

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church Season of Advent 2020

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Sayner, Wisconsin

2903 State Hwy. 155, Sayner, WI 54560 715-542-3701 Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

MINSTERS:

THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

LLM: William Wendorf

715-617-6477

Council President: Sharon Geist

715-892-7486

Church Services are held on Sundays at 9:00 am.



WELCOME GUESTS

We invite you to sign our guest book and/or complete a visitor card to help us remember you. Please let us know if we can serve you in any way. Everyone is welcome to Holy Communion at Shepherd of the Lakes. Come forward as ushers direct, receive the wafer in your hand and move to the wine which is served in individual portions. We offer grape juice as an alternative to wine. Gluten-free wafers are also available at your request from communion servers when you partake.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are a loving community that follows Jesus & seeks to hear the Word of God and practice it in our daily lives.

Recorded Services:

All Sunday services at Shepherd of the Lakes are recorded and put on You Tube. Go to the Church website at www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

and look for the symbol. Click on this symbol to take you to the Church's YouTube site.

Current Week Hymn Numbers:

O Come, O Come ELW 257 Verses 1, 3, 8

Savior of the Nations ELW 263 Verses 1-3

Blessed be the God ELW250 Verses 1 - 3

Current Week Readings:

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

In Place of Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

PRAYER REQUESTS



(Please note: "Current issue" listings remain in the bulletin for three weeks and then are removed unless instructions are received to move that listing to the "ongoing health issues" list.)

Pray for those dealing with current issues:

<u>Continue to pray</u> for those in the world affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for our world leaders, church leaders, and Shepherd of the Lakes leaders so that they may help to meet the needs of those they serve as we move forward in these everchanging times.

Pray for those with ongoing health issues:

Larry & Joannie Stephenson, Arlene Dreyfus, Rich Kysiak, Julie Smith, Gus Tarre, Carolynn Brink, Elaine's son-in-law Rodney, Ramona Schaeffel, and Tom & Carol Miles.

<u>Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces</u>: Jeff Hammer, Brian Krieck, Adam & Brittany Recob, Brooks Maines, Will Schmidt, Sgt. Keara Kangas, Alex Bauer, Jared Mann, Noah Storaasli, and Zachary Raatz.

Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:

Ramona Schaeffel, Mel & Barb Harvey, and Elisabeth Jacobsen.

Please email Bill Wendorf at pastor@SOTLsayner.com or Jean Maines at secretary@SOTLsayner.com if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list. Prayer requests are sent out via email.

If anyone is interested in being the contact person for the prayer chain, please contact Bill Wendorf or Sharon Geist

3rd Sunday of Advent

Those Who Hear and Do

Who is God's family? Where is God's home? In the church we often speak of our home parish as a family. Many of us grew up thinking of the church building as God's house. But the readings for this day call us to anticipate that Emmanuel might understand kinship and home in different ways. As we approach Christmas, which in our culture is increasingly a celebration of hearth and home more than a public festival, the inclusiveness of God's promise rings out from these readings.

The temple often stood in the imagination of Israel as the "house of God," but in 1 Samuel God expresses reservations before the temple is even built. The promise made to David is not about the building. Instead of the expected places of wealth and power, God chooses to dwell in a *people* instead of a "house of cedar" (2 Sam. 7:2, 7).

So if God is dwelling in a people, who is included in *that* promise? Although no one disputes that Jesus is born of the "house of David," Luke's gospel stresses Mary's lowliness instead of her bloodlines, reminding us that Christ became flesh in the most unlikely circumstances. Later in Luke's gospel, when someone mentions his family to Jesus, he says his family includes all "who hear the word of God and do it" (8:21). In today's gospel we see Mary acting out that definition of family.

Season of Advent

December 20, 2020

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH SERVICES:

Regular Sunday morning services at 9:00 am.

Masks will be required in the sanctuary for the services. If you cannot wear a mask for health reasons, areas will be set aside for your use. All are welcome.

The service will be recorded and available for viewing on YouTube later on Sundays.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is scheduled for December 24, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

PASTOR'S HOLIDAY DISCRETIONARY FUND:

We are once again collecting funds for the Pastor's Holiday Discretionary Fund. Last year we handed out Walmart and Sentry gift cards to individuals and families who sincerely appreciated the gifts. We also send donations to the service organizations in the area who help those in need. Thank you for your dedication to this mission.

MITTEN TREE:

The Mitten Tree is nearly empty! Thank you, thank you to all! The last day to put your Walmart gift cards into the box is next Sunday, December 20th. (The gift cards will be delivered to the Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence (Rhinelander) the next morning so that recipients will have the time to purchase needed gifts.)

OFFERINGS:

Now that we are back to having services at church, your choices for giving are back to three. You can give your offering in church, mail your offering, or use the online giving through **PayPal** on the church website. As always, your generosity to this church and our missions, is overwhelming. In a time when so many churches are suffering, the health and well-being of your church and our missions is humbling.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

(Candle Litany and Prayer)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Voice 1: We bring our Advent wreath to brighter light, in anticipation of that full blaze of light on Christmas. When to us a child is born, to us a son is given. May we know the love in this wonder of Emmanuel, God with us.

Voice 2: Let us pray. Dear God, as our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion, grant us the courage to share your love.

Love for the unexpected challenge in our lives,

Love for the vulnerable one in our midst.

Love for the presence of God in all creation. **Amen**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (PLEASE REMAIN SEATED)

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.

Let us come before God in confession.

Prayer of Confession

To you, O God,

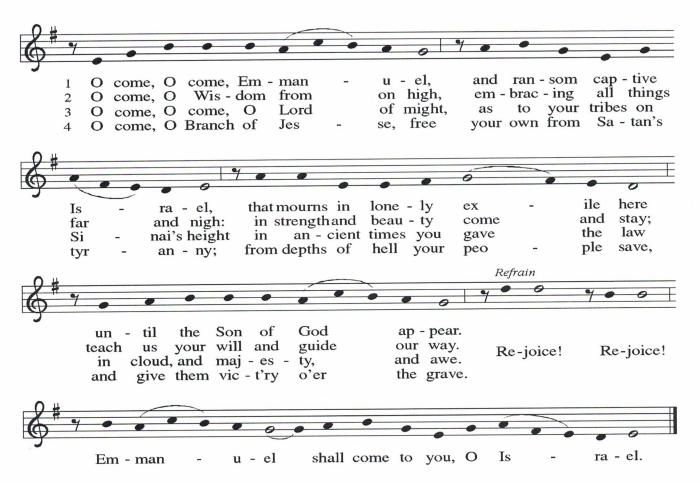
we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve.

Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. Amen.

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*
- 6 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.

Advent 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.

ADVENT SONG - ELW 264

Verse 4

Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÃG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you......And also with you.

Let us pray.....Amen. (PLEASE BE SEATED)

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

In Place of Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

- 48 for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
 From this day all generations will call me blessed:
- ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.
- ⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

- ⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,
- ⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
- ⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
- 54You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,
- ⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL (PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE COMFORTABLE)

The Holy Gospel according to..... Glory to you O Lord.

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

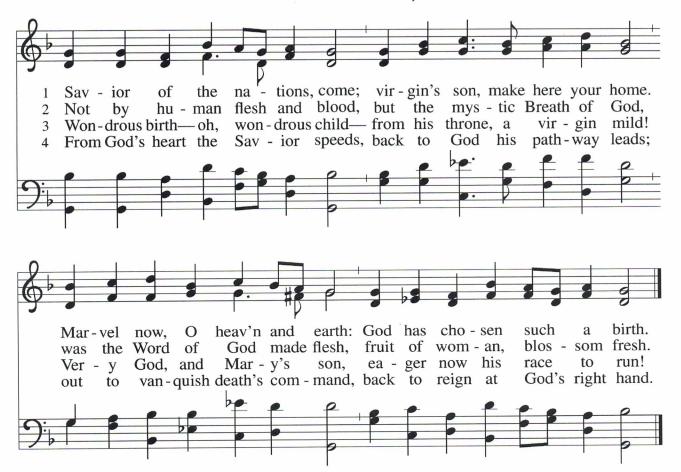
The Gospel of the Lord..... Praise to you O Christ. (PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 263 (PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE COMFORTABLE)

Verses 1-3

Savior of the Nations, Come



- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(PLEASE GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR FROM WHERE YOU ARE SEATED) (PLEASE BE SEATED)

Prepare the Lords Table (Please join in singing "Let us Break Bread Together")

Let Us Break Bread Together



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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE COMFORTABLE)

In this moment of worship, we embrace your presence, O God.

And we offer you our love.

In this moment of prayer, we proclaim your purpose for the world.

And we offer you our resources.

In this moment of giving, we hear your call, O Lord.

And offer you ourselves. Use us—all that we have and all that we are—to touch the world with the Christmas message. Amen!

HOLY COMMUNION

May the God of Advent be with you.

And also with you.

People of Advent, lift up your hopes.

We lift them to the One who comes to share our lives with us.

People of hope, offer your thanksgiving to God.

Joy, praise, adoration are in our hearts and on our lips!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...Do this in 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!

LORD'S PRAYER

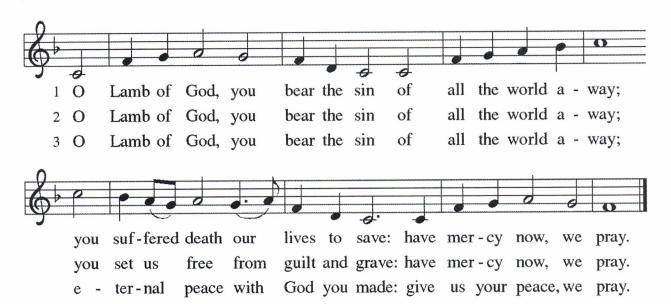
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED AFTER THE PRAYER)

DISTRIBUTION

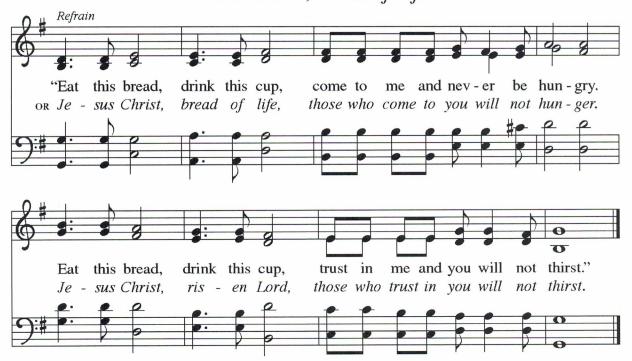
If it is your wish to commune this morning, know that all are welcome to the Lord's table. Simply come forward using the side isles as you are instructed, receive the bread (wafer), then moving to the tray of wine, receive the wine in individual classes. The red liquid is wine, and the clear liquid is grape juice for those requiring an alternative to the wine. Gluten free wafers are available as well, simply ask your server when you come forward. Children not yet communing, and others not wishing to commune, are welcome to come forward for a blessing. But again, all are welcome to the Lord's table.

Lamb of God



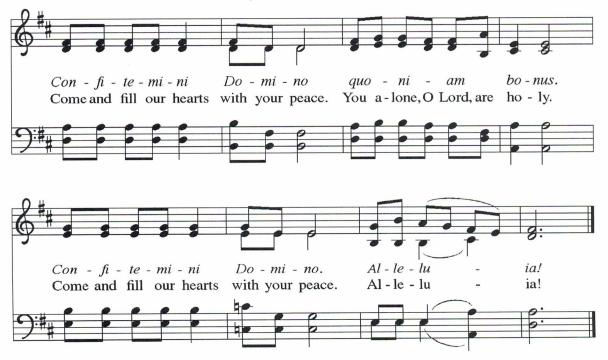
COMMUNION SONGS

Eat This Bread Jesus Christ, Bread of Life



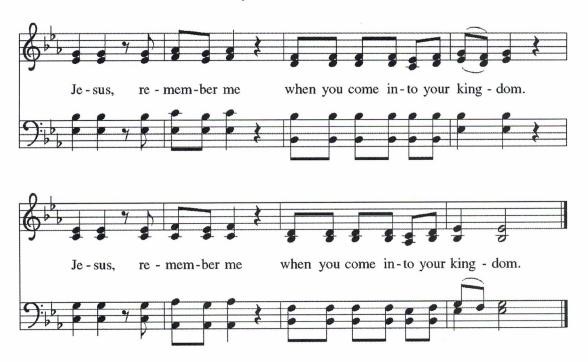
Come and Fill Our Hearts

Confitemini Domino



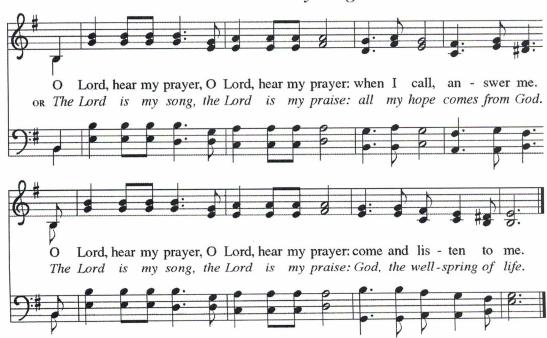
Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community Music: CONFITEMINI DOMINO, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994 Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

Jesus, Remember Me



Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community
Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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O Lord, Hear My Prayer The Lord Is My Song



Text: Psalm 102:1–2; Taizé Community, adapt.

Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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COMMUNION BLESSING (PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE COMFORTABLE)

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

Amen!

COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, Lord God,

...for breaking into our world, our lives, and our experience.

We thank you, O Christ,

...for this meal of remembering, and the stories of love and grace that it tells.

We thank you, O Spirit,

...for your presence and your challenge for us to become agents of God's compassion. Amen!

BLESSING

Blessed Be the God of Israel



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is with you!

Thanks be to God!