

# **Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 26, 2026**

*Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.*

**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).

# 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 "This Is Amazing Grace"

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger  
The King of Glory the King above all kings  
Who shakes the whole earth with holy  
thunder  
And leaves us breathless in awe and  
wonder  
The King of Glory the King above all kings

*Chorus:*

*This is amazing grace  
This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place  
That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life*

*That I would be set free  
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me  
Who brings our chaos back into order  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter  
The King of Glory the King of Glory  
Who rules the nations with truth and  
justice  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance  
The King of Glory the King above all kings*

*Chorus*

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the  
grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain*

Worthy is the King who conquered the  
grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the  
grave

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy worthy worthy  
*Chorus*

"This Is Amazing Grace." Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, Phil Wickham. © 2013 Phil Wickham Music; Seems Like Music; Sing My Songs; Bethel Music Publishing; WC Music Corp.; Remaining portion is unaffiliated. CCLI #858354.

## RESPONSIVE READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Psalm 23

P: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**C: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

P: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## READING FROM GOD'S WORD

John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

## RESPONSE SONG: "Receive Our King"

Light my heart like a candle  
Let it burn for only You  
Join my song with the angels  
Tell ev'ryone the news

*Pre-Chorus:*

*That You came as a child  
Beside us in our struggle*

*Now we come lifting high  
The Name that's like no other*

*Chorus:*

*Jesus, Wonderful Counselor  
Prince of Peace  
Son of God, here with us  
We receive our King*

Turn my eyes to the wonder  
Let me see You as You are  
Be my life be my center  
In my night be the brightest star

*Pre-Chorus*

*Chorus*

Prepare Him room  
Let the light of the world shine through  
(Repeat 3x)

*Chorus (2x)*

Light my heart like a candle,  
Let it burn for only You

"Receive Our King." Jared Anderson, Meredith Andrews. © 2016 Curb Songs, Mesmerized Music, Integrity Worship Music. CCLI #858354.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Orlando Ponce Terlecki

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 Orlando 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, Orlando, the Lord bless you in all your ways from this time forth and even forevermore.

**C: Amen.**

## MESSAGE

"The Good Shepherd: A Pet Sermon"

Pastor Johann

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

## OFFERINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Communications Director Jeff Donahue

*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:** You hear us calling, You hear us calling, Abba Father  
You hear us calling, You hear us calling, Abba Father

**People:** *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy*  
*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy*

## 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.**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

[We confess together] **God of grace and mercy, we confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions; time and time again we have failed to love You with all that we have; we have failed to love our neighbors and those in need. Forgive the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. For our sins we deserve separation from you. But Lord, You are overflowing with mercy. Bring back to life within us the joy of Your saving grace; heal our brokenness, give light to our path, and rest to our souls. Give us the desire and the power to grow in Your image, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

### *Some notes about Holy Communion*

**We believe** that Jesus 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 received their First Communion, examined themselves, acknowledge the true body and blood of Jesus Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us in this holy meal.

**The cups in the innermost circle of the communion tray contain juice** for those who do not wish to drink wine.

## COMMUNION SONG "Who You Say I Am"

Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me

*Chorus 1:*  
*Who the Son sets free*  
*Oh is free indeed*  
*I'm a child of God*  
*Yes I am*

Free at last  
He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes He died for me

*Chorus 1*

*Chorus 2:*

*In my Father's house  
There's a place for me*

*I'm a child of God  
Yes I am*

I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am

(Repeat)

I am who You say I am

*Chorus 1*

*Chorus 2 (2x)*

"Who You Say I Am." Ben Fielding, Reuben Morgan. © 2017 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia. CCLI #858354.

## BLESSING & SENDING

### SENDING SONG

### "Stand In Your Love"

When darkness tries to roll over my bones  
When sorrow comes to steal the joy I own  
When brokenness and pain is all I know  
I won't be shaken I won't be shaken

*Chorus:*

*My fear doesn't stand a chance*

*When I stand in Your love*

*My fear doesn't stand a chance*

*When I stand in Your love*

Shame no longer has a place to hide

I am not a captive to the lies

I'm not afraid to leave my past behind  
I won't be shaken I won't be shaken

*Chorus*

There's power that can break off every  
chain

There's power that can empty out a grave

There's resurrection power that can save

There's power in Your name power in Your  
name

*Chorus (2x)*

Standing in Your love

"Stand in Your Love." Josh Baldwin, Mark Harris, Rita Springer. © 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon; Gateway Create Publishing; Gateway Worship Publishing; Be Essential Songs; Coastal Lyric; Bethel Music Publishing. CCLI #858354.

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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 James
<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor Johann
<b>Ushers</b>	Jim Ellis (lead) Jim Micsan
<b>Greeter</b>	Bill Ciesar (door) Deb Ciesar (door)
<b>Guest Welcome</b>	*
<b>Praise Team</b>	Tara Planeta (violin) MaryAnn Perkel (cello) Steve Mutter (guitar) Peter Revell (bass) Paul Jung (drums) Jackie Huffman (vocals) Matt Hardy (leader; piano)
<b>Altar Care</b>	*
<b>Projectionist</b>	Jen Pelletier
<b>Audio Engineer</b>	Scott Shepherd
<b>Livestream Manager</b>	Adam Sherman
<b>Closer</b>	Martin Farley
<b>Kitchen Cleanup</b>	Goodwyn Morgan

\* = unfilled as of April 22

**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.

## **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**

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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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**Reid Otterbacher, 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

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

### From the New Testament

Acts 2:42-47

*Today's reading describes life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<sup>2</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### From the New Testament

1 Peter 2:19-25

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly.

<sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

<sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.