



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

December 24, 2023

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 · Sayner, Wisconsin 54560 · 715-542-3701

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

MINSTERS: THE PEOPLE 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
Karen Carter	715-542-4049
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  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 – www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

You can donate through our PayPal account.

“Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together.”

Readings for December 31, 2023:

First Reading Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

Psalm Psalm 148

Second Reading Galatians 4: 4-7

Holy Gospel Luke 2: 22-40

Go in Peace

With Simeon and Anna we receive consolation (Luke 2:25) and good news: Jesus frees us to go in peace. God’s Word is incarnate, and we have seen the light of our salvation (2:29-32). “Go in peace” is our call to action—a reminder that we are freed from sin and death and sent out to share that good news with the world. “Go in peace” is also our prayer as life ends—a reminder of a love more powerful than death.

And yet . . . right along with these words of peace come troubling words from Simeon. The infant Jesus will be a source of turmoil for his people and his family. The words “and a sword will pierce your own soul too” (Luke 2:35) must have been the opposite of peaceful and comforting to young mother Mary. Luke even includes the detail that Mary and Joseph offered the least expensive purification sacrifice, a reminder that Jesus was born into poverty (Lev. 12:8). Even in the presence of God’s incarnate peace, all is not well with the world.

This is where we enter the story, full of questions. How do we experience God’s peace in our broken world? Faced with the reality of war, poverty, hunger, destruction, and loss, how do we speak of peace? How do we live God’s peace in our lives? Like Simeon and Anna, we have faith in God’s promise of peace because we have faith in the promiser. As Simeon and Anna witnessed, God’s word has been, is, and will be fulfilled.

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:

January 7th at 10:30 am

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!

TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - LILY HOUSE

From Karen Carter:

Thank you, thank you for those who took mittens from the tree in the narthex!

22 Walmart gift cards were brought to Lily House, Tri-County's domestic violence shelter on Monday. Parents currently housed there will be using them to purchase Christmas gifts for their children.

RESULTS OF THE MEETING FOR SECOND VOTE TO DISAFFILIATE FROM ELCA

We were happy to see so many of you here for this very important meeting.

The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of leaving the ELCA. Of the 81 eligible voting members present, 75 voted "Yes" to the following question:

Should Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church take the steps required to terminate our relationship with the ELCA in accordance with the procedure outlined in Chapter 6 of our Constitution that was approved by the Northern Great Lakes Synod on April 1, 1996.

75 voted Yes, to Terminate and 6 voted No, Do Not Terminate

SECOND MEETING TO CHOOSE FUTURE SYNOD AFFILIATION

Immediately after the first meeting, those attending were asked to go through the registration process for a second meeting to determine the direction the church will go now. Following is the Resolution that was presented to those present:

Should Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church approve joint affiliation with Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC) & Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) in accordance with Chapter C7.03 of our Constitution that was approved by the Northern Great Lakes Synod on April 1, 1996.

There were 71 eligible voting members at this meeting. The results of the vote were as follows:

71 voted "Yes" and there were Zero "No" votes

The next step is for the Northern Great Lakes Synod to approve the requested disaffiliation of Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church from the ELCA.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us tonight for a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service held here at 4 p.m.



PRAAYER 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, Deb, and Angeline.

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:

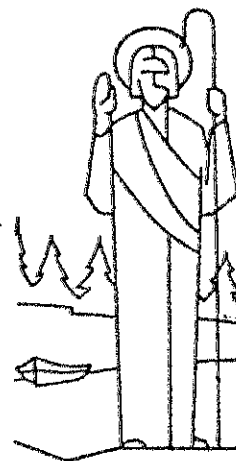
Please email Bill Wendorf at pastor@SOTLsayner.com or text to 715-617-6477 or email Jean Maines at treasurer@SOTLsayner.com if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list. Prayer requests are sent out via email.

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

Sayner, Wisconsin

Season of Advent

4th Sunday of Advent December 24th, 2023



Greeting & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Fourth Candle of Advent

(Please remain seated)

We bring our Advent wreath to brighter light, in anticipation of that full blaze of light on Christmas. When to us a child is born, To us a son is given. May we know the love in this wonder of Emmanuel, God with us.

(Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle)

Let us pray.... Dear God,

as our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion, grant us the courage to share your love.

Love for the unexpected challenge in our lives,

Love for the vulnerable one in our midst.

Love for the presence of God in all creation. Amen

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

V1-12/03
V2-12/10
V3-12/17
V4-12/24



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

INVOCATION

(Please remain seated.)

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

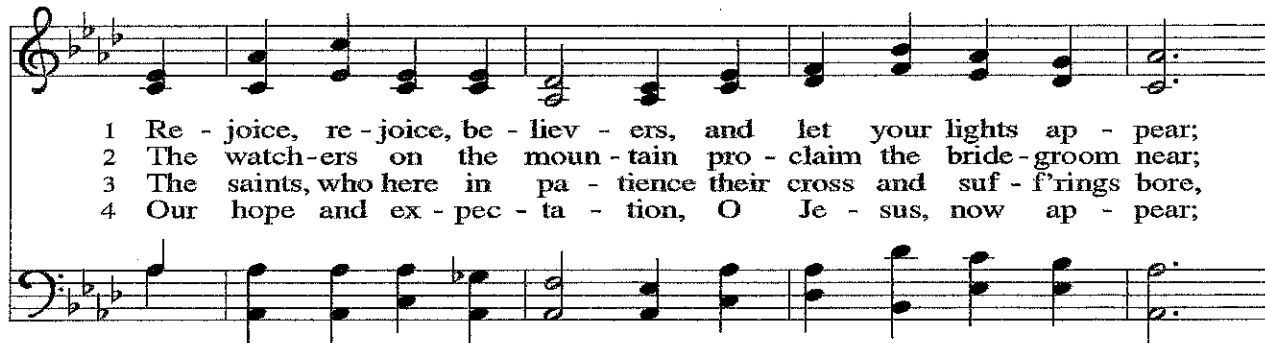
(Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel)

Gathering Song

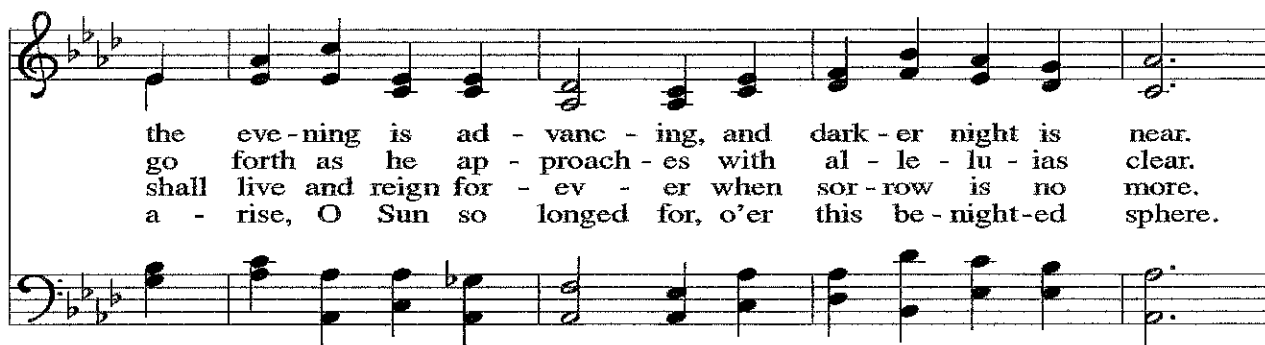
"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" ELW 244

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

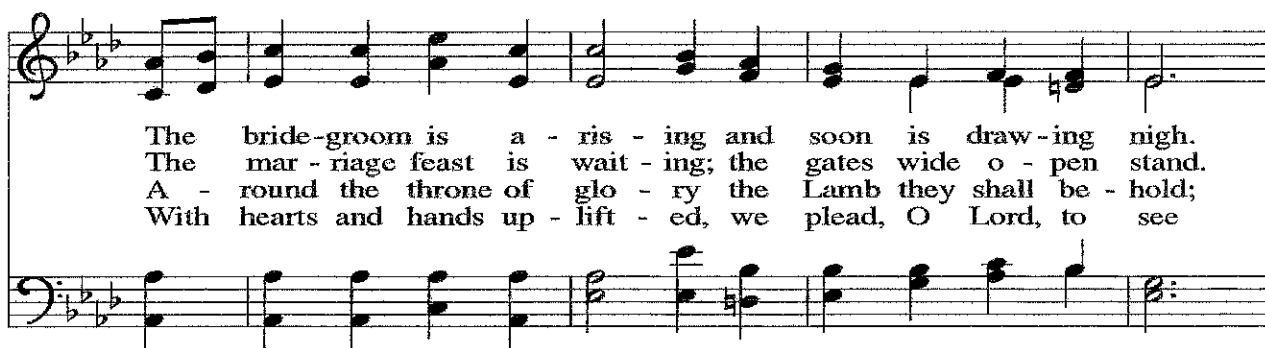
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



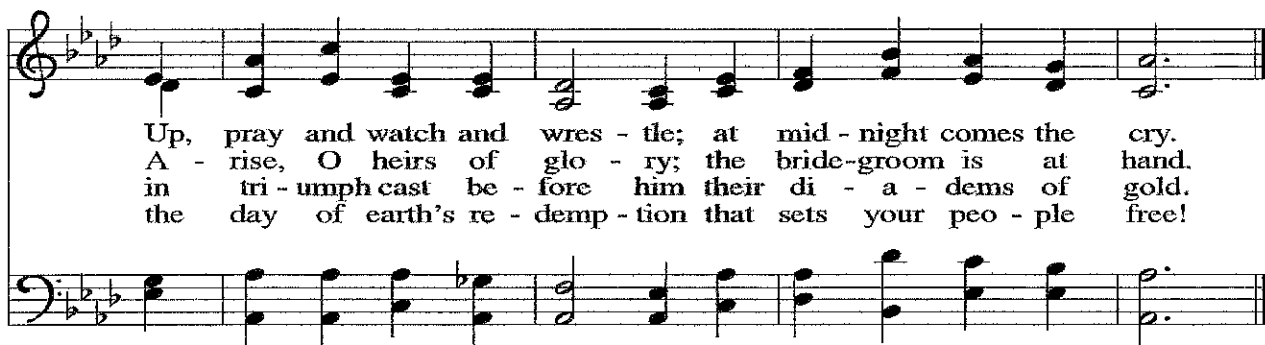
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

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.

Advent Dialogue

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength, and my might;

and has become my salvation.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

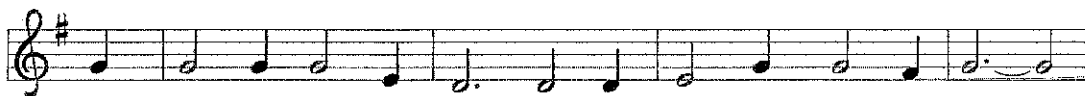
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him;

his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

Hymn of Praise

Prepare the Royal Highway

V1-12/03
V2-12/10
V3-12/17
All Verses



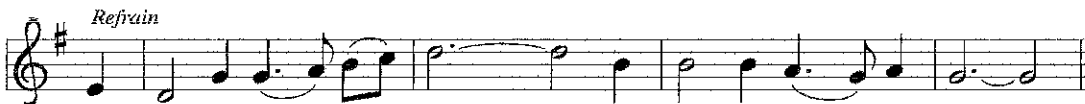
- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.....

Stir up your power,

O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

¹ Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³ And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." ⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'" ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89:1-4,19-26

1 I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

**2 For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”**

³ You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:

**4 “I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.””**

¹⁹ Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:
“I have granted help to one who is mighty;
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

**²⁰ I have found David, my servant;
with my holy oil I have anointed him,**

²¹ so that my hand shall be established with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.

**²² The enemy shall not outwit him;
the wicked shall not humble him.**

²³ I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

**²⁴ My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.**

²⁵ I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.

**²⁶ He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’**

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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.

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

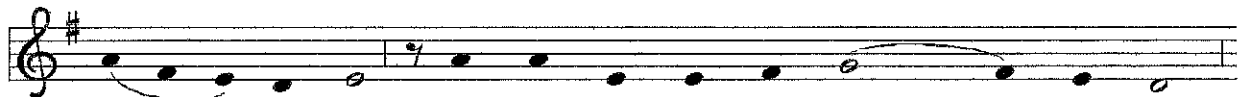
Hymn of the Day "O come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW 257 vs. 1-4

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

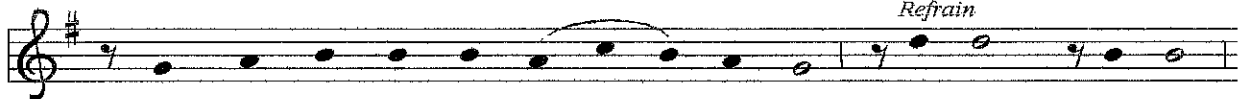
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



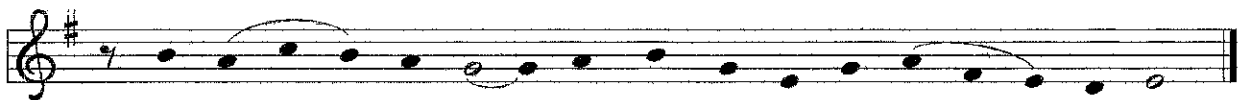
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

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

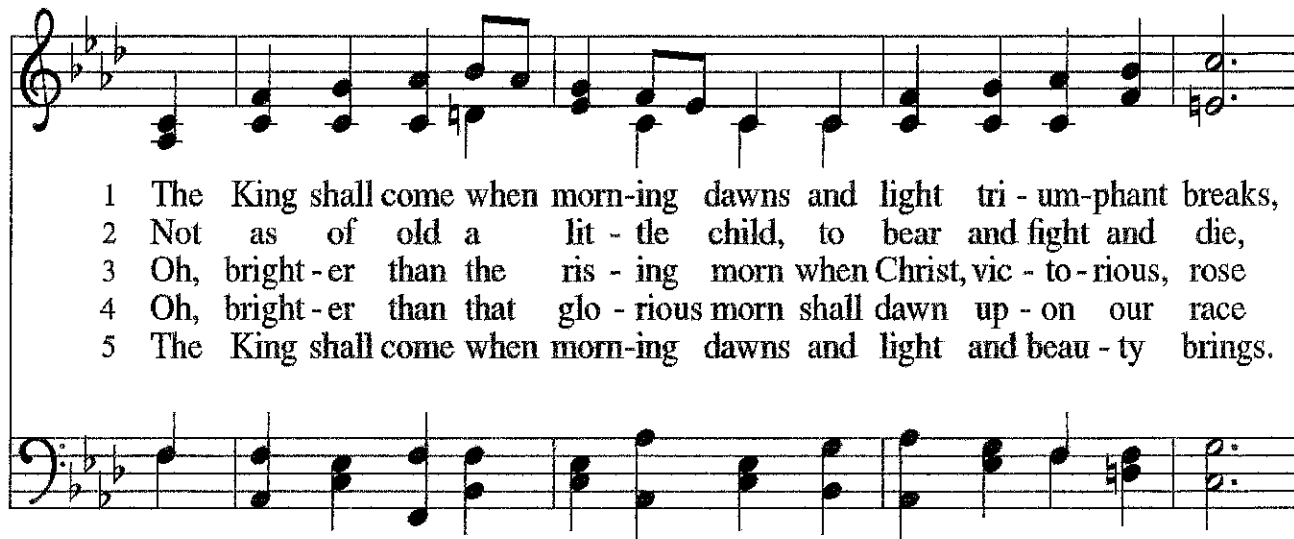
*All are welcome to the Lord's table here. Simply come forward as the ushers direct, receive the host, and then receive the wine by dipping the host into the chalice, or by individual glass. For those wishing an alternative to the wine, there is grape juice clearly marked and provided, in both the individual 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.)

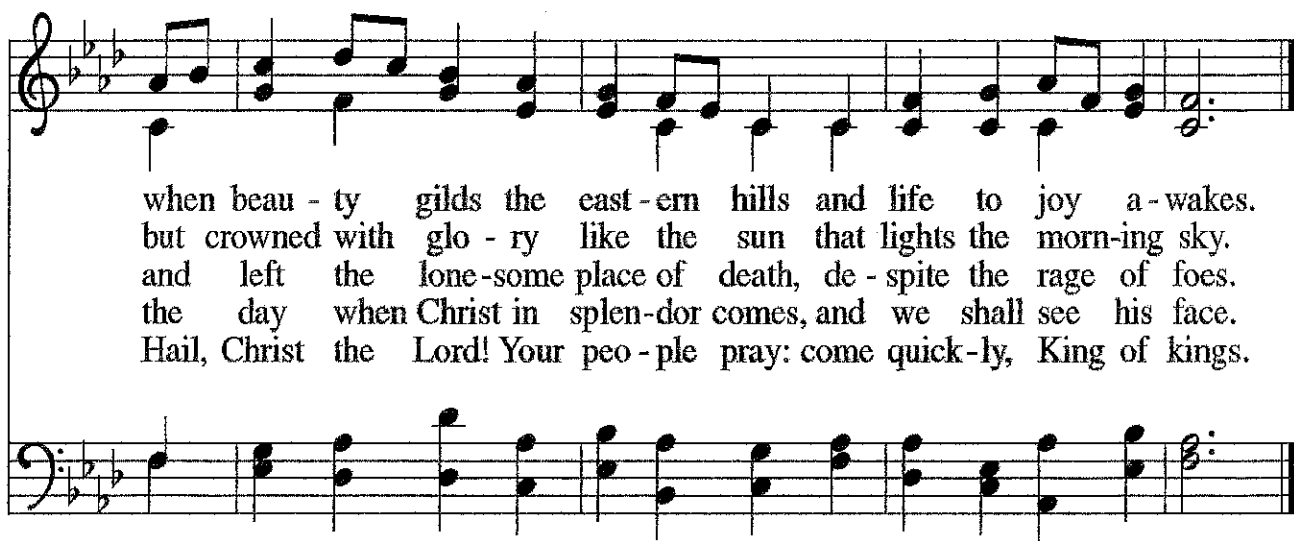
Distribution (Please be seated and come forward as the ushers direct)

Communion Songs

The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor

1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!

2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:

3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;

4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el

Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the

"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -

new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most

This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -

la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how

ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -

here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All

world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.

God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.

stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.

clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!

Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:* 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," *nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.*
será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, *Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,*
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá. *y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.*

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

MUSIC: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

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Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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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

"Joy To The World" ELW 267

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

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 25 – December 31, 2023

Tuesday	December 26, 2023	Choir Practice	4:15 p.m.
Thursday	December 28, 2023	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	December 31, 2023	Worship Service	9:00 a.m.



Next Council Meeting:

January 7, 2023

Upcoming Events:

Annual Meeting January 28, 2023

*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