



About the Cover

Every single little sheep in the Lord's flock is precious to Him. He, like a shepherd in search of his lost sheep, is willing to go to great lengths to find every missing sheep. You are also precious to Your Savior, who laid down His life for you on the cross (John 10:17). He knows you by name (John 10:3). He has gone to great lengths to find you, who was once lost. But today, you are found, and there is great rejoicing!

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

Epistle: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he

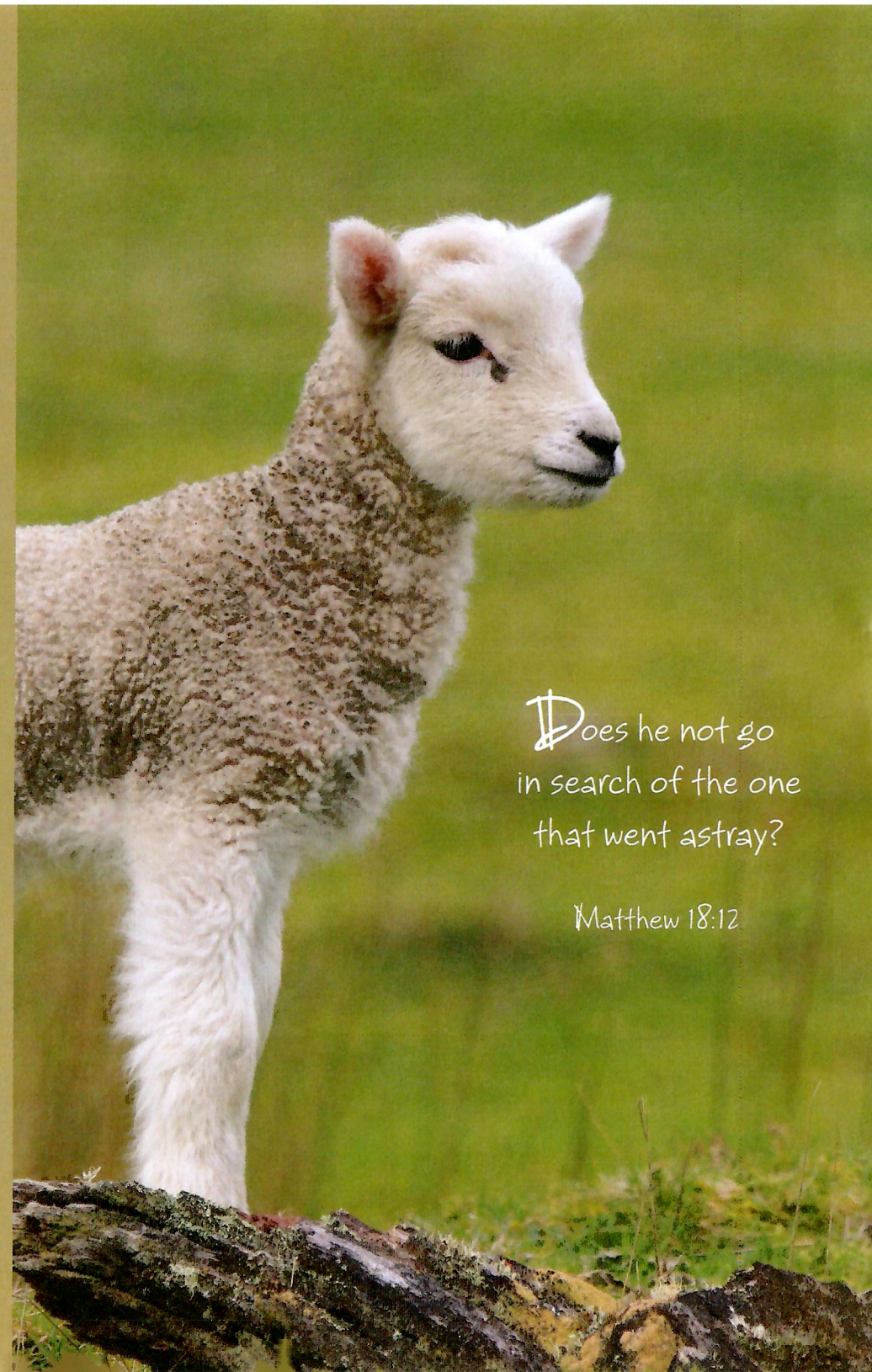
put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."



Does he not go
in search of the one
that went astray?

Matthew 18:12

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2026

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Rev. Terry L. De Giovanni Pastor

Welcome to Our Visitors

We pray all will be spiritually enriched by your visit to this "House of God." Here Christ breaks the silence that surrounds mortal man in his sin and death. Here in Christ Jesus, we hear the voice of the Eternal One, and hear the voice of the Father, and that He loves us, that He forgives us and that in the resurrection of Christ, He has made us His Children and has given us victory over death itself.

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

Liturgy – Divine Service III Pages 184-202

Ringing of the Bells, Welcome, and Announcements

Opening Hymn LSB#873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Invocation

Confession – Absolution Pages 184-185 (right side)

The Introit:

P: How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!

C: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

P: To declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

C: To the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

P: for you, O lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!

The Kyrie Page 186

The Gloria in Excelsis Pages 187-189

The Salutation and Collect of the Day Page 189

The Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9 (see back of bulletin)

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: (spoken by the Pastor)

The Epistle Reading: Romans 13: 1-10 (see back of bulletin)

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God.

The Triple Alleluia Page 156

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

The Apostle's Creed Page 192

The Hymn of the Day LSB#843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"
(sung to tune LSB#733)

The Sermon

The Offering

The Offertory Pages 192-193

The Prayer of the Church Response:

P: Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** Hear our Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction Page 202

Closing Hymn LSB#917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Special Voters' Meeting following this morning worship.

Next Sunday

Sunday September 13: 8:30 am Pastor Buono Preaching

Pastor is on vacation until September 14

If an emergency arises and you need to speak with him you can reach him at his cell number.

We thank Pastor Buono for conducting our service this morning while Pastor is on vacation.