SENDING SONG

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON

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." *(Matt. 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: ***new time!***), Sanctuary, with Lord's Supper

CHRISTmas Day 10am, Sanctuary, with 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

1st Sunday of Advent | November 29, 2026 | 10:45 AM



Happy New Year! Today begins a new Church Year—another year to remember, celebrate, and share the story of Jesus, the same story we told hast year and all the years before that, but with one important difference: *Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ~Romans 13:11*

Advent means *coming*. The appointed Scripture readings during Advent call out to us to prepare for the Savior's coming. It is a time to remember, repent, rejoice. It is a time to invite others to prepare with us. **Christ has come**—that first CHRISTmas. **Christ comes to us today**—in His Word and Sacraments for forgiveness, salvation, and renewed life. **Christ will come again**—on the Last Day, to take all believers in Christ to be with Him forever. God has promised; God keeps His promises. **AMEN Come, Lord Jesus!**

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Each week in Advent, we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of our Savior Jesus, the Light of the world.
"The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." ~John 1:9

SONG SET *Michael Amidei, Infinite Grace Team*

Please refer to the screens for the song lyrics.

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

INVOCATION *Pastor Brad Stoltenow* *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, WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64:1-9

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father: Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, LORD, that the mountains might quake at Your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make Your name known to Your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at Your presence! When You did awesome things that we did not look for, You came down, the mountains quaked at Your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides You, who acts for those who wait for Him. You meet Him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember You in Your ways.

C: Behold, O LORD, You were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all

fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon Your name, who rouses himself to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

P: But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand.

C: Do not be so terribly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all Your people.

(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

ABSOLUTION ~ FORGIVENESS OF SINS

BAPTISM *We welcome Everett Val Helfer into God's family and ours!*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4*

SONG

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 *Dave Hudson, Lector*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

Jesus teaches His disciples about the Last Days.
This teaching occurs during the week of His crucifixion.

[Jesus taught:] "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send out the angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that He is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest He come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

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 *Sam Scheck*

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

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

SONG

MESSAGE "You Do Not Lack Any Spiritual Gift" text: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

PRAYERS

HOLY COMMUNION: PREPARATION

Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body 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 wish to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

DISTRIBUTION *You will be ushered forward for Communion.*

- If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.
- You may request wine without alcohol and/or a gluten-free wafer.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please stand for the Blessing.

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 HIStory!

Please be seated for the Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS