

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 12, 2026**

*Other seeds fell  
on good soil and  
brought forth  
grain ....*

*Matthew 13:8, NRSV*



**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**  
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[www.mygoodshepherd.net](http://www.mygoodshepherd.net)

## INTRODUCTION

*God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.*

## PRELUDE

### WELCOME

*Please stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine  
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.  
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please sit*

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13**

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 65:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

## SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*



## **GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

The holy gospel according Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

*Please stand*

## We Plow the Fields and Scatter



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.  
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.  
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;  
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.  
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

### *Refrain*



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Ushers will come by to collect today's offering, or you can use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.*

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Spirit Song*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

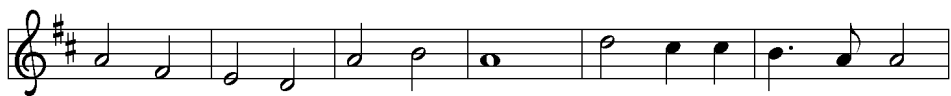
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

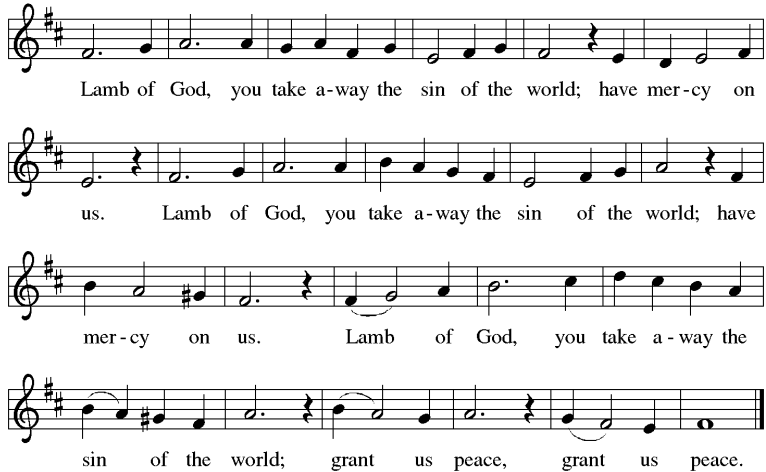
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please sit*

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

### SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, when your Son Jesus gathered a crowd and blessed the loaves and fish, all ate and were filled. And still there was more. In your love and care, extend this meal to all who will receive it. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence and the courage to be the body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### FAMILY TIME

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

### SENDING HYMN

## On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the  
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -  
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in  
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,  
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!  
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.  
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

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"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

"On What Has Now Been Sown"

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

Would you like to help out at church? We would love volunteers to Greet the congregation and visitors as they arrive on Sunday mornings. Ideally, there would be two individuals each week. If possible, please arrive twenty minutes before the service. Please put on a name tag to assist everyone getting to know you. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.



### A Truly Messy Mini Messy Church

Our next Messy Church will be outside on July 19, 2026 - 11:00am - 12:00pm. Miss Ashley from Little Lambs Christian Preschool, will be helping us make slime in the garden. We will then use our creativity to fill our Messy Church Baptismal Font with water. The food will be kept light; we are serving fruit, cheese and crackers - snack style.

### INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY

Thank you to all those who have agreed to participate in our Intergenerational Sunday. Those that have been asked will be given a specific spot to meet their assigned kid. We hope you enjoy your few minutes of getting to know our kids better.

### Monthly Financial Summary

	Monthly: June 2026			YTD: January - June 2026		
	Total	Church	Little Lambs	Total	Church	Little Lambs
Budgeted Expenses	\$83,350	\$29,528	<b>\$53,822</b>	\$485,346	\$162,414	\$322,932
Actual Expenses	\$82,636	\$25,522	\$57,113	\$494,821	\$158,965	\$335,856
Budgeted Giving / Income	\$81,294	\$20,356	<b>\$60,938</b>	\$489,420	\$123,792	\$365,628
Actual Giving / Income	\$90,991	\$16,265	\$74,726	\$497,708	\$91,771	\$405,937
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$8,355	<b>(\$9,257)</b>	\$17,612	\$2,887	<b>(\$67,195)</b>	\$70,082
<b>Annual Deficit will be funded from the</b>			<b>Balances as of June 30, 2026</b>			
<b>Good Shepherd Money Market Account</b>			Bank Reserves			\$248,960

**The following Items are excluded from the Summary above**

- 1. Capital Expenditures of \$148,109 funded from our investment account**  
(Air Conditioning, Painting, Landscaping, Little Lambs Playground & Shed)
- 2. Giving / Income of \$140,032 transferred in from our investment account**

**Last week's attendance: 35**

#### **Those Assisting in Today's Service**

Pastor	Keith Walbolt
Deacon	Gini ZeRuth
Music Director	Rick Steuart
Lector	Laura Blauvelt
Communion Assistants	Diane Supplee
	Laura Blauvelt
Ushers	Diane Supplee
	Eric Pera
Greeters	Laura Blauvelt & Eric Pera

#### **Good Shepherd Council Members**

Nancy Meyer	Diane Supplee
Kate Herrington	John Mennel
David Mickley	Erica Ottmann
Patti Nickol	Gus Dueben
Laura Blauvelt	Keith Walbolt

Dave Supplee, Church Treasurer

***Opportunities for July 12, 2026 – July 19, 2026***

**Sunday, July 12, 2026**

9:45am          Worship Service  
                    Coffee & Fellowship

**Monday, July 13, 2026**

**Tuesday, July 14, 2026**

10:00am        Staff Meeting  
                    Quilting – Quilting Room

**Wednesday, July 15, 2026**

9:05am         Preschool Chapel  
6:00pm         Orchid Society Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, July 16, 2026**

8:30am         Gardeners

**Friday, July 17, 2026**

**Saturday, July 18, 2026**

**Sunday, July 19, 2026**

9:45am         Worship Service  
                    Coffee & Fellowship  
11:00am        Messy Church