

The Divine Service



“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.”

(Matthew 20:1)

18th Sunday after Pentecost



AD 2020, October 4

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church

41415 W. Nine Mile Road

Novi, Michigan 48375-4306

(248) 349-0565

www.GoodShepherdNovi.org

Good Shepherd is a member of the WELS (www.wels.net)

The Divine Service

This order of service is a variation of the Common Service, p 15 in Christian Worship. To limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus as much as possible, singing will be restricted to only a few places. The responsive portions of the liturgy shall be spoken. Where you see this symbol + you may make the sign of the cross.

HYMN 380 Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose You

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/380>

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

C: **Holy and Merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil, and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: **Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

C: **Amen**

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 55:6-9

“Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

M: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND LESSON **Philippians 1:18-27**

What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

M: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

THE GOSPEL **Matthew 20:1-16**

M: The Gospel for today is from the Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter, beginning at the 1st verse.

C: **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

M: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn 390 **Salvation unto Us Has Come**

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/390>

SERMON TEXT: ISAIAH 55:6-9

SERMON THEME: GOD REVEALS HIGHER THOUGHTS AND BETTER WAYS.

Hymn 272 **Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God**

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/272>

Prayer of the Church

Litany 6: Prayers of the People—2

- M: In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”
For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and
love and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For the president of our synod, for the president of our district, for all pastors and teachers, and for all the holy
people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you
and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to
you, O Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**

- M: For those who do not yet believe and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- M: For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- M: For those in positions of public trust (especially _____), that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- M: For a blessing on human labor and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- M: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- M: For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart and show forth your glory in all we do, we pray to you, O Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- M: For our enemies and those who wish us harm and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- M: For ourselves, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- M: For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.

If there are other intercessions, the minister shall pray:

- M: For _____, we pray to you, O Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.

- M: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our lives to Christ our God.
C: Amen.

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CLOSING PRAYER

- M: ... one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

- M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor (+) and give you peace.
C: Amen.

Hymn 384 By Grace I'm Saved
<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/384>

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Preacher & Celebrant Pastor Thomas E. Schroeder
Organist Jeanette Schneider

Worship Tidbit for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Hymns – The Tunes. We usually remember the tune of a song before we remember the lyrics. Pop musicians prefer that so we will recognize their song the next time we hear it on the radio. The purpose of Christian hymns, however, is not to entertain, but to teach and proclaim. Therefore, the message is far more important than the tune. The tune is to serve the lyrics. Lenten hymns are somber. Easter hymns are robust. While we may cherish and hum some hymn tunes more than others, the goal of the tune is to make the lyrics (that is, the word of God) easier to remember.

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Sunday (10/4) Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM
Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM

Wednesday Bible Information Class – 1:00 PM via Zoom
Catechism Class – 3:30-5:00 PM
Bible Matters (Topic: The Church and the LGTBQ+ Community:
How shall we love them?) – 7:00 PM

Sunday (10/11) Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
Divine Service – In church at 10:00 AM; Facebook Live at 10:00 AM

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Divine Service is Sundays at 10:00 AM, in person and on Facebook Live.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class is on Sunday at 8:45 AM.

Bible Matters, a Bible discussion group, meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Topics may be suggested to the pastor and will be announced prior to each session. Upcoming topics:

October 7 – The Church and the LGTBQ+ Community: How shall we love them?

NOTE: There is a booklet entitled “Gay and God” from Time of Grace Ministry (<https://timeofgrace.org/>), which will be a guide for our discussion. While it is not mandatory to read it beforehand, it is valuable reading and may aid your thoughts before our session on October 7. It is available at Good Shepherd, free of charge.

If anyone wants to follow along on Zoom, contact the pastor (welsnovi@aol.com) and I will send you a link. Your contribution to the discussion may have to be limited to the Chat feature.

October 14 – What is God going to do about evil?

October 21 – I have doubts about the Bible. Now what?

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday (9:00 AM - Noon)

The pastor will be in his office unless a meeting has been scheduled elsewhere (consult the weekly schedule). The pastor is also available by appointment. Call or text (248-719-5218). You may also email (welsnovi@aol.com), but the response may be slower.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING

In order to make the most of opportunities to proclaim the Gospel in our community, we need to budget our expenses and our time. We will be meeting to determine our plans and to pray that God will bless them. Our next Evangelism Committee meeting will be Sunday, October 18 at 11:15 AM. All members are encouraged to participate in our Evangelism efforts, whether on the committee or not. But we do need people who are willing to be on the committee to plan.

CONCERNING PASTORAL CARE

Divine Services: We have in-person services on Sundays at 10:00 AM.

Online Worship: You can join in our services via Facebook Live (Sundays, 10 AM). You can find it here, or by searching for "Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church." Make sure you click to the one in Novi.

Archived Resources: We are posting our services on YouTube. A search for "Good Shepherd Novi" should bring up services. As always, sermon manuscripts are posted on the pastor's blog (www.LutheranSubject.blogspot.com). You can use the search bar to find a particular date, day of the Church Year, or Scripture reference.

Person-to-person care: Pastor Schroeder will be in his office to offer private devotions, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion to members in small groups or to individuals. Please set up your visit by appointment at any time.

In case you contract COVID-19: Please contact Pastor Schroeder. He will alert the congregation so that your fellow members may pray for you, and he will keep everyone informed of your condition. If possible, Pastor Schroeder will visit you during your quarantine. At the very least, he will keep in contact with you and provide devotional materials. If you want to ask for intercessions for loved ones, we will certainly remember them in our prayers, too. If your loved one has no pastor, ask if they would like Pastor Schroeder to visit them.

REDFORD PREGNANCY CARE CENTER UPDATE

The RPCC is seeking donations for gently used fall/winter clothing. We could really use 18 mo. - 4 T clothing. For more information, please contact Carol Beeskow (cbeeskow@gmail.com).

NOTES from Huron Valley Lutheran High School (HVL)

Join HVL's Mailing List - Go to HVLHS.org and click on "Sign up for Newsletter" or call or email the school office at mail@hvlhs.org to be added.

Upcoming Event:

Oct 11 HVL Conference of Congregations Meeting (2pm)

HVL Virtual Auction

A huge thank you for everyone's tremendous support of the auction. Over \$40,000 was raised! Every dollar raised assists HVL in carrying out its mission of preparing students for life. Praise God for the wonderful generosity of our supporters!

Accreditation News

Every five years, HVL hosts a site visit team to renew our accreditation through WELSSA and NCPSA. This week we received news from our site visit that HVL is being recommended for Exemplary Accreditation Status! This status requires meeting 95% of the standards. (HVL met 98% of the standards.) We will be receiving a full report from the site team with recommendations that we will incorporate into our 5-year school improvement plans. Receiving exemplary status is a testament to our faculty, staff, students, parents, and association!

WELS LISTEN LIBRARY

A new online resource You may not think your church has any blind members. What about people who can no longer read your service folder or are too frail to hold a book or have dyslexia?

WELS Mission for the Visually Impaired (MVI) posts audio versions of Meditations and Forward in Christ and Christian audio books on a new website called the "Listen Library" at listen.wels.net. You can see the Listen Library for yourself – it's open but the recordings are password protected. For members to listen online, download to their devices or order book or periodical on a USB flash drive, they (or someone in their family or church) applies to MVI. A Service Application form is on the Listen Library landing page. The National Library Service for the Blind has free digital players available to all who are blind. MVI continues to produce braille and large print materials. Coming soon: Professor Emeritus Daniel Deutschlander is recording his books for Listen Library clients to hear for free! Find out more about resources for members who can no longer read a book at wels.net/mvi.

FREEDOM FOR CAPTIVES

Safety First Parents are looking for "safe" schools during COVID 19, but at all times informed parents are also alert to questions of safety from sexual abuse. They look for clues on websites and in your published information. Take steps to protect children in your school and church. Freedom for the Captives provides sample protection policies and resources at freedomforcaptives.com. Please take a few minutes to listen to what Anita, a WELS member who survived child sexual abuse, says in her Freedom for the Captives video at wels.net/abuse-prevention. For more information, email freedom@wels.net.

A LOOK AT THE UPCOMING SCHEDULE

NOTE: All dates will be confirmed the closer we get to them.

OCTOBER *Note: All dates are subject to review, based on the COVID-19 updates.*

- 4 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 4 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 4 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 5 Catechism Class – 5:00-6:30 PM
- 5 Bible Information Class – 7:00 PM
- 7 Bible Matters (Topic: The Church and the LGBTQ+ Community: How shall we love them?) – 7:00 PM
- 11 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 11 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 11 HVL Conference of Congregations – 2:00 PM
- 12 Pastors' Circuit Meeting at HVL – 9:30 AM – Noon
- 12 Catechism Class – 5:00-6:30 PM
- 12 Bible Information Class – 7:00 PM
- 13 Redford Pregnancy Care Center Bible Study – 10:00 AM
- 14 Bible Matters (Topic: What is God going to do about evil?) – 7:00 PM
- 18 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 18 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 18 Evangelism Committee Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 19 Catechism Class – 5:00-6:30 PM
- 19 Bible Information Class – 7:00 PM
- 20 Church Council – 7:00 PM
- 21 Bible Matters (Topic: TBD) – 7:00 PM
- 25 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class – 8:45 AM
- 25 Divine Service – In Church at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live – 10:00 AM)
- 25 Reformation Rally at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Westland
 - Vespers – 5:00 PM
 - Dinner – 5:30 PM
 - Luther Lecture – 6:30 PM
- 26 Catechism Class – 5:00-6:30 PM
- 26 Bible Information Class – 7:00 PM
- 28 Bible Matters (Topic: TBD) – 7:00 PM

SHUT-INS - *Please remember our shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers.*

Sylvia Campbell	1745 Wickhamn	Royal Oak, MI 48073
Jim Hobley	6950 Farmington Road	West Bloomfield, MI 48322
Margaretha Lester	935 Union Lake Road Apt. 218	White Lake Twp., MI 48386
Elaine Patton	42600 Cherry Hill Road, Rm. 115	Canton, MI 48188
Mary Zuehlke	29451 Halsted Road Apt. 118	Farmington Hills, MI 48331

WELS RADIO HOUR broadcasts 10:30-11:30 AM, Sundays, out of Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church of Redford. It airs on WLQV, AM 1500 and 92.7 FM. It is also simulcast on faithtalkdetroit.com and can be heard on the faithtalkdetroit phone app.

We encourage our members to utilize opportunities for Christian education, grounded in the Evangelical-Lutheran faith. While we do not own and operate a school on our property, we are able to enroll our children at the following schools.

St. Peter Lutheran School

(Pre-K only)
1343 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 421-9022
www.splp.org
Becky Lohrmann, teacher

St. Paul Lutheran School

(Pre-K through 8th grade)
17810 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48152
(734) 453-0460
www.stpaulslivonia.org
Mr. Paul Leifer, principal

Huron Valley Lutheran High School

(9th grade thru 12th grade)
33740 Cowan Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 525-0160
www.hvlhs.org
Mr. Matt Foley, principal