ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON at SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

"TOGETHER: God Is With Us" is the theme for our Advent and CHRISTmas season. Immanuel means "God is with us." The prophet Isaiah foretold the Savior's coming when he said: "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) After Jesus rose and just before He ascended to heaven, He promised: "I am with you always." (Matthew 28:20) As we finish the year 2026, we celebrate this eternal truth: we are never alone, because **God Is With Us**!

Sundays in Advent/CHRISTmas
Nov. 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27
8 & 10:45am Traditional | 10:45am Contemporary



CHRISTmas Eve Candlelight
Traditional: 3pm | 7pm, Sanctuary
Contemporary: 5pm, Gym
CHRISTmas Eve Vigil: 10pm (***new time!***), Sanctuary, with Lord's Supper
CHRISTmas Day 10am, Sanctuary, with Lord's Supper
Epiphany January 6, 2027 | 7pm, Sanctuary, with the Lord's Supper

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS
Early Learning Center
"A Little Nativity"
Thursday, Dec. 10 | 6pm, Gym
Sweet Treat Reception following the program

Sunday School Students
"TOGETHER at the Manger"
Sunday, Dec. 20 | 10:45am, Gym

CONNECT CARDS Guests and members, please:
+ fill out a Connect card, or
+ scan the QR code to connect with us online
Cards are on clipboards at the end of a row. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.
We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

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SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
Lutheran Church & Early Learning Center
ShepherdHillsChurch.org
LUTHERAN CHURCH-Missouri Synod

24th Sunday after Pentecost | November 8, 2026 | 10:45 AM

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

SONG SET *Michael Amidei, Infinite Grace Team*
Please refer to the screens for the song lyrics.
My Feet Are On the Rock
Even So Come

P = Pastor **C** = Congregation L = Lector

INVOCATION *Pastor Duane Feldmann* *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 SIN AND FORGIVENESS

SONG Lord I Need You

OLD TESTAMENT READING Amos 5:18-24 *Dave Hudson, Lector*
Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer Me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from Me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."
L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with

the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus explained:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

"Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code.
You may also add prayer requests to your information.
The cards may be put in the offering plate. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S CHAT *Jodie Stoltenow*

Children's Bulletins are available on the table as you enter the Gym.

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

SONG Living Hope

MESSAGE "Expectations or Expectancy?" text: Matthew 25:1-4

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!

PRAYERS

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!

GOD'S WORD OF BLESSING

In this Divine Service, by the gift of faith, the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We leave this house of worship to share HIS✝tory!

Please be seated for the Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG Song of the Saints

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

Called into faith, as baptized and beloved children of God,
TOGETHER we:
+ worship one God: Father, Lord, Spirit
+ joyfully celebrate our unity
+ willingly submit to our Creator
+ lovingly care for one another
+ seek to serve our community
+ walk in hope toward heaven

And all God's people said: AMEN!

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 join us for Thanksgiving Worship!
Wednesday, November 25, 7pm
We will celebrate the Lord's Supper.