



Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church
A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
& Augsburg Lutheran Churches
2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130 (715) 542-3701
Sayner, Wisconsin 54560

September 20, 2026

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A Member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
and
Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

(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
Joanne Pierce	414-477-5804
Shawn McCormick	715-605-2552

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 & seeks to hear the Word of God and practice it in our daily lives.

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  symbol.

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 27, 2026 18th Sunday After Pentecost

First Reading	Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32
Psalm	25: 1-9
Second Reading	Philippians 2: 1-13
Holy Gospel	Matthew 21: 23-32

An Invitation to Grace

It is so easy and so tempting to build ourselves up at the expense of others. “I can’t imagine ever doing that.” “How can people live like that?” “Who would do such a thing?” At some point we all think or say these sorts of things. Like it or not, we use these words to comfort ourselves at the expense of others.

But all people stand in need of God’s grace. Each of this day’s readings shows us this reality. In the parable of the two sons, Jesus invites us to choose between two sons when neither fully does the will of their father. Here Jesus makes the point that we are all equally in need of God’s grace. Ezekiel proclaims God’s invitation, “Turn, then, and live” (Ezek. 18:32). This is an invitation that extends to all people from a God deeply desiring a loving and life-giving relationship with humanity.

In Philippians, we are reminded of Jesus’ act of grace on the cross, emptying himself, becoming sin so that all creation might be redeemed through him. In response, we discover a vision of the day in which all creation speaks with a unified voice, declaring that Jesus Christ is Lord.

This is a day of confession and forgiveness. We confess our need for God, our distance from God, and our failures before God. In response, to our joy, we discover again the grace of God outpoured. All humans are in need of God’s grace; God extends grace to all, and one day we will confess that salvation as one people. All of today’s readings reveal the way in which all humans are equal in the eyes of God.

Thank You to Karen Carter, Lay Minister, for leading service today!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:00 A.M.

Holy Communion is offered at every service. All are welcome. The Sunday service will be live-streamed and recorded and available for viewing on YouTube later on Sundays.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE AT 5:30 P.M.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Reminder to send your children (or grandchildren!) to join our after-school church school! The school bus will drop the children off right at the door of the church on Wednesday afternoons at around 3:45. Church school lasts until 5 pm. All are welcome to join us at the Wednesday evening service that follows at 5:30 pm.

ATTENDANCE
Wednesday, September 16: 10
Sunday, September 6: 37

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

WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

Please consider making a donation for this very worthwhile program headed up by the KriECK family. Pink envelopes are located on the Narthex table for your use.

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's flowers are provided by Jo Ann Kehl in memory of Jerry Kehl.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for those dealing with current issues:

Dick, Teresa, Jessica, Deb, Lloyd, Jim C., Sue L., Gordon S., Joan E., Sharon G., and Ken H.

(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, Graham, Ericka, Mike, Shelle, Bob B., Ron, Bonnie, Carolyn, Beth, Shirley, John, Kim, Barb, Sharon B., Tom P, Tom A., Crystal L.

Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:

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

Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:

Elisabeth

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

Betty Folz, Mother of Sharon Geist

Special Prayers

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

Please or email Jean Maines at jamaines2012@gmail.com or text her at 715-891-3344 or contact Sharon Brooker at plclerk@gmail.com 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.



CONTACT INFO

In addition to any 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

Secretary – Sharon Brooker (715) 892-7049
Email: secretary@sotlsayner.com or plclerk@gmail.com
Office Hours on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons

Karen Carter, Lay Minister
kcarter@nnex.net
(715) 542-4049 or (715) 525-1733

BOOKSHELF REMINDER

Remember to check out the bookshelves in the south entryway! All books are there to be shared and you are also welcome to leave books if you wish.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice will continue to meet on Sunday after church (10:30 am). Please join us – we would love to have lots of new voices!! We look forward to seeing you there!



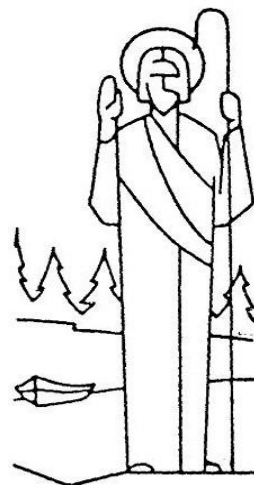
Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

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

and

The Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

17th Sunday After Pentecost, September 20, 2026



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.**

Compassionate God,

We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

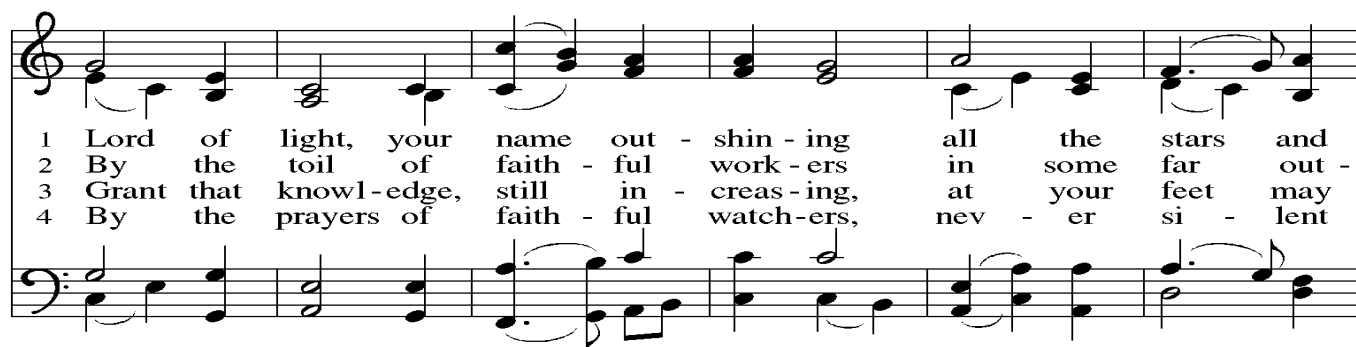
Amen

Gathering Song

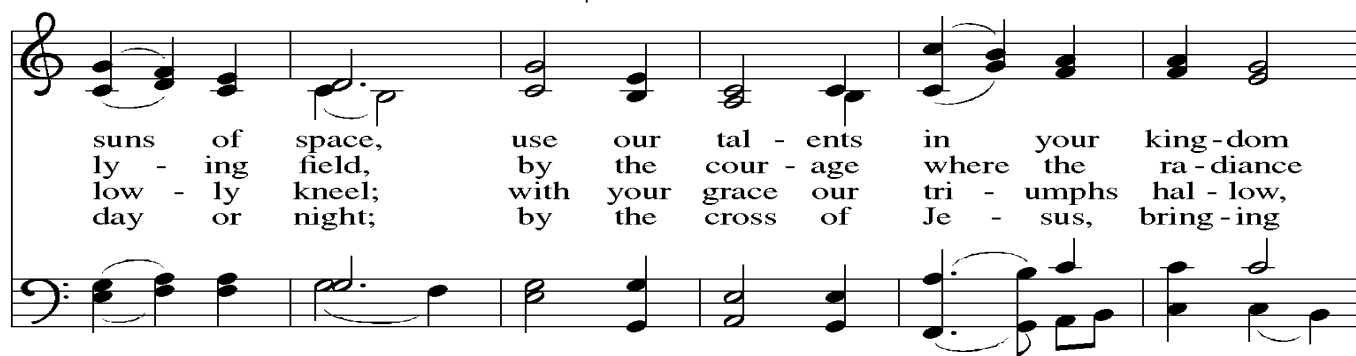
“Lord of Light” ELW 688

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

Lord of Light



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty heal our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows, to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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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

(Philippians 4:4-6)

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.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray....

God of love,

Giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading

Jonah 3: 10 – 4:11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great
goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading Philippians 1: 21-30

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

(Please stand as you are comfortable)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel According to....

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading Matthew 20: 1-16

The Gospel of the Lord....

Glory to you, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

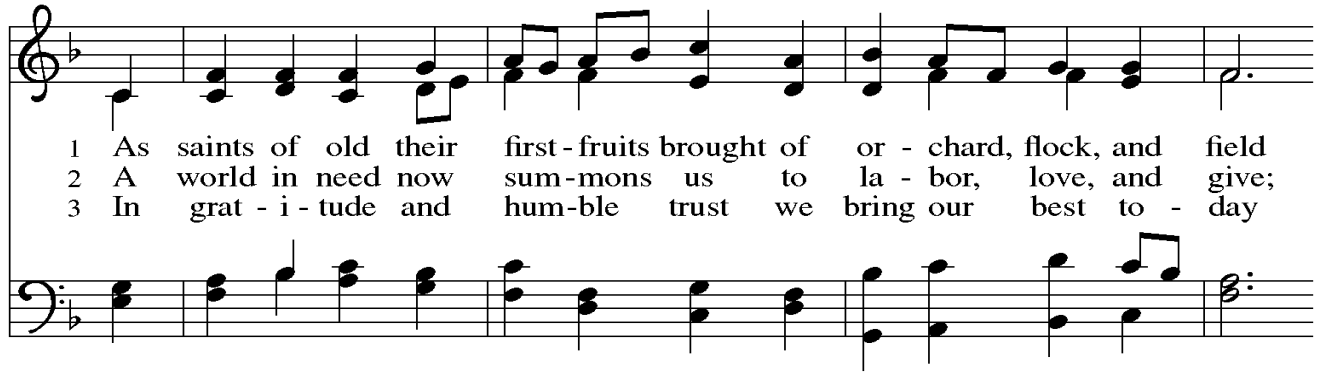
Sermon

Karen Carter

Hymn of the Day “As Saints of Old” ELW 695

Please stand as you are comfortable

As Saints of Old



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
 3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
 to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
 The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
 O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
 teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900–1996, alt.
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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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

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)

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

Offertory Prayer

God of creation,

You send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;

make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts

in service to you and in love to our neighbors,

today and always.

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.

Words of Institution

(Service of Distribution)

(These elements have been consecrated by Pastor Rich Little)

As we gather before these **consecrated** elements of bread and wine for the celebration of Holy Communion, we hear again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, 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."

We are given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As we prepare to receive this bread of life and this cup of blessing, we pray that we may be strengthened through our participation in the body of Christ.

I invite you to join with me and let us pray with confidence the words that our Savior gave us.

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

Distribution

(Please be seated)

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. All is ready, all are welcome, our Lord and Savior invites us to come.

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.

Communion Hymns “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God” WOV 783

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le

D Em A⁷ D F#m

righteousness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth . . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: st. 1, Matt. 6:33, adapt. Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; st. 2, Matt. 7:7; st. 3, Matt. 4:4
 Music: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948
 Text st. 1 and music © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Co.

LAFFERTY
 irregular

"The Church's One Foundation" ELW 564

The Church's One Foundation

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal staff (treble and bass clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

“This Is My Father’s World” ELW 824

This Is My Father’s World



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.
morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.
rus-ling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'-ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

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

Sustaining God,

With this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Blessing/Benediction

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Jesus Christ.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

The God of Grace ✚ bless you now and forever.

Amen

Sending Hymn

“Rise Up, O Saints of God” ELW 669

Please stand as you are comfortable

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

**Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.
Second Sunday of each month join us for brunch after the service.**

Calendar for Week of September 21 to September 27, 2026

Wednesday	September 23, 2026	Church School	3:45 p.m.
Wednesday	September 23, 2026	Mid-Week Service	5:30 p.m.
Thursday	September 24, 2026	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	September 27, 2026	Worship Service	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	September 27, 2026	Choir Practice	10:30 a.m.

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Next Council Meeting:

Today, September 20, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events:

*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



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