



Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130 Sayner, Wisconsin 54560

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

And

Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

March 8, 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

(715) 542-3701

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
Ken Beier	715-891-2705
Jim Luebke	262-689-5456
Joanne Pierce	414-477-5804
Shawn McCormick	715-605-2552

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 March 15 , 2026 4th Sunday of Lent

First Reading	1 Samuel 16: 1-13
Psalms	23
Second Reading	Ephesians 5: 8-14
Holy Gospel	John 9: 1-41

God's Eyes Are Not Our Eyes

One heresy in the early church was called Donatism. The Donatists held that the sacraments were only efficacious if presided over by priests who were sinless. It didn't take the church long to realize that if it held to this policy there would be no sacraments for anyone. So if the gospel can be proclaimed through the preaching of a sinner, then we must allow for the possibility that God's healing may be accomplished through extraordinary means. God chooses a boy too young to be taken seriously to anoint as one chosen to lead Israel. When the prophet Samuel is sent by God to find the new king who will replace Saul, Samuel goes through a long line of all Jesse's tall, strapping, competent-looking sons of appropriate age. When none of them are chosen, finally Jesse sends for young David. All of the obvious-to-us choices were declined in favor of a boy. What we may see as authoritative, respectable, and trustworthy may not always align with God. Today's first reading reminds us that "the Lord does not see as mortals see" (1 Sam. 16:7).

This theme of sight runs throughout today's texts, both in terms of how God does not see as we see and also in Jesus' healing of a man born blind. Jesus chooses to heal a blind man on the sabbath with dirt and saliva, much to the dismay of the good religious people who were certain they knew better than to display such questionable judgment and behavior. Lent is a time to reevaluate. Let it also be a time to examine the ways in which we do not see what God is doing around us because we too think we know better. Bottom line: God often uses the unexpected to accomplish redemption.

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

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.

ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH 1, 2026: 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

LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesday evening services will be held after Soup Supper at 5:15 pm. Please join us for the Soup Supper and then join us for the Lenten Services at 6:00 p.m.. St. Germain will be joining us for Maundy Thursday and Easter Vigil on Saturday.

Holy Week Services

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm

Friday, April 3

St. Germain Comm. Church will be having a Good Friday Service at their church at 1 pm – Please join them if you prefer an earlier service.

Good Friday Service 6 pm

Saturday, April 4

Easter Vigil 7:00 pm (St. Germain Community Church)

Sunday, April 5

Easter Breakfast 7:30 am
Easter Worship Service 9 am
Fellowship to follow

QUILTING GROUP

The quilting group is back to meeting on the third Wednesday of each month, at 9:00 a.m. You don't have to be a quilter to join – they welcome those who can tie knots also!

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”.

BUTTERFLIES NEEDED

The church will again be decorating the sanctuary with paper butterflies for Easter. Please help yourself to the traced butterflies in the Narthex and decorate them however you wish. Please indicate on them if you wish them to be in memory or in honor of someone.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir is again looking for singers! Practice will be every Sunday after service at 10:30 from now until Easter. Please join us!!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for those dealing with current issues:

Jim C., Dick, Alyce, Theresa, Joan's brother David, Tracey

(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

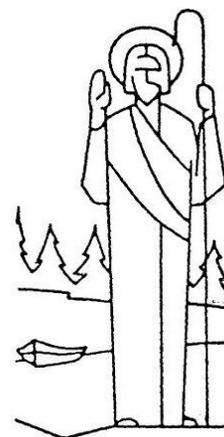
Pray for peace and consoling comfort for the families of those who have passed:

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
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Third Sunday In Lent, March 8, 2026



Greeting & Announcements

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Gracious God,

Our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Amen.

(Book of Common Worship)

Words of Forgiveness

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✠ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

Amen.

Gathering Song

“Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty” ELW 777

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty



- 1 “Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 “Come to me, all trav-’lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 “Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.
- 4 “Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live.”
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest.”
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face.”
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name.”

Refrain



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">5 “Come to me, distressed and needy;
I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer,
come, your open hands extend.” <i>Refrain</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6 “Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer,
let me make in you my home.” <i>Refrain</i> |
|--|---|

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

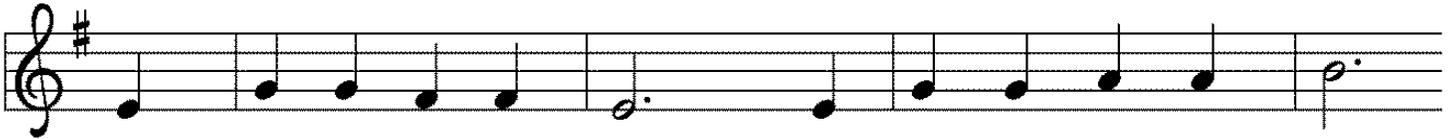
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Apostolic Greeting

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.

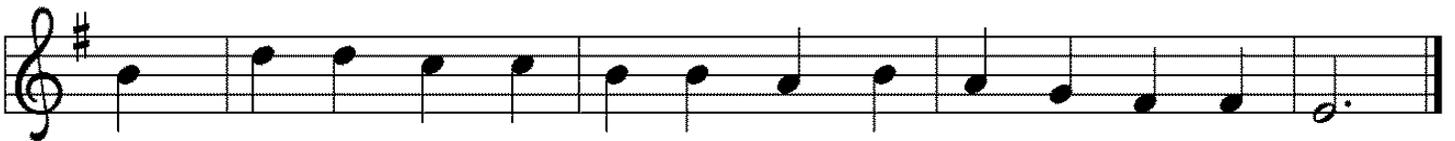
Kyrie (sung by all)



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord,

Your Kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please greet your neighbor as you and your neighbor are comfortable, then be seated)

First Reading

Exodus 17: 1-7

The Word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95

¹ Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

² **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

³ For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴ **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶ **Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

⁷ For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the
sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

⁸ **"Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

⁹ There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

¹¹ Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.'"

Second Reading

Romans 5: 1-11

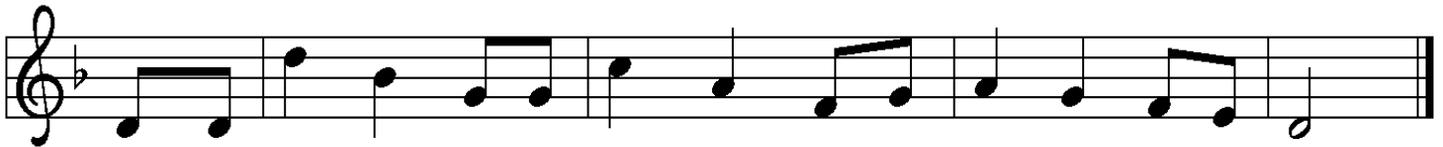
The Word of the Lord...
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

(Please stand as you are comfortable)



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The Holy Gospel According to....
Glory to you, O Lord.

John 4: 5-42

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" ELW 335

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

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

Offering

(As we receive our offering, our Lord's table is prepared)

Prayer

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

God of mercy and grace,

The eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

Holy Communion

The 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.

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

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.

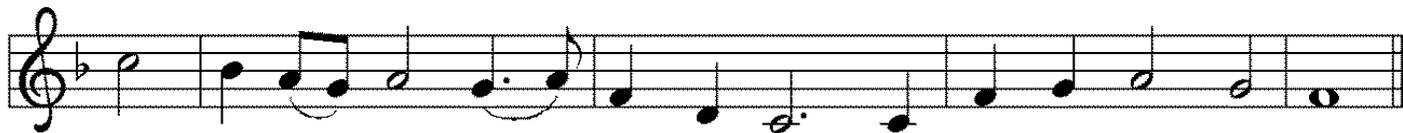
Communion Distribution

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” ELW 803

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

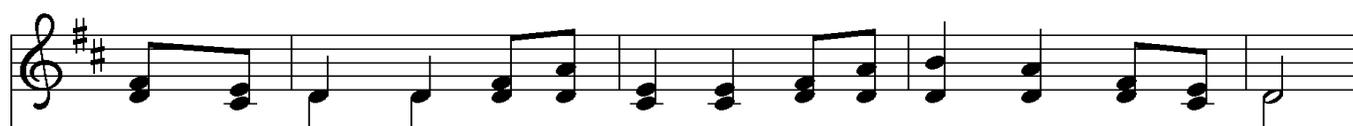
Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” ELW 807

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: “Hith-er by thy help I’ve come”;
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I’m con - strained to be;



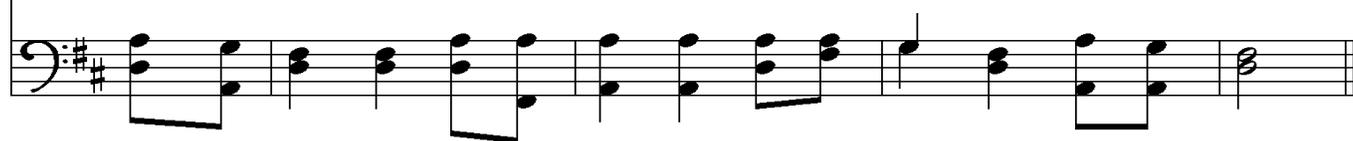
streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d’ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d’ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.



Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Post Communion Blessing

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which you have now received, strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

O God,

You made us from the dust of the earth. Now filled and nourished with the body and blood of your Son, raise us up and help us turn toward you with open hearts, beholding your glory, that by your grace we may receive everlasting life.

Amen.

Blessing

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

Amen

Sending Hymn

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW 618

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and 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 March 9 to March 15, 2026

Tuesday	March 10, 2026	Bible Study “The Chosen”	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday	March 11, 2026	Church School	3:45 p.m.
Wednesday	March 11, 2026	Soup Supper	5-6 p.m.
Wednesday	March 11, 2026	Mid-Week Lenten Service Led by Barb Maines	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 12, 2026	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	March 15, 2026	Worship Service	9:00 a.m.

Next Council Meeting:

Today, March 8, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events:

Holy Week Services

*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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