

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Building up God's people through His word for His world

First Sunday of Advent **December 1, 2024**

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

We especially welcome our guests who are worshipping here today. What a privilege to greet you! If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to participate in the life and ministry of Good Shepherd. For information about our congregation, visit gslcva.org. Also, please fill out a Welcome card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the offering plate.

Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Our informal worship service features contemporary music and is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion celebrated on fourth Sundays.

To all worshippers: The presence of children in worship is a gift to the Body of Christ and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Please welcome our young ones and give their parents a smile of encouragement or a helping hand, if needed.

To the parents of young ones, here are a few suggestions for worshipping with your children: Relax! God put the wiggles and giggles in kids; don't feel that you have to suppress them in His house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front, where it is easier to see and hear what's going on. Quietly explain the parts of the worship service and actions of the pastor, ushers, communion assistants, etc. Sing the hymns and songs, pray, and voice the responses aloud. Children learn worshipful behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the worship service with your child or stand up and walk around the back of the sanctuary, feel free to do so, but please come back! And finally, if you so choose, . . .

You are welcome to use our nursery, as well as our parents' room next to the nursery, if your young ones need a break from the service. The Parents' Room is also a comfortable place where mothers may nurse their babies. The worship service is livestreamed to a monitor in the Parents' Room.

We offer Sunday School and a variety of Bible studies and spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings. All Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 a.m. See News and Announcements for class information.

Flowers and plants in our worship areas are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the church, uplift service participants, and remind us of God's good creation. You can find information about being a flower sponsor on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and at gslcva.org (enter "flowers" in the search area on the homepage). Today's flowers are sponsored by Sandra and David Dettner in celebration of Anne's birthday.

setting by Paul Manz
setting by Paul Manz

Pastor James

Please stand

Hymn No. 331

Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness

The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection on God's word and for self-examination. You may kneel or remain standing.

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Music in hymnal, pages 152-53

Music in hymnal, page 155

Music in hymnal, page 156

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Today, on the first Sunday of Advent, we light one candle on the Advent wreath. The wreath, as an unbroken circle, is an image of eternity. The wreath is also a reminder of the victory wreath, the crown of Christ. As we light the candles in the midst of growing darkness, we remember that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life.

P: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: **Amen.**

Please sit

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The LORD is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

L: ¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

L: ⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Alleluia

Music in hymnal, page 156

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

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

Music in hymnal, page 157

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

P: [Jesus said:] ²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Music in hymnal, page 157

Please sit

Hymn of the Day

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hymn No. 357

Verses 1-3, 7

If you think your child might be unable to sit through the entire service, this would be an appropriate time to take him/her to the nursery.

Message

"Comfort to Straighten Up"

Pastor Johann

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Nicene Creed

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
 begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
 Through Him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
 by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary
 and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
 Amen.**

Please sit

Announcements

Pastor James

Please fill out a Welcome card and place it in the offering plate.

Anthem (8:00)

"I Wonder as I Wander"
Sarah Damers, soprano

arr. John Jacob Niles

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
 How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
 For poor on'ry people like you and like I
 I wonder as I wander out under the sky
 When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's
 stall
 With wise men and farmers and shepherds
 and all
 But high from God's heaven a star's light
 did fall

And the promise of the ages it then did
 recall
 If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
 A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
 Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing
 He surely could have it, 'cause he was the
 King
 I wonder as I wander out under the sky
 How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
 For poor on'ry people like you and like I
 I wonder as I wander out under the sky

Anthem (11:00)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Sanctuary Choir

arr. David Willcocks

O come, O come, Emmanuel
 Redeem thy captive Israel
 That into exile drear is gone
 Far from the face of God’s dear Son

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw
 The quarry from the lion’s claw
 From the dread caverns of the grave
 From nether hell thy people save
Refrain

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright
 Pour on our souls thy healing light

Dispel the long night’s ling’ring gloom
 And pierce the shadows of the tomb
Refrain

O come, thou Lord of David’s Key
 The royal door fling wide and free
 Safeguard for us the heav’nward road
 And bar the way to death’s abode
Refrain

O come, O come, Adonai
 Who in thy glorious majesty
 From that high mountain clothed with awe
 Gavest thy folk the elder law
Refrain

Please stand

Offertory Prayer

C: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, “Lord, in your mercy ...”

The congregation responds, “receive our prayer.”

Please see the News and Announcements sheet for a listing of intercessions.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**Preface and Proper Preface**

Music in hymnal, page 160

Sanctus [Holy, Holy, Holy]

Music in hymnal, page 161

Lord’s Prayer

**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 [The peace of the Lord]

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Agnus Dei [Lamb of God]

Music in hymnal, page 163

Please sit

Distribution

We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, according to His Word: “This is My Body . . . this is My blood” (Matthew 26:26-27), and that in this sacrament our Lord gives us forgiveness of our sins, unity with God, and strength for a life of service.

We invite all baptized Christians who have made their First Communion, examined themselves, discern the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us at His Table.

Distribution procedure: Please come forward by the center aisle or as instructed by the usher. Fill the rail, beginning at the end near the wall. Kneel. Cup your hands to receive the bread. Then, take an individual cup from the tray as it is passed. **Cups in the innermost circle of the communion tray contain juice** for those who do not wish to drink wine. **For those who need gluten-free wafers:** Bring with you one of the brightly colored pieces of paper from the pews and hand it to the communion assistant who is distributing the wafers. That person will bring a gluten-free wafer to you.

Return to your seat via the aisle next to the windows. Place your empty communion cup in the bowl near the end of the rail. If you are unable to walk to the communion rail, please speak to an usher, and we will bring the sacrament to you.

Distribution Hymns “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”
“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

Hymn No. 633
Hymn No. 636

Please stand

Post-Communion Collect

P: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

Hymn No. 924**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: **Thanks be to God.****Postlude**

Toccata on "Festal Song"

Gilbert M. Martin

As your schedule permits, please be seated during the postlude for a time of prayer and reflection.

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Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

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We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' messages, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

Serving Today

	8:00	11:00
Worship Leader	Pastor James	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor Johann	Pastor Johann
Crucifer	Levi Tyley	Josie Ellis
Acolyte	Layla Tyley	*
Scripture Reader	Stacey Tyley	Joshua Stone
Prayer Leader	Brook Price	Georgia Thorstenson
Cantor	Sarah Damers	Sarah Damers
Communion Assistants	Pastor James (host) Pastor Johann (host) Walt Peter (tray) Elizabeth Huang (tray)	Pastor James (host) Pastor Johann (host) Jeff Peterson (tray) John Purtilo (tray)
Ushers	Gary Budzier (lead) Ric Nickerson Jim Smith Jim Christian	Jim Ellis(lead) Marty Gurtz Rob Fekete Paul Devine
Choir Director		Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Altar Guild	Kristi Nickerson	Sharon Gurtz
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Matt Hardy	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager		Matt Hardy
Greeter	Deanine Thrash (door) Janet Lillestolen (welcome center)	Jeannie Johns (door) Carolyn Linke (welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Donna Harper	Heidi Cooper
Engagement	Heidi Cooper	Heidi Cooper
Opener	Ric Nickerson	
Closer		Allen Millman
Coffee Setup	Wenda Smith	
Kitchen Cleanup		Mia Millman

* = unfilled as of November 26

Board of Servant Leaders

Laura Blackburn, chair
Rob Fekete, vice-chair
Drew Lipman, secretary

Larry Austin
Paul Kasulis
Jennifer Pelletier
Deanine Thrash

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James

The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper

The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

Through this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Bill and Lisa Schuler); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Frankner), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

Room 201; pastorjo@gslcva.org; 703-439-2754

Gary James, Assisting Pastor

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Sarah Brazell, Preschool Director

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Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager

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Jeff Donahue, Communications Director

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Heidi Cooper, Director of Engagement

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Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs

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Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant

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Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

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Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist

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Michelle Tenhaeff, Children's Ministry Coordinator

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Reid Otterbacher, Communications Assistant

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Chloe Vanderhoof, Social Media Assistant

chloe@gslcva.org

Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod