



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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12.14.25



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 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" LSB 515

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. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*THIS WEEK'S THEME... The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ
Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross*

OLD TESTAMENT READING**Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM **O Come, Lord Jesus - Patrick Liebergen**

EPISTLE **James 5:7-11**

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not

be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-15

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

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

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you. Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”
LSB 345

SERMON Matthew 11:2-15; “On The Edge of Unbelief”

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.

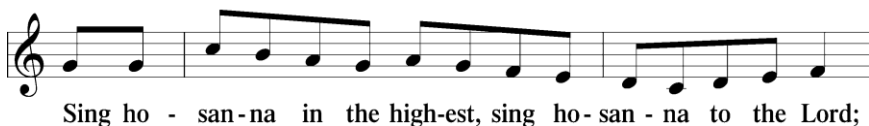
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

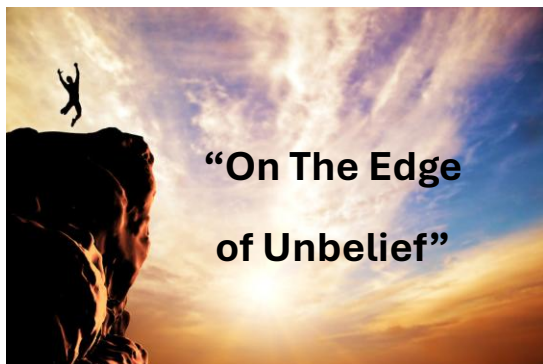


THE DISTRIBUTION

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

“You Are the Way, through You Alone”	LSB 526
“It came Upon the Midnight Clear”	LSB 366
“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”	LSB 849
“Hark the Glad Sound”	LSB 349
“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”	LSB 398



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 “Away in a Manger” LSB 364

POSTLUDE

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DECEMBER

14- Ladies Advent by Candlelight 2-4 PM

16- Church Council Meeting 6 PM

17-Advent Wednesday Service 7 PM

22-Elders Meeting 6 PM

24- Christmas Eve Service 7 PM

Good Shepherd Needs You!

**Good Shepherd warmly invites you to join
our Lectors and Ushers ministries!**

**This is a wonderful opportunity to share
your gifts and serve our parish community. If
you feel called to help, we would love to
welcome you. Interested, please see Gary
Schroeder.**

Week of December 6-7, 2025

Tithes & Offering: \$ 7833

Attendance: Advent Wednesday 12/5: 37

Saturday 12/6: 24 Sunday 12/7: 81

Notary Service Available – see Sue in the office or
call 941-921-3673



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

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

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.

Altar Flowers

You are invited to select a weekend to provide Altar Flowers, either in celebration or in memory of a loved one. To participate, please sign up on the flower chart located in the church entry hall. The cost of each arrangement is \$70, and contributions may be shared among those who wish to donate.

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.

Next week's Readings

Isaiah 7:10–17, Psalm 24, Romans 1:1–7, Matthew 1:18–25