



## September 14, 2025 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### AS WE GATHER

Tax collectors and sinners came to Jesus. The Pharisees and scribes grumbled about this. So Jesus told them a set of three parables (two of which we read today). To talk about sinners, he uses the image of lost things. A lost sheep, a lost coin, and then a lost son. In the first two parables today, Jesus speaks of the shepherd who leaves 99 in search for the one lost sheep and of the woman who turns over the house looking for one lost coin out of 10. In both parables, when the lost sheep/coin is found, there is much rejoicing. And this gets to Jesus' point: "There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10). This is true for you, too. Jesus loves *you* so much that, when you find yourself lost in despair over your sin or in the brokenness of the world, Jesus never ceases to seek diligently for you. And when He finds you, He picks you up and places you on His shoulders, rejoicing that He has found you.

**HYMN**      *LSB 686, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*

### INVOCATION

**Pastor:**      In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:**      **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:**      O Lord, my God, I cry to You for help.  
**People:**      **Heal and restore me, O Lord.**

**Pastor:**      Most holy and merciful Father,  
**People:**      **like sheep, O Lord, we have strayed and wandered from You. We have sinned against You and one another. We have done the evil You forbid, and we have not done the good You desire. There is no health in us. O merciful and divine Shepherd, cover our sins with Your forgiveness, clothe us with Your perfect righteousness, and preserve us in this faith and fear, that we may be kept to the day when Your Son comes to judge all people. Have mercy, O Lord, and fulfill Your Word to us in Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**Pastor:**      Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:**      **Amen.**

**Pastor:**      He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**People:**      **And also with you.**

### KYRIE

**Pastor:**      In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**People:**      **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *Glory to God in the Highest (Music and words in hymnal, LSB 154).*

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

**All: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

#### **SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Ezekiel 34:11–24*

*(The Lord promises to rescue His sheep and to set up a shepherd who will lead them to eternal life.)*

<sup>11</sup> “For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. <sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. <sup>17</sup> “As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. <sup>18</sup> Is it not enough for you

to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? <sup>19</sup> And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet? <sup>20</sup> “Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup> Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup> I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup> And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup> And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 119:169–176 (We have gone astray like a lost sheep.)*

Pastor: Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word!

**People: Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word.**

Pastor: My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes.

**People: My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right.**

Pastor: Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

**People: I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.**

Pastor: Let my soul live and praise you, and let your rules help me.

**People: I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.**

**EPISTLE** *1 Timothy 1:12–17 (Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.)*

<sup>12</sup> I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, <sup>13</sup> though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Luke 15:10*

**All: Alleluia. I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 15:1–10 (Jesus tells the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. <sup>8</sup> "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *LSB 744, "Amazing Grace"*

**SERMON**      *"The Lost are Found"*

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**All:** I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,  
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, and confident that You will hear and answer us, O Lord.

People: **Amen.**

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**      *LSB 781, "We Give Thee But Thine Own," Stanzas 1-2*

**LORD'S PRAYER**      *Matthew 6:9–13*

**All:** 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.

## **BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:**      Let us bless the Lord.

**People:**      **Thanks be to God.**

**Pastor:**      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.

**People:**      **Amen.**

**HYMN**      *LSB 566, "By Grace I'm Saved"*

## **CLOSING**

**Pastor:**      Go in peace and serve your neighbor!

**People:**      **Thanks be to God.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of September 14, 2025**

**Grace Lutheran Church    1120 S. Park Ave.    Aurora, MO**

**Church: 417-678-3603    Pastor Daniel Heitshusen**

**Cell: 832-727-3135    [daniel.heitshusen@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.heitshusen@gmail.com)    Pastor's Day Off; Friday**

**Family for the Week:**      **Sue Doss**  
   **Immanuel, Lockwood - Rev. Kyle Fittje**

**Prayers of Peace and Comfort:**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving**

**Prayers for Health and Healing:**

**Shane Cantrell – (Edith Chambers' nephew - health and healing)**

**Tim Tucek- (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)**

**Mary Ann Campbell - (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)**

**Mitzie Lorenz - (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)**

## **Complete Prayer List:**

### **Temporary**

Carol Bresnick – (friend of Cathy Munden – health and healing)

Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)

Treasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)

Joyce Campbell - (friend of Wanda Thompson - hospitalized (heart))

Bonny Gray – (Sister of Cunthia Swoyer (Wolf) health and healing)

Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)

Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)

Ervin Jung – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)

Jeeper Meyer – health and healing from cancer)

Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)

Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)

Dayton Wheeler - (grandson of Wanda Thompson - surgery)

### **Long Term**

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)

Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)

Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)

Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken-hip)

Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)

Steve Doss – (friend of Harold Lampe – health & healing)

Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)

Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)

Gary Gardner – (health and healing)

Betty Gordon – (health and healing)

Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)

Robbie Krueger – (friend of Kathy Holle)

Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)

Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister-In-Law – health & healing)

Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)

Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)

Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)

June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

## **THIS WEEK**

**Sunday**

**September 14<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 am - Happy Half Hour**

		9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service
Monday	September 15 <sup>th</sup>	Braille – 9:00 am and 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study – 1:30 pm
Wednesday	September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Study - 5:30 pm
Saturday	September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Fish Fry – 6:00 pm
Sunday	September 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with communion
Monday	September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Braille – 9:00 am and 1:00 pm

Birthdays: None  
Anniversaries: None

### September

**14-Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer**  
21-Bill & Joanne Michel  
28-Charlie & Edee Chambers

**14-David Lampe**  
21-Bill Michel  
28-Harold Lampe



**Synod Convention:** The convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will be held in Phoenix, AZ, from July 18-23, 2026. We need to nominate a lay person to be put into the running to be a lay delegate to the convention. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please see Pastor Heitshusen.

**Circuit Forum:** Related to the convention, on September 28, 2025, the Southwest Circuit will meet at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Carthage, MO, at 4:00 pm for a worship service and to vote on pastoral and lay delegates for the Synod convention. If you would like to join Pastor Heitshusen for this service and to vote, please let Pastor Heitshusen know as soon as possible. All are welcome to come.

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Our Wednesday evening Bible class will begin on Wednesday, September 10, at 5:30 pm. We welcome any feedback you may have about the timing, and in our first session we will discuss whether that time will work moving forward.

**September Fish Fry: September 20<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm on the church grounds.** A flyer is on the bulletin board. There is a signup sheet in the narthex as we need to know the number attending and dishes being brought. Thanks to all that are willing to help.

**Authentic German Meal - presented by Trinity Lutheran Church in Freistatt – Saturday, October 18,** with pre-purchased tickets only. The meal and take-out service is from the Fellowship Hall. Adults \$18 and Kids \$9. Call 417-235-5931 to purchase by October 6. Tickets will be very limited on the day of the event.