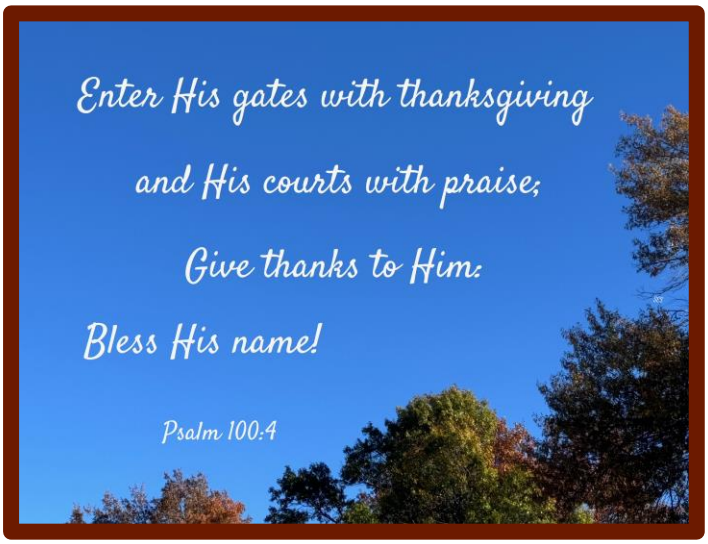


SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
Lutheran Church & Early Learning Center
ShepherdHillsChurch.org

LUTHERAN CHURCH-Missouri Synod

Thanksgiving Eve | November 25, 2026 | 7 PM



✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

PRELUDE *Susan Shoaf*

P = Pastor **C = Congregation**

INVOCATION *Pastor Ben Oesch* *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!

SALUTATION (GREETING) AND PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

P: We pray: Almighty God, You crown the fields with Your blessing and permit us to gather in the fruits of the earth. As stewards of Your creation, may we receive Your gifts in humble thankfulness and share Your bounty with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

Please be seated.

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 given to an usher or placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make His name to dwell there. And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us." Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.



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 racks in front of you. These methods also include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors. We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with you!

A **CRY ROOM** is located off the Welcome Center

ACTIVITY BAGS for children to borrow are in the Welcome Center.

DEVOTIONS: *Portals of Prayer* booklets are on the credenza in the Welcome Center for you, and for sharing!

SERVING TONIGHT…

Message:
Pastor Brad Stoltenow

Liturgist:
Pastor Ben Oesch

Organist:
Susan Shoaf

TOGETHER



Gratitude is the ability to see the grace of God, morning by morning, no matter what else greets us in the course of the day.

~Craig Barnes

✠ ✠ ✠

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.

~William Arthur Ward

And you shall make response before the LORD your God, "A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And He brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me."

And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

RESPONSE

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN # 785 "We Praise You, O God"

EPISTLE READING 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

RESPONSE

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But Jesus said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And Jesus said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying,

"The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

RESPONSE

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

Please be seated.

HYMN # 789 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

MESSAGE *Pastor Brad Stoltenow*

"The Challenges of Abundance and Possessions" text: Luke 12:13-21

Please stand.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ APOSTLES' CREED, FIRST ARTICLE AND EXPLANATION *LSB p. 322*

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

P: Dear Friends, what does this mean?

C: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

P: Why does He do this?

C: All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.

P: What, then, is your response?

C: For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

ALL: This is most certainly true!

Please be seated for the prayers.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Corinthians 11:28-29

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and desire to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

✠ ✠ ✠

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION: PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

P: Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins and hunger and thirst for righteousness. Let us seek the depths of God's mercy and grace as we confess our sin.

C: Almighty God, we poor sinners plead guilty before You of all sins. We have lived as if You did not matter and as if we mattered most. We have not honored Your name as we should; our worship and prayers have faltered. We have not let Your love have its way with us, and so our love for others has failed. There are those whom we have hurt, and those whom we have failed to help. Our thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. We are sorry, and we ask for Your grace to do better for You and for our neighbors.

P: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

P: Do you believe the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C: Yes.

P: Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

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!

For those whose outlook is limited to the material realm, contentment and security must be measured in terms of material abundance. But for those who have learned to look in faith to God, there is another Source, inexhaustible and unfluctuating.

~Derek Prince

It has long been the custom of our people to turn in the fruitful autumn of the year in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for His many blessings and mercies to us.

~President Wilson, at Thanksgiving

✠ ✠ ✠

Blessed be the LORD… from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "AMEN!" Praise the LORD!

~Psalm 106:48

We are a blessed nation, and there is much for which we ought to offer thanksgiving and praise to God! As the Lord Jesus sets a Thanksgiving banquet before us tonight in His Word and in His Supper—the ultimate Thanksgiving Meal—join with your Christian family to give Him all thanks and praise!

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever.
~Psalm 118:1

✠ ✠ ✠

In this Divine Service, by faith the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share the love of Jesus and HIStory!

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!

Lutheran Service Book ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted with permission. Scripture, The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, ©2001Crossway Bibles, div of Good News Pub. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder ©2006 CPH.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19,20; 1 Cor 11:23-25*

PAX DOMINI ~ THE PEACE OF THE LORD AND AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD *John 20:19; 1:29*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!
C: And also with you!
ALL: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us and give us Your peace. Amen.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION *You will be ushered forward for Communion.*

- When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.
- If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, please keep hands folded.
- Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; you may also request a gluten-free wafer.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN # 894 "For the Fruits of His Creation"

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen!

Please stand.

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 on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C: Amen!

HYMN # 895 "Now Thank We All Our God"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS TOGETHER

For_____, we thank You, Lord!

A	F	K	P	U
B	G	L	Q	V
C	H	M	R	W
D	I	N	S	X
E	J	O	T	Y
				Z



You are invited to our
Advent and Christmas celebrations
at Shepherd of the Hills!
For full details:
ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Christmas