

# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 24, 2025

(Radio FM 89.9)

9:00am

Today we thank Rev. Mark Esser for leading our service

### AS WE GATHER - FINDING GOD'S FAVOR

To be the "favorite child" in a family is often a source of competition and sometimes a source for comedy. Years ago, a pair of sibling entertainers, the Smothers Brothers, made their family relationship a staple of their onstage humor when Tom, the older brother, would remind Dickie, the younger, "Mom always did like you best." As we gather with God's people at worship week by week, we can be certain that our gracious God values all of us and is pleased to see us grow in grace year by year. The psalmist wrote that "the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor" (Psalm 84:11). In the same Psalm 84 is the verse where the psalmist exclaims to God, "For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere" (v. 10). There is nothing better than for God's favorite people, which we are, to be gathered in a most favorite place—which this is! It doesn't get any better than that!

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

*(Please stand)*

### + PREPARATION +

### OPENING SONG: GREAT THINGS

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### INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Congregation Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 103:1–2, 8, 13, 21–22*

Pastor Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!  
Congregation **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.**  
Pastor As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.  
Congregation **The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**  
Pastor Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!  
Congregation **Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Let us now confess our sins to God, our Father.  
Congregation **Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us Your forgiveness. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of our sins, those known to us and those unknown as well. Create in us clean hearts, gracious Lord, and put new and right spirits within us that we may be reconciled to You and at peace with all people. We trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness that we seek today and at all times. Give us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us into paths of righteousness and finally bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**  
Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Congregation Amen.

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor                The Lord be with you.  
Congregation      **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor                Let us pray. O Lord, You call us to be faithful and to heed Your fatherly discipline. Preserve us by Your perpetual mercy, guide us in ways of peace and love, keep us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Congregation      **Amen.**

(Sit)

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 66:18–24*

<sup>18</sup>“For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, <sup>19</sup>and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup>And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. <sup>21</sup>And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

<sup>22</sup>“For as the new heavens and the new earth  
that I make  
shall remain before me, says the LORD,  
so shall your offspring and your name remain.

<sup>23</sup>From new moon to new moon,  
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,  
all flesh shall come to worship before me,  
declares the LORD.”

<sup>24</sup>“And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”

Leader                This is the Word of the Lord.  
Congregation      **Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

*Hebrews 12:4–29*

<sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.

<sup>6</sup>For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

<sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup>Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup>See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup>that no one is sexually immoral or

unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup>For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

<sup>18</sup>For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup>and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup>For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."

<sup>21</sup>Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." <sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup>and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup>See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. <sup>26</sup>At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." <sup>27</sup>This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup>Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup>for our God is a consuming fire.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

(Stand)

## VERSE

Luke 13:29

**Congregation Alleluia. People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:22–30

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

**Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, <sup>24</sup>"Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup>When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' <sup>26</sup>Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup>But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' <sup>28</sup>In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup>And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.**

## SONG: LIVING HOPE

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(Sit)

## SERMON

(Stand)

## CATECHISM

*The Second Article*

**Congregation**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**What does this mean?**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,**

**who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,**

**that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,**

**just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ and for all people according to their needs. We begin this time of prayer as we speak the first stanza of the prayer hymn "In Holy Conversation."

**All**

**In holy conversation**

*st. 1*

**We speak to God in prayer,**

**And at His invitation**

**Our deepest thoughts we share.**

**We come, His will obeying,**

**As children bringing needs;**

**And to support our praying,**

**His Spirit intercedes.**

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946

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**Pastor**

We pray for the whole church throughout the world that, as people united in faith and active in love, we may witness to the Good News that is ours in Christ Jesus. We pray for all nations of the earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule there may be times of peace and reconciliation, and we pray for our own nation that it may be an ensign of hope.

We bring our special petitions today to God's throne of grace as we pray for our families, thanking God for the blessings that are received from caring parents, grandparents, public service and emergency workers, and caregivers who intersect with our lives. We thank God, our heavenly Father, for listening to our petitions and responding to them—as we speak of in the second stanza.

**All**

**These holy conversations**

*st. 2*

**Begin in childlike ways;**

**We bring our supplications**

**And words of thanks and praise.**

**With care our Father listens**

**To ev'ry thought expressed,**

**Then answers our petitions**

**In ways He knows are best.**

**Pastor** We pray for the varied situations of daily life in which we are placed, especially in our workplaces and neighborhoods, that we may be peace bringers in all our actions and words. We pray for the special needs of this day, remembering those who are ill and those who mourn, and for all those matters on our hearts currently.

For all those saints who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and have left us a legacy of love, we thank You, Lord, and faithfully commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation** **Amen.**

**Pastor** Confident that our gracious Lord hears our prayers, we conclude our prayer hymn with the final stanza.

**All** **As holy conversation,** *st. 3*  
**In silence or by word,**  
**In ev'ry situation**  
**Through Jesus, we are heard.**  
**So let us pray securely,**  
**Expressing hopes and fears**  
**With confidence that surely**  
**Our Father ever hears.**

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Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946

## SONG: THE LORD'S PRAYER

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(Sit)

### OFFERING

*Your continued tithes and special offerings are appreciated and support God's work at Good Shepherd. You may give by plate, by mail, or make a secure gift online by scanning this QR code with your smartphone.*



(Stand)

### BENEDICTION

**Pastor** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**Congregation** **Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG: NO OTHER NAME

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### DISMISSAL

**Pastor** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Congregation** **Thanks be to God.**

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### *Altar Flowers*

(If you'd like to dedicate flowers in honor or memory of a loved one,  
the flower chart is posted in the hallway.)

## **NEEDING OUR PRAYERS for body, soul, and spirit:**

*(names in italics are new or have a new development)*

Adams family; Hester Allen; Josh Allen; Frank Altland; Sonya Alwine; Annette Anderson; Tina Bell; Darlene Bentzel; Tammy Bosley; Bill Bucher; Nancy Buckley; Jeffery Cogan; Dawn Coley; Dona Dellinger; Joyce Devan; Judy Eckenrode; Dave Eicholtz; Jane Esterby; Bob & Marge Filangeri; Pastor Thurman Frey; Jack & Donnalene Gingerich; Bob and Sandy Hahn; Wayne, Allyson & Christopher Hoffmann; Alice Jakupciak; Bob Jakupciak; Beatrice Jeanette; Sandy Knisely; Linda Latif; Randy Miller; Neenan family; Norma Orsie; Dave Polimeni; Yvonne Rudacille; Denise Sater; Tom Shearer; Bill Smith; Cary Smith; Pat Smith; Bill Svobota; Beth Ann Thompson; Joe & Donna Toomey; Elizabeth Turner; Rick Weidner; Ella Weisbord; Jim Williams; Cole Young

**Let's remember our Homebound Members in Prayer too:** Will & Chris Candisky; Denise Eckert; Bob & Sandy Hahn; Patty Hoshall; Jo Reese; Doris Ruesskamp; Pauline Schaefer; Donna Siple; Lola Strickler; Joe & Donna Toomey; Sharon Warnecke; George Yovich

**CAN'T BE HERE IN PERSON?** Join us online at the Good Shepherd Youtube channel: [Good Shepherd Lutheran Church York, PA](#). Alternatively, you can tune into the service on your car radio at 89.9 FM from our parking lot.

**"MANY ARE CALLED"** says Jesus, but please silence your cell phone during worship.

**FOOD AND BEVERAGES IN SANCTUARY:** Please refrain from bringing any food or beverage into the sanctuary except for water. Thank you.

**AUGUST LOCAL MISSION:** *Valley Youth House* provides support to youth ages 18-24, especially those leaving foster care or experiencing homelessness. If you would like to give to this mission, please note this on your offering.

### **NEW HERE?**

**WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!** We are glad you are here today and hope you have found a warm welcome. If you are our guest, please sign our guest book at the Welcome Center; we would like to thank you for worshiping with us and would appreciate your feedback on your experience today. This bulletin includes the Order of Service, which is also projected on-screen. Good Shepherd follows a traditional Liturgy (order of service); if you are unfamiliar with a liturgical service, beneath several chairs in your row, you'll find a tall, laminated pew card that explains the various elements of the service. (Our 9am service follows a similar order, but this resource is more suited for the 11am service.) Our nursery, located down the hall to the right, is available to parents with young children and offers comfortable chairs, interactive play space and a TV monitor to follow worship. Childcare volunteers are also available for those who wish to return to the sanctuary.

**TROUBLE HEARING?** Assistive listening devices (personal receivers/earpieces) are available upon request of the AV booth.

**SYNOD = WALKING TOGETHER:** Good Shepherd is a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Part of our walking together is serving together, which occurs not only in our church, but in our Southeastern District and nationally as part of a Synod; in short, when you share your time, experience and skills, you contribute to the kingdom work of the church. The LCMS is calling for nominations to Board and Commission positions. Lay representatives are sought for the following: LCMS Board of Directors, LCMS Boards for National and International Mission, Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR), Concordia Historical Institute Board of Governors, Concordia Publishing House (CPH) Board of Directors, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Board of Directors, LCMS Foundation Board of Trustees, Concordia University System Board of Directors, Synod University and Seminary Board of Regents. If you would like to learn more about the duties, term, and desired qualifications, please see the "Christ is Risen Indeed; Call for Nominations" clipboard for detailed information. If you are interested in being nominated to serve in any of these positions, please contact Pastor at [yorkshepherd@verizon.net](mailto:yorkshepherd@verizon.net)

**LWML BACK TO SCHOOL PROJECT:** During the month **August** we're asking for donations from the congregation to fill backpacks, donated by Thrivent, with school supplies. Help keep students at the top of their game. Take a 'pencil' from the LWML bulletin board, purchase the supplies listed, and place the items in the basket located in the hallway.

The backpacks, filled with mechanical and colored pencils, glue sticks, 3-ring binders, pocket folders, notebook paper, crayons, and pens, will be delivered to the York Salvation Army in support of the York City School District. **Thank you for your support!**

**LWML MITES** will be collected **Aug. 24 and 31**. Look for the mite box in the narthex.

**SERVING GENEROUSLY FAIR – AGAIN:** On the **Sundays August 31, September 7 & 14** the Stewardship, Fellowship and Outreach committees will once again be providing an opportunity to view and volunteer for the many ministries happening at Good Shepherd this upcoming fall and winter. These dates will coincide with Good Shepherd's hosting the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Car Show on September 1, as well as with our own annual Yard Sale on September 13. Since we open our doors to visitors during those events, the Serving Generously Fair will also be a visual communication to those visitors as to the activities with which our church is involved. These sign-ups also assist church staff, leadership and ministry leaders in identifying those who would like to serve in specific ministries. Please join us for these events.

**8th ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE CAR SHOW: Mon. Sept. 1** from 10am-2pm. All types of vehicles are welcomed! \$10 donation per vehicle (until 12pm). Come show off your vehicle and support a great cause in the American Cancer Society. Perks include 50/50 raffle, silent raffle, door prizes, trophies, DJ Rick Rock and food vendors! RSVP and/or questions: [jmfrantz3@hotmail.com](mailto:jmfrantz3@hotmail.com).

**MEN'S ZOOM BIBLE STUDY** will not be meeting during the month of August. We will resume at our usual day/time of Thursday 9:30am on **Sept. 4**. The book of Joshua will be our next study. If you would like to join us, or would like additional information, please contact Ron Webb or Dave Stetler.

**CHIME CHOIR:** Weekly rehearsals will resume beginning **Th. Sept. 4** at 7pm. Contact Rachel Booz if interested in joining!

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING DATES:**

- **Wed. Sept. 3 at 6pm** – Monthly meeting
- **Sun. Sept. 7 at 12:15pm** – SPECIAL meeting
- **Wed. Oct. 15 at 6pm** – Monthly meeting

**WEIS & GIANT GIFT CARDS:** Selling these gift cards began in August 2010. Total sales have been over \$526,000. The Building Fund has received 5% or over \$26,300 in the 15 years. Plan ahead – no sales on **Sun. Sept. 7**. We'll look for you in August or on Sept. 14.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** Confirmation classes begin **Sun. Sept. 7** at 7pm. More details to follow.

**GOOD SHEPHERD YARD SALE: Sat. Sept. 13** from 8am-1pm. Spaces available @ \$15 and tables @ \$10. There will be a food tent and baked goods for sale. To reserve a space and rent a table call Shirley Dreyer or contact Larry Kaetzel for general inquiries. **PLEASE SIGNUP IN THE NARTHEX TO HELP OR PROVIDE BAKED GOODS.**

**AUGSBURG CONFESSION STUDY:** If you are interested in discussing the history of Lutheran teachings and their Scriptural basis, come **Mondays** from 6:30-7:30pm **starting Sept. 15** to read and discuss the Augsburg Confession along with its Scripture references. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Copies of the study guide will be provided. See Al Mokris for any questions.

### **SHEPHERD'S FLOCK FELLOWSHIP DAY TRIP: Biblical Tabernacle Experience + Lunch – Wednesday**

**September 17:** Join us for a day trip to Lancaster and visit the Biblical Tabernacle Experience and lunch at the Oregon Dairy Restaurant. We will carpool and leave the Good Shepherd Parking Lot at 9:45 a.m. We will have a host meet us for a 35-minute visit in the tabernacle. We will then drive to the Oregon Dairy restaurant for a buffet lunch at 12:30. We will return to Good Shepherd at approximately 3:00 p.m. The cost of the tour is \$10 per adult and the buffet lunch price is \$17.99 per person plus tip. Sign-up in the narthex to reserve one of the 15 spots. **Deadline for sign-up is September 10, 2025.** Allyson Hoffmann will be leading the group for the day. Please pay the \$10/pp tour cost the day of the tour.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY** is a personal finance class based on biblical principles of money management. It is focused on budgeting, debt elimination, and behavior modification. First St. John's has provided funds to cover the tuition cost of this program for each of the families participating. We will still be collecting \$20 at the start of the program (so participants still have some skin in the game) but we will be returning \$50 to all families that "graduate" (attending 8/9 sessions). This course will be on Tuesdays starting at 6:30pm at First St. John's with the first session on **Tues. Sept. 16**. See the flyer on the narthex table or scan the QR code for more information.



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** Our next congregational meeting is scheduled for **Sun. Sept. 21** at 12:15pm.

**CALLING ALL LUTHERANS!** Gather with pro-life Lutherans on **Mon. Sept. 22** prior to the 2025 PA March for Life at The Hilton in Harrisburg, One N. 2nd St. to be encouraged and take a stand for the dignity of all lives from conception to natural death. A full breakfast, free of charge, will be served from 9am-10am. Scott Licht of Lutherans for Life (slicht@lutheransforlife.org) and Mary Ann Albertini, Advancement Director of A Woman's Concern Pregnancy and Parenting Resource Center (MaryAnnA@pregnancylancaster.com) will briefly address us before we walk together to the Capitol steps for the 11am Rally and 12pm Mile March.

**OCTOBERFEST DINNER TICKETS NOW ON SALE:** Tickets for the **October 10th** Octoberfest dinner are now being sold. Details on the dinner with ticket prices are displayed on the poster in the narthex. See Larry Kaetzel if you have questions. Proceeds for the event will benefit a new roof for the church.

#### **Pray for your fellow members and friends this week:**

Monday – Rodrigo; Tuesday – Rojahn; Wednesday – Rose;  
Thursday – Rosenau; Friday – Rudacille; Saturday – Ruesskamp

#### **The Week Ahead**

Date	Time	Event
Sun. 8/24	9:00 am	Alternative Worship Service
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
Thurs. 8/28	6:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Fri. 8/29	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
Sun. 8/31	9:00 am	Alternative Worship Service
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service

**Psalm of the day: Psalm 50:1-15**

**Substitute Praise Team Leader:** *Meredith Gonzalez*  
**Scripture Reader:** *Karen Wirschal*  
**Usher:** *Drew Dreyer*

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**Rev. Brian K. Smith**

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