

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

The Nativity of Our Lord
December 24, 2024 | 7:30 and 10:00 p.m.

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

We especially welcome our guests who are worshipping here tonight. 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 near the doors to the sanctuary.

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. Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 a.m.

Preservice Music

*Handbell Choir (7:30); Brass Quintet; Organ;
Charlotte Lee and Sean Hyjek, violin duet (7:30); Cameron Farnsworth, tuba*

Please stand

The Christmas Proclamation

P: As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Eve the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore him!

C: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn No. 379

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, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection on God's word and for self-examination.

P: God with us,

C: **we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hymn No. 380

Prayer

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his 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.**

Please sit

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

L: ²The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation,
 you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden,
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”
Sanctuary Choir

arr. David Willcocks

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav’n the
bells are ringing
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv’n with angel
singing

Refrain:

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis

E’en so here below, below let steeple bells
be swungen

And *i-o, i-o, i-o*, by priest and people sungen

Refrain

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime,
ye ringers

May you beautifully rime your evetime
song, ye singers

Refrain

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

*The appearance of God’s grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.
Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope
of our Savior’s final appearance.*

L: ¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce
impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled,
upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory
of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might
redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for
good deeds.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading of the Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Please remain seated

*God’s greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news
of great joy” and proclaim God’s blessing of peace.*

P: ¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be
registered.

C: **²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of
Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered.**

P: ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called
Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be
registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

C: **⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave
birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a
manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.**

- P: ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- C: ¹⁰**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.**
- P: ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”
- C: ¹³**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,**
¹⁴**“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”**
- P: ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”
- C: ¹⁶**So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.**
- P: ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;
- C: ¹⁸**and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.**
- P: ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
- P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day “Once in Royal David’s City” **Hymn No. 376**
Verse 1: Solo, Rose Austin; Verses 2-5: Congregation and Choir

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 “5Ws and 1H” Pastor Johann

Musical Reflection

Anthem “And the Glory of the Lord” G. F. Handel
Sanctuary Choir

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it

Please stand

Offering Moment and Prayer

C: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

Christmas offerings may be given into the basket by the center exit of the sanctuary.

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, "God, of grace ..."

The congregation responds, "receive our prayer."

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.

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: Communion will be distributed in a continuous walking fashion. At the direction of the ushers, walk toward the front of the church in single-file lines. The pastors will distribute the host (communion wafers). Receive the host in hand, consume it, and then take the wine from the tray (held by the communion assistant). After you have drunk the wine, place the empty cup in the bowl and return to your pew. If you are not receiving communion, please fold your arms across your chest with hands toward your shoulders (St. Andrew's cross) and approach to receive a blessing. There will be a single dismissal blessing after all have communed.

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. A gluten-free wafer will be brought to you.

Music during Distribution

Anthems

(7:30) “The First Noel” arr K. L. Philips
Charlotte Lee and Sean Hyjek, violin duet

(10:00) “O Holy Night” arr. Christian Harmon
Hart Guonjian-Pettit, trumpet

“All Bells in Paradise” John Rutter
Sanctuary Choir

Deep in the cold of winter
 Darkness and silence ev’rywhere
 Softly and clearly, there came through the
 stillness
 A wonderful sound
 A wonderful sound to hear

Refrain:
All bells in paradise
I heard them ring
Sounding in majesty
The news that they bring
All bells in paradise
I heard them ring
Welcoming our Savior
Born on earth a heavenly King

All bells in paradise
 I heard them ring:
 “Glory to God on high”
 The angel voices sing

Lost in awe and wonder
 Doubting, I asked what this sign might be
 Christ our Messiah revealed in a stable
 A marvelous sight
 A marvelous sight to see
Refrain

He comes down in peace
 A child in humility
 The keys to his kingdom
 Belong to the poor
 Before him shall kneel
 The kings with their treasures
 Gold and incense and myrrh

Refrain
 All bells in paradise
 I heard them ring:
 “Glory to God on high”
 The angel voices sing
 The angel voices sweetly sing

Hymns “O Little Town of Bethlehem” **Hymn No. 361**
 “Away in a Manger” **Hymn No. 365**

Please stand

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: **Amen.**

Lighting of the Candles

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). "You are the light of the world. . . . Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14, 16).

*The pastor lights the candles of the ushers, who in turn share the light with the congregation. **When lighting your candle, tilt your unlit candle toward a lit candle. Keep candles upright after they have been lit.***

When all the candles are lighted, the following prayer is read:

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His 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.**

Hymn "Silent Night" **Hymn No. 363**

The choir will begin by singing a verse in German, which is printed below. Then all will join in singing verses 1- 3 in English. You are welcome to join in the German verse, if you wish.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar

Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh

Blessing

P: The God of love, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C: **Amen.**

Extinguish candles

Closing Hymn "Joy to the World" **Hymn No. 387**

Dismissal

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Christmas Medley for Brass and Organ" arr. Charles J. Torian Jr.
Brass Quintet and Organ

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Serving Tonight

	7:30	10:00
Worship Leader	Pastor James	Pastor Johann
Preacher	Pastor Johann	Pastor Johann
Crucifer	Cadence Raye	
Acolyte	Andrew Misleh	
Scripture Reader	Lisa Dorn	Marty Gurtz
Prayer Leader	Reginia Benjamin	*
Communion Assistants	Pastor Johann (host) Pastor James (host) Don Kidwell (tray) Brian Vanderhoof (tray) Jamie Ellor (runner)	Pastor Johann (host) *(host) Paul Kasulis (tray) Nancy McGarry (tray) Henry Eickelberg (runner)
Ushers	Jim Micsan (lead) Martin Farley Ron Voigt *	* (lead) Allen Millman Goodwyn Morgan Jim Christian
Choir Director	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Handbell Director	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Altar Guild	Diane Ellor Joey Tempel Kristi Nickerson	Sharon Gurtz Michelle Tenhaeff *
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue	Matt Hardy
Audio Engineer	Adam Sherman	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager	Matt Hardy	
Greeter	Karen Kidwell (door) Bill Ciesar (door) Deb Ciesar (door) Kelly Nield (welcome center)	Heidi Cooper (door) *(door) *(door)
Engagement	Heidi Cooper	Heidi Cooper
Closer		Allen Millman

*= unfilled as of December 20

Thanks to our instrumentalists: Hart Guonjian-Pettit, trumpet; Alexis Kalivretenos, trumpet; Emerson Miller, French horn; Marlia Nash, trombone; Cameron Farnsworth, tuba.

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.

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

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