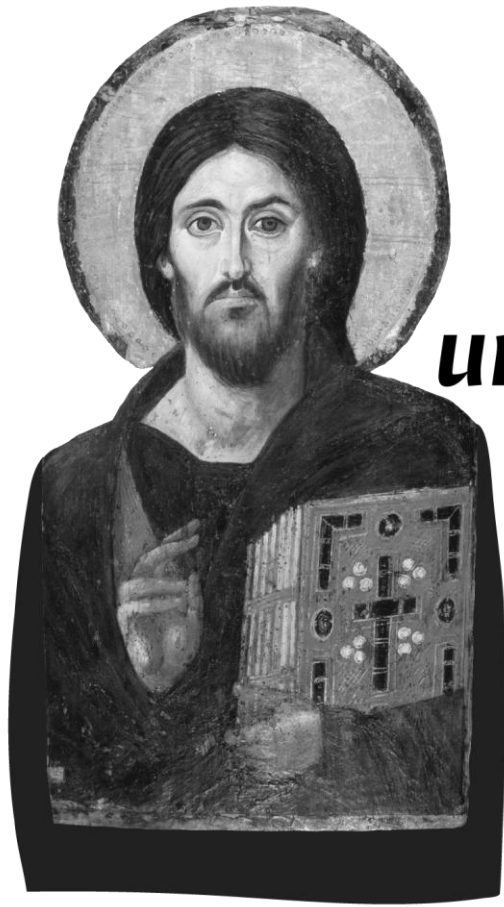




unexpected **TRUTHS**

WHEN I BELIEVE IN GOD BUT WON'T FORGIVE

September 13, 2026



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.duluthern.org

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Pastor Todd Engel: Cell (651) 309-7311 · Office (218) 722-4364 · Email pastor@duluthlutheran.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 One which begins on page 154 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 Ken & Meghan Kimber in celebration of their 24th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Today's Schedule: Our fall schedule resumes today! Please join us after the service for Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group, and Music Ministry. Adult Bible Study will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School children should meet their teachers in the back of the Fellowship Hall; they will go to their various classrooms or music time from there. Youth Group will meet in the conference room. **Confirmation Class** will also start today; students should meet in the Fellowship Hall after the Bible Study/Sunday School hour.

Adult Choir: Our new season of choir will be starting on **Sunday, September 20th, at 8:00am!** We will be meeting on Sunday mornings at 8:00am up in the balcony. We would like to welcome back those that have sung and anyone new who would like to join in singing our Savior's praises. Any questions, please contact Becky Miller or Laura Metcalf.

Women's Bible Study: Please join us as we continue studying the book of Amos on **Tuesday, September 22 at 6pm** at Kiersten Nash's home (5569 Lilac Hill Rd, Duluth, MN.) We would love to have you join us for Christian fellowship, snacks and time in God's Word together!

Youth Group Campfire: Students in 7th–12th grade are invited to a Youth Group Campfire on **Friday, September 25th, from 6:30 to 8:30pm.** Join us behind the church for s'mores, yard games, and a devotion around the fire!

Directory Update: The table in the entryway has a printout of membership information for the new church directory. Please take a moment to review your information and provide any updates needed. You can also indicate if you would like a printed copy of the directory (it will also be available online). Thank you!

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

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:



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



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with-in me join and
 2 O bless the Lord, my soul, nor let his mer - cies lie for -
 3 'Tis he for - gives your sins, 'tis he re - lieves your pain, 'tis
 4 He fills the poor with good; he gives the suf - f'ers rest. The
 5 His won-drous works and ways he made by Mo - ses known but



aid my tongue to bless his name whose fa - vors are di - vine.
 got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness and with - out prais - es die.
 he that heals your sick - ness - es and makes you young a - gain.
 Lord has judg-ments for the proud and jus - tice for th'op-pressed.
 sent the world his truth and grace by his be - lov - ed Son.

Stand

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

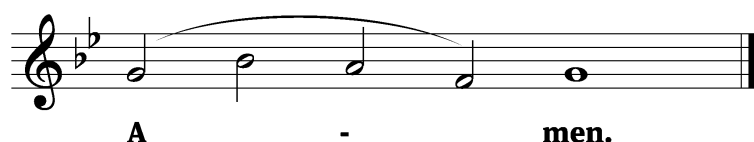
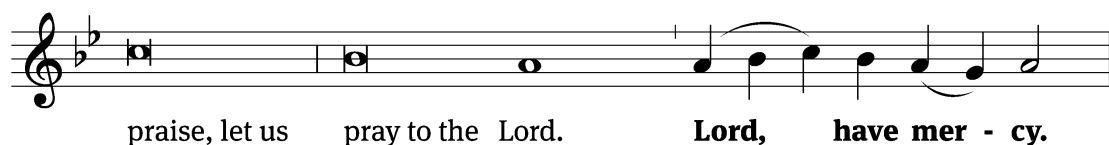
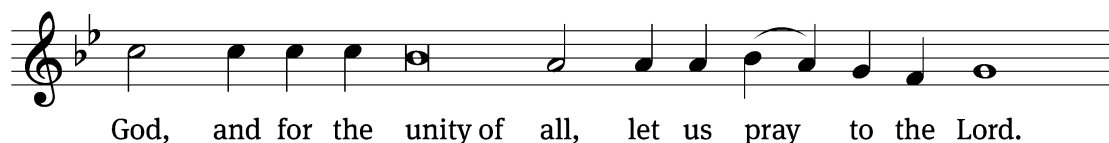
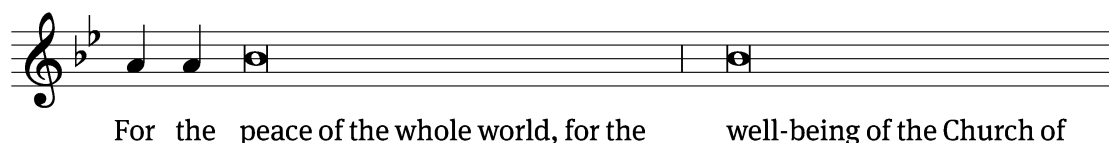
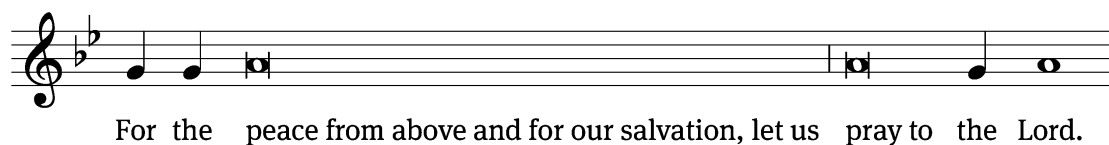
Silence for meditation and reflection

ABSOLUTION

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.**

Lord, Have Mercy



Glory to God in the Highest

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and half notes with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the final staff.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
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.
 Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

¹⁶They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

¹⁹Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 103B



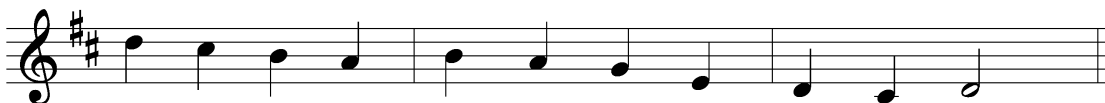
1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple
 3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him



trib - ute bring. Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same as ev - er,
 frame he knows. In his hand he gent - ly bears us,
 face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;



ev - er - more his prais - es sing; Al - le - lu - ia,
 slow to chide, and swift to bless, Al - le - lu - ia,
 res - cues us from all our foes; Al - le - lu - ia,
 all who dwell in time and space, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
 al - le - lu - ia! glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
 al - le - lu - ia! wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows!
 al - le - lu - ia! praise with us the God of grace!

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³²Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

¹Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ²And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Colossians 3:13

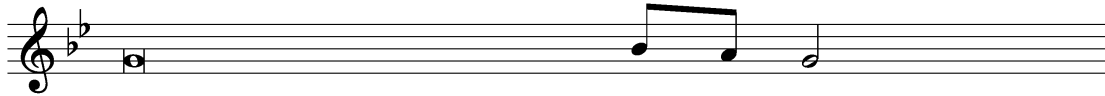


Refrain



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

Tone



Bear with each other and forgive one an - oth - er.



Forgive as the Lord for - gave you.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21–35

²¹Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

²⁶“Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

²⁹“So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’
³⁰But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.
³¹“When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.
³²“Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’
³⁴His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.
³⁵“This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

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: God Loves Me Dearly

CW 583



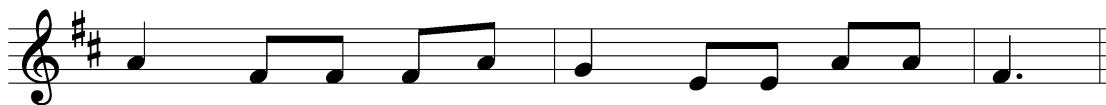
1 God loves me dear - ly, grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, my dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, him - self did
 5 Now I will praise you, O Love e -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing to make me free.
 deem - er, he sent forth Je - sus and set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; now I will praise you all my life long.



Refrain
 There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

SERMON: When I Believe in God But Won't Forgive

Matthew 18:21-35

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

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Sunday School Teachers, Youth Group Leaders, and Music Ministry Leaders are recognized and installed for their service at Shepherd of the Hills:

Hannah Warskow (Pre-K, Kindergarten, & 1st Grade)

Kely Dunsmoor (Pre-K, Kindergarten, & 1st Grade)

Kim Kirkland (2nd, 3rd, & 4th Grade)

Kiersten Nash (2nd, 3rd, & 4th Grade)

Dave Schlossin (5th & 6th Grade)

Lisa Dunsmoor (5th & 6th grade)

Jesse Dunsmoor (Youth Group)

Lisa Sanders (Music Ministry)

Miriam Hokanson (Music Ministry)

Laura Metcalf (Music Ministry)

Kaytlin Richie (Music Ministry)

Those being installed approach the altar.

The presiding minister speaks to those being installed:

EXHORTATION

M: Dear friends,

In Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ set you free from sin and death and made you members of his body, the church. Through Word and sacrament, the Holy Spirit has nurtured your faith and increased your love.

You have now been appointed to serve our Lord on behalf of this congregation. The Lord has entrusted you with responsibilities that you are to carry out according to his Word. St. Paul wrote concerning service in the church: "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

St. Paul spoke to all who serve the Savior: "It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." The Lord has promised to be with you and give you the gifts you will need to carry out the work entrusted to you.

As servants of Jesus Christ and workers in this congregation, you are to set aside time for study of the Scriptures so that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are to strive to be an example of Christian faith and life so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

So that the congregation may be assured of your willingness to serve, I ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

Will you diligently and faithfully carry out the work entrusted to you, according to the ability which God gives you? If so, answer: I will, and I ask God to help me.

RESPONSE: I will, and I ask God to help me.

INSTALLATION

M: I install you as Sunday School teachers Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord pour out on you his Holy Spirit for the work you have been called to do that you may faithfully carry out all your duties and responsibilities with the Word of God as your confidence and guide.

The minister speaks to the congregation:

TO THE CONGREGATION

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I urge you to regard these fellow believers as servants of Jesus Christ and God's gifts to his church. Pray for them and support them in their service so that believers may be strengthened in faith and many others may come to know the Savior and the eternal hope he gives.

Stand

PRAYER

M: Let us pray.
Gracious God, you bless your church through the willing work and special gifts of so many people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit to the servants we are installing today that they may carry out their duties with diligence, wisdom, and humility. Encourage them to seek guidance from your Word and lead them to pray for your direction. Help them to be good examples to others and support the work of the gospel ministry in this congregation. Keep them in your care and encourage them by your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The minister says to those being installed:

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and make your service a blessing to others.

The minister thanks those who have served in the past:

THANKS

M: We sincerely thank those who in the past year have served the Lord and his people with their time and abilities. May the Lord graciously bless you and those you have served.

Those being installed may return to their places.

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: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

CW 624



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your
reign - ing and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear now to his
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen how all that's
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al -
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near, join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of his mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do as with his love he be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

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: May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

Printed on the next page

CW 697

1 May we your pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill and do on
 2 So may we join your name to bless, your grace a -
 3 Spir - it of life, of love, and peace, u - nite our

earth our Fa - ther's will as an - gels do a - bove;
 dore, your pow'r con - fess, to flee from sin and strife.
 hearts, our joy in - crease, your gra-cious help sup - ply.

still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, with all your
 One is our call - ing, one our name, the end of
 To each of us the bless - ing give in Chris - tian

chil-dren, and o - bey the law of Chris - tian love.
 all our hopes the same: a glo-rious crown of life.
 fel - low - ship to live, in joy - ful hope to die.

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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September 11, 2026
Dear Little Lambs Family,

The Toddlers

This week the toddlers stacked towers and towers of cups. Then they built towers and houses with the magnetiles. This helped them work on color identification and practice their hand-eye coordination. The best part was knocking them down! Some of their favorite books were: *Pete the Cat: I Love my White Shoes*, *Nuts to You*, and *Freight Train*. Next week we will do some sensory activities.

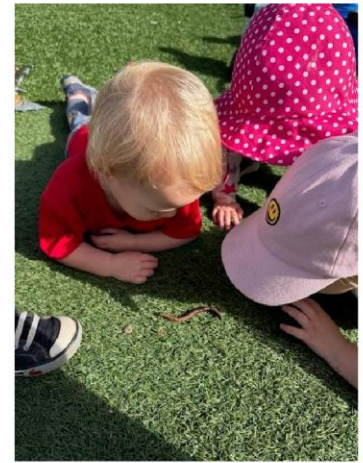
The Preschool Rooms

This week, we learned the rules and expectations of the classroom and focused on the letter A. We also learned why we have rules and how to stay safe. We also enjoyed building lots of sandcastles in the sandboxes.

Looking ahead to next week, we will be learning the number 1 and focusing on shapes.

The Bible Lesson

This week, we learned about who God is. We can't see him, but we know that he is in heaven and that he loves us. He loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to take away all of our sins by dying on the cross. We will get to go to heaven one day and be with him. Next week, we will learn how God created our beautiful world.



LITTLE LAMBS LEARNING CENTER

802 MAPLE GROVE ROAD, DULUTH