



Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

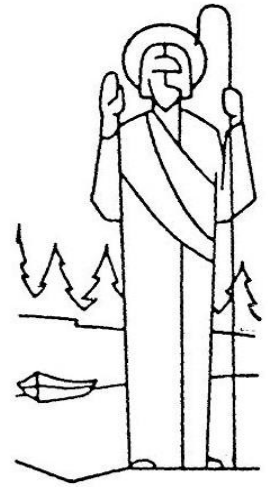
A congregation of the
**North American Lutheran Church
& Augsburg Lutheran Churches**
2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130
Sayner, Wisconsin 54560

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the
North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
and

Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org



Ministers: The people of the Parish

Council:	
President: Mike Pockat	715-892-4488
Vice President: Sharon Rice	715-479-9336
Tracey Ahlborn	612-716-6008
Jeanne Kroll	715-542-2797
Jim Luebke	262-689-5456
Ken Beier	715-891-2705

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. Here at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church we celebrate Holy Communion whenever we gather, and we would like to invite you to join us, as **all** are welcome to the Lord's table here. Thank you for joining us.*


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 7, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent:

First Reading	Malachi 3:1 - 4
Psalm	Luke 1: 68 - 79
Second Reading	Philippians 1: 3 - 11
Holy Gospel	Luke: 3: 1 - 6

Pointing to Jesus

John the Baptist is a fitting messenger for the season of Advent, a time for the church to prepare for both the nativity of the Christ and for his second coming. John's call to repentance in preparation of Jesus' arrival carries a challenge for us to rid ourselves of everything that obstructs our view. His proclamation is filled with images of cleansing: straightening paths, cutting down useless trees, and burning away chaff. John's baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins means cleansing as well as a changing of the mind, a turning toward Jesus, so that one's whole self is pointed toward the Lord of this world and of eternity.

Undistracted even by thoughts of our own worthiness, the church's focus year round is turned toward the coming of Christ. John points to Jesus, never to himself, and in so doing becomes a model for discipleship. Having heard John's cry, we join the chorus, becoming messengers in turn. All our efforts in worship and evangelism, education and social ministry point, not to ourselves, our programs, our skill or our saintliness, but only to Jesus. Preparing the way of the Lord is very much about pointing others to his real presence in and among us.

This Sunday's Isaiah reading ("the grass withers, the flower fades") and that of 2 Peter ("all things are to be dissolved") reinforce the church's teaching that amidst all that is transient in our lives, and creation, only God's word is eternal. John the Baptist's testimony points us to that Word made flesh, who brings with him a new heaven and a new earth after all else has passed away. John directs us in our faith journeys as individuals and communities toward a witness that is forever pointing to Jesus.

Thank you Karen Carter for leading our worship today.

CONTACT INFO:

Treasurer – Jean Maines (715) 542-4213 or (715) 891-3344
Email: treasurer@sotlsayner.com or jmaines2012@gmail.com

Secretary – Sharon Brooker (715) 892-7049
Email: secretary@sotlsayner.com or plclerk@gmail.com

Pastor Bill Wendorf (715) 542-3701 (Church) or 715-617-6477
Email: wendorfw@gmail.com or pastor@sotlsayner.com

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 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.

November 23, 2025

ATTENDANCE: 34

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School will be offered every Wednesday (as long as school is in session) after school. The bus will drop the children off at approximately 3:45. Lessons/project time will last until 5 pm. We welcome you to get your children - or grandchildren involved!

ALTAR FLOWERS - INFORMATION ON HOW TO SIGN UP

Contact Person - Jo Ann Kehl Cell 715-892-0413

The Sign-Up Sheets are located in the Narthex on the shelf under the Lutheran Rose.

STEP ONE:

Sign up for the date you wish to provide the set of two altar bouquets

STEP TWO:

You can provide flowers in two ways:

1. You may purchase your own flowers and bring them to church.

2. You may contact Jo Ann Kehl and she will order them for you. Just let her know what flowers you would like and how much you would like to spend. You can then write a check to Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church for that amount and designate it as ***Altar Flower Donation.*** ANY QUESTIONS? Contact Jo Ann

CALL COMMITTEE

Here are the Call Committee members. Please feel free to contact them if you have any questions.

Lloyd Andersen	(715) 892-3513
Karen Carter	(715) 542-4049 or (715) 525-1733
Ginger Eade	(608) 317-9563
Shawn McCormick	(715) 605-2552
Joanne Pierce	(414) 477-5804
Charlie Rice – Chairman	(715) 617-1398 or (715) 479-9336

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 10 am. The study will again be based on “The Chosen”.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Come and join the choir, practice at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, from now until Christmas. Men's voices needed!!

NO CHOIR PRACTICE THIS SUNDAY DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING DINNER!!

MATCHING FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

We have an end of year matching financial challenge of \$25,000 through the end of the year. Which means all donations, up to \$25,000, will be matched. In this holiday season, please prayerfully consider making an end-of-year donation. These donations will be part of our general fund for future projects. Thank you.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for those dealing with current issues:

Carolyn, Beth, Shirley, John, Kim, Dick

(Please let us know if/when names should be removed from this "current issues" list or moved to "ongoing list")

Pray for those with ongoing health issues:

Larry, Mary Lou, Graham, Ericka, Shelle, Sharon G., and Ron

Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:

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

Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:

Elisabeth

Pray for peace and consoling comfort for the families of those who have passed:

Family of Doug Tarkowski

Family of Betty Wentzel, cousin of Joan McKay

Family of Brian Pierce, son of Tom and Joanne Pierce

Family of Christopher Rice, son of Charlie and Sharon Rice

Please email Jean Maines at treasurer@SOTLSayner.com or text her at 715-891-3344 or contact Sharon Brooker at plclerk@gmail.com or text her at 715-892-7049 if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list or if you are in need of prayers.

L^{👁️👁️}KING FOR HELP

We continue a search for financial positions here at Shepherd. If you are interested in volunteering for a position as Head Counter or Treasurer, please contact Jean at 715-891-3344 for more information.

- Head Counter would be responsible for supervising the counting team and preparing records for the Financial Secretary.
- Treasurer would need to be comfortable with QuickBooks and accounting. This position is a paid position.

All position applicants need to be able to pass a background check and sign a confidentiality contract.

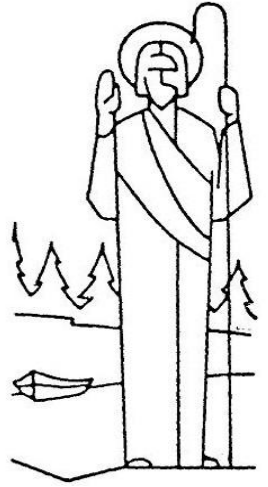
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

The budget committee will be meeting on Thursday, December 4th at 1:00 p.m. at the church. Anyone is welcome to attend and offer their input.

DOUG TARKOWSKI CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Doug Tarkowski Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, December 6th at Shepherd of the Lakes Church. Visitation will be from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the Church. The service will be held at 11:00, with a luncheon to follow. All are welcome to share your memories.

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church
A Member Congregation of The North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
and
Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)
1st Sunday in Advent, November 30, 2025



Greeting & Announcements

First Advent Candle

(Please remain seated)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Christ is our light. By grace he came, in power he rose;
we wait for Christ to come again.**

(The first candle of Advent is lit.)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For God has looked favorably upon God's people and redeemed them.

**God has raised up a mighty Savior for us, as promised through the mouth
of the prophets to save us from our enemies, so we might serve God
without fear in holiness and righteousness before God all our days.**

By the tender mercy of 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.**

Invocation

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us come before God in confession of our sins known and unknown,
things said or left unsaid, things done or left undone.

Prayer of Confession

To you, O God,
**we lift up our souls. You know us through and through;
we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins;
remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways; teach us your paths;
and lead us in peace and truth,
for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.**
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


Gathering Song

“My Lord, What a Morning” LBW 438

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

My Lord, What a Morning

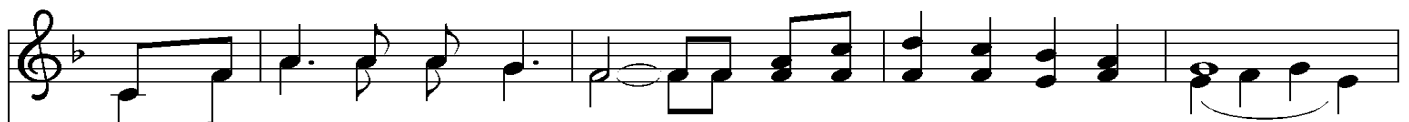
Refrain



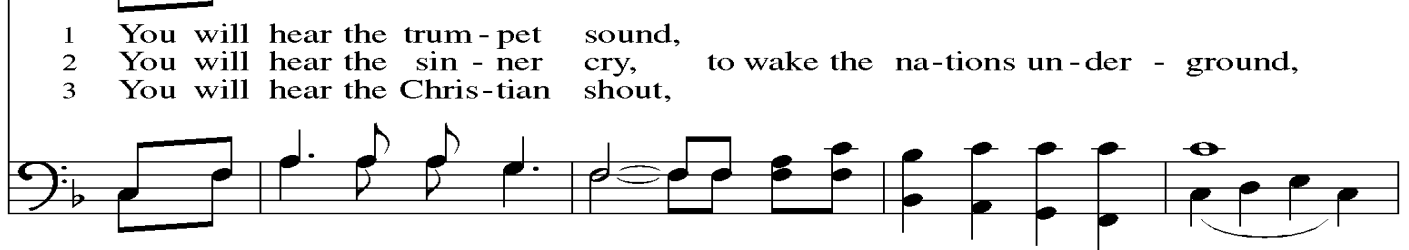
My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



Refrain



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.



Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

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.

Opening 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.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray....

Stir up your power,

O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading Isaiah 2: 1-5

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 122

- ¹ I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
- ² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- ³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
- ⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**
- ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**
- ⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
- ⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**
- ⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading Romans 13: 11-14

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

The Holy Gospel According to....

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading Matthew 24: 36-44

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

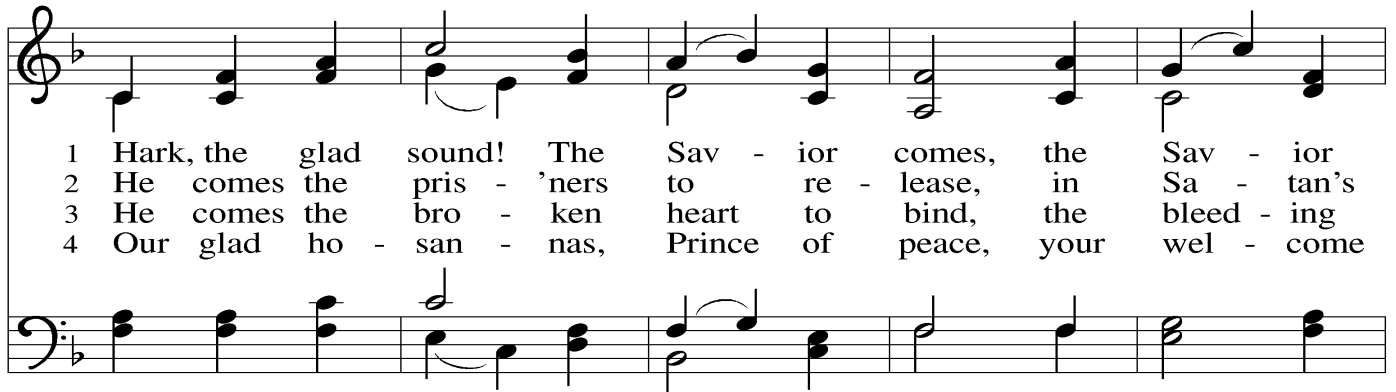
Sermon

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

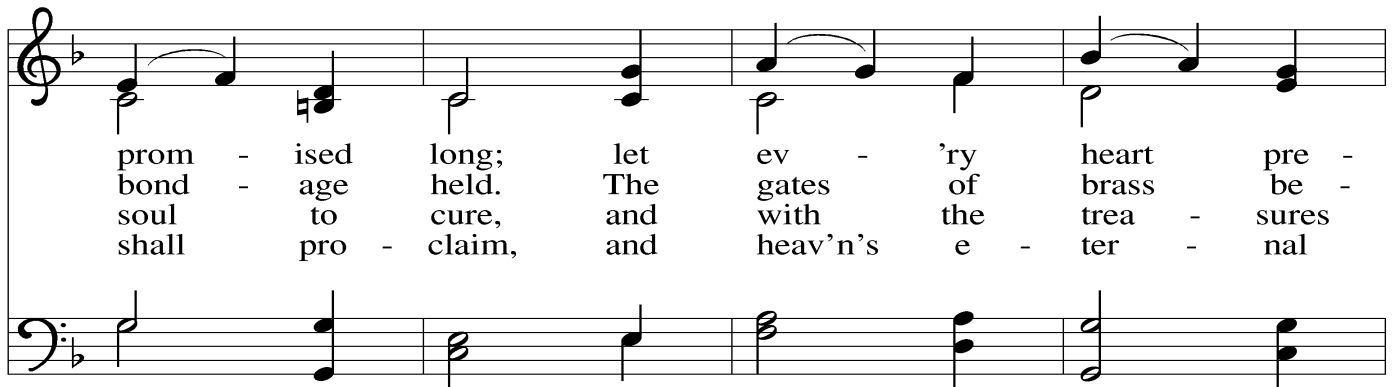
Hymn of the Day

“Hark, the Glad Sound” ELW 239

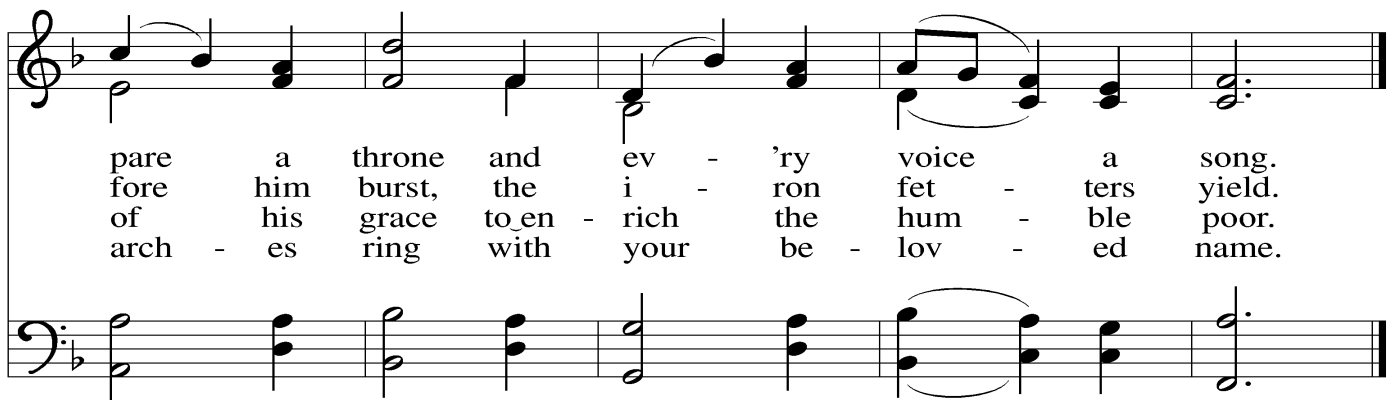
Hark, the Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, He rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the Church

Sharing of the Peace *(Please stand as you are comfortable)*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please share the peace as you 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 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."*

Presentation Of Gifts *(Please stand as you are comfortable)*

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray;

O Lord our God,

Maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Service of Distribution)

As we gather before these **consecrated** elements of bread and wine for the celebration of Holy Communion, we hear again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, he 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."

We are given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As we prepare to receive this bread of life and this cup of blessing, we pray that we may be strengthened through our participation in the body of Christ.

I invite you to join with me and let us pray with confidence the words that our Savior gave us.

Lords 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

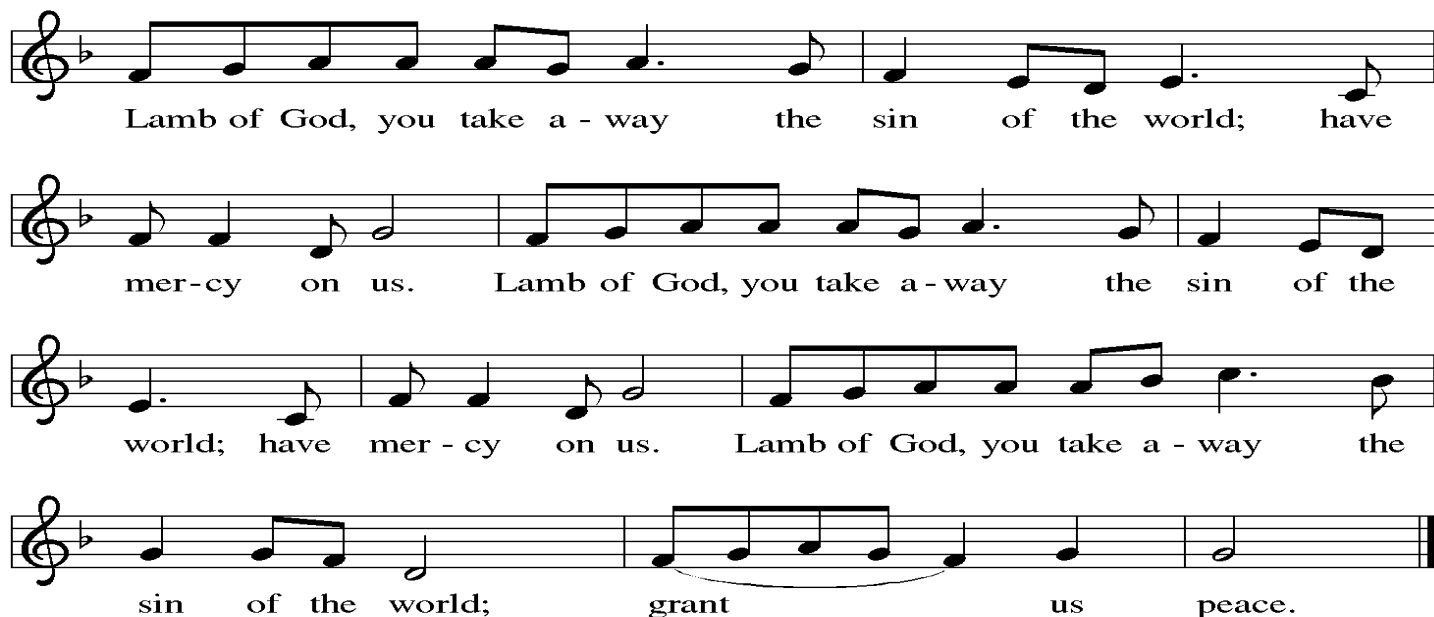
All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Small children and others that wish not to commune may come forward for a blessing.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

Please come forward as the ushers direct, receive the bread in your hand and then receive the wine by dipping the host into the wine (chalice). Grape juice is also offered as an alternative to the wine in the clear chalice. We also have gluten free wafers for those in need, simply ask for them when you come forward.

Distribution

(Please come forward as the ushers direct)



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

Communion Hymns

“All Earth is Hopeful” ELW 266

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:*
“De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,”
será “Dios con nosotros,” hermano será,
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.

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.

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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Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
“Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

Communion Blessing

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Prayer

God for whom we wait,

In this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing/Benediction

Almighty God, Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit, bless you all, now and forever.

Amen

Sending Hymn

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” ELW 244

Please stand as you are able

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'ring 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!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Dismissal

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 1 – December 7, 2025

Wednesday	December 3, 2025	Church School	3:45 p.m.
Thursday	December 4, 2025	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Thursday	December 4, 2025	Budget Meeting	1:00 p.m.
Saturday	December 6, 2025	Doug Tarkowski Memorial Service	11:00 a.m.
Sunday	December 7, 2025	Worship Service – 2 nd Sunday of Advent	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	December 7, 2025	Choir Practice	10:30 a.m.

Next Council Meeting:

December 7, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 24th

*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



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Lutheran Churches
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