

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Building up God's people through His word for His world

Second Sunday of Christmas
January 4, 2026

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

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/giving (look for the sponsorship form at the bottom of that page).

Prelude "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" (Sleepers Awake) J. S. Bach

Welcome Pastor Johann

Please stand

Opening Hymn "Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise" **Hymn No. 946**

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, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

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

P: Reconciling God,

C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. + Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Kyrie ~ Lord, have mercy **Music in hymnal, pages 152-53**

Hymn of Praise "This Is the Feast" **Music in hymnal, page 155**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day **Music in hymnal, page 156**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please sit

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

R: ⁷Thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."
⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.
⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."
¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.
¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

R: ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Alleluia

Music in hymnal, page 156

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-18

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

Music in hymnal, page 157

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

P: ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but

he came to testify to the light.⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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 "What Feast of Love"

printed on next page

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.

What Feast of Love



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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Message

"The Word Became Flesh"

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

Communications Director Jeff Donahue

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

Anthem (8:00)

"Mary, Did You Know"
Kathy Otterbacher, mezzo soprano

arr. Fred Bock

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy has come
to make you new?

This Child that you delivered will soon
deliver you.

Mary, did you know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will
give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has
walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, you've
kissed the face of God?
Mary, did you know?
Did you know the blind will see, the deaf
will hear, the dead will live again!
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
the praises of the Lamb!

Anthem (11:00) "How Far Is It to Bethlehem?"
Sanctuary Choir

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little child, is he within?
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?
How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass
or sheep?
May we peep like them and see Jesus
asleep?
If we touch his tiny hand, will he awake?
Will he know we've come so far just for his
sake?
How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.

Mary, did you know?
Did you know that your baby boy is Lord of
all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will
one day rule the nations?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy was
heaven's perfect Lamb?
And the sleeping Child you're holding,
He is the great I AM!
Mary, did you know? Did you know?
His name is Jesus.

Nicholas White

Shall we find a stable room lit by a star?
Great kings have precious gifts, and we
have naught.
Little smiles and little tears are all we
brought.
For all weary children Mary must weep.
Here on his bed of straw sleep, children,
sleep.
How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
God in his mother's arms, babes in the byre.
Sleep as they sleep, who find their heart's
desire.

Please stand

Offertory Prayer

C: **God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you
bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of
the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, "Hear us, O God ..."

The congregation responds, "Your mercy is great."

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 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"
"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

Hymn No. 636
Hymn No. 637

Please stand

Prayer after Communion

P: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn "We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God"

Hymn No. 941

Dismissal

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "In dir ist Freude" (In Thee Is Gladness)

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

Serving Today

	8:00	11:00
Worship Leader	Pastor Johann	Pastor Johann
Preacher	Pastor Johann	Pastor Johann
Crucifer	*	*
Acolyte	*	*
Scripture Reader	Henry Eickelberg	Andrew Otterbacher
Prayer Leader	Kirsten Bates	Joshua Stone
Cantor	Kathy Otterbacher	Kathy Otterbacher
Communion Assistants	Pastor Johann (host) Gary Budzier (host) Elizabeth Huang (tray) Melinda DeWan (tray)	Pastor Johann(host) Don Kidwell (host) John Purtilo (tray) Brian Vanderhoof (tray)
Ushers	Bob Camin (lead) Dan Pelletier Jim Smith *	Goodwyn Morgan (lead) Paul Devine Jeff Peterson Rob Fekete
Choir Director		Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Pianist		Alison Lake
Altar Care	Michelle Tenhaeff	Linda Fekete
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Matt Hardy	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager		Matt Hardy
Greeter	Heidi Cooper (door) Deanine Thrash (welcome center)	Bill Ciesar (door) Deb Ciesar (door) June McGurn (welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Donna Harper	Jeannie Johns
Engagement	Heidi Cooper	Heidi Cooper
Opener	Jim Smith	
Closer		Martin Farley
Coffee Setup	Wenda Smith	
Kitchen Cleanup		Jan Morgan

* = unfilled as of December 31

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 Franker), 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

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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