

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**120 West Gano Chance Road**  
**Centralia, Missouri 65240**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 8, 2024**  
**Theme: God's Provision for All**

**AS WE GATHER**

The Readings for today tell us that God will change people's circumstances. The Old Testament Reading lists those who are blind, deaf, lame, and mute. Instead of advising them simply to pray, Isaiah promises that God will take action, like water in the desert. Among the ways God will help is through His people; according to the advice to James, we, who have been given the gift of faith, are called to be fair in court, to try to keep the entire Law of God, and to see that the people around us are clothed and fed. Jesus casts out demons and heals a deaf man in the Gospel. He is doing no less when we become His caring instruments. Today we let the Word come into us so that we might be part of God's healing answer to prayer.

**WELCOME**

**Pastor James Lanning**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN – “Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear”**  
**LSB 908**

**INVOCATION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**      *Psalm 146:7b–8; James 2:17–18*

Pastor: The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**People: the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

Pastor: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

**People: the LORD loves the righteous.**

Pastor: So also faith by itself,

**People: if it does not have works, is dead.**

Pastor: But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.”

**People: Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of 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.**

## **INTROIT**

*Psalm 28:1-2, 6-7*

The LORD is the strength of His people;

**He is the saving refuge of His anointed.**

To You, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,

**lest, if You be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.**

Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to You for help,

**when I lift up my hands toward Your most holy sanctuary.**

Blessèd be the LORD!

**For He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.**

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped;

**my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him.**

**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.**

The LORD is the strength of His people;

**He is the saving refuge of His anointed.**

## **KYRIE**

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy and help us reflect our faith in all we do.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy and help us show our confidence in all Your promises.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy and help us be active parts of Your church.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy and strengthen the faith of all who hear Your Word with us.**

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

**People: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Grant us strength that comes from vibrant faith, O Lord.

**People: By Your power and guidance, move us to show forth our faith with words and deeds of loving service;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 35:4-7a**

**Lector: Aaron Seider**

(God will come: His people will be saved.)

Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.”<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL Psalm 34:9, 19**

Pastor: Fear the LORD, you His saints,

**People: for those who fear Him lack nothing!**

Pastor: Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

**People: but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

## **EPISTLE READING – James 2:1-10; 14-18**

**Lector:**

**Aaron Seider**

(Love your neighbors as yourself. Faith without works is dead)

**2** My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. **2** For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, **3** and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” **4** have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? **7** Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? **8** If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. **9** But if you show

partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup>So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup>But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**            *Psalm 147:2–3*

Pastor: Alleluia. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel.

**People: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL – Mark 7: (24-30) 31-37**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

**All: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**(Jesus exorcises a demon and heals a blind man)**

<sup>24</sup>And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. <sup>25</sup>But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>And he said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.” <sup>29</sup>And he said to her, “For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup>And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 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.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the  
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

**SERMON HYMN – “Praise the Almighty”  
LSB 797**

**MESSAGE – “Water for the Desert, Bread for the Puppies”  
Lanning**

**Pastor James**

**OFFERING – “Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing”  
LSB 528**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: We pray for Your guidance and impetus to use our gifts and even ourselves in service to the needs of those around us and people in other parts of the world. Use us to meet the physical and spiritual needs of these people, for whom You offered Yourself as sacrifice for sin.

**People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for Your healing, comfort, freedom, and sustenance to each person in need of compassionate care and basic necessities. We especially include those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*]. Use us as part of Your answer to prayer.

**People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for Your protection and opportunity for ourselves here and for the church around the world as we bring the Gospel to bear on many circumstances. We ask You to be with all who work with us, protecting them and our nation, offering goods and services from our bounty, and attracting many to hear about, believe in, and grow closer to our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

**People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

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.**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, almighty God, that You have done what we could not do. You have shown us mercy, bestowed faith in our hearts, and provided the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: We pray that You will strengthen us thereby so that we may serve You now in time and forever in eternity:**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The mercy, strength, and peace of God Almighty – the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit – go with you, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **CLOSING HYMN – “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”**

### **LSB 922**

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## **NEXT SUNDAY**

Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service w/Holy Communion: 10:00 a.m.

## **SEPTEMBER EVENTS**

9/08 Sunday School Rally Day

9/09 LWML 1 pm

9/10 Ministerial Alliance @ Crossroads Assembl

9/11 Adult Bible Study 10 am

9/11 ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm

9/12 Heritage Hall 2 pm

9/13 Catherine out of the office

9/17 Stewardship Workshop at Campus 5:30 pm

9/18 Adult Bible Study 10 am

9/18 Worship Committee 5 pm

9/18 ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm

9/19 Shared Ministry meeting at Campus 6:30 pm

**9/25 Catherine Off through 10/4**

9/25 Adult Bible Study 10 am

9/25 ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm

**BIRTHDAYS – Angell Arnall – September 11.**

**ANNIVERSARIES – no anniversaries this next week**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**The Family of Robert Miller** – Robert passed away September 1<sup>st</sup>; **Robert Moss (Brenda’s husband)** – recently diagnosed with melanoma; **Steve Buckert** – cancer treatments; **Leah Morgan** – Andy Morgan’s sister-in-law-recovering from injuries from car accident/mourning her husband; **Jase Morgan**-nephew of Andy Morgan-mourning his father; **Jenni Murray**-Margaret Parker’s daughter-injured in motorcycle accident; **Savannah Tarwater** - high risk pregnancy, baby has CDH; **Ron Borgman**; **Bruce Mills**–(Jacki’s brother-in-law)–health issues; **Sheryl Morgan** (mother of Andy Morgan) – death of son/health issues; **Ryan James**-cousin of Betsy

Cochran—health issues; **Dick St. John**—Brenda Moss’ father—health issues; **Sherry Morse**—health issues; **Kim & Terry Decker**—health issues; **Craig**—suffering with spinal stenosis—friend of Randy Simmons; **Verda Adkisson**; **Mark Blanton**—Betsy Cochran’s cousin—waiting for liver transplant; **Susan Ross**; **Ed & Ernestine Ramsey**; **Bill & 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 - Pastor Tim Schulte and wife Erin**

**Community Prayers: Father Mike Coleman; Evie Ross**—infant needs heart transplant; **Dylan Dick**—health issues; **David**—health issues; **Marlene**—health issues; **Fran Schnarre**—health issues.

**ARMED FORCES: Brandon and Jesse Lowery**, U.S. Navy—brothers 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; **Zachary Warden**—grandson of Betty Warden; Community: **Ray Finlay**, U.S. Army

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Youth ages 14 - 20: If you are interested in attending the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 19 - 25, please contact Alane Gronefeld. The registration papers are due October 15, 2024.

This is a life changing event held every 3 years that brings together thousands of youth and adults as a community of God's people to learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

**FAVORITE HYMNS** – please list your favorite hymns on the yellow notepad on the table in the narthex. The worship committee will consider them when selecting hymns for services. Thank you.

**OCTOBER NEWSLETTER** – please submit any items for the October Newsletter by 10:00 am. September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I will be out of the office Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> (for doctor appointment and MO District LWML Executive Board meeting) and Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Catherine

## **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](mailto:pastorlanning@goodshepherdcentralia.org)

**Church office:** (573) 682-3941,

hours: 8 – 12:30 p.m., M, T, Th; 8-10, 12-2 W; 8-10:30 F

**Email:** [office@goodshepherdcentralia.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdcentralia.org)

**Church Updates:** [www.goodshepherd.churchupdates.org](http://www.goodshepherd.churchupdates.org)

### **Elders:**

Curt Nadler (573) 682-4541

Jeff Jaeger (573) 682-0902

Gary Seider (573) 489-6629



*Isaiah 35:6, “...and the tongue of the mute shall sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.”*

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