

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church 2903 STH 155 PO Box 130 Sayner, WI 54560 (715) 542-3701 www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

December 17, 2023

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 · Sayner, Wisconsin 54560 · 715-542-3701 Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

MINSTERS:	THE PEO	PLE OF THE PARISH
William Wendorf, LLM		715-617-6477
Council:		
President: Mike Pockat		715-892-4488
Vice President: Jack Carlson		612-889-1250
Tracey Ahlborn		612-716-6008
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Jackie Jungemann		630-450-2247
Sharon Rice		715-479-9336
Jeanne Kroll		715-542-2797
Bill Sima		715-542-4375

Church Service Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME GUESTS

We invite you to sign our guest book and/or complete a visitor card to help us remember you. Please let us know if we can serve you in any way. Everyone is welcome to Holy Communion at Shepherd of the Lakes. Come forward as ushers direct, receive the wafer in your hand and move to the wine which is served in the chalice or individual portions as you prefer. We offer grape juice as an alternative to wine. Gluten-free wafers are also available at your request from communion servers when you partake.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are a loving community that follows Jesus & seeks to hear the Word of God and practice it in our daily lives.

Recorded Services:

All Sunday services at Shepherd of the Lakes are recorded and put on You Tube.

Go to the Church website at

www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

and look for the vouTube symbol.

Click on this symbol to take you to the Church's YouTube site.

For those of you worshipping with us at home – You can mail your donations to: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church 2903 State HWY 155 PO Box 130 Sayner, WI 54560

Or on the church website – <u>www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org</u> You can donate through our PayPal account. "Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together."

Readings for December 24, 2023:

First Reading 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

PsalmLuke 1: 46b-55Second ReadingRomans 16: 25-27Holy GospelLuke 1: 26-38

Those Who Hear and Do

Who is God's family? Where is God's home? In the church we often speak of our home parish as a family. Many of us grew up thinking of the church building as God's house. But the readings for this day call us to anticipate that Emmanuel might understand kinship and home in different ways. As we approach Christmas, which in our culture is increasingly a celebration of hearth and home more than a public festival, the inclusiveness of God's promise rings out from these readings.

The temple often stood in the imagination of Israel as the "house of God," but in 1 Samuel God expresses reservations before the temple is even built. The promise made to David is not about the building. Instead of the expected places of wealth and power, God chooses to dwell in a *people* instead of a "house of cedar" (2 Sam. 7:2, 7).

So if God is dwelling in a people, who is included in *that* promise? Although no one disputes that Jesus is born of the "house of David," Luke's gospel stresses Mary's lowliness instead of her bloodlines, reminding us that Christ became flesh in the most unlikely circumstances. Later in Luke's gospel, when someone mentions his family to Jesus, he says his family includes all "who hear the word of God and do it" (8:21). In today's gospel we see Mary acting out that definition of family.

CHURCH SERVICES:

Regular Sunday morning services at 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion is offered at every service. All are welcome. The Sunday service will be live-streamed and recorded and available for viewing on YouTube later on Sundays.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School every Wednesday begins at 3:45 pm for ages 4 – Grade 7 (unless Northland Pines School District is out for Holidays). For more information, please call (715) 542-4049.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study will be every other Tuesday at 3 p.m. at Shepherd of the Lakes. We will have two studies each month, on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 3 pm, unless they occur during a holiday, such as Thanksgiving or Christmas. We will again be continuing with the Ray Vanderlaan video series.

ROCK MINISTRIES

From Jack Carlson:

As Treasurer of Northwoods Share in Eagle River, I work at community dinners at The Rock ministry in Eagle River every 1st and 3rd Tuesday evening at 4:30. SOTL members are welcome to volunteer and attend as we support this mission as part of our benevolence funding at SOTL.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

No regular Council meeting in December!

BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER

Please consider giving to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Pink donation envelopes will be labeled and available in the Narthex.

ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY NEEDED

We are looking for someone to step forward and take over the altar flower ministry. Please contact Betsy Tarkowski if you are interested.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice led by Jennie Saltzgiver will be on Tuesdays at 4:15 pm. We hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Caroling to our shut-ins will be Saturday, December 23rd at 1 PM. Please sign up on the list on the table where the bulletins are placed. We will meet at church and carpool. We hope to finish around 4 and have a bite of supper at the Pub. Please join us! Questions? call (715) 542-4049

TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?LILY HOUSE

The Mitten Tree is for guests at Lily House (shelter for Tri-county Council for Domestic Violence). If you wish, just take a mitten from the tree, purchase a \$20 gift card from Walmart, and return it to the basket at the base of the tree. The last day for this is December 17th. Questions? call (715) 542-4049

MEETING FOR SECOND VOTE TO DISAFFILIATE FROM ELCA

This very important meeting will be held after church today, December 17th. It will be conducted much the same as the first voting meeting that was held on September 10th. We encourage everyone to be a part of this decision – please join us!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us for a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service held here at 4 p.m. on December 24th.



PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please note: "Current Issue" listings remain in the bulletin for three weeks and then are removed unless instructions are received to move that listing to the "ongoing health issues" list)

Pray for those dealing with current issues:

Tina and Deb.

Pray for those with ongoing health issues:

Larry, Mary Lou, Brian, Melody, Bob B., Graham, Ericka, Shelle, and Bob (Judy's husband).

Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:

Brian, Adam & Brittany, Brooks, Will, Sgt. Keara, Alex, Jared, Noah, and Dylan.

Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:

Elisabeth

Pray for the families of those who have passed:

Please email Bill Wendorf at pastor@SOTLsayner.com or text to 715-617-6477 or email Jean Maines at <u>treasurer@SOTLsayner.com</u> if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list. Prayer requests are sent out via email.

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

Sayner, Wisconsin

Season of Advent

3rd Sunday of Advent December 17th, 2023

Greeting & Announcements



Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Third Candle of Advent

(Please remain seated)

We draw closer to Christmas. As we light the candle of joy, may our joy be renewed that Christ will be born again in our lives this Christmas time.

(Lighting of the Third Advent Candle)

Let us pray.....

Dear God,

in the height of our Advent walk, grant us the courage to experience joy.

Joy in the face of apathy,

Joy in the face of sorrow,

Joy in the face of uncertainty.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The Lord of Advent tells us to be watchful for his coming, keeping our lamps lighted, and our hearts clean. Therefore, let us confess to the Lord.

Silence for reflection.

God and Father of all:

We prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, confessing our attraction to a godless world that does not know Christ. Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, and keep us faithful for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of Jesus Christ † who came and will come again.

Amen (Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel)

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

People, Look East



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

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 once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;
³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;

they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GoD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:46-55

- ⁴⁶ And Mary said,
- "My soul magnifies the Lord,
- ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
- ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
- ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
- ⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
- ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
- ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;
- ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.
- ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
- 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

- ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.
- ²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel (Please stand as you are comfortable for the reading of the Gospel)

The Holy Gospel According to....

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 1:6-8,19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Hark, The Glad Sound!" ELW 239

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

Hark, the Glad Sound!



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became Incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

The Peace

The Peace of the lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(*I invite you to share the peace as you, and your neighbor, are comfortable.*)

Offering

(We will receive our offering today in the traditional manner)

For those of you worshipping with us at home -You can mail your donations to:

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130

Sayner, WI 54560

Or on the church website - www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

You can donate through our PayPal account.

"Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together."

As our offering is received and the Lord's table is prepared, Please join in singing "What Feast of Love" ELW 487

(Please stand as you are able as you begin singing verse "3")

What Feast of Love



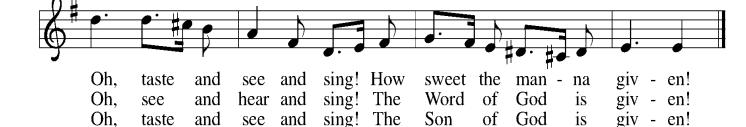
- 1 What feast of love is of fered here, what ban-quet come from heav en?
- 2 What light of truth is of fered here, what cov e nant from heav en?
- 3 What wine of love is of fered here, what crim-son drink from heav en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en? What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en? What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this Christ the king, bread come down from heav - en. is the This, this is Christ the king, the come down from heav - en. sun This, this Christ the sweet - est wine heav - en. is king, the of



Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsively)

In this moment of worship, we embrace your presence, O God.

And we offer you our love.

In this moment of prayer, we proclaim your purpose for the world.

And we offer you our resources.

In this moment of giving, we hear your call, O Lord.

And offer you ourselves. Use us—all that we have and all that we are—to touch the world with the Christmas message. Amen!

Great Thanksgiving

May the God of Advent be with you.

And also with you.

People of Advent, lift up your hopes.

We lift them to the One who comes to share our lives with us.

People of hope, offer your thanksgiving to God.

Joy, praise, adoration are in our hearts and on our lips!

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High, One God, now and forever.

Amen!

Let us join our voices and pray with confidence the words that our Savior gave us:

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 the Table

All are welcome to the Lord's table here. Simply come forward as the ushers direct, receive the host, and then receive the wine by dipping the host into the chalice, or by individual glass. For those wishing an alternative to the wine, there is grape juice clearly marked and provided, in both the individual glasses and the **small** chamber of the chalice. Gluten free hosts are also provided by simply asking your server as you come forward.

(Children and others not wishing to commune are invited to come forward and receive a blessing.)

Distribution (Please be seated and come forward as the ushers direct)

Communion Songs

The King Shall Come



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel: "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.

with us,

and

is

3 Montes y valles habrá que preparar; nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar. Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar, y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

ev-er sets us free.

4 En una cueva Jesús apareció, pero en el mundo está presente hoy. Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está; y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

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Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

Blessed Be the God of Israel



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

Communion Blessing (Please stand as you are comfortable)

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

Amen.

Communion Prayer (Responsively)

We thank you, Lord God,

...for breaking into our world, our lives, and our experience.

We thank you, O Christ,

...for this meal of remembering, and the stories of love and grace that it tells.

We thank you, O Spirit,

...for your presence and your challenge for us to become agents of God's compassion.

Amen!

Benediction

Receive the benediction. In all your Advent preparations, remain watchful with your eyes on Christ, whose birth in a manger is but a promise of his coming again in glory. And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit be with you all now and forever.

Amen. (Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel)

Sending Hymn

"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" ELW 251

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



Text: With One Voice, 1995, based on the Magnificat Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Outside USA: Arr. from The English Hymnal, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

Dismissal

Awake and anxiously anticipating the newborn Christ, go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service. Second Sunday of each month join us for brunch after the service.

Calendar for Week of December 18 – December 24, 2023

Tuesday	December 19, 2023	Choir Practice	4:15 p.m.
Wednesday	December 20, 2023	Quilting	9:00 a.m.
Thursday	December 21, 2023	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Saturday	December 23, 2023	Caroling	1:00 p.m.
		Worship Service	
Sunday	December 24, 2023	4 th Sunday in Advent	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	December 24, 2023	Christmas Eve Service	4:00 p.m.



Next Council Meeting:

No Council meeting in December!

Upcoming Events:

TODAY - December 17th - Second vote on disaffiliation from the ELCA

December 23^{rd} - Caroling at 1 pm

December 24th 4 p.m. – Candlelight Christmas Eve service

Check our calendar of events on the church website for times and dates of events and worship services.

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org
FaceBook: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church – Sayner, WI
Instagram: sotlsayner