

***Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 27, 2026***

"Which of the two
did the will of
his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
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INTRODUCTION

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy 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.**

GATHERING SONG

We Are One

Rick Steuart

**Come on in, the doors are open,
Leave your worries at the gate,
We're a family bound together
By amazing love and grace.
Hear the banjo, feel the spirit,
Let the joyful fiddle play,
We are gathered in His mercy—
Let us praise Him here today!**

**We are one in Christ our Savior,
Hearts united, voices strong,
Lift your hands and sing of His favor,
Join the everlasting song!
From the mountains to the valley,
Every soul is welcome here,
In this bluegrass Lutheran family,
God's redeeming love is near!**

**Bring your burdens, bring your laughter,
Bring your stories, old and new,
At the table of forgiveness,
There's a place for me and you.
Let the gospel ring like thunder,
Let the harmonies arise,
We are children of the promise,
Walking in the Savior's light!**

**We are one in Christ our Savior,
Hearts united, voices strong,
Lift your hands and sing of His favor,
Join the everlasting song!
From the mountains to the valley,
Every soul is welcome here,
In this bluegrass Lutheran family,
God's redeeming love is near!**

**So clap your hands and stomp your feet,
Let the Spirit set you free,
We are gathered in His presence,
Singing for eternity!**

**We are one in Christ our Savior,
Hearts united, voices strong,
Lift your hands and sing of His favor,
Join the everlasting song!
From the mountains to the valley,
Every soul is welcome here,
In this bluegrass Lutheran family,
God's redeeming love is near!**

**Yes, in this bluegrass Lutheran family,
God's redeeming love is near!**

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.**

Glory In The Highest

Jonathan Rundman

[C:] Glo - ry in the high - est, glo - ry be to God,
glo - ry in the high - est and peace to all the earth.

[L:] Sha - per of the un - i - verse Je - sus Christ the Lamb of God
Ho - ly Spi - rit source of life

[C:] Shap - er of the un - i - verse Je - sus Christ the Lamb of God you
Ho - ly Spi - rit source of life

[L:] thanks and praise we sing wash our sins a - way
burn - ing wild and free

[C:] you thanks and praise we sing wash our sins a - way
burn - ing wild and free

[L:] lov - ing fa - ther car - ing mo - ther at your ta - ble all are wel - come
you are God the three - in - one

[C:] lov - ing fath - er car - ing mo - ther at your ta - ble all are wel - come
you are God the three - in - one

[L:] hold us in your wings hear us as we pray
such a mys - ter - y

[C:] hold us in your wings. hear us as we pray.
such a mys - ter - y.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according
to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Please stand

Gospel Verse: Alleluia

Jonathan Rundman



Al - le-lu-ia, Al - le-lu-ia Lord to whom shall we go
You have the words of e - ter - nal life Al - le - lu - ia.

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GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35—10:8

The holy gospel according Matthew.

Gospel Verse: Glory To You Oh Lord

Jonathan Rundman



Glo - ry to you glo - ry to you glo - ry to you oh Lord
Glo - ry to you glo - ry to you glo - ry to you oh Lord.

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²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered,

‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

Gospel Verse: Praise To You Oh ChristJonathan Rundman

Praise to you, praise to you, praise to you oh Christ.

Praise to you, praise to you, praise to you oh Christ.

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HOMILY

Please stand

SONG OF THE DAY

Every Knee Shall Bow

Rick Steuart

If there's any consolation in the love that
brought us through,
If there's any tender mercy, any
fellowship that's true,
Then make my joy complete, Lord, let the
old pride lose its claim—
Let us bear one heart together, let us lift
one Savior's name.

Don't be driven by ambition, don't be
reaching for the praise,
Count the other higher than you in the
ordinary days.
Let the mind of Christ be in us, though
the road is steep and long—
He who stooped to lift the lowly is the
strength beneath our song.

He laid His glory down and took the
servant's form,
Walked the road of mercy through the
shadow and the storm.
God has raised Him up forever, gave Him
heaven's highest crown—
Every knee shall bow, and every tongue
confess,
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

He was equal with the Father, yet He did
not hold it tight;
He came down into our sorrow, walked
among us in the night.
He was faithful unto death, even death
upon a tree—
And the One who bore our judgment now
is reigning over me.

He laid His glory down and took the
servant's form,
Walked the road of mercy through the
shadow and the storm.
God has raised Him up forever, gave Him
heaven's highest crown—
Every knee shall bow, and every tongue
confess,
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

So work out what grace has started—not
to purchase, not to prove;
God is working in the willing, giving
strength to see it through.
When the road is dark before us, when
we cannot find the way,
He is stirring holy longing, giving power
to obey.

Do all things without complaining, let no
bitter spirit grow;
Shine like stars across the darkness
where the weary people go.
Hold the word of life before them—not as
boasting, but as bread;
For the risen Christ is living, and His
mercy is not dead.

He laid His glory down and took the
servant's form,
Walked the road of mercy through the
shadow and the storm.
God has raised Him up forever, gave Him
heaven's highest crown—
Every knee shall bow, and every tongue
confess,
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Jonathan Rundman



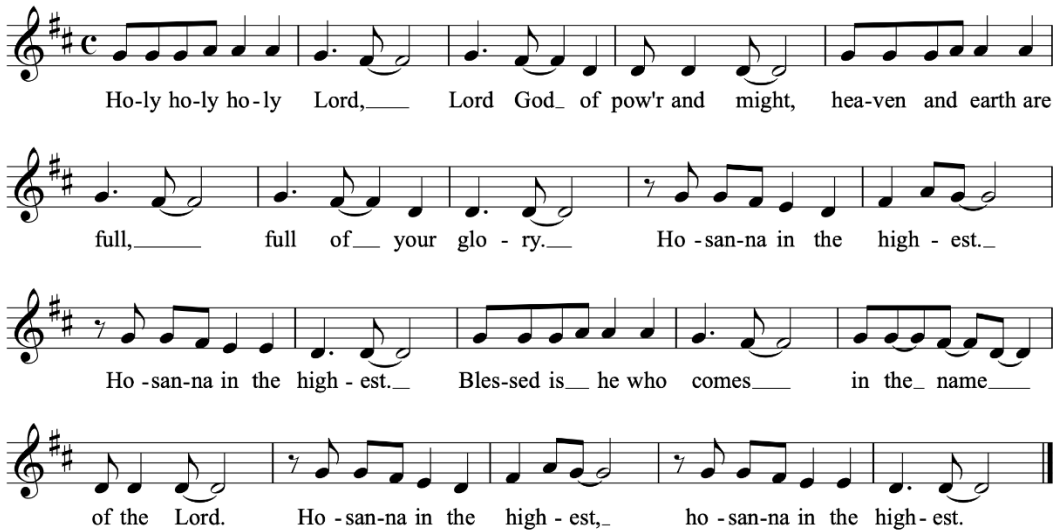
[L]: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[C]: It is right to give God 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:

Holy Holy Holy

Jonathan Rundman



Ho-ly ho-ly ho-ly Lord,____ Lord God_ of pow'r and might, hea-ven and earth are
full,____ full of_ your glo - ry._ Ho -san-na in the high - est._
Ho -san-na in the high - est._ Bles-sed is_ he who comes____ in the_ name____
of the Lord. Ho -san-na in the high - est,_ ho -san-na in the high - est.

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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

Jonathan Rundman

Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

Have mer - cy, mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

Oh grant us peace, Lamb of God.

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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 come after to 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 SONG

Go In Grace and Joy

Rick Steuart

**Go in grace and joy, my friends,
Carried by the Savior's hand
Through the fields, through the rain,
Christ goes with us once again.**

**Lift your hearts, lift your song,
God's love leads us all along.
On the cross he sacrificed
So nurture lives, follow Christ.**

**Every burden, every care,
Finds its rest in mercy's prayer.
In the work and in the play,
Christ will guide us day by day.**

**Lift your hearts, lift your song,
God's love leads us all along.
On the cross he sacrificed
So nurture lives, follow Christ.**

**Banjo rings and voices rise,
Grace is shining in our eyes.
Hands to serve and hearts to mend,
God is faithful to the end.**

**Lift your hearts, lift your song,
God's love leads us all along.
On the cross he sacrificed
So nurture lives, follow Christ.**

**Go in grace and peace, my friends,
Nurturing lives
For following Christ**

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.
Thanks be to God!**

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"We Are One"

"Every Knee Shall Bow"

"Go In Grace and Joy"

Monthly Financial Summary

	Monthly: August 2026			YTD: January - August 2026		
	Total	Church	Little Lambs	Total	Church	Little Lambs
Budgeted Expenses	\$79,294	\$25,472	\$53,822	\$644,309	\$213,733	\$430,576
Actual Expenses	\$88,953	\$24,455	\$64,499	\$702,379	\$242,272	\$460,107
Budgeted Giving / Income	\$81,294	\$20,356	\$60,938	\$652,008	\$164,504	\$487,504
Actual Giving / Income	\$90,541	\$15,888	\$74,652	\$677,115	\$141,042	\$536,072
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$1,587	(\$8,566)	\$10,154	(\$25,264)	(\$101,230)	\$75,966
Annual Deficit will be funded from the			Balances as of August 31, 2026			
Good Shepherd Bank Reserves			Bank Reserves			\$231,994

Highlights

Overall income remains above budget due to Little Lambs, while church giving is running \$23,462 below budget through August
Church giving is projected to be \$25,000 below last years giving and \$33,000 below 2026 budget
Income needs to increase in Q4 2026 to avoid additional transfers from our Bank Reserves and cashing in high interest earning CD's
Please make sure your pledged gifts are up to date, and if you are able to do more please consider doing so

The following Items are excluded from the Summary above

- Capital Expenditures of \$150,384 funded from our investment account**
(Air Conditioning, Painting, Landscaping, Little Lambs Playground & Shed)
- Giving / Income of \$150,384 transferred in from our investment account**

In-person attendance last week: 45



Naomi Circle will have their Bible Study on Monday, September 28, 2026 at 10am in the church library.

Abigail Circle will have their monthly Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00pm on Monday, September 28, 2026. Please contact Carol Crouse (703-200-1965) for additional information.

Assisting in Today's Service

Rev. Keith Walbolt

Deacon

Gini ZeRuth

Lector

Laura Blauvelt

Communion Assistants

Diane Supplee

Laura Blauvelt

Ushers

Eric Pera

Diane Supplee

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

Church Treasurer

Dave Supplee

Opportunities for September 27, 2026 – October 4, 2026

Sunday, September 27, 2026

9:45am Worship Service
 Coffee & Fellowship

Monday, September 28, 2026

10:00am Naomi Circle, Library
7:00 pm Abigail Circle via Zoom

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

10:00am Staff Meeting
 Quilting – Quilting Room

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

9:05am Preschool Chapel

Thursday, October 1, 2026

8:30am Gardeners

Friday, October 2, 2026

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Sunday, October 4, 2026

9:45am Worship Service
 Coffee & Fellowship