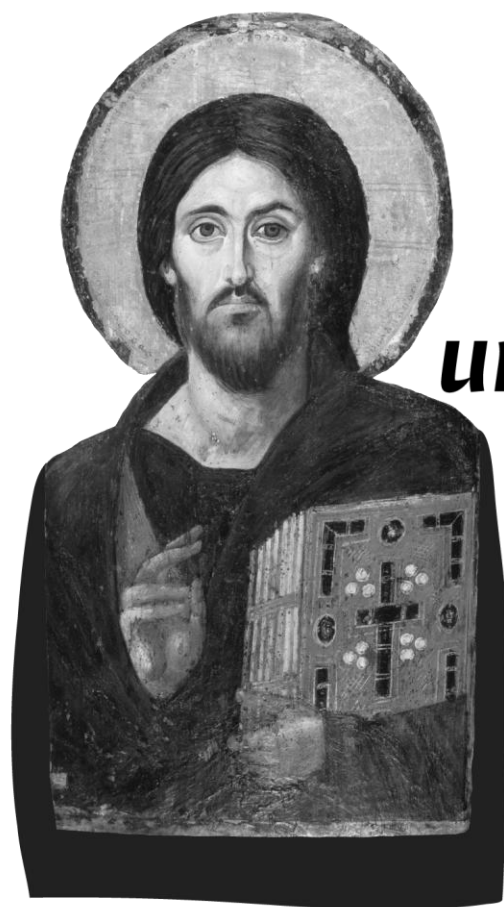




unexpected
TRUTHS

VINDICATE ME

August 30, 2026



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

www.duluthernan.org

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Pastor Todd Engel: Cell (651) 309-7311 · Office (218) 722-4364 · Email pastor@dulutheran.org

WELCOME!

WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience today easier, the worship folder you're holding has the entire order of service. The pieces marked [M] are spoken by the minister, and the parts marked [C] are to be spoken or sung by the congregation. If you prefer to use a physical hymnal or wish to see the songs in four-part harmony, there are hymnals available in the pew stands. **Today's order of service follows Setting Two which begins on page 172 in the hymnal.**

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshiping family." Each service includes a children's message which teaches God's truth to your kids. Parents with small children are an essential part of God's kingdom. That's why children are never considered an inconvenience to our worship. We also want your family to be comfortable. There is a cry room outside the main doors to the right if you need a moment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers: Today's bouquet is given to the glory of God by Robert & Shawanna Doblar in celebration of their wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Senior Fellowship Luncheon: Please join us for food and fellowship on **Tuesday, September 8th** at Crooked Pint Ale House. We will meet at **11:30am**. RSVP Kathy Hedin by text at 651-332-1374. Hope to see you there!

Funeral Date Correction: Please note that the funeral for Arlene Liebe will take place on **September 19th**, not October 19th as previously stated. Visitation will be at 10am and the service at 11am, followed by a luncheon.

Blueprint School Update: We will be having the congregation meeting to go over the results of the Blueprint Schools survey on **Sunday, September 27th** during the Bible Study hour. Please plan to join us!

Welcome College Students! If you see a college student be sure to make them feel welcome. If you are a college student, say hello to the people around you & know that our church is YOUR church for as long as you are here.

Campus Ministry Fall Semester: Our Campus Ministry program will be in full swing this semester as we welcome not only any new or returning students, but also Pastor Engel to our group. SOTH Campus Ministry meets weekly for a meal and Bible Study. Please reach out to Peter Moeri or Pastor Engel to get connected. Peter has a table set up in the narthex this morning with Welcome Bags for all students.

Meals for Campus Ministry: If you'd like to sign up to provide a meal for the Campus Ministry students, please scan the QR code:



Fall Schedule: Our Sunday School year will be starting on **Sunday, September 13th**! Please plan to stay after the service for Sunday School, Youth Group, Youth Music Ministry, and Adult Bible Study.

Confirmation Class: Classes for children in 6th to 8th grade will be starting with Pastor Engel on **Sunday, September 13th, from 11:30am to 1:00pm**. Parents, please check your email for a detailed schedule.

Camp Croix Men's Retreat: Join us September 18-20 at Camp Croix! The event features Dr. Mark Paustian as the keynote speaker and is a great opportunity to check out the brand new Ministry Center & enjoy fellowship with other WELS men. Additional information & registration can be found at mensretreat.org

For more announcements and event information, visit the church website at dulutheran.org/events or sign up for our weekly email at dulutheran.org/subscribe. You can also view the church calendar at dulutheran.org/church-calendar.



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me? Christ is near
 2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me, though their weight
 3 God gives me my days of glad - ness, and I will
 4 From God's joy can noth - ing sev - er, for I am
 5 Since I know God nev - er fails me, in his voice



with his cheer; nev - er will he leave me.
 may be great, they will not de - feat me.
 trust him still when he sends me sad - ness.
 his dear lamb, he, my Shep - herd ev - er.
 I'll re - joice when grim death as - sails me.



Who can rob me of the heav - en that God's Son
 God, my lov - ing Sav - ior, sees them; he who knows
 God is good; his love at - tends me day by day,
 I am his be - cause he gave me his own blood
 Trust - ing in my Sav - ior's mer - it, safe at last,



for me won when his life was giv - en?
 all my woes knows how best to end them.
 come what may, guides me and de - fends me.
 for my good, by his death to save me.
 trou - bles past, I shall heav'n in - her - it.

Stand

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done,**

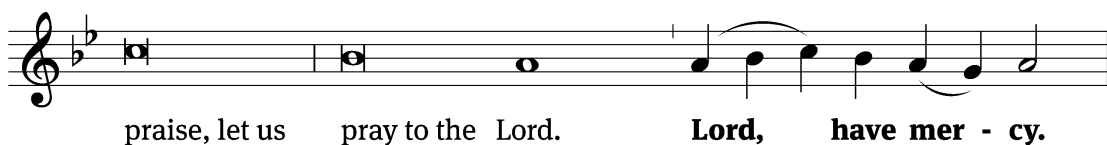
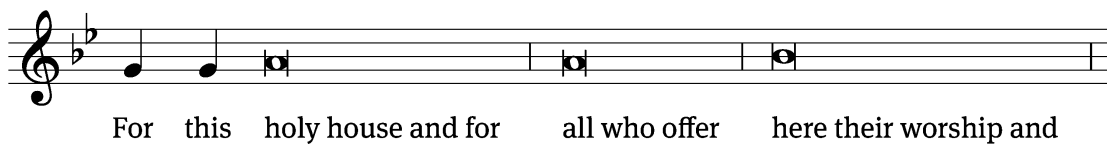
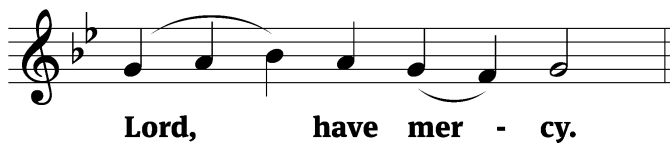
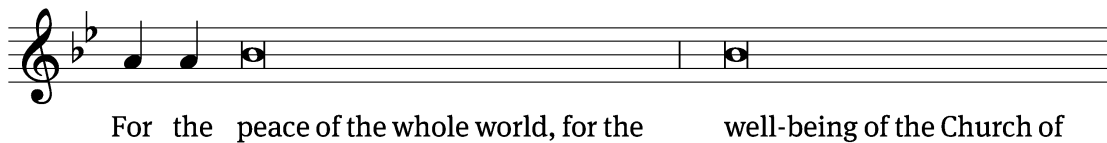
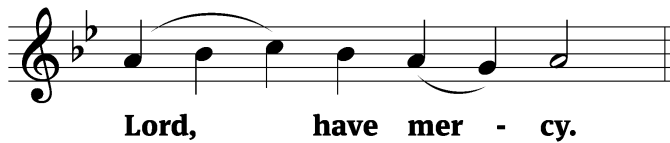
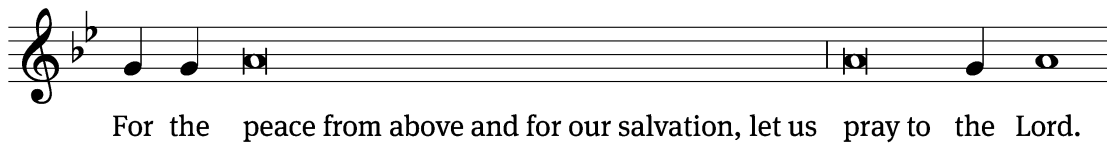
and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

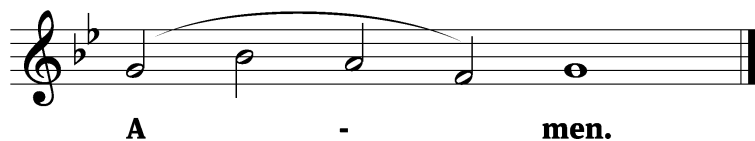
DECLARATION OF GRACE

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

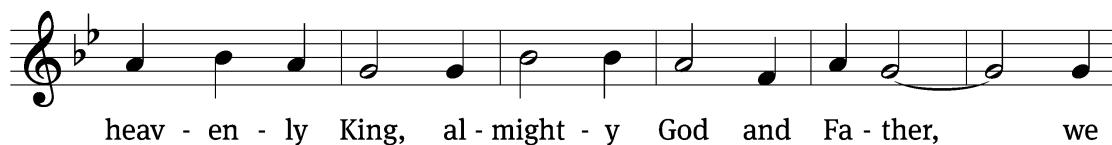
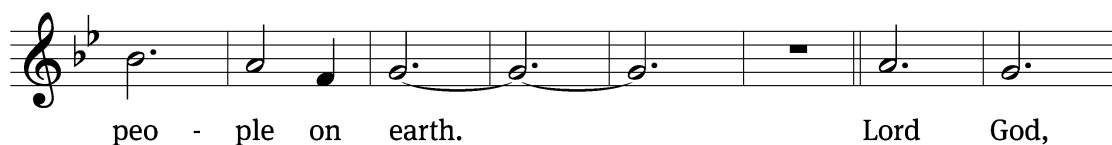
C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy





Glory to God in the Highest



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. For you a -

lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth.

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; 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 READING

Jeremiah 15:15–21

¹⁵O LORD, you understand. Remember me and care for me.

Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.

You are slow to anger. Do not take me away.

Keep in mind that for your sake I bear disgrace.

¹⁶Your words came to me, and I devoured them.

Your words became my joy, the delight of my heart,
because I bear your name, O LORD God of Armies.

¹⁷I did not sit with the band of partygoers,
nor did I celebrate with them.

I sat alone, because your hand was upon me.

You filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unending?

Why is my wound incurable, refusing to heal?

Will you be as deceptive as an intermittent stream to me,
like a source of water that a person can't depend on?

¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says.

If you repent, I will take you back, so that you may stand before me.

If what you say is worthwhile and not worthless, you will be my spokesman.

They must turn to you,

but you must not turn to them.

²⁰I will make you like a bronze wall to this people.

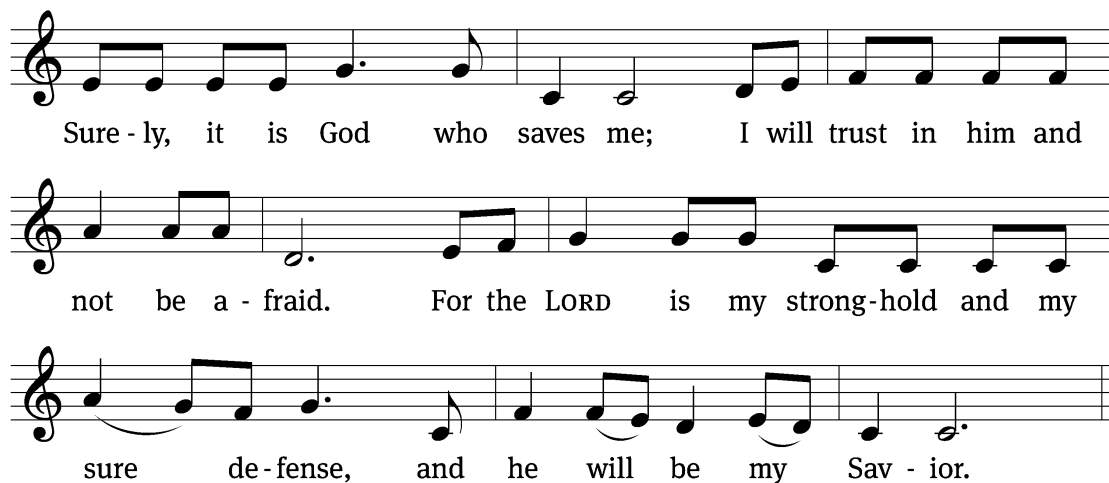
They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you,
because I am with you to save you and to rescue you, declares the LORD.

²¹I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked,
and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.

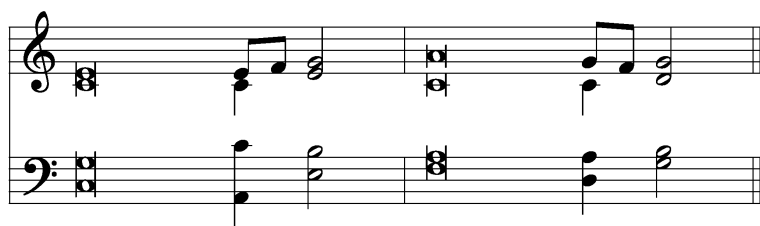
M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Refrain



Tone



In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge;
let me never be / put to shame.
Be my rock of / refuge,
a strong fortress to / save me.
Into your hands I commit my / spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my / faithful God. *Refrain*

My times are / in your hands;
save me in your un- / failing love.
How abundant are the / good things
that you have stored up for those who / fear you.
Be strong and / take heart,
all you who hope / in the LORD.
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*

SECOND READING

Romans 8:18–25

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who

subjected it, in the hope ²¹that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 8:34

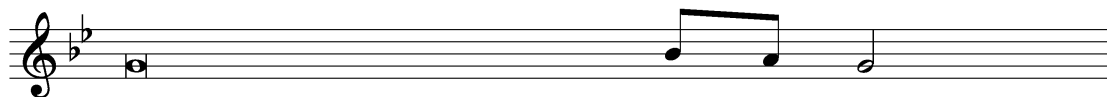


Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Whoever wants to be my disciple must de - ny them - selves



and take up their cross and fol - low me.

Refrain

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21–26

²¹From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you.”

²³But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?

M: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children up through 5th grade are invited to come up to the altar steps and sit for a special devotion with Pastor Engel. This service segment is intended to engage the children and help them understand today's message. They will return to their seats afterward.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

CW 694



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and
2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my
3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,
4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and



fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de-spised, for - sak - en, you on
Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are
scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your
winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,
not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,
fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;
hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



all I've ev - er hoped or known; yet how rich is
God of wis - dom, love, and might, foes may hate and
you my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and
swift shall pass the pil - grim days, hope soon change to



my con - di - tion, God and heav'n are still my own!
friends may shun me; show your face, and all is bright.
clouds may gath - er, all must work for good to me.
heav'n - ly glo - ry, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

SERMON: Vindicate Me
Romans 8:18-25

Stand

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS



Members of Shepherd of the Hills respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully and freely according to how the Lord has blessed them. If you are a guest today, please know that there are no expectations for you to make a donation. If you wish to support us by making an online offering, scan the QR code here or visit our website: www.duluth Lutheran.org and click on the "GIVE" tab.

HYMN: Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near
Printed on the next page

CW 867 sts. 1–2, Ref, 3–4



1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior's
 2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the
 3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in
 4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -



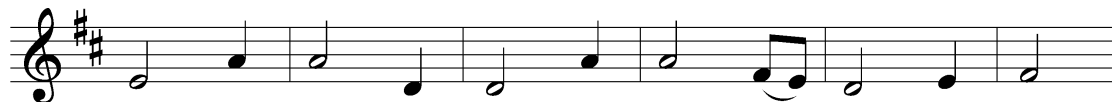
gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -
 con - flict should be long, the Lord will make the tempt - er
 your Re - deem - er's name. In fi - ery tri - als you shall
 flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress, or pov - er -



lieve, that as your days your strength shall be. v. 2
 flee, that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
 see that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
 ty, still as your days your strength shall be. Refrain



So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the



vic - t'ry's won! God shall sup - ply all that you need;



yes, as your days your strength shall be.

Stand

PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

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.

HYMN: On My Heart Imprint Your Image

CW 405



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
that life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures have no pow'r to hide your face.
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, and my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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August 28, 2026

Dear Little Lambs Family,

The Toddlers

This week, the toddlers looked through magazines. They loved pointing out the tractors and animals. Then we worked on our scissor skills by snipping, tearing, and cutting. Some of their favorite books were: *Little Quack*, *Cock-a-doodle-doo Creak Pop-pop Moo*, and *How to Scare a Bear*. Next week we will focus on animals.

The Preschool Rooms

This week, we drew many pictures with chalk. We got out the new chalk and drew lots of railroad tracks for our cars to drive on. Then we explored how dipping the chalk in water altered the color and texture of the chalk drawings. We got very messy!

The Bible Lesson

This week, our Bible story was **Jesus Teaches Peter to Trust** (Matthew 14:22-23; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21). We learned that when Peter trusted in Jesus, he was able to walk on water. When Peter looked around and saw the wind and waves, he started to sink. He took his eyes off of his Savior Jesus. We keep our trust in Jesus and know that he will watch over and protect us throughout our lives. Next week, we will learn how Jesus is our good shepherd.



LITTLE LAMBS LEARNING CENTER
802 MAPLE GROVE ROAD, DULUTH