

FOR WE WHO BELIEVE

Summer Stewardship Series: "It's Test Time..."

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | Kearney, Nebraska

Sunday, May 29, 2016

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are so happy you could join us today! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

For your convenience, **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak with an usher if you need one. A **Nursery** is also available and is equipped with a speaker so that a minimal amount of the service is missed. The nursery is located in the hallway just off the entryway (first door on left).

SERVICE NOTES FOR THE SUMMER STEWARDSHIP SERIES

Our love for Christ is the challenge of our stewardship focus in the coming weeks. It is based upon the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:8: "I want to test the sincerity of your love." Well, today It's Test Time, and today we hear Who is being tested: it's a test For We Who Believe.

Based upon the words of our Savior recorded by the Apostle John, Jesus reminds us that love for him shows itself in our obedience to his teaching and trust in his peace. How's that working in your life? How is that showing in your life as a Christian and in the life of our congregation? Are you passing the test? Is Good Shepherd passing the test? Pray that the Holy Spirit opens your heart and minds this morning as he puts each of us to the test today and in the coming weeks.

THE LORD'S SUPPER AND STEWARDSHIP

The Apostle John wrote in his first letter: "We love because he first loved us." The principles of stewardship are rooted in love: God's love for us and our love for God. God gave his only Son out of love for this world (John 3:16). Jesus tells us that love has not greater example than this: "that a man give up his life for his friends" (John 15:13). It is in the Lord's Supper that we physically "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8) and receive in Christ's body and blood the pledge of God's forgiveness of sins and a promise of new life. So, the love we find in

Christ through the Supper compels us then to serve Christ and our neighbor (2 Corinthians 5:14).

For the next four weeks we will be serving the Supper each week during the service. You are by no means "required" to partake in the Supper. But it is available for those who wish to know in a physical way that they are loved and forgiven by their Lord. You, too, are invited to receive the Sacrament and to taste and see the goodness of your Lord!

HOLY COMMUNION IS OFFERED TODAY

As Christians who believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that every word written in it is God's holy word, we believe that we receive the body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. While this is something that goes beyond our human understanding, our faith allows us to accept this as true. God warns us in the

Bible that anyone who doesn't understand this teaching or who denies this real presence of Christ's body and blood will do damage to his or her soul if not properly taught first (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

As a congregation we care about people and about the spiritual well-being of individuals, especially those attending the Lord's Table today. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are not under church discipline in another congregation, and are members of our congregation, one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], or a member of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS].

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Preacher & Presiding Minister	Pr. Nathanael P. Seelow
Keyboardist	Michelle Reinsch
Ushers	
Greeters	Brei Family
Sound Technician	Iamie Scott

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THE DIVINE SERVICE

Divine Service I — Christian Worship: Supplement, pg. 15



OPENING HYMN

My Soul, Now Bless Your Maker | CW 257



The sign of the cross may be made throughout the service by worshippers in remembrance of their baptism.

INVOCATION

Please stand.

- M In the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Our help is in the name of the LORD.

Psalm 124:8

- Who made heaven and earth.
- M I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.

Psalm 32:5

- And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- 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.
- 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.

"When you feel in your conscience that you are guilty, be very, very careful not to contend with either God or men in an effort to defend or excuse your sin. Rather, do this: When God points his spear at you, do not flee from him; on the contrary, flee to him with a humble confession of guilt and a plea for pardon."

- Martin Luther

LORD, HAVE MERCY — Kyrie

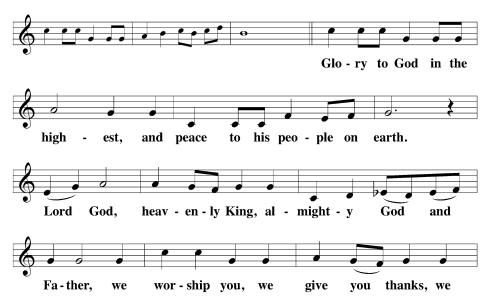


The **Kyrie** is a liturgical song of the Ordinary, or a component of the liturgy that occurs in every Divine Service. The word "kyrie" is the Greek word for "Lord." The expression, "Lord, have mercy," is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian Church.

ABSOLUTION

- M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ♣ and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

GLORY BE TO GOD — *Gloria in Excelsis*



The canticle, Gloria in Excelsis, which is Latin for, "Glory in the highest," is a song in which Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the highest" has been a Christian song of praise since the 4th century.





The Service of the Word



SALUTATION

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

This greeting, known as the "Salutation," has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word section and the Sacrament section (p. 14) of the service.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Collect

M Let us pray.

O God, you rule over all things in wisdom and kindness. Take away everything that may be harmful and give us whatever is good; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 8:22, 23, 41-43

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, ²³ and said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart...

⁴¹ "Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name's sake ⁴² (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³ hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.

- M The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

At the dedication of the temple, Solomon exalts the object of our faith, the LORD, the God of Israel, the God of all power and might, and also the God of free and faithful grace. So great is his name and so deep his love that the faithful will come from the ends of the earth to worship him. In his grace, the LORD will keep his promises and bring his deliverance with a mighty hand and outstretched arm to all who trust in him.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 100 | CW p. 104





Refrain

Shout for joy to the LORD, | all the earth.*
Worship the LORD with | gladness;

come before him with | joyful songs.*

Know that the | LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and | we are his;*
we are his people, the sheep of his | pasture.

Refrain

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his | courts with praise;* give thanks to him and | praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures for- | ever;* his faithfulness continues through all gener- | ations.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit, as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

The Doxology hymn, "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (CW 334), takes its lead from this Psalm. Forever joined together are the Church's much-loved song of praise and the psalm that calls for such praise. How unfortunate when we fail to make a joyful noise to the Lord. Yet even then, we know that the is good. In fact, he gave his Good Shepherd, Jesus, to to make one day particularly good. We call it Good Friday.

This lesson begins a series of five readings from Paul's letter to the Galatians. Paul pleads with the Galatians not to abandon the faith to which they have been called. Their faith is in the Lord who has rescued them from hell itself. How can they abandon the Gospel they have known? But in the midst of trial, know this: It is the Lord who brings salvation. We place the confidence of our hearts in him alone.

SECOND LESSON Galatians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— ² and all the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- ⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

 ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.
- ¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.
- M The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

Psalm 119:105

- M Alleluia! Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
- C Alleluia!

Please stand.

M The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter seven.



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

¹ After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ² Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. 3 When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, ⁵ for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." 6 And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. ⁷ Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. 8 For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 9 When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." 10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



In the centurion Jesus sees great faith in the heart of a foreigner. He trusted completely in Christ's power and believed that Christ could help in any trial. Though he was a foreigner, the centurion can claim membership in the House of Israel because of the grace given to him through the Christ. Through heartache and tears, faith trusts not in its own strength, but in the power of him to whom it clings, the Lord Jesus.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults | CW 398

SERMON *John* 14:23-29

²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I

The Liturgy of the Divine Service has been described as the climbing of "two mountains." Like mountains in the physical world, each of these two mountains—the Service of the Word and the Service of the Sacrament - have peaks, or summits. The "summit" of the Service of the Word is the **Sermon**. The "summit" of the Service of the Sacrament" is the Distribution. Each summit is reached by careful, meaningful, and methodical steps. And each step is intended to bring the worshipper closer and closer to the peak of the Service.

have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

It's Test Time: For We Who Believe

CREATE IN ME



Using the words of the Psalmist (Psalm 51), we pray that God use the Word on which we have just listened and mediated "create a pure heart" inside of us. We pray that he "does not cast us away," but instead show us his salvation —which we are about to eat and drink physically in the Holy Supper.

Moved by God's love in Christ, by our Offering we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.

"I certainly love it with all my heart, the precious, blessed Supper of my Lord Jesus Christ, in which He gives me His body and blood to eat and to drink orally, with the mouth of my body, accompanied by the exceedingly sweet and gracious words: Given for you, shed for you."

—Martin Luther

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Please stand.

The Service of the Sacrament



SALUTATION

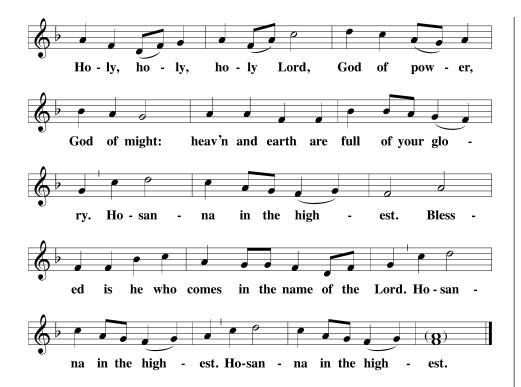
- M The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- M Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them up to the Lord.
- M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is good and right so to do.

PREFACE

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY — *Sanctus*





The canticile,
Sanctus, is based on
Isaiah 61:1-4. Like
Isaiah, we are in the
presence of God: the
Lord is here with us
in a special way in
Communion. "Hosts"
means armies. The
"heavenly hosts" are
God's armies of holy
angels.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, O God Almighty, who through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, created all things and made mankind in your own image.

Blessed are you, O God our Savior, for you have gathered us here to remember Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. In this meal you give us his true body and blood, which paid our debt to you and assures us of your forgiveness.

For all of your undeserved love toward us, we give thanks and praise to your living and life-giving name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. This is why he stands behind the altar during this portion of the service. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death, which is necessary for this Sacrament.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

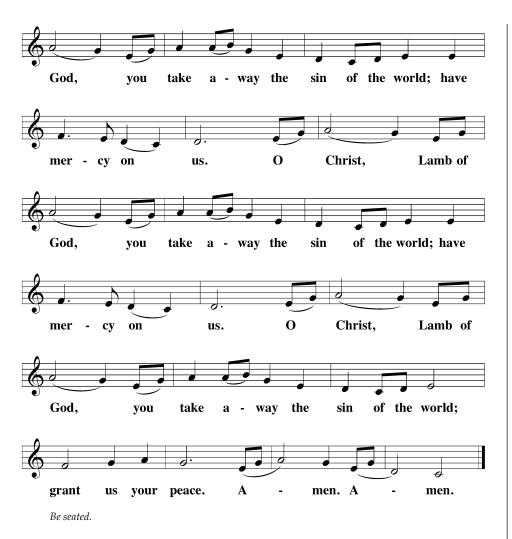
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

c Amen.

LAMB OF GOD — Agnus Dei





DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28)

Prayer suggestions for before and after receiving the Lord's Supper can be found in the hymnal on pages 10-11 and 134-139.

Good Shepherd confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a **Closed** Communion. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord's Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.

If they wish, communicants may make the sign of the **cross** (*) as the pastor blesses them following their reception of the Supper. This sign is a reminder of Christ's death, a necessary element for this Meal. It is made on one's body to remind the communicant that this death is "for уои."

In dismissing the communicants, the minister says:

M Now, may this true body and blood strengthen and keep you in the true faith to life everlasting. Your sins ♣ are forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

SONG OF SIMEON — *Nunc Dimittis*

Please stand. In Lord, you let your peace, ser - vant now de - part ac - cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal - va tion, which you have pre-pared for light - en the Gen - tiles ev-'ry peo-ple, light to and the glo ry, the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra -

This prayer, which we often pray, was included in a version of the Divine Service written by Martin Luther in 1526. We ask God to work powerfully in our

lives through what he

PRAYER

- M O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
- C And his mercy endures forever.
- Me give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and

increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

- 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.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

Almighty Father, Bless the Word | **CW 323**

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them." (cf. Numbers 6:27)

Announcements

FINAL SPRING SESSION BIBLE CLASS TODAY Today is the final class covering *Romans 1-8*. Next week we will begin our summer session of Bible Classes. (*see below*)

SUMMER SESSION OF BIBLE CLASSES The Summer Session of Bible Class begins next Sunday, June 5. The class will last 19 minutes (we promise!) and will cover some *Very Important Chapters of the Bible*. Please make time in your schedules to attend one or both of these great opportunities to continue to grow in faith and fellowship.

CHURCH PICNIC NEXT WEEK, JUNE 5 A church picnic has been scheduled for June 5. Following Bible Class that day a picnic will be held here on the church grounds. The meal will be potluck and games and fellowship will be enjoyed that afternoon. All members, family, friends, non-members, and visitors are welcome! Please consider staying and making time for fun and fellowship with your fellow members and friends!

NEBRASKA BIENNIAL DISTRICT CONVENTION The Nebraska District will convene its 2016 Biennial Convention on June 6 with a Divine Service with Holy Communion at 5:00 pm at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church York, Nebraska. The convention will continue on Tuesday and Wednesday at Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School in Waco, Nebraska. Coverage of the convention proceedings will be streamed live via the Internet (and archived for future viewing). Go to www.welsne.org to watch the activity on the convention floor.

500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION TOUR Pastor James Humann, a retired WELS pastor, invites you to join him on a tour celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The tour is for twelve days and leaves June 19, 2017. This tour will visit the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany where Luther nailed the 95 theses on the church door; the Wartburg Castle where he lived in disguise and translated the New Testament into German; Eisenach where he was born and died; and other important Reformation sites.

In addition to the Reformation sites we'll visit Leipzig where Bach worked and is buried; Munich and Berlin, two of the worlds great cities for history, shopping and enjoying great German cuisine and drink; Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic; the magnificent city of Vienna in Austria; and Salzburg in the beautiful Bavarian Alps where the Sound of Music was filmed.

For a brochure describing the daily itinerary, reservation form and costs, please e-mail Pastor James Humann at Jhumann383@aol.com. If you'd like a hard copy, be sure to include your name and mailing address. Space is limited!

KIDS AND TEENS SUMMER CAMP Once again, Camp Jefferson will be holding Youth and Teen Camps this summer. The 2016 Theme is "Super Savior," based on Luke 1:49: "The mighty one has done great things for me." The Youth Camp will be held July 15–17, and the Teen Camp will be held July 17–20.

Camp Jefferson is a three-day WELS camp located outside of Fairbury, Nebraska. It offers children and youth an opportunity to have fun and fellowship in a safe and controlled environment. These three day camps offer Bible studies, swimming, crafts and outdoor games during the day and campfires, movies, and other activities in the evening. Camp concludes with a worship service for the campers, family and friends.

A dedicated volunteer staff of adults direct the programs under the leadership of the Camp Directors. The Youth Camp is open to children entering 3rd through 8th grade. The Teen Camp is open to all kids entering 9th grade through age 19.

More information, as well as registration forms, can be found at www.welscampjefferson-welsne.org.

NEW MEDITATIONS AVAILABLE The next series of Meditations devotion books are available on the table in the entry way. If you do not receive a copy and would like a copy, please let Pastor Seelow know.

CONGREGATION AT PRAYER A copy of the newest "A Congregation at Prayer" is available on the table in the entryway. This packet is not only a good outline for personal and family devotions, but it also includes an up-to-date prayer list for those in (and outside) our congregation.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, June 5	9:30a — Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:45a — Very Important Chapters 19-Minute Bible Class
	11:15a — Church Picnic

Ushers: Brent Meyer & Mannie Reinsch

Greeter: Cantrell Family **Sound Tech:** Chaden Darby

Mowing.....Seelow



www.goodshepherdkearney.org