

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

Baptism of Our Lord **January 12, 2025**

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire."

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 basket on the Welcome/resource table or hand it to an usher.

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).

SUNDAY/PRAISE

GATHERING SONG "The Blessing"

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his face toward you
And give you peace
(Repeat)

Chorus:

*Amen Amen Amen
Amen Amen Amen*

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his face toward you
And give you peace

Chorus

May his favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family and your children

And their children and their children
(Repeat)

May his presence go before you
And behind you and beside you
All around you and within you
He is with you, He is with you

In the morning, in the evening
In your coming and your going
In your weeping and rejoicing
He is for you, He is for you,
He is for you, He is for you
He is for you, He is for you . . .

Chorus

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his face toward you
And give you peace

"The Blessing" Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick. © 2020 Capitol CMG Paragon, Kari Jobe Carnes Music, Worship Together Music, Writer's Roof Publishing, Music by Elevation Worship Publishing. CCLI #858354.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE "Praise"

I'll praise in the valley
Praise on the mountain
I'll praise when I'm sure
Praise when I'm doubting
I'll praise when outnumbered
Praise when surrounded
'Cause praise is the water
My enemies drown in

Pre-Chorus:

*As long as I'm breathing
I've got a reason to*

Chorus 1:

*Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul*

I'll praise when I feel it
And I'll praise when I don't
I'll praise 'cause I know
You're still in control
'Cause my praise is a weapon
It's more than a sound
My praise is the shout
That brings Jericho down

Pre-Chorus:
As long as I'm breathing
I've got a reason to

Chorus 2:
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign
Praise 'cause You reign
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the
grave
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful
Praise 'cause You're true
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater
than You
(Repeat)

Chorus 3:
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul

I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul

"Praise." Brandon Lake, Chandler Moore, Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Pat Barrett, Steven Furtick. © Brandon Lake Music; For Humans Publishing; Maverick City Publishing; Capitol CMG Genesis; Capitol CMG Paragon; Housefires Sounds; Writer's Roof Publishing; Music by Elevation Worship Publishing. CCLI #858354.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

[We confess together] **Holy Lord, we confess that we have fallen short. We turn our backs when we could embrace. We remain silent when we could speak. We speak when we could listen. We close the door when we could fling it wide open. We judge when we could seek understanding. We cling when we could give. Forgive us, O God, for being sinful, and help us to continue to grow into the people you created us to be, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Psalm 29

- ¹ Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**
- ³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴ **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**
- ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ **the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸ **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.

11 O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, **16** John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **17** His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, **22** and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

KIDS' MESSAGE

Elizabeth Huang

RESPONSE SONG: "Open Up the Heavens"

We've waited for this day
We're gathered in Your Name
Calling out to You
Your glory like a fire awakening desire
Will burn our hearts with truth

You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing

Chorus:
Open up the heavens we want to see You
Open up the floodgates a mighty river
Flowing from Your heart
Filling every part of our praise

Oo oo oo oo oo

Your presence in this place
Your glory on our face

We're looking to the sky
Descending like a cloud
You're standing with us now
Lord unveil our eyes
You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing

Chorus (2x)

Show us show us Your glory
Show us show us Your power
Show us show us Your glory Lord
(Repeat)

Oo oo oo oo oo

Chorus (2x)

Oo oo oo oo

"Open Up the Heavens." Andi Rozier, James Macdonald, Jason Ingram, Meredith Andrews, Stuart Garrard. © 2012 Curb Songs; Mesmerized Music; All Essential Music; HBC Worship Music; Open Hands Music; So Essential Tunes; Studio Music Publishing. CCLI #858354.

MESSAGE

"Baptism - Photo Op or Calling"

Pastor James

MUSICAL REFLECTION

OFFERINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Pastor Johann

Please take this opportunity to fill out the Welcome Card and hand it to one of the ushers or place it in the basket on the Welcome/resource table as you leave.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

After the pastor says "Lord, hear our prayer," we respond by singing:

Band: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, hear our cry and heal our land.
Let kindness lead us to compassion, bring us back again.

People: *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy on us now.*

"Kyrie Eleison." Words and music by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher, and Matt Redman. © 2016 S.D.G. Publishing, Said and Done Publishing, Sixsteps Music, Sixsteps Songs, Thankyou Music, Worship Together Music, worshiptogethersongs.com (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Be Essential Songs, Fellow Ships Music, I Am A Pilgrim Songs, So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC). CCLI #858354.

THE 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.

SENDING SONG "Forever Reign"

You are good You are good
When there's nothing good in me
You are love You are love
On display for all to see
You are light You are light
When the darkness closes in
You are hope You are hope
You have covered all my sin

You are peace You are peace
When my fear is crippling
You are true You are true
Even in my wandering
You are joy You are joy
You're the reason that I sing
You are life You are life
In You death has lost its sting

Chorus 1:
(Oh) I'm running to Your arms
I'm running to Your arms
The riches of Your love will always be
enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign
You are more You are more

Than my words will ever say
You are Lord You are Lord
All creation will proclaim
You are here You are here
In Your presence I'm made whole
You are God You are God
Of all else I'm letting go

Chorus 1
Chorus 2:
I'm running to Your arms
I'm running to Your arms
The riches of Your love will always be
enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign

My heart will sing no other Name
Jesus Jesus
(Repeat 4x)

Chorus 1
Chorus 2
Light of the world forever reign

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 Franker), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

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Gary James, Assisting Pastor

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Reid Otterbacher, Communications Assistant

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Chloe Vanderhoof, Social Media Assistant

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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

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK FROM GOD'S WORD

From the Old Testament

Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹ But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

From the New Testament

Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.