



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & School is a welcoming, Christ-centered family, dedicated to sharing our love and faith.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

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GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

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12.07.25



LORD’S SUPPER - As Lutherans, in joyful obedience to the clear teaching of our Lord Jesus, we invite to His table at Good Shepherd those who trust His Word, repent of their sins, and set aside refusal to forgive and love just as we have been loved and forgiven by God. If you are unsure about whether you should commune or not, speak to an usher prior to the service. Thank you and welcome!

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN “Prepare the Royal Highway” LSB 343

THE SERVICE OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THIS WEEK'S THEME... By the Preaching of Repentance, We Are Prepared for the Coming of the Lord

OLD TESTAMENT READING**Isaiah 11:1–10**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM Holy Is His Name - John Michael Talbot

EPISTLE Romans 15:4–13

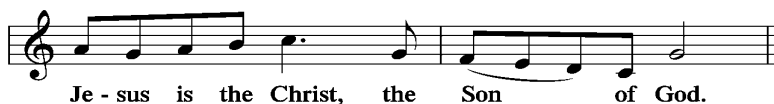
Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another,

in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

LSB 206

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

**HYMN OF THE DAY “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” LSB
344**

SERMON Matthew 3:1-12; “Produce Fruit in Keeping With Repentance”

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each prayer petition concludes:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

THE OFFERING

While we gather the offering today you are invited to fill out the red “Record of Fellowship” forms located at the end of the pew. If you would, please pass the red pad down the pew so everyone can complete the record. Thanks!

PREFACE

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

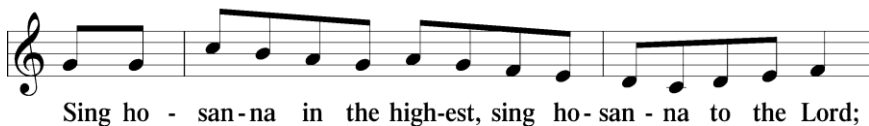
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising
You and saying:

SANCTUS LSB 208



LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 209

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

LSB 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

AGNUS DEI



THE DISTRIBUTION

As Lutherans, in joyful obedience to the clear teaching of Lord Jesus, we now invite to His table those who trust His Word, repent of their sins, and set aside refusal to forgive and love just as we have been loved and forgiven by God. You will receive the host and then will have a choice of either the individual cups or the common cup. If you would like the common cup, place your hands FLAT on the rail while the individual cups are offered. This way Pastor will know that you desire the common cup. If for medical or other reasons you would prefer a non-alcoholic individual cup, they are located in the center of each tray. If you would like to receive communion in the pew, please inform an Usher and what your preference would be – either common or individual cup. Thank you.

HYMNS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

| | |
|---|----------------|
| “Lord of All Hopefulness” | LSB 738 |
| “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” | LSB 347 |
| “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” | LSB 515 |
| “Once He Came in Blessing” | LSB 333 |
| “Sing Praise to the God of Israel” | LSB 936 |



NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant, De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

CLOSING HYMN “Jesus Shall Reign” LSB 832 Stantzes 1-4

POSTLUDE

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DECEMBER

Advent Midweek Services 7 PM: 3rd, 10th, 17th

14- Advent by Candlelight 2-4 PM

22-Elders Meeting 6 PM

24- Christmas Eve Service 7 PM

Today is LWML Mite Sunday! Please consider leaving your mite offering in the large box located in the Narthex. Thank you for your faithful support of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

LWNL Meeting – Thursday, December 11

All women of the church are invited to join us for a special day of fellowship and service!

MORNING GROUP

Time: 10:30 AM Location: Altar Guild Room

Activity: Making Christmas cards for our shut-ins

Followed by: Lunch at Millie's Restaurant

EVENING GROUP

Time: 7:00 PM Location: Meinecke Hall

Activity: Making Christmas cards for our shut-ins

Come share your time and creativity as we bring joy to those who cannot be with us in person!

What is FELLOWSHIP?

- 1) Friendliness
- 2) Community of interest, feeling
- 3) Communion between members of the same church

Fellowship is the heart and soul of our homes, our friendships, and our church. *And effective January 1, 2026, it is time for a new Fellowship Ministry to begin at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.*

Per our Church's **constitution**, the Fellowship Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and two other members appointed by the Chair. The committee has two main responsibilities:

- 1) Provide settings and opportunities for
Congregation gatherings, and
- 2) Continually assess the fellowship needs of the
Congregation.

If God has blessed you with the **spiritual gifts** of friendliness, compassion, joy in interacting with people of all ages, good organizational skills, and the ability to plan and implement events, please consider serving on the Fellowship Committee. Any questions? Please contact Bill Dermody, Council President

The church office is now providing Notary services. To schedule an appointment or learn more, please call Sue at 941-921-3673.

Share the Gospel with Young People!

Do you have 2 hours to share the Gospel with young people?

Good Shepherd is partnering with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) to launch a Good News Club at Ashton Elementary! We are looking for 10 volunteers to serve one day a week (Tuesdays) from 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM.

Our goal is to begin in January 2026. If you're interested, please contact Diane Gonzalez at 941-270-0469.

DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Lynne Gore | 12/03 |
| Kathi King | 12/04 |
| Steve Tuogati | 12/05 |
| Muriel Fredriksson | 12/07 |
| David Diefenbach | 12/17 |
| Stephanie Dinkel | 12/17 |
| Corey Rhinehart | 12/19 |
| Russell Behnke | 12/19 |
| Wanda Bartholomew | 12/22 |
| Charles Baxa | 12/28 |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Carl & Nancy Bayne | 12/19 22 years |
| Ernest & Stephanie Dinkel | 12/30 60 years |
| Jeremy & Angela Hartje | 12/31 26 years |

Week of November 29-30, 2025

Tithes & Offering: \$ 8684

Attendance: Saturday 11/29: 16 Sunday 11/30: 72

ROLL OVER YOUR IRA FOR GOOD

By taking a distribution from your IRA this year, you will likely pay more in taxes and may even reach a higher tax bracket. Rolling over part of your IRA's "required minimum distribution" or RMD to charity like ours can help reduce your tax bill while supporting our cause. If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a gift of up to \$108,000 this year from your IRA to help further our mission. Contact your IRA administrator to get started with your gift. While you will not receive an income tax deduction, you will not pay taxes on any distributions made to us.

Join Us in Making a Difference for Families in Need

The need in our community is great, and your generosity can truly change lives. You can help by:

- Donating pantry items in the narthex
- Using the postage-paid envelopes for monetary gifts

Every contribution matters. Thank you for your kindness, and may God bless your giving.