

# **Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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

**Second Sunday in Advent**  
**December 7, 2025**

*"Lessons and Carols" is a worship service held during Advent and Christmas that combines scripture readings of the seasons with carols, hymns, and choral music. Each of the readings is followed by a carol or hymn. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has held this service prior to the pandemic, usually on a Saturday evening. Today may mark a new occasion in our history in which we hold it during a Sunday morning worship service. Please bear in mind that a few of these carols and hymns may be sung during other worship services in Advent and Christmas.*

**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](http://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/giving](http://gslcva.org/giving) (look for the sponsorship form at the bottom of that page). Today's flowers are sponsored by the Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study in appreciation of Vicki Peter.

**Prelude**                      “Away In a Manager”                      arr. Dan Miller  
   *Handbell Choir*

**"Away In a Manager"**  
*Handbell Choir*

arr. Dan Miller

**Welcome** Pastor James

*Please stand*

Pastor James

*Please stand*

<b>Hymn</b>	<b>"The Advent of Our King"</b>	<b>Hymn No. 331</b>
		Verses 1-4

## “The Advent of Our King”

## Hymn No. 331

### Verses 1-4

## 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 home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

**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: Long-expected God,

**C:** we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. + You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand*

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

*Today, on the second Sunday of Advent, we light two candles 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 candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C: Amen.**

*Please sit*

## SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Hymn

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Hymn No. 338

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-19

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of Woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

L:       <sup>8</sup>They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>The Lord GOD said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you among all animals  
and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel."

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said,

"I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;  
in pain you shall bring forth children,  
yet your desire shall be for your husband,  
and he shall rule over you."

<sup>17</sup>And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,  
and have eaten of the tree  
about which I commanded you,  
'You shall not eat of it,'  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
<sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread

until you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

**Hymn No. 352**

Verses 1, 4, 5

### **The Second Lesson**

**Zechariah 9:9–10**

*The Lord promises that the King will come to Israel in peace.*

L: <sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** “O Bride of Christ, Rejoice”

**Hymn No. 335**

Verses 1-3, 5

### **The Third Lesson**

**Isaiah 11:1–9**

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshadowed.*

L: <sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
 and a little child shall lead them  
<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
 their young shall lie down together;  
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
 on all my holy mountain;  
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
 as the waters cover the sea.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

**Hymn No. 359**  
 Verses 1-3

#### **The Fourth Lesson**

**Isaiah 40:1-8**

*The prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep.*

L: <sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
 says your God.  
<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
 and cry to her  
 that she has served her term,  
 that her penalty is paid,  
 that she has received from the LORD's hand  
 double for all her sins.  
<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:  
 "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
 and every mountain and hill be made low;  
 the uneven ground shall become level,  
 and the rough places a plain.  
<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

**Hymn No. 347**

Verses 1, 4

### The Fifth Lesson

**Luke 1:26-35, 38**

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

L: <sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

**Hymn No. 356**

Verses 1-3

### The Sixth Lesson

**Luke 2:1, 3-7**

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

L: <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn "Away in a Manger"

Hymn No. 365

**The Seventh Lesson**

**Luke 2:8-16**

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

L: <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Hymn No. 374

Verses 1-2

**The Eighth Lesson**

**Matthew 2:1-11**

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

L: <sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn “What Child Is This”

**Hymn No. 370**  
Verses 1-3

### The Ninth Lesson

**John 1:1–14**

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

L: <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

**Hymn No. 384**  
Verses 1, 4-5

Message “The Babe Emmanuel – Part 1”

Pastor Johann



## Musical Reflection

## Announcements

Pastor James

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

## Offering

*Please stand*

## Offertory Prayer

**C: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be  
for the world signs of your kingdom come. 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.*

## 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

**Anthem** "See amid the Winter's Snow" arr. David Willcocks

*Stephanie Kruskol, soprano; Kathy Otterbacher, mezzo soprano;  
Richard Jacobson, tenor; Eugene Stromecki, bass; Sanctuary Choir*

*The congregation is invited to join in singing the final verse and chorus.*

See amid the winter's snow  
Born for us on earth below;  
See the tender Lamb appears,  
Promis'd from eternal years:

*Chorus:*

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim:

*Chorus*

Say, ye holy shepherds, say  
What your joyful news today;  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep  
On the lonely mountain steep?

*Chorus*

As we watch'd at dead of night,  
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
Angels singing "Peace on earth"  
Told us of the Savior's birth

*Chorus*

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
By thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble thee,  
In thy sweet humility:

*Chorus*

*Please stand*

## Blessing

**P:** May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

**C:** Amen.

## Closing Hymn

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

**Hymn No. 352**

Verses 2-3, 6

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

“In Dulci Jubilo” (BWV 729)

J. S. Bach

*During the postlude, please take a moment to get up and greet guests and worshippers at this service who are new to you. You are also welcome to stay seated for a time of prayer and reflection.*

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***Please join us for coffee and conversation 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](mailto:jeff@gslcva.org)

### Serving Today

	8:00	11:00
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Pastor James	Pastor James
<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor Johann	Pastor Johann
<b>Crucifer</b>	Xavier Raye	EJ Hoplin
<b>Acolyte</b>	Cadence Raye	Thatcher Hoplin
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Kirsten Bates	Joshua Stone
<b>Prayer Leader</b>	Reginia Benjamin	Georgia Thorstenson
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Pastor Johann (host) Pastor James (host) Gary Budzier (tray) Chris Miller (tray)	Pastor Johann (host) Pastor James (host) Jeff Peterson (tray) Nancy McGarry (tray)
<b>Ushers</b>	*(lead) Jamie Ellor Bob Camin *	Rob Fekete (lead) John Purtilo Jim Micsan Goodwyn Morgan
<b>Choir Director</b>	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
<b>Handbell Director</b>	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
<b>Organist</b>	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
<b>Altar Care</b>	Rhoda Camin	Linda Fekete
<b>Projectionist</b>	Jeff Donahue	Chloe Vanderhoof
<b>Audio Engineer</b>	Matt Hardy	Adam Sherman
<b>Livestream Manager</b>		Matt Hardy
<b>Greeter</b>	Kristi Nickerson (door) Rick Nickerson (door) Donna Harper (welcome center)	Kelly Nield (door) June McGurn (welcome center)
<b>Guest Welcome</b>	Deanine Thrash	Heidi Cooper
<b>Engagement</b>	Heidi Cooper	Heidi Cooper
<b>Opener</b>	Ric Nickerson	
<b>Closer</b>		Martin Farley
<b>Coffee Setup</b>	Drew Lipman	
<b>Kitchen Cleanup</b>		Jan Morgan

\* = unfilled as of December 3

## **Board of Servant Leaders**

Rob Fekete, chair  
Tony Esse, vice-chair  
John Purtilo, secretary

Larry Austin  
Drew Lipman  
Jennifer Pelletier  
Bernie Schoch

## **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 (Randy and Melanie Stockman); 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).

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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

## Scripture Readings for the Second Sunday in Advent

### First Reading

### Isaiah 11:1-10

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
- He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,
- <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.
- <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall  
inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

### Second Reading

### Romans 15:4-13

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

- <sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by  
steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God  
of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in

accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup> and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Holy Gospel

## Matthew 3:1-12

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

<sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”