

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**

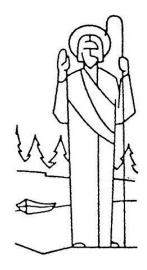
A member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

**Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)** 

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

**Ministers: The people of the Parish** 

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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 <a href="https://www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org">www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org</a>

and look for the **Synulube** 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 28, 2025 First Sunday of Christmas:

First Reading Isaiah 63: 7-9

**Psalm** 148

**Second Reading** Hebrews 2:10-18 **Holy Gospel** Matthew 2: 13-23

## Joy and Sorrow at Christmas

The joy-filled carols of Christmas still seem to echo in the nave as the assembly gathers for worship. There is praise of God in the psalm this day as the psalmist sings of the Lord present in all creation even as the same creation reveals a Creator worthy of praise. Still, our joy is not complete for sin continues, even in these days. Herod, bent on destroying Jesus, orders the murders of the youngest children of Bethlehem. Even today the distress present in a dangerous and unjust human society presses in. Human sin severs our relationships with God and one another.

In the midst of our distress, Jesus comes in flesh and blood and is proclaimed in today's readings to be fully human, and even vulnerable, just as we are. Yet the Christ child also is Lord and Savior. Even while Herod plots, God makes a way to use this for good. Guiding Joseph by dreams, Jesus and his family are saved and the words of Hosea 11:1 are fulfilled. In this way we are reminded once more this is no ordinary child, this is the Christ child, the Messiah, the one sent to save and redeem a broken and sinful humanity.

Once more we discover God does not simply fix our lives, removing all obstacles and difficulties. Instead, God uses the harsh realities of life as opportunities for the gospel to be proclaimed, hope to triumph, and grace to shine forth. This is Jesus, our Emmanuel, God with us, when we flee to Egypt and as we return to dwell in Nazareth.

#### **CONTACT INFO:**

Treasurer – Jean Maines (715) 542-4213 or (715) 891-3344 Email: <u>treasurer@sotlsayner.com</u> or <u>jamaines2012@gmail.com</u>

Secretary – Sharon Brooker (715) 892-7049 Email: <a href="mailto:secretary@sotlsayner.com">secretary@sotlsayner.com</a> or <a href="mailto:plclerk@gmail.com">plclerk@gmail.com</a>

#### **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.

#### TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 10 am. The study is based on "The Chosen". **This Bible study will not be held on December 23, 2025!** 

#### **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

#### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We will be holding Christmas Eve worship service at 4 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Bring a friend and let's celebrate the birth of our Savior together! We will be celebrating Holy Communion and all are welcome. There will be no Christmas Day Service!

#### 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.

#### Pray for those dealing with current issues:

Jim, 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., Ron, Carolyn, Beth, Shirley, John, Kim,

#### **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 Brian Pierce, son of Tom and Joanne Pierce

Family of Christopher Rice, son of Charlie and Sharon Rice

Family of Betty Wentzel, cousin of Joan McKay

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

#### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIEAS**

As we celebrate the Christmas season, Dee Burlingame has adorned the sanctuary with six beautiful poinsettias. Thank you Dee!

#### **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

## **CHOIR REHEARSALS**

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



#### LOOKING FOR TECHNICAL HELP

On occasion, when Jennie (the organist) isn't here or if something else comes up, we would like someone to be able to step in and help with the technical part of our service. Please let Sharon Brooker know if you would be interested in this.

Please welcome Pastor Richard Little presiding at our service today.

## **Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church**

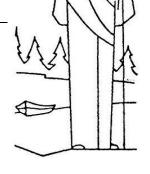
A Member Congregation of The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and

Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC) 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025



**Lighting Of The Advent Candles** 

(Please remain seated)



**Fourth Sunday of Advent** 

(Candle Litany)

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 four candles of Advent are lit.)

From Bethlehem shall come forth the one who will rule in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days.

He shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They shall live secure, for he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

God has helped us, according to the promise God made. The Lord's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.

#### 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.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit.

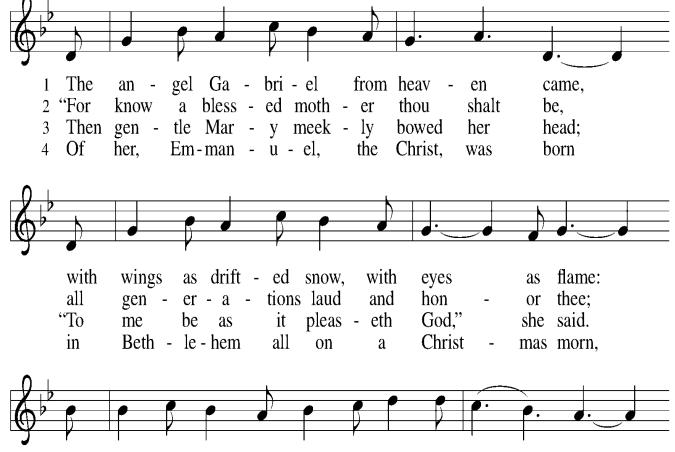
#### Amen

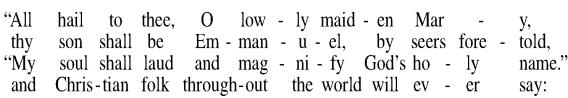
## **Gathering Song**

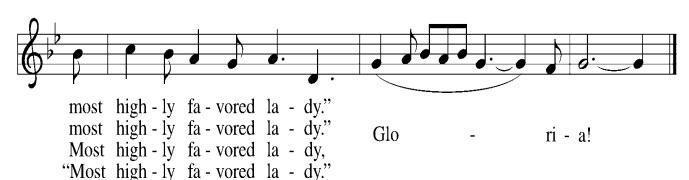
## "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" ELW 265

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

## The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came







Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

## 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. 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 Isaiah 7: 10-16

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** (*Read Responsively*)

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup> In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>O Lord God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup> You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup> Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.
- <sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- 19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

## **Second Reading** Romans 1: 1-7

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 1: 18-25

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

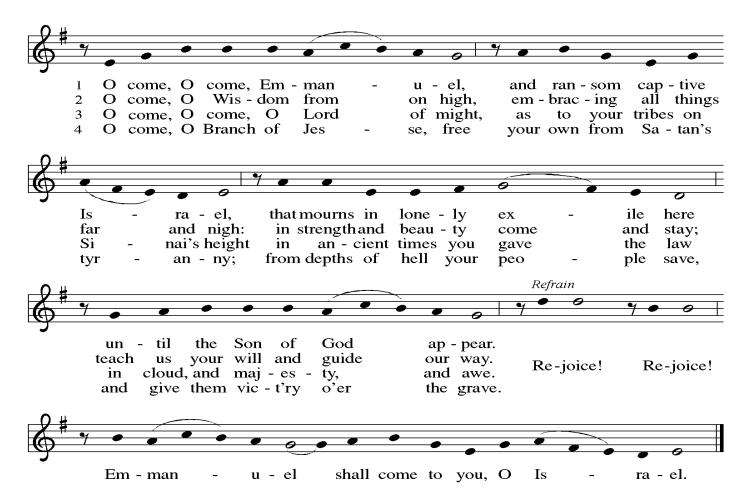
(Please be Seated)

## Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

#### "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW 257

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



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

## **Apostle's 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.

#### **Words Of Institution**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

## **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.

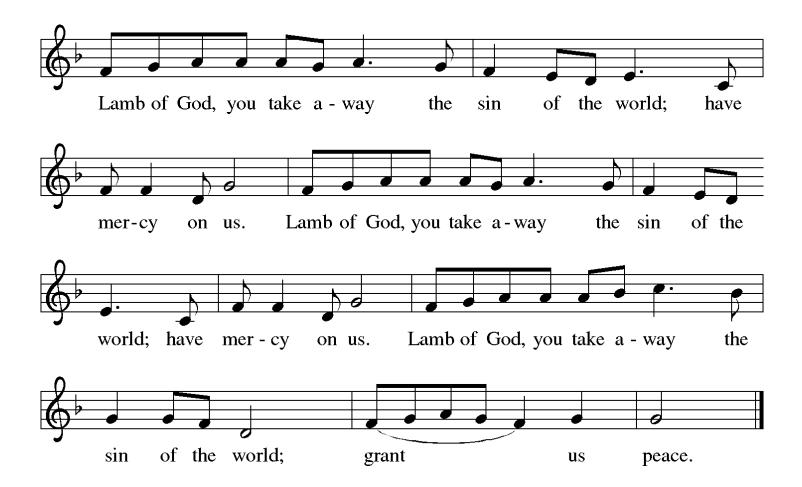
#### **Invitation**

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.

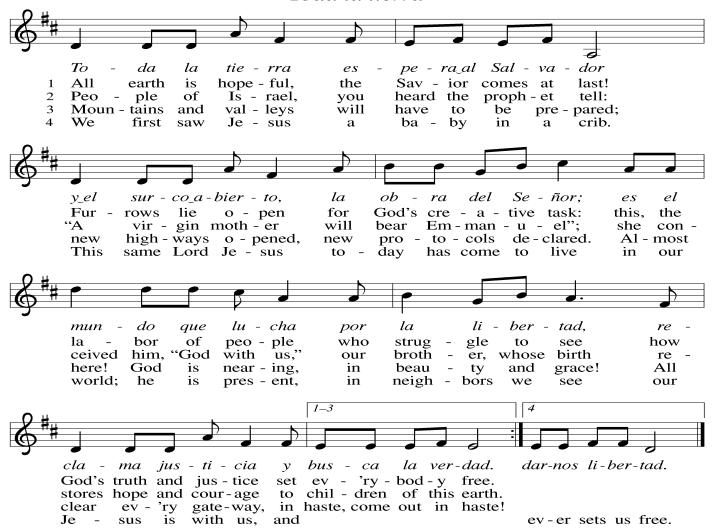
#### **Distribution**



#### "All Earth is Hopeful" ELW 266

## 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.
- 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 Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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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, 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,  $\dagger$  and Holy Spirit, bless you all, now and forever.

#### Amen

## Joy to the World



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

#### **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 22 – December 28, 2025

Wednesday	<b>December 24, 2025</b>	Christmas Eve Service	4:00 p.m.
Thursday	December 25, 2025	Merry Chrístmas!	No Service today!
Sunday	December 28, 2025	Worship Service	9:00 a.m.

#### **Next Council Meeting:**

To be determined

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Christmas Eve Service at 4 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Thomas Reiff, Candlelight Service No service on Christmas Day!

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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