

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

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 3, 2026**

*As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.*

**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 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.

**Need hearing assistance?** Ask an usher for a headset, which has a direct feed from our sound system.

**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. Information about being a flower sponsor is 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 Amanda and Mike Conschafter in honor of James, Hugh, and Amelia Conschafter.

**Prelude (8:00)** "Andante Tranquillo" F. Mendelssohn  
**Prelude (11:00)** "Grazioso" Arnold B. Sherman  
*Handbell Choir*

**Welcome** Pastor Johann

*Please stand*

**Opening Hymn** "He's Risen, He's Risen" **Hymn No. 480**

**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:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C:** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

**P:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C:** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**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.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all

the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please sit*

**First Reading**

**Acts 7:55-60**

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

R: <sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."  
<sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading**

**1 Peter 2:2-10**

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

R: <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,"

<sup>8</sup> and

"A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**Alleluia**

**Music in hymnal, page 156**

**Holy Gospel**

**John 14:1-14**

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

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

**Music in hymnal, page 157**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

P: [Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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**      “You Are the Way; through You Alone”      **Hymn No. 526**

*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**      “Getting There”      Pastor James

**Musical Reflection**

**Faith Statement (8:00)**      Cadence Raye

*Please stand*

**Nicene Creed (11:00)**

**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 Johann

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

**Anthem (8:00)**      “Grazioso”      Arnold B. Sherman  
*Bell Choir*

**Anthem (11:00)**

“Zion’s Walls”  
Sanctuary Choir

Copland/arr. Glenn Koponen

Come fathers and mothers,  
Come sisters and brothers,  
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.

O fathers don’t you feel determined  
To meet within the walls of Zion.  
We’ll shout and go round,  
We’ll shout and go round,  
Shout and go round the walls of Zion.

Come fathers and mothers,  
Come sisters and brothers,

Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.

Come fathers and mothers,  
Come sisters and brothers,  
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.

O fathers don’t you feel determined  
To meet within the walls of Zion.  
We’ll shout and go round,  
We’ll shout and go round  
Shout and go round the walls of Zion.

*Please stand*

**Offertory Prayer**

**C: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**Prayer of the Church**

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

*The congregation responds, “receive our prayer.”*

*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** "Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing"  
"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

**Hymn No. 584**  
**Hymn No. 711**

*Please stand*

### Prayer after Communion

P: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C: **Amen.**

### Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, + bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** "Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom"

**Hymn No. 481**

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Sonata No. 3, Mov. 1

F. Mendelssohn

*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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***Please join us for coffee and conversation 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](mailto:jeff@gslcva.org)

### Serving Today

	8:00	11:00
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Pastor Johann	Pastor Johann
<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor James	Pastor James
<b>Crucifer</b>	*	Josie Ellis
<b>Acolyte</b>	*	James Ellis
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Henry Eickelberg	Geoff Lunt
<b>Prayer Leader</b>	Kirsten Bates	Andrew Otterbacher
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Pastor Johann (host) Pastor James (host) Chris Miller (tray) Elizabeth Huang (tray)	Pastor Johann (host) Pastor James (host) Jeff Peterson (tray) Nancy McGarry (tray)
<b>Ushers</b>	Gary Budzier (lead) Bob Camin John Purtilo Dan Pelletier	Rob Fekete (lead) Marty Gurtz Jim Ellis Brian Cors
<b>Choir Director</b>		Anne Lee
<b>Handbell Director</b>	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
<b>Organist</b>	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
<b>Altar Care</b>	Michelle Tenhaeff	Joey Tempel
<b>Projectionist</b>	Jeff Donahue	Jeff Donahue
<b>Audio Engineer</b>	Matt Hardy	Adam Sherman
<b>Livestream Manager</b>		Matt Hardy
<b>Greeter</b>	Heidi Cooper (door) Deanine Thrash (welcome center)	Karen Kidwell (door) Don Kidwell (welcome center)
<b>Guest Welcome</b>	Donna Harper	Georgia Thorstenson
<b>Engagement</b>	Heidi Cooper	Heidi Cooper
<b>Opener</b>	Jim Smith	
<b>Closer</b>		Martin Farley
<b>Coffee Setup</b>	Wenda Smith	
<b>Kitchen Cleanup</b>		Mia Millman

\* = unfilled as of April 29

## **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**

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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**

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**

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**Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director**

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**Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist**

matt@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

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

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**Julie Schorfheide, Communications Assistant**

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**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