

# **Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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

### **Third Sunday of Advent** **December 14, 2025**

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

**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 in the bulletin, 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/giving](http://gslcva.org/giving) (look for the sponsorship form at the bottom of that page).

# SUNDAY/**PRAISE**

## GATHERING SONG      “All Creatures of Our God and King”

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
O praise Him, alleluia  
Thou burning sun with golden beam  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam  
O praise Him, O praise Him  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Thou rushing wind that art so strong  
Ye clouds that sail in Heav'n along  
O praise Him, alleluia  
Thou rising moon in praise rejoice  
Ye lights of evening find a voice  
O praise Him, O praise Him  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Let all things their Creator bless  
And worship Him in humbleness  
O praise Him alleluia  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son  
And praise the Spirit, three in One  
O praise Him, O praise Him  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son  
And praise the Spirit, three in One  
O praise Him, O praise Him  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

O alleluia, alleluia, O alleluia, alleluia  
O alleluia, alleluia, O alleluia, alleluia  
O alleluia, alleluia, O alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia

“All Creatures of Our God and King.” Brent Milligan, David Crowder, St. Francis of Assisi, William Henry Draper. Words: Public Domain. Music © 2002 sixsteps Music, worshiptogether.com songs (Capitol CMG Publishing); Moon & Musky Music. CCLI #858354.

## WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

## SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE

## SONG OF PRAISE      “Receive Our King”

Light my heart like a candle  
Let it burn for only You  
Join my song with the angels  
Tell ev’ryone the news

*Pre-Chorus:*

*That You came as a child  
Beside us in our struggle  
Now we come lifting high  
The Name that’s like no other*

*Chorus:*

*Jesus, Wonderful Counselor  
Prince of Peace  
Son of God, here with us  
We receive our King*

Turn my eyes to the wonder  
Let me see You as You are  
Be my life be my center  
In my night be the brightest star

*Pre-Chorus*

*Chorus*

Prepare Him room  
Let the light of the world shine through  
(Repeat 3x)

*Chorus (2x)*

Light my heart like a candle,  
Let it burn for only You

“Receive Our King.” Jared Anderson, Meredith Andrews. © 2016 Curb Songs, Mesmerized Music, Integrity Worship Music. 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 146:5-10

P: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

**C: who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

P: who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

**C: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

P: The LORD cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**C: The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Matthew 11:2-11

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

## KIDS' MESSAGE

Elizabeth Huang

## RESPONSE SONG: "Who You Say I Am"

Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me

*Chorus 1:*  
*Who the Son sets free*  
*Oh is free indeed*  
*I'm a child of God*  
*Yes I am*

Free at last  
He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes He died for me

*Chorus 1*

*Chorus 2:*  
*In my Father's house*  
*There's a place for me*  
*I'm a child of God*  
*Yes I am*

I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am  
(Repeat)

I am who You say I am

*Chorus 1*

*Chorus 2 (sing 2x)*

"Who You Say I Am." Ben Fielding, Reuben Morgan. © 2017 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia. CCLI #858354.

## MESSAGE "The Unexpected"

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.*

"Kyrle 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

## “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

*Chorus:*

*Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight

*Chorus*

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

*Chorus*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Words and music by John Mason Neale, Thomas Helmore. Public Domain. CCLI #858354.

## BLESSING & SENDING

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**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' message, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, [jeff@gslcva.org](mailto:jeff@gslcva.org)

Serving Today	
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Pastor Johann
<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor James
<b>Ushers</b>	Jim Micsan (lead) Brian Cors
<b>Greeter</b>	Sally Cors(door)
<b>Guest Welcome</b>	David Johns
<b>Engagement</b>	Heidi Cooper
<b>Praise Team</b>	Tara Planeta (violin) MaryAnn Perkel (cello) Peter Revell (bass) Cheakaity Brown (drums) Steve Mutter (guitar) Grace Jessop (vocals) Matt Hardy (leader; piano)
<b>Projectionist</b>	Jeannie Johns
<b>Audio Engineer</b>	Scott Shepherd
<b>Livestream Manager</b>	Adam Sherman
<b>Closer</b>	Martin Farley
<b>Kitchen Cleanup</b>	Goodwyn Morgan

\* =

unfilled as of December 10

**Be a part** of the SUNDAY/PRAISE community by serving in our worship gatherings as greeters, ushers, singers, instrumentalists, AV support, and others. Interested? Contact us by emailing [gslc@gslcva.org](mailto:gslc@gslcva.org) or calling 703-437-5020.

## **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).

### **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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**Julie Schorfheide, Communications Assistant**

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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



## ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK FROM GOD'S WORD

### From the Old Testament

### Isaiah 35:1-10

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### From the New Testament

### James 5:7-10

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.