

Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas

I
will
seek
the
lost,
and I will
bring
back the
strayed ...

Ezekiel 34:16, NRSV



14th Sunday after Pentecost

FINDING SHEEP

September 14, 2025

TODAY'S MESSAGE: FINDING SHEEP

In today's readings from God's Word, we learn three important truths. First, Jesus came, He died and He rose because He is the Good Shepherd, and through His Church (His people) he goes out into the entire world seeking lost sinners and bringing them into His fold. Second, we were among those lost sinners (in today's reading from 1st Timothy, Paul reminds us that we are still "chief of sinners"), but by the grace of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God and through our baptism, we have been found and we now belong to Him. And third, not only pastors but all of us (all Christians) are called to be God's "under-shepherds", watching over our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, seeking them out and encouraging them when they stray, and rejoicing when they return to the Lord!



In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper".

Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✝ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✝

[“Divine Service: Setting Three” from LSB p.184]

Please silence – or turn off – all phones and electronic devices before and during the service.

Welcome

Psalm 118:24

P: This is the day the LORD has made.

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

LSB 686

**Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory, fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee. May I still Thy goodness prove.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I’ve come.
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand’ring from the fold of God.
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor, daily I’m constrained to be.
Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above.**

**Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face.
Clothed then in the blood washed linen, how I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry. Take my ransom’d soul away.
Send Thine angels soon to carry, me to realms of endless day.**

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(sung)* **A - - - men**

Confession of Sins

Hebrews 10:22; 1 John 1:8-9

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Psalm 124:8

C: *(sung)* **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

Psalm 32:5

C: *(sung)* **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

John 20:19-23

C: *(sung)* **A - - - men.**

Entrance Psalm [ESV]

Psalm 119:169-176

P: Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word!

C: **Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word.**

P: My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes.

C: **My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right.**

P: Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

C: **I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight.**

P: Let my soul live and praise you, and let your rules help me.

C: **I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.**

ALL: 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.

**Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways, to keep His statutes still.
Oh, that my God would grant me grace, to know and do His will.**

**Order my footsteps by Thy Word, and make my heart sincere.
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.**

**Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep.
And should I e’er forget Thy way, restore Thy wand’ring sheep.**

**Make me to walk in Thy commands – ’tis a delightful road.
Nor let my head or heart or hands, offend against my God.**

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* And with thy spirit.

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

**ALL: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure.
Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow you, rejoicing
in the way that leads to eternal life; for you live and reign with the Father and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Ezekiel 34:11-24

For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet? Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **O LORD, give me understanding according to your word!** Psalm 119:169

Epistle Reading [ESV]

1 Timothy 1:1-17

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope. To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions. Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **O LORD, give me understanding according to your word!** Psalm 119:169

Gospel Reading [ESV]

Luke 15:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"

LSB 839

**O Christ, our true and only light, enlighten those who sit in night.
Let those afar now hear Your voice, and in Your fold with us rejoice.**

**Fill with the radiance of Your grace, the souls now lost in error's maze.
Enlighten those whose inmost minds, some dark delusion haunts and blinds.**

**O gently call those gone astray, that they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed, in You find peace and heav'nly rest.**

**Shine on the darkened and the cold. Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart. Confirm the weak and doubting heart.**

**That they with us may evermore, such grace with wond'ring thanks adore,
And endless praise to You be giv'n, by all Your Church in earth and heav'n.**

Sermon

FINDING SHEEP

Confession of Faith

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 day 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.

Offertory (*sung*)

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offering (*Greet those seated near you. You may say, "The peace of the Lord be with you."*)

[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]

Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

C: **May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.**

Prayers

✠ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠

VISITORS and MEMBERS

Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C: *(sung)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

Psalms 136

C: *(sung)* **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name . . .

Sanctus *(sung)*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He. Blessed is He. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

ALL: **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.**

Words of Our Lord

Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

John 20:19

C: *(sung)* A - - - - - men.

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.... A - - - - - men.

Distribution Hymns

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

LSB 709

**The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am His, and He is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul He leadeth.
And, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me.
And on His shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with Thee, dear Lord, beside me.
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spreadst a table in my sight, Thine unction grace bestoweth.
And, oh, what transport of delight, from Thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days, Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise, within Thy house forever!**

“Chief of Sinners though I Be”

LSB 611

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me.
Died that I might live on high. Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His and He is mine.**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love, higher than the heav'ns above.
Deeper than the depths of sea, lasting as eternity!
Love that found me – wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.**

**Only Jesus can impart, balm to heal the wounded heart.
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n. Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n.
Faith and hope to walk with God, in the way that Enoch trod.**

**Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me.
All my wants to Him are known. All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life, safe with Him from earthly strife.**

**O my Savior, help afford, by Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way.
Grace in time of need supply, while I live and when I die.**

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

LSB 609

**Jesus sinners doth receive. Oh, may all this saying ponder,
Who in sin's delusions live, and from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame, yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace and life proclaim. Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Sheep that from the fold did stray, no true shepherd e'er forsaken.
Weary souls that lost their way, Christ the Shepherd, gently taketh,
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**I, a sinner, come to Thee, with a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me. Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression.
It shall be as white as snow, by Thy blood and bitter passion.
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Now my conscience is at peace. From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release, and my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Jesus sinners doth receive. Also I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

Nunc Dimittis (*sung*)

Luke 2:29-32

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

Psalm 107:1

C: (*sung*) **And His mercy endureth forever.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray.

ALL: **We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this
salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us
through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: (*sung*) **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

Psalm 103:1

C: (*sung*) **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be
gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: (*sung*) **A - men, A - men, A - - men.**

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found. Was blind but now I see!**

**The Lord has promised good to me. His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
His grace has brought me safe thus far. His grace will lead me home.**

**Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail, in heaven's joy and peace.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we'd first begun.**

CLC MISSION STATEMENT: “We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God's Word,
sharing God's love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name.”