Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

Thanksgiving Eve
November 25, 2026

At harvest time we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: "You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty." We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God's creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

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.

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.

Prelude Recessional on "Nan Danket" Dan Hustad

Welcome Pastor James

Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation of Thanksgiving (October 3, 1863)

Please stand

Opening Hymn "Praise and Thanksgiving" **Hymn No. 789**

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*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: To you, our merciful Lord.

P: For the heavenly peace that comes from His saving work, let us pray to the Lord.

C: To you, our merciful Lord.

P: For the peace of this world, and for every blessing afforded to the Church; for the unity that Christ has established in His holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.

C: To you, our merciful Lord.

P: For His providing this holy house and inviting all who gather together for worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: To you, our merciful Lord.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please sit

First Reading **Deuteronomy 8:7-18**

Times of abundance tempt us to forget God and rely on our own power and resources. But God is the one who took Israel out of Egypt, led and fed them in the wilderness, brought them into the land, and gave them power to be productive. To thank this God is to remember and proclaim God's deeds.

R: 7 "The LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with
springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, 8 a land of wheat and
barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, 9 a land
where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose
stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. 10 You shall eat your fill and
bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.
11 "Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God by failing to keep his
commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes that I am commanding you today.
12 When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them 13 and when
your herds and flocks have multiplied and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that
you have is multiplied, 14 then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who
brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, 15 who led you through
the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions.
He made water flow for you from flint rock. 16 He fed you in the wilderness with manna
that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you and in the end to do you
good. 17 Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me
this wealth.' 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get
wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is
doing today."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading **2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

Christian fellowship involves sharing with those in need. Here Paul is gathering a collection for the church in Jerusalem from all the Gentile churches he helped found. We can be extravagant in our giving because God is extravagant in providing for our lives.

R: 6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who
sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up
your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God
is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough
of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 9 As it is written,

"He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your
seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in
every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us,
12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also
overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 13 Through the testing of this ministry you
glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the
generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, 14 while they long for you
and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. 15 Thanks
be to God for his indescribable gift!

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

Please stand

Holy Gospel **Luke 17:11-19**

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

A Samaritan leper becomes a model for thanksgiving. He does not take for granted the kindness shown to him but takes time to thank Jesus and to glorify God.

P: 11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and
Galilee. 12 As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping
their distance, 13 they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 When he saw
them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they
were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back,
praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him.
And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the
other nine? 18 Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then
he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Please sit

Hymn of the Day "For the Fruits of His Creation" **Hymn No. 894**

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 "Butterball Thanksgiving" Pastor James

Musical Reflection

Offering

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, "receive our prayer."

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.

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 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" **Hymn No. 892**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Now Thank We All Our God" from Cantata No. 79 Bach/arr. Virgil Fox

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.

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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

Serving Today

Worship Leader	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor James
Scripture Reader	Jim Micsan
Prayer Leader	Melinda DeWan
Altar Care	*
Ushers	Martin Farley (lead) *
Organist	Anne Lee
Projectionist	Adam Sherman
Audio Engineer	Matt Hardy
Greeters	Georgia Thorstenson (door) Kelly Nield (welcome center)
Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Opener	Ric Nickerson
Closer	Roger Thorstenson

* = unfilled as of November 24

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

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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