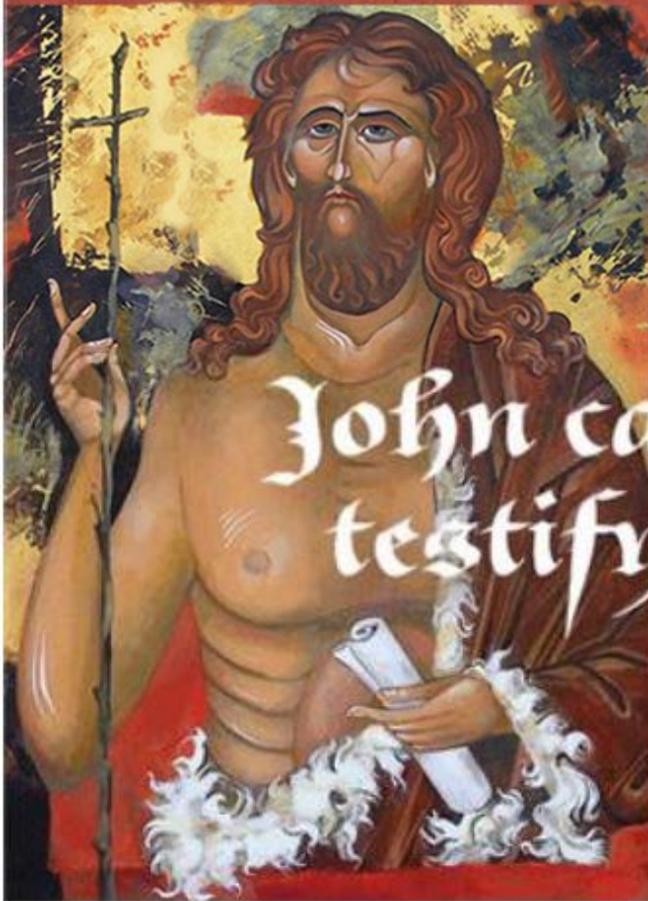


WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP!
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



John came to
testify to the light

JOHN 1:8

DECEMBER 13, 2020
ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

1208 ROSE CREEK DRIVE
WOODSTOCK, GEORGIA 30189
770-924-7286



GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GSLUTHERAN.ORG
FACEBOOK@GSLCWOODSTOCK
INSTAGRAM@GSLUTHERAN

“Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you.”

Romans 15:7

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church warmly welcomes people of any age, race, nationality, sexual orientation, life circumstance, and physical or mental capability.

Gathering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Jesus Loves Me”
- Don Hustad

Thomas Eisnor

GATHERING SONG

“Voice of the Soul”

Tim Ferg, Gary Griffith

*Words & Music by Julie Hennies Clark, Larry Olson
©Julie Hennies Clark; Dakota Road Music*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C Amen.

P Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Loving and forgiving God,

C **we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**

We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, † comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

“Glory To God in the Highest”

Thomas Eisnor

ELW #S99

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Word

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

SONG

"As We Wait"

William Walker's Southern Harmony
Arr. Travis Cottrell © 2002 Word Music
Text by Pam Weinelt

Deb Ezell, Tim Ferg,
Aaron Frink, Tammy Frink,
Gary Griffith,
Lori Peters, Pam Weinelt

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- ☐ Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

- ☑ **let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61;1-4,8-11

Tammy Frink

At the conclusion of the reading:

- ☐ The word of the Lord.
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 126

Max Epling

(read responsively)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream. | ☐ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy. |
| ☑ Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and
our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them." | ☑ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. |
| ☐ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced. | |
| ☑ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb. | |

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Barbara Kidder

At the conclusion of the reading:

- ☐ The word of the Lord.
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"

Deb Ezell, Tim Ferg,
Aaron Frink, Tammy Frink,
Gary Griffith,
Lori Peters, Pam Weinelt

WOV 715, vs 1&3
Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, © 1930,
English version Text © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch

GOSPEL READING: John 1:6-8,19-28

P The holy gospel according John.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the reading:

P The gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MEDITATION

“Who Are You?”

Pastor Paul Baumgartner

SONG OF THE DAY

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ”

Tim Ferg, Gary Griffith

*Words & Music: Latin Hymn, Thomas Helmore; Arr.: Travis Contrell
Arr. © 2012 Word Music*

APOSTLES’ CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

G **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the

third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pam Strong

(As the Minister closes each petition with the words, “Lord, in your mercy,” worshippers respond with the words, “hear our prayer.”)

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

G **And also with you.**

LORD’S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

G **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.

Sending

BLESSING

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✠ now and forever.

G **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Thomas Eisnor

ELW #256

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

- J. Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Thomas Eisnor

We are called, gathered and blessed to be a community and instrument of grace for all sheep of the Good Shepherd.

FOR ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES & SUNDAY SCHOOL VISIT:
[YOUTUBE.COM](https://www.youtube.com) GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODSTOCK, GA

- Paul W. Baumgartner.....Pastor
- Thomas Eisnor.....Organist/Choir Director
- Pam Weinelt..... Praise Team Coordinator
- Cat Ontiveros.....Youth Ministry Coordinator
- Janice Swinford..... Inreach Coordinator/Sunday School Superintendent
- Diane Moeller..... Office Coordinator
- Donna Garges.....Media Coordinator
- Aaron Frink..... Custodian

Words and music reprinted under the following licenses:

- OneLicense.net -A701921 • CCLI License-1393631
- Augsburg Fortress License-SAS011614

Online Advent Worship Services
Wednesday's December 16
 (@ gslutheran.org/sermons)



Hardly a day goes by that we don't hear a statement about "unprecedented times." In these unprecedented times, the seasons of Advent and Christmas will be unlike any previous celebrations. Yet even as Advent quickly approaches, we can't predict what will be going on around us or exactly what those celebrations will be like. Many people will forego family gatherings and travel. Many people won't join the hustle and bustle of shopping for those perfect gifts. Many annual parties won't happen. Our worship services are likely to be different from every other year. These are unprecedented times, after all. But are they? In our Wednesday Advent services we will explore the readings from Isaiah assigned for the Sundays of Advent, and trust God's Word to tell us what we need to know in these unprecedented times.

DECEMBER 16

DELIVERANCE

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

THE RESULTS ARE IN

The Church Council has posted the latest survey results, from the November 6th survey regarding returning to worship after watching the Training Video that was put together by our GSLC Covid Task Force. These result are on our website www.gslutheran.org under the COVID-19 heading. You can also access those results [here](#).



2020-21 November YTD Budgeted
Giving Summary

Fiscal Year 2020-2021
Actual Income: \$227,749.93
Budgeted Income: \$239,556.02
Ahead/Behind: (\$11,806.09)

We are now in fiscal year 2020-21. This is a great time to use Simply Giving or GIVEPLUS. Click [DONATE](#) on our website for more information. The work of GSLC cannot be completed without the support of the congregation! We are grateful for your continued giving and support. Thank you!

Holy Communion on Sunday Mornings

Pastor Paul will offer Holy Communion outdoors, on Sunday mornings, from 8:30 am-10:00 am and from 10:45 am-12:15 pm. You can also visit our [website](#) for more information.



DECEMBER SCHEDULE NOW AVAILABLE

We are looking for volunteers to help set-up/clean-up and serve during outdoor communion. Those shifts run 8:00 am - 10:15 am and 10:15 am - 12:30 pm. We would like to have two people for each shift. You will be required to wear a mask. There is a sign-up sheet on our website at [Sign-Up Central Online](#). There will be NO outdoor December 27 and January 3. There WILL BE communion TODAY, December 13th and December 20th (8:30-12:15 PM), and 25th (10-12 PM).

Online Christmas Eve Program Participants

If you are part of the online Christmas Eve Worship program, please remember that all parts are past due to our Media Coordinator, Donna Garges, Questions? Contact: media@gslutheran.org

Stay Connected Online

WWW.GSLUTHERAN.ORG



Scan QR Code

ONLINE GIVING AND GIVE PLUS

Even though church services are not happening in the physical state, the work of the church and expenses of the church still go on. Members using envelope giving are encouraged to mail their offerings to the church each week. Now would be a good time to sign up with either GivePlus or Simply Giving! You can do that by going to www.gslutheran/donate.

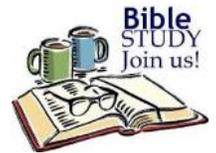


Adult Sunday School News

Coffee and Conversation is hosting a Zoom study focused on the Rob Bell series, at 9:30 am Sunday mornings. For any questions about this class or other study options, please contact our Sunday School Superintendent, [Janice Swinford](#).

Word on Wednesday Bible Study

WOW is discussing "The Acts of the Apostles" by Raymond Pickett from Augsburg Fortress. See what the Holy Spirit is up to in the development of the early church and how the Spirit continues to ACT through the church today!



If you are interested in participating, please contact study leader, Lori Peters, through the church office. We meet on Wednesdays via Zoom. At 10 a.m.

Monday Lunch and Learn Bible Study meets Mondays, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. via Zoom. We are working our way through "Names of God" by Melissa Spoelstra. If you are interested in joining please let [Cat](#) know and we will add you to the email list.

Men In Mission For the next several weeks, Men in Mission Wednesday Zoom meetings will be viewing and discussing selected Rob Bell videos from the twenty-four short video NOOMA series that explores our common experiences from a perspective of Jesus. If you would like to join them, please contact media@gslutheran.org so we can send you a link to the meeting.



STAY INFORMED

If you would like to sign up for our Sheep Buzz e-mail's you can do that [here](#), or on our website home page.



Youth News

Middle and High School Zoom **Sunday School Classes** meet virtually. Middle School meets at 10:30 a.m. High School meets at 8 p.m. Meeting links will be sent via email. For elementary school ages please check out www.gslutheran.org/youth/Sunday-school. We look forward to seeing you all virtually.



FX3 meets next, TODAY, December 13th, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. We have new supply packets so make sure to pick up your supplies. Supply packets are available for pickup on the church front porch. There is an envelope with your child's name on it and it contains all the supplies for this meeting and the next. Meeting links will be sent via email. This group is for youth in 3rd-5th grades.

Children and Youth

Family Advent Activities

Advent is here. We have an activity packet for Advent! Please pick up your family packet from the church. There is an envelope with your family's name on it. Each packet is customized to your family unit.

HOPE TREE—LAST CHANCE

Holiday Help Needed through Inspiritus.

Do to the difficulty in preparation, GSLC will not be doing the traditional Christmas shoe boxes for Inspiritus this year. However, Inspiritus does have a project that we *hope* you can be involved with called, "Hope Tree".



Inspiritus is asking for \$25 gift cards and coat donations for the families they support. Inspiritus is asking for you to sign-up by using the link below, so they are able to track the number of cards and coats they will be receiving.

The gift cards will then need to be mailed to the address below, to be received before December 16th. If you are donating a coat, they will respond back with a drop off date and location.

[Sign-Up to Donate Here](#)

Inspiritus
P.O. Box 7829
Atlanta GA 30357

Advent Extras

We have Advent calendars and devotionals available for pick-up on our front porch. These are for all ages.



Be sure to connect with us on Facebook or Instagram for our daily Advent posts.

[Facebook@gslcwoodstock](#)
[Instagram @gslutheran](#)

PRAYERS@GSLUTHERAN.ORG

We have a new e-mail address for you to submit prayer concerns. Prayers will be posted to the Prayer Circle, via e-mail, during normal business hours. You can also drop us an e-mail at this same e-mail address if you would like to be a part of the Prayer Circle.



GSLC REACHES OUT

MUST Ministry Collection Available at GSLC Doorway

MUST Ministries is coordinating a MUST FOOD Rapid Response program. Family food boxes will be distributed at several points around Cobb and Cherokee Counties. They are accepting donations at their facilities seven days a week. Good Shepherd has placed a barrel outside the front doors of the church. Please consider this way of supporting

our community. The top items that MUST is collecting are:
NEWLY ADDED-URGENT NEED
New Socks and Underwear for school age children

- Beef Stew
- Canned Pasta
- Mixed Canned Veggies
- Canned Carrots
- Canned Meats (Tuna/Chicken)
- Canned Fruit
- Chunky Soup

- Canned Potatoes
- Condensed Soup
- Canned Beans
- Tomato Products
- Canned Corn
- Spaghetti
- Ramen Noodles
- Bag of Pasta
- Mac&Cheese
- Rice



WE'RE HAVING DRIVE-IN WORSHIP SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

2, 7, 9 PM

Disappointed that we can't have our beautiful and traditional Christmas Eve services? Feeling like the Grinch because we can't sing our favorite carols together? Join us for our first ever drive-in worship services. Come in your car to a 2, 7 or 9 pm service where parking attendants will meet and direct you.



You might even decorate your car to add to the fun.



There will be live worship leaders and the service will be transmitted through your FM car radio. You can sing away inside your car. Rather than candle lighting, you should bring flashlights or phones or glow sticks, or any source of light. Watch for more information about these services coming soon.

(In the event of rain, these services will be cancelled.)

VIDEO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

For those who would be more comfortable staying home, we will be posting a prerecorded Christmas Eve service online. Of course you could do both! This service will include a program by the children and youth of our congregation and sing-along carols.

CHRISTMAS MORNING COMMUNION

Since we will be unable to celebrate Holy Communion at our Christmas Eve drive-in services, we will be offering outdoor communion (as we do on Sunday mornings) on Christmas morning from 10 AM to 12 PM. Come and receive the best gift you are going to get: God's gift of forgiveness, salvation and life!





• CHRISTMAS FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

- "Santa's coming! I know him! I know him!"...
- Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar ...
- Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree...

What do these three things have in common? You'll find out on Sunday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Family Christmas Trivia! Trivia Night. Grab your family for a fun virtual night of Christmas Trivia. There will be questions for all ages. During this season take some time to gather virtually with your church family for some fun fellowship and friendly competition. Meeting links will be via email. You will not want to miss out on all the fun.

ELCA ADVENT RESOURCES

Looking for an Advent Devotional? Check out the Southeastern Synod Advent/Christmas Devotional written by leaders from across our Synod. You can download the pdf to your computer or e-reader, print it out or come back to their Facebook page @ELCASoutheasternSynod daily.

[Get the Devotional Here.](#)

