

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church 2903 STH 155 PO Box 130 Sayner, WI 54560 (715) 542-3701 www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

September 14, 2025

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A Member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

Church Phone # (715) 542- 3701

Ministers: The people of the Parish

Council:	
President: Mike Pockat	715-892-4488
Vice President: Sharon Rice	715-891-0259
Tracey Ahlborn	612-716-6008
Jim Luebke	262-689-5456
Ken Beier	715-891-2705
Jeanne Kroll	715-542-2797

Church Service Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME GUESTS

We invite you to sign our guest book and/or complete a visitor card to help us remember you. Here at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church we celebrate Holy Communion whenever we gather, and we would like to invite you to join us, as **all** are welcome to the Lord's table here. Thank you for joining us.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are a loving community that follows Jesus and seeks to hear the Word of God and practice it in our daily lives.

Recorded Services:

All Sunday services at Shepherd of the Lakes are recorded and put on You Tube.

Go to the Church website at www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org and look for the Click on this symbol to take you to the Church's YouTube site.

For those of you worshipping with us at home – You can mail your donations to:
Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church 2903 State HWY 155, PO Box 130 Sayner, WI 54560
Or on the church website – www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org
You can donate through our PayPal account.
"Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together."

Readings for September 21, 2025 15th Sunday After Pentecost:

First Reading Amos 8: 4-7

Psalm 113

Second Reading 1 Timothy 2: 1-7 Holy Gospel Luke 16: 1-13

Love or Money?

A rich landowner tells his unsatisfactory manager he's going to fire him. We don't know how long the employee had to clear his desk, but apparently it was long enough to win friends and influence the people who had accounts with his boss. The manager called them in and reduced their debt. When the boss heard about it, for some reason he didn't call his lawyer but sat back and laughed in admiration.

How could Jesus tell a story where the main character is a crook? Why did the boss commend the bad manager? What is Jesus trying to tell us? This parable can be difficult for us to interpret. One possibility: Dr. Audrey West, in the 2004 Lutheran Woman Today Bible study, described a parable as a story about something ordinary, with a surprise or twist that leads us to experience reality in a new way, so that it may even transform our daily living. The surprise in this parable is not the manager's self-serving behavior, as we've seen for ourselves in some corporate accounting scandals in the news. The surprise is the boss showing mercy.

Does this boss remind you of someone? Maybe the landowner in another parable who pays a full day's wage to farm workers who spent barely one hour in the vineyard? The father running out to welcome a shamed and destitute, long-lost son? Or someone who's been in the news lately? Is there any way that he reminds you of God? In God's economy, people matter more than profits. The prophet (first reading), the psalmist, and Jesus, telling the parable, agree on this. The epistle writer adds a prayer for "a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity" for everyone, boss and beggar alike.

Today we welcome Reverend Thomas Reiff, Co-Dean of the Wisconsin & Upper Michigan Mission District of the NALC to lead our worship service.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:00 AM:

Holy Communion is offered at every service. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. The Sunday service will be live-streamed and recorded and available for viewing on YouTube later on Sundays. Join us for coffee and fellowship in the Community Room after church service. Fellowship brunch is held every second Sunday, and you are welcome to bring a dish to share.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church school begins **Wednesday**, **October 22**, **2025**. We would love to see your children – or grandchildren! – join us. The bus will drop them off right here at church. For more information, please contact Karen Carter.

ALTAR FLOWERS - INFORMATION ON HOW TO SIGN UP

Contact Person - Jo Ann Kehl Cell 715-892-0413

The Sign-Up Sheets are located in the Narthex on the shelf under the Lutheran Rose.

STEP ONE:

Sign up for the date you wish to provide the set of two altar bouquets

STEP TWO:

You can provide flowers in two ways:

- 1. You may purchase your own flowers and bring them to church.
- 2. You may contact Jo Ann Kehl and she will order them for you. Just let her know what flowers you would like and how much you would like to spend. You can then write a check to Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church for that amount and designate it as *Altar Flower Donation*. ANY QUESTIONS? Contact Jo Ann

QUILTING

Please join the quilting group at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. You don't need to know how to quilt or sew – if you can tie knots, they can use your help.

CALL COMMITTEE

Here are the Call Committee members. Please feel free to contact them if you have any questions.

Lloyd Andersen (715) 892-3513

Karen Carter (715) 542-4049 or (715) 525-1733

Ginger Eade (608) 317-9563 Shawn McCormick (715) 605-2552 Joanne Pierce (414) 477-5804

Charlie Rice – Chairman (715) 617-1398 or (715) 479-9336

No financial reports today. Attendance on September 7th was 52.

LÔÔ KING FOR VOLUNTEERS

At the Council meeting held on August 24th, there was discussion on some of the areas that we need volunteers to help. Please let one of the council members know if you would be interested in the following:

• Budget Committee – four volunteers to help put the budget together

Thank you for considering this request!

CONTACT INFO

In addition to the listed office hours, we are also available anytime by phone!

Treasurer – Jean Maines (715) 542-4213 or (715) 891-3344 Email: **treasurer@sotlsayner.com** or **jamaines2012@gmail.com** Office Hours on Monday and Friday, 10 am – 2 pm

Secretary – Sharon Brooker (715) 892-7049 (call or text)
Email: secretary@sotlsayner.com or plclerk@gmail.com
Office Hours on Tuesday from 3 pm – 6:00 pm
Wednesday from Noon - 4 pm
Thursday from Noon – 4 pm

In case of Pastoral Emergency, please contact Council President Mike Pockat at (715) 892-4488 or Vice-President Sharon Rice at (715) 891-0259



Pray for those dealing with current issues:

Doug, Graham, Jim C., Dick K., Mike, and Mary, (mother of Ahlborn Equipment employee)

(Please let us know if/when names should be removed from this "current issues" list or moved to "ongoing list")

Pray for those with ongoing health issues:

Larry, Mary Lou, Brian, Ericka, Mike, Shelle, Sharon G., and Ron

Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:

Adam & Brittany, Brooks, Will, Sgt. Keara, Alex, Jared, and Dylan and David.

Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:

Elisabeth

Pray for peace and consoling comfort for the families of those who have passed:

Family of Tom, friend of Tracey.

Special Prayers

Please keep our church council, the Call Committee and every member of this congregation in your prayers as we begin our search for a new Shepherd.

Please or email Jean Maines at <u>treasurer@SOTLsayner.com</u> or text her at 715-891-3344 or contact Sharon Brooker at <u>plclerk@gmail.com</u> or text her at 715-892-7049 if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list or if you are in need of prayers.

THE CHURCH PHONE

The Church phone line (715) 542-3701 has now been forwarded to Sharon Brooker's phone, so it will be answered almost every time. The answering message has also been updated, in case anyone gets the answering machine message.

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A Member Congregation of The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and

The Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC) 14th Sunday After Pentecost September 14, 2025

Greeting & Announcements –

Invocation

(Please remain seated.)

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession And Forgiveness

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

Please stand as you are comfortable

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Dialog

Rejoice in the Lord always. Say it again: Rejoice! Let gentleness be evident to all, for the Lord is near.

Let us not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present our requests to God.

Rejoice in the Lord always. Say it again: Rejoice!

Let gentleness be evident to all, for the Lord is near. (Philippians 4:4-6)

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us pray....

God of all creation,

You reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son Jesus Christ as Lord.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share the peace as you are comfortable, then please be seated.

First Reading Exodus 32: 7-14

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51: 1-10

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ² Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.
 - ⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.
 - ⁶ Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.
 - ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
 - ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.
 - ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.
 - ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

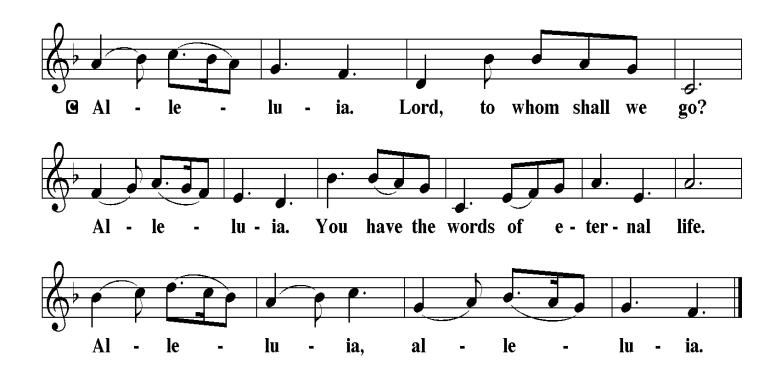
Second Reading 1 Timothy 1: 12-17

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

(Please stand as you are comfortable)



The Holy Gospel According to....

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading Luke 15: 1-10

The Gospel of the Lord....

Glory to you, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

Sermon

Please remain seated for the hymn of the day.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the People

Offering

(We will receive our offering today in the traditional manner)

For those of you worshipping with us at home -You can mail your donations to:

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130 Sayner, WI 54560

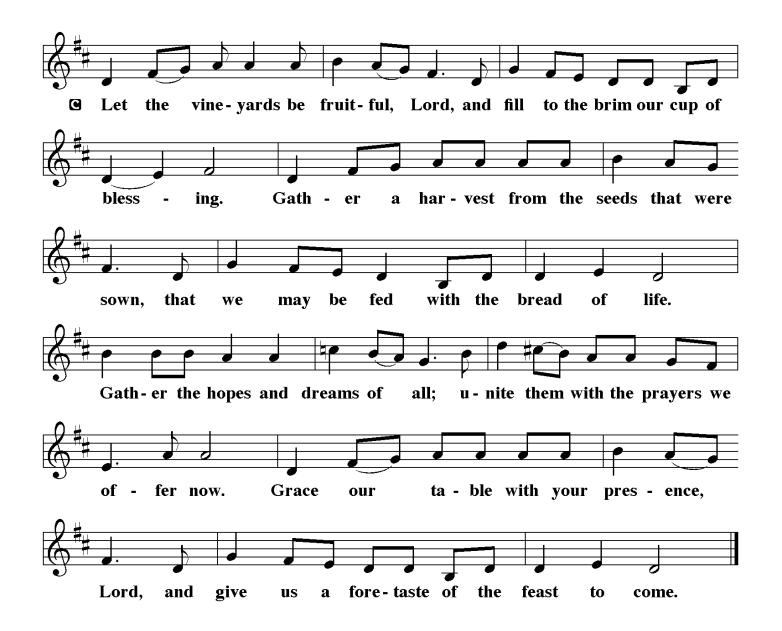
Or on the church website www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

you can donate through our PayPal account.

"Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together."

Presentation Of Gifts

(Please stand as you are comfortable and join in the offertory hymn)



Offertory Prayer

Merciful God,

You open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it.

We pray this through Christ our Lord...... Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

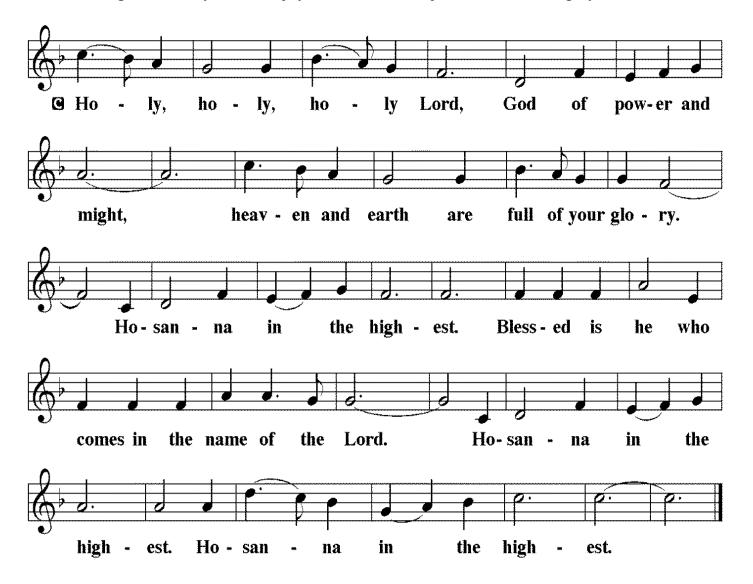
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy......and join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

Lords Prayer

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.

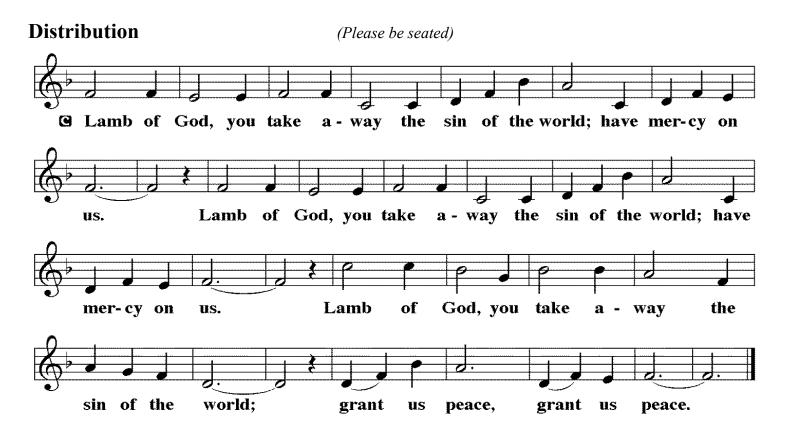
Amen

Invitation

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Small children and others that wish not to commune may come forward for a blessing.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

Please come forward as the ushers direct, receive the bread in your hand and then receive the wine by dipping the host into the wine (chalice). Grape juice is also offered as an alternative to the wine in the clear chalice. We also have gluten free wafers for those in need, simply ask for them when you come forward.



Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty



- 5 "Come to me, distressed and needy; I would be your trusted friend.
 Come and seek the gift I offer, come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*
- 6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned; lonely ways no longer roam.

 Come and take the gift I offer, let me make in you my home." Refrain

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985 Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374. Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

"Now Thank We All Our God" ELW 840

Now Thank We All Our God



- 1 Now thank we all our God
- 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God
- 3 All praise and thanks to God

with hearts and hands and voic - es, through all our life be near us, the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



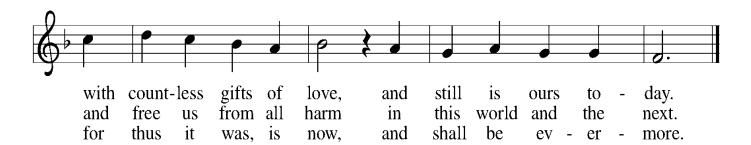
who won-drous things has done, with ev - er joy - ful hearts the Son, and Spir - it blest,

in whom this world re - joic - es; and bless - ed peace to cheer us, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth-ers' arms, and keep us all in grace, the one e - ter - nal God,

has blest us on our way and guide us when per - plexed, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW 843

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
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Communion Blessing (Please stand as you are comfortable)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Prayer

Almighty God,

You gave your Son, both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Blessing/Benediction

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.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Just As I Am, without One Plea



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

Dismissal

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Calendar for Week of September 15 to September 21, 2025

Wednesday	September 17, 2025	Quilting	9:00 a.m.
Thursday	September 18, 2025	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	September 21, 2025	Worship	9:00 a.m.

^{**} Music copied and used under our One License Arrangement**

Next Council Meeting:

September 28, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events:

Church School Starts October 22nd!

Check our calendar of events on the church website for times and dates of events and worship services.

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org FaceBook: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church – Sayner, WI Instagram: sotlsayner

Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC) augsburglutheranchurches.org

North American Lutheran Church (NALC) thenalc.org