Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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.

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. You can find information about being a flower sponsor on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and at gslcva.org/giving (look for information at the bottom of that page). Today's flowers are sponsored by Candace Vincent in memory of Steven Vincent's birthday.

Prelude "Rhosymedre (Lovely)" R. V. Williams

Welcome Pastor Johann

Please stand

Opening Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" **Hymn No. 802**

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 dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C: Amen.

P: 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: Holy God,

C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

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.
Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please sit

First Reading **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

R: 7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;

in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

R: 1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have
anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will
come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden
destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there
will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to
surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are
not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep
awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get
drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate
of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for
wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that
whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one
another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia **Music in hymnal, page 156**

Holy Gospel **Matthew 25:14-30**

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord. **Music in hymnal, page 157**

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

P: [Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his
slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to
another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who
had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents.
17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one

who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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 "Take My Life and Let It Be" **Hymn No. 784**

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 "Stewardship of Resources" Pastor Johann

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Nicene Creed

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 Director of Communications Jeff Donahue

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

Anthem "Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep" John Rutter
Sanctuary Choir

Loving shepherd of thy sheep,
Keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand,
None can pluck me from thy hand,
None can pluck me from thy hand.

Loving shepherd of thy sheep,
Keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand,
None can pluck me from thy hand,
None can pluck me from thy hand.

I would praise thee ev'ry day,
Gladly all thy will obey,
Like thy blessed ones above,
Happy in thy perfect love.

Loving shepherd, ever near,
Teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
Suffer not my steps to stray
From the straight and narrow way,
From the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest I would go,
Walking in thy steps below,
Till before my Father's throne
I shall know as I am known.

Loving shepherd of thy sheep,
Keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand,
None can pluck me from thy hand,
None can pluck me from thy hand,
From thy hand.

Please stand

Offertory Prayer

C: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, "God, in your mercy …"
The congregation responds, "hear 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 "Lord Jesus, Think on Me" **Hymn No. 610**
"Chief of Sinners, Though I Be" **Hymn No. 611**

Please stand

Prayer after Communion

P: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn "Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go" **Hymn No. 920**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Concerto in A minor, after A. Vivaldi (BWV 593) J. S. Bach

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.

\+ + +

Please join us for coffee and conversation following the service.

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Serving Today	
Worship Leader	Pastor Johann
Preacher	Pastor Johann
Crucifer	*
Acolyte	*
Scripture Reader	Alison Salerno
Prayer Leader	Chris Miller
Cantor	Cecelia McKinley
Communion Assistants	Pastor Johann (host) Walt Peter (host) David Ellison (tray) John Purtilo (tray)
Ushers	Martin Farley(lead) Dan Pelletier Rob Fekete Marty Gurtz
Choir Director	Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee
Altar Care	Rhoda Camin
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager	Matt Hardy
Greeter	Kelly Nield (door) *(welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Donna Harper
Opener	Ric Nickerson
Closer	Martin Farley
Coffee Setup	Drew Lipman
Kitchen Cleanup	Goodwyn Morgan

* = unfilled as of November 11

Board of Servant Leaders

Tony Esse, chair
Paul Devine, vice-chair
John Purtilo, secretary
Rob Fekete
Andrew Otterbacher
Dan 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
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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

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