

**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](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).

**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:    <sup>7</sup> Thus 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.”
- <sup>8</sup> See, 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.
- <sup>9</sup> With 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.
- <sup>10</sup> Hear 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.”
- <sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
- <sup>12</sup> They 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.
- <sup>13</sup> Then 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.
- <sup>14</sup> I 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: <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> 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; <sup>14</sup> 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: <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 overtake 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. <sup>15</sup> (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.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> 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?”

arr. Fred Bock

*Kathy Otterbacher, mezzo soprano*

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!

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.

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

Nicholas White

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.

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.



### Serving Today

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