

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 | 7:00 PM

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



GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GSLUTHERAN.ORG
FACEBOOK@GSLCWOODSTOCK
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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.

**Denotes to stand*

☞ GATHERING ☞

PRE SERVICE MUSIC WELCOME

PRAISE TEAM

*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.

*GATHERING SONG

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Latin Hymn, Words by John Francis Wade, Arr. Travis Cottrell

Verse

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.

Chorus

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

Verse

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, ye citizens of
Heaven above!
Glory to God
In the Highest

Chorus

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

Final Chorus

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

*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 SONG

"Mary Did You Know?"

Words and Music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene; © 1991 Word Music

Verse 1

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would one day walk on water
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has come to make you new
This Child that you delivered
Will soon deliver you

Verse 2

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would give sight to the blind man
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God
Oh Mary did you know

Bridge

Oh Mary did you know
The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb

Verse 3

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations
Did you know
That your baby boy
Is heaven's perfect Lamb
And the sleeping Child you're holding
Is the great I Am

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.**

SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

📖 *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.

📖 The Word of the Lord. ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

📖 The holy Gospel according to Luke. ☑ **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

*SONG OF THE DAY

"It's Christmas Medley"

Verse 1

Away in the manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

Verse 2

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh

Chorus

It's Christmas
The Angels are singing
And I know the reason the Savior is born
It's Christmas

The bells are ringing
And I feel like shouting Joy to the world

Verse 3

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there
(To Chorus)

Verse 4

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born
(To Chorus)

*APOSTLES' CREED

☑ 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

☐ The Peace of the Lord be with you always. ☑ 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 SONG

“Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)”

Praise Team

by Chris Tomlin and Ed Cash

*OFFERING PRAYER

▮ 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. ▮ Amen.

*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

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.

COMMUNION SONGS

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

“Words by Charles Wesley Arranged by Kurtis Parks and Chris Douglas Music by Felix Mendelssohn”; © Words: Public Domain | Music: 2013 Simple Hymns Publishing | Songs of 714

Verse 1

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With th’angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 2

Christ by highest heav’n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin’s womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th’incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 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 man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Words by Edmund H. Sears and Music by Richard S. Willis; © Public Domain

Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Verse 2

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav’nly music floats
o’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov’ring wing,
and ever o’er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Verse 3

And you, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

Verse 4

For lo! The days are hast’ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Music by ST. LOUIS (Lewis H. Redner) Words by Phillips Brooks Additional Music by Chris Tomlin Additional Words by Chris Tomlin; © 2021 Capitol CMG Paragon | S. D. G. Publishing

Verse 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

Chorus 1

In thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

Verse 2

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
O come to us abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Chorus 2

We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Tag

O come to us abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel
Emmanuel abide with us hmm
Emmanuel

“What Child Is This?”

Words by William Chatterton Dix and Chris Tomlin Music by Trad. English Melody “Greensleeves” and Chris Tomlin; © Words: Public Domain | Music: 2015 S. D. G. Publishing | sixsteps Songs | Worship Together Music

Verse 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

Chorus 1

This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

Verse 2

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh
Come peasant king to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him

Chorus 2

Raise raise a song on high
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy joy for Christ is born
The Babe the Son of Mary (Mary)
This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

Chorus 3

Nails spears shall pierce Him through
The cross He bore for me for you
Hail hail the Word made flesh
The Babe the Son of Mary

*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**”

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.

Verse 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.

Verse 2

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,

heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Verse 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.)

*SENDING SONG

“Joy to the World (Joyful Joyful)”

Words and Music by George Frideric Handel, Ludwig van Beethoven and Edward Hodges Addt'l. Words and Music by Phil Wickham Isaac Watts and Henry Van Dyke; © 2018 Phil Wickham Music | Simply Global Songs | Sing My Songs

Verse 1

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and Heaven and nature sing
We will sing sing sing
Joy to the world
We will sing sing sing

Verse 2

Joy to the World the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy
We will sing sing sing
Joy to the world
We will sing sing sing

Verse 3

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
We will sing sing sing
Joy to the world
We will sing sing sing

Continues on next page

Ending

Joyful joyful we adore Thee
God of glory Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee
Op'ning to the sun above

*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.

SENDING

Praise Team

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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**Silent Night: Words by John F. Young and Music by Franz Gruber; © Public Domain

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