

Let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD,
that He may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon



Isaiah 55:7

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

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September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service at 10:30 am

Divine Service Setting One (Page 151)

Prelude

Announcements

Opening Hymn: Just as I Am

#570

Sermon Hymn: We Give Thee But Thine Own

#781

Theme: Jesus the Generous Master

1. Gratitude that squeezes out the desire to complain
2. Gratitude that inspires us to ask better questions

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 Seventeenth 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 21

10:30 am TOPS

Tuesday September 22

9-10am Cardio Drumming

Wednesday September 23 Genesis 43

11 am Bible Study

Thursday September 24

9-10 am Cardio Drumming

Saturday September 26

7 pm AA Mtg

Sunday September 27

10:30 am Worship Service
Sunday School

October 16-17 October 16-17 Yard Sale
Set up October 12-14

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:6–9

- ⁶ “Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may
have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly
pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares
the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the
earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Epistle: Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you

that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1–16

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”



About the Cover: The weight of our sin can only be lifted by the Lord. How blessed are we, His children, to know that He desires to forgive us abundantly! There is no sin too great for His grace and pardon. Christ's love is so abundant for us that He died for us before we even had a say in the matter (Romans 5:8). So, by faith in His promises, we receive the abundant life-giving benefits of His death and resurrection forever.