

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

"Look, the virgin shall conceive
and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23



DECEMBER 24, 2025 | 4:00 & 9:00 PM

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



GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GSLUTHERAN.ORG
FACEBOOK@GSLCWOODSTOCK
INSTAGRAM@GSLUTHERAN

Tonight, in a world longing for light, we gather to remember a holy night in Bethlehem — a night when hope was born in a manger and heaven touched the earth. A child wrapped in cloth, laid among the humble, came not with splendor, but with love.

As candles glow and songs rise, we remember that this is more than a story. It is God's promise to us: light in the darkness, peace in our hearts, and love for the world.

Come, let us worship the newborn King.

"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.

Please silence your cell phones. The 4:00 pm service will be livestreamed to Facebook and uploaded to YouTube.

**Denotes to stand*

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRE SERVICE MUSIC

PRELUDE (4 PM)

(9 PM)

"The Three Kings"

John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

"Jesu Bambino"

Sharon Elery Rogers

Musicians of Good Shepherd

Anna Kate Peed

Bells of Good Shepherd

WELCOME

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

✠ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of
Peace.

✠ Amen.

✠ Trusting in God's steadfast love and
faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Sit or kneel as you are able.

✠ Reconciling God, we yearn for your presence
to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We
confess that we have not always prepared room
in our hearts for your love; we have not always
recognized your presence among us; we have
not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of
violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our
failure to make room for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems that harm
your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody
your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing the
joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

✠ God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✠
Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and
be glad!

✠ Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ELW #283 vs. 1-3

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: Refrain

*GREETING

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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY: THE CHRIST CANDLE

☞ Tonight, we light all five candles on this Advent wreath. As the flames gleam we are reminded that Christ is the true light of the world, and with the Christ candle in the center, the flames of hope, peace, joy, and love burn even brighter. So it is with Christ in our hearts, we can rest in the hope of eternal life, and look forward to the promised peace on earth. Joy to the world! The Lord has come!

CHRISTMAS HYMN "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" ELW #240

1	Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.	4	Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!
2	Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.		
3	Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.		

☞ WORD ☞

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

☞ A reading from Isaiah:

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

☞ The Word of the Lord. ☩ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96 *(read responsively)*

- A** Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- C** Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
- A** Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
- C** For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.
- A** As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- C** Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
- A** Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- C** Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.
- A** Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- C** Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."
- A** Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- C** Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.
- A** You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

- L** A reading from Titus:

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

- L** The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

- P** The holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **C** Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is

the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴”Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord. ☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Karen Boda

*HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW #270

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,

offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain

3 Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. Refrain

*APOSTLES' CREED

C 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

(As the Assisting Minister closes each petition with the words, "Hear us, O God," worshippers respond with the words, "Your mercy is great.")

*PEACE

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** And also with you.

(Please greet one another with a friendly word or non-contact gesture of God's peace.)

∞ MEAL ∞

OFFERING

Please sign the "Who's Who in the Pew" pads and pass along as the offering is received. Please indicate if you are a visitor to Good Shepherd.

OFFERING ANTHEM (4 PM)	"Before the Paling of the Stars"	Anna Kate Peed
	-John Boda	Alan Boda, Violinist
(9 PM)	"Were You There on That Christmas Night"	Chancel Choir
	-Natalie Sleeth	

*OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **C** Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

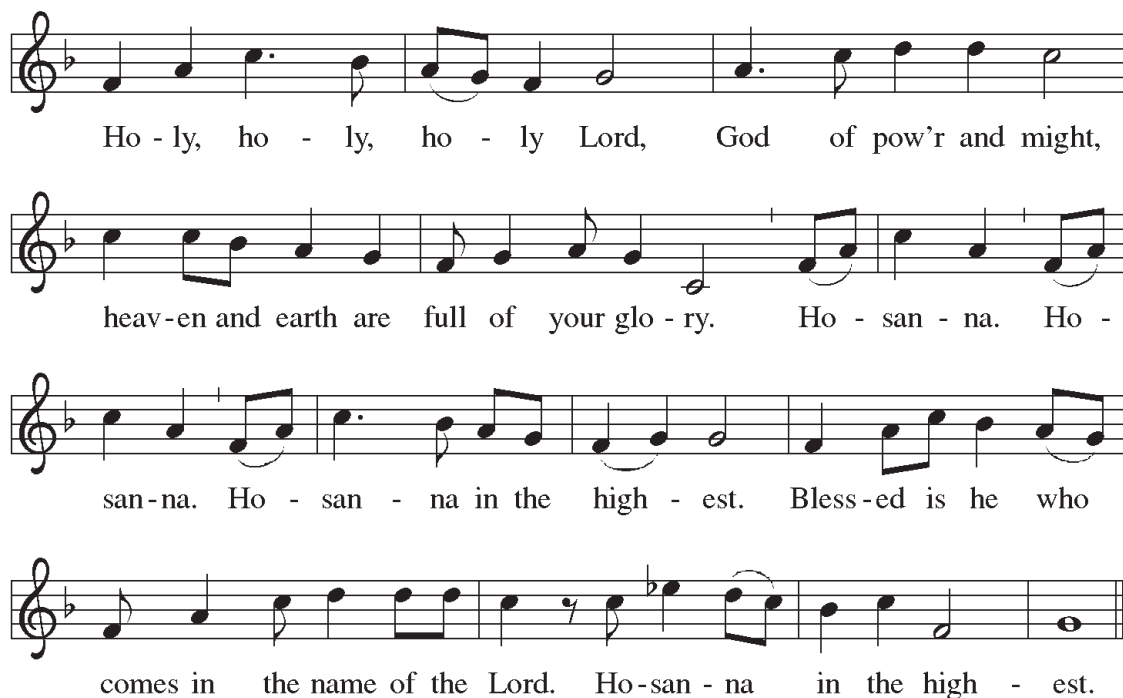
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

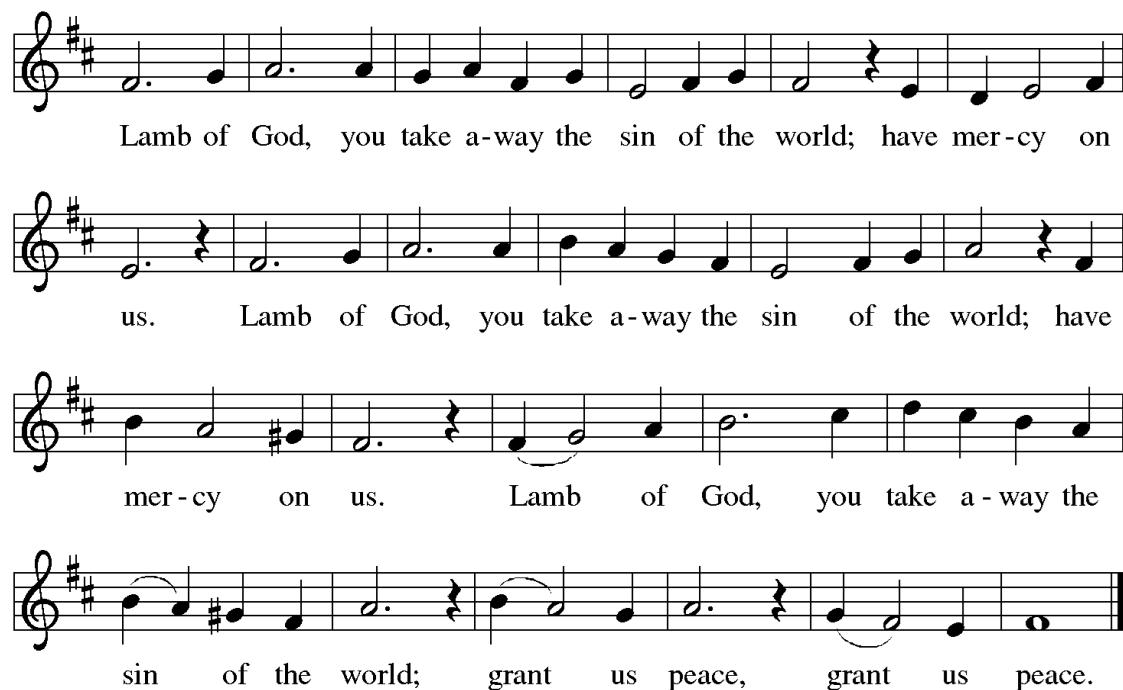
*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

☒ 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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

- All believers are invited to come and receive the real presence of Christ in the sacrament.
- Follow the directions of the ushers, who will guide you from your rows toward the center aisle.
- Please take a wafer and an individual cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available upon request from the server. Sealed wafer and juice combination packets are available from the ushers.
- Those who do not wish to take communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.
- After receiving communion please use the trash receptacles provided, then proceed around the side aisles to return to your seat.

HYMN

“What Child Is This”

ELW #296

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary! | 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary! |
| 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary! | |

HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW #279

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight. | 3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in. |
| 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth! | 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel! |

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW #289

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav’nly song? Refrain

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

☞ May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☞ Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

☞ Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

*CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN

“Silent Night”

ELW #281

The pastor will light a candle from the Christ candle spreading the light to the ushers, who in turn will spread the light to those on the aisles. Pass the light to the next person down the row. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when spreading light to another.

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav’nly hosts sing, alleluia!

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*BLESSING

☞ The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

☞ Amen.

(Please extinguish your candles.)

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

***DISMISSAL**

- A** Glory to God in the highest!
- C** And peace to God's people on earth!
- A** Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
- C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“O Come Emmanuel”

Anna Kate Peed

-Wilbur Held

Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

Thursday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

“Come as you are” (jeans, jammies — whatever!)

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 28 at 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.



If you ordered a poinsettia and want to take it home, you may do so following the 9 p.m. service tonight or following the Christmas Day service tomorrow.
Any poinsettias not picked up will be given away.



Poinsettias

Deanna Auriemma in celebration of family and health, and in memory of John Auriemma, and Mary Murphy

Alan and Pastor Karen Boda in memory of Daniel and Eleanor Boda, and Elizabeth and Bill Miller

Sandy Cerstvik in memory of loved ones

Ruth Clark in memory of family and friends that have died

Kris Damiani in memory of Michael Damiani

The Dias Family in memory of Ed Dias

Mike and Sandy Dooley in memory of her mother, Ethel Sheffler and in honor of Pastor Boda, and all her amazing work for our church.

Linda Drage in honor of this church family

Pete and Sue Dumpis in memory of Dick and Lottie Worley, and Ilmars and Baiba Dumpis

The Escamilla Family in memory of Armondo and Virginia Escamilla, OD Allen, Sybil Hammers and Bob Allen

Eleanor Fevola in memory of Karen Elizabeth Miller, and in Thanksgiving for Ruth Clark

The Frink Family in celebration of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in honor of Pastor Karen and our church staff

Karen Gardell and Kris Damiani in memory of their parents, Harry and Ulla Gardell

Sally and Terry George in celebration of their grandchildren

Tom and Kris Hebeisen in memory of Charles Depp

Vic and Deborah Johnson in celebration of Aubrey and Brian's second anniversary

Ken and Barb Kidder in honor of the Blessed Season

Susan Kornburger in memory of her husband Denton, daughter Jane, and granddaughter Lucy

Brenda Kviten Schumaker in honor of her family

Jason and Tracy Launders in memory of Stephen and Kathryn England

*Arnie and Beth Ludvigsen in celebration of their children and grandchildren,
and in memory of their parents*

*Mark and Linda Martin in memory of their parents, Clara and Don, and Ruth
and Harold*

Joella Molway in honor of her grandchildren

Jeff and Heidi Nugent in celebration of Nate, Norissa and Elyse

*Chris and Lori Peters in celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ, and in memory of Reevalyn Quiett*

Ted and Carol Rodi in memory of their parents, Bill, Inga-lill, John and Armella

*Vic and Linda Rowell in memory of Lloyd and Clara Rowell, Joseph and Barbara
Damico, Anita Hotchkiss and Mary, Tom and Jennifer Farley, and Ed Jones*

Craig and Bev Stichtenoth in celebration of God's Greatest Gift

Pam Strong in memory of loved ones, her parents, brother, and Grandma Lou

The Swordsma Family in honor of their grandparents, and their parents

Jennifer Taylor in memory of loved ones

*Don and Wendy Vogt in memory of family and friends, and in honor of the 28th
anniversary of Irina's adoption*

Pam Weinelt in memory of Sylvia Exley

*Terry and Sandy Williams in celebration of Walker and Cooper Punch, and
Delilah Olson, and in memory of Miles James Olson*

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

Are you worshipping with us for the first time?
WE WELCOME YOU!

Our Sunday services are at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
We offer Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. for ages 3 through adult, resuming Jan. 4th.

Come Worship with Us!

Interested in more Good Shepherd events and services? Sign-up on our website for a “Sheep Buzz Newsletter” to be delivered to your e-mail inbox every Friday around 3 PM. Want to get a text when a Sheep Buzz is sent? Text media@gslutheran.org to be added to the list of recipients.



GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Rev. Karen Boda..... Pastor
Pam Weinelt Praise Team Coordinator
Anna Kate Peed Organist/Choir Director
Michelle Provost..... Office Coordinator
Donna Garges Media Coordinator
Carrie Escamilla Bookkeeper
Aaron Frink Custodian

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