



Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 Sayner, Wisconsin 54560

A member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
And
Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

January 4, 2026

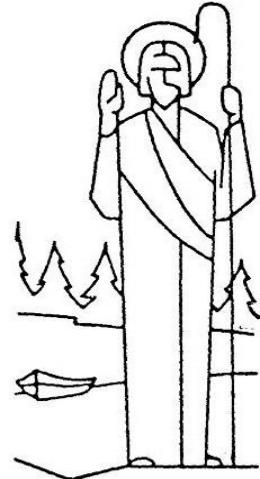
Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the
North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
and
Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)
Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

Church Phone Number: (715) 542-3701

Ministers: The people of the Parish

Council:	
President: Mike Pockat	715-892-4488
Vice President: Sharon Rice	715-891-0259
Tracey Ahlborn	612-716-6008
Jim Luebke	262-689-5456
Jeanne Kroll	715-542-2797
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 January 11, 2026 Baptism of Our Lord:

First Reading	Isaiah 42: 1-9
Psalm	29
Second Reading	Acts 10: 34-43
Holy Gospel	Matthew 3: 13-17

Reflecting the Grace of God

In sharp contrast to the image of Jacob, who wrestles with an angel and prevails, in today's first reading the Lord redeems Jacob from hands too strong for him. Jacob does not always prevail. We too are reminded this day that it is not our own strength but God's power that blesses, strengthens, fills, gives, and grants peace. God has the power to bring together and to scatter. God creates family not because we are God's blood relatives but through adoption. In baptism we are claimed, redeemed, and forgiven. We receive wisdom and are lavished with grace. We are marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit. We receive an inheritance. Through God's powerful gift, we are gathered up, become children of God, and receive grace upon grace.

Receiving this gift of grace we are called to live as children of the light. In this holy calling we have John the Baptist as our guide. You can tell the story of Jesus leaving out all sorts of important details. In John's gospel the shepherds, angels, and manger are all absent. But the gospel writers agree, you cannot tell the story of Jesus without John the Baptist. You simply must have the one who comes solely to point others to Jesus. This is our calling as well. We who are forgiven and redeemed, we who are claimed and called, are the ones who point to Jesus. We do this with our lives; we do this with our words. We point to Jesus when we feed the hungry, when we invite those we know and love to know the gift of grace we see in Jesus. We point to Jesus when we allow the holy light of the season to shine through all we do and all are.

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.

December 28, 2025

ATTENDANCE: Church cancelled due to snow/ice!

IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT

**Mike Pockat, Council President (715) 892-4488 or
Sharon Rice, Council Vice-President (715) 891-0259**

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

CONTACT INFO:

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

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

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”.

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



PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for those dealing with current issues:

Jim C., Dick, Crystal, Amy R.

(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, Mike, Shelle, Sharon G., Bob B., 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:

Special Prayers

Please keep our church council, the Call Committee and every member of this congregation in your prayers as we search for a new Shepherd.

*Please or 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.*



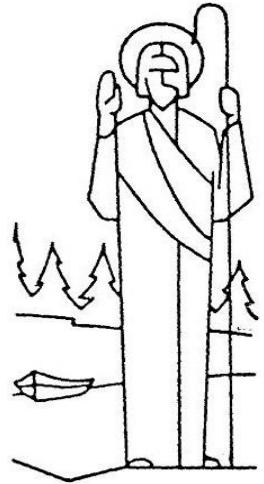
Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A Member Congregation of The North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
and
Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)
“2nd Sunday after Christmas, Jan. 4th, 2026”

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage 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

Gathering Song "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ELW 283 (Please stand as you are comfortable)
O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

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

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

But the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray....

Almighty God,
you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading Jeremiah 31:7-14

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:12-20 *(Read Responsively)*

¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
 praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates
 and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
 and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth,
 a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
 scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
 Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
 the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob,
 statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
 they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

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 **John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Of The Father’s Love Begotten” ELW 295

Of the Father’s Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa - ther’s love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav’n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow’rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world’s re -
 prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be -
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

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

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, 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."

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

(Service Of Distribution)

The Lord be with you..... **and also with you.**

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.

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.**

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. All is ready, all are welcome, our Lord and Savior invites us.

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

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 “Spirit of Gentleness” ELW 396

Spirit of Gentleness

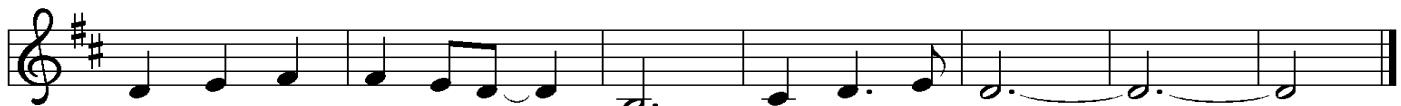
Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



1 You moved on the wa - - ters, you called to the deep,
 2 You swept through the des - - ert, you stung with the sand,
 3 You sang in a sta - - ble, you cried from a hill,
 4 You call from to - mor - - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
 then you whis - pered in si - - lence when the whole world was still;
 From the bond - age of sor - - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - - ons you called to each thing:
 and when they were blind - - ed with i - dols and lies,
 and down in the cit - - y you called once a - gain,
 our wom - en see vi - - sions, our men clear their eyes.



Refrain

“A - - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
 then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
 when you blew through your peo - - ple on the rush of the wind.
 With . . . bold new de - ci - - sions your peo-ple a - rise.

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940

Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley

Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

“Let Us Break Bread Together” ELW 471

Let Us Break Bread Together

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

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

“As With the Gladness Men of Old” ELW 302

As with Gladness Men of Old

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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 January 5 – January 11, 2026

Wednesday	January 7, 2026	Church School	3:45 p.m.
Thursday	January 8, 2026	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	January 11, 2026	Worship Service	9:00 a.m.

Next Council Meeting:

Upcoming Events:

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



**Augsburg
Lutheran Churches
(ALC)**
Augsburglutheranchurches.org



**North American
Lutheran Church
(NALC)**
thenalc.org