

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, June 21, 2026

10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 East Stroop Road
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 298-0136

INTRODUCTION

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

GOD COMES FIRST

God is, the theologians say, transcendent—beyond us, always exceeding our easy grasp. Recognizing God's awesome transcendence brings a reevaluation of other values. The God of vertigo-inspiring infinitude is also the God who know the hairs of our head. Trusting this God, fear is defanged and faith becomes a sort of courage. We live in faithful relationship to the hair-counting God as we joyfully "acknowledge" the one who acknowledges us. And as we do so, reveling in the intimacy of God's loving regard for us, other relationships, even familial ones, take on a different cast. God comes first, we realize, not only in priority, but ontologically, "in the beginning" (John 1:1). Before the God who is at once gracious and transcendent, we "lose" our lives and discover the true life in following the way of Jesus the crucified Son.

** *indicates to stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Mallory Morris

TEMPLE TALK

Matthew Pierce

BLESSING FOR FATHER'S DAY

Pastor Mallory Morris

For the fathers who helped shape, raise, and love us, we give you thanks.

For the step-fathers, grandfathers, uncles, teachers, and community leaders who stepped in to be the father-figure needed, we give you thanks.

For those who mourn the loss of their fathers today, we pray for comfort.

For those whose fathers failed to be or provide what was needed, we pray for healing.

For those fathers who have lost children, we pray for comfort.

For those who aren't fathers, whether by choice or not, we pray for peace.

We commend these and all our experiences of family and fatherhood to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, Our Savior.

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -
2 Though none go with me, still I will fol - low; though none go
3 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
with me, still I will fol - low; though none go with me, still I will
hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -

Je - sus;
fol - low; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
fore me;

OPENING LITANY

from "Litany of the Way, Prayer for the Journey"

As Jesus sought the quiet of the desert,
teach us to pray.

As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples,
teach us to love.

As Jesus promised paradise to the thief on the cross,
teach us to hope.

As Jesus called Peter to walk to him across the water,
teach us to believe.

As the child Jesus sat among the elders in the temple,
teach us to seek answers.

As Jesus in the garden opened his mind and heart to God's will,
teach us to listen.

GATHERING SONGS

"Listen, God Is Calling"

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
 1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
 2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
 3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All Refrain

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
 that he came to save us and set us free.
 In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
 walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

"Lord of the Dance"



1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, And I
2. I danced for the scribe and the phar-i-see, But
3. I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame: The
4. I danced on a Fri-day when the sky turned black; It's
5. They cut me down and I leapt up high; †



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I
they would not dance, and they would-n't fol-low me; I
ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame. They
hard to dance with the dev-il on your back. They
I am the life that-'ll nev-er, nev-er die; I'll



came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth; At
danced for the fish-er-men, for James and John; They
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, And
bur-ied my bod-y and they thought I'd gone; But
live in you if you'll live in me: †



Beth-le-hem I had my birth.
came with me and the dance went on.
left me there on a Cross to die.
I am the dance and I still go on.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.



Dance, then, wher-ever you may be; I am the



Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wher-



ev-er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

“Lord, I Need You”

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without you, I fall apart.
You’re the one that guides my heart.

(Refrain - All)

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where you are.
And where you are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.
Where you are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.

(Refrain - All)

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.**

(Music Ministers)

Teach my song to rise to you
When temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I’ll fall on you.
Jesus, you’re my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand, I’ll fall on you.
Jesus, you’re my hope and stay.

(Refrain - All/ Music Ministers)

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.**

Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.

My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.

**** CONFESSION**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**** FORGIVENESS**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Assisting Minister

Teach us, good Lord God, **to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture-reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

A reading from Jeremiah, the twentieth chapter.

O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him."
But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;

let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind. (Ps. 69:16)

Surely, for your sake have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

**I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**

Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

**I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**

I put on sackcloth also,
and became a byword among them.

**Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O Lord:
"In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

**Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

**Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.**

Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

**Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.**

SECOND READING

Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

A reading from Romans, the sixth chapter.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

** GOSPEL READING

Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Mallory Morris

**** APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Assisting Minister

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY "Discipleship Medley: Take, O Take Me as I Am & The Summons"

hymn tunes by John L. Bell
arrangement by Paul A. Tate

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**** DIALOGUE**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

**** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

** LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast!

For those communing at home or in the pew:

COMMUNION — *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

Each person may respond: **Amen.**

Communion Statement ~ We believe that the communion table is not Pr. Mallory's table, Good Shepherd Lutheran's table, or even the ELCA's table. This is God's table. And because this is God's table, we believe that anyone who wishes to receive communion can come forward and do so without condition or qualification.

Please note that we provide a non-alcoholic option (white) for those who do not want to partake of the communion wine (red). We also have gluten-free wafers available for those who need them. Simply let Pr. Mallory and the communion assistants know that you need something different when they come to you.

If anyone wishes to come forward and receive a blessing instead of communion elements, you are welcome to come forward to the communion rails with your arms crossed over your chest in the shape of an "X" instead.

If mobility concerns make it difficult to come forward for communion, you can alert the ushers, and they will let Pr. Mallory know to come to you.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ and ponder the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Assisting Minister

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

**** SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**** BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
‡ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always. **Amen.**

**** SENDING SONG**

“I Will Follow”

(Music Ministers)

Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;
Where you move, I'll move. I will follow.

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

All your ways are good, all your ways are sure;
I will trust in you alone.
Higher than my sight, high above my life;
I will trust in you alone.

(Refrain - All)

**Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;
Where you move, I'll move. I will follow you.
Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah.
I will follow you, yeah.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Light into the world, Light into my life,
I will live for you alone.
You're the One I seek, knowing I will find,
All I need in you alone.

(Refrain - All)

**Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;
Where you move, I'll move. I will follow you.
Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah.
I will follow you, yeah.**

(Music Ministers)

In you, there's life everlasting.
In you, there's freedom for my soul.
In you, there's joy, unending joy,
And I will follow!

(All)

Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;

Where you move, I'll move. I will follow.
Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve.
If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah.
I will follow you, yeah.
I will follow you, yeah.
I will follow you, yeah.

**** DISMISSAL**

Assisting Minister

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Created, saved and gifted by god,

we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO

**MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

John the Baptist

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus', just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530

Thursday, June 25, 2026

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar, known as "the teacher of Germany."

Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril's interpretation, that Christ's person included both divine and human natures, was correct.