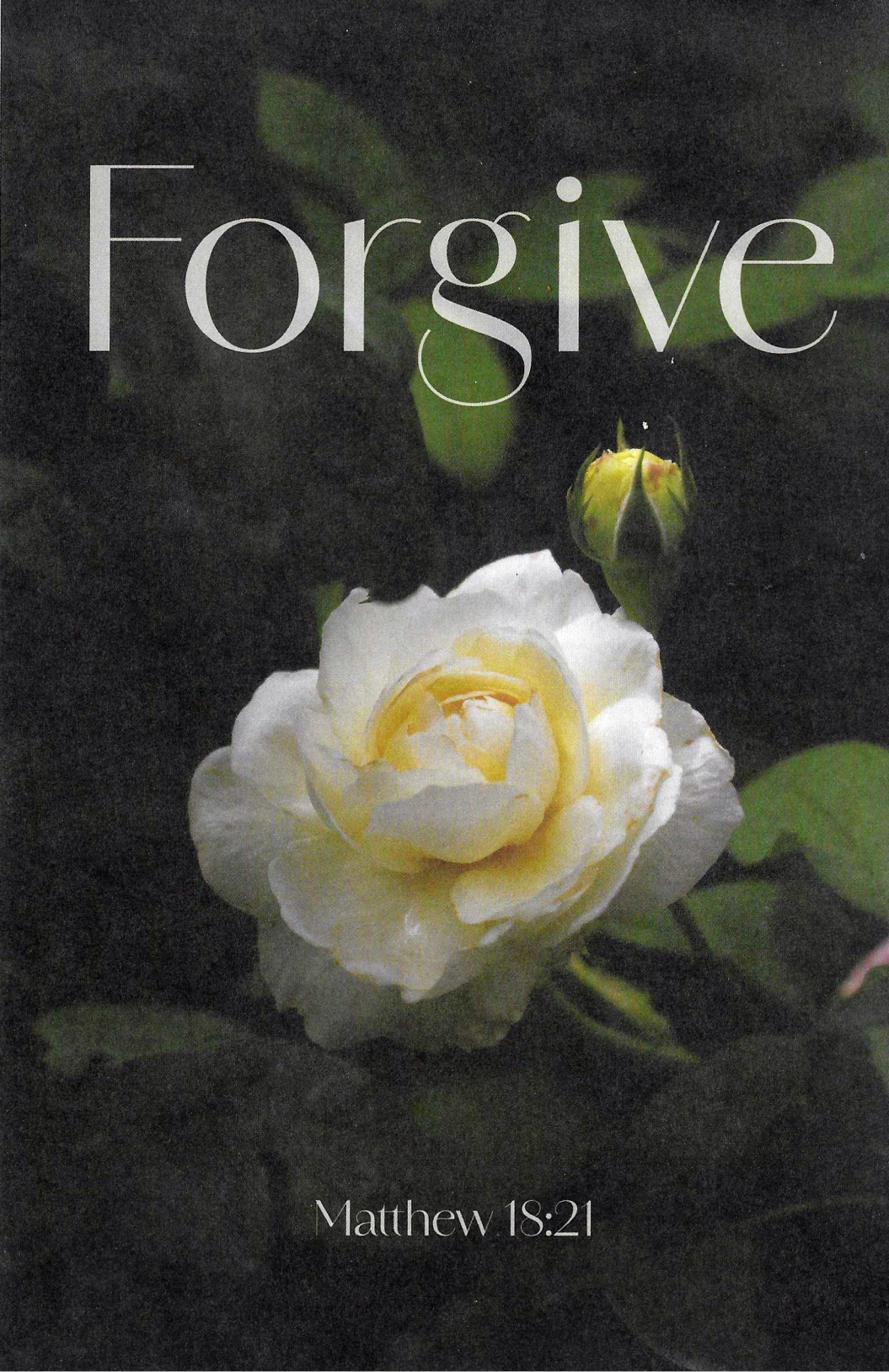


Forgive

A close-up photograph of a white rose with yellow centers, set against a dark background. A rose bud is visible above the main flower.

Matthew 18:21

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“Connecting People to Christ in the Tri-County Area”

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September 13, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service at 10:30 am

Divine Service Setting Three (Page 184)

Prelude

Announcements

Opening Hymn: Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

#803

Sermon Hymn: O Jesus King Most Wonderful

#554

Theme: Jesus the Merciful King

1. The King's Heart
2. Our Hearts

Closing Hymn: In Christ Alone

Handout

Closing Words

P: When we follow Jesus at home

C: Our families get stronger

P: When we follow Jesus together

C: We get the support we need

P: When we follow Jesus into our neighborhood

C: Our neighbors get the care they need.

We welcome all members and visitors to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (LCMS) on this Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost! We are delighted that you are with us this morning and pray for God's Word to encourage and guide your hearts and minds. All are urged to fill in the fellowship Register located at the end of each pew.

Holy Communion: Before communing at our altar, all communicants are invited to examine themselves on the basis of these three points of Christian Faith.

1. I am sorry for my sins and believe that Jesus is my Savior.
2. I believe that Christ's body and blood are truly present in the Sacrament.
3. I desire to amend my sinful ways and live for the glory of God.

Week at a Glance

Monday September 14

10:30 am TOPS

Tuesday September 15

9-10 am Cardio Drumming

Wednesday September 16

11:00am Bible Study

Thursday September 17

9-10 am Cardio Drumming

Saturday September 19

7 pm AA Mtg

Sunday September 20

10:30 am Worship Service
Sunday School

Please let Martha or Teresa if you are interested in filling a shoebox for Samaritans Purse. We have a suggestion list available for boys and girls. Items need to be turned in by September 20th.

The Ladies Group Yard/Bake sale will be October 16th and 17th. Any donations can be brought to church on Wednesday or Sunday from September 16th thru October 11th. We will be setting up October 12-14.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Epistle: Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of

the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21–35

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."



About the Cover: Forgiveness cannot be quantified. The unforgiving servant in Jesus' parable shows that disregarding his own forgiveness results in withholding it from fellow servants. But forgiveness is to be given just as it has been received. Our debt of sin could not be overcome by us. But Christ paid what we could not by His death on the cross. Therefore, the abundance of His forgiveness leads us to forgive one another abundantly.