

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
120 West Gano Chance Road
Centralia, Missouri 65240
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025
Theme: Know Your Place

AS WE GATHER

Finding one's right place in each setting can be a challenge of life in any society. In Bible times, it was important not only that people had seats in the right location; it was equally important that they sat down in the right sequence. The social guideline was this: at a session of study, precedence is to be given to wisdom; in reclining at a feast, to age. Jesus was a close observer of the earthly society in which He lived, including observing who sat where at a banquet table. He saw firsthand how limiting and restrictive some tables were when people were excluded from the feast. Contrasting those earthly tables, His description of the heavenly banquet was inclusive and expansive. He said to His followers, "Many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11). By faith, we look forward to that wonderful banquet. But anywhere that we can be at the Lord's Table is the right place to be for us—including here and now!

WELCOME

Pastor James Lanning

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN – "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

LSB 660

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 149:1-4*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,

People: His praise in the assembly of the godly!

Pastor: Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

People: let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

Pastor: Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!

People: For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on confession in Luther's catechism instructs us with these words: "Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven." Humble yourselves, then, before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature, I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all of my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: Amen.

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

+ WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 75:1–2, 6, 9; antiphon: v. 7*

It is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.

We give thanks to You, O God; we give thanks, for Your name is near. We recount Your wondrous deeds.

At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity.

For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up.

But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

It is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Proverbs 25:2-10

Lector: Randy Simmons

(Guidelines for a blessed life.)

It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out. ³ As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable. ⁴ Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel; ⁵ take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness. ⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, ⁷ for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble. What your eyes have seen do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? ⁹ Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, ¹⁰ lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 131

People: O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high;

Men: I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.

Women: *But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.*

People: O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

GRADUAL *Psalm 34:9, 19*

Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 13:1–17*

Lector: Randy Simmons

(Living in God-pleasing ways)

Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. ¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Luke 14:11*

People: Alleluia. Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 14:1–14* (Jesus teaches about humble living.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(Jesus teaches about humble living.)

14 One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ²And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” ⁴But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that

has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?”⁶ And they could not reply to these things. ⁷ Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹ and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” ¹² He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED

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HYMN OF THE DAY "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

LSB 842

SERMON

Pastor James Lanning

OFFERING "Love in Christ Is Strong and Living"

LSB 706

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: God, our Savior, wants all people to come to know the truth. Let us pray for ourselves and for the church everywhere, that we may persevere in grace, and for all people, that we may share with them the joy we have in the unity of Christ. For the church, the gathering of God's people; for the clergy of the church that the Holy Spirit confirm then in their apostolic mission; for all Christians, that persevering in grace, we may proclaim the kingdom of heaven in our lives, let us pray:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all public servants, that they zealously promote justice and the common good; for industrial workers, that their productivity provide blessing for all; for favorable weather, that we may give thanks for a good harvest, let us pray:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the homeless and the hungry; for the physically and mentally ill and the aged and infirm, that we cherish Christ in them and surround them with our care, [*especially* . . .], and that each of us would be graced with holy humility that we may find our joy in humble service in Jesus' name in every situation, let us pray:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of our missionaries, missionary teachers, medical personnel, and all Christian aid workers, that their work be unhindered and be a continuing source of blessings in Jesus' name, let us pray:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ still inspires us, and also for this holy assembly here and now, that sealed with the promised Spirit, we may witness to the fullness of God's love, let us pray:

People: Be merciful, Lord God, and hear our prayers; grant Your Holy Spirit to plead for us and guide Your church into all truth and holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: 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.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

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 † give you peace.

People: Amen.

SENDING HYMN “Here I Am Lord”

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will
make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN: Here I am Lord, is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? REFRAIN
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? REFRAIN

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.

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NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Bible Study—*Anchored in Christ – a journey through 1 & 2 Timothy* led by Pastor Spotts 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

9.2 Mission Planning – 7 pm

9.3 Adult Bible Study – 10 am

9.3 ZOOM Prayer Group – 8 pm

9.4-9.11 Pastor Lanning Vacation

9.6 Picture day for church directory

9.7 SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

9.8 Women's Guild

9.10 ZOOM Prayer Group – 8 pm

9.11 Heritage Hall-2 pm

9.17-9.24 Pastor Lanning Vacation

9.17 ZOOM Prayer Group – 8 pm

9.19-9.29 Catherine out of the office

9.24 ZOOM Prayer Group – 8 pm

BIRTHDAYS – Richard Dubbert – Sept. 2; Darrell Gronefeld – Sept. 4; Kelsey Jaeger – Sept. 4

ANNIVERSARIES – Vivian & Matt Diener – Sept. 5; Palmyra & Richard Dubbert – Sept. 5

Quarterlife will have a night of fellowship on Monday, September 1, at 6pm at Midway Golf & Games.

RALLY DAY – next Sunday, September 7, 2025 following the church service.

Please plan to join the Sunday School staff and students for food, fun, games and

FELLOWSHIP!!!

Pulled pork will be provided – please bring a side dish to share. Plans include doing tie dye with the children – if you are bringing a child please let Katie Hoek or Kim Rainey know their shirt size.

Look for the sign-up sheet for the pie eating contest – there will be different flavors to choose from.

There will be games following the meal.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Prayers for those with health issues; prayers for caretakers; Bob Maseman – thyroid cancer treatment (Judy's brother in law and Steve's uncle); **Steve Ward** – home hospice care; **Bruce Mills** – hospitalized with health issues; **Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan** – recovering from a stroke; **Cammie Cunningham (Olivia Hoek's mother)** – cancer treatments; **Christ Lutheran School, Perry, GA** – facing financial challenges; **Those affected by the flooding in Texas; Lynn Lake and the other communities affected by the wildfires in Canada; Barb Gerger** – hip fracture; **Ken Manola** – recovering; **Skip Elkin** – health issues; **Reverend Tim and Erin Schulte**; those grieving recent loss of family or friends; **Terry Plank** – undergoing chemo treatments; **Savannah & Taylor Tarwater** – as they mourn; **Mike Hyde** – recovering from hip fracture; **Tammy Morgan** – (Sherry Morse's daughter) – health issues; **Christina DeJesus** – health issues; **Brenda Belt** (Henry Rainey's sister) – Stage IV Cancer; **Grace** – health issues (friend of Hannah Lanning); **Steve Buckert** – recovering; **Jenni Murray**–Margaret Parker's daughter–recovering from surgery; **Ron Borgman**; **Dick St. John**–Brenda Moss's father–health issues; **Kim & Terry Decker**– health issues; **Ed & Ernestine Ramsey**; **Judy Mahieu**; **Kyle Lutz**–recovering from kidney/pancreas transplant; **Bonnie Berthelsen**; **Mark Ramsey**; **Calvin Stemme**–treatment for cancer; **Julia Rainey**; **Jane St. John**; **Dennis & Jackie Nadler**; **Susan Harris**; **Wayne Nolan**–stepfather of Jeff Jaeger; **Michelle Smith**–daughter of Jane St John; **Arla Benskin**–daughter of Mary Brechler.

Missionaries - MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term)

Community Prayers: Father Mike Coleman; **Evie Ross**–infant needs heart transplant; **David**–health issues; **Bernie Ryan** – health issues; **Charlene** – esophageal cancer; **Shelley R.** –melanoma; **Geri Ward** – health issues; **Gerry Southard** – health issues, **Kim Smith** – health issues, needs surgery.

ARMED FORCES: Veterans of Armed Services – especially those suffering from PTSD and anxiety; **Christopher Thompson**, U. S. Navy – cousin of Hannah Lanning; **Brandon Lowery**, U.S. Navy–brother of Rachel Rojas; **Donevin Leonard**, U.S. Marine Corps–grandson of Russell & Jacki Stelzer; **Chris Chism**, U.S. Navy–son of Vickie & Eric Chism; grandson of Barbara Fischer; **Brittany Macklin**–great-niece of Ernestine Ramsey; Community: **Ray Finlay**, U.S. Army

Welcome and Prayer Request Cards

Please place any prayer request cards in the offering plate when it comes around. The ushers will give them to the pastor. Please complete the welcome card and leave it at the end of your pew. Thank you.

Church Directory

Pastor James Lanning (512) 968-4587,

Email: pastorlanning@goodshepherdcentralia.org

Church office: (573) 682-3941,

hours: : 8am-1pm M & Th; 11 am – 4 pm T-W

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Jeff Jaeger (573) 682-0902

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Hebrews 13:12-13, "...let us go to Him outside the camp and bear the reproach that He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come."

Where Christ is *is* our heaven.....so let us go to Him outside the camp that we might be with Him in the Everlasting City for ages upon ages to come.

Artwork from fullofeyes.com