

***Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026***

“Give therefore to
the EMPEROR the
things that are the
EMPEROR’S,
and to GOD
the things
that are
GOD’S.”



Matthew 22:21, NRSV

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
10891 102 Avenue, Seminole, FL 33778
727.391.4644

www.mygoodshepherd.net

INTRODUCTION

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of 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.**

Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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.**



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



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. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

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

PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of
love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and
sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel
came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full
conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your
sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you
received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example
to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded
forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God
has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of
those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you
turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from
heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is
coming.

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



GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:15-22

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

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

HOMILY

Please stand

We Give Thee but Thine Own



- 1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
- 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
- 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
- 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Possessions

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

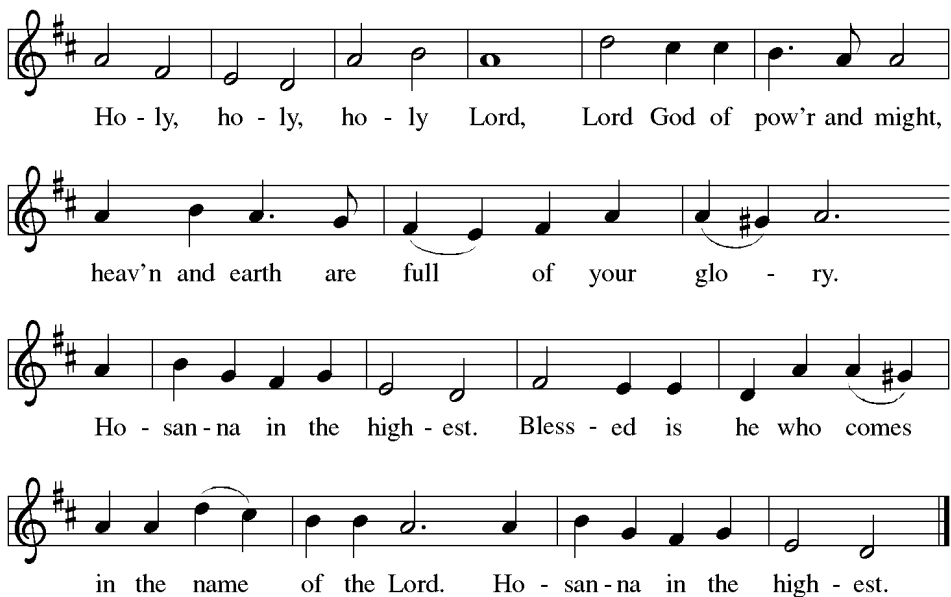
Lift up your hearts.

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

God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to -
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

DISMISSAL

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

*"Take My Life, That I May Be"
"We Give Thee But Thine own"
"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

+ + + + +



Good Shepherd members & friends, please come and join the fun at the annual Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 23rd from 6-7pm. Come and decorate your trunk and bring a chair to watch the excitement of the children as they stop by to visit you! Set up begins at 5pm. Please bring enough treats for at least 250 children.



Calling all cooks and bakers!

Have a favorite pumpkin recipe? Share samples and the recipe at The Pumpkin Patch

Recipe Corner. See Patti to schedule a day/time.

Care Team

The Care Team is sponsoring a ministry to collect **cold weather clothing and blankets** for the residents of Pinellas Hope. Pinellas Hope is a facility established to provide a home for 250 homeless people and support as they seek employment and prepare to live on their own. (Visit Pinellas Hope on the web to find lots of information about this facility.) Blankets are very important also. All donations should be clean and in good condition. New items are welcome also.

We will collect these items **September 20 through October 25**. Donations may be put in the bin next to the food collection case. Coats, jackets and sweaters may be hung on the hooks in the hallway.

Jesus says that when we care for people in need, we are caring for him. *"Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."* – Matthew 25:40

Monthly Financial Summary						
	Monthly: September 2026			YTD: January - September 2026		
	Total	Church	Little Lambs	Total	Church	Little Lambs
Budgeted Expenses	\$82,294	\$28,472	\$53,822	\$726,603	\$242,205	\$484,398
Actual Expenses	\$87,008	\$23,537	\$63,471	\$789,385	\$265,806	\$523,578
Budgeted Giving / Income	\$81,294	\$20,356	\$60,938	\$733,302	\$184,860	\$548,442
Actual Giving / Income	\$101,762	\$23,197	\$78,565	\$778,877	\$164,239	\$614,637
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$14,753	(\$340)	\$15,093	(\$10,508)	(\$101,567)	\$91,059
Annual Deficit will be funded from the			Balances as of September 30, 2026			
Good Shepherd Bank Reserves			Bank Reserves			\$223,471

In-person attendance last week:

Assisting in Today's Service

Rev. Keith Walbolt

Deacon

Gini ZeRuth

Lector

Jeff Ottmann

Communion Assistants

Sue Ondich, John Ondich, IV

Ushers

Tom Crouse, John Ondich, IV

Greeters

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 October 18 – October 25, 2026

Sunday, October 18, 2026

9:45am Worship Service
 Coffee & Fellowship
11am – 7pm Pumpkin Patch

Monday, October 19, 2026

11am – 7pm Pumpkin Patch

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

10:00am Staff meeting
10:00am Quilting – Quilting Room
11am – 7pm Pumpkin Patch

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

9:05am Preschool Chapel
11am – 7pm Pumpkin Patch

Thursday, October 22, 2026

8:30am Gardeners
11am – 7pm Pumpkin Patch

Friday, October 23, 2026

11am – 7pm Pumpkin Patch
5pm – 6pm Set up for Trunk or Treat
6pm – 7pm Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 24, 2026

11am – 7pm Pumpkin Patch

Sunday, October 25, 2026

9:45am Worship Service
 Coffee & Fellowship
11am – 7pm Pumpkin Patch