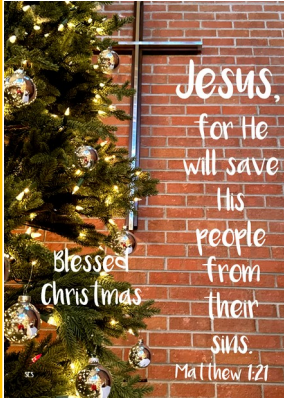




8 & 10:45 AM

January 4, 2026

2nd Sunday after Christmas



### CONNECT CARDS

Guests and members, please:

- ♦ fill out a Connect card, or
- ♦ scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are in the pew racks in front of you. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

### Serving Today...

Message:  
Pastor Brad Stoltenow

Liturgist:  
8:00 Pastor Ben Oesch

Worship Assistant:  
10:45 John Hoener

Organist:  
Susan Shoaf



## ✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

**RINGING OF THE BELL** *Please take this time to quiet voices and hearts as we prepare to worship.*

### PRELUDE

### INVOCATION

*Divine Service, Setting 4 ~ LSB p. 203; Matthew 28:19b*

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation (C): Amen!**

### CONFESSION OF SINS

*Psalm 124:8; 130:3-4; Luke 18:13*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

### ABSOLUTION ~ FORGIVENESS OF SINS

*John 20:19-23*

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen!**

### SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you!

**C: And also with you!**

P: We pray: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen!**

### CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1*

P: To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**C: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!**

*Please be seated.*

### HYMN # 397:1-2 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;**

**As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;**

**So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by Thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,**

**There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;**

**So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.**

### GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT *Let's get to know each other better!*

*Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. Thank you!*



### CHILDREN'S CHAT *Sam Scheck*

+ Children's Bulletins are available on the Usher Stands as you enter the Sanctuary. +

### OFFERING AND PRAYER *For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*

**Stewardship Thought:** One aspect of stewardship is using God's gift of time in wise ways. Here's an idea for a new year's resolution: I will use the gift of time God has given me to make worship and study in His House a priority, just as Jesus did even when He was young. As I do, I ask God to give me wisdom and discernment, just as Solomon did when he became king. St. Paul reminds me that God has adopted me as His child, and I want to live graciously in that gift of His love!

### PSALM OF THE DAY

God gave Solomon the gift of wisdom and understanding, more than all his teachers. Do you think this psalm of his father, David, meant something special to him?

As you read this portion of Psalm 119, read it also with the image of Jesus—The Word—as a 12-year-old, reciting this psalm for His parents as He speaks to His heavenly Father:

#### Psalm 119:97-104

Oh how I love Your law!

It is my meditation  
all the day.

Your commandment  
makes me wiser  
than my enemies,  
for it is ever with me.

I have more  
understanding than  
all my teachers,  
for Your testimonies  
are my meditation.

I understand more  
than the aged, for  
I keep Your precepts.

I hold back my feet  
from every evil way,  
in order to  
keep Your word.

I do not turn aside  
from Your rules, for  
You have taught me.

How sweet are  
Your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey  
to my mouth!

Through Your precepts  
I get understanding;  
therefore I hate  
every false way.

God's Word is both His Law and His Gospel. Is Jesus, The Word, sweeter to you than the sweetest of foods (Psalm 119:103)?

*The LORD said to Ezekiel, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.*

~Ezekiel 3:3

### HYMN # 397:3-5 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

As they offered gifts most rare at Thy cradle, rude and bare,

So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,

All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;

And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last

Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;

Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;

There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King!

### OLD TESTAMENT READING 1 Kings 3:4-15

And [King Solomon] went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And You have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give Your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern Your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this Your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

### RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### EPISTLE READING Ephesians 1:3-14

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, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

### RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

*Please stand for the hymn and the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

### HYMN # 384:1, 3, 4 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega,

He the source, the ending He, of the things that are, that have been,

And that future years shall see evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore!  
O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing!  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him and extol our God and King!  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore!

### ACCLAMATION

A: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

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

### THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:40-52

And the child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress." And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

### RESPONSE

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

*Please be seated.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY # 410 "Within the Father's House"

Within the Father's house the Son has found His home,  
And to His temple suddenly the Lord of life has come.

The doctors of the Law gaze on the wondrous child  
And marvel at His gracious words of wisdom undefiled.

Yet not to them is giv'n the mighty truth to know,  
To lift the earthly veil that hides incarnate God below.

The secret of the Lord escapes each human eye,  
And faithful pond'ring hearts await the full epiphany.

Lord, visit Thou our souls and teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself with loving awe to trace

*Please stand.*

△ Till we behold Thy face and know as we are known  
Thee: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—coequal Three in One.

△ The delta symbol indicates a stanza that praises  
the Triune God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

**MESSAGE "Anxious Parents? You Think?"** text: Luke 2:4-52



What were you looking for a few days ago when we gathered for the annual celebration of Christmas? If you knew what you were looking for, did you find it? Did you find answers to all your troubles when you sang the Christmas songs? Or are you still searching? That's okay, because for two more days, it's still Christmas. It's not too late. :-)

In Joseph and Mary's anxiety over their three-day search for Jesus, they couldn't find Him in the crowds or among their relatives and friends. It was only as they returned to the temple, the place of God the Father's promised earthly presence, that they found who they were looking for.

You have come to the right place, the place of God's promised presence for you—here, in God's House, where His Word is preached, His Sacraments are administered, and His grace, love, and forgiveness are given and applied to you. You will find Jesus here!

So do not be anxious about your life. You are seeking the answers in the right place, in the kingdom of God and in His righteousness given to you this day in His mighty, saving Word!

A **Creed** is a statement of faith or belief. We recite the creeds as a way to review the doctrines of Scripture. We recite the creeds together to support the faith of each other. The creed can also be a great outline for sharing **HIS**tory with others!

The **Apostles' Creed** dates in history to the 2nd century. It is connected from ancient times with Baptism and with those receiving instruction in the Christian faith.



Lord,  
lay some soul  
upon my heart  
and love that soul  
through me;  
and may I gladly  
do my part  
to win that soul  
for Thee.  
Amen!

*Please stand.*

## STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE APOSTLES' CREED

**ALL:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen!

*Please be seated.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*In January, we Pray with an Open Heart for those with health issues (physical, mental, emotional).*

*Please stand for the Lord's Prayer and Blessing.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4*

**ALL:** 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!

## BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

**C:** Amen!

*Please be seated.*

**HYMN** # 412:1, 3-4, 6 "The People That in Darkness Sat" *lyrics altered slightly*

The people that in darkness sat a glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long in shades of death have been, in shades of death have been.

To us a Child of hope is born, to us a Son is giv'n,  
And on His shoulder ever rests all pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor, the God by all adored, the God by all adored.

*Please stand.*

▲ Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, and make us Yours alone,  
Who with the Father ever are and Holy Spirit: One. We praise You, Three in One!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

☩ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ☩

