

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 13th, 2023

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings.

We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak.

We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven

in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Shout to the Lord"

#821

Prayer of the Day

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Acts 6:1-7

¹Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." ⁵What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew 14:22-33

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Pastor Josh is on vacation this week of Family Camp at Luther Park.

There was no sermon transcript to include at the time of printing/ mailing.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

Song of the Day **“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”**

#773

Apostle’s Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of grace and faith, your faithfulness is never-ending, and your righteousness becomes ours through Christ Jesus. Send the church to proclaim the gospel both near and far, in church buildings and on street corners, in person and through digital means. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of sky and sea, the plants, animals, mountains, and plains proclaim your glory. Prosper the work of ecologists as they teach us new ways to care for the environment. Bring relief to areas recovering from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick (*We pray especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Verna, Irene, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Cherri, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Sandy, Verne and Kathy*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of wonder, you accompany us in both joys and sorrows. We pray for children and teachers preparing for a new school year. Make your presence known in our work and play, in lively conversation and in quiet rest. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of new life, you send people to renew both church and society. We give you thanks for their lives of faithful service (*especially nursing pioneers Florence Nightingale and Clara Maass, whom the church remembers today*) as examples of following your call. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's 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

Communion

#471 & #483

Prayer

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

Sending Song

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

#763 vs. 1,4

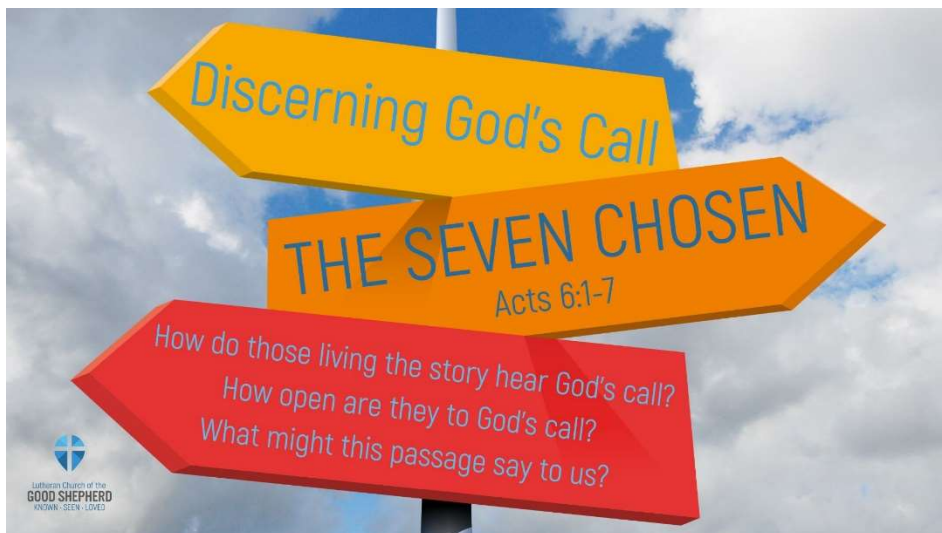
Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!
And all of Good Shepherd said...
AMEN!

2023 Financial Snapshot

	Month of July	Year-to-Date
Total Revenue	\$27,293	\$183,027
Total Expenses	\$23,425	\$178,320
Difference	\$3,868	\$4,707



Drop Pastor Josh a written response or email. Give it a read on the [blog page](#) of the website, www.goodshepherd-ec.org.

- How do the people in the story hear God's call to them?
- How open are they to God's call?
- What might this passage say to our community of faith?

Welcome Back Weekend 2023

September 9-10

Saturday, September 9 - Work and Play

Property Clean-up, inside and out

Clean out the garages

BYO Picnic Lunch

Supper on the Grill

Sunday, September 10 - Worship and Play

Worship at 9 am

Blessing of Backpacks

Fall Faith Formation Kickoff

Delicious Treats!



JOIN US FOR A GRILLED CHICKEN DINNER

MENU:
GRILLED CHICKEN
BAKED BEANS
DINNER ROLL
CHIPS & DESSERT
WATER

Tickets \$13
\$6 Children (10 and under)

For ticket information go to:
<https://www.standinthelightmemorychoir.org>

A Fundraiser to benefit local non-profit:



Sponsored By: Lake Hallie Memory Care

Tickets also available at Good Shepherd



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH

Food Served 12pm-2pm
Irvine Park Main Pavilion
Chippewa Falls

Enjoy LIVE music 12-3 pm, with a featured performance by the Stand in the Light Memory Choir at 1 pm



Stand In The Light Memory Choir
Where Words Fail, Music Speaks

FALL CHOIR REHEARSALS

“Love Wins!”

Cathy Reitz, *Music/Artistic Director* Anne Kubiatowicz, *Accompanist*

**People in the early to mid-stages of memory loss,
their care partners and singing volunteers come together
to share their love of music!**

No musical experience is necessary to participate.

REHEARSALS

Thursdays, 9:45 a.m. – 11 a.m.
August 24 – November 16, 2023*
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
1120 Cedar Street - Eau Claire

\$25 registration fee

***Last date for fall semester registration is September 14th**

*These sessions will be hybrid with the ability to attend in person
or virtually via ZOOM. Please let us know if you need
assistance getting set up on ZOOM.*

For more information call 715-210-4165
or write standinthelightchoir@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/sitlchoir
www.instagram.com/sitlchoir/
www.standinthelightmemorychoir.org



Snacks are needed on certain days for their fellowship time. If you would be able to provide for 60 people, please call the church office.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to have flowers on the altar for a special occasion, please call DeAnne in the office and let her know.