



Service of Lessons and Carols

December 31, 2023

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 · PO Box 130 · Sayner, Wisconsin 54560

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

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Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org



MINSTERS: THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

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Council:

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Church Service Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

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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 January 7, 2024 :

First Reading	Genesis 1:1-5	God creates light
Psalm	29	The voice of the Lord is upon the waters
Second Reading	Acts 19:1-7	Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus
Holy Gospel	Mark 1:4-11	Revelation of Christ as God’s servant

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. We will again be continuing with the Ray Vanderlaan video series.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:

Please join us as you are able to put away the Christmas decorations.
Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

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:

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – 3:30 p.m.

CHOIR PRACTICE

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



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, and Shelle.

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.

FINANCIAL NOTES

Current Donations not Available Due to Computer/Printer Issues	
General Funds	\$ 0.00
ALWM (Vital Links)	\$ 0.00
Food Pantry	\$ 0.00
Holiday Fund	\$ 0.00
Weekend Backpack	\$ 0.00
Designated Contribution	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 0.00

Service of Lessons and Carols

*This is a Christmas version of the Lessons & Carols Worship Service,
using readings primarily from the Gospel.*

December 31st, 2023

Greeting & Announcements:

INVOCATION (PLEASE REMAIN SEATED)

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

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Opening Carol

“Once In Royal David’s City” vs.1-3 (ELW 269)

- 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

First Lesson *Micah 5: 2-5a*

Carol

“My Lord What A Morning” (ELW 438)

Refrain

My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.

1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

2 You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

3 You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

Second Lesson *Luke 1: 26-38*

Third Lesson *Luke 1: 68-79 (The Song of Zechariah, read responsively)*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

**He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,**

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

The oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

To give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

Carol

"Away In The Manger" (ELW 277)

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Fourth Lesson *Luke 2:1-20*

Carol

“Angels, From The Realms Of Glory” (ELW 275)

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

3 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Fifth Lesson Matthew 2: 1-11

Carol

“The First Noel” (ELW 300)

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

3 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Sixth Lesson Luke 2: 22-32

Carol

“Let All together Praise Our God” (ELW 287)

- 1 Let all together praise our God before the highest throne;
today God opens heav'n again and sends the only Son,
and sends the only Son.

- 2 O tender Child, you veil in flesh the splendor of your might;
a servant's garb now wraps the one who clothed the sky with light,
who clothed the sky with light.

- 3 A wonderful exchange you make: you take our flesh and blood,
and in return give us to share the shining realm of God,
the shining realm of God.

Seventh Lesson John 1:1-14

Carol

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (ELW 288)

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Prayers of the church

Sharing of the Peace *(Please share the Peace as you and your neighbor are comfortable)*

As we receive our offering and the Lord's Table is prepared, please join in singing:

“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*

Holy Communion

(Please stand as you comfortable)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Give your hearts to the Lord.

All we are belongs to the Lord our God.

Let us thank God who is born to us this night.

We praise and honor you, Child of Bethlehem.

Words of Institution

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

(Please be seated)

Distribution

Everyone is welcome to the Lord's Communion Table at Shepherd of the Lakes. Please come forward as the ushers direct, receive the bread in your hand and then receive the wine in individual glasses. The red liquid is wine, the clear liquid is grape juice. We also have gluten free wafers for those in need, simply ask for them when you come forward. Small children and others that wish not to commune may come forward for a blessing.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

Communion Hymns:

“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!

- 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!

- 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!

“The Bells Of Christmas” (ELW 298)

- 1 The bells of Christmas chime once more;
the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still
with new year gifts of peace, good will.

- 2 Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
to keep our Christmas with our king,
until our song, from loving souls,
like rushing mighty water rolls!

- 3 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
and keep your Christmas in our breast;
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
shall swell our jubilee of song.

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (ELW 283)

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

3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Communion Blessing *(Please stand as you comfortable)*

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and these gifts of his body and blood strengthen,
keep and unite us, now and forever.

Amen

Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

God of light,
**with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this supper we have
feasted on your grace. Send us forth into the world to be your holy people,
revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

Benediction

Carol

“Go Tell It On The Mountain” (ELW 290)

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Sending

Go in the Love, Life, and Light of the newborn Christ, Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.