: **to celebrate the Passover meal of the old covenant with His disciples.**
P: In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord took bread and wine,
C: **to institute the meal of the new covenant in His blood.**
P: The cup of blessing that we bless,
C: **is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?**
P: The bread that we break,
C: **is it not a participation in the body of Christ?**
P: As often as we eat this bread and drink the cup,
C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**
C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Confession

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Worshippers turn to face one another across the center aisle and observe silence for self-examination.

Pulpit side: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thinking, speaking, and acting, with only myself to blame. Moreover, I have failed to appreciate the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come through the Lord's Supper. I pray

God Almighty to forgive me my sins and to use this Lent to increase my faith and understanding.

Other side: *The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and peace, forgiveness and growth in grace. Amen.*

Other side: *I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thinking, speaking, and acting, with only myself to blame. Moreover, I have failed to appreciate the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come through the Lord's Supper. I pray God Almighty to forgive me my sins and to use this Lent to increase my faith and understanding.*

Pulpit side: *The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and peace, forgiveness and growth in grace. Amen.*

Please sit

Psalmody

Psalms 122, 133

P: I was glad when they said to me,
C: **"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"**
P: Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!
C: **Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together,**
P: to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
C: **as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**
P: There thrones for judgment were set,
C: **the thrones of the house of David.**
P: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
C: **"May they be secure who love you!**
P: Peace be within your walls
C: **and security within your towers!"**
P: For my brothers and companions' sake
I will say, "Peace be within you!"
C: **For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,**
I will seek your good.
P: Behold, how good and pleasant it is
C: **when brothers dwell in unity!**
P: It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
C: **on the beard of Aaron,**
running down on the collar of his robes!
P: It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!
C: **For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,**
life forevermore.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Reading

1 Corinthians 10:14-22, 31b-33

In the Lord's Supper, we are one with each other.

- L: A reading from the tenth chapter of First Corinthians.
Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.
- C: The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?**
- L: Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then?
- C: That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?**
- L: No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He? . . . Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.
- L: O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Reading

Acts 2:42-47

The Lord's Supper is integral in the life of the Early Church.

- L: A reading from the second chapter of Acts.
⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- L: O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C: Thanks be to God.**

Please sit

Hymn "O Lord, We Praise Thee" **Hymn No. 617**
Message "Blest Communion" Pastor James

Musical Reflection

Offering Moment

Offerings and Welcome cards will be placed in the plate by the entry doors.

Canticle "Christ, the Word of God Incarnate" **Hymn No. 540**
Verses 1, 4

Please stand

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Church

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, offering fruit from the tree of life,

C: **by Your word of Law accuse every prideful thought in us, and by Your precious Gospel call us to repentance and a firm faith in Your gift of eternal life.**

L: Lord Jesus, bread from heaven,

C: **feed us always that we may neither hunger nor thirst, but continually be ready for whatever temptations we might face in this wilderness until our journey's end.**

L: Lord Jesus, whose forgiveness is healing medicine,

C: **bind up our sin-sick souls and heal our wounded consciences so that Your life may flow through us.**

L: Lord Jesus, offering a blest communion in the Lord's Supper,

C: **we give thanks that in spite of our sinful condition You bring us into fellowship with You and one another, acceptable in Your sight by Your atoning grace.**

L: Lord Jesus, rest for the weary,

C: **lift the burden of our sins, we pray, and refresh our souls so that we may serve You each day and invite others to join us on our journey toward an eternal Sabbath.**

L: Lord Jesus, who invites us to the heavenly nuptial feast,

C: **bestow on us hearts of love and joy each time we partake of the Lord's Supper, a foretaste of the feast to come.**

L: Lord Jesus, whose sacrifice instituted the new covenant,

C: **enable us to receive in true faith Your assurance that our separating sins have been forgiven in time and eternity.**

L: Lord Jesus, who received the Father's wrath in our stead on the cross,

C: **each time we receive Your body and blood in the Lord's Supper, grant that we may recognize the gravity of our sin and the reality of Your grace.**

L: Lord Jesus, God's Passover Lamb,
C: **give us hearts single-mindedly fixed on You, whose blood has saved us from the wrath we deserve and whose victory over death has opened to us eternal life.**

L: Lord Jesus, who has made the Lord's Supper Your feast of victory,
C: **with saints and angels we praise and glorify Your holy name here in time until we join them to sing Your praises face-to-face.**

Prayer for Peace

L: Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

C: **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**

L: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

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.**

Nunc Dimittis ~ *Song of Simeon*

Music in hymnal, page 165

Benediction

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, and † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn "For All the Saints"

Hymn No. 677
Verses 1, 4, 8

Dismissal

P: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

During the postlude, please take a moment to get up and greet guests and worshippers at this service who are new to you. You are also welcome to stay seated for a time of prayer and reflection.

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Serving Today	
Worship Leader	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor James
Scripture Reader	Chris Miller
Prayer Leader	Chris Miller
Ushers	Goodwyn Morgan (lead) Bernie Schoch
Organist	Anne Lee
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Matt Hardy
Greeter	Kelly Nield (door) June McGurn (welcome center)

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

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 Franker), 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